2015 ROBERT ORSECK MEMORIAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

COMPETITION RULES & REGISTRATION FORM

COMPETITION RULES

Registration Form

The attached Registration Form must be submitted by April 20, 2015. Please see the Registration Form for further details.

Competition Problem

This year’s problem presents interesting questions involving Florida law. The problem will be available on the YLD website by no later than April 20, 2015.

Composition of Teams

Each law school in the State of Florida may submit one team, and each team shall be composed of two or three students, all of whom must be full or part-time law students currently enrolled in a J.D. program at the time of the Competition. Participants must be matriculated law students at the time of the Competition.

If there are an odd number of teams registered, the law school that placed highest in last year’s Competition will be asked to send a second team. If that law school declines, the next highest placing law school from last year will be given the opportunity to register a second team for the Competition, and so on until an even number of teams are registered for the Competition.

Competition Briefs

Each competing team shall submit one Brief for the Petitioner. Each team should make its best argument regardless of whether the trial or appellate court found such argument persuasive. All Briefs must comply with the FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE, with the following limited changes:

a) Briefs are limited to 25 pages of text. These 25 pages do not include: cover page, table of contents, table of citations (a/k/a table of authorities), certificate of service, or the certificate of compliance. All other subparts are included within the 25 pages of text;

b) Briefs shall contain no individual law school designations;

c) Each Brief should contain a short recitation of the facts;
d) Each team must deliver an electronic PDF version of its Brief to Alexandra Haddad at ahaddad@burr.com, and Andrew Manko, at amanko@mills-appeals.com. The Briefs must be RECEIVED electronically no later than 5 p.m. EST on May 25, 2015. Any team submitting a Brief that is received after said date and time shall result in that team forfeiting the points associated with the Brief portion of the Competition. If you encounter any technical issues please call (850) 765-0897 or (813) 367-5725. However, technical issues will not extend the deadline;

e) The law school name MUST ONLY appear in the subject line of the electronic submission;

f) Each Brief must contain a Certificate of Service certifying that a copy of the Brief will be furnished to the Faculty Representative or Moot Court Chairperson for each of the other participating law schools. However, copies of the Briefs furnished to the other law schools shall not be sent until June 1, 2015. Contact information for the participating law schools will be provided to the Primary Facility Advisor/Coach, as identified on the Registration Form, on or before May 30, 2015.

Aside from the modifications of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure addressed above, please note the following:

• Faculty advisors, law students and/or practicing attorneys may provide verbal guidance and input to the students with respect to writing the Brief. THESE PERSONS, HOWEVER, CANNOT EDIT OR ASSIST IN THE BRIEF WRITING PROCESS.

Oral Argument

Each team should be prepared to argue both sides of the issues, representing the Petitioner and/or the Respondent. All arguments will be limited to thirty (30) minutes per side. Each team shall divide the allotted time between two team members as it deems fit. The Petitioner shall present argument first. The Petitioner may reserve up to five minutes for rebuttal. Bailiffs will be available to indicate the use of allotted time.

The oral arguments will be judged by panels of judges. Each judge is to individually score each team member. Each team member may receive a maximum of 100 points. An average score for the team will be calculated from each judge’s score sheet. The average scores received from the panel will be averaged, resulting in the team’s oral score for that round. For instance, if team member A receives scores of 90, 95, and 100, that member’s average score is 95. If team member B receives scores of 80, 85, and 90, that member’s average score is 85. To arrive at the team’s oral score for that round, you take the average of those scores (85 and 95), which is 90 for the round.

As an initial note, we added one additional preliminary round to last year’s competition due to overwhelming feedback from coaches and students. In keeping with
that tradition, and in the spirit of providing teams with an additional round to argue and in
an effort to make the cut from preliminary rounds to semi-final rounds less severe, we are
going to hold two preliminary rounds and one quarterfinal round. Much like last year,
having three rounds before the semi-final rounds requires that we start the Preliminary
Competition on Wednesday morning, June 24, 2015, and the Quarter-Final Competition on
Wednesday afternoon, June 24, 2015. Please plan your schedules accordingly.

The Preliminary Competition, June 24, 2015

The two preliminary rounds will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, from 10:00 a.m.
to 11:30 a.m., and from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Each team will argue one round on-brief and one
round off-brief during the Preliminary Competition. Pairings of teams and room assignments will
be given when you check-in on the day of the Competition on June 24th. Information on the
check-in location or any changes in scheduling will be emailed to the Advisor/Coach.

