



**American Mock Trial Association  
2014 Mid-Year Board Meeting Agenda  
Conference Call  
December 14, 2014, 2:00pm EST**

**I. Call to Order**

**Conference Call Attendance:**

Members present (X):  
Members not present (X):  
Candidate Members present (X):  
Candidate Members not present (X):  
Staff & Guests (X):  
Directors Emeritus (X):

**II. Welcome and Remarks (Bernstein)**

**III. Format of Agenda:**

Delivered by Assistant Secretary – Pavely

All motions submitted were referred to the corresponding AMTA Committee pursuant to the policy adopted by the Board in 2007 (Rule 10.2.1). All motions are referenced numerically by the abbreviation of the AMTA Committee to which the motion was referred (e.g. EC-02 or TAB-03). The Committees had the option of tabling the motion, amending the motion or substituting the motion. Tabled motions retained their original designations, but are provided in an appendix. Motions could be advanced with recommendation or without.

**Motions appear in red and bolded.** The decision of the respective committees follows each motion **IN BOLD BLUE, CAPITAL LETTERS AND UNDERLINED**. Motions that have been recommended by committee do not need to be seconded at the meeting. Motions forwarded without recommendation require a second. For a motion to be adopted, it must have received a majority of the votes cast at a meeting at which quorum is present. (AMTA Bylaws, Section 4.10). Motions to amend the Bylaws required an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Voting Directors (AMTA Bylaws, Section 8.02).

Appended to the Agenda as **Appendix A** is the Consent Calendar. The Executive Committee voted to move four motions previously on the main Agenda to the Consent Calendar.

Appended to the Agenda as **Appendix B** is a list of tabled motions. These motions were tabled by the reviewing committee and will not be considered by the Board for action. To “untable” a motion, five or more members of the Board (not including the motion’s author(s)), must request that the motion be considered. If such request is made, the full Board may vote on whether to overturn the Committee’s recommendation to table. A motion to overturn the Committee’s recommendation to table must be passed by a majority vote of the Board. ***Taking a motion off the table and placing it on the agenda alone does not result in adoption of the motion.*** A separate vote will be necessary on whether to adopt the motion.

Appended to the Agenda as **Appendix C** are the minutes from the 2014 Board Meeting.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

**V. Approval of 2014 Board of Directors Meeting minutes.**

**VI. Consideration of Tabled Motions**

For procedure to “untable” a motion, please see discussion of Appendix B above. If a motion is “untabled”, it will be taken up in the order it would have appeared in the Agenda. (i.e. EC-05 would be discussed after EC-04).

**VII. Approval of Consent Calendar (attached as Appendix A)**

**VIII. Committee Reports**

- A. Academics Committee (Leapheart):**
- B. Audit Committee (Smith):**
- C. Budget Committee Report (Eslick):**
- D. Civil Case Committee (Haughey):**
- E. Criminal Case Committee (Bluebond):**
- F. Competition Response Committee (Smith):**
- G. Development Committee (Heytens):**
- H. Ethics Committee (Parker):**
- I. Human Resources Committee (Bernstein):**
- J. Accommodation Committee (Guliuzza):**
- K. Rules Committee (Seelau):**
- L. Strategic Planning Committee (Halva-Neubauer):**
- M. Tabulation Advisory Committee (Woodward):**
- N. Technology Committee (Warihay):**
- O. Tournament Administration Committee (Warihay):**
- P. Executive Committee (Bernstein):**
- Q. Other Committee Reports:**

**IX. Motions:**

**BUDGET-01: Motion by Eslick** to repeal BUD-03, which was passed at the 2014

annual meeting, and to amend the FY 2014-2015 budget as follows:

- (1) Increase the Regional Host expense line by \$11,250.00.
- (2) Increase the ORCS Host expense line by \$3,600.00.
- (3) Increase the NCT Host expense line by \$450.00.
- (4) Decrease the Tournament Support Fund line by \$15,300.00.

*Rationale: BUD-03, as amended, was intended to provide a “credit” to schools hosting AMTA tournaments equal to the school registration fee (currently \$450.00). As the process now works, tournament hosts need to pay the school registration fee up front, and then submit paperwork supporting the request to have the registration fee reimbursed from the Tournament Support Fund. With the passage of BUD-01, the Board has made a policy decision that tournament funding is not intended to be tied to tournament performance. These motions eliminate the need to justify the expense, and ensures that all tournament hosts will receive an additional \$450.00 in funding for FY 2014-2015. These motions have no impact on the bottom line of the FY2013-2014 budget.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**BUDGET-03: Motion by Bernstein, as substituted by Committee,** to change the manner in which AMTA Representatives are reimbursed for meals while on location to a per diem based on the number of meals paid for by the representative daily at 80% of the federal per diem rate.

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-01: Motion by Pavely** to amend the Bylaws to clarify the rules on ad hoc votes as follows:

Delete the following language from section 4.08:

Section 4.08. **Board Meetings; Annual Meeting.** Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called, and the time and place fixed, by the President or by a majority of the Voting Directors then in office or by any Director via a petition to the Executive Committee for an ad hoc vote by the Board of Directors. ~~Such a vote can only be conducted upon recommendation of at least half of the Executive Committee members. In the event of such a vote, Voting Directors will have at least three full business days to respond. For a vote in this manner to be recognized at least one-half of the current Voting Directors must respond in the affirmative for an action to take place.~~ Meetings may be held within or outside of Iowa.

A meeting of the Board of Directors may be held by telephone conference or any other means permitting all persons participating to hear each other, and participation in this manner shall constitute attendance in person.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be its first meeting in each year, unless a different meeting is designated by the President or by the Board of Directors. Failure to hold one or more annual meetings of the Board of Directors or failure to elect Directors in one or more years shall not end the term of any Director, shall not cause any vacancy, and shall not affect the existence or powers of (or the validity of any act of) the Corporation or the Board of Directors; and the term of each Director shall continue as provided in Section 5.06.

Create a new section 4.18 (and renumber subsequent sections accordingly):

Any Director may petition the Executive Committee for an ad hoc vote by the Board of Directors. Such a vote can only be conducted upon recommendation of at least half of the Executive Committee members. In the event of such a vote, Voting Directors will have at least three full business days to respond. For a vote in this manner to be recognized at least one-half of the current Voting Directors must respond in the affirmative for an action to take place.

*Rationale: The placement of the rule regarding ad hoc votes is confusing because it implies that such a vote can be used only to call a meeting. The rule should be separated to make clear that the procedure applies to all ad hoc votes.*

#### ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-02: Motion by Pavely** to amend Section 4.03.01 of the Bylaws as follows:

Section 4.03.01. **Director Selection Process.**

(a) *Information Gathering from Directors.*

(1) *Applications.*

Anyone seeking to be a Director on the upcoming year's Board of Directors must submit a board applicant questionnaire (form B) no later than March 1. The names of the individuals who have submitted Director applications will be announced in writing to the entire Board of Directors within two business days following ~~the National Championship~~ March 1.

*Rationale: Announcing the individuals who have submitted applications after NCT makes no sense since the purpose of the announcement is to solicit feedback on the applicants for 5 days as a basis for Executive Committee recommendations, and the recommendations are due on March 15. This motion makes the timeline consistent with that for Candidates.*

#### ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-04: Motion by Woodward, as amended by Committee,** to memorialize how the subject matter of cases will be approved and to

amend Rule 10.3.2 as follows:

**(2) CASE RELEASE DEADLINE.** Each year's case will be made publicly available no later than August 15.

**(a) PROCEDURE FOR APPROVING SUBJECT MATTER OF PRINCIPAL CASE.** The Case Committee will inform the Executive Committee of the subject matter of the **principal** case it proposes to use the following year no later than seven (7) days prior the date that the Case Committee wishes to release the Case Summary, but may submit same at any point during the year. For purposes of this subsection, "Principle Case" is defined as the case problem that is to be released on or before August 15 each year and used for Regional and Opening Round Championship Series tournaments. Should the Executive Committee determine that the subject matter of the case should be discussed by the Board of Directors, it may make arrangements for the Board of Directors to discuss same. Any such discussion by the Board of Directors will take place in executive session. Should the Board of Directors not approve the subject matter of the case, it will inform the Case Committee of its decision immediately. Should the Board of Directors determine that more information and/or a more complete description of the case is required before it can approve the subject matter of the case, the Case Committee shall provide the Executive Committee with the information and/or description by a date determine by the Executive Committee. Within seven (7) days of its receipt of the description/information from the Case Committee, the Executive Committee, keeping in mind whatever concern(s) were raised by the Board of Directors, will give final approval to the subject matter of the case, or it will inform the Case Committee that the subject matter is not approved.

**(b) PROCEDURE FOR APPROVING SUBJECT MATTER OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CASE.** If a Case Committee or any subcommittee of a Case Committee intends to release an entirely new case for use at the National Championship, the President shall appoint an ad hoc review committee consisting of five members to review the subject matter of the case. Each person appointed to the ad hoc review committee shall both (a) not be affiliated with AMTA member school and (b) not be a member of that year's Case Committee or any of its subcommittees. The members of the committee may be current members of the Board of Directors, former members of the Board of Directors in good standing, directors emeriti, candidate members, or other persons who serve on another AMTA committee. Should the ad hoc review committee determine that the subject matter of the case be discussed by a larger audience, it may make arrangements for all members of the Board of Directors who are not affiliated with an AMTA member school, as defined by Section 4.13.01 of the AMTA Bylaws, to discuss same. Any such discussion by this subset of the Board shall take place in executive session. Should the subset of the Board of Directors not approve the subject matter of the case, it will inform the Case Committee of its decision immediately. Should the subset of the Board determine that more information and/or a more complete description of the case is required before it can approve the subject matter of the case, the Case

Committee shall provide the ad hoc review committee with the information and/or description by a date determined by the ad hoc review committee. Within seven days of receiving the description or information from the Case Committee, the ad hoc review committee, keeping in mind whatever concern(s) were raised by the subset of the Board of Directors, will give final approval to the subject matter of the case, or it will inform the Case Committee that the subject matter is not approved.

