2016 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). 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.

CRITERIA	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	SCORE
Opening Statement • Proper statement of purpose of the appeal • Quick summary of party's basic position • Proper presentation of weakness of case from decisions below • Reading from prepared statement vs. natural command of the case • Proper tone	8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15	**15 pts max.**
Presentation of the merits • Coherence and clarity of argument • Organization • Reasoned arguments with proper analysis and conclusions • Persuasive theme • Understanding of legal issues • Proper focus on important issues of case • Use of legal authority or policy arguments • Familiarity with the record • Logical ordering of argument and effective use of time	15-17	18-20	21-24	25-27	28-30	**30 pts. max.**
Questions from the Court • Ability to answer questions (i.e., not surprised by questions) • Responsiveness to questions • Persuasiveness • 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.**
Demeanor • Confidence • Preparation—ready to answer questions • Quality of delivery (natural, relaxed presence, projection, poise and appearance) • Voice (i.e., not monotonous) • Proper tone (i.e., not sarcastic or disrespectful) • Body language • Eye contact	8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15	**15 pts. max.**
Closing (and Rebuttal) • Proper closing using the actual argument vs. a prepared statement • Proper rebuttal capitalizing on Respondent's weaknesses and questions from the Court	1	2	3	4	5	**5 pts. max.**
Total						