

"MUKADAMA" The Pursuit of Fustice

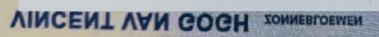
IFIM-KILPAR's Trial Advocacy Competition, 2025 (10th, 11th & 12th October 2025)



RULEBOOK

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I. **DEFINITIONS**:

- 1.1 "ADMINISTRATORS" means IFIM Law School, Bengaluru; the Faculty Chairs of the Centre for Legal Advocacy (CLA) of IFIM Law School, Bengaluru; the Centre for Legal Advocacy (CLA) of IFIM Law School, Bengaluru and/or any other person(s) appointed to administer the Competition by the said Centre for Legal Advocacy and the Karnataka Institute for Law and Parliamentary Reform (KILPAR).
- 1.2 "BENCH" refers to the members duly invited by the Administrators, to adjudge any of the rounds, collectively.
- 1.3 "CASE FILE" means the official Proposition including the annexures as well as the evidence and testimonies of the Competition supplemented or corrected by any Clarifications or Corrections as published by the Administrators.
- 1.4 "CASE FILE CLARIFICATIONS" means the official clarifications of the Competition Proposition and of the Rules, as published by the Administrators.
- 1.5 "COMPETITION" means "Mukadama": *The Pursuit of Justice*, IFIM-KILPAR's Trial Advocacy Competition 2025.
- 1.6 "COUNSELS" refer to the two designated members of each Team who are responsible for presenting arguments, examining, and cross-examining witnesses, and making opening and closing statements before the Bench in accordance with the Rules of the Competition
- 1.7 "**DISQUALIFICATION**" means that the team will not be allowed to participate further in the competition and therefore, shall not be awarded any Prize.
- 1.8 "ONLINE QUALIFYING ROUND" refers to the preliminary screening test conducted in an online format, comprising multiple-choice questions, aimed at assessing the Team's understanding and application of Criminal Law, White Collar Crimes, and Taxation Law, as detailed under Rule VII of this Rulebook.
- 1.9 "ORAL ROUND" refers to the Oral Pleadings made by the Teams before the Bench during any of the Rounds of assessment.
- 1.10 "PARTICIPANTS" means student representatives from eligible batch, recognized by the Administrators, participating in the Competition, pursuant to Rule III.
- 1.11 "PENALTIES" means Point(s) deducted for violation of any rule by the Participants
- 1.12 "PLAGIARISM" means the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of another's writings, or the ideas or language of another, and passing them off as the product of one's own mind.
- 1.13 "PROCEDURAL TEST" refers to the online test conducted for all Qualified Teams prior to the commencement of the Oral Rounds, consisting of factual and legal questions related to the Proposition, and serving the purposes laid out in Rule VIII of this Rulebook.

- 1.14 "RULES OF THE COURT / RULES" means the Official Rules of the Competition and any applicable supplementary rules.
- 1.15 "SCOUTING" refers to observing or listening to the Oral Rounds of other team(s) prior to the completion of one's own team's Oral Rounds or elimination from the competition.
- 1.16 "TEAM" means and includes only bona fide representatives of any University, may that be state or central or any other department recognized/ authorized by the Bar Council of India to impart law degrees, and who have applied and registered for the competition by complying with the procedure prescribed in these present rules.
- 1.17 "TEAM CODE" refers to the unique identification code allotted to each Team by the Administrators upon successful registration, to ensure anonymity and fair conduct throughout the Competition.
- 1.18 "WITNESSES" refers to the two designated members of each Team who shall portray characters provided in the Case File and will be examined and cross-examined during the Oral Rounds, as per the roles assigned by the Team.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 2.1 Hosting Institution: The "Mukadama": *The Pursuit of Justice*, IFIM-KILPAR's Trial Advocacy Competition 2025 shall be jointly hosted by the Centre for Legal Advocacy (CLA) of IFIM Law School, Bengaluru; in collaboration with the Karnataka Institute for Law and Parliamentary Reform (KILPAR).
- 2.2 Applicable Laws: The Competition will be held in accordance with the rules and procedures explicitly stated in the Rule Book.
- 2.3 Objective: The Competition has been designed with the objective of promoting and understanding the application of Law and Legal Procedures, whereby also facilitating the growth of advocacy skills, thereby advancing the cause of justice in the Legal field.
- 2.4 Date & Venue: The "Mukadama": *The Pursuit of Justice*, IFIM-KILPAR's Trial Advocacy Competition 2025 is scheduled for 10th, 11th & 12th of October at IFIM Law School, Bengaluru.
- 2.5 Purpose: "Mukadama" 2025 aims to:
 - Enable participants in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the nuances of the Indian Criminal Justice System as well as of the White-Collar Crimes.
 - Inspire participants to explore and consider potential career paths within the Indian Justice System.
 - Provide a realistic simulation of trial proceedings based on the Indian Criminal Justice System.
 - Enhance participants' knowledge and comprehension of the distinct roles, strategies, and techniques employed by the Office of the Prosecution and the Defense.
 - Promote the development of analytical and argumentative skills, as well as effective presentation and utilization of evidence within the framework of the Indian Criminal Justice System.



