



 **NYU | LAW**

# MOOT COURT BOARD

## 2026 NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION RULES

### **I. GENERAL RULES**

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#### **RULE 100. COMPETITION MISSION**

The purpose of the National Immigration Law Competition is to help law students develop the art of appellate advocacy in the immigration context and expose law students to immigrants' experience as seen through legal practice.

Participants in any aspect of this Competition are expected to follow the letter and spirit of these Rules and to maintain the highest level of professionalism throughout the Competition.

#### **RULE 101. DEFINITIONS**

(a) *Organizer.* The National Immigration Law Competition ("ILC") is operated and administered by the New York University School of Law Moot Court Board ("MCB"), a student journal at the New York University School of Law. The MCB is governed by its Executive Board. All references to the MCB's decisions should be taken to refer to the decisions of the Executive Board.

(b) *Administrators.* The chief administrative officers of ILC are the ILC Executive Editors ("ILC EEs"), Amrutha Sreedharane and Logan King, who may—unless expressly herein or reversed by the MCB—interpret all parts of these Rules and make any determinations necessary or convenient for the fair, equitable, and efficient operation of the ILC.

(c) *Competition Website.* The MCB must operate a website for the ILC ("the ILC website"), which must contain the various dates, deadlines, and resources referred to in these Rules.

#### **RULE 102. APPLICATIONS TO COMPETE**

(a) *Eligibility.* Each ABA-accredited law school may apply to enter one or two teams composed of two or three students each. All team members may

write portions of the brief, but only two members—designated at the start of the competition weekend—may participate in any oral arguments. Team members must be matriculated in a full- or part-time JD, LLM, or equivalent program in the law school they represent. No team member may be admitted to the bar in any U.S. jurisdiction.

(b) *Application Process.* All teams qualified to compete must submit an application form no later than the deadline specified on the ILC website. Once accepted, each team must pay a registration fee of \$500 via credit card (or \$800 for two teams) on or before the deadline specified on the ILC website, or within one week of notice of acceptance, whichever is earlier. A team must be notified of acceptance or rejection no later than the time and date for notification specified on the ILC Website.

(c) *Maximum Number of Competitors & Waitlist Process.* The maximum number of teams that will be accepted to compete in ILC is twenty-eight (28). Teams that apply for registration after the maximum number of teams have registered will be placed on a waitlist. If a spot becomes available, teams moved off the waitlist will be notified of their ability to register no later than one week (7 days) after the regular application deadline has passed. Once a team is notified that they have been moved off the waitlist, they must submit their registration payment within one week of receiving notification or by the registration deadline, whichever is later. The registration fee for each team that registers from the waitlist is \$500.

(d) *Substitution.* A team may substitute the members of their team, by writing to the ILC EEs, as a matter of right until the brief service deadline. After that time, no substitution of members may occur except with the permission of the ILC EEs on a showing of good cause.

### **RULE 103. WITHDRAWAL OF A COMPETING TEAM**

(a) *Notice required to withdraw.* A team that wishes to withdraw should alert the ILC EEs as soon as possible. Early notice helps us ensure that other teams are not harmed by the withdrawing team's departure. Failure to attend the competition without giving due notice to the ILC EEs will lead, at a minimum, to a formal request being lodged at the team's law school for disciplinary action against the students responsible.

(b) *Restriction on distribution.* Rules 201(d)–(e) apply in their entirety to teams that have withdrawn from the competition; withdrawn teams may NOT distribute the Record or any materials produced to anyone without the express written consent of the MCB.

(c) *Refunds*. Teams, having paid their registration fee, will not be given a refund of the fee at any time or under any circumstances except if the Competition is canceled.

#### **RULE 104. AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES AND RECORD**

(a) *Additional Rules*. The MCB reserves the right to amend or modify these Rules as it deems necessary. Teams will be notified of any amendments or modifications in advance of the Competition.

(b) *Penalties*. The MCB reserves the right to assess such penalties for failure to comply with these Rules as it deems reasonable and appropriate, including but not limited to disqualification from the Competition.

(c) *Interpretation of Rules*. The MCB interprets these rules at its absolute discretion. Requests for interpretation of these rules should be emailed to the MCB at [mootcourt@nyu.edu](mailto:mootcourt@nyu.edu) as soon as the need for such an interpretation becomes apparent.

(d) *Clarification of the Record*. The deadline for submitting questions and clarifications about the Record is January 9, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Responses to such clarification questions will be distributed to all teams simultaneously so that all competitors will have identical information. Requests for clarification of the Record should be emailed to the MCB at [mootcourt@nyu.edu](mailto:mootcourt@nyu.edu).

