

# National Appellate Advocacy Competition

## *Suggested Guidelines for Brief Judges*

### **Category 1: Cover of Brief** (Possible Points—1)

Is the cover correctly set up?

### **Category 2: Statement of the Issues** (Possible Points—6)

Do the questions adequately describe the issue before the Court? Are the issues phrased in such a manner that the answer naturally favors the party propounding them?

### **Category 3: Table of Contents** (Possible Points—1)

Does the brief contain all the necessary parts?

### **Category 4: Table of Authorities** (Possible Points—1)

Is there a sensible arrangement of authorities?

### **Category 5: Statement of the Facts** (Possible Points—10)

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

### **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: Summary of Argument** (Possible Points—10)

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

### **Category 8: Persuasiveness of Headings and Text** (Possible Points—15)

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

### **Category 9: 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 10: 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 11: Conclusion** (Possible Points—2)

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

### **Category 12: Grammar and Punctuation** (Possible Points—7)

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

### **Category 13: Citation** (Possible Points—5)

Do citations follow proper Bluebook citation format?