

**People's Education Society's
Adv Balasaheb Apte College of Law**

LAW COUNSELLORS
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

presents

**14th Annual Adv. B.P. Apte
Memorial National Mock Trial,
Moot Court & Judgment Writing
Competition 2026**

RULEBOOK

Knowledge Partner



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People's Education Society's 'Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law' is hosting **THE 14TH ANNUAL ADV. B P APTE MEMORIAL NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL, MOOT COURT AND JUDGMENT WRITING COMPETITION, 2026** from **9th to 11th October, 2026** at Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law, Dadar (West), Mumbai.

This Annual event of Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law, Mumbai is hosted in the fond memory of Late Shri. Balwant Parshuram Apte (widely known as Adv. Balasaheb Apte), a distinguished legal luminary and also a noted parliamentarian. This competition mainly envisages to further the aim of Late. Shri. Balasaheb Apte, which was to attract students of law and young advocates towards the actual practice of advocacy and also to commemorate his contribution towards the legal fraternity.

Drawing inspiration from our founding father, Late Shri B. P. Apte who was also a distinguished teacher of law and always strived to present before his students' newer intricacies of law and make sure that the future lawyers were socially aware, this year the premise of the competition is based on the '**Transplantation of Human Organ and Tissues Act, 1994**' along with '**Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime, 1999**'. The uniqueness of this competition is that it is not confined to any particular proceeding of a single forum /court. The participants shall get an opportunity to experience the proceedings of a Trial Court and the High Court as well.

(Please note that the Moot Proposition is based on a fictitious case and any reference to any individual, dead or alive, or to any organization or institution or entity similar case is purely co-incidental.)

1. LANGUAGE:

- The language of the competition shall be English.

2. DRESS CODE:

- The dress code shall be Advocate's attire (black and white formals for gentlemen & black and white western or Indian formals for ladies).
- Black Blazer for all participants is compulsory. Black Tie for gentlemen is compulsory.
- Advocate's gown and white band are **prohibited**.

3. ELIGIBILITY:

- Bona-fide LL.B. students pursuing 3-years or 5-years LLB. degree courses during the academic year 2026-27 are eligible to participate. The students must be deputed by their respective colleges.
- Students above the age of 25 years are not permitted to participate in the competition.

4. TEAM COMPOSITION:

- Each participating college/ university shall **send only one team**.
- Each team shall consist of **maximum two members**. This number cannot be modified under any circumstances.
- Each team will be provided with a unique Team Code by way of draw of lots during the Orientation ceremony.

5. REGISTRATION:

- **Only 24 teams** shall be allowed to participate in the competition. The Registration Form is annexed at the end of the Rulebook.
- Provisional registration shall be secured by the teams by sending an e-mail with an attachment of the duly filled and scanned Registration Form (soft copy) **on or before 29th August 2026**, from their college official email-id to mootabacl@gmail.com. Thereafter, the participants shall receive an acknowledgement on successful submission of their provisional registration.
- The Registration fees **shall be Rs. 3,000/-** and the team opting for Accommodation shall have to pay **an additional fee of Rs. 5,000/-** which is payable by UPI with the UPI ID being “**abacl@jsb**” or a bank transfer. The details of the bank account are as follows:

Name of the Bank: Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.

Branch: Dadar (W), Mumbai.

Name of the Account: Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law.

Savings Account number: 017220100041377

IFSC Code: JSBP0000017

- Teams should clearly mention the participants' names, contact number, year of study, name of the Professor-in-charge, student coordinator's name and name of the institution along with

other requirements on the Registration form as well as the Provisional Registration Application.

- The teams shall send the payment acknowledgement along with their registration form on the college E-mail ID (provided above). On receipt of which the College shall verify the payment and other details. After the said verification, the organizers shall confirm the team's participation.
- No change in the names of participants shall be permitted after the receipt of the Registration Form, except at the sole discretion of the organizers.
- There shall be no refund of any payment done by participants upon cancellation.