III. ELIGIBILITY:

The competition is open to students pursuing either a 3-year or 5-year law degree programme at any University or College in India, duly recognized by the Bar Council of India. Each institution is permitted to nominate **only one team** for participation.

IV. COMMUNICATION MEDIUM OF THE COMPETITION:

The Competition shall be conducted exclusively in the **English language**, and all communication during the course of the event must be in English.

V. TEAM COMPOSITION:

- 5.1 Team Size: Each team shall consist of **four members only (two Counsels and two Witnesses)**. No deviation from this composition is allowed.
- 5.2 Only the registered team members are allowed to participate in the Competition. Team coaches, assistants, or any other individuals are strictly prohibited from entering the competition courtrooms, unless expressly permitted by the Administrators.

VI. REGISTRATION:

- 6.1 Registration Fee: There shall be no registration fee for participation in the Competition.
- 6.2 Registration Process: Eligible teams are required to complete the official <u>Registration Form</u> by providing all necessary details. Upon successful registration, confirmation shall be sent via email by the Administrators.
- 6.3 Bonafide Certificate: Each Participating Team must upload or submit a Bonafide Certificate issued by their respective institution, duly signed by the Head/Dean/Faculty-in-Charge and bearing the official seal of the institution. This certificate should affirm that the team members are bona fide students currently enrolled in the institution's law programme. The submission of the Bonafide Certificate is **mandatory** to complete the registration process.
- 6.4 Changes in Team Composition: No change in the names of participants shall be permitted after submission of the Registration Form, except at the sole discretion of the Administrators.
- 6.5 Registration Period: The registration window shall remain open from 4th August 2025 to 13th September 2025. Registrations beyond this date shall be permitted only at the sole discretion of the Administrators, and such decisions shall be final and binding.
- 6.6 Participant Specification for Rounds: Teams must specify, in the Registration Form, the name of the member appearing for the Online Qualifying Round, and the name of the member appearing for the Procedural Test. Only the individuals specified shall be allowed to appear for the respective rounds.



Any malpractice, misrepresentation, or deviation from this requirement shall result in immediate disqualification.

VII. ONLINE QUALIFYING ROUND:

- 7.1 All Registered Teams are required to appear for an Online Qualifying Round. Based on the performance in this Round, the Top 24 scoring teams will qualify for the Oral Rounds of the Competition.
- 7.2 The purpose of this round is to assess each team's understanding and application of New Criminal Laws, White Collar Crimes, and Taxation Law.
- 7.3 The Format of the Qualifying Round will be an Online Multiple-Choice Test, comprising 40 questions, to be completed within 45 minutes.
- 7.4 Any member of the team, irrespective of their designated role as Counsel or Witness, may appear for the Online Qualifying Round, as duly filled in the Registration Form by the Team.
- 7.5 In the event of any technical issues during the round, the affected team must notify the Administrators within 10 minutes via email, along with relevant screenshots where possible. A re-attempt may be allowed at the sole discretion of the Administrators.
- 7.6 If there is a tie in scores, the team that completes the test in the shortest time will take the lead in the rankings.
- 7.7 In the event that any of the selected 24 teams withdraws from the Competition after informing the Administrators, the next highest scoring team(s) from the Online Qualifying Round shall be considered for participation in the Oral Rounds. This replacement process shall continue as required, to ensure that all 24 slots are duly filled. The newly qualified team(s) will be informed at the earliest via official email communication by the Administrators. The decision of the Administrators in this regard shall be final and binding

