

Hello,

Congratulations on advancing to the State playoffs! I hope you have enjoyed working with *Estate of Aaron Griggs v. Jodie Donahue* this season, and I am looking forward to several more great trials to determine our State Champion.

As a case author, I try to write a balanced case each year. This year's case is somewhat balanced, but does trend toward the Defense. Of the first 192 ballots we collected (including ballots that were not counted), the Plaintiff won 88.5 of those ballots and the Defense won 103.5 ballots. That means the case favors the Defense by a rate of 54% to 46% - an 8% advantage for the Defense.

There is some limited evidence to suggest the case balance has evened out in more recent weeks, particularly as the number of teams remaining decreased. On Wednesday, February 23, the six "elimination" rounds had 18 ballots, and those ballots split 9-9. The week before, ballots went 8-6 in favor of the Plaintiff. This suggests to me that the case is mostly fair, and both sides can win ballots in even rounds.

That said, the case showed a mild to moderate Defense bias during the first several weeks of the regular season. As a result, I am issuing a few small changes to the case to address this bias. Those changes include a few updates to affidavits and reports, some new photographs, and for the first time ever, an audio exhibit. The Special Instructions have been updated with details on how to use this exhibit.

I hope these case changes give you an exciting challenge for the State playoffs, and I look forward to seeing what you do with them. If you have any questions about these changes, email Ben Garmoe at ben.garmoe@gmail.com by midnight on Saturday, and CC Shelley and Iyanna on your email. No additional questions about the case will be addressed after that time.

Thank you for participating in MYLAW, and best of luck in the State playoffs!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Garmoe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ben Garmoe
Salsbury Director of Trial Advocacy, Maryland Carey Law
Head Coach, UMBC Mock Trial

Change Log - Version 2 (New changes are highlighted)

1. Stipulations 10 and 11 are new
2. Special Instructions 18 and 19 are new
3. Pretrial Order Regarding Photographs has been updated to include 14J and 14K
4. Exhibits 14J and 14K are new
5. Exhibits 15 and 15A are new
6. Exhibit 3: length of Donahue interview updated

Updates to affidavits, reports, and interviews

7. Elin Sanchez
 - a. Lines 113 - 116
 - b. Lines 166 - 168
8. Jess Leonard
 - a. Lines 98 - 104
 - b. Lines 160 - 162
 - c. Lines 168 - 170
9. Rahul Singh
 - a. Line 73
 - b. Lines 192 - 193
 - c. Lines 195 - 199
 - d. Lines 218 - 221
 - e. Lines 228 - 230
10. Jodie Donahue
 - a. Lines 76 - 87
 - b. Lines 88 - 102
 - c. Line 269
11. Monroe Williams
 - a. Lines 103 - 107
 - b. Lines 140 - 143
 - c. Lines 147 - 148
12. Salem Harris
 - a. Lines 225 - 232
 - b. Lines 320 - 321
 - c. Lines 329 - 330
13. Exhibit 5
 - a. There has been some confusion about whether Exhibit 5 and references in the case should be to black or red writing. Exhibit 5 now has black writing on it, and all references in the case are to black writing on the document.

If you submitted additional question(s) that were not addressed, you should assume the packet stands as written.