

## 2024 TYLA STATE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

### Official Ballot

*Petitioner, Team Number* \_\_\_\_\_

*Counsel 1* \_\_\_\_\_

*Counsel 2* \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Min.</i>	<i>Points Awarded</i>	<i>Max.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Points Awarded</i>	<i>Max.</i>
25		50	Evidence of Research; Knowledge of the Record, Issues and Law; Organization and Reasoning	25		50
10		20	Ability to Answer Questions	10		20
5		15	Is Counsel Convincing Irrespective of the Merits	5		15
5		15	Courtroom Presentation and Demeanor	5		15
45		100	<b>TOTAL FOR EACH SPEAKER</b>	45		100
<b>TOTAL FOR PETITIONER</b>				90		200

*Respondent, Team Number* \_\_\_\_\_

*Counsel 1* \_\_\_\_\_

*Counsel 2* \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Min.</i>	<i>Points Awarded</i>	<i>Max.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Points Awarded</i>	<i>Max.</i>
25		50	Evidence of Research; Knowledge of the Record, Issues and Law; Organization and Reasoning	25		50
10		20	Ability to Answer Questions	10		20
5		15	Is Counsel Convincing Irrespective of the Merits	5		15
5		15	Courtroom Presentation and Demeanor	5		15
45		100	<b>TOTAL FOR EACH SPEAKER</b>	45		100
<b>TOTAL FOR RESPONDENT</b>				90		200

Ranked Speakers: 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_; 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_; 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_; 4<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

Note to Judges: All participants have had the opportunity to review these guidelines.

Your judging should be independent. The scoring of the oral argument should not be affected by your personal views of the merits of the case. Instead, it should be based on the speakers' advocacy skills.

The total cumulative score for each counsel should range between 45 (extremely poor) to 100 (perfect—you would not expect anyone to have done better). 75 is average.

### **I. Evidence of Research; Knowledge of the Record, Issues and Law; Organization and Reasoning (minimum 25 points - maximum 50 points)**

- Does counsel give a broad but brief overview of the argument?
- Does counsel have a thorough knowledge of the record? Is counsel also able to direct you to important language therein?
- Does counsel emphasize and adequately discuss the important issues?
- Is counsel selective in discussing issues?
- Does counsel employ reason and logic rather than just relying upon precedents?
- Are counsel's arguments clear and direct?
- Are the issues firmly fixed in the Court's mind when counsel leaves the Court?

### **II. Ability to Answer Questions (minimum 10 points - maximum 20 points)**

- Is counsel responsive to questions rather than evasive or repeatedly unable to give an answer?
- Is counsel able to answer a question with authority, either theoretically or with case names?
- Is counsel able to fit relevant questions into his or her overall analysis and argument?
- Is counsel able to continue his or her argument following a question?
- Is counsel candid about weak points in his or her argument?

### **III. Is Counsel Convincing Irrespective of the Merits (minimum 5 points - maximum 15 points)**

### **IV. Courtroom Presentation and Demeanor (minimum 5 points - maximum 15 points)**

- Is counsel trying to be helpful to the Court?
- Does counsel project an image of professional sincerity toward his or her client?
- Is counsel courteous rather than sarcastic, condescending or resentful?
- Does counsel use correct pronunciation and grammar?
- Does counsel use timely emphasis?
- Does counsel effectively use pauses?
- Is counsel's voice clear, rather than inaudible or difficult to understand?
- Does counsel have proper volume, loud but not overpowering?
- Does counsel use "ahs," "ers," "ums" or other distracting crutches?
- Does counsel know his or her argument or does he refer excessively to notes or prepared text?
- Does counsel maintain good eye contact?
- Does counsel have distracting non-verbal mannerisms?