6. ACCOMMODATION:

- **Lodging and boarding facilities will be provided only to outstation participants at an additional cost of Rs. 5,000/- per team.** To avail the facility of Accommodation, participants will have to upload a duly filled scanned copy of the Accommodation Form along with the proof of such payment. The payment details shall remain the same as mentioned above.
- Accommodation shall be provided from **9th October 2026 (check in: 6.00 pm) to 11th October 2026 (check out at: 08.00 am)**. If participants wish to stay on the **night of 11th October 2026**, then they should do so at their own costs.
- Separate accommodation shall be provided for male and female participants.
- There shall be no refund of any payment done by the participants upon cancellation.
- Any misconduct or misbehavior of any participant during the course of accommodation shall be strictly dealt with and shall lead to disqualification.
- Transportation services from the place of accommodation to the venue are strictly reserved for participants who avail accommodation service.
- In case of any queries with respect to the accommodation, the team members may contact the representative assigned to their team.

(Note: Teams are also advised to carry Umbrella/Rain Gear considering the monsoon season)

7. COMPETITION ROUNDS:

- The Competition shall comprise of three rounds namely a **Preliminary Round, a Semi-Final Round and the Final Round**.



- Candidates will be judged on the basis of their knowledge of criminal law and evidence, persuasiveness, logic and reasoning, ingenuity, clarity, articulation and examination skills. **There shall be no memorial submissions for the preliminary round.**
- Insofar as the mock trial proposition for the Preliminary Round is concerned, **no facts are to be admitted and the facts are to be proved before the Trial Court.**
- Furthermore, no questions shall be entertained on the Ad Interim order passed by the Hon'ble High Court for the purpose of Mock Trial (Preliminary Round) and the said order shall be considered in effect for the Moot Court rounds i.e. Semi Final and Final Round.

(a) PRELIMINARY ROUND:

- i. The Preliminary Rounds will be held on **Saturday 10th October, 2026.**
- ii. The Preliminary Round is further divided into two rounds wherein each team shall be leading the evidence from both the sides i.e. for the Prosecution in one round and for the Defense in the other round. The side from which the teams shall lead evidence in 1st Preliminary Round shall be decided by way of draw of lots on the day of Orientation. For the 2nd Preliminary Round, the teams shall be leading evidence from the other side.
- iii. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the two sets of preliminary rounds.
- iv. The Prosecution side and the Defense side shall be provided with **thirty minutes** to brief their respective witnesses, before beginning of the trial.
- v. The time provided to every Prosecution team shall be **forty (40) minutes** and to every Defense team shall be **fifty (50) minutes**. This time shall include the Opening Statement, Examination-in-chief, Cross examination and closing statement. However, the timings may be extended at the sole discretion of the judges and organizers. The teams may reserve a maximum of five minutes out of the allotted time for their respective closing statements.
- vi. Marks of each Preliminary round shall be the **cumulative total of the marks awarded to both the participants of a team.**
- vii. One top scoring team from each Courtroom shall proceed to the Semi-Final Round.
- viii. A total of 4 teams shall proceed to the Semi-final Round.

(b) SEMI-FINAL ROUND:

- i. The Semi-Final round will be held on **Sunday, 11th October 2026**.
- ii. The Semi Final round shall be a Moot Court. The teams qualifying for the round will be required to argue upon the Issues mentioned in the Paper book.
- iii. The Ad Interim Order passed by the Hon'ble High Court shall be set into effect for the purposes of this Round.
- iv. The sides (Appellant/ Applicant/ Petitioner and Respondent) for the Semi-Finals will be decided by a draw of lots which will be conducted after the results of the Preliminary Round are declared i.e. on the evening of **9th October 2026**.
- v. The total time available for each team will be **thirty (30) minutes**. In no case shall a Speaker exceed a **maximum of eighteen (18) minutes**. Teams may reserve a maximum of **five (5) minutes** from the allotted time for the purpose of rebuttal.
- vi. The bifurcation of time between the speakers shall be informed to the Court Officers before the round begins.
- vii. Warnings will be given to the participant as per their request
- viii. Any extension of time shall be at the discretion of the judges and organizers.

