

ANDERSON CENTER SEVENTH CIRCUIT MOOT COURT COMPETITION

COMPETITOR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION (received January 16, 2024)

In the section "Written Certification" on page 10 of the competition rules, I see the following:

By submitting the brief, each team is verifying that the work product in its entirety is theirs alone, that the brief was prepared in accordance with the Competition Rules, and that they did not receive help from any faculty or other members of the bar.

I would like to clarify whether each of the below scenarios would be permitted:

1. Discussing relevant substantive law in context of the problem statement with the coach, faculty, or other legal professional
2. Discussing substantive law generally relevant to the problem statement with the coach, faculty, or other legal professional without revealing the exact fact pattern
3. Discussing the problem statement or relevant substantive law with non-legal persons (for example, friends/family)

COMMITTEE RESPONSE (posted January 17, 2024)

None of the proposed scenarios would be permitted.

Paragraph 4 of the Unethical Conduct section of the rules requires that "[t]he brief must be the sole work product of the competing students." The Committee views this prohibition broadly and it extends to discussions of the problem and discussions related to the substantive law of the problem. Furthermore, the prohibition on discussing the problem and the substantive law related to it should be understood to include all individuals outside of the competition team, whether or not the outside person has legal training or a formal relationship with the team.