RULE CLARIFICATIONS

What constitutes permissible outside research? Specifically, what falls within the scope of general background information, and what types of research would be considered outside the permitted bounds of rule D(VI)?

Under Rule D(VI), competitors may conduct outside research to gain general background knowledge that assists their preparation, such as researching industry practices, legal concepts, or negotiation strategies. However, outside research may not be used to introduce new material facts, alter the provided fact pattern, or contradict the general or confidential facts. All outside sources must also be publicly accessible without requiring a subscription.

Can we cite real-world deal benchmarks, such as publicly reported per-episode writer compensation, real hologram licensing deals, or actual non-compete case law, as persuasive support? Or does that risk "changing material facts"?

Under Rule D(VI), competitors may reference publicly available real-world deal benchmarks, industry practices, and relevant case law as persuasive support during negotiations. However, such information must be presented as general background or illustrative examples, not as facts specific to the negotiation scenario or as a means of altering or contradicting the provided fact pattern. All sources must be publicly accessible without a subscription, and competitors should be prepared to identify their sources if challenged.

Does "outside research" cover legal doctrine too? May we cite actual statutes or doctrines (California right of publicity, non-compete enforceability, copyright)?

Yes. Under Rule D(VI), competitors may research and cite actual statutes, legal doctrines, and case law, including California's right of publicity, non-compete enforceability, and copyright law, as general background information to support their negotiating positions. However, competitors may not use outside legal research to alter or contradict material facts established in the competition materials. All cited sources must be publicly accessible without a subscription.

Are competitors permitted to bring printed notes or prepared reference sheets into the negotiation rounds? Additionally, may they bring blank notebooks to take notes during the negotiations?

Under Rule D(I), competitors are permitted to bring previously prepared printed notes and reference sheets into the negotiation rounds. Competitors may also bring blank notebooks and take handwritten notes during negotiations, as the rules do not prohibit these materials. However, electronic devices, including laptops, tablets, and mobile phones, are strictly prohibited during each round.

What counts as a "pre-prepared exhibit"? Do term sheets and proposals count, and do we need to bring an additional copy for the judges?

Under Rule D(V), pre-prepared exhibits include materials created in advance of the negotiation that competitors intend to present to the opposing team, such as term sheets, written proposals, charts, or other supporting documents. These materials are permitted, but any exhibit provided to the opposing team during the negotiation must also be provided to the judges. Accordingly, competitors should bring sufficient printed copies for both the opposing team and the judges.

Rule D(IV) bars whiteboards in the rooms. Does that include a team's own portable whiteboard?

Yes. Although Rule D(IV) specifically prohibits the use of items in competition rooms, including whiteboards, this prohibition also extends to portable whiteboards brought by competitors. Teams may instead use printed materials, including pre-prepared exhibits, in accordance with Rule D(V).

Are there any specific questions competitors should answer during the Self Reflection portion of the round?

Under Rule C(IX), competitors are encouraged to reflect on what worked well and where they hope to improve.

During the Self Reflection portion of the round, should competitors be having a conversation amongst themselves or presenting to the judges?

Competitors should be presenting to the judges.

FACT CLARIFICATIONS

If I am representing The Estate of Michael Jackson, who is my opposing counsel?

If you are representing The Estate of Michael Jackson, your opposing counsel is King of Hologram LLP.

The ABBA performance is not a traditional hologram, but instead it looks like images projected onto a screen with a live band in the background. Should we proceed as though it is a real hologram performance?

Yes, proceed as though it is a real "hologram" performance. Holographic concerts are a term of art. Most "holographic concerts" are referred to as holograms, but technically they're not holograms; they use a technique called "Pepper's Ghost" to project 2D images onto a hidden screen or mirror creating a holographic effect. For purposes of this fact pattern, use Tupac's

Coachella 2012 performance or Michael Jackson's "Slave to the Rhythm" performance as visual references for how a "holographic concert" would look.