21 – 22 Client Counseling Competition

Summary of Major Rule Changes

Three-Person Teams and Alternates: Like last year, the three-person teams will continue. As a reminder, the new rule allows the following:

The Client Counseling Competition, along with other ABA Law Student Division competitions, have opened up the participation process so that more students might benefit from the client counseling competition experience. Beginning with the 20 – 21 competition year, competition teams may now consist of three members and each interview during the competition may be conducted by any two of the three-member team. Additionally, the two team members conducting the interview may change between rounds or between flights of the preliminary round. Any students registered for the competition and designated as alternates at the time of checking into the competition may be substituted in for a team member who becomes incapacitated during competition due to an unforeseeable circumstance. Once an alternate is substituted onto a team, the incapacitated member is thereafter barred from competition and the substituted member has the same ability to be rotated into client interviews as if they were an original part of a team. A competition team can never consist of only one member. It is therefore advantageous to register as many competitors by the deadline date as may be needed to fill a three-person team and alternates.

Memo-Writing Round at Regional AND National Competition: The Client Counseling Competition adopted a memo-writing round at the 20 – 21 National Competition and has adopted it for the 21 – 22 Regional Competition as well. The Memo-writing Round at Regionals will replace one of the preliminary round consultations (at the National Competition the memo-writing round will be in addition to the preliminary round consultations). has added a memo-writing round to the National Competition in addition to the three preliminary interview rounds. Details of this round are found in the Competition Rules along with the evaluation criteria for grading the memos. The memo may be written by any two of a three-person team in the competition. The memo will be due the weekend prior to any regional competitions and will be due for ALL COMPETITORS the same weekend regardless of the dates of their regional competition. As a result, allocation of competitors to teams must occur by submission of the team’s memo.

Competitors in Same Physical Rooms: Last year, the Competition required that competitors be in separate physical spaces for the virtual competition to address COVID-19 concerns. This year, competitors may elect whether to remain in the same room or not depending on each school’s COVID protocols and requirements.

2021 – 2022 Critical Dates
Nov 1, 2021: Entry and Fee Payment Deadline (Name of School and Number of Teams)
Jan 21, 2022: Name of Competitors submitted to ABA
Jan 28, 2022: Allocation of Competitors to Teams and Alternates submitted to ABA
Jan 28, 2022: Video for Memo-writing Round emailed to Competitors
Jan 30, 2022: Memo Submission Deadline
Feb 4/5, 11/12, 18/19: Regional Competitions