*Rationale: My proposed rule, which is attached, says that for the NCT case, the President appoints a 5-person ad hoc review committee, which takes the place of the EC. (If we want to say that the Board or the EC has to approve the President's appointments, fine.) The members must be non-coaches and not on the case committee; they may be Board members, former members or members emeritus, candidates, or other committee members. (If we want to say that at least 2 of them must be board members, or something along those lines, whatever.) If Board discussion is necessary, it will be only by those Board members who are not active coaches (as defined by whatever bylaw we already have on the books that defines "coach" or "affiliation" ...I think it's the one that talks about when people share votes.)*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

#### **X. Unfinished/New Business**

#### **XI. Adjournment**

#### **Appendix A: Consent Calendar**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-03: Motion by Seelau** to Amend Rule 2.12(3) as follows:

**(3) LICENSE REQUIRED FOR OTHER PURPOSES.** A school wishing to use an old AMTA case for fee-based instruction, summer camps, etc. may purchase a license to do so. ~~AMTA's website will include a~~ **The** fee schedule ~~on the AMTA Registration page will~~ showing current pricing. Absent an agreement to the contrary, each license shall last for one year from the date of purchase.

*Rationale: This is a housekeeping motion. I believe this rule was originally written with the architecture of our old website in mind. Regardless, the Registration section of the website is more extensive now (meaning there is no single "Registration page") and there is no reason for this specificity in our rulebook when our website is likely to change from time to time as we grow.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**RULES-01: Motion by Pavely, as amended by Committee**, to add the following to the Rulebook:

Rule 10.2.4: "All changes to AMTA Bylaws, rules, and/or policies that are made by the Directors at either the Annual Board Meeting or the Mid-Year Board Meeting will go into effect immediately unless otherwise indicated at the time of passage. Updates to AMTA's written Bylaws, rules, and/or policies shall take place within sixty days of the Board Meeting at which the changes were made. The Secretary shall be responsible for all updates *unless* such power has been delegated to an existing Committee."

*Rationale: The rules require that amendments to the Tab Manual be published by September 1 but do not include a similar requirement for amendments to the Rulebook.*

### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**RULES-04: Motion by Seelau** to Amend Rule 5.31(1) as follows:

**(1) ALL-AMERICAN AWARDS BASED ON RANK POINTS.** Each student who receives **at least an average of 4.5** ~~18 or more~~ individual award points **per ballot** on one side of the case **at the National Championship Tournament** shall be designated an Intercollegiate All-American Witness or Intercollegiate All-American Attorney. If less than ten students in a division earn **at least 4.5** ~~18 individual~~ award points **per ballot or better**, all students who **receive at least as many ranks as the student with the tenth-highest number** of individual rankings will receive All-American status. A student may receive All-American designation as both an attorney and a witness.

*Rationale: This is a housekeeping motion. The old rule indicates that anyone receiving 18 individual award points should be considered an All-American, which is fine if there are only two judges scoring per round, but does not function as desired when there are more than two judges scoring per round. This re-write strives to make no changes to what is required to become an All-American, but updates our rulebook to reflect modern practice.*

### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**TAC-01: Motion by Eslick** to amend Rule 2.5(1) to read as follows (new text in bold and underlined):

A school that withdraws one or more teams from regional competition **on or** before October 15 shall receive a refund equal to the regional registration fee paid for the team(s) withdrawn.

*Rationale: The Rule as worded does not cover the situation where a withdrawal occurs on October 15. This amendment closes the loophole.*

### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

## **Appendix B: Tabled Motions**

**BUDGET-02: Motion by Racheter** to increase the amounts allowed for AMTA representatives to spend per day on food and motel by \$26, and increase the amount one can spend on a rental car or airline ticket by \$50 without special approval.

*Rationale: We have kept the same reimbursement amounts for many years, while costs continue to rise yearly. We don't want to penalize those who volunteer their time to help AMTA make its tournament structure viable.*

**RULES-02: Motion by Detsky** to amend Rule 2.3 as follows (removed language in strikethrough, new language in red):

Rule 2.3 School authorization letter required.

(5) FILING, DURATION. Each school shall file its letter with the AMTA office by mail, facsimile, or by sending a scanned copy of the original via e-mail. The letter shall remain valid ~~indefinitely~~ **until the conclusion of that year's National Championship Tournament** or until any of the following occur:

- (a) The school revokes the letter;
- (b) The person signing the letter ceases to be affiliated with the school;
- ~~(c) The school does not register for two consecutive academic years;~~
- (d) AMTA requests the school to file a new letter of authorization.

**Any subsequent written correspondence changing, contradicting, amending, editing or disputing the language contained in any section or subsection of Rule 2.3 shall be construed as a revocation of the letter for the purposes of Rule 2.3(5)(a) and shall result in that program's registration being voided until a new letter compliant with Rule 2.3 is submitted and accepted by AMTA.**

**RULES-03: Motion by Leapheart** to make the following addition to rule 3.6.2 (b) as 3.6.2(b) v.

- (b) Early graduate. This includes an individual who
  - i. was a "current undergraduate" as of October 15 in a given season,
  - ii. has ceased enrollment because she or he completed the coursework necessary for graduation,
  - iii. competes for a school that permits such continued participation, and
  - iv. the student has not matriculated in a graduate or professional school, other than as provided in part v. below,
  - v. has matriculated into a graduate school or professional school, other than law, as a



part of an accelerated curriculum program resulting in the completion their master's degree requirements during their 4th year of college.

*Rationale: With the advent of more options for education along with increasing college costs, a growing number of students will complete their undergraduate degree in 3 years and obtain their master's degree during their fourth year of college. I do not have comprehensive data to identify the scope of students impacted, but am aware of multiple universities that have a curriculum allowing students to obtain a graduate degree during a student's fourth year of college (such as Harvard, Northwestern, Brown, Brandeis, Loyola and Northwood).*

*Currently, part iv. of the rule above creates a blanket prohibition for all students matriculating as graduate student. Part v. is an attempt to make an exception to that rule for students in accelerated degree programs who would otherwise be entering their 4th year of their bachelor's program, but due to their acceleration have completed their bachelor's degree in 3 years and are matriculating in their first and final year of graduate school thereby becoming ineligible to compete. The addition of part v above would allow accelerated students to compete in collegiate mock trial for four years. The motion is not artfully crafted and I am open to improving its clarity. The goal is to allow all students the opportunity to experience this outstanding interactive vehicle that improves communication, teamwork and critical thinking skills for four full years.*

## **Appendix C: 2014 Board Meeting Minutes**

### **I. Call to Order**

#### **Attendance:**

Members present (X): Bernstein; Guliuzza; Halva-Neubauer; Haughey; Hawley; Heytens; Keener; Langford; Leapheart; Leckrone; Olson; Parker; Pavely\*; Racheter; Schuett; Scott; Seelau; Smith\*; Thomason; Wagoner\*; Walsh; Warihay; Weatherby; Woodward; Vile

Members not present (X): Detsky; Eslick

Candidate Members present (X): Ben-Merre; Bluebond; Caldwell; Freuhauf; Gelfand; Nelson

Candidate Members not present (X): Dorman; Harper; Minor

Staff & Guests (X): Krumholz; Panichelli; Wlodarczyk; Smith, M.

Directors Emeritus (X): Pohlmann

\*Pavely, Smith, and Wagoner were not present on Sunday.

### **II. Welcome and Remarks (Halva-Neubauer/Bernstein).**

**Both delivered remarks. Halva-Neubauer circulated a President's Report.**

### III. Format of Agenda:

Delivered by Assistant Secretary – Leckrone

All motions submitted were referred to the corresponding AMTA Committee pursuant to the policy adopted by the Board in 2007 (Rule 10.2.1). All motions are referenced numerically by the abbreviation of the AMTA Committee to which the motion was referred (e.g. EC-02 or TAB-03). The numeric order is based upon the order in which the motions were submitted, subject to the exception that every effort was made to place motions addressing the same issue in sequential order regardless of submission date. The Committees had the option of tabling the motion, amending the motion or substituting the motion. Tabled motions retained their original designations, but are provided in an appendix. Motions could be advanced with recommendation or without. The final motion agenda order was subsequently set by the Executive Committee (AMTA Bylaws, Section 10.2.1)(Subject to agenda amendments made at the board meeting).

**Motions appear in red and bolded.** The decision of the respective committees follows each motion **IN BOLD BLUE, CAPITAL LETTERS AND UNDERLINED**. Motions that have been recommended by committee do not need to be seconded at the meeting. Motions forwarded without recommendation require a second. For a motion to be adopted, it must have received a majority of the votes cast at a meeting at which quorum is present. (AMTA Bylaws, Section 4.10). Motions to amend the Bylaws required an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Voting Directors (AMTA Bylaws, Section 8.02)

Appended to the Agenda as **Appendix A** is the Consent Calendar

Appended to the Agenda as **Appendix B** is a list of tabled motions. These motions were tabled by the reviewing committee and will not be considered by the Board for action. To “untable” a motion, five or more members of the Board (not including the motion’s author(s)), must request that the motion be considered. If such request is made, the full Board may vote on whether to overturn the Committee’s recommendation to table. A motion to overturn the Committee’s recommendation to table must be passed by a majority vote of the Board. ***Taking a motion off the table and placing it on the agenda alone does not result in adoption of the motion.*** A separate vote will be necessary on whether to adopt the motion.

Appended to the Agenda as **Appendix C** are the minutes from the December 2013 mid-year conference call/board meeting.

### IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Woodward to approve the agenda. Seconded by Heytens.

Motion by Heytens to move consideration of EC-08 ahead of item VI of the Agenda. Seconded by Thomason. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Keener to consider Academics-02 before Academics-01. Seconded by Leapheart. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Walsh to move discussion of Budget items to Sunday morning. Seconded by Woodward. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Pavely to consider all motions sponsored by Bernstein at one time. Motion seconded by Wagoner. **Motion PASSES.**

**Motion to approve the agenda as amended PASSES.**

**V. Approval of 2013 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting minutes.**

Motion by Racheter that Candidates have the right of voice but not vote. Motion seconded by Keener. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Woodward to approve the 2013 Mid-Year Minutes. Seconded by Warihay. **Motion PASSES.**

**VI. Special Board Elections (President-Elect, Disciplinary Committee Member, Human Resources Committee Member)**

Motion by Halva-Neubauer to go into executive session. Seconded by Wagoner. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Halva-Neubauer to go out of executive session. Seconded by Woodward. **Motion PASSES.**

**GULIUZZA is elected President-Elect.**

**SCOTT is elected at-large member of the Disciplinary Committee. HAWLEY is elected backup member of the Disciplinary Committee.**

**WEATHERBY is elected at-large member of the Human Resources Committee.**

**VII. Consideration of Tabled Motions**

For procedure to “untable” a motion, please see discussion of Appendix B above. If a motion is “untabled”, it will be taken up in the order it would have appeared in the Agenda. (i.e. EC-05 would be discussed after EC-04).

Motion to untable EC-09; signatures from Pavely, Haughey, Walsh, Langford and Bernstein. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion to untable TAC-TEAM ASSIGNMENT-01; signatures from Keener, Halva-Neubauer, Heytens, Walsh and Leckrone. **Motion PASSES.**

## VIII. Approval of Consent Calendar (attached as Appendix A)

**Consent Calendar, including Committee Assignments, is APPROVED.**

## IX. Committee Reports

- R. Academics Committee (Leapheart): **Oral report delivered.**
- S. Audit Committee (Smith): **Oral report delivered.**
- T. Budget Committee Report (Eslick): **Moved to Sunday. On Sunday, Eslick delivered a written report.**
- U. Civil Case Committee (Haughey): **Written and oral reports delivered.**
- V. Criminal Case Committee (Bluebond): **Written and oral reports delivered.**
- W. Competition Response Committee (Smith): **Written and oral reports delivered.**
- X. Development Committee (Heytens): **Written report delivered.**
- Y. Ethics Committee (Parker): **Written and oral reports delivered.**
- Z. Human Resources Committee (Bernstein): **Oral report delivered.**
- AA. Accommodation Committee (Gulizza): **No report.**
- BB. Rules Committee (Seelau): **Seelau delivered a written report.**
- CC. Strategic Planning Committee (Halva-Neubauer): **No report.**
- DD. Tabulation Advisory Committee (Woodward): **Oral report delivered.**
- EE. Technology Committee (Warihay): **Oral report delivered.**
- FF. Tournament Administration Committee (Warihay): **Written report submitted. Oral report of the NCT Subcommittee delivered by Gulizza.**
- GG. Executive Committee (Bernstein): **Oral report delivered. Committee to deliver quarterly reports, with votes of EC. First report will be submitted in October.**

## X. Motions:

**ACADEMICS-01: Motion by Halva-Neubauer, on behalf of Ben-Merre** to amend Rule 4.27 to permit videotaping only with the consent of all parties.

*Rationale: A few students at the Jackson Regional came to the Tab Room, visibly upset that their opposing team had set up a video camera in the classroom without asking (as is allowed by AMTA rules). This was not the first time I encountered young students who were on the verge of tears at an AMTA tournament because they didn't want to be videotaped.*

*I am aware that the whole AMTA experience is supposed to be professional in nature, but I am worried about forcing young students (especially those new to college and/or mock trial) who do not want to be videotaped to be videotaped. Beyond my*

*personal concern, this could have an adverse effect on new and/or developing programs. Some students are worried that their amateur performances might wind up on youtube. Videotaping would also allow teams equipped with cameras to steal original material more easily from other teams. I think also of the volunteer judges who may or may not want to be videotaped. At one tournament I was a part of, a local news team came to videotape a round--this was a clear indicator to the judges that the host school was participating in the round.*

*The recent updates to AMTA bylaws show something new about this, so I apologize if I am re-raising a matter that has already been debated and resolved. I haven't phrased anything in "motion lingo," but could if you think this is a matter that we should discuss this summer. (I already mentioned my concern to Justin who said he might be willing to sponsor a motion.) I would suggest changing the rules to allow videotaping of Regional rounds only with the permission of both teams and judges (possibly with the condition that the tape is made available to both teams?). I think the public expectations for ORCs and the National Championship are different. Thus, I would say that, in the advanced rounds, teams can tape at will (though I do think it's always good to ask). If teams need videotape to practice in the early rounds, they can always tape their own scrimmages.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Motion FAILS.**

**ACADEMICS-02: Motion by Woodward** to Amend Rule 4.28(2) by adding the following sentence at the end of the subpart:

"No recording may be posted to the Internet or any form of social media without the express consent of the opposing team and the presiding judge."

And amend Rule 4.28(3) by adding the following sentence at the end of the subpart:

"No recording may be posted to the Internet or any form of social media without the express consent of both teams and the presiding judge."

*Rationale: I was approached by a coach at a tournament earlier this year who had concerns about our video recording rules. While the coach understood the educational rationale behind our relatively liberal video recording policy, the coach felt that the policy should be revisited in light of YouTube, Vine, and all the other multitude of ways videos may be shared on line. In other words, it was one thing 10 years ago for a team to have an internal VHS or DVD copy of a trial to analyze at practice; it's an entirely different ballgame now where such videos might be posted online solely to embarrass an opponent or a volunteer judge. The purpose of this motion is primarily for the Board to discuss whether the video recording rules need to be amended in light of such concerns.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

Motion by Smith to amend the motion to say the video may not be *publicly* posted to the internet. **Accepted as a friendly amendment.**

Motion by Walsh to amend the motion to say the video may not be posted unless password protected. No vote taken.

Motion by Keener to amend the motion to say “unless reasonable steps are taken to prevent public dissemination.” No vote taken.

Motion by Guliuzza to refer the motion to the Rules Committee. Seconded by Leapheart. **Motion to refer PASSES.**

**ACADEMICS-03: Motion by Walsh (in collaboration with Zeigler)** to modify Rule 8.9 as described below

**Rule 8.9 Invention of fact.** In lieu of discovery, this rule shall govern the testimony of all witnesses.

**(1) CLOSED UNIVERSE.** Mock trial competitors are to advocate as persuasively as possible *based on the facts provided*. Thus, teams must rely on the facts stated in the Case Problem rather than creating new facts or denying existing facts in order to advantage their parties (an “Improper Invention”).

**(2) JUDGES’ SCORING.** If a team demonstrates through impeachment that its opponent has made an Improper Invention, judges should reflect that violation in their scores by penalizing the violating team, rewarding the impeaching team, or both.

**(3) STUDENTS’ OBLIGATIONS UNDER RULE 1.4.** Students should note that while the primary trial remedy for violating this rule (impeachment) is explained below, an opponent’s inability to successfully impeach a witness does not necessarily mean the witness has complied with this rule. Teams have independent professional and ethical obligations under the AMTA Rules (including, but not limited to, Rules 1.4, 1.5, and 7.6); an Improper Invention constitutes unethical behavior regardless of whether an opponent is successful in demonstrating the violation via impeachment.

**(4) IMPROPER INVENTION.**

(a) **Definition.** There are several types of Improper Invention:

i. Any instance (on direct, cross, re-direct, or re-cross examination) in which a witness introduces testimony that contradicts her or his affidavit;

ii. Any instance on direct or re-direct examination in which a witness testifies to or otherwise introduces material facts not included in her or his affidavit; and

iii. Any instance on direct or cross examination (including any re-direct or re-cross examination) in which a witness recants the facts set forth in his or her affidavit (as the term “affidavit” is defined in Rule 4(c)(iii)).

(b) **Clarification concerning cross-examination.** On cross-examination, a witness commits no violation or Improper Invention when she or he testifies to material facts not included in her or his affidavit—as long as the witness’s answer is responsive to the question posed and is consistent with the affidavit, reports, or other materials attributed to the witness. In other words, a witness is allowed to invent material facts on cross-examination as long as the witness remains responsive to the question posed and no answer to the question posed on cross examination is contained in that witness’s

affidavit. Attorneys who ask questions to which the witness's affidavit does not provide an answer risk receiving an unfavorable answer in trial. Notwithstanding the aforementioned rules, however, nothing in this section is intended to prevent attorneys from attempting to challenge a witness's credibility by demonstrating an omission through use of the witness's affidavit.

**(c) Ancillary Terms.**

i. **Material facts.** Facts are "material" if they affect the merits of the case. Facts are not "material" if they merely provide background information or develop the character of a witness. One test that judges and competitors can use to assess materiality is whether the facts at issue are of the type that could reasonably be expected to be included in the party's closing argument.

ii. **Reasonable inference.** A witness's answer does not qualify as a "reasonable inference" merely because it is consistent with (*i.e.*, does not contradict) statements in the witness's affidavit. Rather, a reasonable inference must be a conclusion that a reasonable person would draw from a particular fact or set of facts contained in the affidavit.

iii. **Affidavit.** For the purposes of Rule 8.9, an "affidavit" includes not only a witness's sworn statement, but also any document in which the witness has stated her or his beliefs, knowledge, opinions or conclusions (such as a deposition or an expert's written report). This definition does not include affidavits or documents produced by other witnesses, except to the extent that a witness has relied on such affidavits or documents in forming her or his own conclusions.

**(5)(a) TRIAL REMEDY FOR VIOLATIONS.** If the cross-examiner believes the witness has made an Improper Invention as described in section 4(a)(i) and 4(a)(ii), the only available remedy is to impeach the witness using the witness's affidavit. Impeachment may take the form of demonstrating either (i) an inconsistency between the witness's affidavit and trial testimony ("impeachment by contradiction") or (ii) that the witness introduced material facts on direct or redirect examination that are not stated in or reasonably inferred from the witness's affidavit ("impeachment by omission"). The crossexaminer is not permitted to raise an objection to the judge on the basis of "invention of fact."

