



National Animal Law Competitions

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING & LOBBYING COMPETITION 2023 RULES

PRESENTED BY:



In collaboration with:



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RULE I. ORGANIZATION

The National Animal Law Competitions (NALC) is an inter-law school event comprised of three distinct components:

- Appellate Advocacy Competition
- Closing Argument Competition
- Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition

NALC is an exciting educational event presented annually by the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy in collaboration with several leading law schools that include Harvard, Lewis & Clark, Vermont, the University of Denver, University of San Francisco, and Yale. The purpose of the event is to provide law students an opportunity to develop knowledge in the field of animal law and hone their written and oral advocacy skills.

RULE II. PARTICIPATION

A. Competitor Eligibility.

Participation in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition is done on an individual basis. All students who are current full- or part-time J.D students at an ABA-approved law school in the United States, regardless of year* in school, are eligible to compete.

** First-year law students are eligible to compete in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying and Closing Argument components of the National Animal Law Competitions. First-year law students are not eligible to compete in the Appellate Advocacy component.*

B. Registration.

Registration for the 2023 National Animal Law Competitions will open on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 12 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

Registration closes promptly at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

To register, please visit TheBrooksInstitute.org/NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.

Competitors must submit a completed [Registration Form](#) with the [Certification of Authenticity](#) and arrange payment for the registration fee of \$25 (per individual competitor). **Registration is not complete until the competitors submit their written and video-recorded responses to the prompts provided later in these instructions.**

Preliminary rounds, including both written and video-recorded components, will be submitted, and judged electronically. Up to ten (10) competitors then will be selected to compete virtually in the semi-final and final rounds on March 18-19, 2023. More information about submitting your materials, the selection process for the preliminary, semi-final, and final rounds is provided below.

RULE III. COACHING

A. Timing and Preliminary Round Assistance (VERY IMPORTANT!).

Do not risk disqualification! Competitors are not allowed to receive ANY coaching or assistance with the problem prior to January 17, 2023.

This means that the written work and preliminary round video-recorded lobbying submitted must be the sole work product of the competitor. As part of the registration process, all competitors must sign and submit the [Certification of Authenticity](#) form attesting to the originality of their work product and consenting to have the final rounds video recorded.

As a reminder: the completed [Registration Form](#), including the [Certification of Authenticity](#), written work, and video-recorded lobbying submissions are due no later than November 15, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET. Failure to meet the submission deadline will result in disqualification from the competition.

In addition, competitors may *not* discuss the problem with anyone, including professors, coaches, students, colleagues, or any other individuals prior to January 17, 2023—which is when the semi-final round competitors will be announced and notified.

After January 17, 2023, and through the end of the competition, the selected semi-finalists may receive coaching assistance to prepare for the semi-final and final lobbying rounds pursuant to the additional restrictions outlined in these rules.

In sum, only *after*: 1) the written bill and fact sheet and video-recorded lobbying component have been submitted; 2) the semi-final round competitors have been notified on January 17, 2023; and 3) pursuant to the additional restrictions outlined in these rules, may competitors receive assistance from coaches in preparation for the semi-final and final lobbying rounds.

Violating any of these rules against preliminary round assistance will result in automatic disqualification.

B. Other Restrictions.

Competitors also *may not* receive *any* coaching, advice, or assistance *at any time* from individuals who:

1. Served as the lead author of the 2023 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition problem; or
2. Are serving as a judge for the 2023 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition.

The burden of determining coaching eligibility rests on the competitor. Therefore, before receiving any coaching, advice, or assistance from anyone, competitors first should inquire whether the person was involved in authoring the problem or if they will be serving as a judge of the 2023 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition.

C. During the Semi-final and Final Round.

Every effort is made to make NALC as fair as possible. Consequently, rounds are not open to the public, and competitors and their coaches who are invited to compete virtually for the semi-final rounds may not observe any semi-final rounds other than those in which they or their team are participating. Final round competitors and their coaches may not observe any final round presentations other than those in which they or their team are participating. Recording of any sessions by any competitor(s) or their coaches is not permitted.

D. Communication with Judges.

At all stages of the competition, competitors and coaches may not discuss the rules, problem, cases, strategy, or scoring with any NALC judges. Competitors and coaches also may not seek or receive any advice, feedback, or coaching from the NALC judges beyond the feedback that is provided immediately after each lobbying round. Likewise, competitors and coaches may not disclose to any NALC judges which school they represent until after the competition has concluded.

RULE IV. COMPETITION PROBLEM

A. Distribution and Components.

The preliminary round problem consists of one (1) mock bill scenario and one (1) elevator pitch scenario. The semi-final round will consist of three (3) different mock lobbying scenarios for the bill. The final round will consist of one (1) mock lobbying scenario. The lobbying scenarios include specific legislator profiles and lobbying objectives.

