

OFFICIAL RULES

**THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
JUDGE CONRAD B. DUBERSTEIN
NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY
MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

March 2006

Prepared and Administered By
**THE ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY**

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**THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
JUDGE CONRAD B. DUBERSTEIN
NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY
MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

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ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

The Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition is co-sponsored by the American Bankruptcy Institute and St. John's University School of Law. Student members of the St. John's Moot Court Honor Society, the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review and the LL.M. in Bankruptcy program organize the competition. The competition is named in honor of the Hon. Conrad B. Duberstein, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court, E.D.N.Y., and St. John's alumnus. Judge Duberstein will serve as a judge in the final round of oral arguments together with leading members of the federal judiciary.

CERTIFICATION

I. Each team submitting a brief in the competition shall certify that such brief has been prepared in accordance with the rules of the competition and that the brief represents the work product of only the members of the team. The Certification must be submitted simultaneously with the brief and must be signed by all team members; however, it must not be affixed, bound, or otherwise inserted in the brief. For your convenience, a Certification sheet has been included as the last page of the rules.

TEAMS

II. Number and Composition of Teams

(a) Each participating school may enter one or two teams, composed of two or three students each. All team members must be full-time day or full-time evening students.

(b) All team members must be enrolled in the school that they represent at the time of the competition. Note that teams are permitted to include visiting students from Loyola of New Orleans or Tulane.

III. Participate of Team Members in Oral Argument

At least two members of each team must participate in oral arguments. (Please see Rule XII, below). If a team has three members, all three members may participate in oral arguments or one member may participate only in the preparation of the brief and need not argue orally.

IV. Substitution of Team Members

There shall be no substitution of team members after the submission of the brief, except upon written permission of the Board. The Board reserves the right to allow a substitution only upon a showing of extreme hardship. In no event will the Board consent to a substitution after the commencement of the first argument unless the number of team members drops below two.

V. Outside Assistance

(a) The brief and oral argument must be the work product of the student team members only. The text of the brief must be the original work of the team members and cannot be copied from other briefs or sources, except for passages clearly designated as quoted material. A Bench Brief will be prepared for the competition judges. It is a violation of the competition rules for any team member, coach or any person assisting a team to obtain a copy of the Bench Brief for the current competition or to obtain any information about its contents. Team members and coaches are required to report immediately to the Board any offer of information about the Bench Brief.

(b) The prohibition on outside assistance does not prevent preliminary general discussion of the issues with faculty or others before writing the brief. Nor does it prevent a faculty member or other person from critiquing a practice argument, provided that the finalized substance of the oral argument is the work product of the team members. Teams from the same school or different schools may hold practice arguments together.

VI. Report of Team Standing

Teams will be advised of their overall team standing, composite brief score, and composite oral argument scores for preliminary and octo-final rounds after the completion of the competition. Individual oral argument scores and scoring sheets will not be released.

BRIEFS

VII. Assignment of Sides

Each team shall be assigned randomly to serve as counsel for either petitioner or respondent for purposes of preparing a brief. Where a school has entered two teams, the teams will be required to submit one brief for each side.

VIII. Length and Form

Briefs shall be a maximum of thirty-five (35) pages in length, exclusive of questions presented, cover sheet, table of contents, table of authorities and appendices. Briefs shall be submitted on white paper measuring eight and one-half (8.5) by eleven (11) inches. Margins on all sides will be 1 inch, with double spacing between each line of text. Footnotes may be single-spaced, however, they must be included within the margin limits. Type size must be 12-point font in Times New Roman. Pages shall be numbered. The "Questions Presented" section shall be placed after the cover sheet and shall be numbered "i" and the following pages shall be numbered accordingly. The "Statement of Facts" shall be page number one (1). All copies of the brief must be bound at the left margin. Unless otherwise altered by these rules, the format of the brief shall comply with the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States. The Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition waives a formal statement of jurisdiction. All citations shall comply with the form prescribed in the most recent edition of Harvard Law Review Ass'n, A Uniform System of Citation.

IX. Cover Sheets

Petitioner's briefs shall have blue covers, and Respondent's briefs shall have red covers. The covers shall contain the assigned team number in the lower right corner with the words "Counsel for Petitioner/Respondent" (whichever is appropriate) underneath. The assigned team number shall also be placed on the top right corner of every page of text. Teams shall not sign the brief or indicate authorship in any other place. Neither the individual team members' names nor the school name should appear anywhere on the brief.

