Dear Students and Coaches,

Welcome to the AIPLA 2026-2027 Giles S. Rich Memorial Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition! As always, our writing team has prepared a great problem for you this year. Please read these competition rules thoroughly. If you have any questions about the rules for this competition, please contact the National Operations Directors, Dan Wade and Christopher Jeu.

Like last year, AIPLA plans to conduct the competition in person. The Regional and National Directors will provide more guidance at the appropriate time should anything change.

For your convenience, we provide the below highlights of major rules changes:

- We have modified Rule 17 to specify how citations to the record appendix should be formatted.
- We have added Rule 32 to specify proper use of artificial intelligence tools by competitors.

Good luck!

Dan Wade and Chris Jeu

Dan Wade and Christopher Jeu
National Operations Co-Directors
Giles S. Rich Memorial Moot Court Competition

RULES GOVERNING THE 2026-2027 AIPLA GILES S. RICH MEMORIAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Moot Court competition is named for the late Honorable Giles Sutherland Rich, Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The competition, comprising regional rounds in several cities across the nation and national rounds in Washington, DC, is an annual inter-law school event sponsored by the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). There is no entry fee for the competition. The competition is made possible through the volunteer service of attorneys, judges, and AIPLA professionals.

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1. Scope of Rules

These Rules apply to all aspects of the Competition, including the Regional and National Rounds.

RULES 2-13: COMPETITION PROCEDURE AND TIMELINE

2. Relevant Dates

As detailed elsewhere in the Rules, team members are reminded of the following dates:

- Priority deadline for submission of Notices of Intent to Compete is **Friday, December 11, 2026 (11:00 pm local time).**
- All Notices of Intent to Compete must be submitted by the final deadline of Friday**, January 8, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)**.
- Briefs for Regional Rounds must be served by **Friday, January 29, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)**.
- The Regional Rounds will be held over three days from **Friday, March 12 to Sunday, March 14, 2027.**
- Briefs for teams advancing to the National Rounds must be served by **Friday, March 19, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)**.
- The National Rounds will be held over three days from **Wednesday, April 14 to Friday, April 16, 2027**.

3. Entry and Regional Selection

a. Each team that desires to participate in the Competition shall serve one Notice of Intent to compete on the **Regional Director(s)** listed in Appendix A for both a first choice requested region and a second choice requested region. Each team shall also serve this Notice on the **National Operations Directors** listed in Appendix A at the same time.

i. Teams submitting a Notice of Intent to Compete prior to the priority deadline of **Friday, December 11, 2026 (11:00 pm local time)** will be given preference in region assignment.

ii. All Notices of Intent to Compete must be submitted no later than **January 8, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)**).

b. All teams filing a Notice of Intent to Compete in compliance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Rules will be enrolled to compete. Region assignments will be made on a rolling basis, as Notices of Intent to Compete are received, with preference given to teams local to the region of choice, and those teams registering by the priority deadline. The Regional Directors and National Operations Directors will make every effort to provide teams with notice as to their assigned region. Every effort will be made to accommodate teams in their requested first-choice region; however, teams may be transferred to their second-choice region upon request of the Regional Directors, prior to service of briefs. **Teams are encouraged to register early and to notify the Regional Directors and National Operations Directors of any circumstances that require the team's assignment to a particular region.**

c. Each school may be represented by one to two teams in the Regional Rounds. In no case shall any school be represented by more than two (2) teams. A team from a school submitting Notices from more than one team must include in their Notice a numerical ranking (*e.g.*, "Team 1"; "Team 2") for their team, with the Regional Director accommodating lower numerically ranked teams first.

d. The Notice shall be typed and include school name and address, team member names and e-mail addresses, team coach or advisor names and e-mail address, team email address for service (may be unique or repeated from team/coach email), telephone number where the team can be reached during travel and competition, first-choice of requested region, second-choice of

requested region, team ranking (if any), and legal employer with whom each team member or coach is affiliated including current employment, past and future clerkships, summer associateships, (if any) for avoidance of judging conflicts. Teams are encouraged to submit their Notice of Intent on the form provided with the Problem.

e. The Notice must include a statement of whether the team intends to compete in the National Rounds if invited. If any emergencies or previously unforeseen circumstances arise which make a team unable to participate in the National Rounds, the team will promptly notify the National Operations Directors and the Director of the team's assigned region.

