Official Rules
National Disability Law Appellate Competition 2022
Problem will be released January 7, 2022
Briefs will be due February 15, 2022
Oral Arguments will be held March 25-27, 2022

I. COMPETITION DIRECTORS

The Competition occurs at the command of the Directors, as appointed by Syracuse University College of Law’s Advocacy Honor Society (“AHS”). They are to act to fulfill the purposes of the competition, according to the rules of the competition. All decisions regarding the competition (including any disputes that arise during the competition, and all issues of rule interpretation) are to be resolved by the decision of the Directors. The consequence for any violation of these rules will be resolved at the discretion of the directors. Potential remedies include disqualification from the competition, or adjustments to the violating teams score, proportionate to the severity of their violation.

Directors: The Directors for the 2022 Competition are Todd Berger and Michael Schwartz.

II. TEAMS

1. Each participating law school may only enter one team.

2. A team may consist of either two or three members.

3. Team members must share equally in brief-writing responsibilities.

4. Once the brief has been submitted, a team may not change its members. In the event of an extreme, unavoidable, and insurmountable hardship, the Directors may grant exemptions to this rule at their sole discretion.

III. BRIEFS

1. Each team will be designated as the petitioner or respondent at the release of the problem. This is the position that team shall adopt in their brief. While each team will only submit one brief arguing for one side, teams should prepare and expect to argue for both sides during the competition.

2. Teams are prohibited from receiving “outside help” during the brief-writing process. Outside help is defined as assistance from any person who is not a member of that team. This includes, but is not limited to, faculty and coaches. However, teams may receive outside help upon final submission of the brief for purposes of oral argument preparation. Any violation of the “outside help” rule may result in immediate disqualification from the competition.
3. Briefs must not exceed thirty pages, excluding the cover page, the questions presented, the table of contents, the table of authorities, and the statement of jurisdiction. Any writing in excess of the thirty-page limit shall be disregarded by the brief graders, as if the document ended at the last character on the 30th page after the excluded sections.

4. Briefs must be typed in the format of an eight and one-half by eleven-inch (8½” x 11”) document, with one-inch margins, double spacing in the text in 12-point Times New Roman font. Footnotes should be single spaced. The title page may use different fonts, at the discretion of the teams.

5. Briefs shall include the following sections in the following order, with the content of each section being consistent with the typical content for those sections in briefs submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States:
   a. Cover Page;
   b. Questions Presented;
   c. Table of Contents;
   d. Table of Authorities;
   e. Statement of the Case;
   f. Summary of the Argument;
   g. Argument; and
   h. Conclusion.

6. The cover page for the petitioner must be blue. The cover page for the respondent must be red. Your school name or the names of the team members must NOT appear on the actual brief. Each team will be assigned a team number, which must be placed on the Cover Page.

7. Citations within the brief shall be in accordance with the rules in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (21st Edition).

8. Each team must submit one electronic copy. The electronic copy must be in Portable Document Format (PDF) and submitted to taberger@syr.edu by 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Late briefs will receive a 20-point (20) point penalty per day, to be deducted from the total brief score.

9. All briefs will be published on the Competition’s website. Participants may consult other teams’ briefs in preparation for oral arguments.

10. Citation to the problem should take the following form: “(J.A. at **)”.

11. Problem clarification questions must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST on Friday, January 21, 2022, to taberger@syr.edu.
IV. **BRIEF SCORING**

1. Briefs are scored out of a maximum of 100 points. Each brief will be graded three times by a designated three-member team comprised of graders selected by the Competition Directors. The average of the three scores will be the final score of each brief.

2. Any person grading the briefs or judging the Competition will not know what school the team they are assessing is from. Each participating team will be assigned a Blind Grading Number (BGN) and will be identified only by that number. Any violation of this rule or attempt to identify a team’s law school to a brief grader may result in that team’s immediate disqualification from the competition.

3. Briefs will be graded according to the following criteria:
   a. Compliance with the formal requirements set forth in these Rules and the General Instructions;
   b. Recognition of issues presented by the problem;
   c. Structure of the competitors’ arguments;
   d. Application of appropriate law to facts;
   e. Use of authorities;
   f. Argumentative headings;
   g. Legal writing style;
   h. Ability to address and persuade against Opponent’s arguments;
   i. Proper use of citation form in accordance with the Bluebook (21st Ed.); and
   j. Proper format, generally in accordance with The United States Supreme Court brief requirements.

4. Neither briefs nor brief grading forms will be returned to competitors.

V. **ORAL ARGUMENT**

1. Three (3) members may participate in the oral argument rounds, but only two (2) members may represent the team during any given oral argument round. All oralists’ scores will be considered for the Best Oralist Award, regardless of the number of times they represented their team in oral argument.

2. There will be three preliminary rounds conducted in a round robin style. Thereafter, the two highest teams will compete in the Championship round. Brief scores will be weighted 40% in the preliminary rounds and will not be considered in the final Championship and Consolation Rounds. The preliminary rounds will be conducted in a non-elimination format and will be structured such that each team will argue both on and off-brief.

3. Before each argument, the participants shall inform the bailiff of the order in which they will speak and the manner in which they will divide the allotted argument time. Each team will be allowed a total of thirty (30) minutes of argument time, including rebuttal time (petitioner only) and questions from the bench. The rebuttal time can be a maximum of five (5) minutes and may be taken entirely from one speaker’s allotted time, or shared
between the two speakers' allotted time. Each competitor must argue a minimum of (10) minutes)

4. A bailiff will signal each speaker when five (5), three (3), and one (1) minute(s) of each speaker's argument time remains. When the bailiff informs the speaker that his or her time has expired, the speaker must immediately end his or her presentation, or when appropriate, request additional time to briefly conclude.

5. No teams may watch other teams' oral arguments, except at the Final round, or if the team is directly competing with that other team.

6. Teams must argue before the panel of judges that they are assigned. Refusal to argue before any particular judge or judges will result in a score of zero for that round. Teams must also not inform judges what law school they attend or in any way disclose information that would inform the judges of competitors' identities.