



**NBLSA**<sup>TM</sup>  
*Striving to Balance since 1968*



## **Official Rules of the 2021-2022**

### **National Thurgood Marshall** **Moot Court Competition**

“Taking the First Step: Developing the Skills Today,  
to Better Shape the Outcomes of Tomorrow”

The National Director of the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition reserves the right to amend these rules and any decision, which shall be final, regarding any aspect of the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition ("TMMCC"). These rules replace all previous versions. The TMMCC problem, prepared by the National Director and Advisory Committee of the TMMCC, is copyrighted material. No school may use the TMMCC problem, except about the school's participation in the 2021-2022 TMMCC, without express written consent of the National Director and Advisory Committee. This prohibition does not preclude a school from using the TMMCC record in an intramural competition to select a team for the TMMCC.

Please feel free to contact the National Director or Moot Court Specialists with any questions regarding the national competition:

**National Director:** Sherod Craig | [Mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:Mootcourt@nblsa.org) |

**National Specialists:** Glynnis Hagins | [Mootcourt.specialist1@nblsa.org](mailto:Mootcourt.specialist1@nblsa.org) |

**National Moot Court Advisor:** Marissa Monteiro

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National Black Law Students Association  
WeWork c/o NBLSA  
80 M Street SE  
Washington, D.C. 2003

[www.nblsa.org](http://www.nblsa.org)

## **Article I: Purpose**

The Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition was created to provide NBLSA members with an opportunity to enhance their brief writing and advocacy skills. NBLSA provides minority law students with the skills necessary to succeed in the legal profession. The Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition plays a significant role in NBLSA programming. The TMMCC provides NBLSA members with the platform to hone their appellate advocacy skills in an atmosphere of zealous competition and spirited camaraderie.

### ***Expectations***

- 1) All competitors and coaches are expected to conduct themselves with the highest level of professionalism and respect for the competition and the organization that administers it.
- 2) All competitors are expected to give the utmost deference to the judges of the competition as if they were arguing in the Supreme Court of the United States.
- 3) All competitors and coaches should expect to participate in a competition based on the principles of excellence, which form the basis of NBLSA.
- 4) All competitors and coaches should expect to be afforded an equal level of respect and professionalism from the directors of this competition.

## **Article II: General Administration**

In accordance with the NBLSA Constitution, the TMMCC is administered at the direction of the National Director and generally, under the supervision of the National Specialist(s). The National TMMCC Director & Specialist(s) work directly with each Regional Director and Regional Specialist(s) to coordinate all aspects of the competition.

## **Article III: Participation**

### **A. REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1) The TMMCC requires active NBLSA membership. Each team participant must be a full-time or part-time student in a Juris Doctor or LLM program during the competition year.
- 2) Each team member must be in good academic standing as verified by the school's Dean.
- 3) Each team must consist of at least two (2), but no more than three (3), law students attending the same law school. Team members must participate in writing the team's brief and must argue in each round throughout the competition.
- 4) No team member may be used for the sole purpose of writing the brief.
- 5) Competitors in the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition cannot compete in both the TMMCC and the Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition.

- 6) National and regional board members of NBLSA are precluded from participating in the TMMCC during the year in which they hold their board position, **unless** expressly approved in writing by the national director and the respective regional chair. Board members who resign from their position within the year of the competition are still prohibited from participating in the TMMCC, unless approved by the national director and the respective regional chair. The national director reserves the discretion to waive this prohibition if the board member's resignation is made and accepted by their regional board by the problem release date.

## **B. BLSA CANADA PARTICIPATION:**

- 1) BLSA Canada may participate in the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition and can send one team to compete in the National competition.
- 2) BLSA Canada is required to pay competition registration fees as well as National convention registration fees. BLSA Canada is required to follow all rules and requirements set forth in the 2021-2022 TMMCC rules.

## **Article IV: Assistance**

- 1) Each member of the team is prohibited from receiving any substantive brief-writing assistance from any individual who is not a member of that team. Failure to adhere to this rule shall result in immediate disqualification. This rule shall not be construed to prohibit critiquing oral arguments through mock oral argument sessions.
  - i. "**Substantive**": includes but is not limited to issue-spotting, argument structure, organizational structure, research, discussion with any other TMMCC team (regardless of the school).
  - ii. Coaches may give GENERAL training on: (1) how to write a brief, (2) how to research, and (3) crafting oral-arguments.
  - iii. Coaches **MAY NOT** write any portion of the brief or write any portion of any script that may be used during a team's oral argument.
- 2) Professional and outside brief writers are strictly prohibited. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in automatic disqualification.
- 3) If a competitor requires assistance during oral argument rounds as the result of a disability, the competitor shall inform the national or regional director **no less than** 21 days prior to commencement of the competition via email at [mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:mootcourt@nblsa.org).

