2022 James Patterson McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition
ORAL ARGUMENT SCORING SHEET

Judge's Name: _____

Competitor's Name: _____

Please assign <u>specific scores</u> within the ranges below (The lowest score is 50 and the highest score is 100). Half points are allowed. Please score the arguments based on the quality of presentation, not on the actual merits of the case. This evaluation will not be distributed to competitors. It will be used solely to determine which competitors will advance to the next round.

<u>To encourage uniformity in scoring, please keep the following standards in mind when evaluating the advocates:</u>

Poor: Lacking fundamental knowledge, preparation, or skill.
Fair: Exhibiting basic knowledge, preparation, or skill.
Good: Exhibiting knowledge, preparation, or skills appropriate for an average law school upper classman or law firm summer associate.
Very Good: Exhibiting advanced knowledge, preparation, or skills appropriate for a practicing lawyer and advocate.
Excellent: Exhibiting exemplary knowledge, preparation, or skill such that you would feel very comfortable having this advocate argue a case in which you were a party before an appellate court.

CRITERIA	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	SCORE
Opening Statement • Accurately states reason for appeal • Quick summary of party's basic position • Addresses weaknesses and strengths of case	8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15	**15 pts max.**
Presentation of the Merits • Coherence, clarity, and directness of argument • Understands weak points and addresses them persuasively • Makes reasonable points driven by logic, policy, and logic • Persuasive theme • Clear understanding of the questions presented and relevant legal issues • Appropriate use of legal authority • Shows thorough knowledge of the record and the facts • Logical ordering of argument and effective use of time permitted	15-17	18-20	21-24	25-27	28-30	**30 pts. max.**

Questions from the Court • Responsiveness; relies upon appropriate authority to answer the court's questions (by direct reference or implication) • Persuasive emphasis of relevant legal issues • Use of questions to advance client's position • Handling of weaknesses of case • Continuation of argument after answering questions	18-21	22-25	26-27	28-31	32-35	**35 pts. max.**
Closing (and Rebuttal) • Use of the actual argument vs. a prepared statement • If applicable, uses rebuttal to capitalize on Respondent's weaknesses and questions from the Court	1	2	3	4	5	**5 pts. max.**
Overall Demeanor • Confidence • Preparation—ready to answer questions • Quality of delivery (confident but relaxed presence, projection, poise) • Voice (able to be heard easily, uses variety in pitch and tone) • Overall tone is professional and persuasive • Confident and professional body language • Good eye contact with judges	8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15	**15 pts. max.**
Total						**100 pts. max.**