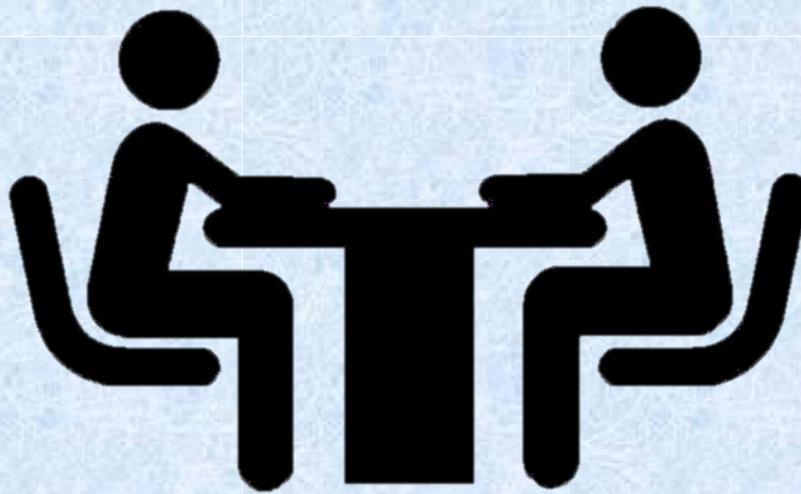




RULES OF THE COMPETITION

3rd NLIU - LINK LEGAL NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION

OCTOBER 16th – 18th 2020



NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

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1. Purpose of the Competition

Interviewing and advising comprise a vital part of a lawyer's work. It is often assumed that lawyers have the listening and questioning skills required to conduct an effective interview with a client. Unfortunately, however, this is not true of every lawyer. Thus, through this Competition, it is intended to inculcate among students of law, a greater knowledge of and a spirit of enquiry into the preventive law and counselling functions of law practice. The Competition also encourages students of law to develop interviewing, planning and analytical skills necessary to build and maintain a relationship between a lawyer and his/her client.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **"MCA, NLIU"** – Moot Court Association, National Law Institute University, Bhopal. The MCA is the organizing and administrating body for the Competition.
- 2.2. **"Competition"** – 3rd NLIU-Link Legal National Client Counselling Competition.
- 2.3. **"Participant"** – Any individual eligible and participating in the Competition.
- 2.4. **"Team"** – Any team comprising of not more than two participants, eligible and participating in the Competition.
- 2.5. **"Undergraduate student of law"** – Any student enrolled in an undergraduate, dual-degree (5 years) course of law at a college and/or university recognized by the University Grants Commission.

- 2.6. **“Professional student of law”** – Any student enrolled in a professional (3 years) course of law at a college and/or university recognized by the University Grants Commission.
- 2.7. **“Lawyer”** – A person who practices law, such as an attorney, or a solicitor, or a legal practitioner.
- 2.8. **“Country of residence”** – For the sake of this Competition, any and every client’s country of residence shall be as mentioned in the office memo for a particular round.
- 2.9. **“Client”** – A person or organization, as assigned by the MCA, NLIU in accordance with the office memo for a particular round, seeking and/or receiving the services of a lawyer(s), as defined in 2.7.
- 2.10. **“Office memo”** – A sheet of correspondence briefly describing the client(s) and/or his or her problem(s) for which she/he seeks the services of a lawyer(s).

3. Eligibility Criteria

Undergraduate and Professional students of law may participate in the Competition.

4. Registration

- 4.1. By registering for and/or entering this Competition, all participants agree to be bound by the rules contained herein.
- 4.2. By entering this Competition, all participants consent to being photographed or filmed and to such images photographed

and/or videos filmed being published by MCA, NLIU and/or NLIU, Bhopal.

- 4.3. Not more than two teams from any particular institution of law shall be permitted to participate in the Competition.
- 4.4. Participating teams must register themselves for the Competition by submitting online a pro forma of registration and by depositing the Registration Fees (i.e. INR 3,000), before the stipulated deadline for such submission.

5. Official Language

The official language of the Competition shall be English. All written and/or oral submission made to and/or before the judges shall be in English.

6. Nature of the Competition

- 6.1. The Competition shall simulate a client's interview on a video conference.
- 6.2. Each round shall be divided broadly into two segments, i.e. (a) client-consultation session and (b) post-consultation session.
 - 6.2.1. In the client-consultation session, Participants shall be expected to extract fact-information from the client, briefly analyse the issue(s) at hand, and make recommendations to the client in order to resolve his or her problem.
 - 6.2.2. In the post-consultation session, the Participants shall be expected to legally analyse the interview and the various

issues of the matter (or case) presents, and discuss a future course of action. They shall further be expected to discuss the recommendations made by them to the client and whether an alternative approach could be or have been adopted to attain a better outcome from the session. The judges may, during this period, question the participants on their presentation.

6.3. It is clarified here that the Participants may tender legal advice to their client(s) with reference only to the laws prevailing to the country of his or her residence.

