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CADR
MNLUA

MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AURANGABAD

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL LAWS (CICCL)

&

CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (CADR)

organizes

SENIOR ADVOCATE LATE SHRI P.M. SHAH

3rd MNLUA NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION 2025

8th and 9th March 2025

Knowledge Partners

Media Partner

ABOUT MNLUA

The State of Maharashtra realizing the importance of quality legal education and the need for well-trained law graduates to the Bar, Bench and profession took a very bold decision by creating three National Law Universities in the State of Maharashtra at Mumbai, Nagpur and Aurangabad. Further, all three are independent and autonomous institutions created under the Maharashtra National Law University Act, 2014. The latest one added to the list of National Law Universities in India is the Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad, which commenced on March 16, 2017. The commencement of the University has fulfilled the aspirations of the people of the Marathwada region for an institution of national repute in Aurangabad.

ABOUT SENIOR ADVOCATE LATE SHRI P.M. SHAH (30th November, 1948 to 11th September, 2020).

Shri Pravin Mukutlal Shah was born into a humble family faithfully following Gandhian Philosophy. He graduated from Government Law College, Mumbai in 1975 and started his professional career at Dhule District Court under the able guidance and mentorship of his father Advocate Shri Mukutlal Shah. Mr Pravin Shah practised before several tribunals and quasi-judicial authorities, the High Court and the Supreme Court of India. Mr Shah's contribution to the profession was recognized by the Bombay High Court by designating him as a unparalleled reputation earned him the privilege to be the Member and the Vice-Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa. Mr Shah a lawyer par excellence, stands like an institution and one of the best positive role models in the profession. Like a lighthouse, his teachings, his experiences, and the principles and ethics that he practised will continue to guide the members of the bar. He will always be regarded amongst the lawyers of the highest calibre and professional acumen in the history of the Bombay High Court for the great dignity and character encoded within him.

ABOUT THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The competition will be a collaborative effort by two Centres of the University – the Centre for Alternate Dispute Resolution (CADR) and Centre for International Corporate and Commercial Laws (CICCL)

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT CADR

The Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution is an initiative to promote academic research on themes pertaining to Alternate Dispute Resolution. The Centre strives to contribute to the vision and mission of MNLUA of developing human beings who are technically sound, socially relevant and emotionally strong by imbibing the skills of ADR methods like active listening, understanding other's points of view, discussions, empathy, rational thinking and community interest.

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT CICCL

The Centre for International Corporate and Commercial Laws focuses on the dissemination of the knowledge related to Corporate and Commercial Law prevailing in domestic as well as international arenas and covers the trends related to it. It works to bring together the experts in these areas of law to stimulate research and debate in Corporate and Commercial Laws and practice and to strengthen cooperation with other academic centres, international organisations, the legal profession and fraternity.

OUR PREVIOUS EDITIONS

The inaugural edition of the MNLUA Client Counselling Competition in 2023 set a remarkable precedent by focusing on developing participants' skills in client interactions, legal counseling, and solution-oriented thinking. It attracted law students nationwide, with 16 teams participating in real-world problem-solving and fostering an understanding of professional ethics. The event was lauded for its realistic scenarios and engaging rounds judged by experienced legal professionals.

Building on the success of its predecessor, the second edition in 2024 expanded its scope with more challenging and dynamic problem statements. It showcased heightened competition, with 40+ participating teams displaying exceptional analytical and interpersonal skills. Esteemed judges from various legal domains added gravitas to the event, making it a learning and networking platform for budding legal professionals.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Eligibility:

Students of three-year and five-year law degree courses in any year from any University/Law School/College/Department are eligible to apply for registration of their team.

Team Composition:

One team shall comprise two participants only (Counsel 1 and Counsel 2). In order to ensure wider participation, not more than one team from any particular institution shall be permitted to participate in the competition. If two teams of the same institution apply, the first registered team will be selected for participation. A total of 40 teams will be selected for the competition on a first-come-first-serve basis. However, the number of teams can be extended if the Organizing Committee finds it suitable to do so and the cap will then be removed.