VIII.PROCEDURAL TEST:

- 8.1 A Procedural Test shall be conducted prior to the commencement of the oral rounds. This Test shall cover Factual-based questions, not beyond the scope of the Proposition as well as Applicable laws in the case at hand.
- 8.2 Participation in the Procedural Test is **mandatory** for all 24 Qualified teams.
- 8.3 The Procedural Test shall consist of 20 multiple-choice questions to be completed within 30 minutes.
- 8.4 The member appearing for the Procedural Test may belong to any role within the team, whether designated as Counsel or Witness, as per the team's discretion and registration.
- 8.5 The scores obtained in the Procedural Test will be used to determine the order of selection during the



Draw of Lots for side allocation, to maintain fairness. Additionally, in accordance with Rule 9.6, it shall also be used as Tiebreaker, if required.

IX. ORAL ROUNDS:

PART A – STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- 9.1 The Competition shall consist of Preliminary, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Rounds only.
- 9.2 A Team's total score in the Preliminary Round will comprise the individual scores of both Counsels and the individual scores of the Team's Witnesses. All individual scores will be combined to determine the Team's overall score in the rounds.
- 9.3 During the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall have to argue once for Prosecution and once for Defense. In the subsequent rounds, each team will argue from only one side, either Prosecution or Defense, determined by way of Draw of Lots.
- 9.4 The criteria for qualifying for the Quarter-Final are as follows:
 - *Primary Criteria:* Teams with two wins in both Preliminary Rounds, combined with the overall scores, will qualify.
 - Secondary Criteria: Teams with one win in either of the Preliminary rounds, coupled with overall high scores, will qualify.
- 9.5 For the remaining spots, Teams that have lost both the rounds will be ranked according to the sum of their scores in both the Preliminary Rounds and subsequently the top ranked teams shall qualify for the Quarter-Final Round.
- 9.6 Handling of Ties at Team Level -
 - In the event where two or more teams have the same cumulative total score at the end of the Preliminary Rounds, the following tie-breaking criteria shall apply, in order of precedence:
 - Higher aggregate score of the Counsels of the Team across the relevant rounds.
 - If the tie persists, the Team with the higher cumulative Witnesses score, across the relevant rounds shall be considered.
 - If the tie remains even after applying the above, the higher Procedural Test Score shall be considered.
 - If the tie persists, the Team with fewer penalties (if any) shall advance.
 - If a tie still continues, the draw of lots shall determine the advancing team.
- 9.7 All rounds, except the Preliminary Round, will be conducted on a **Knockout Basis**.
- 9.8 Courtroom Matchups & Team Fixtures:

- 9.8.1 The fixtures for the Preliminary Rounds will be determined by way of drawing lots.
- 9.8.2 The fixtures for the Quarter-final Rounds will be based on the following order, where teams are matched based on their ranks as follows:
 - The team ranked 1st will compete against the team ranked 8th.
 - The team ranked 2nd will compete against the team ranked 7th.
 - The team ranked 3rd will compete against the team ranked 6th.
 - The team ranked 4th will compete against the team ranked 5th.
- 9.8.3 The fixtures for the Semi-final Rounds will be determined by way of a draw of lots.
- 9.8.4 The Winner of Semi-final Match 1 will compete against the Winner of Semi-final Match 2 in the Final Round of the Competition.
- 9.9 If a Team scheduled to take part in a round does not appear within 10 minutes after the scheduled start of the round, a walkover shall be declared in favor of the Team present.

