



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

30th Annual
Duberstein Bankruptcy
Moot Court Competition
Saturday, February 26, 2022
through Monday, February 28, 2022



AMERICAN
BANKRUPTCY
INSTITUTE

OFFICIAL RULES

**30th ANNUAL
DUBERSTEIN BANKRUPTCY
MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

February 26 – February 28, 2022

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THE 30th ANNUAL DUBERSTEIN BANKRUPTCY MOOT COURT COMPETITION

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMPETITION

The Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition (the “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 and the *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review* (the “Board”) organize the Competition. The Competition is named in memory of the Honorable Conrad B. Duberstein, former Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court, E.D.N.Y., and St. John’s alumnus.

CERTIFICATION

I. Certification and Copyright Form

Each team shall complete and submit electronically the official Certification and Copyright Form at the same time the brief is due as provided in **Rule X**. By submitting a brief, each team member certifies that such brief has been prepared in accordance with the rules of the Competition and is the work product of only the members of the team, except as permitted by **Rule VI**.

TEAMS

II. Vaccination Requirement

The Competition is planned and anticipated to proceed in-person. Therefore, all attendees of the Competition and Awards reception, including all competitors, coaches, and judges, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Requests for exemptions will only be considered on a case-by-case basis and such exemption will only be considered if the individual requesting such exemption has received an exemption from their respective school provided their school requires vaccination. Other health measures may also be required, such as wearing masks while indoors. Additional information will be provided closer to the Competition.

III. Number and Composition of Teams; Communication with Teams

(a) Each participating school may enter one team, comprised of two or three students each. The total number of teams will be capped at 50, comprised of the first 50 schools that register. Schools may place a second team on the waitlist by completing the registration form by November 22, 2021. If 50 schools have not registered by November 22, 2021, teams will be accepted from the waitlist in the order they were added until 50 teams have been registered. To be eligible to participate, a school must be ABA-accredited.

(b) All team members must be enrolled in the J.D. program of the school that they represent at the time of the Competition.

(c) Each team shall designate an Official Team Contact Person on the registration form and shall provide the name, telephone number, and email address of that individual, as well as the official name of the law school. All communications to the team will be addressed to the Official Team Contact Person, and the team shall be responsible for monitoring said numbers and addresses for communications from the Board. The name of the law school, as indicated on the registration form, will be used for all awards and announcements. If a team wishes to change the Official Team Contact Person or related information, the Board must be notified by email addressed to:

Duberstein@abiworld.org

Subject: Official Team Contact Person – Team [number]

(d) On or before **Monday, January 3, 2022**, each team shall complete the Team Information Form that will be sent via email to the Official Team Contact Person. The Board will use the team member names as listed on the Team Information Form for awards and certificates.

IV. Participation of Team Members in Oral Argument

At least two members of each team must participate in oral arguments, subject to **Rule XIII**. 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.

V. Substitution of Team Members

Teams shall not add members after submission of the Team Information Form (**Rule III(d)**), except upon written permission of the Board based on a showing of hardship. No substitution will be permitted after the commencement of the first argument unless the number of team members drops below two. The work product of a team member who resigns will be deemed the work product of student team members for the purpose of **Rule VI**. The resigning team member may not join or assist any other team.

VI. 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 Memo and a Brief Grader's Guide 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 or seek to obtain a copy of the Bench Memo or Brief Grader's Guide for the current Competition, or to obtain any information about their contents other than information disclosed by the Board in general communications to all teams. Team members and coaches must report immediately to the Board any offer of such information.

(b) The prohibition of outside assistance does not prevent preliminary general discussion of the issues with faculty or others before beginning to write the brief. Nor does it prevent a faculty member or other person from critiquing a practice argument after submission of the brief, provided that the finalized substance of the oral argument is the work product of the team members. After submission of the brief, teams from different schools may hold practice arguments together; however, prior to submission of the brief, team members shall not attend practice arguments of other teams (including teams from the same school) or communicate with anyone other than members of their team regarding the substance of their arguments.

