

January 16, 2024

The National Trial Competition Committee, in conjunction with the problem drafter, has carefully reviewed the questions submitted by participating schools regarding the Regional Problem. The committee has made revisions to the problem to address some of the issues raised. Please allow this email to outline the revisions to the 2023 NTC Regional Problem, but read the revised problem carefully as the changes are many:

Stipulations

- “The court has previously ruled” now reflects “This court rules” in stipulations 15-17.
- There are two additional stipulations, 22 and 23 regarding exhibits 2 and 5.

Testimony: Brantley

- Page 8, line 17 improves the witness’s identification.
- Page 11, starting at line 11, regarding Exhibit 15, there now two lights in the parking lot represented by circles.

Testimony: Hernandez

- Page 4, starting at line 10, Hernandez now properly secures the scene.
- Page 6, starting at line 12, Hernandez now collects the pipe on the night in question.
- Page 6, line 19 incorporates reference to the shop owner’s last name.
- Page 7, line 2-9, it is now clear that the business was not open for business at the time of the burglary.

Testimony: Nguyen

- Page 3, line 7, Nguyen’s home is not on Exhibit 6.
- Page 4, starting at line 6, more explicit description of duration of the show and the defendant is in the home for a longer duration.
- Page 4, starting at line 10, the witness identifies Exhibit 17.
- Page 6, line 3, more explicit denial regarding Poshmark store.
- Page 7, line 1, the witness describes how long the defendant was at their home.
- Page 8, staring at line 2, the witness admits to a felony perjury charge.

Testimony: Varnah

- Page 1, line 3 the witness has read the whole casefile.
- Page 1, line 20, updates tense.
- Page 3, starting at line 8, the witness explicitly states that they did not conduct a visual comparison.

- Page 4, line 12, updated language regarding a comparison.
- Page 6, line 10, updates a typo.
- Page 8, line 9, mentions getting fired from a past job.
- Page 9, line 7, incorporates statistics.

Jury Instructions

- Reasonable doubt now defined.
- Explicit language regarding the burden not shifting.
- Incorporated an instruction regarding the law of parties.

Exhibits

- Exhibit 4 now lists the defendant's residence as unknown.
- Exhibit 4b's narrative has been updated.
- Exhibit 5 narrative has been updated.
- Exhibit 7, timing of the call has been updated on the right reflecting the duration of the call in minutes and seconds.
- Exhibit 14, date updated.
- Exhibit 17, has been updated to include a timestamp.

The revised problem will be posted online at <http://www.tyla.org/ntc>. If any coach would like Bree Trevino to send you a PDF of the revised problem, please email her directly.

The NTC Committee recognizes that it did not answer many of the questions asked or provide clarification on many of the issues raised. The purpose of this competition, however, is to provide a forum to showcase trial advocacy, while maintaining an appropriate balance in a problem that can be tried in a short period of time. The NTC Committee thoroughly reviewed all the questions submitted, and if your question was not answered, it was not an oversight. If your particular question was not answered, then the NTC Committee: (1) considered the question to be a point of advocacy; (2) decided that the answer to the question could be found in the NTC's Rules or in the problem itself; or (3) concluded that the question is addressed by the applicable rules of evidence or procedure.