Registration:

- The registration fee, which includes accommodation and food shall be Rs. 7000/- for each team. The registration fee shall be non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Registration Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1LrdS2MuTorDre0z29Ig6n2LrdUf_2vREX3-9NH0szr1cMw/viewform?usp=sf_link (kindly fill out the Google form)
- The acknowledgement of the payment must be submitted along with the online registration form.
- Payment link:- https://form.qfixonline.com/mnluanational
- Once a team registers by completing the formalities given, a Code (hereinafter "Team Code") shall be assigned to the team. The team code shall be provided to the registered team within 48 hours of registration.
- The Organizing Committee has the exclusive right to decide in case of any dispute related to the registration. The decision of the organizing committee in such a case shall be final.

Process of Competition:

- The competition simulates a law office consultation in which two participants (Counsel 1 and 2) deal with a client. The participants are given a brief written memorandum that identifies the client's problem prior to interviews. The participant team conducts an interview with a dummy client and the judge evaluates the performance.
- The topic of client counselling shall be provided 24 hours prior to the competition and the client will be provided on the spot.
- During the counselling period, participants are expected to elicit the relevant information from the client, explore with the client his or her preferred outcome, outline the nature of the problem, and suggest to the client to resolve the issue.
- The participants will be evaluated by a panel of judges considering the specific criteria based on listening to clients, questioning, planning and analytical skills of a lawyer.
- During post-counselling and consultation, judges can ask the participants questions for further clarification.
- Team members are free to decide the work distribution, but both participants must consult with the client as a team. It will be the full discretion of the Organizing Committee to select and allot the clients.

Theme:

The theme for all the rounds shall be based on any or the entire spectrum of laws including:

- Labour Law
- Cyber Law
- Constitutional Law
- Contract Law
- Company Law
- Arbitration Law
- Transfer of property law

Along with other codified and un-codified laws relevant to the theme.

Four Rounds of the Competition:
A total of four rounds will be conducted as part of the competition. The number of teams and time allotment has been mentioned below:

Name of the Round	Number of Team	Time Alloted
Prelimnary	40	30 Min
Quarter Final	8	35 Min
Semi Final	4	40 Min
Finals	2	50 Min

The cap can be extended if the Organizing Committee finds it suitable. However, the number of teams in other rounds other than the **preliminary rounds** will remain the same.

The Consultation Period (Interview Period):
The first 20 minutes in the Preliminary Round and 25 minutes in Quarter-Final, 30 minutes in Semi-Final round and 40 minutes in Final Round are devoted to consultation with the client during which lawyers are expected to elicit the relevant information, outline the problem and propose a solution or other means of resolving the problem.

Post Consultation Period (Post Interview Period):
The remaining time from the total time as specified above will be for the post- Consultation period i.e. the last 10 minutes in all the respective rounds are devoted to post-consultation. During the post-consultation period, the students may either talk to each other loudly enough to be overheard by the judges, dictate a file memorandum on the interview, or both. The concept behind the post-consultation period is to summarize the interview, indicate the scope of the legal work to be undertaken, and state the legal issues that should be researched. An explanation of the position or attitude taken by the client students may be useful. Judges may question the teams during the post-consultation period. Note: During the consultation and post-consultation, the teams may use books, notes and other materials.

Judges Question-Answer round:
The judge's question-answer round will be of 8 minutes in the prelims and semi-finals and 10 minutes in the finals with the counsellors in addition to the time slots already allocated.

Marking Scheme:

JUDGING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTED
Establishing an effective professional relationship	10
Obtaining information	10
Learning the client's goals, expectations and needs	10
Factual analysis of the client’s problems	10
Legal analysis and giving advice	10
Developing reasoned courses of action	10
Assisting the client to make an informed choice	10
Effectively concluding the interview	10
Teamwork	10
Post interview reflection period	10
TOTAL	100

Note: Evaluation done by the Judges of each round shall be final and binding on all the teams.