4. Regional Directors' Participation Notification

a. From **January 11–15, 2027**, the Regional and National Operations Directors may conference on the Notices received per region. **Directors may contact schools with requests to submit additional teams or change regions, so as to balance numbers across regions or ensure fairness**. Based on schools' selections and any changes, if possible, an even number, no fewer than eight (8), teams shall be placed in each region.

b. By **January 22, 2027**, the Regional Directors or National Directors shall email each team finally placed in their region with confirmation of participation, assignment of Team Numbers for the Regional Rounds, and service emails for each other team in the region. The Regional Directors may additionally provide preliminary times and/or locations for the Directors' Regional Rounds, subject to change. Any complications or errors in regional participation or service email should be immediately resolved with the Regional Director, and no later than service of briefs on the date specified in Rule 5.

5. Serving Regional Briefs

Each team shall serve a copy of each brief (Appellant and Appellee) on only the Regional Director(s) for the region in which the team is participating and the National Operations Directors on **January 29, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)**). **Briefs are not to be shared with other teams until the times set out in Rule 7.**

6. Regional Brief Scoring

Before **March 5, 2027** each brief served under Rule 5 shall be scored in accordance with Rules 21 and 23(a) to generate a Brief Score for each team for use in the Regional Rounds.

7. Regional Directors' Regional Rounds Notification & Brief Sharing

a. On or before **March 5, 2027**, the Regional Director(s) shall email initial pairings, sides, location, time, and all other logistics of the Regional Rounds to each participating team that complied with all Rules. The Regional Directors shall make every effort to provide this information as soon as possible as it becomes known and/or following brief judging.

b. Between **March 8, 2027** and **March 10, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)** each team shall share their briefs with the other teams in their region via service email, copying the Regional Director(s) of its respective region. The Certification of Service shall not be changed but should still reflect the Regional Director(s).

8. Regional Rounds: Friday, March 12– Sunday, March 14, 2027

a. Preliminary Round

i. Each Regional Director shall seed teams for a preliminary round based on Brief Score, with the team having the highest Brief Score competing against the team having the lowest Brief Score, the team having the second-highest Brief Score competing against the team having the second-lowest Brief Score, and so on.

ii. Only in the instance that a Region is unable to field an even number of teams or eight (8) teams total, the Regional Director may seed the Preliminary Round with "dummy" team(s) to provide even preliminary round oral arguments among at least eight teams. "Dummy" teams shall not be scored or advance as such. Dummy teams may be selected from other competing teams that have already argued and/or other administrators.

iii. Each Regional Director shall randomly assign opposing parties (Appellant or Appellee) to each paired team for oral argument, such as by uncalled coin flip, spreadsheet randomizer, random number generator, etc.

iv. The paired teams shall present oral argument for their assigned side under Rule 18, and the oral argument shall be scored under Rule 22(b).

v. Each Regional Director shall calculate each team's Preliminary Round Score from the team's oral argument and Brief scores under Rule 23(b).

vi. A number of teams having the highest Preliminary Round Score following the preliminary round shall advance to the bracketed rounds.

vii. Each Regional Director shall serve all Preliminary Scores and identification of advancing teams on each team in their region and on the National Operations Director.

b. Bracketed Rounds

i. Each Regional Director shall seed advancing teams for the bracketed rounds based on their Preliminary Score, using the same method as in Rule 8(a)(i) but with Preliminary Round Scores instead of Brief Scores.

ii. Each Regional Director shall assign opposing parties (Appellant or Appellee) to each paired team for oral argument in each bracketed round. The Regional Directors shall assign parties such that teams do not argue for a same party in consecutive rounds if possible; otherwise (such as if both paired teams previously argued a same side), the Regional Director shall randomly assign parties.

iii. The paired teams shall present oral argument for their assigned side under Rule 18, and the judges shall determine a single winner based only on oral argument under Rule 22(c) for each pairing in the bracketed rounds. The winning team shall advance to the next bracketed round.