(c) We encourage teams to arrange practice rounds before local bankruptcy judges and local bankruptcy practitioners. Several sitting United States bankruptcy judges judge the advanced rounds of the Competition. Teams are permitted to appear before invited judges for a practice round or in a preliminary competition sponsored by a local bar association. However, no invited judge may coach or assist a team beyond the critique of practice or Competition rounds. Teams appearing before a sitting bankruptcy judge in a practice or preliminary competition should ask the judge if they will be a judge in the Competition and, if so, must advise the Board of the name of the judge.

BRIEFS

VII. Assignment of Sides

Each team will 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 assigned to different sides.

VIII. Length and Form

Briefs shall be a maximum of 35 pages in length, exclusive of the cover sheet, questions presented, table of contents, table of authorities, opinions below, statement of jurisdiction, statutory provisions, and appendices. Briefs shall be typed on white pages measuring 8.5 by 11 inches. Margins on all sides shall be 1 inch, with double spacing between each line of text. Footnotes, headings, and subheadings may be single-spaced and must be included within the margin limits. Briefs shall be in Times New Roman font. The body text must be 12-point font and footnotes must be 10-point font. The document must be submitted in PDF format and may not exceed 8 MBs in size.

Pages must 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 on page number “1”. The “Statement of Jurisdiction” section of the brief shall state, “The formal statement of jurisdiction is waived pursuant to Competition Rule VIII.” Unless otherwise altered by these rules, the format of the brief shall comply with the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States. All citations shall comply with the form prescribed in the most recent edition of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation.

While footnotes are permitted, they should be used sparingly and should not be used for citations. Under **Rule XXIII**, penalties may be imposed, and points deducted if a team gains an advantage by including information in a footnote.

IX. Covers and Team Identification

A brief cover sheet is required. The cover sheet shall contain the assigned team number in the lower right corner with the words "Counsel for [Petitioner/Respondent]" underneath. The assigned team number shall also be placed on the top right corner of the cover sheet and 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's name should appear anywhere in the brief.

X. Service of the Briefs

(a) Competition Briefs

No later than **11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on Thursday, January 20, 2022**, each team must serve one copy of its entire brief (including appendices) on the Board by uploading the brief through the Brief Submission link located on the Competition website. The link can be accessed at www.stjohns.edu/law/duberstein. It is **not** necessary to send a printed copy of the Brief or Certification to the Board. Additionally, each team must complete and submit the electronic Certification and Copyright Form required by **Rule I** through the same link.

No team will be allowed to alter its brief after it has been submitted. Briefs received more than 30 minutes after the deadline will be treated as late-filed briefs unless the team establishes that it submitted the brief by the 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 Competition website at www.stjohns.edu/law/duberstein. Briefs from other competitors may be downloaded and reviewed to prepare for the Competition.

(c) Copyright

By submitting a brief, each team and each team member grants to St. John's University and to the American Bankruptcy Institute a non-exclusive right to publish the brief on the Internet and in print.

XI. Brief Scoring and Awards

(a) Brief Score

A committee of attorneys will score the briefs anonymously. Each brief will be scored in the range of 50-100 points. Each brief will be scored by two scorers, with the brief score being the average of the scores received. If the difference between the scores is greater than fifteen points, the brief will be scored by a third scorer and the brief score will be the average of the two closest scores unless one of the scores is at the mid-point between the other two, then the mid-point score will be the brief score.

(b) Best Brief Award

The team with the highest brief score will receive the “Best Brief” award. Additionally, the teams with the next four highest brief scores will receive “Outstanding Brief” awards. In the event of a tie for Best Brief, the tied briefs will be re-scored by a member of the St. John’s faculty, and the brief receiving the highest score will be the Best Brief. In the event of a tie for Outstanding Brief, the tied briefs will be re-scored by a member of the St. John’s faculty, and the brief receiving the highest score will be included as an Outstanding Brief. The re-scoring of tied briefs for awards will not change the brief scores for the purposes of **Rule XIII** and advancements.

The team winning the “Best Brief” award and the teams winning “Outstanding Brief” awards will be announced at the Awards Reception. A team need not argue in the preliminary rounds to qualify for the brief awards.

