

**Rules for the 22nd Annual Whittier Law School
National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition
February 10-11, 2017**

1. **Organization of Competition.** The Whittier Law School National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition (“the Competition”) is a mock appellate competition co-sponsored by the Whittier Law School Moot Court Honors Board (“the Board”) and the Center for Children’s Rights. The Competition is administered by the Board and is governed by these Rules and by such other rules and procedures that may be adopted by the Board. These Rules shall be interpreted and executed by the Moot Court Executive Board.
2. **Use of Competition Materials for Other Purposes Prohibited.** The Transcript of Record, Rules, and other Competition materials are prepared and distributed by the Board exclusively for the purposes of this Competition. By entering into the Competition, each law school agrees that it will not make use of these materials or other Competition materials except in connection with its participation in this Competition. Any person or organization wishing to make any other use of the Transcript, Rules, or other Competition materials must first obtain written approval from the Moot Court Chief Justice and the Director for the Center for Children’s Rights.
3. **Competition Rules**
 - a. Number and Composition of Teams
 - i. Each law school properly entered into the Competition may enter no more than two (2) teams. Each team must consist of two (2) individuals, each of whom must be, at the time of the competition, in a full or part time Juris Doctorate or equivalent program at the ABA-accredited law school they represent. No team member may currently hold a Juris Doctorate degree.
 - ii. Each member of the team must participate in writing the team’s brief and in oral arguments. All individuals on a team must be students at the same law school. No student may be a member of more than one team in the Competition.
 - iii. Each team member must be identified by name prior to the release of the problem. If a team has unidentified members as of the release date of the problem, that team will not receive the problem until the identity of all team members have been provided.
 - iv. Substitution or Replacement of Team Members

1. After registration, team members may not be substituted or replaced except for good cause such as death, severe illness, or uncontrollable circumstance.
 2. There shall be no replacement or substitution of team members after the release of the problem, unless the Board and the Director for the Center for Children's Rights expressly consent in writing.
 3. No substitution of team members may occur after the first round of oral argument begins.
- b. Faculty or Other Assistance is Prohibited
- i. No team shall receive outside assistance of any kind from any faculty member or other person before filing its brief, including but not limited to, assistance from, sharing, or comparison of research or work product with members of another team from the same school. All teams may use computer-aided research and word processing software, including automated cite-checking or spell-checking systems.
 - ii. Except as provided below, each member of a team is prohibited from any discussion, either directly or indirectly, pertaining to the problem or any related issue with a person who is not a member of that particular team. Such persons include, but are not limited to, members of teams at different schools and team members of different teams at the same school.
 1. Schools which enter two teams in the competition may conduct practice oral argument sessions against each other after the filing of the brief.
 2. The team's coach shall only assist in the preparation of the team's oral argument. The team's coach may be a student, faculty member, or an advisor. Two teams from the same school may have the same coach.
 3. Teams may have people other than their coach participate in and judge practice oral argument sessions.
- c. Withdrawing from the Competition
- i. No team shall be entitled to a reimbursement or refund of the registration fee after submitting a registration form for the Competition. A team that chooses to withdraw from the competition at any time shall be solely responsible for any expenses incurred, including but not limited to, hotel and travel

expenses.

- ii. If a team chooses to withdraw, they must notify the Executive Juvenile Justice, Whittier Law School Moot Court Honors Board, via email at WLS.Juvi@gmail.com.

d. Disclosure of Teams' Law School Affiliation

- i. To ensure absolute anonymity and equality throughout the Competition, at no time before, during, or after oral arguments may any individual associated with a competing team disclose the name of that team's law school. This paragraph shall not apply to the brief certification process outlined in Section 3(e)(v). In addition, any paraphernalia from any law school is strictly prohibited during the course of the Competition. Said paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to, clothing, letterhead, bags, notebooks, and hats. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification at the sole discretion of the Board.

e. Briefs

- i. *Argument Side*. For purposes of writing the brief, each team shall be randomly assigned to a side to represent. Both team members must participate in writing the team's brief. If a school enters two teams, the teams from that school shall be assigned to represent opposite sides. No team may work with any other team in preparing the brief, including sharing research.
- ii. *Plagiarism*. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and shall result in immediate disqualification. In addition, Competitors shall not, in any way, use appellate briefs submitted by parties in actual lawsuits to prepare their Competition brief or to prepare for oral arguments. Failure to comply with this rule shall be grounds for immediate disqualification.
- iii. *Length and Format of Briefs*
 - 1. Each brief shall comply with the format specified in Rule 24 of the United States Supreme Court Rules (found at <http://www.supremecourt.gov/ctrules/2013RulesoftheCourt.pdf>) except as otherwise provided within these Rules. Any deviation from Rule 24 specified in these rules or in other materials provided by the Board control over Rule 24.
 - 2. All citations shall comply with *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (20th ed., Harvard Law Review Association 2015).