PART B – RULES OF THE COURT

- 9.10 The procedure of the Trial shall be in the following chronological order:
 - 1. Courtroom Master reads out the 'Courtroom Master Script'.
 - 2. Prosecution's Opening Statement.
 - 3. *Defense's Opening Statement.*
 - 4. Examination-in-Chief of Prosecution Witness.
 - 5. Cross Examination of the Prosecution Witness.
 - 6. Re-examination of Prosecution Witness, if required.
 - 7. Examination-in-Chief of Defense Witness.
 - 8. Cross Examination of the Defense Witness.
 - 9. Re-examination of Defense Witness, if required.
 - 10. Prosecution's Arguments and Closing Statement.
 - 11. Defense's Arguments and Closing Statement.
- 9.11 Allocation of time:
 - 9.11.1 The following time shall be allocated for each phase of the trial, which if not utilized, shall not be utilized for any other phase of the trial.
 - 9.11.2 The Prosecution and the Defense shall each have a total of 51 minutes, making the overall duration of the round 102 minutes. The said 51 minutes is divided as follows: 3 minutes for the Opening Statement, 40 minutes for Examinations, and 8 minutes for Arguments and Closing Statement.



To Summarize -

- Opening Statement and Arguments by Prosecution: 3 minutes
- Opening Statement and Arguments by Defense: 3 minutes
- Examination-in-chief, Cross Examination and Re-examination by Prosecution: 40 minutes
- Examination-in-chief, Cross Examination and Re-examination by Defense: 40 minutes
- Arguments and Closing Statement by Prosecution: 8 minutes
- Arguments and Closing Statement by Defense: **8 minutes**
- 9.12 The 40 minutes allotted to each side for examination (including examination-in-chief, cross-examination, and re-examination) shall be treated as a whole block and need not be used consecutively. The clock shall run only for the team currently leading the examination. For instance, after the Prosecution completes the examination-in-chief of a witness, their time will be paused, and the Defense's time will begin when they commence the cross-examination of the same witness. The timer will similarly switch between teams depending on which side is conducting the ongoing examination. This mechanism shall apply throughout the course of the trial for both sides.
- 9.13 Once a witness has been examined-in-chief, the same witness shall be immediately subjected to cross-examination by the opposing side in the same sequence, without interruption or delay.
- 9.14 The time allocated for each phase of the Trial will not be paused for objections, arguments on objections, Court's questions to witnesses during examinations, or questions posed to the Counsels during opening statements, closing statements or examinations.
- 9.15 The Teams shall be permitted to conduct Re-examination of the concerned witness, at the sole discretion of the Bench.
- 9.16 Each team must inform the Courtroom Master, prior to the commencement of every round, of which witness(s) they intend to examine, who will portray those character(s), and in what sequence, which shall not be changed for the entire course of the round concerned.
- 9.17 No time shall be permitted or allotted for the briefing of the Witnesses once a round commences.
- 9.18 The Teams are permitted to examine all the Witnesses, at their discretion, for the Preliminary Rounds.

 The cap for subsequent rounds as well as the Time Limit will be announced prior to each round.



PART C - CODE OF CONDUCT

9.19 Code of Conduct for Counsels:

- 9.19.1 The Counsel delivering the Opening Statement should **mandatorily** conduct the Chief Examination, and the Counsel performing the Cross-Examination should **mandatorily** deliver the Closing Statement. The above-mentioned roles under no circumstances can be inter-changed among the speakers for the Preliminary rounds, and should be the same for both Preliminary rounds. However, the counsels can inter-change their roles for further rounds, i.e., beyond the Preliminary rounds, upon serving the information to the Administrators. Further, subject to Rule 9.15, the Re-examination of a witness, if permitted, shall be conducted solely by the Counsel who performed the Chief Examination of that witness.
- 9.19.2 The order of speakers is to be intimated by the Teams to the Courtroom Master prior to the commencement of the rounds and cannot be altered at any subsequent stage.
- 9.19.3 The dress code for the Competition shall be strictly Black and White formals, with Tie.