(c) FINAL ROUND:

- i. One team from each court room securing the highest marks in the Semi – Final round shall qualify for the Final round. The Team Codes of the teams qualifying for the Final round shall be declared immediately after the results of the Semi – Final rounds are announced.
- ii. The Final round will be held on **Sunday, 11th October 2026**
- iii. The Final round shall again be a Moot Court, the teams qualifying for the round will be required to argue upon the Issues mentioned in the Paper book.
- iv. The Ad Interim Order passed by the Hon'ble High Court shall be set into effect for the purposes of this Round.
- v. The teams appearing for the Petitioner and the Respondent shall be decided by a draw of lots which will be conducted immediately after the results of the Semi-Final rounds are declared.

- vi. The total time available for each team will be a **maximum of forty (40) minutes**. In no case shall a Speaker exceed a **maximum of twenty – three (23) minutes**.
- vii. Teams may reserve a maximum of **five (5) minutes** from the allotted time for the purpose of rebuttal.
- viii. The bifurcation of time between the speakers shall be informed to the Court Officers before the round begins.
- ix. Warnings will be given to the participant as per their request.
- x. Any extension of time shall be at the discretion of the judges and organizers

8. **MEMORIALS:**

- All teams are required to submit their Memorials pertaining to the subject matter of the Semi- Final and the Final Round. The participants shall **submit 4 hard copies (2 copies of Petitioners and 2 copies of Respondent)** at the time of registration on the Orientation Day.
- Teams must note that the Memorial **carry 50 marks**. The Memorial Marks shall be added to the cumulative total of both the speakers in the Semi-Final Round.
- The identity of the participating colleges or of the participants shall not be disclosed in the Memorial.

(Team Codes will be provided on the Orientation Day; Participants are expected to leave an empty white box on Top right-hand corner of the Cover Page for the same).

- The format of the Memorial is as follows –
 - ◆ **Cover page** - Blue for the Petitioner and Red for the Respondent. The Cover page shall contain the Title of the case as also the side (Petitioner / Respondent) in bold.
 - ◆ **Font** - Times New Roman, 12 (10 for footnotes)
 - ◆ **Line spacing** - 1.5 for body and 1.0 for footnotes.
 - ◆ **Page Size** – A4 Size Margin – 2.54 cm from all sides.
 - ◆ **Page Borders** – Double lined page border for all pages.
 - ◆ **Page Number** – Page Numbers shall be mentioned at the bottom of the page.
 - ◆ **Header** – Header of all the pages shall mention “THE 14th ANNUAL ADV. B. P. APTE NATIONAL MEMORIAL MOCK TRIAL, MOOT COURT AND JUDGMENT WRITING COMPETITION, 2026”
 - ◆ **Word Limit** – No Word Limit. However, the arguments advanced shall not exceed

- ◆ 25 pages.
- ◆ Content of the Written Submissions/Memorials shall be as follows:
 - a) Cover page
 - b) Index
 - c) Index of Authorities
 - d) Issues
 - e) Arguments advanced
 - f) Prayers
- Use of Artificial Intelligence tools is strictly prohibited in making of the memorials. The memorials shall undergo strict filters/scrutiny to ensure that they are generic and not created using Artificial Intelligence Tools. If the written submissions/ memorials of any team are found to be in violation of this rule, the same shall result into disqualification.
- Participants are expected to submit the soft copies of their Written Submissions / Memorials (in PDF format only) on or before **28th September 2026, by 11:59pm.**
- The soft copies of **Written Submissions / Memorials and E Compendium** shall be e-mailed to - mootabacl@gmail.com.
- The Subject of the E-mail shall be titled as follows: **“Mock Trial 2026 – Written Submissions of name of College / Institution”**
- Clarifications regarding the Proposition and / or the Rulebook shall be e-mailed to – mootabacl@gmail.com **on or before 21st September 2026.** The Subject of the E-mail shall be titled as follows: **“Mock Trial 2026 – Clarifications”.**

9. GENERAL RULES REGARDING THE ROUNDS:

- All the participating teams are expected to carry all case laws, bare acts and authorities which they intend to refer, in addition to their own copies of Memorials.
- The Participants, during the course of Oral Submissions, will not be permitted to make any audio/visual representation nor will they be allowed to use personal computers, laptops and any other technical or mechanical device.
- The decision of the Judges shall be final and binding on all participants.