(b) If an attorney conducting an examination believes that the type of Improper Invention described in 4(a)(iii) has taken place, then that attorney or a member of his/her team, may bring this issue to the attention of the AMTA Representatives for purposes of seeking intervention and an in-trial remedy. All rules regarding interventions apply in the event of this type of an intervention. In the event that the AMTA Representatives believe an in-trial remedy is appropriate under the circumstances, the AMTA Representatives may afford the aggrieved team the following in-trial remedy(ies): An instruction will be given to the judges in the round that it is a violation of these Rules and thus it is a violation of AMTA's ethical standards, for a witness to deny the truth of the facts and opinions set forth in that witnesses' affidavit; that it is a violation of these Rules, and thus it a violation of AMTA's ethical standards, for a witness to attempt to invoke a privilege that would allow that witness to avoid answering questions put to that witness; and that Judges may score the witnesses and attorneys as they think appropriate under the circumstances in light of this/these instruction(s).

(c) Notwithstanding the fact that the instruction(s) as described in paragraph (b) were given during the course of a round, either team may avail itself of the Post-Tournament Review set forth in section (6) below.

**(6) POST-TOURNAMENT REVIEW.** Notwithstanding Rule 9.2(1), an AMTA Representative may not impose any tournament penalty for an alleged violation of this rule. However, if a team or AMTA Representative believes that a team has made an egregious Improper Invention, it may report that allegation to the Competition Response Committee. Any such allegations must be brought to the attention of the Competition Response Committee by 12:00 noon Central time on the Tuesday immediately following the tournament, unless the matter occurred on the final weekend of regionals or the final weekend of ORCS, in which case the deadline is 4:00 p.m. central time on the Monday immediately following the tournament. If the allegation is raised timely, the Competition Response Committee shall investigate the allegation and report its findings and recommendation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall review the report of the Competition Response Committee and, upon the Executive Committee's determination of egregious wrongdoing, may issue sanctions against the violating team. Sanctions may include any sanctions permitted under this AMTA Rulebook.

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

Motion by Schuett to refer to the motion to the Rules Committee. **Motion FAILS for lack of a second.**

**Motion FAILS.** Racheter requested that the Minutes reflect that he voted aye.

**BUDGET-02: Motion by Leckrone** that the stipend received by a Regional host shall be provided, in full, at least one month in advance of their event.

*Rationale: The current system is woefully inadequate to the hosts who put on these events, and detrimental to the Tournament Administration Committee who has to then recruit hosts for the following year. The team evaluations of tournaments should remain as is, but be used not as a way to reward or punish teams with a supplemental stipend, but to evaluate whether AMTA should renew that site in the following year. As it stands, the initial stipend is received in December/January and amounts to around \$800-\$1,000. The hosts then have to wait until all team evaluations are tallied to receive their supplemental stipend, which is based upon said evaluations. In the 2014-15 season, as of the date of the National Championship Tournament, no site had received its supplemental stipend. This motion will ensure that Regional hosts have their monies BEFORE their event, but retain the ability of AMTA to appropriately evaluate our Regional tournaments.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH NO RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion PASSES.**

**BUDGET-03: Motion by Leckrone** that any team that hosts an AMTA Regional



shall have available to it an amount of funds from the Tournament Support Fund equal to its program registration fee, provided such host submits the documentation required to be eligible for such funds.

*Rationale: Our current system of selecting Regional sites is at a breaking point, due mostly to the manner in which we fund said events. With the growing ability of programs to host far more financially lucrative invitationals, without having AMTA run their event, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit a sufficient number of quality hosts. As of the drafting of this motion, many current hosts have indicated that they are reconsidering hosting in the future, with the basis almost exclusively being costs. Not only does this motion give a lucrative financial incentive to host an event, but it specifically targets our larger, more experienced programs, in an effort to increase the likelihood that they would host an AMTA sanctioned event.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

Motion by Leckrone to amend the motion to apply to all programs that host an AMTA sanctioned tournament and to provide that starting with the 2015-2016 season there will be an up-front waiver of the fee. Seconded by Schuett. **Motion to amend PASSES.**

**Motion as amended PASSES.**

**BUDGET-04: Motion by Leckrone** to increase the stipend for hosts of our National Championship Tournament to \$25,000.

*Rationale: The cost of hosting the National Championship Tournament, and making it the event that we want it to be, have skyrocketed in recent years as our premier event travels around the country. As a result, rather than focusing on the logistics of hosting such an event, including the ever important judge recruitment, hosts end up spending the bulk of their energy on raising funds to cover the costs of same. Early estimates on the 2015 Cincinnati NCT reflect that the current amount allotted (at last estimate \$17,400) does not even cover the costs of the closing ceremony banquet, let alone the costs for opening ceremonies, courthouse facilities, security, etc. That stipend amount was also well below the amount actually spent by our last two hosts. While our more recent hosts have had the resources to secure sufficient funding, such will not always be the case. Increasing the NCT stipend will increase the pool of potential hosts who currently may not feel they have the ability to raise large amounts of funding, and as such, do not submit bids.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Eslick to amend the budget with the passage of BUDGET-03. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Eslick to amend the budget, changing the shipping line item for the 2015

NCT, to zero. **Motion withdrawn.**

**DEVELOPMENT-01: Motion by Detsky** to create the following new rule (to be placed in the rulebook at the discretion of the Rules Committee):

Use of the AMTA logo. Absent written permission from the Executive Committee or in conjunction with rights granted in a contract or agreement with AMTA, no person or group may use, in any form or fashion, the AMTA logo for any purpose. Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to preclude the use of materials purchased from AMTA containing the AMTA logo.

*No Rationale.*

### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

Motion by Warihay to table until Sunday morning.

Motion by Heytens to table. Seconded by Keener. **Motion to table PASSES.**

**ETHICS-01: Motion by Weatherby** that, due to the possibility of identification by judges, hosts at all AMTA-sanctioned tournaments (Regionals, ORCS, and the National Championship) shall, when visiting rounds where their own teams are competing, sit in a neutral location in the trial room – so that they cannot be clearly associated with one team over the other.

*Rationale: Strong concern has been expressed that an unfair advantage potentially exists when hosts are present in rounds – clearly linked to their own team via positioning in the courtroom – in view of those judging and/or scoring.*

### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

Motion by Wagoner to amend the motion to prevent hosts from entering rounds in which their teams are competing. **Motion FAILS for lack of a second.**

**Motion FAILS.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-02: Motion by Schuett** to amend Bylaw Section 4.03.01(a)(1):

Current Bylaw:

Section 4.03.01. Director Selection Process.

(a) Information Gathering from Directors.

(1) Applications.

Anyone seeking to be a Director on the upcoming year's Board of Directors must submit a board applicant questionnaire (form B) no later than March 1. The names of the individuals who have submitted Director applications will be announced in writing to the entire Board of Directors within two business days following the National Championship.

Suggested Bylaw:

Section 4.03.01. Director Selection Process.

(a) Information Gathering from Directors.

(1) Applications.

Anyone seeking to be a Director on the upcoming year's Board of Directors must submit a board applicant questionnaire (form B) no later than March 1. Any director submitting a board applicant questionnaire within one week after March 1 must also submit a show cause application to be considered for reapplication. The names of the individuals who have submitted Director applications will be announced in writing to the entire Board of Directors within two business days following the National Championship.

\*\*\*

(g) *Show Cause Application*

In the case of a late board applicant questionnaire submission, a Director applicant must file a show cause application providing good cause for the late submission in order for the untimely submission to be considered. The Executive Committee will vote on the application. For good cause shown, an untimely board applicant questionnaire may be accepted and the name of the individual will be announced with the other applications to the entire Board of Directors within two business days following the National Championship.

*Rationale: We are volunteers. It is not unreasonable for a Board of Directors comprised of lawyers and full-time academics to have busy calendars. The current rule leaves no room for error or discretion. Its Natural Law approach is unnecessarily harsh. While I appreciate the notion that we give Board applicants at least a month to turn in the questionnaire, our lives get busy. For most of us, February and March are extremely busy with real life and mock life. In the legal world, we can at least apply for a court to accept untimely filings. Much like a show cause hearing in court, this motion would allow the Executive Council discretion to decide on a case-by-case basis if the Board applicant's untimely submission should be accepted. Nothing about this motion requires or suggests that the Executive Council must accept an untimely filed questionnaire. Furthermore, the submission period provided isn't unreasonable and wouldn't significantly delay our process.*

**ADVANCED WITH NO RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion FAILS.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-03: Motion by Walsh (in collaboration with Bernstein, Parker, Zeigler, and Cody Davis)** that the Religious Accommodations Committee be re-titled the Accommodations Committee and that it be tasked with working with AMTA-sanctioned tournament hosts, persons responsible for the courthouses and university facilities in which AMTA-sanctioned competitions take place and members of the Board of Directors of AMTA to provide reasonable accommodations to all eligible participants, including (but not limited to) reasonable accommodations based on the religious beliefs of participants and reasonable accommodations to visually, hearing, cognitively, or physically impaired participants participating in AMTA-

sanctioned tournaments. Toward that end, Rules 7.10, 7.11, and 7.12 be replaced with the following language:

**Rule 7.10. Presumption regarding witnesses.** Unless otherwise specified in the case materials, all witnesses were able to see, hear, and perform all acts described in the case materials at the time of the events in question. Witnesses must so acknowledge if asked.

**Rule 7.11. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities.** AMTA is committed to inclusiveness and educational opportunity and supports the efforts of eligible students with disabilities to compete in AMTA-sanctioned competitions. It is AMTA's policy to provide reasonable accommodations for its eligible students with physical impairments. A reasonable accommodation is a change in the competitive environment or a change in the process or rules that normally govern AMTA-sanctioned competitions that enables an eligible student to perform the essential functions required of mock trial competitors, without creating undue hardship to the organization or fundamentally altering the educational aspects of the mock trial activity.