Code of Conduct of Participants : The participants are expected to follow under mentioned code of conduct:

1. The official language of the competition shall be English. All written or oral submissions must be undertaken in English.
2. The Dress code shall strictly be limited to Indian/ Business Formals throughout the Competition. The Participants must adhere to this strictly.
3. No extra time will be allotted in any round without the permission of the judge. If any participant crosses the time - limit, a warning will be issued by the courtroom coordinator.
4. The decision of the judges and the organizers shall be final and binding on all. Any violation of the code of conduct will invite disqualification.

Grounds for Disqualification: Misconduct, whether behavioural or otherwise, is not allowed and if indulged into shall result in disqualification of the team. Misconduct shall include:

a) Disclosure of identity to other participants or judges during the competition. The participants should use the Team Codes provided.

b) Any attempt by participants to obtain the client counselling topic before notification.

c) Any attempt by participant(s) to speak about controversial matters such as religion, caste, race, gender, foul language, or anti-national rhetoric before or during the competition.

d) Any discussion with client(s) before competition.

e) Cheating or using unfair means.

f) Intimidation in any form.

Accommodation and Food: Accommodation will be provided within the campus of the University from 7th March 2024 (6 pm onwards) to 10th March 2024 (till 10.00 am). Teams will have to make their own arrangements if they arrive before the mentioned period or stay beyond it. No arrangement shall be provided to any additional member of the team apart from the registered members. Food will be provided in the current Mess facility. The meals would range from Dinner on 7th March to Breakfast on 10th March 2024. Note: Boys and Girls shall be provided separate accommodation. No Pick-up and Drop facility shall be provided to any of the participants from the Airport/Bus station/ railway Station. Participants shall have to make their own arrangements for reaching the Campus.

Miscellaneous:

- The decision of the Judges shall be final regarding the outcome of the Rounds.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to take any action against unethical, wrongful or unprofessional conduct.
- Scouting is not allowed under any circumstances and may lead to disqualification.
- If there is any situation, not covered by the Rules, the decision of the Organizers shall be final and binding.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to amend the rules. However, due notice shall be provided to all participating teams.
- Selection will be on a first come first basis as there will be limited seats (40 Teams).
- The participants are always required to comply with the rules formulated by the Organizing Committee during the competition. In case of any non- compliance with the rules of the competition, a penalty may be imposed by deduction of marks and the teams may also be disqualified after they have been warned once.
- The clients for the competition will be provided internally by the Organising Committe

SCHEDULE

Last date for registration – 25th February 2025

One-Hour Online Training Session on SCC Online for all the participants - 8th March 2025 (The session is mandatory for every participant to attend)

Inauguration, Preliminary and Quarter Final Round – 8th March 2025

Semi Final, Final Round and Valedictory – 9th March 2025

Venue: The competition will be organised within the campus area of MNLUA.

Address: Maharashtra National Law University, Aurangabad Nath Valley Road, Kanchanwadi, Aurangabad - 431005 (Maharashtra)

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Best Team: Trophy, internship with Atharva Law Chambers (Delhi) and a cash prize of Rupees 30,000/-

1st Runners up: Trophy, internship with Spiritus Legal (Indore) and a cash prize of Rupees 20,000/-

Best Counsel: Certificate, online internship with TMT Law Practice and a cash prize of Rupees 15,000/-

All the participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

The winning team and the Best Counsel will be provided with a 1 Year Complimentary subscription of EBC Learning subscription worth Rs. 14,500/- each.

OUR PATRONS

Prof. Dr. A. Lakshminath
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
(In-charge)
(Cheif Patron)

Dr. D.M. Jadhav
Registrar, MNLUA
(Patron)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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All queries are to be sent through Email – 1ncc@mnlua.ac.in