

## **2018 First Year Competition Information**

The First Year Competition (“FYC”) is the largest competition run by the Moot Court Board (“MCB”) and open to all first-year students. Working in tandem with the Legal Research and Writing Program, the FYC offers competitors valuable competitive appellate advocacy experience and feedback. Competitors with an exemplary command of appellate advocacy will be offered membership on the MCB. MCB membership carries various benefits that allow you to hone the craft of appellate advocacy. One of these is the opportunity to receive financial assistance to travel and represent the GW Law community in external competitions hosted by law schools around the world.

This sheet contains the information you need to compete in the FYC.

### **Intent to Compete Form – Due March 25th**

If you intend to participate in the FYC, you ***must*** fill out the Intent to Compete Form **no later than 11:59 PM on Sunday, March 25th**. The Intent to Compete Form is found at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/84kuqcGEailUqaB82>

**Students that do not complete the Intent to Compete Form by Sunday, March 25th may not participate in the FYC.**

### **The FYC – April 14th & 15th**

The FYC consists of three rounds of competition. The first round uses the scores you receive in Introduction to Advocacy on your appellate brief and oral argument. This is called the LRW Round Score. Approximately 50% of those who fill out the Intent to Compete form will be invited to compete in the FYC, based on the LRW Round scores. Rounds 2 & 3 require students to argue the same side they were assigned in the LRW Round. Round 2 will be held Saturday, April 14th. Round 3 will be held Sunday, April 15th. We aim to notify those who will be invited to participate in the FYC by email on Wednesday, April 11th.

- **LRW Round: Introduction to Advocacy**
- **Round 2: Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**
- **Round 3: Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

If you cannot compete during either day of the FYC for any reason—legitimate religious conflicts excepted—you are not eligible to compete in the FYC. Students with legitimate religious conflicts relating to either Saturday, April 14th or Sunday, April 15th must identify and explain the conflict on the Intent to Compete Form.

### **Tip Session – March 14th**

MCB will host an optional Tip Session on **Wednesday, March 14th in LL102 at 8:15 PM.**

## **Scoring**

Competitors are evaluated on the strength of their appellate briefs and their oral advocacy skills. Scores are determined as follows:

- **LRW Round:** 60% LRW Oral Argument, 40% Appellate Brief
  - The Oral Argument Score is the combined score from the three scores from the Introduction to Advocacy Oral Argument
  - The Appellate Brief Score is tallied in accordance with two pieces of data:
    - Your professor's assessment of the quality of your brief. He or she will assign a letter grade of "O" (Outstanding), "S" (Superior), "A" (Average), or "W" (Weak). An "O" is worth 1.00 point, an "S" is worth 0.75, an "A" is worth 0.50, and a "W" is worth 0.25. The letter grade is worth 25% of your Appellate Brief Score.
    - The strength of your brief in relation to your LRW section mates. Your LRW professor will rank the briefs in your class. This ranking comprises 75% of your Appellate Brief Score.
- **Round 2:** 70% FYC Round 2 Oral Argument Score, 30% Appellate Brief Score
  - At this stage, oral advocacy skills are evaluated by the MCB and practitioners selected by the MCB.
- **Round 3:** 60% FYC Round 3 Oral Argument Score, 20% FYC Round 2 Oral Argument Score, 20% Appellate Brief Score.

The highest scoring competitor from each side after FYC Round 3 will be invited to argue in the FYC Finals on Tuesday, April 17th in the Jacob Burns Moot Courtroom (L101).

## **Number of New MCB Members**

The MCB anticipates offering membership invitations to students scoring in top 10-15% of all students who complete the Intent to Compete Form.

## **Moot Court Board Membership Responsibilities**

MCB members are required to attend one General Body Meeting each semester, pay membership dues (\$10 for the Spring 2018 semester and \$20 for each academic year thereafter), participate in at least one (1) Upper-Level Competition, assist with subsequent FYCs, and participate on a MCB Committee during your 2L and 3L years.

## **Questions? Email [FYC@law.gwu.edu](mailto:FYC@law.gwu.edu)**

The above information is also posted to the MCB website:

<http://www.gwlawmootcourt.com/george-washington-university-law-school-first-year-competition>

Good luck!

The GW Law Moot Court Board