

TRIAL SKILLS LIVE

your virtual class room for all things law

BeforeClass.com Online Closing Statement Competition

Hosted by TrialSkillsLive.com and Before Class Media, LLC

OFFICIAL RULES FOR THE BEFORCLASS.COM ONLINE CLOSING STATEMENT COMPETITION 2010

RULE I. ORGANIZATION

The Before Class Closing Argument Competitions is a web-based trial competition open to high school, undergrad, law students and professionals from around the country and around the world who are interested in competing in the first ever on-line based Mock Trial competition. The purpose of this competition is to provide advocates the opportunity to develop, polish and publish their skills and techniques in trial advocacy.

RULE II. PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to individuals and institutions. The deadline to submit your video link from YouTube.com or blip.tv is January 15, 2010. The competition will be divided into four (4) categories for each academic division.

RULE III. TRIAL RECORD

The trial record will be available online starting on midnight (12PM EST) on January 1, 2010. The trial record that students will use to prepare Closing Statement will consist of a transcript of testimony, documents received in evidence and jury instructions.

RULE IV. FORMAT OF PRELIMINARY ROUND

A. Using the trial record, each participant will prepare, deliver, record and upload (youtube.com – blip.tv) a closing statement. **Each participant will be allowed a maximum of seven (7) minutes to present their video statements.**

B. The competition will be scored by a four-judge panel comprised of licensed attorneys who will use the BeforeClass.com voting criteria to allot points for each participant.

RULE V. VISUAL AIDS AND PROPS

No visual aids or props of any kind are allowed. Participants will not be judged on quality of video or sound. Please make sure the video and audio are of a satisfactory quality for the judges and online voters to evaluate your Closing

Statement.

RULEVI.SCORING

A. The judges will watch and rate every video submitted by the deadline that conforms to competition rules as specified herein.

B. The judges will consider the following factors in assigning a rating to each participant:

(a)Use of facts (1-10 points). Selecting and using the strongest facts effectively, including the ability to address negative facts. Stating facts accurately and not misrepresenting them.

(b)Use of jury instructions (1-10 points). Educating the jury as to the criteria to be used in rendering a verdict. Effectively weaving in discussion of the instructions with the facts.

(c)Persuasive content of presentation (1-10 points). Whether the presentation is persuasive, creative and memorable.

(c)Demeanor (1-10 points). Demonstration of confidence in an appropriate manner, delivery, pronunciation, diction, use of eye contact, appearance, overall effectiveness of the advocate.

RULEVII. FINAL SCORING

A. The judges will have until February 1, 2010 at 12PM (EST) to determine winners in each of the four categories. The highest scores from each category will be deemed the winner.

RULEIX.AWARDS

The winners of the competition will receive a 3-month subscription to Trial Skills Live. The winners of the competition may also receive cash prizes and gift certificates. Cash and gift certificates will only be distributed to winners if a minimum of 250 eligible videos are submitted. Top vote getters will also have their videos featured online for one month after the announcement of the final vote.

RULE X. PENALTIES

A. The four-judge panel may assess such penalties, including disqualification, as it deems reasonable and appropriate in its sole discretion for failure to comply with the rules or deadlines set pursuant to these rules.

RULE XII. OTHER RULES

The four-judge panel may from time to time make any other rules and procedures deemed advisable for the conduct of the Online Competition, in its sole discretion.

Please email questions about the BeforeClass.com Online Mock Trial Competition to: contest@beforeclass.com