## **Article V: Eligibility and Registration**

### **A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) TMMCC participants **must meet all** of the following eligibility requirements. Each team member must:
  - i. Be a dues-paying NBLSA member in accordance with national and local membership requirements, no less than one (1) full academic semester prior

to the qualification deadline for the competition in question (**Note: competitors may have to pay their local dues and national dues separately if their chapter does not collect both;**

**NOTE: This provision has been waived for the 2021-2022 Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition.**

- ii. Register for the regional and/or national convention (**Note: this cost is in addition to the standard TMMCC registration fee;**
- iii. Be in good academic standing and provide a written letter of good academic standing from their law school's dean or registrar on official letterhead;
- iv. Submit a letter of good standing from their NBLSA chapter president or secretary indicating that he/she:
  - Is a dues-paying member of his/her NBLSA chapter; and
  - Has participated or will be participating in at least one-chapter community service activity.
  - **NOTE: This provision has been waived for the 2021-2022 Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition.**

## **B. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

1) Each team must submit:

- i. Registration form (submitted via email or postal mail);
- ii. Letter of good academic standing;
- iii. Letter of good standing from their NBLSA Chapter President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary; and
- iv. Remittance of registration fee **no later than 11:59 PM EST Sunday, November 18, 2021.**

\*\*\*If mailing a registration fee check, in addition to emailing the registration materials, a copy of the registration materials AND the check MUST be mailed to:

**National Black Law Students Association**  
**Attn: WeWork c/o NBLSA**  
**Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition**  
80 M Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003

\*In the memo section, please include the applicable regional (NEBLSA, MABLSA, MWBLSA, SRBLSA, SWBLSA, WRBLSA)

- v. Teams that advance to the National Rounds of the competition must confirm their participation by registering for the National Convention **no less than** fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the beginning of the National Convention. Any team that does not register within this timeframe will be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and will forfeit their slot to another team within their region.

**C. REFUNDS AND SUBSTITUTIONS:** Will only be granted due to extenuating circumstances, and are subject to the discretion of the National Director.



- 1) **No refunds will be granted after 11:59 PM EST on Thursday, November 18, 2021.**
- 2) No team member may be substituted **after 11:59 PM EST on Thursday, November 18, 2021.**
- 3) Notification of a substitution must be submitted to the National Director of Moot Court via email at [mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:mootcourt@nblsa.org).

## **Article VI: Briefs**

### **A. GENERAL:**

- 1) For purposes of brief writing, upon confirmation of registration, the National Director will assign each team the position of petitioner or respondent. Schools with multiple teams will receive assignments that are split equally between petitioner and respondent.
- 2) Each team will be randomly assigned “team identification letters” by the National Director of TMMCC, prior to the scoring of the briefs.
  - i. It is each team members' responsibility to ensure every copy of the team brief contains the proper identification letters. Team ID letters will be emailed to each team **no later than 11:59 PM EST on Sunday, November 20, 2021.** If a team does not receive a team ID, it is the team’s responsibility to inform the National Director **immediately.**
  - ii. Team members will be allowed to refer to themselves by name or ID letter only. Any team member that identifies or causes to be identified, any school, social, religious or other information that could jeopardize the fairness of the competition, using apparel, jewelry, hand gestures, or material brought into the competition room, **shall subject the team to a penalty ranging from 5 points to**

**disqualification.** The severity of the penalty will be assessed based on the severity of the infraction. The National Director, and/or, National Specialists will be responsible for each penalty assessment.

