

American Bar Association  
Law Student Division  
National Appellate Advocacy Competition

*Official Brief Ballot*

|                          |   |                      |              |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------|
| <i>Team Designation:</i> |   | <i>Judge's Name:</i> |              |
| <i>Category</i>          |   | <i>Possible</i>      | <i>Given</i> |
| 1.                       | Cover of Brief                                  | 1                    |              |
| 2.                       | Table of Contents                               | 1                    |              |
| 3.                       | Table of Authorities                            | 1                    |              |
| 4.                       | Jurisdictional Statement and Standard of Review | 3                    |              |
| 5.                       | Statement of the Issue                          | 6                    |              |
| 6.                       | Statement of the Case                           | 2                    |              |
| 7.                       | Statement of the Facts                          | 9                    |              |
| 8.                       | Summary of Argument                             | 9                    |              |
| 9.                       | Persuasiveness of Headings and Text             | 15                   |              |
| 10.                      | Argument Structure                              | 10                   |              |
| 11.                      | Analysis and Appropriate Use of Authority       | 30                   |              |
| 12.                      | Conclusion                                      | 1                    |              |
| 13.                      | Grammar and Punctuation                         | 7                    |              |
| 14.                      | Citation  | 5                    |              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             |   | 100                  |              |

NATIONAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY COMPETITION  
*Suggested Guidelines for Brief Judges*

**Please note the briefs are not required to be in this specific order.**

***Category 1: Cover of Brief*** (Possible Points - 1)

Is the cover correctly set up?

***Category 2: Table of Contents*** (Possible Points - 1)

Are the brief sections in the proper sequence? Does the brief contain all the necessary parts?

***Category 3: Table of Authorities*** (Possible Points - 1)

Is there a sensible arrangement of authorities?

***Category 4: Jurisdictional Statement and Standard of Review*** (Possible Points - 3)

Does the section indicate a brief statement of the basis on which the Court's jurisdiction rests?

Is the standard of review identified and is it correctly articulated?

***Category 5: Statement of the Issue*** (Possible Points - 6)

Do the questions adequately describe the issue before the court? Are the issues phrased such that the answer naturally favors the party propounding them?

***Category 6: Statement of the Case*** (Possible Points - 2)

Does this section succinctly give the nature of the case, the course of proceedings, and the disposition below?

***Category 7: Statement of the Facts*** (Possible Points - 9)

Are the essential facts stated in as favorable way as possible without leaving out material facts?

***Category 8: Summary of Argument*** (Possible Points - 9)

Are the arguments developed and persuasive? Is the summary concise?

***Category 9: Persuasiveness of Headings and Text*** (Possible Points - 15)

Is the argumentative tone of both the headings and the text properly developed?

***Category 10: Argument Structure*** (Possible Points - 10)

Is the structure logical and indicative of the issues? Are the arguments organized in a clear and persuasive manner?

***Category 11: Analysis and Appropriate Use of Authority*** (Possible Points - 30)

*Do the arguments address all necessary issues? Are the arguments developed logically, compelling a conclusion in the writer's favor?*

Are there citations where needed, regardless of the technical accuracy of the citation form? Are the leading cases used? Do the authorities support a sound legal analysis? Is there excessive reliance on secondary materials? Have public policy arguments been developed when appropriate?

Does the brief incorporate the facts of cases where appropriate to analogize or distinguish? Are the cases and authorities used as effectively as possible?

Does the brief substitute quotations for appropriate legal analysis?

Does the brief distinguish cases and important authorities that are unfavorable to its position?

***Category 12: Conclusion*** (Possible Points - 1)

Does the section contain a short conclusion stating the precise relief sought?

***Category 13: Grammar and Punctuation*** (Possible Points - 7)

Is the brief clear and unambiguous? Does the brief use proper grammar and punctuation?

***Category 14: Citation*** (Possible Points - 5)

*Do citations follow proper Bluebook citation format?*