X. Service of the Briefs

(a) Competition Briefs

Each team must serve the Board with:

1. One (1) Measuring Brief, conspicuously marked as the "Measuring Brief";
2. Seven (7) additional identical copies of its brief;
3. One identical copy of its entire brief on a 3 1/2" computer disk or CD Rom with a label indicating the team number and name of the file containing the brief. The file must be in Microsoft Word format; and,
4. Signed Certification

All eight (8) copies of the brief, the disk or CD Rom, and the Certification shall be directed to: DUBERSTEIN DIRECTORS, ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, c/o MOOT

COURT HONOR SOCIETY, 8000 UTOPIA PARKWAY, JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11439, in a single package that indicates the name of the school being represented. The package must **ARRIVE** at St. John's University School of Law no later than **Monday, February 6, 2006**.

We strongly encourage teams to send their briefs by express mail, priority mail, or by Federal Express in order to ensure prompt delivery and to obtain tracking status of the delivery.

No team will be allowed to alter its brief after the service deadline.

(b) Service on Opposing Teams

It is **not** necessary to serve briefs on any other team participating in the competition. The Board will post all submitted briefs by team number on the Duberstein Competition website, which can be accessed from www.law.stjohns.edu/bankruptcy. Briefs from other competitors may be downloaded to prepare for the competition.

XI. Brief Scoring

(a) Brief Score

A committee of attorneys practicing in the bankruptcy field shall score the briefs anonymously. Each brief will be scored on a 100-point scale. Each brief shall be scored by two scorers, with the brief score being the average of the scores received. In the event that the difference between the scores is greater than fifteen points, the brief will be scored by a third scorer and the brief score shall be the average of the two closest scores. However, if one of the scores is at the mid-point between the other two, then the mid-point score shall be the brief score.

(b) Best Brief Award

The team with the highest brief score will win the best brief category. In the event of a tie, the tied briefs shall be rescored by a member of the St. John's faculty and the best brief shall be the brief receiving the highest score. The rescoring of tied briefs shall not change the brief scores determined pursuant to the preceding subsection and those scores shall be the ones used in the preliminary and octo-final rounds pursuant to Rule XIII, below. The team winning the best brief category will be announced at the Awards Banquet.

ARGUMENTS

XII. Length of Arguments

Each team is limited to thirty (30) minutes of oral argument. Two (2), and only two (2), team members will argue in each round. The division of the thirty (30) minutes allotted for the argument may be made at the discretion of the team; however, no team member may be apportioned fewer than ten (10) minutes. Petitioners may reserve up to three (3) minutes of rebuttal time prior to the commencement of the argument. Teams that reserve rebuttal shall notify the bailiff of how to deduct rebuttal time before the arguments begin. Time reserved for rebuttal shall be counted as part of the thirty (30) minutes allotted for the argument. Judges may allow additional argument time at their discretion.

XIII. Scoring

The scores for each round shall be computed as follows:

	<u>Brief</u>	<u>Oral Argument</u>
1. Preliminary Rounds	40%	60%
2. Octo-Final Rounds	30%	70%
3. Quarter-final Round	0%	100%
4. Semi-final Round	0%	100%
5. Final Round	0%	100%

XIV. Preliminary Rounds and Octo-Final Rounds

(a) In General

Each team will argue in three preliminary rounds on alternating sides. Each team will argue twice on the first day of competition and once on the second day of competition. The sixteen teams with the highest mean (average) score in the three preliminary rounds will advance to two octo-final rounds to be held in the afternoon on the second day of competition. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher brief score shall advance. (Please note that the number of preliminary rounds may be reduced to two rounds, if necessary, due to the number of competing teams.)

(b) Pairing of Teams

Pairing in the preliminary rounds and octo-finals shall be random. However, teams from the same school shall not be paired against each other.

(c) Time and Place

Oral arguments for the preliminary and octo-final rounds will take place at St. John's University School of Law, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica, NY 11439, on Saturday, March 18, 2006, and Sunday, March 19, 2006. A continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be provided on Saturday, and on Sunday, a buffet lunch and a late afternoon reception will be provided for all competitors and coaches. The octo-finalist announcement will be made on Sunday, March 19, 2006, at the lunch. The quarter-finalist announcement will be made on Sunday, March 19, 2006, at the reception. Transportation between St. John's and the competition hotel will be provided for all teams and coaches. Parking will also be available for those teams wishing to drive directly to the St. John's University Queens Campus.

XV. Advancement to Later Rounds

The teams with the highest mean (average) scores in the octo-final rounds will advance to the quarter-final rounds on the third day of the competition. In subsequent rounds, the team with the highest oral advocacy score from each team pairing will advance to the next round. Eight teams will advance to the quarter-final round. Four teams will advance to the semi-final round, and the two remaining teams will advance to the final round. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher brief score shall advance.