3) Service of Briefs:

- i. An electronic version of the brief must be emailed to [mootcourtquestions@nblsa.org](mailto:mootcourtquestions@nblsa.org). This upload must be completed by **11:59 PM EST** on **Sunday, December 19, 2021**, to avoid point deductions/penalties (see chart). Save team briefs in the following format: team identification\_petitioner/respondent. (Ex: AG\_Petitioner or AL\_Respondent)
- ii. **NO BRIEFS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:59 PM EST ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021.**
- iii. The brief and all components of the brief must be sent together as a single document in PDF format.
- iv. The Certificate of Compliance and Proof of Service forms **MUST** be submitted in a separate PDF from the brief. Please combine the Certificate of Compliance and Proof of Service forms into one PDF. Use the same format required for the team brief in the email subject line and submit both PDF's in one email.
- v. Briefs **MAY NOT** be amended or revised once submitted.

**B. FORMATING REQUIREMENTS:** The rules of the U.S. Supreme Court for brief submissions are adopted in full, except where these rules say differently; and are subject to the following:

- 1) Anytime identification is required within the Supreme Court rules, Team ID letters shall be substituted for the identification.
- 2) Cover Page – designate whether your team is writing for the Petitioner or Respondent. Also, in the upper right-hand corner, include the Team ID letters.
- 3) Information identifying the team or its law school, other than its designation supplied by the National Director, **MAY NOT** be included **ANYWHERE** on the brief.
- 4) Typeface must be Century Schoolbook, twelve-point font only. The brief must be formatted in Microsoft Word.
- 5) Pages shall be standard letter size (8 x 11 inches) with one-inch margins on each side (excluding page numbers), and with double spacing (except for point or sub-point headings, block quotations, etc.) between each line of text.
- 6) Pages must be single-sided only.
- 7) The brief must have a **minimum** of fifteen (15) pages and a **maximum** of twenty-five

(25) pages. The brief must not exceed twenty-five (25) pages, not including the cover page, table of contents, table of authorities, and appendix.

- 8) All citations should conform to the most recent edition of The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Footnotes are prohibited.

**C. SCORING; DEDUCTIONS AND PENALTIES:**

- 1) Each brief will be graded by three separate brief graders selected by the National and Regional Directors. The final score will be the average of those three scores. Brief graders may not participate in practice rounds or otherwise discuss the problem with participants or their coaches. For Nationals, members of the National Advisory Board will grade the briefs.
- 2) Briefs will be graded on a **100-point scale**. Scores will be based on the following criteria:

<p><b>Formatting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Brief is formatted in accordance with the requirements outlined in Article VI, Section B.</li> </ol>	<p>15 points</p>
<p><b>Brief Substance:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>Issue Recognition</u>: Issues are properly identified and thoroughly addressed.</li> <li>ii. <u>Argument</u>: Questions Presented are stated in a persuasive manner; point headings are stated in a persuasive manner; point headings develop the legal argument; facts are accurate and persuasively written; properly emphasizes favorable facts; effectively addresses unfavorable facts; and avoids conclusive statements.</li> <li>iii. <u>Legal Authority</u>: Properly identifies relevant precedent; properly summarizes precedent; effectively emphasizes favorable precedent; effectively distinguishes unfavorable precedent/adverse authority; and proper analysis and synthesis of facts with precedent.</li> </ol>	<p>70 points</p>
<p><b>Mechanics:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Proper grammar, paragraph development, citation format (Bluebook), use of quotations; neat and professional, and in compliance with form requirements.</li> </ol>	<p>15 points</p>

3) Briefs will be deducted based on the following criteria:

**VIOLATION**

**PENALTY**

Late filing* (emailed or posted after initial deadline)	10 points
Under or exceeded page limit	5 points per page
Brief not submitted as one file	7 points
Failure to include Proof of Service Form	10 points
Failure to include Certificate of Compliance Form	10 points
Identification of team other than by assigned team letter	<b>Disqualification</b>
Multiple briefs from the same school not properly divided between Petitioner and Respondent	10 points per team

**Article VII: Oral Arguments**

**A. GENERAL:**

- 1) The Regional Director will assign sides for the preliminary rounds of the regional competition. The National Director will assign sides for the preliminary rounds of the national competition.
- 2) In subsequent rounds, a coin toss will determine which side a team will argue.
- 3) Competitors must be at the designated assembly room at least **fifteen minutes before** their respective rounds are scheduled to begin. The bailiff will record Petitioner’s rebuttal time and each competitor’s time for oral argument.
- 4) If a team arrives at an argument late, one point will be deducted from the team’s final oral score for each minute late. **After 15 minutes** a default will be declared.
- 5) Each team is allotted **30 minutes’** total for oral argument. The team may divide speaking time between participants as they choose, so long as each participant argues **at least 10 minutes** but not more than **15 minutes**. When speaking, time has expired, a participant may request the Court’s permission to continue. Competition Judges have sole discretion to extend a speaker’s time.
  - i. Failure to speak for at least 10 minutes during oral arguments will result in a 5-point deduction from the overall team score.

