

# **WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY: 2005 SPRING QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT BYLAWS**

## **I. Spring Qualifying Tournament Committee**

The officers of the Tournament will form the Tournament Committee. The Committee will perform any and all duties as assigned by the Moot Court Honor Society Constitution, these Bylaws, and the General Instructions of the Tournament.

**A. Co-Directors:** Responsible to the Moot Court Honor Society for the planning, preparation, and conduct of the Tournament. The Co-Directors will enforce the regulations of the Tournament as set forth below. The 2005 Co-Directors are Erin Ellis (erin.ellis@gmail.com) and Cherish O'Donnell (cherish.odonnell@gmail.com).

**B. Assistant Director:** The Co-Directors shall have one or more assistants to aid in the planning, preparation, and conduct of the Tournament. This assistant will be responsible for individual tasks and projects assigned to them or undertaken by them. The 2005 Assistant Director is David Jaquette (dmjaquette@yahoo.com).

## **II. Eligibility of Participants**

All Full-Time First and Second Year and Part-Time First, Second, and Third Year WCL students in good standing are eligible to compete in this Tournament.

## **III. Preparation for the Tournament**

### **A. Problems:**

1. The problem for the 2005 Moot Court Honor Society Spring Qualifying Tournament has been selected by the Co-Directors. Problems will be edited and modified as the Co-Directors see fit.
2. Participants are required to research and prepare a brief subject to the requirements specified in the Tournament instructions.
3. Participants MAY NOT:
  - a. Read any actual court documents filed for the case upon which the problem is based, including, but not limited to, court decisions, pleadings, and briefs;
  - b. Enlist the aid of a faculty member or student at any other school;
  - c. Enlist the aid of any attorney or other professional; or
  - d. Collaborate with or enlist the aid of any other student at the Washington College of Law.

4. Violations of these standards may subject the participant to sanctions under Section V of these bylaws.

#### **IV. Judging the Tournament**

The following guidelines are a general statement of the judging procedures to be used in the 2005 Spring Qualifying Tournament.

**A.** All judges are volunteers. Judges will be given information regarding the criteria to be used in evaluating participants. Moot Court Honor Society Members may serve as judges in any round. Due to the large number of judges required, the Co-Directors may alter or amend the following guidelines, as they deem appropriate.

1. Judges may include alumni and faculty of the Washington College of Law; second, third, and fourth year law students who have either competed in or judged past Tournaments; and members of the Moot Court Honor Society. Preference will be given to those students with the most experience. The Co-Directors reserve final judgment as to the judges used.
2. Judges will not evaluate any participant where reason exists which would make it difficult for that judge to be impartial or which, in the Co-Director's sole discretion, would give the appearance of impropriety. Any violation of these standards may subject the judge to sanctions under Section V of these bylaws.
3. No fewer than three (3) and no more than four (4) judges will sit and evaluate each oral argument.

**B.** Spectators will NOT be allowed to observe the arguments. The term "spectators" shall not be construed to include the Bailiff assigned to that courtroom or members of the Moot Court Honor Society (participants are prohibited from attending arguments of others).

#### **V. Conduct of the Tournament**

##### **A. General Guidelines**

1. All participants will conduct themselves in a professional manner throughout the Tournament.
2. Each participant is expected to work independently of other participants, law school students, law school faculty, and members of the legal community, including, but not limited to, lawyers currently or previously registered with any state bar.

3. **By accepting the Tournament packet, each participant shall be deemed responsible for strict adherence to ALL rules, bylaws, and prohibitions contained in any portion of the packet, as well as the WCL Honor Code. Failure to comply with these provisions may result in expulsion from the Tournament and additional sanctions under the Honor Code of the Washington College of Law.**
4. Any complaint that arises during the course of this Tournament regarding any aspect of these bylaws, the general instructions, or any other material, or the actions of any participant in connection with this Tournament **must be filed with the Co-Directors within 24 hours** of the action that gives rise to the complaint, or first knowledge of the action. The complaint will then be referred to the Moot Court Honor Society for a decision on how to proceed.

## **B. Scheduling**

1. The Co-Directors or their assistant shall set the schedule for each argument. Participants may ask the Co-Directors to schedule their round to accommodate religious observance and emergencies. With the exception of emergencies, all scheduling requests **MUST** be received via email at SpringQT@gmail.com by **10:00 p.m., Thursday, February 17, 2005**. While attempts will be made to accommodate scheduling requests, the Co-Directors, their assistant, nor the Moot Court Honor Society can guarantee that a request will be granted. Due to the large number of participants, the Spring Qualifying Tournament Committee is unable to make scheduling accommodations for reasons other than those stated above.
2. All participants who receive packets are expected to fulfill their commitment to participate in the Tournament, however, participants are allowed to withdraw without penalty until **10:00 p.m., Thursday, February 17, 2005**. Withdrawals must be received via email at the above specified e-mail address.
3. Participants who withdraw from the tournament **after 10:00 p.m., Thursday, February 17, 2005** may be penalized. The Spring Qualifying Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose the penalty, which may include prohibition from competing in future Moot Court Honor Society Competitions. A participant may be permitted to withdraw from the Spring Qualifying Tournament without penalty if the reason for withdrawal is serious and legitimate and the participant contacts the Co-Directors personally and explains the reason preventing participation. (Personally

contacting the Co-Directors either in person or by phone). The Co-Directors reserve the right to require proof and have sole discretion as to whether to accept the excuse as sufficient cause to allow withdrawal.

#### **VI. Amendment**

These bylaws are subject to amendment by the Moot Court Honor Society. The Co-Directors may, when necessary, temporarily amend these bylaws until the next regularly schedule meeting of the Moot Court Honor Society.