

**Luke Charles Moore Invitational Moot Court Competition**  
**Official Rules**  
**2006-2007**

The objective of the Luke Charles Moore Invitational Moot Court Competition (“LCMI” or “the Competition”) is to introduce law students to important legal issues arising in the area of civil rights. Law students who participate in the competition will have the opportunity to develop brief writing and oral advocacy skills in a mock courtroom experience and to heighten their awareness in this evolving area of the law.

**1. TEAMS**

The competition is open to teams of students from ABA accredited law schools throughout the United States. Teams must consist of students from the same law school. No team member may hold a law degree from any law school in the United States. Team members must be students in a full-time or part-time Juris Doctor (J.D.) or equivalent program in the law school that they represent.

Number and Composition

Each school may enter up to two teams. Two and/or three-man teams are allowed to compete. Except that teams have permission from their school to enter in the Competition, teams must be a part of their law school’s moot court team. In the event that the school has no moot court team, teams may be permitted to compete. The first twenty teams to respond to the LCMI National Moot Court Competition via the LCMI website and/or postal mail, as determined by the date and time that registration is received, shall be selected as competitors in the LCMI National Moot Court Competition. If more than twenty teams respond within the designated time, teams will be notified immediately and a waiting list will be formed.

Substitution of Members

There shall be no replacement of team members after service of briefs except with the express written consent of the LCMI Chair and the Problems and Briefs Chair (“the Committee”).

Team Numbers

On the date that the Problem is made available, each team will be assigned a team number. Each team is to use that number to identify their team. At no time during the competition process will the teams reveal any information that will identify the school that they represent.

Travel

All teams are advised to make adequate plans anticipating the possibility of adverse weather conditions and other delays or exigent circumstances.

**2. THE PROBLEM**

The Problem will be made available to each law school via the LCMI website on December 4, 2006. If requested or if there are technical difficulties, a copy of the Problem and supplemental materials will be sent to teams via email attachment. All questions about the Problem must be received by January 5, 2007. Please email all questions to [dvvilmenay@law.howard.edu](mailto:dvvilmenay@law.howard.edu). All answers will be emailed to the contact person for all teams registered.

### **3. THE BRIEF**

Each team shall submit no more than one brief. Each team will be assigned which side to represent in writing the brief, but are expected to be prepared to represent either side during the oral argument phase. Only the team members that will participate in the oral argument phase may write the brief.

#### Format

All briefs shall comply with the official rules of the United States Supreme Court.

#### Length and specification

Each brief shall, without exception, be limited to thirty (30) double spaces 8 ½ x 11 inch pages, with printed matter (excluding page numbers) not to exceed 6 ½ x 9 inches. This thirty (30) page limitation shall not include the cover page, questions presented, table of contents, table of authorities, and appendices. The typeface/font used must both produce more than 10 characters per inch (10 cpi). The font must be Times New Roman 12-point font. (Note: If a scalable font (i.e., a font measured in points not in characters per inch) is used, typeface still must not produce more than 20 characters per inch).

#### Citations

All citations shall be complete and in the form prescribed by the most recent edition of A Uniform System of Citation (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et. al. eds., 18th ed. 2006).

#### Team Identification

Each team will be notified of their assigned team number via e-mail. The team number assigned by the Committee shall be included on the cover of each brief in the lower right hand corner of each copy. NOTE: The name of the law school and the names of the team members SHALL NOT appear anywhere on the brief. Briefs shall not be signed, and no information (real or fictional) serving to identify a team or team member shall appear on or within the brief itself.

\*\*\*Failure to conform to the provisions of this rule will result in the reduction of a team's brief score in an amount deemed appropriate in the judgment of the Committee.

Briefs SHALL NOT be exchanged between teams participating in the competition, including teams from the same school, except as provided below.

#### Publication of Briefs

All teams' briefs will be published and available for access by other teams through the LCMI website no later than February 5, 2007. If the Committee has any difficulties posting the briefs to the website, the Committee will email all briefs to the contact person by the same date. Any

problems or concerns with accessing any of the briefs should be emailed to the Committee at [dvvilmenay@law.howard.edu](mailto:dvvilmenay@law.howard.edu).

#### Prohibition of Assistance

No team shall receive any outside assistance in preparation of their brief. This includes editing of any kind (style and grammar). Teams are expected to rely upon their own research and the originality of thought in preparing for oral argument. This rule shall not be construed to prevent “mooting” and/or general discussions with faculty and other team members about the legal issues.

#### Certification

Each Team submitting a brief in the Competition shall certify that such brief has been prepared in accordance with these Rules and that the work product is solely that of the team’s members. The certification shall be bound in the original brief as the last page. Each team member must sign the certification. **The Certification Form can be found at PAGE 7 of these Rules.**

### **4. SERVICE OF THE BRIEF**

Each team shall submit to the Committee four (4) hard copies of its brief. One copy will be deemed the original and must be produced according to the United States Rules of the Supreme Court. The other three briefs are allowed to be copies of the original. Teams shall also submit a copy of the brief on a CD Rom or a 3 ½ floppy diskette compatible with Microsoft Word. Each electronic copy shall have a label affixed to the front with the team identification number. The Committee will not accept any other formats or converted documents. All copies shall contain the same matter in all respects as the original, and may be reproduced in any manner that produces a clear, black image on white paper, except that carbon copies may not be submitted. The type size in all copies must be the same as in the original.