#### **RULE 105. ASSESSMENT “ON THE MERITS”**

Judges, both at the oral and written advocacy stage, must assess the case on its presentation by the advocates and not the judges’ propensity to decide the case on one side or the other before viewing the briefs or hearing the argument. Thus, all competitors should have an equal chance of prevailing prior to the presentation of their brief or argument.

This rule does not forbid assessing the legal merits of a counsel’s case; quite the reverse. A substantive innovation in the theory of the case that persuades a judge that a particular side had more merit than she thought should be strongly rewarded and encouraged.

Judges must also be reminded that each competitor is to be evaluated independently of their partner. Judges must deliberate independently and not consult with each other when scoring.

## II. BRIEFS

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### RULE 201. COMPOSITION OF BRIEF

(a) *Brief-Writing Restricted to the Team.* The purpose of brief-writing is to improve the skills of the team assigned to write the brief. Accordingly, only the team members registered for the competition may edit, write or participate in drafting the brief. Where a school has two teams, the members of each team may not communicate with those of the other team in writing their briefs. While team members may be substituted, the ILC EEs may disqualify a team if they find that the substitution process has been employed in bad faith to circumvent this rule.

(b) *Petitioner and Respondent.* Teams will be assigned at random to write either the Petitioner or Respondent brief. Teams will be notified of their status as Petitioner or Respondent, as well as the name of their party, when the problem is distributed. Depending on the posture of the case, the titles Appellant and Appellee may be assigned instead. Failure to brief the assigned side will result in a 10-point penalty.

(c) *Team Identification.* Every team is randomly assigned a team identification number. Teams will be notified of their team identification number when the problem is distributed. The team number must be the only form of identification used in the brief and must be included on the cover of the brief in lieu of the team name.

(d) *Briefs Must NOT Be Made Broadly Available.* The ILC Problem is published each year in the MCB Casebook, which is used by schools and bar associations across the nation for various internal and external moot court competitions. To ensure that the problem can be used again by others in this digital age, competitors agree:

- (i) To NOT distribute their briefs, copies of the Record, or other material produced in preparation of the competition, without the express written consent of the MCB; and
- (ii) To circulate their briefs solely within their own schools or institutions, and not supply them to students participating in other competitions employing the ILC Problem.

Nothing in this Rule prevents a competitor from employing their materials for this competition in future legal work, provided the materials are properly transformed so as not to provide undue assistance to others employing the competition problem. Competitors may also use their briefs as writing samples when seeking employment.

(e) *Property of MCB*. Competitors grant the MCB non-exclusive worldwide rights to reproduce and distribute any materials submitted or recorded throughout the Competition.

## **RULE 202. LENGTH AND FORMAT OF BRIEF**

(a) *Length*. The brief must not exceed thirty (30) pages in length (but need not take up the entirety of this allocation).<sup>1</sup> Only the Statement of the Case, Summary of Argument, Argument, and Conclusion count towards this limit. Competitors must not include Appendices.

(b) *Non-Responsive*. Briefs are to be non-responsive to any other participant's or team's brief.

(c) *Form*. All citations must be in the form prescribed in the latest edition of the *Bluebook*. The main text of all briefs must be in twelve point Century Schoolbook font, and the footnotes must be in ten point Century Schoolbook font. The briefs must be double-spaced, with one inch margins on all sides. The page size must be standard U.S. letter size.

(d) *Contents*: Briefs must contain only the following sections, in the below order:

(1) a title page (conforming to the provided template) containing team number and no personally-identifying information;

(2) a table of contents, with page references;

(3) a table of authorities, divided into (A) cases (alphabetically arranged), (B) statutes, and (C) other authorities, with references to the pages of the brief where they are cited;

(4) a statement of the questions presented for review;

(5) \* a concise statement of the case setting out the facts relevant to the issues submitted for review, describing the relevant procedural history, and identifying the rulings presented for review, with appropriate references to the Record;

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<sup>1</sup> Competitors should not assume that any penalty will be levied for being significantly under this limit, nor that any benefit will be gained by "padding out" the brief to this limit. Competitors should attempt to articulate their arguments concisely—neither longer nor shorter than each argument requires.

(6) \* a summary of the argument, which must contain a succinct, clear, and accurate statement of the arguments made in the body of the brief, and which must not merely repeat the argument headings;

(7) \* the argument, which must contain parties' contentions and the reasons for them, with citations to the authorities and parts of the record on which the appellant relies as well as, for each issue, a concise statement of the applicable standard of review (which may appear in the discussion of the issue or under a separate heading placed before the discussion of the issues); and,

(8) \* a short conclusion stating the precise relief sought.