10. JUDGMENT WRITING COMPETITION:

- The Judgment Writing Competition shall be a part of **‘The 14th Adv. B. P. Apte National Memorial Mock Trial, Moot Court & Judgment Writing Competition, 2026’.**

- The Judgment Writing Competition shall be conducted on **9th October 2026** after the Orientation Ceremony.
- It is mandatory for any **one (1)** of the two participants from each team to participate in the Judgment Writing Competition.
- The Judgment shall be based on the problem as drafted for the Mock Trial. It shall reflect the forum/ court in which the trial is set and argued.
- Participants shall be provided one hour to write the Judgment.
- Participants shall only be allowed to use bare acts for reference purpose.
- Participants shall not be allowed to use any commentaries of any nature.

11. WITNESSES:

- Five (4+ 1) witnesses will be provided by the organizers.
- The teams have the liberty to call **only one** out of the three defence witnesses on the stand for the purpose of the said round. The Defence Team shall notify this choice before the witness briefing begins and shall be conveyed to the organisers and subsequently it would be communicated to the Prosecution Team.
- No team shall disclose their choice of Defence witness at any time before the commencement of the allotted Witness Briefing period, which otherwise might result in disqualification of the teams subject to the final decision of the organisers.
- The prosecution as well as the defence side shall be provided with **thirty minutes to brief** their witnesses prior to the beginning of the trial.
- Each witness is bound by the facts contained in his/her own witness statement, the Statement of Facts and/or any necessary documentation relevant to his/her testimony. Fair extrapolations may be allowed, provided reasonable inference may be made from the witness's statement. If, during examination, a participant asks a question which calls for extrapolated information pivotal to the facts at issue, the information is subject to objection under "unfair extrapolation."
- Participants must note that **only** the following witnesses shall be provided for the purpose of examination in the trial-

Prosecution Witnesses:

1. M Dsouza (Informant- PW1)



2. Dr K Iyer (Post Mortem Officer- PW2)
3. DySP Khanvilkar (IO- PW3)
4. P Mahajan (Panch- PW4)

Defence Witness: (Any one)

1. R Patel (Accused No.1 & DW)
2. Dr. S. Mhatre (Accused No. 2 & DW)
3. H Sheikh (Accused No. 3 & DW)

12. MISCELLANEOUS:

- Decisions of the judges shall be final and binding.
- Decisions regarding interpretation of any of the rules shall be taken by the organizers. This decision shall be final and binding on the participants.
- Rules should be strictly adhered to. Any deviation thereof can attract disqualification.
- Gender of the witnesses provided, shall not be questioned at any stage of the trial.
- Teams shall not be allowed to observe the examinations of any other teams. Scouting is strictly prohibited and shall result in disqualification.
- The organizers reserve the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.
- All the participants are expected to maintain the decorum of the court throughout the competition and are expected to maintain their conduct in a manner befitting the legal profession.
- The organizers will resolve any contingencies that may arise and will be final arbiters regarding any doubts / grievances.
- Any kind of reference to the identity of the participants or of their respective institutes can attract disqualification of that participant / team.
- Participants must carry their respective College ID-cards along with them to the competition.
- Video recording or taking photographs during trial by the participants is strictly prohibited.
- If there arises any situation which is not contemplated by any of the above-mentioned rules, the decision of the organizers on the same shall be final and binding.
- The college reserves the right to vary, alter, modify or repeal any of the above rules, which

- may be without prior notification, if so required and as they may deem fit appropriate.
- The college shall not provide travelling expenses to the participants. However, breakfast, lunch and high tea shall be provided to all the participants. Dinner shall be provided to participants availing accommodation services only.

13. **PRIZES AND AWARDS:**

- Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:
 - ◆ **Winning Team:** Cash Prize of INR 20,000/- (Twenty Thousand Rupees only), Trophy and One Year Subscription to **SCC[®] ONLINE** Web Edition worth Rs. 64,000/-.
 - ◆ **Runner-Up Team:** Cash Prize of INR 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Rupees only) and Trophy.
 - ◆ **Best Speaker:** Cash Prize of INR 7,500/- (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Rupees only) and Trophy.
 - ◆ **Winner of Judgment Writing Competition:** Cash Prize of INR 7,500/- (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Rupees only) and Trophy.
 - ◆ **All participants:** Certificate of Participation and One month access to **SCC[®] ONLINE** Web Edition worth Rs. 3,100/- each shall be provided.