6.4. Participants are advised to keep in mind professional rules of ethics and conduct, as are applicable to lawyers, and act in accordance with them during rounds. All participants, regardless of the country of their residence, shall be deemed subject to the rules and regulations as issued by the Bar Council of India under the Advocates Act, 1961 or any other regulatory body.

7. Rounds

7.1. The Competition shall comprise of two preliminary rounds following which, two teams from each group shall qualify for the quarter-final rounds on the basis of their absolute score in the preliminary rounds.

7.2. Four teams with the highest absolute score in the quarter-final rounds shall qualify to the semi-final rounds.

7.3. Two teams with the highest absolute score shall qualify from the semi-final rounds to the final round.

7.4. The winner of the final round, decided based on the highest

absolute score in the final round, shall be declared winner of the Competition.

Provided that any dispute arising out such rounds shall be resolved by the MCA, NLIU. The decision of the MCA, NLIU shall be final in such regard.

8. Time Limits

The Client-Consultation Sessions shall be of the following lengths respectively:

Preliminary Rounds: 25 minutes

Quarter-Final Rounds: 25 minutes

Semi-Final Rounds: 30 minutes

Final Round: 45 minutes

In each round, other than the Final Round, teams shall have not more than 5 minutes for the Post-Consultation Session. In the Final Rounds, 10 minutes shall be provided for the same.

9. Use of external equipment(s)

Participants are expected **not** to bring any props or office furnishings of the kind, for usage during the rounds. There shall be no marking done based on such extra-offerings.

Provided that this shall not be construed as a prohibition against bringing books or any other relevant materials into the room.

10. Competition Topics

The broad area of law, for all the rounds, shall be released few hours before the competition, which may be Civil, Criminal, IPR laws etc. It shall be in the form of an Office Memo written by the Office Secretary for the concerned lawyers.

11. Rules of Participation

- 11.1. For the purpose of the Competition, all teams shall be divided into four pools, Pool A, Pool B, Pool C and Pool D by the MCA.
- 11.2. Each team in each group shall compete in two preliminary rounds in two different room(s).
- 11.3. The matchups shall be released on the basis of team codes.
- 11.4. Upon breaking, two teams from each group shall qualify to the quarter-final rounds.
- 11.5. The breaks shall be decided on the basis of absolute scores, i.e., the top eight teams shall qualify.
- 11.6. In the event of a tie of scores between two teams, the same shall be resolved on the basis of –
 - 11.6.1. *First*, the aggregate points of problem analysis, followed by client's goals and expectations (in case the aggregate points in problem analysis are the same), followed by obtaining information (in case the aggregate points in client's goals and expectations are the same); and
 - 11.6.2. *Second*, on the basis a coin (unbiased) toss, if and only if the tie is not resolved by the abovementioned method.

11.7. The matchups of the semi-final rounds shall be on the basis of power matchups.

12. Adjudication of Rounds

Each participant shall be marked out of a maximum of 100 marks and every participant shall be judged for his/her performance(s) based on the criteria that shall be notified at or before the commencement of the Competition.

13. Code of Conduct for Participants

13.1. The MCA, NLIU reserves the right to disqualify any team or participant for any kind of misconduct on the part of any team member(s) or coach during the Competition. In case of any doubt/ dispute, the decision of the MCA, NLIU shall be final.

13.2. Misconduct includes:

13.2.1. Disclosure of identity to other Participants during the course of the round(s) or disclosure of the institution's details to any judge;

13.2.2. Any attempt made by Participant(s) to obtain problem particulars with regard to the Client-Consultation Session;

13.2.3. Any attempt made by Participant(s) to contact any judge before or during the Competition, unless specifically invited to do so by that particular judge(s).

13.2.4. Any other conduct which may give a team(s) unfair

advantage over another team(s).

13.2.5. Any other conduct which is regarded as such by MCA, NLIU.

14. Dispute Resolution

All grievances/disputes shall be addressed to the Convener or Co-Convener of the MCA, NLIU. The body's decision in this regard shall be final.

15. Power to Remove Difficulties

The MCA, NLIU reserves the right to add, modify or repeal any rule in order to give effect to the purpose of the Competition.

16. Dress Code

All participants shall be in formal wears (Indian or Western) for the duration of the Competition.

17. Competition Awards

Every Participant shall be awarded with a Certificate of Participation. However, the best performing team(s) shall be awarded in the following manner –

Winner: Certificates along with a cash prize of ₹21,000/- and internships with Link Legal India Law Services.

Runners-up: Certificates along with a cash prize of ₹15,000/-.

Best Counsel: Certificates along with a cash prize of ₹5,000/-.

18. Residuary

The MCA, NLIU may take such other measures as may be required for the purposes of giving effect to any or all provisions of these rules and for the fair conduct of the Competition.

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NOTE: ALL COMMUNICATION(S)/UPDATE(S), CONCERNING THE
COMPETITION, MUST BE ADDRESSED TO MCA@NLIU.AC.IN ONLY.