



**National Moot Court in
Constitutional Law**

2005-2006

Preliminary Rules

These rules may be amended at any time.

1. Each participant must be a candidate for the J.D. degree who is enrolled at a law school during the semester or quarter of the competition. A participant must be a member of the national American Constitution Society.

2. Each team consists of two participants from the same law school. Both members of a team must contribute to the team's brief and both must argue during each round of the competition.

3.
 - a. No team may receive assistance in the form of guidance in research or constructing arguments. Competitors may not receive aid from other students, professors, attorneys, or administrators in preparing their briefs. No team may receive assistance before the deadline for brief submission.
 - b. Participants may consult briefs, transcripts, opinions, or other documents in any court case. However, they may not contact the parties or attorneys who were involved.
 - c. This rule does not prohibit participants from discussing the general issues of law raised by the problem. This rule also does not prevent participants from receiving critical feedback as they draft their briefs.
 - d. After the deadline for brief submission, participants may receive advice and assistance as they prepare for oral arguments. Teams may practice mock oral arguments and receive critical feedback.

4. Each team must register for the competition according to the policies promulgated by the American Constitution Society by November 1, 2005. See the registration page for more details, including information about the \$50 registration fee.

5. After registering, a team will receive a randomly assigned identification number.

- a. At the same time, the team will be assigned to write for petitioner or respondent.
- b. The team must identify its brief only with its assigned number. No team may include any identifying information in its brief other than its assigned number. Prohibited identifying information includes names of team members, name or location of their law school, religious affiliation of the team members, etc.

6. Each brief must conform to the rules of the U.S. Supreme Court, Part VI, Briefs on the Merits and Oral Argument, and Part VII, Practice and Procedure, Rule 34 only (Rule 33 is **excluded**), with the following exceptions and stipulations:

- a. A brief may not include any identifying information other than the assigned number. The assigned number should appear on the cover of a brief.
- b. Briefs must be spiral-bound with card stock covers that are blue (petitioner) or red (respondent).
- c. Briefs may not exceed 30 pages, excluding the preliminary materials (Rule 24.1(a)-(g)).
- d. Briefs must be printed in Courier 12-point font.
- e. Pages must be 8.5" x 11", and briefs must be double-spaced with margins of 1" on each edge of the page.
- f. Briefs may be printed only on one side of each page.

7. Briefs will be scored by brief judges. The judges will assess the format and appearance of the briefs, the correctness of the citations, the cogency of the statement of facts, the quality of the legal arguments, the use of legal authority, and the clarity of the writing.

8. All citations must conform to the latest edition of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*. Citations may not be included in footnotes.

9. Briefs must be submitted by mail, postmarked no later than January 23, 2006. Each brief submission must include 6 identical paper copies and 1 electronic copy on a CD-ROM or floppy disk. The electronic copy may be in Word or PDF format. Briefs must also be submitted by electronic mail no later than 8 PM Eastern Standard Time on January 23, 2006.

10. All briefs will be published on the competition's web site. Participants may consult other teams' briefs as they prepare for oral arguments.

11. Oral arguments will take place on March 4 and 5, 2006, at Columbia Law School in Manhattan. Preliminary rounds will take place on Saturday, March 4, and elimination rounds will be on Sunday, March 5.

12. The winning team will receive a \$3,000 prize, and the runner-up team will receive \$1,000. Awards will also be presented for best oral argument during the competition, the best brief for the petitioner, and the best brief for the respondent.