Note – All the participating teams shall have one month access after a valid registration. This facility is provided with the sole intention of giving the participating teams a fair chance for fine research.

Marking Criteria for Preliminary Round (Per speaker):

Sr. No	Criteria	Marks
1.	Presentation and Courtroom Etiquette	10
2.	Understanding of Facts	20
3.	Understanding of Procedure	20
4.	Witness Examination	30
5.	Skill of Oral Arguments and Logical Reasoning	20

Marking Criteria for Semi-Final and Final Round (Per speaker):

Sr. No	Criteria	Marks
1.	Presentation and Courtroom Etiquette	05
2.	Understanding and Clarity of Legal Principles	10
3.	Flow and Structure of Arguments	10
4.	Reference to Case Laws	10
5.	Response to Judge's Questions	10
6.	Reference to Written Submissions	05

IMPORTANT DATES

29th August 2026	Last date for Provisional Registrations
7th September 2026	Last date for final Registrations and Payment of Fees
19th September 2026	Last date for seeking Clarifications
21st September 2026	Release of clarifications
28th September 2026	Last date to submit soft copies of Memorial and Compendium.
9th October 2026	Orientation Ceremony, draw of lots and SCC OnLine Orientation. (Reporting time – 02:00 pm)
9th October 2026	Judgment Writing Competition
10th October 2026	Preliminary Round (Reporting time - 07:00 am)
11th October 2026	Semi - Final Round (Reporting time - 08:00 am)
11th October 2026	Final Round (2:00 pm)
11th October 2026	Valedictory Function followed by the Prize Distribution Ceremony (5:00 pm)

STUDENT CO-COORDINATORS:

Sughosh Dande: +91 9307797763

Hritika Dhote: +91 9420699755

CONVENORS:

Dr. Vaishali Gurav (I/c Principal)

Prof. Viraj Deshpande: dviraj2006@gmail.com

Prof. Bhagyashree Patil: bhagyashree1257@gmail.com

COMPETITION VENUE:

Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law

Prin. N. M. Kale Marg, off. Gokhale Road (South),

Dadar (West), Mumbai – 400028.

Email Id: mootabacl@gmail.com

Instagram Id: [@abacl_mocktrialofficial](https://www.instagram.com/abacl_mocktrialofficial)

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Instructions:

1. Kindly fill the registration form in **CAPITAL** letters.
2. Participants shall write their names in that manner as expected on the certificates.

Name and Address of the participating college / institution:

Contact no. of the college / institution: _____

Name of Speaker 1: _____

Year of study: _____ **Age:** _____

Contact number: _____, **Gender:** _____

Email-Id: _____

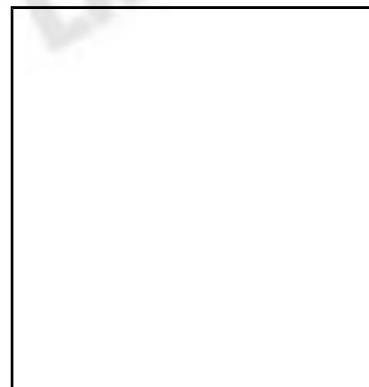


Name of Speaker 2: _____

Year of study: _____ **Age:** _____

Contact number: _____, **Gender:** _____

Email-Id: _____



(The photographs of the bona-fide participants shall be attested by their college principal)

Registration fees – Rs. 3000/-

Reference number: _____

Name & Address of the Bank:

Name of Faculty In-charge: _____

Designation: _____

Contact No.: _____

ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation charges – Rs. 5000/-

Reference no: _____

Name & Address of Bank:

We the above-mentioned declare that the institution and its members shall completely abide by the rules and regulations set up for the competition. We also hereby declare that the information provided is true and accurate.

Sign and Seal of the Principal/ Head of the Institute



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TRAVEL DETAILS

NAME & ADDRESS OF PARTICIPATING COLLEGE/ INSTITUTE:

ARRIVAL:

DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL: _____

MODE OF TRANSPORT: _____

DEPARTURE:

DATE AND TIME OF DEPARTURE: _____

MODE OF TRANSPORT: _____

NAME & CONTACT NUMBERS OF BOTH PARTICIPANTS
