

# SCORING STANDARDS

## Explanation of the Performance Ratings Used on the Mock Trial Ballot

Judges are rating team performance, not the legal merits of the case presented. In deciding which team (attorneys and witnesses) has made the better overall presentation in the case, judges will use the following criteria. Rating must be on a whole point basis (partial points are not allowed).

| <u>Points</u> | <u>Performance</u>   | <u>Criteria for Rating Performance</u>   |
|---------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 – 2         | <b>NOT EFFECTIVE</b> | Unsure of self, illogical, uninformed, not prepared, speaks incoherently, definitely ineffective in communication.   |
| 3 – 4         | <b>FAIR</b>          | Minimally informed and prepared. Performance is passable, but lacks depth in terms of knowledge of task and materials. Communication lacks clarity and conviction.   |
| 5 – 6         | <b>GOOD</b>          | Good, solid, but less than spectacular performance. Can perform outside the script but with less confidence than when using script. Logic and organization are adequate, but not outstanding. Grasps major aspects of the case, but does not convey mastery of it. Communications are clear and understandable, but could be stronger in fluency and persuasiveness. |
| 7 – 8         | <b>EXCELLENT</b>     | Fluent, persuasive, clear and understandable. Organizes materials and thoughts well and exhibits mastery of the case and materials.  |
| 9 – 10        | <b>OUTSTANDING</b>   | Superior qualities listed for 7-8 points performance. Additionally, thinks well on feet, is logical, keeps poise under duress. Can sort essential from nonessential and use time effectively to accomplish major objectives. Demonstrates the unique ability to utilize all resources to emphasize vital points of the trial.  |