Guidelines for (1-10) Scoring

The following are general guidelines to be applied to each category on the score sheet. It is strongly recommended that scorers use "5" as an indication of an average performance, and adjust higher or lower for stronger or weaker performances.

Attorneys	Score	Witnesses
Excellent understanding of the case, rules, and legal issues Questions and arguments advanced case and didn't ask for answers that asked for unfair extrapolations Persuasive and articulate delivery made without use of notes Thought well on feet, in control of situation, and responded to other team's presentation Objected when appropriate; clearly understood how to respond to objections Maintained eye contact with judge and witnesses, spoke in clear and audible voice	**9-10** **Excellent**	Excellent understanding of case, witness statements, and exhibits (if applicable) Convincing, credible presentation Answers were thorough, accurate, persuasive, and natural, not scripted Didn't provide answers that embellished facts and/or went outside scope of case materials Maintained eye contact with judge and student attorneys; strong, audible voice
Good understanding of the case, rules, and legal issues Most questions and arguments advanced case and didn't ask for unfair extrapolations Mostly persuasive and articulate delivery; used notes occasionally Able to think on feet some of the time Most objections were appropriate; usually understood how to respond to objections Mostly maintained eye contact with judge and witnesses Mostly spoke in clear and audible voice	**7-8** **Above Average**	Good understanding of witness statements and exhibits (if applicable) Mostly convincing, credible presentation Most answers were thorough, accurate, persuasive, and mostly natural, not memorized Rarely provided answers that embellished facts and/or went outside scope of case materials Sometimes forgot to maintain eye contact with judge and student attorneys Mostly spoke in clear and audible voice
Fair understanding of case, rules, and legal issues Used notes, sometimes stumbled on delivery Some questions and arguments advanced case and didn't ask for unfair extrapolations Prepared for trial but often relied on preparation and not responding to other team's presentation Missed appropriate opportunities to object; didn't always understand how to respond to objections Sometimes forgot to maintain eye contact with judge and witnesses Sometimes difficult to hear	**5-6** **Average**	Fair understanding of witness statements and exhibits (if applicable) Somewhat convincing, credible presentation Answers not always thorough, accurate or persuasive; sounded scripted, not natural Some answers embellished facts and/or went outside scope of case materials Sometimes forgot to maintain eye contact with judge and student attorneys Sometimes difficult to hear
Demonstrated little understanding of case, rules, and legal issues Needs work on poise and delivery; didn't respond to other team's presentation Read mostly scripted questions; relied heavily on notes Few questions and arguments advanced case; may have asked questions that required unfair extrapolations Struggled to understand when to object and how to respond to objections; used objections to interfere with other team's presentation Often forgot to maintain eye contact with judge or witnesses Often difficult to hear	**3-4** **Below Average**	Struggled to understand witness statements and exhibits (if applicable) Presentation not convincing, credible; often unrealistic Answers were generic and often didn't seem natural, but based on memorized script; sometimes stumbled over responses Often provided answers that embellished facts and/or went outside scope of case materials Often forgot to maintain eye contact with judge and student attorneys Often difficult to hear
Did not understand case, rules, or legal issues Not persuasive or articulate in delivery; read entirely from script Not prepared for trial; not able to think on feet Questions and arguments didn't advance case; asked for answers that required unfair extrapolations Did not know when to object or how to respond to objections Disruptive/disrespectful/inappropriate actions Did not maintain eye contact with judge or witnesses; unclear or inaudible voice	**1-2** **Far Below Average**	Did not understand witness statements and exhibits Presentation not convincing or credible; seems unrealistic Answers were not thorough, accurate, or persuasive, and didn't sound natural; stumbled over responses Answers not consistent with the facts and/or went outside scope of case materials Did not maintain eye contact with judge or student attorneys Weak, inaudible, or unclear voice Disruptive/disrespectful/inappropriate actions Gave excessively long, non-responsive answers on cross examination to deliberately use up opposing counsel's time

Clerk	Score	Bailiff
Very professional demeanor Clear understanding of procedures; excellent time keeping Clear, audible voice when issuing verbal warnings (if applicable) Visual warnings were clearly visible to student attorneys Able to think well on feet, in control of situation	**5** **Excellent**	Very professional, believable presentation Consistent use of clear and audible voice, and eye contact Consistently natural delivery of script Excellent understanding of role and procedures
Professional demeanor Good understanding of procedures; good time keeping Mostly spoke in clear, audible voice when issuing verbal warnings (if applicable) Visual warnings were mostly clearly visible to student attorneys	**4** **Above Average**	Professional, believable presentation Used clear, audible voice, and eye contact a lot of the time Knew script and delivery was mostly consistently natural Good understanding of role and procedures
Good demeanor Basic understanding of procedures; able to keep time Was heard when issuing verbal warnings (if applicable) Visual warnings were visible to student attorneys	**3** **Average**	Mostly natural, believable presentation Audible voice, some eye contact Apparent that script was memorized Understood role and procedures
Demeanor lacked professionalism Demonstrated little understanding of procedures; time keeping not entirely accurate Not clear or audible when issuing verbal warnings (if applicable) Visual warnings may not have been visible to student attorneys	**2** **Below Average**	Presentation not realistic, lacked professionalism Voice not all that clear or audible; little eye contact Used notes, stumbled with script Did not have a good understanding of role and procedures
Complete lack of professionalism No understanding of procedures; time keeping was inaccurate Verbal warnings not used or completely inaudible (if applicable) Verbal warnings not used or not at all visible Disruptive/disrespectful/inappropriate actions	**1** **Far Below Average**	Complete lack of professionalism Voice not audible or clear; no eye contact Relied almost entirely on notes/script Did not understand role and procedures Disruptive/disrespectful/inappropriate actions