- 1) Unless it is not feasible, requests for accommodation must be made in writing by the January 15 preceding the AMTA-sanctioned tournaments for which the accommodation is sought. The request may be made on the Team Registration Form or to the AMTA Accommodations Committee. The student who requires accommodation or any coach or official contact person of the student's school may make the request for accommodation. Requests should identify the basis for the accommodation, the specific accommodation sought, verification of the disability, and any other information the requesting individual deems appropriate. Such verification need not include medical documentation.
- 2) By submitting a request for accommodation, the individual requesting same consents to the sharing with officials from the courthouse or other venue, the tournament host, members of the Accommodations Committee, members of the AMTA Board of Directors and other teams and coaches participating in the AMTA-sanctioned competition the information necessary to identify the disability, impairment or religious belief that prompted the request for an accommodation. The requestor may, but need not, offer a proposed accommodation. . Those persons provided with the request for an accommodation will avoid revealing information unnecessary to providing the accommodation and will conduct such discussions with respect for the requesting individual's privacy and dignity.
- 3) The Accommodations Committee will respond to the request for accommodation in a timely fashion. The Accommodations Committee may ask the requesting student, coach, or school for more information, including additional verification of the disability. The Accommodations Committee may offer the requested accommodation; deny the requested accommodation; offer accommodations other than those requested; or take any other actions consistent with AMTA Rules. The Accommodation Committee will inform the host, the AMTA Representatives, the courthouse or university official responsible for the use of the facilities and any other person the Accommodations Committee determines is a necessary recipient of any approved accommodations.

- 4) Decisions of the Accommodation Committee may be appealed to the AMTA Executive Committee.
- 5) Students and teams seeking an accommodation must submit separate requests for each tournament for which the student seeks an accommodation. Said request may be submitted in the same fashion and to the same persons as described in subsection (1) of this Rule and should be submitted along with the submission of bid reservation forms for ORCS and for the National Championship Tournament. However, due to variations in schedules, formats, and facilities, AMTA reserves the right to offer different accommodations to the same student/team in other/later AMTA-sanctioned competitions than that/those offered at the first tournament at which the student is accommodated AMTA reserves the right to share information received in conjunction with an earlier request for an accommodation with AMTA Representatives officiating subsequent AMTA-sanctioned competitions in which that student/team participate, the host of subsequent AMTA-sanctioned tournaments and officials responsible for the courthouse or university campus on which the competition takes place.
- 6) AMTA is not responsible for providing, or the costs of providing, any accommodations granted under these rules. For example, if a visually impaired student is granted the use of assistive technology, AMTA will neither provide nor pay the costs of such technology.
- 7) Teams whose students have been granted accommodations must notify opposing teams, and may notify judges, of the accommodation before the trials in which the accommodated student is competing.

**Rule 7.12. Materials accessible to all students.** All AMTA materials, to the extent possible, including but not limited to, websites, case materials, and forms, should be text enabled and accessible by screen reading software. Where not possible (e.g. a map or other images), effort should be taken to identify and/or describe images.

### ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION

#### **Motion PASSES.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-04: Motion by Bernstein** that the Rules Committee shall absorb all responsibilities currently assigned to the Judges Committee, and the Judges Committee shall be dissolved.

*Rationale: (1) The tasks historically assigned to the Judges Committee fall entirely within the jurisdiction of the Rules Committee. The Judges Committee first had the task of creating rules for the assignment of judges to trials. Having accomplished that task, the Judges Committee was tasked with revising the judge instruction PowerPoint, which explains AMTA rules to the judges. Assigning tasks like those to the Rules Committee would help ensure consistency (e.g., consistency between our Rulebook and PowerPoint). (2) The Judges Committee has fulfilled its purpose. It was created as an ad hoc committee tasked with developing rules for assignment of judges to trials. That work is done. Since then, its primary task is revising the PowerPoint annually. Even if*

*the PowerPoint required substantial annual revision, we do not need an entire committee devoted to this task. (3) This merger would be efficient. The Rules Committee is busy for only about three weeks each year—when evaluating proposed motions for the summer board meeting. The Rules Committee has the time and expertise to take on the one or two tasks currently assigned to the Judges Committee.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion by Keener to amend the motion to provide that the Rules Committee must submit the Powerpoint for approval by October 1. Seconded by Wagoner. **Motion to amend FAILS.****

**Motion PASSES.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-05: Motion by Bernstein** to amend the bylaws to provide that if a person resigns her or his position as director or candidate in order to serve as AMTA’s legal counsel, then she or he, once no longer legal counsel, may immediately stand for reelection in whichever position she or he held before becoming legal counsel.

*Rationale: We should not provide disincentives to those willing to provide quality, pro bono legal advice.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion PASSES.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-06: Motion by Bernstein** to amend the bylaws to provide that the chairperson of the Academics Committee serve on the Executive Committee.

*Rationale: Of our seven appointed EC positions, four (Rules, Competition Response, Tabulation, Tournament Administration) relate directly to competition. None relates directly to academics/education. The EC needs that voice when addressing its most important matters. Moreover, many board members believe AMTA needs to re-emphasize its educational mission. This motion is consistent with goal.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion PASSES.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-07: Motion by Walsh (in collaboration with Zeigler)** to Modify Rule 10.3.2 as follows (new language in red):

(1) The Case Committee is charged with being creative and topical in determining the subject matter of the case, the changes it makes to the case throughout the year, including the changes it makes between regionals and the National Championship Tournament, and in the structure or

process by which the case will be tried. The Case Committee is not prohibited from proposing that a second case be used for purposes of the National Championship Tournament. The Case Committee will not “contract” with anyone to write a given year’s case. The case committee may solicit entire cases or portions thereof, outlines, précis, synopses, summaries, topics, or ideas by an announcement on the AMTA website. In the event that the committee solicits entire cases and selects a fully drafted case from those submitted, the Case Committee will give a cash award of \$500 to the individual whose case is used.

**(2) Case Release and Other Deadlines.** Each year’s case will be made publicly available no later than August 15. The Case Committee will inform the Executive Committee of the subject matter of the case it proposes to use the following year no later than seven (7) days prior the date that the Case Committee wishes to release the Case Summary, but may submit same at any point during the year. Should the Executive Committee determine that the subject matter of the case should be discussed by the Board of Directors, it may make arrangements for the Board of Directors to discuss same. Any such discussion by the Board of Directors will take place in executive session. Should the Board of Directors not approve the subject matter of the case, it will inform the Case Committee of its decision immediately. Should the Board of Directors determine that more information and/or a more complete description of the case is required before it can approve the subject matter of the case, the Case Committee shall provide the Executive Committee with the information and/or description by a date determine by the Executive Committee. Within seven (7) days of its receipt of the description/information from the Case Committee, the Executive Committee, keeping in mind whatever concern(s) were raised by the Board of Directors, will give final approval to the subject matter of the case, or it will inform the Case Committee that the subject matter is not approved.

Should the Case Committee propose that a second case be used for purposes of the National Championship Tournament, an NCT Case Subcommittee, not composed of any active coaches, will author the second case. The full Case Committee will neither author nor have advance access to the second case. The President will appoint and the Executive Committee will approve the members selected to the NCT Case Subcommittee no later than two weeks after notification by the Case Committee that a second case is to be used. The NCT Case Subcommittee will notify the Executive Committee of the subject matter of the NCT case pursuant to the deadlines and approval process described above.

**(4) Case Changes for the Championship Series.** The Case Committee is authorized, but not required, to release changes to the case at any point between the case’s initial release and two weeks before the first regional tournament. The Case Committee shall release at least one set of changes between the conclusion of regionals and the start of the National Championship Tournament, but no post-regionals changes shall be made until after the conclusion of the final regional tournament and no post-ORCS changes may be made until after the conclusion of the final ORCS tournament. When the Case Committee determines that doing so is feasible, the Case Committee shall release substantial changes between regionals and ORCS. The Case Committee may also, but need not, release substantial changes to the case, or it may release a second case to be used exclusively at the National Championship Tournament. These changes or the second case will not be released until after the conclusion of the final ORCS.

**(4) Case Changes for The Championship Series.** The Case Committee is authorized, but not required, to release changes to the case at any point between the case's initial release and two weeks before the first regional tournament. The Case Committee shall release at least one set of changes between the conclusion of regionals and the start of the National Championship Tournament, but no post-regionals changes shall be made until after the conclusion of the final ORCS tournament. When the Case Committee determines that doing so is feasible, the Case Committee shall release substantial changes between regionals and ORCS. The Case Committee may also, but need not, release substantial changes to the case, or it may release a second case to be used exclusively at the National Championship Tournament. These changes or the second case will not be released until after the conclusion of the final ORCS.

*Note: Passed for amendments to be determined at a later date by Bernstein, Walsh and Warihay.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

Motion by Warihay to amend the motion to remove the word publicly. **Motion to amend accepted as friendly.**

Motion by Guliuzza to substitute the motion to say no case committee can announce a case without approval of the Board. Seconded by Leckrone. **Motion to substitute FAILS.**

Motion by Hawley to divide the question of the first paragraph of section 2 from the remainder of the motion. Seconded by Smith. **Motion to divide the question PASSES.**

With respect to the portion of the motion regarding Board approval (the first paragraph of section 2):

**Motion PASSES.**

With respect to the portion of the motion regarding the second case (the remainder of the motion):

Motion by Keener to amend the motion to change the word "propose" to "release." Seconded by Warihay. **Motion to amend PASSES.**

Motion by Hawley to amend the motion to require Board approval of the use of a second case. Seconded by Racheter. **Motion to amend PASSES.**

Motion by Warihay to substitute the motion to say that the Case Committee is authorized to release one and only one case each academic year. Seconded by Wagoner. **Motion to substitute FAILS.**



Motion by Seelau to substitute the motion to authorize two cases for the 2014-15 season. Seconded by Schuett. **Motion to substitute PASSES.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-o8: Motion by Heytens** to amend the bylaws to provide that while the President will continue to serve a two-year term, the President-Elect and the Past President each will serve only a one-year term and that the President-Elect shall be elected one year prior to beginning service as President. To further provide that any provision in our current Bylaws or Rules that assign a specific task to the President-Elect or Past President (e.g., the provision that the President-Elect serves on the HR Committee and that the Past President serves on the Disciplinary Committee) be modified to indicate that that task will be assigned to whichever of those two positions exists at any given time. Finally, if adopted this will require the election of a President-Elect at the 2017 annual meeting and that no such election will occur at the 2016 annual meeting.