9.20 Code of Conduct for Witnesses:

- 9.20.1 No witnesses will be provided by the Administrators at any point during the Competition.
- 9.20.2 The Team collectively is at its discretion to decide who among the two witnesses should portray what roles during the Competition. These roles can also be switched in subsequent rounds, i.e., beyond the Preliminary rounds of the Competition.
- 9.20.3 Each witness of the team should **mandatorily** play at least one role among the roles provided in the Case File, and such a witness should be **mandatorily** examined at least once during the rounds by the team's Counsel.
- 9.20.4 Each side must mandatorily examine a **minimum of two witnesses** in each round. If a Team fails to examine the prescribed number of witnesses, the Bench shall score only according to the witness examined by the Team with due deductions. This rule is a furtherance of Rule 9.18.
- 9.20.5 No additional evidence or witness may be produced or examined apart from what has been provided for by the Administrators in the case file. This rule however does not apply to any Applications that maybe required to be submitted before the Bench as part of the Court Proceedings. In case of such submissions, a copy of the same should also be made available to the opposite party.
- 9.20.6 The Administrators, however, hold the discretion to alter Point 9.20.5, at their sole discretion.
- 9.20.7 No particular dress code is prescribed for the witnesses. They are at the liberty of portraying their characters in a creative manner, as long as it is not inappropriate or crass.



The Bench will assess each Counsel's performance under the following heads:

PARAMETER	MARKS
Knowledge and Application of Facts	10
Knowledge and Application of Law and Procedures	10
Advocacy Etiquette (Courtroom Mannerisms, Time Management, Ability to Interact, and Respond to Bench)	10
Effective Conduct of Examinations	10
Ability to Elicit Favorable Answers from Witnesses	10
Logical Structuring and Clarity in Arguments	10
Total	60

The Bench will assess each Witness's performance under the following heads:

PARAMETER	MARKS
How well does the witness emote their character?	10
Clarity of Narration	10
Co-operation with the Counsels	10
Ability to answer the Counsel's questions	10
Consistency and Realism of Testimony	10
Spontaneity and Credibility under Cross-Examination	10
Total	60



XI. GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATIONS & PENALTIES:

- 11.1 Secrecy of Identity: During the course of the Oral Submissions, as well as at any stage of the Competition, no Team shall reveal his/her identity by any means whatsoever. Such actions on the part of any member of the team will lead to the disqualification of the team from the Competition.
- 11.2 Scouting: Scouting is strictly prohibited. Teams found scouting will be disqualified immediately.
- 11.3 Participants will not be allowed to use any electronic devices during their rounds. Any violation of the same will lead to disqualification.
- 11.4 Any behavior of indiscipline with the Administrators or any other staff member or student volunteer shall be dealt with strictly and may also lead to disqualification.
- 11.5 Any attempt to approach the Drafter of the Case File or Judges of the Competition, prior to the Competition shall be met with strict consequences.
- 11.6 Violation of any other rule provided for in this document can also lead to disqualification, at the discretion of the Administrators.

XII. ANONYMITY:

- 12.1 Participants are required to introduce themselves to the Court using their Individual allotted Team Code only.
- 12.2 It is strictly prohibited to mention Personal Identities at any point during the Competition.

XIII. DECISION:

- 13.1 The decision of the Judges in any part of this Competition is considered final and binding.
- 13.2 The decision of the Administrators is binding for the interpretation of any procedural rules or for any queries or issues raised during the Competition.

XIV. AWARDS:

The following Awards are listed for the Participants:

- Winners
- Runners-Up
- Best Counsel (Based on the criteria set forth in Annexure II)
- Best Witness (Based on the criteria set forth in Annexure II)



XV. QUERIES AND CLARIFICATIONS:

All queries and requests for clarifications regarding the Competition or the Trial Proposition must be submitted via email to mukadama@ifim.edu.in, in the below format:

Subject: Mukadama 2025 – Clarification(s) – [Team Code].

XVI. COMPLAINT MECHANISM:

If a team believes that any rule has been violated, they must lodge a formal complaint within **15 minutes** after the completion of the round concerned, to the Administrators.

XVII. AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDING POLICY

No participant may record audio, video, or take screenshots of any part of the competition without explicit permission from the Administrators.