(e) *Page Numbers.* All parts of the brief that do not count towards the page limit must be numbered in lowercase roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, etc.), while those that do count towards the page limit (designated by an asterisk above) must be numbered in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.). Page numbers should be centered in the lower margin.

## **RULE 203. PLAGIARISM**

(a) *Rule Against Plagiarism.* Plagiarism is the act of incorporating into one's work a substantially similar portion of another's work without adequately or properly indicating that source. No plagiarism may take place in the ILC.

(b) *Reporting Alleged Plagiarism.* If a competitor knows or has reason to know of potential violations of the rule against plagiarism s/he should report his/her concern to the attention of the MCB at [mootcourt@nyu.edu](mailto:mootcourt@nyu.edu). Reports may be made anonymously. Under no circumstances should any competitor contact another team regarding plagiarism.

(c) *Procedures for Responding to Plagiarism.* In the event of alleged plagiarism, the MCB will evaluate the brief in question. Penalties, including but not limited to disqualification from the Competition, will be assessed at the discretion of the MCB.

(d) *Rule Against Artificial Intelligence.* Use of any artificial intelligence ("AI") product, including but not limited to ChatGPT, Claude, and Bard, in the preparation or writing of a competitor's brief is strictly prohibited and shall be treated as violating the rule against plagiarism, Rule 203(a).

## **RULE 204. SERVICE OF BRIEFS**

- (a) *Service of Briefs on the MCB.* Each team must serve one (1) copy of its brief to the MCB no later than the time indicated on the ILC website by the ILC EEs. The brief should be emailed to [mootcourt@nyu.edu](mailto:mootcourt@nyu.edu), per the instructions of the ILC EEs.
- (b) *Service of Briefs on Opposing Teams.* The MCB will distribute to each team all briefs submitted to the MCB within a week after all briefs have been received.
- (c) *Extension of the Brief Deadline.* An extension of the brief deadline is very unusual and will be granted only in cases of extreme hardship. A team wishing to seek an extension should email the ILC EEs as soon as the need for one becomes apparent. The decision of the ILC EEs to withhold an extension may be appealed to the MCB.
- (d) *Penalties for Late Service.* If a brief is not submitted by the scheduled deadline, five (5) points of the final brief score will be deducted if received within five (5) minutes of the scheduled deadline. If the brief is received within fifteen (15) minutes of the deadline, ten (10) points of the final brief score will be deducted. An additional ten (10) points will be deducted for every twenty-four hours the brief is not served thereafter.

## **RULE 205. SCORING THE BRIEFS**

- (a) *Brief Graders.* Each brief must be read and scored by at least five members of Moot Court Board. All brief graders will receive training from the ILC EEs on the appropriate grading procedure prior to beginning the grading process. All graders will have at least one of their score sheets audited for quality control purposes.
- (b) *Guidelines.* Briefs are to be scored according to the brief scoring guidelines annexed to these Rules.
- (c) *Grading Process.* After all brief scores have been submitted, the highest and lowest scores must be discarded and the remaining three averaged to generate the “final brief score.”
- (d) *Weight.* The brief score will count as fifty percent (50%) of each team’s total score for the preliminary rounds, as twenty-five percent (25%) of each team’s total score for the octo-final rounds, for twelve-and-a-half (12.5%) of each team’s total score for the quarterfinal rounds, and will not be counted in the total score for the semifinal rounds.

(e) *Best Brief*. The Best Brief Award goes to the team which wrote the brief that, after adjustments for penalties, has the highest final brief score. In the event of a tie, the team whose brief received the highest median brief score must win Best Brief. If a tie persists, Best Brief must be shared between the tied teams.

### III. ORAL ARGUMENTS

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#### RULE 301. GENERAL

(a) *Participation in Oral Arguments*. Only the team members registered for the competition may participate in oral arguments. Only the two speakers from each team that were designated pursuant to Rule 102(a) may argue. No one else, including coaches or non-speaker team members, may sit at the counsel's table during a round.

(b) *Assistance in Oral Argument Preparation*. A team is encouraged to practice oral arguments before the competition, and may seek the assistance of professors, practitioners, and others in their oral argument preparation only. Designated speakers may receive no guidance, written or otherwise, from coaches, advisors, or non-speaker team members during a round.

(c) *Team Identification*. Throughout the competition, teams will be identified to judges by their randomly assigned team identification number. While names of team members may be disclosed, academic affiliation may not. Competitors must not use apparel, jewelry, backpacks or any other materials that identify academic affiliations. If a judge asks a team member what school the team member represents, the student should respond that the rules do not permit the divulging of that information. Violation of this rule will result in a 10-point penalty deducted from the total oral argument score for the round in which the disclosure is made. On appeal, the MCB may waive the penalty if the disclosure was truly inadvertent.