iv. The bracketed rounds shall repeat with the advancing teams, under the same assignment, and sharing procedures above, until only two teams remain for a bracketed round that is the Regional Final Round. The winner of the Regional Final Round shall be the Regional Winner, and the other team shall be the Regional Runner-Up.

c. Each Regional Director shall announce the Regional Winner and Regional Runner-Up, as well as the team in their region with the highest Brief Score as calculated under Rule 23(a) to all teams and serve the same on the National Operations Directors. Regional Directors may provide for a reception or other optional activity following the competition.

d. Each Regional Director shall provide brief and oral argument scores and all other written feedback to corresponding teams following the Regional rounds. Regional Directors may share any scores among all teams following the Regional Rounds and/or in the instance of a dispute, at the Directors' discretion.

e. Inability to Compete in the National Rounds. If, for any reason, a team becomes unable or unwilling to compete in the National Rounds in the event that it advances from the Regional Rounds, it must notify its Regional Director of that fact before the beginning of its Preliminary Round argument. Failure to notify the Regional Director in a timely manner may result in sanctions at the discretion of the Regional Directors and the National Operations Director. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, forfeiture of regional titles and restrictions on the school's ability to compete in future competitions.

9. Regional Directors' National Participation Notification

a. Each Regional Director shall notify the National Operations Directors by the Monday following the Regional Rounds (**March 15, 2027**) of their Regional Winner and Regional Runner-Up for advancement to the National Rounds.

b. On the Wednesday following the Regional rounds (**March 17, 2027**), the National Operations Director shall email each team advancing to the National Rounds with a notice of participation in the National Rounds and the assignment of their Team Number for the National Rounds. The National Operations Director may additionally provide preliminary times and/or locations for the National Rounds, subject to change. Any complications or errors in national participation or service email should be immediately resolved with the National Operations Director.

10. Serving National Briefs

a. Each team advancing to the National Rounds shall serve a copy of each brief (appellant and appellee) on only the National Operations Directors on the Friday following the Regional Rounds (**March 19, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)**). Briefs are not to be shared with other teams until the times set out in Rule 12.

b. Briefs shall not be modified, except to update service information and to correct minor typographical errors, from their form as submitted in the Regional Rounds. If any changes to briefs are made other than to update service information, both redline and clean copies of the modified briefs must be served on the National Operations Directors at the time indicated in Rule 10(a).

c. The National Directors, at their discretion, may authorize supplemental briefing to address case law that arises during the pendency of the competition or other intervening circumstances. If authorized, supplemental briefing will not be authorized on a team-by-team basis, but instead will be authorized for all teams.

11. National Brief Scoring

Before **April 5, 2027,** each brief served under Rule 10 shall be scored in accordance with Rules 21 and 23(a) to generate a new Brief Score for each team for use in the National Rounds.

12. National Operations Director's National Rounds Notification

a. By **April 6, 2027**, the National Operations Director(s) shall email initial pairings, sides, location, time, and all other logistics of the National Rounds to each participating team that complied with all Rules. The National Operations Directors shall make every effort to provide this information as soon as possible as it becomes known and/or following brief judging.

b. By **April 9, 2027 (11:00 pm local time)**), each team shall share their briefs with the other teams participating in the national competition via service email, copying the National Operations Directors. The Certification of Service shall not be changed but still reflect the National Operations Directors.

13. National Rounds: Wednesday, April 14–Friday, April 16, 2027

a. The National Rounds shall proceed with Preliminary and Bracketed rounds until a National Final Round under the same procedures as the Regional Rounds under Rule 8 except as provided for in this Section and Section 18, with the National Operations Directors substituting for the Regional Director(s) and coordinating all actions.

b. The Preliminary round of the National Competition shall consist of two scored rounds. During the first round of scored oral arguments, each team shall present oral arguments supported

by one of their briefs (Appellant or Appellee) as assigned by the National Operations Directors. During the second round of scored oral arguments, each team shall be assigned to a new pairing and will present oral arguments supported by their remaining brief. For example, a team assigned to argue as Appellant during the first round, shall be assigned to argue as Appellee in the second round.

c. The four teams having the highest Preliminary round scores will advance to the Semi-Final rounds. The Semi-Final rounds shall be bracketed rounds as set forth in Rule 22(c). The two winners of the Semi-Final Rounds shall advance to the Final Round, which shall also proceed as a bracketed round.

d. The judges for the National Final Round shall announce the winning team. The runner-up and best Brief Score from the National Rounds shall also be identified.