*Rationale: The current system has one great virtue: it maximizes stability, which may well have been the reason for its adoption when we were laying the groundwork for a transition to a rotating President.*

*That stability, however, has a number of significant disadvantages:*

- *It requires prospective candidates to make a six-year commitment in order to perform a two-year job. This proposal would reduce it to four.*
- *It means that we elect a President-Elect simultaneously with the installation of a new President. This creates several anomalies. A President-Elect who runs on an ambitious change platform must wait two years before having any direct ability to put that agenda into place and it is entirely possible that, by the time the President-Elect assumes office, circumstances will have changed to such an extent that the issues during the election have been superseded by new ones. The new President, in turn, risks having the first of her two annual meetings as presiding officer sidetracked before it even starts by the question of who should succeed her once her minutes-old term is over. Staggering the elections addresses both problems. First, it reduces by 50% the amount of time between the election and a new President's installation. Second, it would permit each election to be (at least in part) a referendum on the administration that the President-Elect would succeed rather than the one before that.*
- *At the same time, this system would preserve stability by not requiring a newly elected President to step into office immediately. Under this system, the President-Elect still would have a full year to further familiarize herself with any aspects of AMTA with which she is not currently well-acquainted, including spending at least one pre-President year on the Executive Committee (though, as a practical matter, I would note that every recent President-Elect was already a member of the EC before being elected President-Elect.)*
- *In terms of implementation: this system would mean that there would always be a Past President (during the first year of a new President's term) or a President-Elect (during the second) but there would never be both a Past President and a President-Elect at the same time, which necessitates merging the limited number of specific functions assigned to people in those roles*

## ADVANCED WITH NO RECOMMENDATION

Motion by Racheter that the vote on this motion be done by secret ballot. Seconded by Vile. **Motion for secret ballot PASSES.**

Motion by Heytens to amend the motion to strike the last sentence and change it to “provided that this motion will take effect immediately and the presidential election will be deferred to 2015.” Seconded by Hawley. **Motion to amend FAILS.**

Original motion is seconded by Wagoner. **Motion FAILS.**

**Pursuant to the vote of the Board to consider Tabled Motion EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-09, the Board now considers EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-09, which reads as follows:**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-09: Motion by Heytens** to amend the bylaws to provide that the term of a each new President shall begin two weeks following the conclusion of the relevant National Championship Tournament

*Rationale: I understand that there sometimes are post-NCT matters that should be addressed by the outgoing administration. However, once time has been allotted for those matters, it makes sense to empower the new administration to begin acting in a formal capacity as soon as possible.*

*NOTE: I do not believe that this would require a bylaws amendment. Section 5.06 of the Bylaws states that “[t]he term of each Officer shall begin at the time of his/her election or appointment, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors or by the person or committee having authority to appoint the Officer. Approving this motion would seem to fall within the underlined phrase.*

## TABLED BY COMMITTEE; UNTABLED BY VOTE OF THE BOARD

Motion to amend by Woodward to change the date to May 15. Seconded by Thomason. **Motion to amend PASSES.**

**Motion as amended PASSES.**

**JUDGES-01: Motion by Keener on behalf of the Judges Committee** to amend the AMTA Rulebook as follows:

**Rule 4.19 Categorization of judges prior to assignment.** Using information from tournament hosts and/or the judges themselves, AMTA Representatives shall categorize volunteer judges as follows:

**(1) CATEGORY ONE.** Category One shall generally consist of sitting judges, trial attorneys, **litigators** and other attorneys with indicia of mock trial experience.

**(2) CATEGORY TWO.** Category Two shall generally consist of non-coach attorneys

who do not fall within Category One.

**(3) CATEGORY THREE.** Category Three shall generally consist of coaches, law students, other non-attorneys, and anyone who would otherwise fall within another category but who the AMTA Representative feels is unfit to judge a top round.

**a. At tournaments at which their team(s) are not competing, coaches who volunteer to judge should be categorized without regard to their status as a coach**

**(4) NO RELIEF.** No team may claim relief of any sort on the grounds that a judge was miscategorized.

### ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION

Motion by Racheter to amend the motion to strike “and other attorneys” in subpart (1).  
**Motion to amend FAILS for lack of a second.**

**Motion PASSES.**

**RULES-01: Motion by Heytens** to amend Rule 8.5(4) and accompanying comment to read as follows (New text in red; deleted text ~~strikeout~~)

(4) RESTRICTION ON MATERIALS NOT INCLUDED IN CASE PACKET. No team may introduce material facts through a demonstrative aid that it would not be permitted to introduce through testimony or AMTA-provided documents. ~~Nothing in this rule prevents a witness from creating a demonstrative illustration during the course of his or her examination.~~ The fact that a demonstrative aid is not excluded by an AMTA Representative does not render it admissible at trial. Evidentiary objections may be made. Restrictions imposed on the use of a demonstrative aid by an AMTA Representative must be honored and the failure to honor such restrictions may be grounds for a tournament penalty or sanctions.

(5) DEFACING PROHIBITED. Permanently defacing an opponent’s demonstrative aid is not permitted.

Comment to rule 8.5(4): **No demonstrative aid -- whether created ahead of time or by a witness during testimony-- may purport to depict** ~~photograph, pre-made map, or pre-made drawing, or pre-made depiction of~~ a particular person, particular place, or particular thing ~~may be used as a demonstrative aid~~ unless it has been provided with or is specifically permitted by the case materials. By way of example, "a skull" is not a "particular thing," but "the victim's skull" is. Similarly, a photo of a station wagon is not a particular thing, but it would be if described as a photo of the defendant’s vehicle or the particular make and/or model of the defendant’s vehicle. Lists, charts, graphs, phrases, etc. are not considered "drawings" for the purposes of this rule, and may be used to summarize, combine or illustrate facts that are already present in the case packet.

*Rationale: This motion is designed to address two issues. First, to clarify that a witness may not draw or otherwise create something mid-round (such as a map) that purports to depict a particular person, place, or thing in the case packet. Two, to make*

clear that the prohibition on using a demonstrative aid to depict particular people, places, or things is not limited to “photographs,” “maps,” “drawings,” or “depictions.”

## ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION

**Motion PASSES.**

**RULES-02: Motion by Smith** to modify Rule 4.33:

**Rule 4.33 All-loss rule.**

...

**(3) WHEN TRIAL IS DEEMED COMPLETED.** A trial is deemed completed ~~when both scoring ballots from the trial are submitted to an AMTA Representative or his/her designee upon the conclusion of closing arguments (including any rebuttal argument)~~. The trial shall be deemed completed even if any ballot must be returned to a judge due to error, incompleteness, or illegibility.

*Rationale: The purpose of the All Loss rule is to keep tournament rounds moving in an efficient manner so that the tournament itself can remain on schedule. The All Loss rule keeps teams and judges responsible for limiting the duration of untimed activities (pretrial, objections) so that an individual round does not derail the ability of reps to tabulate, pair, and initiate 30 minute reviews.*

*However, the rule in its current execution takes almost all ability to control the All Loss clock away from the student competitors. Under most circumstances, the length of arguments and pretrial is in the hands of the presiding judge. Sometimes, the factor most responsible for causing round delay is judges taking time to write comments between each performance. Most often, however, the length of time used is related to a judge allowing for extended arguments.*

*With some tab rooms far away from courtrooms, in situations where judges fail to follow the rule to score as they go, students awaiting scores are placed into an awkward position of forcing judges to give up incomplete ballots so that they can run them to tab just to have to run them back. This is a silly process and creates unnecessary anxiety for the students placed in this position.*

*Amending the rule to impose the all loss rule based on the completion of the round, rather than receiving the ballots, would place more control over the timing in the hands of the students themselves (when running long, it would be clear that a successful remedy would be shorten or eliminating closings or even a cross).*

## ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION

**Motion PASSES.**

**RULES-03: Motion by Smith** to amend the tabulation manual procedures to provide a process for assigning courtrooms.

**Trial room assignments.** After finalizing the subsequent round's pairings, the AMTA Representatives shall promptly assign each trial to a room. The primary consideration shall be to accommodate, to the maximum extent possible, accessibility requirements of participants, and/or judges. The Representatives should further consider a team's anticipated number of spectators, competitive considerations, and any other relevant factor in assigning trial rooms. No team shall have any claim for relief on the basis of a room assignment.

*Rationale: While AMTA has done an excellent job recruiting tournament sites, most locations (particularly for regionals, but not uncommon at ORCs at Championship) have substantial disparity in room quality. At a single tournament venue, the range can run from an actual courtroom to a conference room. Under the present procedure there is no process for assigning courtrooms that is consistent across venues and any reference to assigning rooms seems to suggest that it should be done randomly, while some venues assign rooms based on projected spectator attendance and others assign rooms based on quality of room and round.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Woodward to move discussion of Strategic Planning motions after remaining motions. Seconded by Leckrone. **Motion PASSES.**

**SPC-01: Motion by Halva-Neubauer on behalf of SPC** to adopt a strategic plan.

**SPC-02: Motion by Halva-Neubauer on behalf of SPC** to hire an executive director.

Motion by Halva-Neubauer to enter into committee of the whole for the purposes of discussion of SPC-01 and SPC-02. Seconded by Racheter. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Bernstein to send SPC-01 to the Strategic Planning Committee to put together a plan for the midyear meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet in October to formulate the plan to be discussed at the midyear meeting. Motion to amend by Woodward to discuss the plan at the 2015 annual meeting. Seconded by Warihay. **Motion to amend PASSES. Motion as amended PASSES.**

Motion by Halva-Neubauer to table SPC-02. Seconded by Schuett. **Motion to table PASSES.**

Motion by Racheter that the committee of the whole rise and report. Seconded by Halva-Neubauer. **Motion PASSES.**

Motion to adopt the recommendations of the committee of the whole. **Seconded. Motion PASSES.**

Motion by Woodward to go into executive section. **Seconded. Motion PASSES.**

**TAB-01: Motion by Heytens** to remove SOO as tiebreaker to Eliminate Strength of Opposition as the fourth-level tie breaker (aka move from OCS to PD)

*Rationale (by Sarah Sawtelle): As the person who programmed the AMTA tabulation Excel workbooks, I am continuing to improve them to make life easier for the AMTA representatives. I'm currently working on a version that auto-sorts teams by rank, saving time after R4. The formulas already calculate CS, OCS, and PD for teams, and I think I can crack the head-to-head calculation by the next season. The SOO takes four pages of the tab manual to explain and is not conducive to being expressed in a programmable formula. The SOO is rarely used, and most of its value is already captured in the CS and OCS tiebreakers that come before it. Removing it as a tiebreaker would allow for a self-ranking tabulation workbook.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion PASSES.**

**TAC-SITE SELECTION-01: Motion by Bernstein** to amend Rule 6.9 shall be amended such that the third tiebreaker (after whether the school already has a bid) shall be whether the school hosted an AMTA-sanctioned tournament in the given season.