- ii. Failure to request an extension of time after allotted time has expired will result in a 5-point deduction from the overall team score.
- 6) Petitioner may reserve up to 2 minutes for rebuttal by notifying the bailiff and Chief Justice of the Court before commencement of the Petitioner's argument. **Failure to reserve rebuttal time with the Court and bailiff will constitute a waiver of rebuttal time.** Respondent does not receive rebuttal time during oral argument.
- 7) Counselors must identify themselves to the Court by Team ID letters and name only and state which side they represent (Petitioner or Respondent) at the beginning of each argument (I.e. DO NOT mention your school affiliation).
- 8) No discussion with the judges is permitted until conclusion of the round. The bailiff will announce when the judge may offer critiques in the presence of both teams.
- 9) No person affiliated with any team may attend any argument in which that team is not scheduled to compete until the final round unless already eliminated. However, unaffiliated spectators may attend oral rounds at the discretion of the Regional or National Director.
- 10) Teams may not use audio or video recording devices during court sessions. Cell phone use is strictly prohibited.
- 11) Competitors are prohibited from using laptops, tablets, or any other electronic devices during oral arguments.
- 12) Note taking by persons other than team members is strictly prohibited, including coaches and spectators.
- 13) Notes taken in violation of this rule will be confiscated by the Regional or National Director and points will be deducted from the affiliated team.
- 14) Any team having an affiliation with the bench, or recognizes an affiliation between its opposing team and the bench, must notify the competition director before the court session begins so that judges may be reassigned. Props are not permitted in the competition room.

## **B. BYE ROUNDS:**

- 1) There are no bye rounds in the TMMCC.
- 2) If an uneven number of teams exist, the competition director will select a shadow team to argue in the preliminary rounds. The identity of this team will not be revealed to any competitor or judge in the competition.
- 3) A shadow team is an opposing team that is randomly selected to argue an additional round to allow all teams to argue a minimum of three times during preliminary rounds. The shadow team will be unaware of which round will be scored and which is not.

## **C. SCORING:**

- 1) The National or Regional Director will select members of the bench and/or members of the bar to judge oral argument rounds. Advocates will be evaluated on a 50-point scale.
- 2) Advocates will be scored based on the following:
  - i. **Weighting**

*Regional Level:*

- During Preliminary Rounds, brief scores will count 30% of the total score and the oral argument score will count as 70% of the total score.
- During Sweet Sixteen, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final Rounds, the total score will be solely based on the oral argument score. A team's brief score will count only in the event of a tie.

*National Level:* During all rounds, the oral argument score will count as 100% of the total score. A team's brief score [comprised of the averaging of their regional and national scores] will only count in the event of a tie.

ii. **Legal Issues/Argument Style:**

- Use of and familiarity with facts
- Knowledge and application of the law
- Legal Argument
- Advocacy Style
- Responsiveness to questions
- Persuasiveness
- Presentation and speaking ability
- Courtroom etiquette

## **Article VIII: Regional Competition**

A. Teams will be assigned a regional site in accordance with the NBLSA Constitution. The regional competitions will be held during the regional conventions. Each region's executive board will determine that region's conference location and dates.

### **B. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:**

- 1) The preliminary Rounds will be comprised of two or three competition rounds depending on the region. Each team will compete in each of the preliminary rounds.
- 2) At the end of the Preliminary Rounds each team will receive an overall Preliminary Rounds score.
- 3) Seventy percent (70%) of a team's overall score will be comprised of an average oral argument score derived from the two or three preliminary competition rounds. The remaining thirtypercent of a team's overall score will be composed of that team's brief score (weighted at 30%). The two totals will be added to calculate a team's overall Preliminary Rounds score.
- 4) The eight (or sixteen) teams receiving the highest overall Preliminary Rounds scores will advance to the Elimination Rounds of the Competition.
- 5) Pairings:
  - i. The Regional Director of the TMMCC (at the Regional Competition) and National Director of the TMMCC (at the National Competition) will schedule pairings for preliminary rounds. An effort will be made to not have teams from the same school be paired.