(d) *Odd Number of Teams*. If there is an odd number of teams, each round one (1) team will be randomly assigned to argue against an unidentified "ghost team" of NYU students from MCB and be scored as normal. This ghost team cannot earn awards or advance to elimination rounds.

(e) *No Scouting*. All rounds are open to spectators. However, no team member, coach, or faculty advisor of any school still participating in the Competition may attend the argument of any school other than their own, or receive information from any person who has attended an argument of



any other school. All competitors and coaches may attend the semifinal and final rounds.

(f) *Right to Videotape.* All competitors and spectators grant the MCB and NYU School of Law the unrestricted right to videotape the competitors during oral arguments from all rounds, and to use, display, or reproduce this videotape for any and all purposes they deem necessary or appropriate. No competitors, coaches, advisors, or spectators from any visiting institution may videotape or in any way record any part of the competition.

## **RULE 302. ORAL ARGUMENT FORMAT**

(a) *Time Allowed for Argument.* Oral arguments are limited to a total of thirty (30) minutes per team. Each team may allocate individual speaker time between its members as it chooses; however, no team member can speak for more than eighteen (18) minutes or less than twelve (12) minutes. Petitioners may reserve up to three (3) minutes for rebuttal by informing the clerk of the amount of time they choose to reserve before each round begins. Petitioners desiring rebuttal time must inform the clerk of the name of one team member who will make the rebuttal argument and the amount of time they reserve.

(b) *Clerk's Time Warnings.* Clerks must keep time during the oral arguments and will use cards to inform competitors of how much time they have remaining. The specific time warnings will be: 10 minutes, 5 minutes, 2 minutes and 1 minute. When the competitor's time is up, the clerk will hold up a card bearing the number "0."

(c) *Extra Time.* Once time has expired, the competitor may request additional time from the judges. The allowance of more time is at the discretion of the panel of judges, but the grant of less than three (3) additional minutes to one team not extended to the other team does not constitute error sufficient to merit the elimination of scores from that round.

(d) *Clerks.* Each argument must be clerked by a member of the MCB. When all participants are settled, the clerk must call the session to order and direct the Petitioner to commence the argument. The clerk will keep time via time cards during both arguments and Petitioner's rebuttal (if any). Following the argument, the clerk must call the session to a close, dismiss the participants for the scoring, and record the judge's scores when they are finished deliberating. The clerk must then recall the participants for a feedback and critique session.

## **RULE 303. JUDGES**

(a) *Identity of Judges.* To the greatest extent possible, judges will be chosen from among members of the Immigration Bar. In order for an argument to commence, either at least three (3) judges must be present OR there must be explicit approval to begin from an ILC EE.

(b) *Judging Materials.* Judges will receive the Record and Bench Memo for the ILC, but shall not receive the briefs of the teams arguing before them.

(c) *Conflict of Interest.* Each contestant has the duty to disclose to the clerk of the argument, prior to the commencement of the argument, any personal or professional familiarity with any judge sitting at any of the contestant's arguments. The only exception to this rule will be if the familiarity stems exclusively from the judge's participation in one of the contestant's prior arguments at this competition. The clerk must immediately report this disclosure to one of the ILC EEs or a designee, usually the MCB Editor-in-Chief or one of the MCB Managing Editors. The ILC EEs or designee, after discussing the matter with all of the parties involved, will then decide whether the judge should be recused. Failure to make the required disclosure will result in the imposition of penalties at the discretion of the MCB.

(d) *Communication with Judges.* It is a violation of the Rules for any participant to reveal any contestant's prior oral or brief scores to any judge in argument during the competition.

(e) *Quality of Judging; Appeals.* The MCB makes every effort to ensure quality and professionalism among judges in the competition. Comments from participants concerning the performance of judges are welcome to assist the MCB in this task.

(f) *Complaints About Judges.* In the event that a judge's conduct is so unprofessional as to compromise the impartiality of their scoring and/or seriously interfere with the performance of the competitors, an argument may be discounted from the scoring. Claims of such unprofessionalism must be made in writing to the ILC EEs within four (4) hours of the contested argument. The MCB must determine whether discounting will occur within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the complaint, and its decision is final.

## IV. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

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### RULE 401. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

(a) *General*. There will be three (3) preliminary rounds. In these rounds, teams will be randomly assigned an opponent. Teams will not compete against each other more than once in these initial three (3) rounds. Each team will argue at least once as both Petitioner and Respondent.