The oral scores from the two preliminary rounds will be averaged, by adding the score
from each round together and dividing by two. The resulting average score will be added to the
team’s Brief score, and the total will be divided by two, resulting in equal weight being given to
the Brief and the average score from the two oral arguments. Every effort will be made to avoid
having an odd number of teams compete. In the event there are an odd number of teams in the
Competition, the two schools with the highest brief scores will receive their brief score for one
preliminary round of the Competition. The teams with the eight (8) highest total combined scores
in the Preliminary Competition will advance to the Quarter-Final Competition. The teams
advancing to the Quarter-Final Competition will be announced as soon as practicable after the
Preliminary Competition is concluded around 3:00 p.m., so all teams should remain near the
registration room.

The Quarter-Final Competition, June 24, 2015

The Quarter-Final Competition will involve eight teams and one round, and will held on
Wednesday, June 24, 2015, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Immediately after the preliminary
rounds are concluded, the room assignments for the quarter-final round will be announced and a
coin toss will determine which team will argue as Petitioner and Respondent in each room. The
winner of the coin toss will choose which side it wants to argue in the quarter-final round. The
quarter-final round is a head-to-head competition, such that the team with the highest total
combined score in each room will advance to the Semi-Final Competition. The total score
for each team in this round will be calculated as follows: the oral score for each team will be
multiplied by three, that number will be added to the Brief score, and that total divided by four.
This results in the oral score encompassing 75% and the Brief encompassing 25% of the total
combined score for the Quarter-Final Competition.

A cocktail reception will follow the quarterfinal rounds on Wednesday, June 24, 2015.
All teams should plan to attend. At that time, the teams advancing to the Semi-Final Competition
will be announced, and the awards for Best Brief and Best Oralist during the Preliminary Rounds
will be presented.
The Semi-Final Competition, June 25, 2015

The Semi-Final Competition will involve four teams and two rounds, and will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. During the semi-final rounds, each individual team will argue both on-brief and off-brief before a panel of judges, resulting in two oral scores for each team. Those two scores will be added together to reach the total combined oral score for each team. Unlike the Quarter-Final Competition, the two teams with the highest total combined oral scores in the semi-final rounds will advance to the Final Competition.

The Final Competition, June 25, 2015

The Final Competition will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., and will consist of only one argument. A coin toss after the semi-final rounds will determine which team will argue as Petitioner and Respondent. The Florida Supreme Court Justices will score the final round, choose the winning team, and select the best oralist.

The final round will be held in conjunction with the question and answer session with the Florida Supreme Court, which is sponsored by the Appellate Practice Section. All teams are invited and encouraged to attend the final round and the question and answer session. The winners will be announced and awards presented immediately following the question and answer session with the Florida Supreme Court Justices, so please plan on attending.

General Comments

Throughout the Competition, teams will be referred to by number only (which will be assigned at check-in on June 24th). In an effort to prevent any question of favoritism, the Judges will not know which school a team represents and students/coaches should make every effort to avoid any impropriety in this regard.

Score sheets are destroyed immediately following completion of the Final Competition. Score sheets will not be provided to you.

To the extent any party to the Competition requests an interpretation of these rules or deems confusion to exist regarding the rules or the Competition in general, the Moot Court/Law Related Education Committee of the Florida Bar YLD will resolve such confusion or make the appropriate interpretation, with the then current Co-Chairs of the committee making the final determination with respect to rule interpretation.

If you have any questions regarding the Competition, please submit them to Alexandra Haddad at ahaddad@burr.com and Andrew Manko at amanko@mills-appeals.com. Questions submitted and answers may be published on the YLD website at the discretion of the Moot Court/Law Related Education Committee.
REGISTRATION FORM
2015 ROBERT ORSECK MEMORIAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Boca Raton Resort and Club, Boca Raton, FL
June 24-25, 2015 (competition dates June 24th and 25th)

Please fill out this form with your team information and e-mail a copy to Andrew D. Manko at amanko@mills-appeals.com and Alexandra Haddad at ahaddad@burr.com. If you have any questions regarding the registration, please see the above Competition Rules or contact Alexandra Haddad at ahaddad@burr.com or (813) 367-5725, and Andrew Manko at amanko@mills-appeals.com or (850) 765-0897.

*** This Registration must be received on or before April 20, 2015 ***

SCHOOL NAME: _________________________________________________

PRIMARY FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE/COACH
Name: _________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________________________________________________
Home Phone & Cell Phone: _________________________________________________________________________

Team Members (each team can have up to three members, so there are three spaces – If your team only has two members, fill in the first two slots):

1. Name: _________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________________________________________________
Home Phone & Cell Phone: _________________________________________________________________________

2. Name: _________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________________________________________________
Home Phone & Cell Phone: _________________________________________________________________________

3. Name: _________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________
Email Address: _________________________________________________________________________
Home Phone & Cell Phone: _________________________________________________________________________