- ii. Each team will argue at least once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent during preliminary rounds.
- iii. At the end of the Preliminary rounds, teams will be power seeded to determine advancement to the elimination rounds. Teams will be seeded based on a calculation of average oral argument scores combined with the average brief score. (i.e. oral argument weighted at 70% plus brief score weighted at 30% to arrive at a preliminary round average).
- iv. Teams will be power matched (for the elimination rounds) based on highest cumulative point averages (i.e., team with highest cumulative point average will argue against team with lowest cumulative point average.)

**C. ELIMINATIONS ROUNDS:** Elimination rounds may include quarterfinal, semifinal and final round court sessions.

- 1) Regions with less than twelve (12) teams may not have a quarterfinal round and may proceed from preliminary rounds to the semifinals. If a region has exactly twelve (12) teams, it is within the sole discretion of the competition director to determine whether there will be a quarterfinal round.
- 2) Regions with more than thirty (30) teams may hold a Sweet Sixteen round. Whether a Sweet Sixteen round will be held is within the discretion of the competition director.
- 3) Eight (or Sixteen) teams will advance to the Elimination Rounds. Teams will be seeded based on highest cumulative point average.
- 4) After initial pairings, the 30% brief score will no longer be factored into a team's score. Teams will be evaluated solely upon their oral advocacy scores Elimination Rounds.
- 5) A coin toss shall determine which side each team will argue in the rounds.
- 6) Teams will advance to the next round based on win/loss record only. Point averages will not be used to determine advancement. A team must win their respective round to advance to the next round.
- 7) Upon advancement to the next elimination round, teams will be power matched based on oral advocacy scores obtained in the previous round. (i.e. in the semi- score in the quarterfinal will argue against the winning team with the fourth highest oral Argument score in the quarterfinal).
- 8) If two opposing teams' scores are tied, a winner will be selected based on the teams' brief scores; the team with the higher brief score will advance.
- 9) The top four teams from the quarterfinal rounds will advance to the semifinal rounds. The top two teams from the semifinal rounds will advance to the final round. The remaining two teams will compete to determine which team will proceed to the national competition in 3rd place.
- 10) The winner of the final round will be declared winner of the competition.
- 11) The top three seeded teams in each region will advance to the National Competition, including one team from BLSA Canada.

## **Article IX: National Finals**

**A.** The TMMCC National Finals will be held **March 16-20, 2022**, in Memphis, Tennessee,

during the National Convention.

#### **B. CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION:**

- 1) Teams that advance to the national finals shall confirm their participation with the National Director.
- 2) Confirmation of participation is demonstrated by (1) registering for the NBLSA National Convention no later than **14 calendar days prior** to commencement of the national finals and (2) forwarding proof of such registration to the National Director via email.
- 3) Failure to provide confirmation of participation **14 days prior** to the National Competition will be deemed a withdrawal from the competition. A replacement will be selected in accordance with these rules.

#### **C. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:**

- 1) The top three seeded teams in each region and one team from BLSA Canada shall be eligible to compete in the national competition. Therefore, nineteen teams will advance to the national preliminary rounds. If a team is unable to compete in national competition, the next highest seeded team in their region will be able to go in its place.
- 2) The national preliminary rounds will be conducted in the same manner as the regional preliminary rounds (see Article VIII) with the exception that the oral argument will account for 100% of the score and a team's brief score will only be used in the event of a tie.

#### **D. ELIMINATION ROUNDS:**

- 1) Elimination rounds will include quarterfinal, semifinal, and final round court sessions.
- 2) Team's scores will be based on oral argument presentations **only**.
- 3) The winning team from each round shall advance to the next round and the winner of the final round will be declared the winner and champion of the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition.
- 4) If two opposing teams' scores are tied, a winner will be determined by the teams' brief scores: the team with the higher brief score will win.

### **Article X: Bailiffs**

**A. TEAM ASSIGNMENT:** The competition director will provide a bailiff for each round. Bailiffs are prohibited from participating in any rounds where his/her school is competing.

#### **B. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 1) Escorting judges to and from the courtroom;
- 2) Distributing the ballots to judges before the round;
- 3) Calling the court to order;



- 4) Serving as time keeper;
- 5) Documenting tardy arrivals;
- 6) Collecting ballots and returning the ballots along with the time sheet to the competition director;
- 7) Informing the competition director of any violations he/she may have observed; and
- 8) Start the critiquing session.