(b) *Odd Number of Teams*. If there is an odd number of teams, each round one (1) team will be randomly assigned to argue against an unidentified "ghost team" of NYU students from MCB and be scored as normal. This ghost team cannot earn awards or advance to elimination rounds.

(c) *Scoring*. The oral scores are determined by a panel of three (3) judges, without knowledge of the brief scores. Each judge must score competitors independently and without deliberation with their fellow judges and employ the grading rubric annexed to these Rules in determining oral argument scores. A team's oral argument score will be the average of its two competitors' individual oral argument scores.

(d) *Winning the Argument*. In the preliminary rounds, the winner of an argument is determined by averaging the scores awarded by each of the judges; the higher score wins. In the preliminary rounds, "winning the argument" is an honorific only and will not be announced.

(e) *Weight*. The total oral argument score will count for fifty percent (50%) of the overall preliminary score with the total brief score counting for fifty percent (50%).

(f) *Best Oralist*. The Best Oralist must be awarded based on individual oral performances in the preliminary rounds. In order to be eligible for Best Oralist, a participant must argue in all three (3) preliminary round arguments.

Each eligible participant's total Best Oralist score is determined by disregarding the highest and lowest judge-assigned individual oral argument scores and averaging the remaining scores. The participant with the highest individual oral argument score wins Best Oralist. In the event of a tie, the participant who received the highest median oral argument score wins. If the tie persists, the award must be divided evenly among the Best Oralists.

## **RULE 402. OCTO-FINAL ROUND**

(a) *General*. The sixteen (16) teams with the highest overall preliminary scores pursuant to Rule 401(e) will advance to the octo-final round. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher combined Best Oralist score advances to the octo-final round.<sup>2</sup>

(b) *Pairings and Representation*. Teams will be seeded in a bracket based on their overall preliminary scores, with higher-seeded teams paired against lower-seeded teams. Petitioner and Respondent sides will be assigned randomly for each pairing.

(c) *Scoring*. The oral scores are determined by a panel of three (3) judges, without knowledge of the brief score. Each judge must score competitors independently and without deliberation with their fellow judges and employ the grading rubric annexed to these Rules in determining oral argument scores. A team's oral argument score will be the average of its two oral competitors' individual oral argument scores.

(d) *Weight*. The total oral score will count for seventy-five percent (75%) of the overall octo-final score with the total brief score counting for twenty-five percent (25%).

(e) *Winning the Argument*. In each pairing, the winner of an argument is the team with the higher overall octo-final score pursuant to Rule 402(d).<sup>3</sup>

## **RULE 403. QUARTER-FINAL ROUND**

(a) *General*. The eight (8) winning teams from the octo-final rounds will advance to the quarter-final round.

(b) *Pairings and Representation*. Teams will continue to be paired based on advancement in a seeded bracket based on their overall preliminary scores (Rule 402(b)), with the higher-seeded teams paired against the lower-seeded teams. Petitioner and Respondent sides will be assigned randomly for each pairing.

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<sup>2</sup> If a tie persists, the team with the higher brief score advances. If a tie persists, the advancing team will be determined by lot.

<sup>3</sup> If the two teams are tied, the team with the higher oral argument score in the octo-final round advances. If a tie persists, the team with the higher median oral argument score in the octo-final round advances. If a tie persists, the team with the higher combined Best Oralist score advances. If a tie persists, the team with a higher brief score advances. If a tie persists, the team with the higher median brief score advances. If this too is tied, the advancing team will be determined by lot.

(c) *Scoring.* The oral scores are determined by a panel of three (3) judges, without knowledge of the brief score. Each judge must score competitors independently and without deliberation with their fellow judges and employ the grading rubric annexed to these Rules in determining oral argument scores. A team's oral argument score will be the average of its two oral competitors' individual oral argument scores.

(d) *Weight.* The total oral score will count for eighty-seven-and-a-half percent (87.5%) of the overall quarter-final score with the total brief score counting for twelve-and-a-half percent (12.5%).

(e) *Winning the Argument.* In each pairing, the winner of an argument is the team with the higher overall quarter-final score.<sup>4</sup>

#### **RULE 404. SEMI-FINAL ROUND**

(a) *General.* The four (4) winning teams from the quarter-final rounds will advance to the semi-final round.

(b) *Pairings and Representation.* Teams will continue to be paired based on advancement in a seeded bracket based on their overall preliminary scores (Rule 402(b)), with the higher-seeded teams paired against lower-seeded teams. Petitioner and Respondent sides will be assigned randomly for each pairing.

(c) *Scoring.* The brief score is not considered. To determine the winner of this round, the panel of judges must make their ruling based on a majority vote, after having due regard to the oral argument guidelines. The determination of the "winning" team is made by a vote of the judging panel. To assist the judging panel in its deliberations, judges should score the argument under the guidelines and scoring sheets as normal, and then deliberate and vote on the winner.

