

IT 820: Contemporary Problems in Information Technology Law
The John Marshall Law School
Professor David E. Sorkin
Spring 2008

Project 1: Survey of Prior Moot Court Problems

For the first project, each student is to complete a survey of problems that have been used in prior IT and privacy law moot court competitions at John Marshall. The competition has been in existence since 1982, but if you have trouble locating materials for all of the past competitions, just include as many as you are able to.

Some information on competitions held over the past several years can be found on the competition's website, <http://www.itmootcourt.com/>. This information may include the competition problem itself (comprised of the record on appeal—the lower court's decision, sometimes with appendices, plus any orders of the court before which the appeal is pending), electronic copies of briefs submitted by teams entered in the competition, and other related information.

You should also be able to find published materials relating to past competitions in back issues of the *Software Law Journal* and its successor, *The John Marshall Journal of Computer & Information Law*. In most instances this will include the bench memorandum prepared for oral argument judges and brief graders, as well as the top briefs on each side submitted by participants in the competition. It probably will not include the problem/record on appeal itself, although this may appear as an appendix to the bench memorandum. *SLJ* and *JCIL* are available in hard copy in the John Marshall library and online through Lexis and Westlaw.

For each prior competition problem included in your survey, include the following material:

- the date of the competition;
- a brief statement identifying the issues raised;
- an abstract of the problem (preferably about 100 to 250 words in length); and
- a bibliography of publications about the problem (i.e., bench memo and briefs).

You are welcome to collaborate with other students in the class in locating the relevant materials, but you should prepare at least the abstract independently.

You should try to complete the survey within the first few weeks of the semester so that you can move on to the other projects. The survey is due no later than February 18, 2008, unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor in advance of that date. Thereafter, a late penalty of one full letter grade will be imposed for each week or portion thereof.