RULES 14-19: TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

14. Eligibility and Team Makeup

a. Each team shall be composed of two and only two members.

b. Each member of a team shall be a candidate for the degree of L.L.B., J.D., or L.L.M. from the law school represented. Members may be selected on any basis satisfactory to the school.

c. Each team member shall contribute to all briefs and argue at oral arguments. In the event of unavailability of a team member, the Directors may allow substitution, allow argument by a single team member, or require disqualification, at their discretion. Teams are encouraged to work with an understudy for the contingency that substitution becomes necessary and permitted.

d. Each team member is encouraged, but not required, to be a student member of AIPLA.

e. Each team shall identify all persons serving as an advisor or coach for the team in their Notice of Intent. This must include at least one individual responsible to, or approved by, the school to oversee the team. No team member, advisor, or coach shall be involved with the writing of the Problem or administration of the Competition.

15. Service

a. All requirements of notice, service, and submission detailed in these Rules shall be fulfilled by electronic mail.

b. Briefs shall be attached to service emails in PDF format and named according to the following convention:

"Appellant Blue Brief of [Team Number] for [Appellant Name].pdf"

"Appellee Red Brief of [Team Number] for [Appellee Name].pdf"

c. Teams are encouraged to serve from their listed team service email. Teams are encouraged to use delivery and/or read receipt options native to their email client in their service emails. Teams are *strongly discouraged* from duplicative sending of service emails.

16. Subjects of Briefs

Each team shall submit two briefs, one brief for each side, Appellant and Appellee, of the Problem. Briefs shall separately address each issue presented for appeal by the Problem. Both members of the team shall substantively participate in the preparation of the team's briefs.

17. Form for Briefs

a. Briefs shall be formal Appellant and Appellee briefs that conform to Rules 28, 32, and 32.1 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure (FRAP) as modified by Rules 28, 32, and 32.1 of the Federal Circuit Rules (Fed. Cir. R.), available at http://www.cafc.uscourts.gov/rules-of-practice/rules, ***with the following exceptions***:

i. FRAP / Fed. Cir. R. 28(b) and FRAP / Fed. Cir. R. 28(c) shall not apply. Both Appellant and Appellee shall include a jurisdictional statement, statement of issues, statement of case, and statement of standard of review in each brief. No Reply Brief is permitted.

ii. Even if the Problem presents a cross-appeal, intervener, multilateral appeal, or amicus party that would be addressed by other FRAP / Fed. Cir. Rules, teams shall brief and argue in the Competition as a single Appellant and Appellee, subject to any stipulation in the Problem.

iii. No Addendum under FRAP 28(f) and Fed. Cir. R. 28(a)(11), no Appendix under FRAP / Fed. Cir. R. 30 and 32(b)/(d), and no filing by Compact Disc under Fed. Cir. R. 32(e) is permitted.

iv. The record on appeal shall be the Problem and the official Appendix that is appended to the Problem. No separate Appendix under FRAP 28(e), (f), 32(b) or Fed. Cir. R. 28(f) is permitted.

Please make sure you have **every** cite to the appendix formatted as follows:

Sample Correct Citation Styles:

Single page:	Appx124
Range:	Appx124-125 (do not shorten the ending range number)
String cite:	Appx124, Appx126

Incorrect Styles:

1. Appx134-137, 96-97 should be Appx134-137, Appx96-97
2. Appx370-87 should be Appx370-387
3. Appx 40 should be Appx40
4. Appx50 – 51 should be Appx50-51
5. Appx124.11 or Appx124a ("dash" numbered pages are no longer acceptable)
6. Appendix ("Appx") at 410-411 should be Appx410-411 (do not clarify the first appendix citation style in the brief)

v. For briefs submitted under FRAP 32(a)(7)(B), **the type-volume limitations shall be no more than 7200 words**, or, if using a monospaced face, no more than 720 lines of text (i.e., briefs will always be close to 30 pages in length).

