

# ANDERSON CENTER SEVENTH CIRCUIT MOOT COURT COMPETITION

## COMPETITOR REQUEST FOR RULES & PROCEDURES CLARIFICATION

(posted February 28, 2024)

### Rule Clarification Questions Received between 5:01pm on February 20 and 5:00pm on February 27 (question period 5)

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**Rule Clarification Question 5.1:** This is our first time participating in the ACSC competition and we have a few questions about the unique format. First, what is considered a “round” in the round-robin preliminaries? The rounds are listed as 1 hour, there are three in the morning and three in the afternoon, and the rules say each advocate will argue twice. Does that mean that in the morning, advocate A will argue during one of the three listed times and advocate B will argue at a different time (say, A argues at 9:00 and B argues at 10:00)? And then repeat that configuration in the afternoon but against a different team in their bracket? Perhaps you will be distributing a detailed schedule in advance that answers this question?

**Committee Response to Problem Clarification Question 5.1:** A detailed schedule will be released in advance, showing the match ups. Each competitor will argue once in the morning and once in the afternoon. The schedule is set so that team members will not be conducting arguments during the same 1-hour block. This would permit a coach who is coaching a single team to attend all their competitors’ arguments; unfortunately, it is not possible to ensure that coaches responsible for two teams will be able to see all of the four competitors’ arguments.

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**Rule Clarification Question 5.2:** Second, only our team members who will be arguing will be attending (A and B). The Rules say, “Only team members participating in the round may sit at counsel’s table during arguments.” Who is considered to be “participating” in the round? Would B, the off-brief specialist, be able to sit at counsel table while A is presenting as the on-brief specialist? If so, would A appropriately say that she “and [her] co-counsel” represent Zott even though B won’t be presenting in that round?

**Committee Response to Problem Clarification Question 5.2:** The second-chair position may only be filled by the designated member assigned to that role on a 3-person team; in other words, an on-brief advocate only sits at counsel’s table during rounds when they are arguing and vice versa.

There should be no introduction of an off-brief specialist by an on-brief specialist or vice versa; they are arguing on behalf of different clients and so are not understood to be co-counsel for the purposes of individual rounds/arguments.

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**Rule Clarification Question 5.3:** Finally, will the advocates receive time cards? If so, which ones?

**Committee Response to Problem Clarification Question 5.3:** Each round will have a Bailiff, who will have been provided with timecards. As set out in the Competition Rules, advocates will be informed via timecard when there is 5 minutes left in the presentation, 2 minutes left, 1 minute left, and then when time is up. Where an advocate arguing on behalf of the Appellant has reserved time for rebuttal at the beginning of their round, that time is deducted from the argument in chief and the timecards will be in terms of the adjusted time for the argument in chief (see page 12 of the Competition Rules for an example).

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