3. Each team shall use its randomly assigned team number on the lower right cover of the brief and on the signature page. To ensure anonymous grading, no team shall state the names of its team members or the school it represents anywhere on the brief.
4. *Appendices*. Appendices may be used to recite the text of statutes, Constitutional provisions, regulations, and materials that are not generally available.
5. *Typography*. Each brief shall be prepared with either a word processor or typewriter. The style and font (Times New Roman 12 point, see below) of each brief shall be uniform throughout the entire brief, including footnotes and covers. Each page shall be printed on one (1) side using only black ink.
6. *Type Size*. The type size (i.e. font) shall be Times New Roman 12 point and produce no more than sixteen (16) characters per inch. Sixteen (16) characters per inch will be measured by placing a ruler on any given page, marking one inch over the text and counting how many characters are located within that inch. If more than sixteen (16) characters are located within the inch, 10 points will be deducted from the overall brief score.
7. *Line Spacing*. All text shall conform to twenty-eight (28) lines per page. For purposes of calculating the number of lines on a given page, single-spaced quotations shall be counted as every other line. If there are more than twenty-eight (28) lines per page, 10 points will be deducted from the team's overall brief score.
8. *Page Numbering*. Pages shall be numbered consecutively. In accordance with subsection (10) below, the Statement of Facts shall begin on page number 1.
9. *Page Size*. Each page shall be 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches and shall have top, bottom, left and right margins of 1 inch, excluding page numbers. If the margins are greater or less than 1 inch, 10 points will be deducted from the team's overall brief score.
10. *Length of Briefs*. Briefs shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages in length, excluding the following:

- a. Title Page;
 - b. Questions Presented;
 - c. Topical Index or Table of Contents;
 - d. Table of Authorities;
 - e. Jurisdictional Statement;
 - f. Opinion Below; and
 - g. Appendices.
11. Please note: Any brief with more than twenty-five (25) pages shall be subject to a 10 point deduction from the team's overall brief score.
12. *Type of Paper.* Each brief shall be printed on standard or bond white paper.
13. Covers.
- a. Each brief shall have front and back covers of cardstock.
 - b. Each brief submitted for Petitioner shall have blue front and back covers.
 - c. Each brief submitted for Respondent shall have red front and back covers.

iv. Submission of Briefs.

1. Form of Submissions

- a. Each team must submit **one original bound copy** of its brief to WLS.
- b. Each team must also submit **one electronic copy in PDF format** of its brief to WLS.
- c. The original bound copy (and certification) and the electronic copy must be received by WLS on or before January 4, 2017. See Rule 3(f) below.

2. Requirements for Original Bound Copy

- a. Briefs may be reproduced by any method that produces a clear black image on white paper, except carbon copying.
- b. The submitted original hard copy of the brief shall be velo-bound or spiral bound at the left margin. Any other types of binding shall be subject to a 3 point deduction from the team's overall brief score.
- c. The packet with the original bound copy shall also contain the Certification as detailed in Rule 3(e)(v)

below.

3. *Requirements for Electronic Copy*

- a. The electronic copy of the brief must be sent as a PDF email attachment to the following email address:
WLS.juvi@gmail.com.
 - b. The electronic copy of the brief must be contained in one PDF file. Any electronic copy of the brief that is submitted as multiple files will result in a 3 point deduction from the team's overall brief score.
 - c. The electronic copy of the brief must not contain the first cover with identifying information. Only the second cover (without school and team member names) should be part of this brief. The accompanying email must contain only the team number in the email's subject line (e.g. Team 20), and the law school's name and the team members' names in the body of the email.
 - d. The file name shall be in the following format:
(example) Team_20.pdf.
- v. *Certification*. Each team shall prepare a separate one-page statement certifying that its brief has been prepared in accordance with these Rules and is solely the work product of the competing team members. The Original Certification shall only be submitted to Whittier Law School in accordance with Rule 3(f)(ii) below. The Certification shall not be included in the electronic version of the brief submitted to Whittier Law School in accordance with Rule 3(e)(iv)(3) above. The Certification shall not be sent to the other competing schools because it will state the team members' names and law school. By signing and submitting the Certification, each team member agrees to abide by all Competition Rules and to be bound by the highest standards of moral, ethical, and academic integrity. The Certification must read as follows:
1. We hereby certify that we have adhered to the Whittier Law School National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition Rules in every aspect, including but not limited to, independent research, writing and presentation of the argument, and we agree to comply and be bound by said Rules throughout the Competition. Further- more, we agree