vi. No confidential information is presented in the record/Problem, and no Related Cases are known.

vii. The Certificate of Interest shall use the parties' full names as presented in the Problem (Item 1), with no other Real Parties or parent corporations (Items 2 & 3), and shall leave the counsel that appeared for the party in the trial court or agency section blank (Item 4).

viii. The Proof of Service shall reflect the Regional Director or National Operations Director service information, as appropriate. The Proof of Service and all other parts of the

briefs shall not list a physical or email address or other information identifying a team member's school. Redaction of such identifying information with "x"s is permitted (*e.g.*, "teamservicename@xxx.edu").

ix. The Certificate of Compliance shall include the certification as defined in Rule 32(b), in addition to certifications required by FRAP 28(a)(10) and/or FRAP 32(g)(1) and the Federal Circuit Rules.

18. Form for Oral Argument

a. Each team shall be allotted a total of 30 minutes for all its arguments. Each team member shall argue for a minimum of 10 minutes, and issues may be assigned and argued among team members in any manner.

b. The team proceeding as Appellant shall argue first, followed by the team proceeding as Appellee. The judges may elect to hear all issues from a side together or hear any issue(s) individually, with each side discussing only that issue in Appellant-Appellee order and repeating for any other issue. Where issues are heard separately, potentially with rebuttal, teams and judges should take care that the 30-minute total limit per team of Rule 18(a) is observed.

c. Teams proceeding as the Appellant may reserve up to 5 minutes for rebuttal, to be heard at the end of oral argument regardless of separation of issues.

d. Teams may present on any argument or issue presented in their party's brief at oral argument. Teams may further respond to questions from judges and, in Appellee and rebuttal roles, respond to positions advanced by opponents at oral argument, even if not addressed in their brief. As such, teams shall not introduce unsolicited or unresponsive arguments not made in their party's brief at oral argument.

e. No charts, diagrams, or other visual aids or exhibits shall be used during oral argument. Team members are allowed to bring (and shall remove) notes, briefs, and computers without sound to the podium for purpose of speaking notes only.

19. Closed Competition

a. The regional and national non-final rounds of the Competition shall be closed to the public and other teams. Only competition administrators, judges, the arguing team, coaches/advisors, and the arguing teams' invitees (such as family members) that are not themselves competitors shall be allowed to observe oral argument and judges' feedback for the team.

b. Oral argument and judges' feedback may be recorded if permitted by the facility hosting the oral argument. Oral argument and judges' feedback, including any recordings of the same, shall not be made available to individuals outside those identified in Rule 19(a).

c. The regional and national final rounds shall be open to all other competitors previously eliminated in addition to parties identified in Rule 19(a). Directors may make the final rounds open to the public.

RULES 20-24: SCORING

20. Criteria

The criteria set forth in Appendices B and C are intended to guide proper allotment of scores. Judges shall not consider the ultimate merits of the fact pattern presented in the Problem, but rather shall consider the quality of advocacy (even for a clearly "losing" set of facts) presented in the briefs and at oral argument in assigning scores.

21. Brief Scoring

a. Each brief shall be scored by three (3) independent judges. Judges scoring regional briefs under Rule 6 may not score a same brief for nationals under Rule 11.

b. Each judge shall score each brief on a scale of 0-100 on the parameters set out in Appendix B. The six scores from the judges shall be averaged to calculate a team's Brief Score under Rule 23(a).

i. Judges shall generally maintain a scoring range of 70-95 points per brief. Scoring outside of this range is permitted but must be accompanied by a comment from the scoring

judge indicating the rationale for the high or low mark. E.g., "team very clearly articulated a highly-nuanced issue in a single, clear issue statement."

c. Where errors in format – especially non-compliance with page length, word count, or brief part requirements – are significant or impact fairness of the Competition, the judge shall refer the matter to the appropriate Directors. The judge shall still score and deduct points for such errors and may ignore portions of any brief over word or length limits in scoring.

