BRIEF JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for volunteering to serve as a brief judge for our National Child Welfare & Adoption Law Moot Court Competition. Your participation is critical to the success of the competition!

Scoring Requirements:

All grading is to some degree subjective. Some people tend to be high graders, and some people tend to be low graders. Because you will not see every team’s brief, we have decided to address the "low-grader/high grader" disparity by imposing a mandatory median. Under a mandatory median system, three of the briefs must score above the median, and two of the briefs must be below the median.

We have set 75 as the mandatory median. This means that three of your scores must be at or above 75 and two must be at or below 75. There are no restrictions on the range of scores you can give between 50 and 100 as long as three of the scores are at or above 75 and two are at or below 75. You need not give any grade of exactly 75. You need not reach an average of 75. You need not space the grades symmetrically around 75.

For example, if you believe all five briefs are very good — briefs that you personally consider well above average — then you can give scores of 75, 75, 90, 92, 98. This may seem unfair to the two 75s, which in your mind deserve higher scores. However, this will ensure that everyone is consistently applying the mandatory median.

Similarly, if you believe all five briefs are poor, you might award scores of 64, 66, 75, 75, 75. You do not have to give any scores above 75, but you must give three of the briefs at least 75, even if you think they do not deserve this score. This will ensure that everyone is consistently applying the mandatory median.

In reality, you are likely to have a mixed group of briefs, and the mandatory median should be relatively easy to apply. Each brief will be judged by six different brief judges, and the scores will be averaged.

Criteria:

The score sheet lists twelve categories of scoring criteria along with point values assigned to each category. There are a total of 100 possible points. For each category, there is an explanation/checklist to guide you on what we are looking for.

You are also required to judge the citations. The score sheet includes a form to guide you through the citation process and includes the corresponding Blue Book rule numbers. There is a column for you to tally the frequency of each error. There are guidelines at the bottom of that form which list the maximum amount of points you can deduct for each type of error.

Logistics:

Please complete the score sheet for each brief and return them to Fawn Gadel by either fax 614-236-6958, or email (as an attachment) to mootcourt@law.capital.edu. Your completed score sheets are due no later than 4:00pm EST Wednesday, February 24, 2016.