**\*\*Note:** Bailiffs are prohibited from participating in any rounds where his/her school is competing. **\*\***

## **Article XI: Grievances and Brief Viewing Period**

### **A. CONDUCT SUBJECT TO A GRIEVANCE:**

#### **1) General:**

- i. Violations of the TMMCC rules;
- ii. Inconsistent interpretation/application of the TMMCC rules;
- iii. Inappropriate communication during the oral argument round between team members, between team members and judges or team members and coaches;
- iv. Inappropriate action of coaches during the oral argument rounds, and
- v. Inappropriate assistance from coaches during the brief writing process.

#### **2) Briefs**

- i. Protests to another team's brief must be served upon the National Director in writing **within ten days** from the date the briefs are published.
- ii. Protests must specify the grievance lodged and rule the brief allegedly violates.
- iii. All teams will be notified via email of the National Director's ruling on protests prior to the competition.
- iv. Brief scores will be distributed during regional competition. Protests related to brief scores may be brought to the attention of the competition director before the commencement of oral arguments.

- 3) **Oral Arguments:** Grievances pertaining to brief scores may not be filed once oral arguments have commenced.

### **B. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING A GRIEVANCE:**

- 1) Each team will be provided with grievance forms at the start of their first round of oral arguments.
- 2) Teams have **30 minutes** from the time the judges' critiques are submitted to the TMMCC Director and/or the TMMCC Specialist(s) to file a grievance. Teams waive their right to file a grievance, based on anything that occurred during an oral argument round, if they fail to do so within the **30-minute window**.

- 3) **The National Director is the official interpreter of the TMMCC rules and those decisions are FINAL.**
  - i. The decisions of the National Director are appealable to the National Grievance Committee. **Only the following decision of the National Director is subject to appeal:**
    - The National Director’s decision that resolves an inconsistent interpretation/application of the TMMCC rules.
    - All other decisions of the National Director will be final.

## **Article XII: Awards**

### **C. REGIONAL LEVEL:**

- 1) TMMCC Regional Champion Award: given to the team with the highest scores at the end of the final round.
- 2) TMMCC Regional First Runner-up Award: given to the team with the second highest score at the end of the final round.
- 3) TMMCC Regional Second Runner-up Award: given to the team with the third highest score at the end of the semi-final round.
- 4) TMMCC Best Oral Advocate Regional Award: given to the competitor who has the highest average oral scores for the two or three Preliminary Rounds. Competitors must argue in at least two of the three Preliminary Regional Rounds to be eligible for this award.
- 5) TMMCC Best Respondent Brief Regional Award: given to the Respondent team with the highest average score.
- 6) TMMCC Best Petitioner Brief Regional Award: given to the Petitioner team with the highest average score.

### **D. NATIONAL LEVEL:**

- 1) TMMCC National Champion Award: given to the team with the highest scores at the end of the final round.
- 2) TMMCC National First Runner-up Award: given to the team with the second highest score at the end of the final round.
- 3) TMMCC National Second Runner-up Award: given to the team with the third highest score at the end of the semifinal round.

- 4) TMMCC National Best Oral Advocate Award: given to the competitor who has the highest average oral scores for the three Preliminary Rounds. Competitors must argue in at least two of the three Preliminary National Rounds to be eligible for this award.
- 5) TMMCC National Best Respondent Brief Award: given to the Respondent team with the highest average score. The score is calculated by averaging regional and the national score.
- 6) TMMCC National Best Petitioner Brief Award: given to the Petitioner team with the highest average score. The score will be calculated by combining the regional average score and the national average score.

### **Article XIII: Conduct**

The Conduct of all TMMCC participants (team members and coaches) will be governed by the standards set out in the ABA Model Code of Professional Responsibility and Rules of Professional Conduct.

### **Article XIV: Authority**

- A. The National and Regional Directors shall have sole discretion to assess penalties or disqualify teams for violation of these rules. Uniform penalties will be assessed for each type of violation.
- B. The National Director has sole discretion to interpret these rules. Requests for rule interpretation, prior to the competition, must be emailed by the requesting school to [mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:mootcourt@nblsa.org).
- C. The National Director has sole discretion to answer questions concerning the TMMCC problem. All such inquiries must be emailed by the requesting school to the National Director at the email address prior to 11:59 on November 28th.
- D. The National Director's decisions regarding protests other teams' briefs, rule interpretations, and/or substantive inquiries are final.
- E. The National Director may exercise his/her discretion to create additional rules to address matters not covered in this section.