that if the undersigned, either individually or collectively, violates any of the Competition Rules, the Whittier Law School Moot Court Honors Board may disqualify the team or take any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate at the sole discretion of the Moot Court Honors Board;

2. Name of the Team's Law School;
3. The side the team represents (Petitioner or Respondent);
4. The names of each team member; and
5. Each team member's signature and the date signed.

f. Service of Briefs

- i. *Service of Briefs on Whittier Law School Moot Court Honors Board.* Briefs must be **RECEIVED** at Whittier Law School by January 4, 2017.
- ii. Each team shall submit all of the following in a single package containing:
 1. One (1) original bound hardcopy of brief,
 2. One (1) original Certification Statement [described in Rule 3(e)(v), above]
 3. The package shall be sent by United States Mail to:

Whittier Law School MCHB
ATTN: Executive Juvenile Justice
3333 Harbor Boulevard
Costa Mesa, California 92626

iii. Service of Briefs on Other Teams

1. Electronic versions of the briefs will be emailed to teams, placed in a shared Dropbox folder (to which the teams will be given access), or posted to the Competition website by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on January 11, 2017.
2. Teams are solely responsible for accessing the email provided in the registration information, accessing the Dropbox folder, or accessing the Competition's website to

download and print briefs of other teams. This shall be deemed as appropriate service upon other teams. Briefs do not need to be served upon other teams in any other manner.

- iv. *Late Reception.* Any team whose package is **RECEIVED** at Whittier Law School after January 4, 2017 shall be assessed a late penalty of 10 points for the first day and 5 points for each subsequent day, which will be deducted from the team's overall brief score.
- v. *Loss of Package.* Each team bears the risk of its package being lost, and is responsible for ensuring that its package timely arrives at Whittier Law School. If a team can show that its package was received by Whittier Law School, the Board shall investigate the matter and notify the team of its findings.

g. Brief Scoring

- i. Each brief shall be evaluated by a panel of judges selected by the Board. Each judge shall individually evaluate each brief according to the Competition's official brief score sheet.
- ii. Computation of Overall Team Brief Score. Each team's overall brief score shall be equal to the average of all judges' scores, excluding the team's highest and lowest brief scores. For example, if a team receives brief scores of 73, 75, 75, 77, and 80, the 73 and the 80 will be discarded and the overall brief score will be 75.67.
- iii. Weight of Overall Team Brief Score.
 - 1. The Team Brief Score shall count toward FORTY PERCENT of the Team Seeding Score that determines which eight teams shall advance to the Quarter-Final Round; and
 - 2. The Team Brief Score shall count toward TWENTY PERCENT of the Team Seeding Score that determines which four teams shall advance to the Semifinal Round.

h. Oral Argument Structure. The Competition shall have four (4) stages of oral argument rounds consisting of the Preliminary Rounds, Quarter Final Round, Semifinal Round, and Final Round.

i. Preliminary Rounds

- 1. All registered teams shall compete in the two Preliminary Rounds, which will be held on the first day of the Competition. Each team shall argue one round as Petitioner and one round as Respondent.
- 2. The Board shall randomly assign opposing teams during the

Preliminary Rounds. When the result of random assignment is that two teams from the same school are paired in opposition together, the Board will reassign other teams as needed to eliminate the opposition of the teams from the same school.