ARGUMENTS

XII. Length and Format of Arguments

Each team is limited to 30 minutes of oral argument. At least two team members will argue in each round. The division of the 30 minutes allotted for the argument may be made at the discretion of the team; however, no team member may be apportioned fewer than 10 minutes. Petitioners may reserve up to 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 will be counted as part of the 30 minutes allotted for the argument. Judges may allow additional argument time at their discretion. The Bailiff will keep the time of each argument and will display timecards to indicate when 10, 5, 3, and 1 minutes of argument time remain.

XIII. Scoring

The scores for each round will 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 Rounds	0%	100%
4. Semi-Final Rounds	0%	100%
5. Final Round	0%	100%

Scoring is inherently subjective. The Board's determination of advancing and winning teams and of winning competitors shall be final. If there is an error, the Board reserves the right, but has no obligation, to grant additional awards to any team or competitor disadvantaged by the error. **Any decisions or other actions taken by the Board shall be final and binding on all participants**

XIV. Preliminary Rounds and Octo-Final Rounds

(a) In General

Each team will argue in three preliminary rounds, with at least one argument for petitioner and one for respondent. Each team will argue twice on the first day of competition and once on the second day of competition. The 16 teams with the highest mean (average) score in the three preliminary rounds will advance to two octo-final rounds. The octo-final rounds will be held in the afternoon of the second day of competition. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher brief score will advance to the octo-final rounds. The number and format of the preliminary and octo-final rounds may be reduced, if necessary, to accommodate unforeseen events including, for example delays caused by inclement weather or public health concerns, in accordance with **Rule XXII**.

While St. John's J.D. students may not compete in the Competition and are not eligible for any Competition awards, one or more "filler" teams composed of St. John's J.D. students may participate in the preliminary oral argument rounds and in the octo-final rounds in the event a team is disqualified or otherwise unable to compete.

(b) Pairing of Teams in Preliminary Rounds

Pairing in the preliminary rounds will be random.

(c) Pairing of Teams in Octo-Final Rounds

Pairing for the octo-final rounds will be determined by seeding. In the first octo-final round, the top seeded team will argue against the team seeded 16th, the 2nd seeded team will argue against the 15th seeded team, and so on. In the second octo-final round, the top seeded team will argue against the team seeded 9th, the 2nd seeded team will argue against the team seeded 10th, and so on.

Seeding will be established according to a team's mean (average) score from the preliminary rounds. If 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 octo-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 octo-final rounds.

(d) Assignment of Sides in Octo-Final Rounds

In the first octo-final round, teams seeded 1st through 8th will argue for the petitioner and teams seeded 9th through 16th will argue for the respondent. In the second octo-final round, each team will switch sides.

(e) 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, Queens, New York 11439, on Saturday, February 26, 2022, and Sunday, February 27, 2022. On Saturday, a continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be provided. On Sunday, a continental breakfast, a buffet lunch, and an early evening reception will be provided for all teams and coaches.

The octo-finalists announcement will be made on Sunday, February 27, 2022, at the lunch. The quarter-finalists announcement will be made on Sunday, February 27, 2022, at the reception. Transportation between the Competition Hotel and St. John's University will be provided for all teams and coaches. Parking will also be available for those teams who wish to drive directly to the St. John's University Queens Campus.

(f) Best Oral Advocate Award

The competitor with the highest mean (average) score for oral argument during the preliminary rounds will receive the "Best Oral Advocate" award. In addition, the competitors with the next four highest mean (average) scores for oral argument during the preliminary rounds will receive "Outstanding Oral Advocate" awards. If there is a tie, the competitor from the team with the higher brief score will be chosen. If there are three preliminary rounds, a competitor must argue at least twice to be considered for the oral advocacy awards. The winners of the "Best Oral Advocate" award and the "Outstanding Oral Advocate" awards will be announced at the Awards Reception.

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. Judges in the quarter-final, semi-final, and final rounds will confer and determine the winning team in each pairing and are not required to use score sheets or to calculate a numerical score.

Eight teams will advance to the quarter-final round, four teams will advance to the semi-final round, and two teams will advance to the final round. If there is a tie, the team with the higher brief score will advance.