*Rationale: We need to provide incentives for schools to host AMTA tournaments.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion FAILS.**

**Pursuant to the vote of the Board to consider Tabled Motion TAC-TEAM ASSIGNMENT-01, the Board now considers TAC-TEAM ASSIGNMENT-01, which reads as follows:**

**TAC-TEAM ASSIGNMENT-01: Motion by Bernstein** to amend the Rulebook so that the two-teams-per-school-per-regional limit shall not apply to any of the following schools in a given season:

- schools without multiple teams in the top 150 of AMTA's bonus bid ranking; and
- schools that host an AMTA tournament in that given season and which are without multiple teams in the top 75 of AMTA's bonus bid rankings.

*Rationale: (1) Reducing the number of teams subject to the limit would reduce the driving distance and travel costs for many teams. (2) Providing an additional host incentive might encourage more teams to host AMTA tournaments. This is one of our most vital needs. (3) The limit is not as crucial as it was when first enacted. The limit*

*primarily aims to prevent pairing impurities at the top of a bracket caused by same school matchup constraints. In an age when more and more schools are qualifying for ORCS and NCT, fewer and fewer schools have the depth to disrupt the pairing purity at the top of a bracket. For example, the number of schools that qualify multiple teams for NCT is about half of what it was. For the first three years of ORCS (2009-11), a minimum of 9 schools per season earned multiple bids to NCT. In the last three seasons (2012-14), an average of 5 schools, and no more than 6, have earned multiple NCT bids in a season. This year only 4 schools qualified multiple teams to the National Championship Tournament -- the lowest number in recent AMTA history. Only one school (Rhodes) qualified teams to NCT in each of the last two seasons. No schools have done it in each of the last three seasons. Our bonus bid rankings show the same parity: only one school has multiple teams ranked among the top 24, and only four schools have multiple teams in the top 48. In short, the major rationale for the limit is no longer true.*

### **TABLED BY COMMITTEE; UNTABLED BY VOTE OF THE BOARD**

**Motion by Schuett to amend the motion to change the “and” to an “or.” Seconded by Racheter. Motion to amend PASSES.**

### **Motion fails.**

**TAC-02: Motion by Warihay** to direct the Tournament Administration Committee to allow for additional regional tournament schedules on the LSAT weekend to accommodate competitors taking this exam. Specifically, the TAC is authorized to allow for a 1-1-2 tournament schedule, with the Saturday round not starting before 2:00 p.m. Further, the TAC is authorized to allow a 2-2 tournament schedule that has the first Saturday round not starting before 2:00 p.m. Nothing in this motion is intended to require such a schedule on LSAT weekends, as the ultimate decision is between the Tournament Administration Committee and AMTA’s tournament hosts.

*Rationale: As many know, our current rule advises our regional tournament hosts to “avoid” the LSAT weekend. However, in practice, with 25 regional tournaments, there are inevitably a number of regional tournaments held on the LSAT weekend each year. In some respects, this is unavoidable given the schedule of our annual tournaments. The unwritten policy for TAC over the years has been to not accommodate the LSAT as a conflict, as many teams and students plan accordingly to avoid taking the LSAT on this weekend. However, given growing changes in law school admissions, many students are taking the LSAT multiple times each admissions cycle, which inevitably means that many students are taking the LSAT each weekend. Unfortunately, this means that many mock trial competitors with having to choose between participating in an activity that prepares them for law school and the entrance examination for same. This motion seeks to spark the conversation for the AMTA Board to speak on this issue. Either the Board should decide concretely that this is a conflict that we are not going to recognize, or adopt this motion, which seeks to implement measures to allow TAC to be flexible with this test. This motion is not intended to indicate that this is the only solution to this problem. Rather, this motion seeks to make space on our*

*agenda for this conversation, which will hopefully provide guidance from the Board to the Tournament Administration Committee on this issue.*

*Note: The 2:00 p.m. time referenced above is based on the traditional end-time for the LSAT of 1:30 p.m.*

#### **ADVANCED WITH NO RECOMMENDATION**

**Motion FAILS.**

#### **XI. Unfinished/New Business**

**Motion by Leckrone** that the Annual Board Meeting take place in Atlanta in July 2015. Second by Walsh.

**Motion PASSES.**

**Motion by Guliuzza** to award the 2016 National Championship Tournament to Furman University with the contract to do so to contain certain caveats.

**Motion PASSES.**

**Motion by Guliuzza** to thank Justin Bernstein, Michael Smith, Marissa Oxman and the students from the University of California for hosting a wonderful Board Meeting. Seconded by Acclamation.

**Motion PASSES.**

#### **XII. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Woodward to adjourn. Seconded by Acclamation.

**Motion PASSES.**

#### **Appendix A: Consent Calendar**

**Motion by Racheter** to start the midyear phone meeting an hour later than we have been to create more attendance from those of us not on the east coast who attend church on Sundays before we are free to join the call.

*No Rationale.*

**Motion by Racheter** to ensure that all directors shall have access to the case once it is published to schools.



*Rationale: It is important for directors to be aware of AMTA’s important matters.*

**Motion by Warihay** to add the following language to Rule 2.8:

(e) Submission of the online AMTA School Registration form.

*Rationale: AMTA has had an online and/or paper registration form for years, but it is currently not required under our rules for any purpose. In practice, we have required the form, so this change is to codify an existing practice for purposes of registration.*

**Motion by Warihay** to change the name of the Bonus Bid Rankings to Team Power Rankings, and amend Rule 6.11, and all related references in AMTA documents accordingly.

*Rationale: The name “Bonus Bid Rankings” or “BBR” is a reference to a mechanism that is no longer used in mock trial. I understand that BBR was historically used to determine which regional tournaments received additional bids (i.e. Bonus Bids) to respective tournaments based on the power of the teams attending. However, under our current rules, this is no longer done. Therefore, this motion seeks to better describe the nature of the rankings that we prepare, and the purpose for same.*

**Motion by Bernstein to adopt proposed 2014-15 AMTA Committee Assignments**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Members</b>
Academics	DeLois Leapheart (Chair) David Ben-Merre (Assistant Chair) Melissa Pavely (Director of Mentoring Program) Emily Shaw Angela Minor Joann Scott Kyle Thomason Brandon Harper Michael Nelson Zac Caldwell Georgie Weatherby Jackie Olson Keshav Nair
Accommodations	Frank Guliuzza (Chair) David Cross (Counsel) Michael Gelfand Don Racheter Cody Davis

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Members</b>
Audit	Michael Smith (Chair) Shirley Pepples
Budget	Matthew Eslick (Treasurer/Chair) Anna Smith (Assistant Chair) Justin Bernstein Michael Walsh
Case – Civil	Dan Haughey (Chair) Abbe Stensland Michael Gelfand Toby Heytens Justin Bernstein (NCT Subcommittee) Ryan Seelau (NCT Subcommittee) Laura Seelau (NCT Subcommittee)
Case – Criminal	Alex Bluebond (Chair) Anna Smith David Ben-Merre Collin Tierney Michael Nelson Cindy Jordano
Competition Response	Anna Smith (Chair) Johnathan Woodward (Tabulation Director) Ryan Seelau (Rules Committee Chair) Dan Haughey (Civil Case Committee Chair) Barry Langford (Ombudsperson) William Warihay (TAC Chair) Justin Bernstein (President)

Committee	Members
Development	Toby Heytens (Chair) Neal Schuett Kyle Thomason Tom Parker Angela Minor Barry Langford Grant Keener Lauren Lutton Devon Holstad Mallory Schneider Brandon Harper Madeline Roche Zac Caldwell Michael Smith Jessica Bernhardt Adam Detsky Aaron Broder Nicholas Teleky Nicholas Zurakski
Disciplinary	Glen Halva-Neubauer (Past President) Georgie Weatherby (Appointment by President) At Large Member (elected by Board)
Ethics	Tom Parker (Chair) Georgie Weatherby Barry Langford
Executive	Justin Bernstein (President) Glen Halva-Neubauer (Past President) _____ (President Elect) Michael Walsh (Secretary) Matthew Eslick (Treasurer) William Warihay (TAC Chair) Johnathan Woodward (Tabulation Director) Anna Smith (Competition Response Chair) Ryan Seelau (Rules Chair) DeLois Leapheart (Academics Chair) Toby Heytens (Development Director)
Human Resources	Michael Walsh (Secretary) _____ (President Elect) At Large Member (elected by Board)

Committee	Members
Rules	Ryan Seelau (Chair) Neal Schuett John Vile Jim Wagoner Toby Heytens Nicholas Gowen Marissa Oxman
Strategic Planning	Glen Halva-Neubauer (Co-Chair) Sara Zeigler (Co-Chair) Grant Keener Ryan Seelau  <u>Transition Subcommittee</u> Glen Halva-Neubauer (Co-Chair) Sara Zeigler (Co-Chair) Michael Walsh Mallory Schneider
Tabulation Advisory	Johnathan Woodward (Chair) Alicia Hawley Monica Dorman Mark Fruehauf  <u>Analysis Subcommittee</u> Annie Wang (Co-Chair) Ben Graham (Co-Chair) Sarah Sawtelle Michael Nelson
Technology	William Warihay (Chair) Diane Michalak Neal Schuett Mike Walsh Monica Dorman

