



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

2ND MNLUA NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION 2024

9th and 10th March 2024

Knowledge Partners



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ABOUT MNLU-A

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 Senior Advocate on 18th January 2001. His 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 the 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.

1ST EDITION (2023)



The first edition of competition was scheduled on 18th and 19th March 2023 and saw participation from teams of law universities across the Indian subcontinent. The competition over the course of 2 days saw participation from over 16 teams, comprising 2 counsels each. 2 teams which proceeded to the Finals were Symbiosis International University, Nagpur and Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur. Given the intricacy of the round, both teams had to tackle stubborn clients and the team from Maharashtra National Law University Nagpur emerged as the Winner. With Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur as runners up, Mr. Ekam Kherra from Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai won the title of Best Counsel.



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. 6000/- for each team. The registration fee shall be non-refundable and non-transferable
- To register, kindly fill out the Google form through the [LINK](#). The acknowledgement of the payment must be submitted along with the online registration form.
- Payment link:- [Click Here](#)
- 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:

1. 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.
2. During the counselling period, students 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 problem.
3. 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.
4. During Post counselling and consultation, judges can ask questions to the competitor for further clarification.
5. Team members are entirely free to decide the work distribution, but both competitors 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:

- Cyber Law
- Sports Law
- Contract Law
- Corporate Law and
- Arbitration 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 Round | Number of Teams | Time Allotted |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Preliminary | 40* | 30 minutes |
| Quarter-Final | 8 | 35 minutes |
| Semi-Final | 4 | 40 minutes |
| Final | 2 | 50 minutes |

*** 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 ALLOTTED |
|---|----------------|
| 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. All the participants must wear black pants and a white shirt formal dress for the entire duration of the competition. Girls are allowed to wear white kurti/black salwar. Use of advocate's gowns, bands and robes is strictly prohibited.
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 8th March 2024 (6 pm onwards) to 11th 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 8th March to Breakfast on 11th 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:

1. The decision of the Judges shall be final regarding the outcome of the Rounds.
2. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to take any action against unethical, wrongful or unprofessional conduct.
3. Scouting is not allowed under any circumstances and may lead to disqualification.
4. If there is any situation, not covered by the Rules, the decision of the Organizers shall be final and binding.
5. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to amend the rules. However, due notice shall be provided to all participating teams.
6. Selection will be on a first come first basis as there will be limited seats (40 teams).

7. 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.

8. The clients for the competition will be provided internally by the Organising Committee.

SCHEDULE

Last date for registration – 31st January 2024

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


Inauguration, Preliminary and Quarter Final Round – 9th March 2024

Semi-Final, Final Round and Valedictory – 10th March 2024

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 Counsel: Certificate and a cash prize of Rupees 10,000/-

1st Runners up Trophy and a cash prize of Rupees 15,000/-

Winner: Trophy and a cash prize of Rupees 25,000/-

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.) KVS Sarma
Vice Chancellor, MNLUA
(Patron In-Chief)



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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Faculty Convenors

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Ms. Sakshi Gupta
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Students Convenors & Co-Convenors:

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