XVI. Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, and Final Rounds

(a) Time, Place, and Number of Teams

The quarter-final, semi-final, and final rounds will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022, at the Conrad B. Duberstein United States Bankruptcy Courthouse in Brooklyn, New York. The quarter-final round will consist of the top eight teams remaining after the octo-final rounds. The winning teams from each of the four quarter-final arguments will advance to the semi-final round. The winning teams from each of the two semi-final arguments will advance to the final round. The Board reserves the right to change the location of any round. Transportation for competing teams on Monday, February 28, 2022, will be provided from the Competition Hotel to the Courthouse and from the Courthouse to the Awards Reception immediately following the Final Round.

(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 8th, the 2nd seeded team arguing against the team seeded 7th, and so on. Seeding will be established according to a team's mean (average) score from the preliminary rounds. If there are teams with the same mean (average) score, the team with the higher brief score will be seeded higher. In the semi-final round, the winners of the arguments involving the 1st and 3rd seeded teams will argue against each other and the winners of the arguments involving the 2nd and 4th seeded teams will argue against each other. Seeding will be strictly followed in the quarter-final, semi-final, and final rounds. Therefore, teams that have argued against each other in the preliminary rounds may be paired against each other in the quarter-final, semi-final, and final rounds.

(c) Assignment of Sides

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

(d) Team Awards

The two teams that advance to the final round will be a “Finalist” in the Competition. The winning team will be awarded the first-place team award. The other team will receive the second-place team award. The two teams that advance to the semi-final round but not the final round will receive the third-place team awards. The winner of the final round of the Competition will be announced at the Awards Reception. The winner of each pairing in the quarter-final and semi-final rounds will be announced after each argument.

XVII. Attendance at 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 rounds. The attendees at each argument are limited to the members of the competing teams and two coaches or two faculty advisors for each team. All attendees must sit in an area designated by the Bailiff. All participants may attend the octo-final, 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.

XVII. Communication During Rounds

Once a round has begun, there shall be no communication in any form from any member of the audience, including coaches, faculty advisors, or team members who will not be arguing during that round. Teams are not permitted to disclose the identity of their schools to judges until either the conclusion of the Competition or the team’s elimination from the Competition, whichever is earlier.

XIX. Report of Team Standing

After completion of the Competition, the Board will send to the Official Team Contact Person: (1) the oral argument score sheets from the preliminary rounds; (2) the brief score sheets; and (3) the brief score computation sheet showing the calculation of the brief score under **Rule XI(a)** and an indication of any penalties assessed under **Rule XXIII**. It is the Official Team Contact Person’s responsibility to share these materials with team members, as the Board does not retain copies of scoring materials.

XX. Consent to Competition Photographs and Recordings

Participation in the Competition, whether as a team member, coach, or faculty advisor, constitutes consent to be photographed and recorded. Photographs and recordings may be displayed or distributed during and after the Competition in a variety of formats and media, including projection during the Awards Reception, posting on the Internet, and use in press releases and promotional materials. Participants waive all claims for any compensation, damages, or other remedies in connection with such photographs or recordings and their use.

INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES

XXI. Clarification, Interpretation, and Determinations

Submit requests for clarification of the rules to:

Duberstein@stjohns.edu

Subject: Duberstein Rules

Submit requests for clarification of the fact pattern to:

Duberstein@stjohns.edu

Subject: Duberstein Fact Pattern

Requests for clarifications must be received no later than **1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on Friday, January 14, 2022**. Clarifications and interpretations will be posted on the Competition website and transmitted to all participating schools by email addressed to the Official Team Contact Person.

XXII. Amendments to Rules, Procedures, and Format

The Board reserves the right to make and implement any further rules and procedures or take any actions deemed advisable for the conduct of the Competition. Each participating school will be notified of any changes by email addressed to the Official Team Contact Person.

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the Board reserves the right to amend the format of the Competition. This includes limiting the preliminary rounds to two rounds, removing octo-final rounds completely, or converting some or all rounds to a virtual format. In the event it is necessary to convert the Competition to a virtual format (the "Virtual Competition"), the instructions and procedures to be followed for such Virtual Competition are attached hereto as **Appendix 1 (Rule XXIV)**.