22. Oral Argument Scoring

a. Each oral argument shall consist of two teams proceeding as Appellant and Appellee, with each team being judged collectively as a team. The oral argument shall be heard and assessed by three independent judges. The judges shall be provided with the arguing Appellant and Appellee briefs and shall have read the same. Judges scoring briefs may serve as judges hearing oral arguments for a same team. Directors and judges are encouraged to arrange oral arguments so that a judge hears different sets of teams in each round.

b. For the preliminary round, each judge shall score each team's oral argument on a scale of 0-100 on the parameters set out in Appendix C.

i. Judges shall generally maintain a scoring range of 70-95 points per team. Scoring outside of this range is permitted but must be accompanied by a comment from the scoring judge indicating the rationale for the high or low mark. E.g., "Appellant's three minutes of rebuttal honed in on the unresolved issues and answered all my outstanding questions."

c. For the bracketed rounds, the judges shall collectively decide a winner from oral argument on the parameters set out in Appendix C (Judges may score teams in the bracketed rounds at their option, but only a winner is determined and no score is reported). In the event of unresolvable disagreement, a majority of the three judges shall decide the winner. Judges shall not consider brief score or brief quality in assessing oral argument, except where omissions in a brief would have precluded arguments at oral argument as waived.

d. Where errors in conduct – especially non-compliance with time limits or decorum – are significant or impact fairness of the Competition, the judge shall refer the matter to the appropriate

Director. The judge shall still score and deduct points for such errors and may ignore portions of an argument over time limits in scoring.

23. Brief and Preliminary Round Score Calculation

a. Prior to the Regional Rounds and again prior to the National Rounds, the six brief scores of 0-100 from the corresponding round of brief scoring shall be averaged for each team, generating a Brief Score of 0-100 for the team for use in calculation of a Preliminary Round Score.

b. Following the preliminary round, the three oral argument scores of 0-100 shall be averaged for each team, generating an oral argument score for the team. The Brief Score shall be multiplied by 0.6, the oral argument score shall be multiplied by 0.4, and the two shall be summed to generate a Preliminary Round Score of 0-100. For example, a team earning scores of 50, 70, and 75 for their Appellant Brief; 40, 45, and 50 for their Appellee Brief; and 80, 90, and 100 for their oral argument in the preliminary round would have a Preliminary Round Score of 69 (from 0.6*55 + 0.4*90). As a further example, National Round Preliminary Scores for each participating team shall be calculated according to the formula:

*Score = (((Sum of 6 Brief Scores)/6)*0.6) + (((Sum of 6 Oral Argument Scores)/6)*0.4)*

c. All ties in Brief Score or Preliminary Round Score shall be broken by the team having a highest individual brief score winning the tie. In the event of highest individual brief scores being the same, then teams' second-highest individual brief score shall be compared, with the highest winning the tie, and so on across all lower brief scores for additional ties. Ties are not permitted in bracketed rounds.

24. Feedback to Teams

Judges are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on score sheets and/or following oral argument to teams regarding their performance as well as advice for improvement. Team members are encouraged to solicit such feedback and make specific inquiries for improvement; however, at the completion of a round team members shall not further address matters of feedback or scoring to judges.

RULES 25-31: COMPETITION INTEGRITY AND DISPUTES

25. Enforcement of Rules

a. The National Operations Directors, in consultation with the National Writing Directors and any relevant Regional Director, have complete discretion in enforcing these Rules. A violation of these Rules may result in a penalty of any form in the interest of fairness, including disqualification with notification of school officials.

b. Disputes as to scoring, advancement, or other conduct during the competition must be brought to the relevant Director's attention as soon as possible. Disputes known but not brought to the relevant Director prior to commencement of a following round may be deemed waived. Directors shall use best efforts in resolving disputes in the interest of fairness. A team dissatisfied with the resolution of a dispute may bring the matter to the National Operations Directors, who have final discretion for resolving the dispute under Rule 25(a).

c. There shall be a presumption of disqualification for failure to serve substantially compliant briefs by the given dates in accordance with these Rules. Briefs served with minor defects in content or form shall be accepted, with appropriate loss of points for such defects in judging.