(d) *Winning the Argument.* In each pairing, the winner of an argument is the team which received a majority of the votes from the judging panel.

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<sup>4</sup> If the two teams are tied, the team with the higher oral argument score in the quarter-final round advances. If a tie persists, the team with the higher median oral argument score in the quarter-final round advances. If a tie persists, the team with the highest combined Best Oralist score advances. If a tie persists, the team with a higher brief score advances. If a tie persists, the team with the higher median brief score advances. If this too is tied, the advancing team will be determined by lot.

## **RULE 405. FINAL ROUND**

(a) *General.* The winners of the semi-finals advance to the final round.

(b) *Scoring.* The brief score is not considered. To determine the winner of this round, the panel of judges must make their ruling based on a majority vote, after having due regard to the oral argument guidelines. The determination of the “winning” team is made by a vote of the judging panel. To assist the judging panel in its deliberations, judges should score the argument under the guidelines and scoring sheets as normal, and then deliberate and vote on the winner.

(c) *Prizes.* The winner of the Final Round is the winner of the ILC. The second team in the Final Round is the runner-up.

(d) *Distribution of Scores.* Each team will receive a letter containing their total brief score, oral argument scores, and ranking at the conclusion of the Final Round. Scores may not be distributed at any other point during the ILC.

(e) *Pairings and Representation.* Petitioner and Respondent sides for the final round will be assigned by a coin toss, which must be witnessed by an ILC EE or MCB member, where the winning team may choose which side they wish to argue.

## **V. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS**

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### **RULE 500. COMPLAINTS**

All complaints regarding implementation and interpretation of the Rules or regarding the running of the Competition in general must be submitted via email to the ILC EEs at [mootcourt@nyu.edu](mailto:mootcourt@nyu.edu) (with notice given to all affected parties) within seventy-two (72) hours of the events giving rise to the complaint.

### **RULE 501. INITIAL RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS**

Complaints must in the first instance be resolved by the ILC EEs. The ILC EEs must communicate their decision via email to all affected parties within two working days after the complaint is lodged. In their determination of the complaint, the ILC EEs must include an explanation of the appeals process.

In the resolution of a complaint, the ILC EEs are empowered to make such decisions, including but not limited to suspending or modifying these Rules, as seem to them necessary for the fair and equitable resolution of the complaint consistent with the ILC's Mission.

## **RULE 502. APPEALS**

(a) *Lodging an Appeal.* A decision of the ILC under the Rules is subject to review by the MCB. An appeal is lodged by emailing the Editor-in-Chief of the Moot Court Board, Emily Payne, including the decision objected to, within seventy-two (72) hours of the ILC EEs' decision at [mootcourt@nyu.edu](mailto:mootcourt@nyu.edu).

(b) *Right of Appeal.* Any person affected by a decision of the ILC EEs has the right to lodge an appeal of that decision.

(c) *Appeals Procedure.* The MCB Executive Board, excluding the ILC EEs, must determine the appeal using procedures not inconsistent with the MCB's Bylaws. The Executive Board may, but need not, hold a hearing with the parties to discuss the appeal. However, all competitors affected by the appeal have the right to be given notice of the appeal and the opportunity to make at least written submissions to the Executive Board prior to its determination of the appeal.

(d) *Determination of Appeals.* In determining an appeal, the Executive Board is empowered to find that the EEs correctly interpreted or applied the rule, but nonetheless waive a penalty or punishment if it believes doing so is merited by the balance of equities.

(e) *Remedy of Scores.* The remedy for any successful protest or appeal of a score (either brief or oral argument) will be the elimination of that judge's score and the calculation of a substitute score based on an average of the other scores on that particular panel.

(f) *Emergency Appeals.* If an appeal of the ILC EEs' decision is sought and circumstances will not permit the Executive to meet and deliberate on the appeal, the Editor-in-Chief of the Moot Court Board must hear and determine the appeal.

(g) *All Appeals are Final.* No matter the method of appeal, competitors agree that all appeals, once taken, are absolutely final.

