Bylaws of the 1L Mock Trial Committee

I. Mission Statement

The name of this committee shall be the 1L Mock Trial Committee of the Student Bar Association. The 1L Mock Trial Committee of the Student Bar Association shall be responsible for organizing the 1L Mock Trial Competition. The Committee shall secure judges from the 3L class who have taken Advocacy and Evidence. The Committee shall set the schedule for trial competitions. The Committee shall secure courtrooms for the competitions. The Committee shall hold a competition between the winners of the two campuses. The Committee shall set up informational meetings to explain the procedure of 1L mock trial.

It shall maintain an open door policy for every student organization and every member of the student body at The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University.

The 1L Mock Trial Committee shall review student organization and individual student proposals for improving 1L Mock Trial in an objective, nondiscriminatory manner.

II. Definitions

1. Nominate: To propose by name as a candidate for election. Each nominee must be approved by the Student Bar Association before assuming the respective position.

2. Appoint: A binding selection by the Student Bar Association for an office or position in the 1L Mock Trial Committee.

3. Quorum: Two-thirds of the student members constitute a quorum

III. Officers of the 1L Mock Trial Committee

The 1L Mock Trial Committee shall have as its administrative and executive officers two Co-Chairs.

1. CO-CHAIR
   A. The Co-Chairs of the 1L Mock Trial Committee shall be nominated by the SBA President and appointed through the majority consent of the SBA, and serve at the SBA President's pleasure. The term of office shall be for one academic year. The Co-Chairs shall:
      i. preside over all meetings;
      ii. set the date, time, place, and agenda for all meetings;
iii. appoint and coordinate any such volunteers deemed necessary to effectuate the purpose of the 1L Mock Trial Committee;
iv. report committee progress to the Vice President to which the Co-Chairs are assigned before every SBA meeting;
v. prepare a bi-annual report regarding the Committee's activities for the SBA;
vi. vote in all actions undertaken by the Committee;
vii. record the proceedings of all meetings of the Committee; and
viii. provide the Student Bar Association Secretary with copies of all minutes of meetings.

2. MEMBERS OF THE 1L MOCK TRIAL COMMITTEE
   a. The 1L Mock Trial Committee is open to all members of the student body.
   b. The Committee shall include at least two other members of the student body.
   c. Those interested should contact the 1L Mock Trial Committee Chair.
   d. The Chair will then provide the SBA Secretary and President with the names of anyone interested in joining the 1L Mock Trial Committee before the next SBA meeting.
   e. Membership is subject to nomination by the SBA President and approval by the SBA Board.
   f. SBA Committee members may be removed from the Committee only by a decision of the SBA President.

IV. Meetings

The 1L Mock Trial Committee shall meet no less than two (2) times during an academic year with at least one (1) meeting per semester. The 1L Mock Trial Committee reserves the right to hold additional meetings when circumstances deem necessary. The 1L Mock Trial Committee meetings are open to any interested member of the student body.

V. Meeting Procedure

1. The following guidelines shall govern each 1L Mock Trial Committee meeting:
   A. Every meeting shall begin when the Co-Chairs call the meeting to order;
   B. The Co-Chairs must take roll and determine whether a quorum is present for voting purposes;
   C. The Co-Chairs will read the minutes from the previous meeting;
   D. The Co-Chairs will announce all proposals for discussion at the present meeting;
E. The Co-Chairs will then ask the individuals or designated representatives of all organizations working with the 1L Mock Trial Committee to present their requests regarding enhancing 1L Mock Trial events or initiatives;
F. After all individuals and representatives have presented, the discussion of the requests will commence;
G. Each request will be discussed. At any time a member can move to vote on the request. Another member must second the motion;
H. Proposals that do not obtain a majority vote will be denied;
I. Upon discussion of all proposals, the Co-Chairs will adjourn the meeting.

VI. Voting

To vote on any matter, a quorum must be present. Any time a vote is taken, the question shall be approved by a simple majority vote.

VII. 1L Mock Trial Competition
1. The Competition is to be held in the spring semester. The Competition is typically scheduled for after spring break. The Committee should be mindful of Legal Analysis Research and Writing class deadlines such that students may participate without disregarding graded work.
2. 1L students may sign up to participate individually or with a partner to compete as a team.
3. Individuals may withdraw from the competition if they cannot find another student with whom they wish to compete, or they may compete as an individual. Individuals who do not have a partner will not be given any special consideration.
4. Teams are responsible for securing witnesses for the Competition and for providing the 1L Mock Trial Committee with the witnesses’ names in advance of the Competition.
5. Witnesses must be a student. Witnesses may come from any class. Judges of the competition are ineligible to participate as witnesses.
6. Teams may sign up for a preferred date and time as well as side of the problem (i.e. prosecution or defense), as the Competition allows.
7. A meeting between two teams for purposes of the Competition and presided over by judges shall be called a “trial.”
8. At least two judges will score each trial.
9. Each team is responsible for keeping track of time restraints and for bringing any violations to the attention of the judges. Violation of time restraints may be taken into account in the scoring rubric.
10. Judges may provide constructive criticism to the participants.
11. Judges shall not communicate scores to the participants.
12. Judges will provide competition scores to the 1L Mock Trial Co-Chair or Committee member in charge of collecting the scores. The responsible person
will determine the prosecution and defense team winners of the Competition at each campus.

13. The 1L Mock Trial Co-Chairs shall communicate the winners of each campus Competition to those participants directly and will make necessary arrangements for the Final Competition.

14. The 1L Mock Trial Co-Chairs shall send an email to the student body announcing the top three teams for the prosecution and defense at each campus. The email may be forwarded to faculty and staff with permission of the appropriate Dean.

15. Participants may request their individual and team scores directly from the 1L Mock Trial Co-Chair. The 1L Mock Trial Co-Chair must discreetly communicate the individual and team scores of the requesting participant, who is then free to disseminate the scores at their discretion.

16. Judges commentary on the score sheets has not been shared in the past. Whatever the judge chose to share at the trial should be the extent of commentary to which the participants have access.

17. All students involved in any way with the 1L Mock Trial Competition should conduct themselves in accordance with the Honor Code and with professionalism.

18. The final competition shall rotate campuses each year.

VIII. Amendments

1. All amendments to these bylaws shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the SBA.