(1) One team has withdrawn from the competition, leaving 33 teams from 21 law schools competing. As provided in the Rules, the Competition Committee has decided to field an Elon Law team to have an even number of teams. The Elon Law team cannot advance beyond the preliminary rounds. For purposes of each preliminary round, the Elon Law team will be scored on its oral arguments just like other teams, and it will be assigned the lowest brief score received by a competing team. Teams facing the Elon Law team will receive a win or loss based on the scoring calculations detailed in the Rules (oral argument 60 percent; brief 40 percent).

(2) The method of assigning pairings in the second preliminary round has been changed. As announced in the Rules, the pairings in the first preliminary round will be determined by brief scores, i.e., the team with the highest brief score will be paired against the team with the lowest brief score, the team with the second highest brief score will be paired against the team with the second lowest brief score, and so on. However, the pairings in the second preliminary round will not be determined by win-loss record as announced in the original Rules. Rather, the second round will be paired according to brief scores as well, varied so that the same teams would not face each other in the first two rounds. Sides (i.e., Petitioner or Respondent) in the first two preliminary rounds will be assigned randomly, and each team will argue on- and off-brief. The pairings for the third preliminary round will be made according to the original Rules based on win-loss records. These pairings will be announced Friday afternoon. Sides in the third preliminary round will be determined by the choice of the higher seeded team. The foregoing rule changes will make the preliminary rounds run smoother and will benefit teams by allowing them to learn the identity of their competitors for the first two preliminary rounds prior to the start of the competition. Except as amended above, the Rules of the competition remain the same.