For the preliminary round, competitors must draft a proposed bill with an accompanying fact sheet and video record an elevator pitch for their bill. Those submissions are each due by 11:59pm (ET) on November 15, 2022. On January 17, 2023, up to ten (10) selected competitors will be provided with the three (3) mock lobbying scenarios for the semi-final lobbying round. On Saturday, March 18, 2023, each semi-finalist will meet virtually and individually with three (3) “members of the legislature” and/or their “staff” to secure specified objectives, such as bill sponsorship, co-sponsorship, hearings, votes, etc. No later than 6 pm ET that evening, up to four (4) selected finalists will receive the final round information and instructions via email. The final lobbying round will be held virtually on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

The Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition preliminary round problem is posted on the NALC website, under “Problems.” Please visit: TheBrooksInstitute.org/NationalAnimalLawCompetitions.

B. Questions and Competition Administrators.

If you have any questions about the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition problem, requirements, or rules, please contact the competition administrators at info@thebrooksinstitute.org at the earliest date possible using the subject line “NALC Question.” Be sure to read both the problem and the rules in their entirety before requesting

clarification. Also be sure to refer to the rules again prior to the semi-final and final competition rounds. The competition administrators will not be able to respond to questions that already are answered in the rules and, if needed, can provide only minimal clarification on the problem.

RULE V. PRELIMINARY ROUND REQUIREMENTS

The written and oral lobbying components are both crucial aspects of the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition. Therefore, competitors should strive to submit the very best products possible. Note that special awards for the overall Best Bill and, individually, to the Best Fact Sheet will be sent to the competitor selected to receive this award after the conclusion of the National Animal Law Competitions on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

A. Format.

For the preliminary round, you are instructed to submit the following with your registration:

1. Draft a state bill that accomplishes Senator Lewis' desired goals outlined in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition problem. (Note: you may use U.S. state or federal laws or bills to guide your research. You also may refer to any existing judicial opinions and resources from any bar association.)
2. Create a fact sheet for your bill.
3. Create a brief video of your elevator pitch for your bill. Your elevator pitch should be a short synopsis of your bill, its purpose, and your ask, and must be 2 minutes or less in length. For the elevator pitch, imagine that you have had difficulty securing a meeting with a key legislator for co-sponsorship. You then catch them as they are leaving a late-evening session and you only have a moment to make your case.

The length of the bill shall be no less than one (1) page and no more than five (5) pages. Competitors should determine proper formatting based on their own research; however, font size must be no smaller than 12-point Garamond or Century font type with one-inch page margins. Inclusion of "findings" or "purpose" at the beginning of the bill is discretionary and will be included in the final page count.

The fact sheet must be no more than one (1) page and one (1) side in length with the same style requirements as set forth above for the bill.

The video recorded elevator pitch must be no longer than 2 minutes and in mp4 format. Instructions on [how to video record](#) your elevator pitch via Zoom are available on the NALC website, but you may use any method that supplies the video in mp4 format.

B. Submission of Bill & Fact Sheet and Video-Recorded Lobbying

Competitors must submit their written proposed bill and fact sheet and video-recorded elevator pitch according to the specifications set forth in the [Registration Form](#). To be timely, the registration and all required documents must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm (ET) on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Competitors should consult the example fact sheets available on the problem

webpage for guidance. The submission of work produced by any person other than the competitor is strictly prohibited, and competitors may not receive assistance from anyone prior to January 17, 2023.

RULE VI. SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL ROUND REQUIREMENTS

A. Format.

During the semi-final round, competitors will meet individually via Zoom with three (3) “legislators” and/or their “staff” to secure specified objectives, such as bill sponsorship, co-sponsorship, hearings, votes, etc. Competition judges will play the role of the “legislators” and the timekeepers will play the role of “staff.” Please note, because judges and timekeepers are playing fictitious characters, he/she/they are not necessarily expressing personal opinions during competition rounds. We will use Zoom as the virtual platform, and an individualized link will be sent to the semi-finalists by March 1, 2023.

Competitors should approach each round as they would a real-life lobbying endeavor. This means competitors should expect the unexpected and prepare just as they would for actual lobbying. Competitors may not use anything other than copies of their bill and fact sheet during the semi-final and final round meetings with the “legislators” or “staff.” Competitors can draw from their own research, and their own life experience, when communicating with judges; however, whether in written documents, or during the lobbying rounds, competitors are not allowed to fabricate levels of public or private support, polling numbers, or other statistics to persuade or prove a point.