XXIII. 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 or oral argument score for the following rule violations are set forth below:

(a) For late service of briefs, two points for briefs submitted less than an hour late and five points per calendar day (up to a maximum of 10 points) for service of briefs submitted later.

(b) Two points per page beyond the page limit for the brief.

(c) One half point for each page containing a violation of the type size or margin requirements where, in the Board's opinion, the violation gives the team an advantage (up to a maximum of 10 points).

(d) Footnotes are not prohibited; however, they are intended to be used sparingly and should not be used for citations. A penalty may be deducted if a team gains an advantage by including information in a footnote. Such an advantage may include, for example, if the text had been included in the body of the brief it would have caused the brief to exceed the page limit. This penalty is at the Board's discretion and will be in proportion to the perceived advantage it creates for the team.

(e) Additional penalties may be imposed if a team gains a clear advantage as a result of not following the aforementioned rules. This penalty is at the Board's discretion and will be in proportion to the severity of the violation and the perceived advantage it creates for the team.

(f) Additional penalties set forth in **Rule XXIV(f)**.

APPENDIX 1

XXIV. Online Competition Rules

(a) General

All teams are responsible for their internet and video conferencing capabilities during the Competition. Competitors are advised to download Zoom to their computers and practice with the technology **before** the Competition. Competitors are advised to disconnect all other devices other than the one used to connect to Zoom during the competition to eliminate competing sources of bandwidth.

Each team member must join their competition room 10-15 minutes before the round begins to give their information to the Bailiff, ensure proper internet connectivity, and ensure both video and audio settings are working properly. Competitors must keep their video on for the entire round and be visible throughout the entire round. Competitors must not make any distracting movements during arguments and must silence all other electronic devices.

(b) Room Links and Passwords

Communications will be sent to each team through email, including information such as the Competition schedule, Zoom links and password, and certification forms. Each day, there will be a Competition Zoom Lobby where Competition staff will be located virtually for teams to come at any time to ask questions or raise concerns. If teams have a private question, the Competition staff will create a breakout room for the team to speak to the Competition staff privately.

(c) Zoom Setup

(i) Display Name:

When entering the room, the two team members arguing must change their display name to First Name, Last Name, Team Number, and either (P) for petitioner or (R) for respondent. For example:

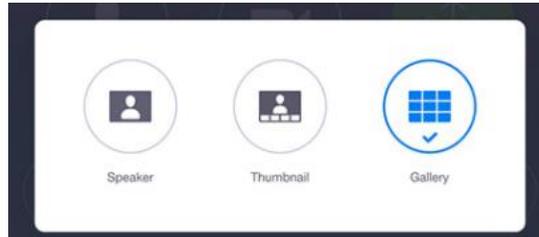
“John Smith – Team 40 (P)”

Coaches must change their display name to “Coach”, Team Number, and either (P) for petitioner or (R) for respondent. For example:

“Coach – Team 40 (P)”

(ii) Gallery View vs. Speaker View

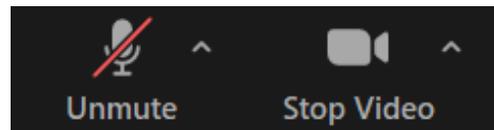
Competitors are advised to use Gallery View so that they may see all the judges and the Bailiff keeping time on the same screen.



(iii) Muting and Unmuting

Competitors must be on mute at all times during the rounds except to respond to the Bailiff's questions or during their argument. The mute and video off buttons are in the bottom left corner of the Zoom window.

Competitors should enter the room with their cameras on and microphones muted as shown below.



(iv) Virtual Backgrounds

The use of virtual backgrounds will not be permitted during the rounds. The team members should ensure the room in which they will be arguing looks professional. **Furthermore, the team members must ensure there is nothing in the room or in their Display Name that could identify the team's school.**

(v) Sound

Competitors may choose to use headphones during their argument. Headphones are recommended to avoid feedback noises. These options will not factor into the scoring of the oral arguments.

(vi) Lighting

Competitors should make sure there is adequate lighting so judges can see them. Competitors should avoid joining the round with the camera facing a window or bright lights behind the competitors.

