



## NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION SCORING CRITERIA

### **Opening Statement**

(Total of 20 points possible - one advocate will present opening for each team)

1. Generally confined to outline of evidence to be presented?
2. Clearly and persuasively presented theory of case?
3. Personalized himself/herself and client?
4. Made appropriate objections/responses?

### **Direct examination**

(Total of 15 points possible - each advocate will conduct the direct examination of one witness)

1. Questions generated minimum number of valid objections?
2. Made or failed to make objections with tactical or substantive merit?
3. Appropriately responded to objections made?
4. Appropriate general attitude and rapport with jury?
5. Testimony developed in interesting and coherent fashion?
6. Listened to and followed up on witness answers?
7. Showed strength and weakness of witness in most favorable light?

### **Cross-examination**

(Total of 15 points possible - each advocate will cross-examine one witness)

1. Questions generated minimum number of valid objections?
2. Made or failed to make objections with tactical or substantive merit?
3. Appropriately responded to objections made?
4. Used leading questions appropriately and advantageously?
5. Listened to and followed up on witness answers to elicit helpful testimony?
6. Used impeachment opportunities and demonstrated same effectively?

### **Closing Argument**

(Total of 20 points possible - one advocate will present closing for each team)

1. Presented cohesive theory of the case and dealt effectively with the weaknesses in counsel's own case?
2. Effectively called attention to opponent's flaws?
3. Presented persuasive argument?
4. Utilized effective style and law?
5. Inappropriately interrupted argument of opposing counsel?
6. Properly confined rebuttal to rebuttal materials?
7. Effectively countered opponent's argument in rebuttal?