## ANNEXURES

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### APPENDIX 1: IMMIGRATION LAW COMPETITION BRIEF SCORING CRITERIA

Team Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION	DESCRIPTION (Each ILC Brief is to be scored on the basis of the following criteria)	POSSIBLE POINTS	POINTS GIVEN
Preliminary & Conclusory Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Title page includes the correct information without including any personally identifying information (2 points).</li><li>• Table of Contents is correct (we will look up one entry on the table; if it's correct, you get the point) (1 point).</li><li>• Table of Authorities is correct (we will look through the brief and find one citation at random; if on the table and correct, you get the point) (1 point).</li><li>• Conclusion requests the correct relief (1 point).</li></ul>	5 points	
Formatting	Brief Complies with all formatting requirements. (1 point each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correct font usage (including type or size)</li><li>• Correct margin size</li><li>• Correct line and text spacing</li><li>• Observes the page limit</li><li>• Citations overwhelmingly comply with Blue Book requirements</li></ul>	5 points	
Question Presented	Question presented section accurately and fairly articulates the question presented and presents a point of view without being overly argumentative.	5 points	
Statement of the Case	Facts are reasonably developed, with references to the Record, and fairly stated, consistent with fairness and candor, while being stated with order and emphasis to persuasively tell that client's side of the case.	10 points	
Summary of the Argument	Summary of the argument is an accurate and compelling crystallization (not just repetition) of the argument.	5 points	



Argument: Headings	Headings serve as a succinct summary of argument to follow and are developed appropriately with subheadings.	10 points	
Argument: Structure	Arguments are structured in a logical and persuasive sequence, from strongest to weakest argument. Brief addresses all issues in a straightforward manner and devotes appropriate space to each issue.	10 points	
Argument: Creativity	The brief advances creative, daring arguments and theories that are nonetheless plausible and persuasive.	10 points	
Argument: Use of Authorities	The brief includes, and appropriately treats, the leading legal authority; addresses and distinguishes unfavorable precedent, and uses the Record in an effective manner.	10 points	
Argument: Persuasiveness	The facts, issues, analogies, public policies, and authorities are combined with sound legal analysis for the most effective persuasion. Favorable arguments are positively stressed and unfavorable arguments recognized and answered. Ultimately, the grader comes away more persuaded by the case than she did when she sat down to grade it.	20 points	
Style	Prose is clear, elegant, and engaging. Elements of good prose style include omitting surplus words, avoiding redundant phrases, preferring the active voice, and using concrete and familiar terms. There is an absence of technical errors (spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc).	5 points	
Appearance	Submitted documents are polished and professional. Briefs with a good appearance are well-formatted (no “orphan headings”), clear, readable, and carefully edited.	5 points	
Penalty for briefing on the wrong side	If a brief is submitted on the wrong side this will result in a 10-point penalty from the total number of points.	- 10 points	
Late Penalty	If a brief is submitted five (5) minutes after the scheduled deadlines, five (5) points of the final brief score will be deducted. If a brief is submitted fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled deadlines, ten (10) points of the final brief		

	score will be deducted. An additional ten (10) points will be deducted every twenty-four hours the brief is not served thereafter.		
	Total Points	100 possible points	

**APPENDIX 2.1:  
IMMIGRATION LAW COMPETITION ORAL ARGUMENT SCORING SHEET**

Please indicate the candidate's score (0-10) for each category according to the below criteria. **Scores below 3 and above 8 should be reserved for reserved for exceptional performances.**

**1-3 BELOW AVERAGE:** Competitor is unlikely to prevail over peer competitors; although competitor exhibits general skills, preparation, and basic judgment, some intermediate skills are lacking.

**4-7 AVERAGE:** Competitor meets expectations for student competitors.

**8-10 EXCELLENT:** Competitor is likely to stand out amongst his/her most qualified peers; competitor exhibits some advanced skills expected of a practitioner, while others require development.

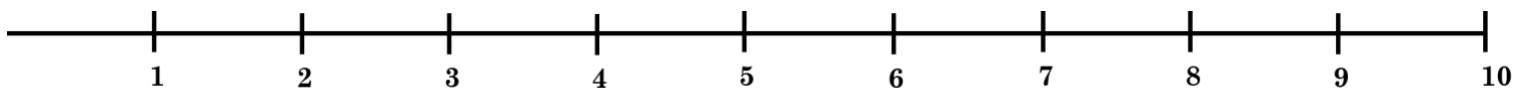
**Judge Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Team Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Petitioner / Respondent** (circle one)

**Name of Counsel 1:**

Please circle one (1) whole value for each of the criteria below:

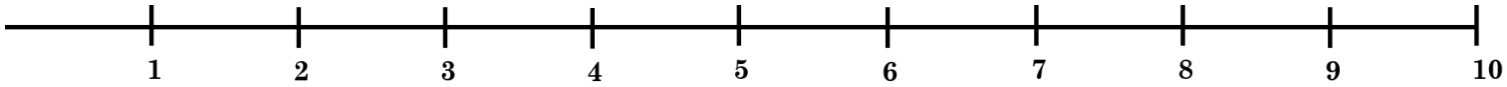
**Knowledge and Application of Law and Fact:**

