



# ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMPETITION (ADR)

Advocacy Showcase: September 11, 2017

# Mediation



# Who Competes in the Competition?

- This is competition that is open to any first or second year law students but the majority of students who compete are first year law students.
- That being said this competition is the first experience many students have with “real lawyering” meaning using the skills they learn in the classroom and applying them in a situation that is similar to the work lawyers do every day.
- Everyone competes in teams of two- so must have a partner to compete in the competition.

# How the teams work

- Each team consists of two law students
  - Each team consists of one person who is acting as the “client” and the other who is acting as the attorney”
    - Each team switches roles every round so each teammate experiences being an attorney and a client.
- There are two teams that compete against each other in every round
- There can be anywhere from 1-3 judges that score each round
- There is also one mediator in each round who helps to physically mediate, brainstorm with the team, answer questions, and keeps the time for the competition.

# Structure of the Competition

- The structure of our competition
  - Every team is given a fact pattern usually 1-2 days before the competition round
    - There are "public facts" which both teams receive and there are "private facts" which only one side receives
      - These are typically short statements and these are all the facts that each team is given- so this is closed universe of facts
      - The private facts can be shared or not with the other side, it is up to that particular side to determine if they wish to share them or not.
        - Whether you share them or keep them hidden are all tactical decisions for the teams to make.
  - Each round takes about 1-2 hours to prepare for max- which is low time commitment which makes this a good competition to participate in

# Structure of the Competition Cont.

- Each round is 50 minutes with each team getting a 5-minute caucus to discuss with the mediator potential strategies for how to reach a collaborative compromise.
- Then at the end of the round both teams are dismissed while the judge(s) and mediator discuss what each team did right and wrong.
  - Then each team goes back in front of the judges and talks to each other about what went right and wrong while the judges take notes during their self-evaluations.
  - Then both teams are brought back and the judge(s) and mediator gives comments and feedback to both teams.

# Training Session

- At UR there has in the past been a short training about what ADR is and what are the techniques are to use and how to engage the mediator during the competition rounds, which is something that we are revamping this coming competition season.
- We plan to implement a 1-2 hour long training session before the start of our internal competition to provide some coaching and helpful tips of how to approach the competition which will be led by a panel of local attorneys and mediators.

# Regionals

- The two teams that made it to the final round at UR will advance to the external/ regional competition which is where they will compete against others from different law schools in each region.
- The structure is very much the same as the internal competition that we have at Richmond.
- This competition is an opportunity for the teams to grow and improve and to learn more strategies about ADR and mediation specifically because each round becomes increasingly more difficult.



# Regionals Cont.

- The Regional competitions will be held during February and early March each year.
- Two of UR's current 3Ls, Nick Mirra and Justin Brewster, won the ABA Representation in Mediation Regional Competition earlier this year (over spring break).
  - They both advanced to the national competition in San Francisco which was in April of this year.

# Competition Dates:

- Fall Interest Meeting: will be the week of Nov 13 at noon
- Spring Interest Meeting: will be the week of Jan 17 at noon
  - Then teams will have to sign up by Friday 1/19 to be able to compete.
- Training Session/Mediation Clinic: will be the week of Jan 22 which will be in the evening
- First Round: Monday 1/29 at 6pm and 8pm
- Second Round: Thursday 2/1 at 6pm and 8pm
- Third Round: Monday 2/5 at 6pm and 8pm
- Fourth Round: Thursday 2/8 at 6pm and 8pm
- Final Round: Monday 2/12 at 6pm

# Any Questions?

- My contact info in case you think of questions later is
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