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Members</b>
Tournament Administration	<p>William Warihay (Chair)</p> <p><u>Site Selection &amp; Host Communication Subcommittee</u></p> <p>Josh Leckrone (Chair) Tom Parker Grant Keener Monica Dorman Michael Polovich Barry Langford Mark Fruehauf Justin Matarrese Sue Johnson Michael Koeltzow</p> <p><u>Team &amp; Feeder Subcommittee</u></p> <p>Adam Detsky (Chair) Alicia Hawley Sarah Sawtelle Matthew Covert David Lichtenstein Johnathan Woodward</p> <p><u>AMTA Representative Assignment Subcommittee</u></p> <p>Melissa Pavely (Chair) Glen Halva-Neubauer Matthew Eslick (Treasurer) Michael Walsh</p> <p><u>Championship Selection and Planning Subcommittee</u></p> <p>Frank Guliuzza (Chair) Jackie Palmer Sarah Sawtelle Dan Haughey Justin Matarrese</p>

<b>Position</b>	<b>Members</b>
Counsel	David Cross / Crowell & Moring LLP
Insurance Coordinator	Adam Detsky
Newsletter Editors	Grant Keener (Editor in Chief), David Ben-Merre
Ombudsperson	Barry Langford

Parliamentarian	Frank Guliuzza
Trophy Coordinator	Adam Detsky
Website Manager	William Warihay

## **Appendix B: Tabled Motions**

**BUDGET-01: Motion by Racheter** to increase the amounts allowed for AMTA representatives to spend per day on food and motel by \$26 and increase the amount you can spend for airplane or rental car without special approval by \$50 and henceforth tie amounts to increases in the consumer price index so it automatically adjusts. (We have been using the same amounts for many years, while costs continue to rise.)

**DEVELOPMENT-02: Motion by Racheter** to look into creating an AMTA lapel pin of our logo that would be available for purchase as a fundraiser.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-01: Motion by Heytens to clarify the rules on students with, or depicting witnesses with, physical impairments**  
**Replace current rules 7.10-7.12 with the following:**

**Rule 7.10: Witness’s ability to perform acts described in case materials**

Unless otherwise specified in the case materials, all witnesses were able to see, hear, and perform all acts described in the case materials at the time of the events in question. Witnesses must so acknowledge if asked.

**Rule 7.11: Reasonable accommodation for students with impairments**

AMTA will make reasonable accommodations for students with physical impairments, including waiving otherwise applicable rules. The ultimate authority to grant an accommodation will be vested in the President, subject to later ratification by the Executive Committee.

*Rationale:*

1. *The captions of current Rules 7.10-7.12 could be read to limit their applicability to students who actually have visual hearing, or other impairments. This revised Rule 7.10 would make clear that it applies all students, regardless of their current physical traits.*

2. *The current accommodation rules (Rule 7.10(2)) is by its terms limited to visually impaired students and specifies a limited range of permissible accommodations.*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-09: Motion by Heytens** to amend the bylaws to provide that the term of a each new President shall begin two weeks following the conclusion of the relevant National Championship Tournament

*Rationale: I understand that there sometimes are post-NCT matters that should be addressed by the outgoing administration. However, once time has been allotted for*

*those matters, it makes sense to empower the new administration to begin acting in a formal capacity as soon as possible.*

*NOTE: I do not believe that this would require a bylaws amendment. Section 5.06 of the Bylaws states that “[t]he term of each Officer shall begin at the time of his/her election or appointment, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors or by the person or committee having authority to appoint the Officer. Approving this motion would seem to fall within the underlined phrase.*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-10: Motion by Heytens** to provide that authority to extend open bids to particular ORCS sites under Rule 6.9(4), to reassign bids under Rule 6.7(2) or 6.7(4), and to designate “Stand By” teams under Rule 6.1 shall be vested in the chair of the chair of the Tournament Administration Committee (or, if the TAC chair so designates, the chair of the Team and Feeder subcommittee), subject to a duty to consult with the Tabulation Director about the timing for extending open bids.

*Rationale: The current system of vesting authority over open bids, overbids, and bid swap requests for ORCS in the Tabulation Director may well have made sense in an earlier era. Nor is this motion motivated by any particular decisions that Tab Directors have made (or not made). I lack the information to opine on the vast majority of those decisions, and I think that most of the ones about which I do know anything have been sensible and wise.*

*At least two things have changed, however. First, under our current system, the question of which teams get offered open bids (and in what order) is now purely mechanical; the only question is where those bids go. Second, we now have a committee expressly charged with creating regionals and (presumptive ORCS) fields while balancing geographical convenience, power, and accommodation requests by teams. The discretionary decisions that remain at the open bid, overbid, and bid swap stages---which, again, seem to involve convenience, power, and accommodation requests by teams---seem largely to overlap with (if not duplicate) those made by TAC at the initial assignment phase.*

*I’m aware that the current Tab Director is also a member of the Team and Feeder subcommittee. But our rules do not require that the Tab Director be on that committee and there doesn’t seem to be any reason why it should inevitably be required other than the circular argument that **if** the Tab Director is going to be in charge of handing out open bids and other pre-ORCS matters, it makes sense to have the Tab Director on Team and Feeder as well.*

*I also recognize that administering this system is complicated and time-sensitive and probably needs to be vested in one person rather than in a committee. But, for the reasons I’ve given, I think it makes more sense for that person to be the person charged with chairing the committee that assigns teams to regionals in the first place as opposed to someone else.*

**TAC-AMTA REPRESENTATIVES-01: Motion by Detsky on behalf of Gelfand**

**to amend Rule 9.9 to add a new section 9.9(10) which states the following: AMTA REPRESENTATIVES (10) Procedures Explained During Opening Ceremonies.** During the Opening Ceremony of any AMTA-sanctioned tournament, the AMTA representatives at that tournament shall explain the procedure for making a proper and timely request for an intervention under these rules. Among other things, the AMTA representatives shall state that: (a) intervention requests may only be made by students on a team's roster (except as provided in Rule 9.9(4)(b)); (b) before making an intervention request, a student must notify a student on the roster of the opposing team; and (c) an intervention request concerning any rule violation during a trial must be made no later than the first break in the trial after the violation occurs or is discovered.

*Rationale: During this season alone, I have seen teams with long-tenured coaches and some of the top teams in the country make improper and untimely requests for tab room interventions. This has included requests that were made long after the alleged violation occurred, sometimes even after the ballots were turned in, and requests that were made by coaches instead of rostered students. The procedures for making an intervention request are clearly laid out in our rules. But teams are either not reading the rules or their coaches and leadership are not communicating the procedures to the students effectively. Normally, I would argue that students are fully responsible for knowing and properly utilizing our rules and procedures. But I believe that argument gives way when flagrant and egregious rule violations (and other situations worthy of intervention) go unreported and/or unremedied. When their intervention requests are denied on procedural grounds, students walk away from the competition feeling cheated and betrayed. Implementing this rule would not significantly lengthen opening ceremonies. It would likely take the AMTA representatives less than a minute to give the required explanation. And the result would likely be a fairer competition.*

**TAC-TEAM ASSIGNMENT-01: Motion by Bernstein** to amend the Rulebook so that the two-teams-per-school-per-regional limit shall not apply to any of the following schools in a given season:

- schools without multiple teams in the top 150 of AMTA's bonus bid ranking; and
- schools that host an AMTA tournament in that given season and which are without multiple teams in the top 75 of AMTA's bonus bid rankings.

*Rationale: (1) Reducing the number of teams subject to the limit would reduce the driving distance and travel costs for many teams. (2) Providing an additional host incentive might encourage more teams to host AMTA tournaments. This is one of our most vital needs. (3) The limit is not as crucial as it was when first enacted. The limit primarily aims to prevent pairing impurities at the top of a bracket caused by same school matchup constraints. In an age when more and more schools are qualifying for ORCS and NCT, fewer and fewer schools have the depth to disrupt the pairing purity at the top of a bracket. For example, the number of schools that qualify multiple teams for NCT is about half of what it was. For the first three years of ORCS (2009-11), a minimum of 9 schools per season earned multiple bids to NCT. In the last three seasons (2012-14), an average of 5 schools, and no more than 6, have earned multiple NCT bids in a season. This year only 4 schools qualified multiple teams to the National Championship Tournament -- the lowest number in recent AMTA history. Only one*



*school (Rhodes) qualified teams to NCT in each of the last two seasons. No schools have done it in each of the last three seasons. Our bonus bid rankings show the same parity: only one school has multiple teams ranked among the top 24, and only four schools have multiple teams in the top 48. In short, the major rationale for the limit is no longer true.*

**TAC-01: Motion by Detsky** to create the following new rule, to be placed in the rulebook as the rules committee deems appropriate:

If a regional tournament selects the weekend of LSAT's to host, then no round may begin before noon on the day the LSAT is given.

*Rationale: As drafter of this motion, I'm torn between the value of such a rule and the impracticality of it on our hosts, competitors, sites and volunteers. The issue giving rise to this motion is that many law school admissions counselors have been reporting that the way law schools view the LSAT has changed in the past five years.*

*Specifically, while it used to be that law schools average together your LSAT scores if you take the test more than once for the purposes of calculating their student body's average LSAT score - they are now allowed to use their student's highest LSAT score for the calculation. As a result, the February LSAT - which is a very common date for LSAT re-takers - has a heightened importance to the students and the school.*

*Additionally, since February is a common re-take date, many teams don't know that their members will be taking that exam until well after registration forms are submitted - and often don't realize it until the regional assignments are released.*

*Conversely, I recognize that having a competition go later into a Saturday evening would mean students would likely have to compete through ordinary dinner hours and could cause logistical problems with hosts.*