*Was Counsel knowledgeable of the relevant law and facts? Did Counsel's argument effectively make use of law and facts to present a persuasive argument?*



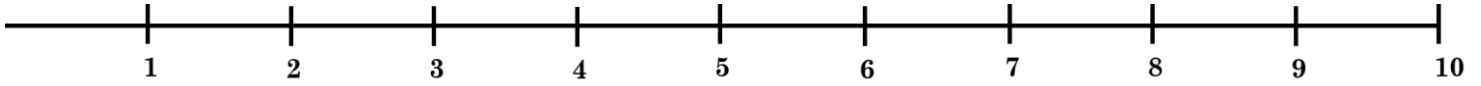
**Responsiveness to Questions:**

*Did Counsel answer the Judge's questions directly, correctly and completely?*



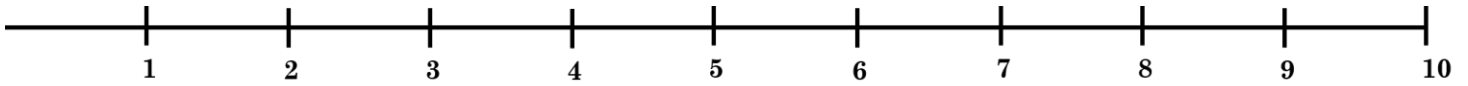
**Organization of Argument:**

*Did Counsel present their argument in a logical manner and proceed from point to point in a structured coherent manner?*



**Counsel's Demeanor and Courtroom Manner:**

*Did Counsel present themselves in an effective, confident manner and adequately observe courtroom decorum?*



**APPENDIX 2.2:**  
**IMMIGRATION LAW COMPETITION ORAL ARGUMENT SCORING SHEET**

Please indicate the candidate's score (0-10) for each category according to the below criteria. **Scores below 3 and above 8 should be reserved for reserved for exceptional performances.**

**1-3 BELOW AVERAGE:** Competitor is unlikely to prevail over peer competitors; although competitor exhibits general skills, preparation, and basic judgment, some intermediate skills are lacking.

**4-7 AVERAGE:** Competitor meets expectations for student competitors.

**8-10 EXCELLENT:** Competitor is likely to stand out amongst his/her most qualified peers; competitor exhibits some advanced skills expected of a practitioner, while others require development.

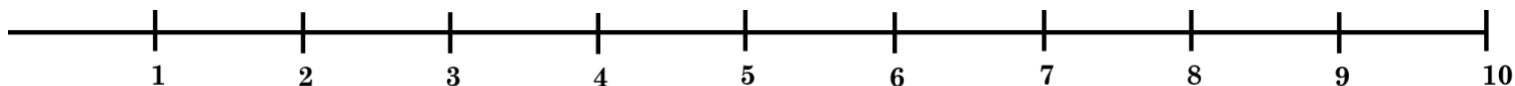
**Judge Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Team Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Petitioner / Respondent** (circle one)

<b>Name of Counsel 2:</b>
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Please circle one (1) whole value for each of the criteria below:

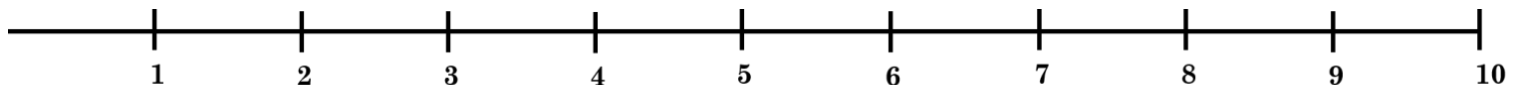
**Knowledge and Application of Law and Fact:**

*Was Counsel knowledgeable of the relevant law and facts? Did Counsel's argument effectively make use of law and facts to present a persuasive argument?*



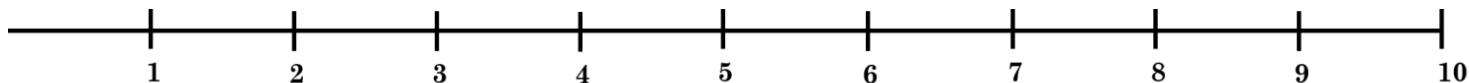
**Responsiveness to Questions:**

*Did Counsel answer Judge's questions directly, correctly and completely?*



**Organization of Argument:**

*Did Counsel present their argument in a logical manner and proceed from point to point in a structured coherent manner?*



**Counsel's Demeanor and Courtroom Manner:**

*Did Counsel present themselves in an effective, confident manner and adequately observe courtroom decorum?*

