

# ANDERSON CENTER SEVENTH CIRCUIT MOOT COURT COMPETITION

## COMPETITOR REQUEST FOR RULES & PROCEDURES CLARIFICATION

(posted February 8, 2024)

### Rule Clarification Questions Received between 5:01pm on January 30 and 5:00pm on February 6 (question period 4)

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**Rule Clarification Question 4.1:** Parenthesis around record cites - our understanding is that these are preferential. Does the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit have a preference?

**Committee Response to Problem Clarification Question 4.1:** The Handbook for Appeals to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, available on the Seventh Circuit's website, contains the court's preferences. Where it is silent and there is more than one acceptable method of presenting a citation under the Bluebook rules, the choice of which acceptable method to use is left to the teams.

It is helpful to remember that internal consistency is valued and that once a choice is made among equally appropriate alternatives, the choice is employed consistently throughout the brief.

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**Rule Clarification Question 4.2:** We have some cases which are unpublished / unreported - seems like especially the District Court cases which are relatively new. Can we still use and cite to these? If yes, do we cite to LEXIS or WL?

**Committee Response to Problem Clarification Question 4.2:** The Anderson Center Seventh Circuit Moot Court Competition does not impose a date that limits which cases may be cited. The decision of which cases to use is one of judgment. It is left to teams to determine which cases to use in the brief. Considerations include, of course, the relevance of the case to the inquiry at hand and whether the case is mandatory authority or persuasive authority. When the case is of persuasive value, considerations also include how much value the court receiving the brief is likely to place on the opinion, given its source and content.

Citations to unpublished cases that have not been collected in a reporter, such as the Federal Appendix, may be cited to either Westlaw or Lexis. It is helpful to remember, however, that internal consistency is valued and that a single brief should choose one service or the other and use it consistently throughout the brief, if necessary.

Competitors should **not** attach copies of unpublished decisions cited in the brief to their brief.

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