(d) During the Round

(i) Competitors Arguing from the Same Location

The team members arguing during a round may be in the same physical room, but may not have any other individuals in the room with them when arguing.

(ii) Dress Code

Competitors must be in full court room attire for their arguments. Competitors may choose to either sit or stand during their argument.

(iii) Prepared Materials

Competitors may print their notes and keep them in front of themselves. Competitors may not tape notes to the wall or have them on their laptops.

(iv) Communication During Rounds

Once a round has begun, there shall be no communication in any form from any member of the audience, including coaches, faculty advisors, or team members who will not be arguing during that round. Competitors may not communicate with coaches, third team members, faculty advisors, or anyone else other than the judges and the Bailiffs. The team members who are arguing during the round may not communicate with each other, unless it is to “pass notes” to each other physically or via private messaging through the Zoom chat function. Teams are not permitted to disclose the identity of their schools to judges until either the conclusion of the Competition or the team’s elimination from the Competition, whichever is earlier.

(v) Disruptions in Service and Cure Period

In the case of a service disruption or Zoom failure, each team will receive a **10-minute cure period** to allow competitors time to reconnect to the round. During this time, if the competitor who is arguing has disconnected, the Bailiff will pause the round time. Time will resume when the competitor reconnects and resumes the argument. If a competitor who is not arguing disconnects, the argument will continue, and the competitor must reconnect as soon as possible.

Each team will be granted **no more than two** opportunities to cure (per round, not per competitor). The second time a failure occurs, competitors will receive any remaining time left of the team’s 10-minute cure period. If a competitor is unable to reconnect after the second interruption or within the cure period, the competitor must use the call in Zoom function to finish the round.

If the Zoom room itself crashes, the Bailiff will immediately stop the timer. The competitors should immediately return to the Competition Zoom Lobby and await further instructions. If the Competition staff is able to repair the connection within 10 minutes, they will do so. If they are unable to do so, the Competition staff will set up a new Zoom room. The competitor who was disrupted by the crash—but only for Zoom crashes caused by the system itself—will have 30 seconds added to their argument to reorganize their presentation.

(vi) Bailiffs

Bailiffs will visually indicate to competitors their remaining time. If the Bailiff's internet connection falters, the second Bailiff will turn on their video and continue providing the time indicators. The Bailiff timecards will indicate when time has expired and when 10, 5, 3, 1 minutes of argument time remain. In addition, the Bailiff will use the chat function to notify the competitors of the remaining time.

(vii) Judges

Judges will be instructed to connect to the Zoom room with their computer for both audio and video. Prior to the round, judges will be placed in a separate breakout room. When the round commences, judges will join the main room. After the arguments have concluded, the judges will be placed in a separate breakout room for deliberations. During this time, competitors will remain in the main room.

If a judge's internet connection falters or other technological difficulties occur, **the round will not be stopped**. The judge will be instructed to attempt to fix the issue, and if the judge cannot do so quickly, the judge will be instructed to call in and continue listening and asking questions over the phone.

(viii) Attendance at 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 rounds. Absent the consent of both teams, the attendees at each argument are limited to the members of the competing teams and two coaches or two faculty advisors for each team. Requests for permission for additional attendees must be made to the Competition staff in the Competition Zoom lobby or to the Bailiff prior to the start of the round. Coaches and faculty advisors may not be in the same physical room as team members during oral argument. During the round, all attendees must turn off both their cameras and microphones. All attendees are prohibited from sending chats to competitors during the round.

(e) Round Conclusion

(i) Round Certification

Immediately after each round, the two team members who have argued are required to submit an electronic certification that they have not received any unauthorized assistance

during the round. The link to the certification will be sent via email and will be used after each round. Failure to submit the round certification within 15 minutes after the conclusion of the round may result in the team forfeiting its score for the round.

(f) Additional Penalties

Additional specific penalties may be deducted from a team's oral argument score for violating this Rule, including distracting movements, unmuting while not arguing, turning the camera off during the round, and improper communication. Penalties assessed are at the Board's discretion and will be in proportion to the severity of the violation and the perceived advantage it creates for the team.