3. At the end of the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall be given a Team Seeding Score calculated per the following formula: $0.40 [\text{Team Brief Score}] + 0.60 [(\text{Team Oral Score as Petitioner} + \text{Team Oral Score as Respondent})/2]$ The eight (8) highest scoring teams from the Preliminary Round shall advance to the Quarter Final Round.

ii. Quarter Final Round

1. The eight highest scoring teams from the Preliminary Round shall compete in the Quarter Final Round in single elimination brackets. The Quarter Final Round will be held on the second day of the Competition. Each team will argue once, as either Petitioner or Respondent. The Board will assign sides by coin flip. The higher seed will call the coin.
2. The highest scoring teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall be paired against the lowest scoring teams from those rounds (i.e., bracketed); for example, number 1 will be paired against number 8, number 2 against number 7, and so on.
3. At the end of the Quarter Final Round, each team shall be given a Team Seeding Score calculated per the following formula: $0.20 [\text{Team Brief Score}] + 0.80 [\text{Team Oral Score as either Petitioner or Respondent}]$ The highest scoring team from each courtroom pairing will advance to the Semi-Final Round.

iii. Semifinal Round

1. The highest scoring team from each courtroom pairing in the Quarter Final Round shall compete in the Semifinal Round in single elimination brackets. The Semifinal Round will be held on the second day of the Competition. Each team will argue once, as either Petitioner or Respondent. The Board will assign sides by coin flip. The higher seed will call the coin.
2. The highest scoring teams from the Quarter Final Round shall be paired against the lowest scoring teams from that

round (i.e., bracketed); i.e., number 1 will be paired against number 4, number 2 will be paired against number 3.

3. The two teams (one from each courtroom) with the highest Team Oral Score in the Semifinal Round shall advance to the Final Round.

iv. Final Round

1. The two highest scoring teams from the Semifinal Round (one from each courtroom) shall compete in the Final Round. The Final Round will be held on the second day of the Competition. Each team will argue once, as either Petitioner or Respondent. The Board will assign sides by coin flip.
2. The team with the highest Team Oral Score at the end of the Final Round shall be the overall winner of the Competition.

v. Ranking and Seeding. The following principles shall be observed to the extent practicable, subject to the discretion of the Board:

1. No team shall represent the same side twice in the Preliminary Rounds.
2. No team shall argue against the same team twice in the Preliminary Rounds.
3. No team shall argue against the same team more than twice.
4. No two teams from the same school shall be selected to compete against each other in the Preliminary Rounds.
5. In Quarter Final and Semifinal Rounds: The Board may, at its discretion, depart from strict seeding described above in Rule 3(h)(ii) and Rule 3(h)(iii) to ensure that two teams from the same school do not argue against each other.

i. Procedures

- i. *Team Designations*. For the purposes of oral argument, team members may refer to each other by name, but they shall not state or otherwise indicate their school affiliation. Any team that identifies itself or its opponents by school affiliation to anyone (especially judges or other competitors), before, during or after its presentation shall be disqualified.
- ii. *Location*. Oral arguments shall be held at various locations as determined by the Board.
- iii. *Forfeiture*. If a team does not appear for any oral argument round within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled starting time, the Board may declare that the team has forfeited that oral argument

round. For that round, each oralist shall receive an Individual Score of zero (0) and an Individual Oral Rank of four (4) by each judge. The team shall receive a Team Oral Score of zero (0) and a Team Oral Rank of eight (8) by each judge.

iv. Byes or Ghost Team.

1. The Board may utilize byes or a ghost team if an odd number of schools are competing to administer the Competition in a timely manner.
2. Ghost teams shall be comprised of WLS students.
3. Ghost teams are not eligible to advance in the competition.

j. Scoring of Oral Arguments

- i. Each oral argument shall be heard by a judge or a panel of judges selected by the Board.
- ii. The judges shall evaluate the oral arguments independently of the briefs and without knowledge of the brief scores.
- iii. Each individual shall receive for the round:
 1. An oral score (from 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest) from each judge according to the Oral Argument Score sheet; and
 2. An oral rank (from 1-4, with 1 being the highest) from each judge. No ties in ranks shall be permitted except in case of forfeiture.
 3. An Individual Oral Score, equal to the average of all judges' oral scores given to that individual oralist in that round; and
 4. An Individual Oral Rank, equal to the sum of all judges' oral ranks given to that individual oralist in that round.

iv. Each team shall receive for the round:

1. A Team Oral Score, equal to the average of the Individual Oral Scores for both the team's oralists; and
2. A Team Oral Rank equal to the sum of the Individual Oral Ranks for both the team's oralists; and
3. A Team Seeding Score, calculated as described above in Rule 3(h)(i)(3) and Rule 3(h)(ii)(3).

k. Determination of Winners

- i. In the Preliminary Round, the eight (8) teams, which advance shall be determined as follows:
 1. The teams with the highest Team Seeding Score shall be the winners.