It is permissible for competitors to extrapolate likely outcomes based on real-life information generally available to the public. To use an example, if the competitor’s proposed legislation focuses on animal cruelty issues, it would be permissible to look at past animal cruelty-related legislation and extrapolate those polling numbers to the current problem. However, the competitor must base his/her/their extrapolation on actual numbers based on real polls and other data. Although this is a fictional problem, it is essential that competitors tether their arguments to credible information as opposed to simply making up information that benefits or supports their position. This rule also applies to the fabrication of facts from real or fictitious persons, organizations, agencies, etc. For example, the competitor may not create a fact sheet with logos from fictitious organizations or names of individuals to support their position. However, the competitor may extrapolate a position of actual organizations or individuals (even if not used in the problem) if the statement or position can be supported with factual and reliable existing sources. For example, if true, it is permissible for the competitor to state to a “legislator” that a particular nationally known organization has supported similar bills in Illinois and California, so your analysis indicates it is likely they also will support this legislation.

B. Timekeeping for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds.

Competitors will have ten (10) minutes to lobby the legislator and staff in each semi-final and final round. A timekeeper will display a green card until only three (3) minutes of the competitor’s allotted time remain. At the three (3) minute mark, a card displaying the number three (3) will be displayed. When one (1) minute remains, a yellow card will be displayed. When the competitor’s

time has expired, a red card will be displayed, signaling that the competitor must conclude promptly.

C. Semi-Final Rounds.

The schedule for the semi-final rounds will be posted on the NALC website after the semi-finalists have been chosen by animal law expert judges. Competitors will be informed on January 17, 2023, if they have advanced to the semi-final rounds. Competition administrators then will determine the schedule and inform the competitors by March 1, 2023. An individualized Zoom link also will be provided at that time.

Competitors will lobby for their submitted mock bill in the semi-final rounds on Saturday, March 18, 2023. There are three (3) separate semi-final rounds during which each competitor will meet individually by Zoom with each of the three (3) “legislators” to secure the objectives outlined in each of the three (3) mock lobbying scenarios—one (1) scenario per round. Competitors will receive feedback from the judges (“legislators” and “staff”) immediately after each round.

D. Final Round.

The top four (4) semi-final competitors will advance to the final round (*See* Rule VII) and randomly will be assigned a presentation order. No later than 6 pm ET on Saturday, March 18, 2023, each of the four finalists will receive the new information and instructions for the final round which will take place virtually on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

The competitors in the final round, and their coaches, will not be permitted to view the lobbying presentations of the other finalist competitors, nor are these rounds open to the public.

RULE VII. SCORING

A. Preliminary Round.

A committee of experienced lobbyists, legislators, attorneys, and/or professors will score the submitted bill, fact sheet, and video-recorded elevator pitch. The factors that will be considered for the scoring include language clarity, persuasiveness, precision in drafting, and design (fact sheet only). A total score for each competitor will be calculated as follows:

- 75% – based on the competitor’s proposed bill and fact sheet; and
- 25% – based on the competitor’s video-recorded elevator pitch.

Based on those combined scores, up to ten (10) Preliminary Round competitors will be selected to participate in the Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition semi-final round on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

B. Advancement to Final Round of the Competition.

At the conclusion of the three (3) semi-final rounds, a total score for each competitor will be calculated as follows:

- 25% - based on the competitor's proposed bill & fact sheet; and,
- 75% - based on the competitor's combined oral scores from each of the three (3) preliminary rounds (25% per round). Oral scores are based on a competitor's persuasiveness, clarity of message, ability to respond effectively to questions, and knowledge of the laws related to, or impacting, their proposed bill.

The four (4) semi-final competitors with the top total scores will advance to the final round. The names of the competitors advancing to the final round will be announced no later than 6 pm ET on Saturday night, March 18, 2023.

C. Final Round Scoring

Upon completion of the final round, the competition winner will be determined by considering the total score given to each competitor for their overall lobbying performance during the final round. In the event of a tie, the competitors' bill and fact sheet scores will determine the outcome.

RULE VIII. AWARDS

Awards will be given to the top four (4) finalists as follows: 1st Place, Runner-Up, Finalists. The winner of the competition will receive an individual plaque, as well as a plaque for display by his/her/their law school. The Runner-Up will receive an individual plaque and the two (2) additional finalists will receive certificates. The winner of the Competition additionally will receive a cash prize of \$500.

Awards also will be given for the Best Bill and, individually, for the Best Fact Sheet. The winners of the Best Bill and/or the Best Fact Sheet awards may not necessarily be competition finalists.

The competitors' names and photos may be posted on the Brooks and collaborating law schools' websites, along with video recordings of the final round competition.

RULE IX. PENALTIES

Scoring penalties, up to and including disqualification, may be assessed at the competition administrators' sole discretion for failure to comply with any rule or deadline set pursuant to these rules.

RULE X. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

Requests for interpretation of these rules should be made to the competition administrator at info@thebrooksinstitute.org at the earliest date possible using the email subject line "NALC Rules Question." All competitors will receive prompt notification of any new rules, as well as revisions

to or interpretations of existing rules. All competitors shall be bound by any changes, effective at the time of notification.

The Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy wishes you an exciting and productive 2023 Legislative Drafting & Lobbying Competition. Best of luck to all competitors!



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