2023 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 not allowed. Please score the arguments based on the quality of presentation and skills demonstrated, not on the actual merits of the case. Your completed 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 equity and uniformity in scoring, please keep the following standards in mind when evaluating the advocates per the criteria provided:</u>

Poor: *Lacks fundamental knowledge, preparation, or skill.*
Fair: *Exhibits basic knowledge, preparation, or skill.*
Good: *Exhibits proficient knowledge, preparation, or skills.*
Very Good: *Exhibits advanced knowledge, preparation, or skill.*
Excellent: *Exhibits 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. Meets and/or exceeds the criteria provided below.*

CRITERIA	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	SCORE
Opening Statement • Accurately states reason for appeal • Concisely summarizes position • Addresses weaknesses and strengths of case	8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15	**15 pts max.**
Presentation of the Merits • Coherent, clear, and direct • Understands weak points and addresses them persuasively • Makes reasonable points driven by logic, policy, and analysis • Uses persuasive theme • Clearly understands questions presented and relevant legal issues • Appropriately uses legal authority • Shows thorough knowledge of the record and the facts • Logically orders argument and effectively uses time permitted	15-17	18-20	21-24	25-27	28-30	**30 pts. max.**

Questions from the Court • Responsive; relies upon appropriate authority to answer the court's questions (by direct reference or implication) • Persuasively emphasizes relevant legal issues • Uses questions to advance client's position • Deftly handles weaknesses of case • After answering questions, fluidly moves into argument	18-21	22-25	26-27	28-31	32-35	**35 pts. max.**
Closing (and Rebuttal) • Uses actual argument (not scripted 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 • Confident and poised presence (no excessive hand gestures or shifting) • Conversational (not stiff or overly formal) • Tone of voice (inflection variety; moderate pace; indicates conviction; heard easily) • Sustained eye contact with judges	8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15	**15 pts. max.**
Total						**100 pts. max.**