\*The 2021-2022 National Board has empowered the National Director of TMMCC with ultimate decision-making authority over the official rules of this competition

### **Article XV: Contact Information**

- A. Questions regarding the National Competition shall be directed to:  
[mootcourtquestions@nblsa.org](mailto:mootcourtquestions@nblsa.org)
- B. TMMCC correspondence and inquiries relating to the Regional Competitions should be

addressed to the appropriate Regional Director:

WRBSA: send questions to [wrbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:wrbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org)

SWBSA: send questions to [swbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:swbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org)

SRBSA: send questions to [srbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:srbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org)

NEBSA: send questions to [nebsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:nebsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org)

MABSA: send questions to [mabsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:mabsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org)

MWBSA: send questions to [mwbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:mwbsa.mootcourt@nblsa.org)



*2021-2022 THURGOOD MARSHALL MOOT COURT COMPETITION*

**REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

Scan and send a copy of the completed registration form by email to the following address:

**Sherod Craig, NBLSA TMMCC Director**

[mootcourt@nblsa.org](mailto:mootcourt@nblsa.org)



***2021-2022 THURGOOD MARSHALL MOOT COURT COMPETITION***

**CHECKLIST**

1. Registration form \_\_\_\_\_
2. Letter of good academic standing \_\_\_\_\_
3. Letter of good standing from NBLSA Chapter President, Vice President,  
Treasurer, or Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
4. Copy of remitted registration fee \_\_\_\_\_



**NBLSA**<sup>TM</sup>

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**2021-2022 THURGOOD MARSHALL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**SCHOOL NAME**

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**COMPETITOR 1**

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*First Name*

*Last Name*

*Year in Law School*

**COMPETITOR 2**

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*First Name*

*Last Name*

*Year in Law School*

**COACH**

---

*First Name*

*Last Name*

**DESIGNATED TEAM CONTACT PERSON:** (this person is responsible for communicating all updates and important information to competitors)

NAME:

---

*First Name*

*Middle Initial*

*Last Name*

MAILING ADDRESS:

---

*Street*

*Suite/Apt/Floor*

*City*

*State*

*Zip Code*

EMAIL ADDRESS

---

PHONE NUMBER

---

Office

Cell

Home

**Alternate Contact Person:**

NAME:

---

First Name

Middle Initial

Last Name

MAILING ADDRESS:

---

*Street*

*Suite/Apt/Floor*

*City*

*State*

*Zip Code*

EMAIL ADDRESS

---

PHONE NUMBER

---

Office

Cell

Home





**NBLSA**<sup>TM</sup>

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**2021-2022 NATIONAL THURGOOD MARSHALL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certify that our team electronically served a copy of its brief to the National Director in accordance with Article VI, § (B)(3) of the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition Official Rules. To effectuate proper service, brief packages must be emailed to the National Director, with brief submission.

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Print or Type School Name

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Print or Type Member Name

Team Member Signature

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Print or Type Member Name

Team Member Signature

---

Print or Type Coach Name

Coach Signature



**NBLSA**<sup>TM</sup>  
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**2021-22 NATIONAL THURGOOD MARSHALL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

The undersigned certify that our team has complied with Article IV and VI of the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition Official Rules. The brief of Team \_\_\_\_\_ is the work product solely of the undersigned students. Further, the undersigned students have not received any assistance from any faculty or other assistance in researching or writing the brief other than assistance permitted by Article IV.

---

Print or Type School Name

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Print or Type Member Name

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Team Member Signature

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Print or Type Member Name

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Team Member Signature

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Print or Type Coach Name

---

Coach Signature



**NBLSA**<sup>TM</sup>

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**2021-2022 THURGOOD MARSHALL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**NBLSA Chapter Letter of Good Standing**

This form must be uploaded with your registration form at the time of submission.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Current Date

To Whom It May Concern:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT \_\_\_\_\_ are active  
members of and in good standing with the BLSA chapter at \_\_\_\_\_  
for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

FOR OFFICE USE, ONLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ National Director Approval: \_\_\_\_\_