2. If the teams have equal Team Seeding Scores, the team with the higher Team Brief Score shall be the winner.
 3. If the teams have equal Team Brief Scores, the team with the higher Team Oral Rank shall be the winner.
 4. If the teams remain tied, after the above attempts to break the tie, the round shall be deemed a tie.
- ii. In the Quarter Final Rounds the four (4) teams which advance shall be determined as follows:
1. The team with the highest Team Seeding Score in each courtroom shall be the winner and will move on to the Semifinal Round.
 2. If the teams have equal Team Seeding Scores, the team with the higher Team Brief Score shall be the winner.
 3. If the teams remain tied, the team with the higher Team Oral Rank shall be the winner.
 4. If the teams remain tied, the teams shall reargue the case from opposite sides. If the teams have already argued against each other twice, a coin toss shall be used to give one team the right to elect which side it will argue. The re-argument shall, if possible, be before the same panel of judges.
- iii. Semifinal and Final Rounds the winner(s) shall be determined as follows:
1. The two (2) winning teams of the Semifinal Round shall advance to the Final Round. The team with the highest Team Oral Score at the completion of the Final Round shall be the Best Overall Competitors.
 2. If the teams have equal Team Oral Scores, the team with the higher Team Brief Score shall be the winner.
 3. If the teams remain tied, the team with the higher Team Oral Rank shall be the winner.
 4. If the teams remain tied, the teams shall reargue the case from opposite sides. If the teams have already argued against each other twice, a coin toss shall be used to give one team the right to elect which side it will argue. The re-argument shall, if possible, be before the same panel of judges.
1. Interpolation
- i. Teams judged by fewer judges than other teams, competing in the same round, may have their Team Oral Ranks interpolated as

necessary to determine Team Ranking and Team Advancement.

m. Time Limits

- i. In all rounds, each team shall be allotted a maximum time of thirty (30) minutes for oral argument. Each oralist is allotted a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes of oral argument for his or her issue; however, each individual oralist must advocate for at least ten (10) minutes in each round.
- ii. If the team is advocating on behalf of the Petitioner, the team may, by informing the judges and bailiff at the beginning of the round, reserve rebuttal time of one (1) to five (5) minutes from either advocate's fifteen (15) minute total. Again, neither advocate shall argue less than ten (10) minutes, excluding any time saved for rebuttal. Either advocate may argue the rebuttal, but only one advocate may do so. Rebuttal time may not be split between advocates.

n. Courtroom Etiquette

- i. The team advocating on behalf of the Petitioner must inform the bailiff prior to the commencement of the round if they elect to reserve time at the end of the Respondent's oral argument for rebuttal. The team must also inform the bailiff from which advocate's allotted time to deduct the rebuttal time, up to five (5) minutes. Bailiffs will periodically indicate how much time remains throughout the oral arguments and rebuttal.
- ii. Judges may interrupt an oralist at any time during his or her argument to ask questions. Judges may penalize an oralist for speaking overtime.
- iii. *Order of Argument*. The order of argument in each round shall be as follows:
 1. Petitioner 1
 2. Petitioner 2
 3. Respondent 1
 4. Respondent 2
 5. Petitioner Rebuttal (if so desired and properly reserved)
- iv. Scouting and Recording
 1. No person affiliated with any team or school still in competition will be allowed to watch or listen to any other competitor's oral argument, even if the team competing is affiliated with the person's school (i.e., if a school sends 2

teams, team 1 cannot watch team 2 if team 1 is still in competition). If any person violates this rule, all teams with which that person is affiliated shall be disqualified. The Board may impose additional restrictions as they deem appropriate.

2. Each team may have a maximum of 2 additional persons, excluding the coach, advisor, and team members currently arguing, watch or listen to any oral argument, so long as, the opposing team does not object. If the other team does object, the additional person(s) shall not be allowed to watch or listen to the oral argument currently in session. HOWEVER, this rule shall not apply to Semifinal and Final Rounds. In both the Semifinal and Final Rounds, visitors, including but not limited to, non-competing teams and their coach(es), friends, and family members, may watch or listen to the oral arguments currently in session. However, if a school sends 2 teams to the Competition, and one team is still in Competition at the Semifinal Round, the other team shall only watch the argument in which their school is competing.
3. No person affiliated with any team or school may videotape or audio record any portion of the oral arguments, regardless of whether their school's team is presenting oral arguments.

o. Awards.