26. School Identification Prohibited

Judges and other teams shall not be informed of a team's school affiliation. No team's school name, address, domain name, or other identifying information shall appear in the briefs or be disclosed during oral argument (consistent with Rule 17). Names of team members and/or team number may be used on the briefs as identification of counsel. Teams may disclose their law school affiliation following the competition.

27. Individual Identification Prohibited on Briefs

Other than signature blocks and cover information as permitted by **Rule 26**, no team member's name shall appear elsewhere in the briefs, including in the file names of the briefs. Teams shall be identified on the briefs by the team number assigned by the appropriate Director. Participants may identify themselves by name at oral argument.

28. Outside Assistance

One of the most important aspects of this competition is development of the art of appellate advocacy through team members' own work. All outside assistance and coaching given to a team in the preparation for and during this Competition shall be limited to general discussion of the relevant legal issues, critiques/coaching on briefs or oral arguments produced by the team members, and ensuring teams' compliance with these Rules. Outside assistance shall not include writing any portion of any brief or wholesale production of arguments for use in the competition. Outside assistance shall not be rendered by any person involved in writing the Problem or administrating the competition, including the National and Regional Directors; however, such persons may serve as judges during the competition.

29. Official Problem, Errata, and other Materials

The official Problem for this competition is posted on AIPLA's website, https://www.aipla.org/resources/programs-awards/moot-court-competition. Any changes to the Problem will be posted as Errata to this website, and teams shall brief and argue the Problem as modified by such Errata, if any.

30. Interpretation of Problem and Rules

Requests for interpretation, correction, and other feedback on the Problem or these Rules must be addressed to **Dan Wade and Christopher Jeu**, the National Operations Directors, listed in Appendix A. Rules interpretations are binding only if obtained in writing from these individuals. Corrections, clarifications, or other modifications to the Problem are binding only when published as official Errata on the AIPLA webpage under Rule 29.

31. Supplemental Authority

Absent written authority from the National Operations Directors or National Writing Directors, amendments to briefing to address supplemental authority will not be allowed. However, if intervening authority issues from a relevant body, teams should be prepared to address such authority at oral hearing.

32. Artificial Intelligence

a. Teams are responsible for providing the Competition with complete and accurate representations in any brief submission, consistent with the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and Federal Circuit Rules (see, e.g., FRAP 32(d) and FRAP 46(c)), the Model Rules of Professional Conduct (see, e.g., Model Rules 1.1 and 3.3 and ABA Formal Op. 512), and any other applicable legal or ethical guidance. AIPLA recognizes that AI tools are now incorporated into legal research platforms (such as Westlaw, LexisNexis, or other legal research tools) and that usage of AI in a legal research context may be unavoidable. Teams must personally confirm for themselves the accuracy of any content generated by such tools using AI.

b. Use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Claude, Harvey, or others) to generate, draft, rewrite, or substantively edit a team's brief or any portion thereof for the Competition is prohibited. This prohibition does not extend to ordinary spelling, grammar, citation-formatting, or word-processing functions that do not generate or substantively revise text. Briefs must therefore certify that generative AI was not used to generate, draft, rewrite, or substantively edit any portion of the brief, consistent with this rule. This certification statement must be included in the certificate of compliance at the end of the brief (see FRAP 28(a)(10)).

c. Should improper use of generative AI tools be suspected, a brief grader may raise the issue to the Regional or National Operations Director, who will submit the brief to a panel of three neutral members of the AIPLA New Lawyers Committee Moot Court Subcommittee before brief grades are decided. Maintaining anonymity of the team's school affiliation (per Rule 26) and member names (per Rule 27), the three panelists will communicate through the Regional or National Operations Director to request any information needed to understand the circumstances and to give the team an opportunity to explain the suspected unsanctioned usage of generative AI tools in their brief. Should improper usage be found, the Regional or National Operations Director will deduct points from competitors' brief score and the team may be disqualified at the discretion of the National Operations Directors (see Rule 25). The Regional or National Operations Director shall issue the panel's finding and any point deduction or disqualification before the respective Regional Rounds (per Rule 8) or National Rounds (per Rule 13) of the competition.