#### Postal Mail

The original brief, three copies of the brief, and the disk **MUST** be postmarked by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007**. The address to mail the brief is as follows:

Howard University School of Law  
Attn: Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court Team  
2900 Van Ness Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

For any brief postmarked after this date there will be a one (1) point deduction for each day the brief is late. Briefs may not be revised or amended after they are served. No supplemental briefs will be accepted.

### **5. ALL ROUNDS OF ORAL ARGUMENT**

Oral arguments will be conducted on March 2-3 2007. All teams shall be advised by the Committee which side they will argue prior to the scheduled time for each round.

#### Time Allotment

Each team is allotted thirty (30) minutes for oral argument. Co-counsel may divide this time between them as they wish. However, each of the team members participating in the oral argument must argue at least ten (10) minutes. In advance of the argument, the courtroom bailiff must be notified how the time will be allotted. The teams are responsible for observing the thirty (30) minutes for oral argument. The courtroom bailiffs, however, will assist with the use of time cards.

#### Rebuttal

The petitioner may reserve up to five (5) minutes for rebuttal by notifying the bailiff prior to commencement of the argument. Rebuttal time may be utilized by only one team member and the time reserved must be subtracted from the thirty minutes [allotted for the team's presentation of its case-in-chief]. The petitioner may waive reserved rebuttal time at the conclusion of the respondent's argument. Failure to request rebuttal results in automatic waiver. Advocates should be prepared to address all issues. Advocates are not required to argue all issues but the failure to argue important issues may be considered by the judges.

#### Time Cards

The courtroom marshal will at least advise each arguing counsel when there are five (5) minutes, three (3) minutes, and one (1) minute remaining of his or her allotted time. Once counsel is informed by the courtroom bailiff that the time has expired, counsel must conclude the argument or receive the court's permission to continue.

#### Miscellaneous Rules

No discussion with the judges is permitted until their critique, which shall be conducted by the judges after the oral argument.

Demonstrative exhibits are permitted.

### **6. PRESENCE OF VISITORS/GUESTS IN THE ORAL ARGUMENT ROUNDS**

Team members, coaches, faculty advisors, or any other person affiliated with the team are permitted to attend only those arguments in which that team is participating. Other spectators may observe the argument if no team raises an objection before the argument.

The recording or taping of any argument is expressly prohibited. Failure to comply with this rule will result in automatic disqualification from the competition.

### **7. IMPARTIALITY OF THE JUDGES**

The Committee will make all attempts to ensure the impartiality of the judges. Any team that recognizes an affiliation between its team or the opposing team and any sitting judge should raise an objection prior to the argument. Failure to object before the argument commences is a complete waiver of this right.

## 8. SCORING

### Briefs

Each brief will be scored by three different judges. The overall brief score will be the average of the three scores. The highest scoring brief will be awarded the title of Best Brief.

### Preliminary Rounds

Each team will compete in two preliminary rounds of oral argument. The preliminary rounds will be held on Friday, March 2, 2007 at Howard University School of Law. In each of the preliminary rounds the score for each team will be computed by weighting the brief fifty percent (50%) and the oral scores fifty percent (50%) to achieve a round score.

The Committee will attempt to ensure that each team will be given an opportunity to argue as petitioner and respondent at least once.

### Quarter-finals

The eight teams with the highest overall scores from the preliminary rounds will advance to the quarter-final rounds, which will begin on Saturday. The teams will be judged based on the same criteria from the preliminary rounds, however, during the quarter-final rounds, the brief will account for forty percent (40%) and the oral scores sixty percent (60%) of the quarter-final scores.

### Semi-finals

The four teams with the overall highest score from the quarter-final round will advance to the semi-final round. The teams will be judged based on the same criteria from the previous rounds, however, the brief will account for thirty percent (30%) and the oral scores (70%) of the overall semi-final scores.

### Final Round

The two teams with the highest score averaged from the semi-final round will advance to the final round. The winning team will be announced at an awards ceremony after the final round of arguments. The final round will be held on March 3, 2007. The teams will be judged based on the same criteria from the previous rounds, however, during the final round, the brief will account for ten percent (10%) and the oral scores (90%) of the final scores. The team with the highest average score in the final round will be awarded the title of Best Overall Team.

### Best Oral Advocate

All participants will have their oral scores averaged. The individual with the highest average score will be awarded the title of Best Oral Advocate.

## 9. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Any complaints or grievances regarding the rules or any aspect of the competition shall be considered by the LCMI Committee and shall be resolved in a manner deemed appropriate by the Committee. Complaints must be submitted in writing.

Complaints can be sent to:  
Howard University School of Law  
Attn: Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court Team  
2900 Van Ness Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

## **12. RULE ALTERATION**

The Committee reserves the right to amend, alter, or suspend the rules at any time to ensure the fair and balanced conduct of the Luke Charles Moore National Moot Court Competition. If any of the rules are altered all teams will be notified immediately via email.

## **BRIEF CERTIFICATION**

*We hereby certify that the brief for \_\_\_\_\_ Law School is the product solely of the undersigned and that the undersigned have not received any faculty or other assistance in connection with the preparation of the brief.*

*Signature:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member #2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Team Member #3

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name