- i. The following awards will be presented upon the conclusion of the preliminary rounds:
 1. *Brief Awards.* Awards for excellence in written advocacy shall be given for the top three (3) briefs, as determined by the Team Brief Scores. The following awards shall be given:
 - a. Best Brief, to the team with the highest Team Brief Score;
 - b. Second Place Brief, to the team with the second highest Team Brief Score;
 - c. Distinguished Brief, to the team with the third highest Team Brief Score.
 2. Up to the top 10 oral advocates from the preliminary rounds will be recognized.
- ii. The following awards will be presented upon the conclusion of the final round of the competition.

1. Oral Advocacy Awards.

- a. Awards for excellence in oral advocacy shall be given to the top three (3) individual oral advocates, based on the Preliminary Rounds and Quarter Final Round. To qualify for an oral advocacy award, a competitor must have argued at least a total of three (3) times. The following awards shall be given:
 - i. Best Oral Advocate, to the individual with the highest Individual Oral Score;
 - ii. Second Place Oral Advocate, to the individual with the second highest Individual Oral Score; and
 - iii. Distinguished Oral Advocate, to the individual with the third highest Individual Oral Score.
- b. The Oral Advocacy Awards shall be determined as follows:
- c. Each individual oral advocate shall be ranked according to his or her average Individual Oral Scores from the Preliminary Rounds and the Quarter Final Round.
- d. If two (2) individual oral advocates have the same average Individual Oral Score, the oralist with the higher average Individual Oral Rank shall receive the award.
- e. If the oral advocates remain tied, and if the oralists argued against each other in one of the Preliminary Rounds or the Quarter Final Round, the oralist with the better Individual Oral Rank for that round shall receive the award.
- f. If the oral advocates remain tied, the tie will be broken in a manner determined by the Board.

2. Team Awards. The following awards shall be given for overall excellence in appellate advocacy:

- a. Best Overall Competitors, awarded to the winning team members of the Final Round; and
- b. Second Place Overall Competitors, awarded to the runner-up of the Final Round.
- c. The two teams that advance to the Semifinals but do not advance to the Finals will receive a plaque or similar

item to display at their school.

p. Penalties, Complaints, and Appeals

- i. The Board has the sole discretion to interpret and apply Competition Rules when determining whether a penalty should be applied, or if a team should be disqualified for failure to abide by any of the Rules.
- ii. Any complaint regarding the Competition must be made within two (2) weeks of the incident or decision, and shall be made in writing directly to the Board, or to a body designated by the Board.
- iii. The Board may grant appeals at its discretion; appeals are not a matter of right. Such appeals shall be resolved by the Board or by a body designated by the Board. Appeals must be brought by a team collectively or an individual team member within two (2) weeks of the incident or decision at issue. Appeals shall be made in writing.
- iv. All requests for interpretation of these rules or clarification of the Competition problem shall be handled by U.S. Mail or electronic mail. Requests for interpretation or clarification shall be sent by either U.S. mail or email:

U.S. Mail:

Whittier Law School

MCHB Juvenile Law Competition

ATTN: Executive Juvenile Justice

3333 Harbor Boulevard

Costa Mesa, California 92626

Email: WLS.Juvi@gmail.com

- v. Each request shall clearly state the issue on which clarification or interpretation of the Rules is requested. All requests for clarifications of the problem or interpretation of the rules relating to the brief shall be postmarked or sent via email no later than 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, Friday, December 16, 2016. No questions shall be answered over the phone.
- vi. The Board has the sole discretion to issue any interpretations or clarifications. Interpretations or clarifications shall be issued by e-mail and shall be sent simultaneously to all teams entered in the Competition. Interpretations and clarifications may also be posted

on the Competition website.

- vii. All interpretations of these Rules and any waivers, consents, penalty assessments, decisions, or other actions taken by the Board in its administration of the Competition, are at the sole and absolute discretion of the Board. Such interpretations, waivers, consents, penalty assessments, decisions or actions shall be final, and all participants in the Competition shall be bound therein. In all cases, the Board shall be the ultimate authority regarding the application and interpretation of these Rules and administration of the Competition.