

**2013 ROBERT ORSECK  
MEMORIAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**  
*COMPETITION RULES & REGISTRATION FORM*

**COMPETITION RULES**

**Registration Form**

The attached Registration Form must be submitted by **April 19, 2013**. Please see the Registration Form for further details.

**Competition Problem**

This year's problem presents interesting questions involving Florida law. The problem will be available on the YLD website by no later than April 19, 2013.

**Composition of Teams**

Each law school in the State of Florida may submit one team, and each team shall be composed of two or three students, all of whom must be full or part-time law students currently enrolled in a J.D. program at the time of the Competition. Participants must be matriculated law students at the time of the Competition.

If there are an odd number of teams registered, the law school that placed highest in last year's Competition will be asked to send a second team. If that law school declines, the next highest placing law school from last year will be given the opportunity to register a second team for the Competition, and so on until an even number of teams are registered for the Competition.

**Competition Briefs**

Each competing team shall submit one Brief for the Petitioner. Each team should make its best argument regardless of whether the trial or appellate court found such argument persuasive. All Briefs must comply with the **FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE**, with the following limited changes:

- a). Briefs are limited to 25 pages of text. These 25 pages do not include: cover page, table of contents, table of citations (a/k/a table of authorities), certificate of service, certificate of typeface compliance. All other subparts are included within the 25 pages of text;

- b). Briefs shall contain no individual law school designations;
- c). Each Brief should contain a short recitation of the facts;
- d). Each team must deliver an electronic PDF version of its Brief to Zackary T. Zuroweste. The Briefs must be RECEIVED electronically no later than 5 p.m. EST on May 24, 2013. Any team submitting a Brief that is received after said date and time shall result in that team forfeiting the points associated with the Brief portion of the Competition. The Briefs must be delivered to Zackary T. Zuroweste at zz@persantelaw.com. If you encounter any technical issues please call (727) 796-7666. However, technical issues will not extend the deadline;
- e). The law school name **MUST ONLY** appear in the subject line of the electronic submission;
- f). Each Brief must contain a Certificate of Service certifying that a copy of the Brief will be furnished to the Faculty Representative or Moot Court Chairperson for each of the other participating law schools. However, copies of the Briefs furnished to the other law schools shall not be sent until May 31, 2013. Contact information for the participating law schools will be provided to the Primary Faculty Advisor/Coach, as identified on the Registration Form, on or before May 29, 2013.

Aside from the modifications of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure addressed above, please note the following:

- Faculty advisors, law students and/or practicing attorneys may provide verbal guidance and input to the students with respect to writing the Brief. **THESE PERSONS, HOWEVER, CANNOT EDIT OR ASSIST IN THE BRIEF WRITING PROCESS.**
- **REVIEW OF OR REFERENCE TO ANY “BRIEFS” FILED IN ANY OTHER CASE IS PROHIBITED.**

### **Oral Argument**

Each team should be prepared to argue both sides of the issues, representing the Petitioner and/or the Respondent. All arguments will be limited to thirty (30) minutes per side. Each team shall divide the allotted time between two team members as it deems fit. The Petitioner shall present argument first. The Petitioner may reserve up to five minutes for rebuttal. Bailiffs and clerks will be available to indicate the use of allotted time.

The oral arguments will be judged by panels of judges. Each judge is to individually score each team member. Each team member may receive a maximum of 100 points. An average score for the team will be calculated from each judge’s score sheet. The average scores received from the panel will be averaged, resulting in the team’s oral score for that round.

***The Preliminary Competition, June 26, 2013***

The two preliminary rounds will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Each team will argue on-brief and off-brief on this day. Pairings of teams and room assignments will be given when you check-in on the day of the Competition on June 26th. Information on the check-in location or any changes in scheduling will be emailed to the Advisor/Coach.

The oral scores from rounds one and two will be added to the team's Brief score, and the total will be divided by three, resulting in equal weight being given to the Brief and the two arguments. Every effort will be made to avoid having an odd number of teams compete. In the event there are an odd number of teams in the Competition, the two schools with the highest brief scores will receive their brief score for one preliminary round of the Competition. The teams with the four (4) highest scores in the Preliminary Competition will advance to the Semi-final Competition on June 27, 2013.

A cocktail reception will follow the two preliminary rounds on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at approximately 5:30 p.m. All teams should plan to attend. At this time, the teams advancing to the Semi-final Competition will be announced.

***The Semi-Final Competition, June 27, 2013***

The Semi-final Competition will involve four teams and two rounds, and will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. During the semi-final rounds, each individual team will again argue both on-brief and off-brief before a panel of judges, resulting in two oral argument scores for each team. The two teams with the highest total combined score in the semi-final rounds will advance to the finals.

***The Final Competition, June 27, 2013***

The Final Competition will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., and will consist of only one argument. A coin toss after the semi-final rounds will determine which team will argue as Petitioner and Respondent.

The Florida Supreme Court Justices will score the final round, choose the winning team, and select the best oralist.

The final round will be held in conjunction with the question and answer session with the Florida Supreme Court Justices. All teams are invited and encouraged to attend the final round and the question and answer session. **The winners will be announced and awards presented immediately following the question and answer session with the Florida Supreme Court Justices, so please plan on attending.**

**General Comments**

Throughout the Competition, teams will be referred to by number only (which will be assigned at check-in on June 26th). In an effort to prevent any question of favoritism, the Judges will not know which school a team represents.

Score sheets are destroyed immediately following completion of the Final Competition. Score sheets will not be provided to you.

To the extent any party to the Competition requests an interpretation of these rules or deems confusion to exist regarding the rules or the Competition in general, the Moot Court/ Law Related Education committee of the Florida Bar YLD will resolve such confusion or make the appropriate interpretation, with the then current Chairperson of the committee making the final determination with respect to rule interpretation.

If you have any questions regarding the Competition, please submit them to Zackary T. Zuroweste at [zz@persantelaw.com](mailto:zz@persantelaw.com). Questions submitted and answers may be published on the YLD website at the discretion of the Moot Court/Law Related Education committee.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**2013 ROBERT ORSECK MEMORIAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

The Florida Bar Annual Convention – Boca Raton Resort & Club  
June 26-27, 2013 (competition dates June 26th and 27th)

Please fill out this form with your team information and e-mail a copy to Zackary T. Zuroweste at [zz@persantelaw.com](mailto:zz@persantelaw.com). If you have any questions regarding the registration, please see the above Competition Rules or contact Zackary T. Zuroweste at [zz@persantelaw.com](mailto:zz@persantelaw.com) or (727) 796-7666.

**This Registration must be received on or before April 19, 2013.**

**SCHOOL NAME:**

**PRIMARY FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE/COACH**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone & Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Members** (each team can have up to three members, so there are three spaces – If your team only has two members, fill in the first two slots):

**1. Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone & Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone & Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone & Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_