



## *Judicial Program Tournament Highlights*

- No outside legal research can be conducted; participants are limited to the material provided by the State YMCA. That said, if participants want to do research to better understand the case, they can but they cannot cite that material in their brief.
- All attorney teams should work with a local attorney. The State YMCA has contacted the PA Bar Association to connect each local club with a local attorney. The PA Bar wants to work with each team. The attorneys should assist you with understanding the facts, case law, and brief writing. They also would make great resources as you prepare for your oral arguments. That said, the work product (the brief and outline for the argument) must be yours alone.
- Brief writing:
  - All briefs must be done on the online brief submission system. This step-by-step program will walk you through writing your own brief.
  - Attorneys and law students throughout the state have agreed to review DRAFTS of your briefs to give you feedback if you desire (in addition to any assistance a local attorney will provide). If you would like to receive this feedback, you must have your final draft submitted online no later than March 1, 2009. As an added incentive, you will receive until March 22 (an extra weekend) to complete your final version online. Please e-mail Jason Reimer by February 15 to let us know you intend to take advantage of this opportunity.
  - If a team fails to complete a brief prior to the weekend, the attorneys will be reassigned as bailiffs during the weekend. *Note* they will not be reassigned to the legislative program.
- Tournament and Schedule:
  - Each team will argue three times before the three different justice panels between Friday and Saturday.
  - Each side will be limited to fifteen minute arguments in the first three rounds; twenty minutes in the final rounds. The time must be split roughly 50-50 between the two team members.
  - A discussion regarding the nature of judicial review will take place during the weekend.
  - At the banquet on Saturday, the teams advancing to the finals will be announced.
- Scoring:
  - The finals will be determined by adding each team's average individual round scores and the brief score.
  - (Brief + Rd 1 + Rd 2 + Rd 3 + Mock Quiz = total score). Top two appellant and top two appellee teams advance to the finals Sunday morning.
  - Brief scores will count for 25% of the overall score, and not impact an individual round score.
  - In the first three rounds, a justice must recuse him/herself from scoring any argument in which a team from the justice's home delegation is participating.
  - Additionally, if a justice's score of their delegation's attorneys are significantly different in the finals, the Chief Justice and Judicial Coordinator can invalidate the score.
  - Teams will be provided a scoring sheet after each round with a breakdown of their brief scores and individual round performance.
- Justices will be evaluated throughout the weekend by members of the judicial advisory board.
- Any questions throughout the year can be e-mailed to Jason Reimer, [jlr@hangle.com](mailto:jlr@hangle.com).