XVIII. CONTACT DETAILS:

For additional details, please write to <u>mukadama@ifim.edu.in</u> or contact any of the following undersigned:

Convenor: Mr. Shashank Rahul Chawathe (+91 9763080680)

Co-Convenor: Mr. Uzairulla Khan (+91 6363124342)



ANNEXURE – I DATE SHEET

Following is the timeline of events for "Mukadama": *The Pursuit of Justice*, IFIM-KILPAR's Trial Advocacy Competition 2025. Participants are expected to strictly adhere to the same.

Stage 1

(04-08-2025 to 05-10-2025)

DATE	PARTICULARS
04-08-2025	Commencement of Registration
04-08-2025	Release of Case Files & Rule Book
13-09-2025	Last date for Registration
14-09-2025	Release of Team Codes
20-09-2025 (12:00 PM)	Online Qualifying Round
21-09-2025	Results of Online Qualifying Round
27-09-2025	Last Date for seeking Clarifications
29-09-2025	Release of Clarifications (if any)
05-10-2025	Virtual Training Session

Stage 2

(10-10-2025 to 12-10-2025)

DATE	PARTICULARS
10-10-2025	Formal Registration
10-10-2025	Inaugural Ceremony
10-10-2025	Procedural Test
10-10-2025	Draw of Lots
11-10-2025	Preliminary & Quarter-Final Rounds
12-10-2025	Semi-Final & Final Rounds
12-10-2025	Valedictory Ceremony

Under unforeseen circumstances, the dates are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Administrators.



ANNEXURE – II

PART A – SUPPLEMENTARY RULES FOR SELECTING BEST COUNSEL

1. Winning Criteria:

• **Primary Condition:** The Best Counsel will be determined based on the highest aggregate individual score obtained by a Participant in the Two Preliminary Rounds.

2. Tie-Breaking Criteria:

- **First Tiebreaker:** In case of a tie, the Counsel with the highest score in the category of 'Effective Conduct of Examinations' will be selected.
- Second Tiebreaker: In case the tie persists, the Counsel with the highest score in the category of 'Knowledge and Application of Law and Procedure' will be selected.
- Third Tiebreaker: In case the scores still tie, the Counsel with the highest score in the category of 'Knowledge and Application of Facts' will be selected.
- **Fourth Tiebreaker:** In case the tie continues, the Counsel with the highest score in the category of 'Advocacy Etiquette' will be selected.
- **Fifth Tiebreaker:** In case a tie still persists, the Counsel with the highest score in the category of 'Ability to Elicit Favorable' Answers' will be selected.
- **Sixth Tiebreaker:** In case the tie continues, the Counsel with the highest score in the category of 'Logical Structuring and Clarity in Arguments' will be selected.

PART B - SUPPLEMENTARY RULES FOR SELECTING BEST WITNESS

1. Winning Criteria:

• **Primary Condition:** The Best Witness will be determined based on the highest aggregate individual score obtained by a Participant in the Two Preliminary Rounds.

2. Tie-Breaking Criteria:

- **First Tiebreaker:** In case of a tie, the Witness with the highest aggregate score in the category of 'How well the witness emotes their character?' will be selected.
- **Second Tiebreaker:** If the tie persists, the Witness with the highest aggregate score in the category of 'Ability to answer the Counsel's questions' will be selected.
- **Third Tiebreaker:** If the scores still tie, the Witness with the highest aggregate score in the category of 'Co-operation with the Counsels' will be selected.
- Fourth Tiebreaker: If the tie continues, the Witness with the highest aggregate score in the category



of 'Clarity of narration' will be selected.

- **Fifth Tiebreaker:** If the tie continues, the Witness with the highest aggregate score in the category of 'Spontaneity and Credibility under Cross-Examination' will be selected.
- **Sixth Tiebreaker**: If the tie persists, the Witness with the highest aggregate score in the category of 'Consistency and Realism of Testimony' will be selected.

<u>Note</u> - The Administrators reserve the right to amend rules regarding rounds, timings, fixtures, or scoring due to unforeseen circumstances, and such decisions shall be final and binding.