XVI. Quarter-final, Semi-final and Final Round

(a) Time, Place & Number of Teams

The quarter-final round will be held on Monday, March 20, 2006, at the United States Court House located at Foley Square in Manhattan. The quarter-final round will consist of the top eight (8) teams remaining after the octo-final rounds. The winning team from each of the four (4) quarter-final arguments will advance to the semi-final round. The winning team from each of the two (2) semi-final arguments will advance to the final round. The Board reserves the right to change the location of any round. Each team is responsible for its transportation to and from the federal court house. Directions will be provided to each team.

(b) Pairing of Teams

Pairing for the quarter-final round will be determined by seeding, with the top seeded team arguing against the team seeded eighth (8th), the second (2nd) seeded team arguing against the team seeded seventh (7th), and so on. Seeding will be established according to a team's mean (average) score from the octo-final rounds. In the event that there are teams with the same mean (average) score, the team with the higher brief score will be seeded higher. Seeding will be strictly followed in the quarter-final round. Therefore, teams that have argued against each other in the preliminary rounds, or teams from the same school, may be paired against each other in the quarter-final round. The team with the best oral advocacy score from each team pairing will advance to the next round. In the semi-final round, the winners of the arguments involving the first (1st) and third (3rd) seeded teams will argue against each other and the winners of the arguments involving the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) seeded teams will argue against each other.

(c) Assignment of Sides

Assignment of sides to be argued will be made at the discretion of the Board.

(d) Announcement of the Winning Team

The winner of the Fourteenth Annual Judge Conrad B. Duberstein Moot Court Competition shall be announced at the Awards Banquet.

XVII. Best Oral Advocate

The competitor with the highest mean (average) score for oral argument during the preliminary rounds shall be chosen best oral advocate. In the event of a tie, the competitor from the

team with the higher brief score shall be chosen. A competitor must argue twice in order to be considered for the best oral advocate award. The winner of the best oral argument award will be announced at the Awards Banquet.

XVIII. Attending Other Arguments

No team member, coach or faculty advisor of a team participating in the competition may attend an argument of any other team during the preliminary and octo-final rounds. The number of attendees to each argument is limited to the competing team members, two coaches or two faculty advisors. All participants may attend the quarter-final and semi-final rounds and are strongly encouraged to attend the final round of oral arguments to be held before distinguished members of the judiciary.

XIX. Communication During Rounds

There shall be no communication in any form from any member of the audience, including other team members sitting in the audience, once a round has begun.

INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES

XX. Clarification and Interpretation

Submit requests for clarification of the rules no later than **Monday, January 23, 2006**, to:

sjumootcourt@yahoo.com

Subject: Attn: Duberstein Directors

Submit requests for clarification of the fact pattern no later than **Monday, January 23, 2006**, to:

LLM@stjohns.edu

Subject: Motion for Clarification

Clarifications and interpretations will be posted on the competition website and transmitted to all participating schools at the email address provided on the application form. **Any decisions or other actions taken by the Board shall be final and binding on all participants.**

XXI. Amendments

The Board reserves the right to make and implement any further rules and procedures deemed advisable for the conduct of the competition. Each participating school will be notified in writing or by e-mail of any changes.

XXII. Penalties

The Board may assess such penalties, including disqualification, as it deems reasonable and appropriate for failure to comply with the foregoing rules. **All penalties imposed by the Board**

shall be final and binding. Specific penalties that will be deducted from a team's brief score for the following rule violations are:

- (a) Five (5) points per calendar day for late service of briefs;
- (b) Two (2) points per page beyond the page limit for the brief;
- (c) One half ($\frac{1}{2}$) point for each page containing a violation of either the horizontal or vertical margin limitations.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the Petitioner's/Respondent's brief submitted by Team # _____, of _____ Law School, is completed in accordance with the Rules of the Judge Conrad B. Duberstein Bankruptcy Law Moot Court Competition, and represents the work product of only the undersigned members of the team.

Dated: _____, 2006

(Team Member)

(Team Member)

(Team Member)

DUBERSTEIN TEAM INFORMATION SHEET
(Please Print)

School Name: _____

Contact Information for Team Members:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mobile Ph: _____

(for contact during competition)

Brief Writer: _____

(if applicable)

Contact Information for Coaches traveling with the team:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mobile Ph: _____

(for contact during competition)

PLEASE RETURN THIS INFORMATION SHEET NO LATER

THAN JANUARY 23, 2006 TO:

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY

ATTN: DUBERSTEIN DIRECTORS

8000 UTOPIA PARKWAY

JAMAICA, NY 11439