



CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION 2024-25

IN COLLABORATION WITH

LATE K.T. GIRME FOUNDATION

ORGANIZED BY

Modern Law College, Pune



RULEBOOK

Introduction:

The Client Counselling Competition aims to enhance the practical skills of law students by simulating real-life client interviews. This competition will provide students with an opportunity to develop their interviewing, Counselling, and analytical skills, which are essential for effective legal practice. The Client Counselling Competition will be an invaluable experience for law students, providing them with practical skills and insights into the legal profession.

Objectives:

- To provide a platform for students to practice and improve their client interviewing and Counselling skills.
- To simulate real-world legal scenarios and enhance students' problem-solving abilities.
- To foster a deeper understanding of the lawyer-client relationship and the ethical considerations involved.
- To encourage teamwork and collaboration among students.

Event Details:

- Date: **9th January, 2025**
- Time: **8:00 am**
- Venue: Modern Law College, Pune
- Participants: Open to all Law Colleges & Law Schools on a National level
- Registration Fee: **₹1000**

Competition Structure:**Preliminary Round:**

- Each Team will consist of only two participants.
- Each team will conduct a client interview based on a hypothetical legal scenario provided by the organizers.
- Teams will be evaluated on their ability to identify the client's issues, provide appropriate legal advice, and demonstrate effective communication skills.

- Each team will be given 20 minutes in total.
- Subject Areas for the round – Family Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law & Intellectual Property Laws
- Relevant problems of the subject area will be shared with the teams only 45 minutes prior start of the Competition.

Final Round:

- The best four teams will compete in the final round.
- Each team will be given 30 minutes in total.
- Subject Area for the round – Corporate Law
- Relevant problems of the subject area will be shared with the teams only 45 minutes prior start of the Competition.

Preliminary Round: -

Session

Consultation with Client

Post-Consultation (Counsellor Discussion with Judges Questions)

Time Allotted

15 Minutes

5 Minutes

Final Round: -

Session

Consultation with Client

Post-Consultation (Counsellor Discussion with Judges Questions)

Time Allotted

20 Minutes

10 Minutes

Eligibility for Counsellors: -

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 (Senior and Junior Counsels). 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 12 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 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.

Registration Link: -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuPYYiX256vu9s5UmPCzspQLnPyzptSVUd83rMfcjmG5k2cw/viewform>

Payment Details: -

Bank name: IDBI bank

A/c No: 0062104000194518

IFSC: IBKL0000062

Once a team registers by completing the formalities given, a Code (hereinafter “Team Code”) shall be assigned to the team. 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.

Client Registration:

Students of LLB II, LLB III, BA LLB IV, BA LLB V & BBA LLB IV are eligible to participate as clients. The registration for clients will be held before one month of the Competition. The process of screening will be done to select the clients. The Organizing Committee will provide a client briefing prior to the Competition.

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 45 Minutes 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.

Stages: -

1. The Consultation Period (Interview Period): -

The first 15 minutes in the Preliminary Round and 20 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.

2. 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 5 minutes in the preliminary round and 10 minutes in the final round, 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.

3. Judges Question-Answer Round: -

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. The judge's question-answer round will be of 8 minutes in the prelims and 10 minutes in the finals with the counselors in addition to the time slots already allocated.

Note: During the consultation and post-consultation, the teams may use books, notes and other materials.

Theme

Themes for Preliminary Rounds shall be:

- Family Law
- Contract Law
- Criminal Law
- Intellectual Property Laws

Theme for Final round shall be:

- Corporate Law

Judges:

A panel of either one or two Judges in each chamber will observe the entire session. During the post consultation session, the Judges shall ask questions to the participants and mark accordingly.

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.

Marking Criteria:

1. Establishing Work Atmosphere and Professional Approach	10 Marks
2. Eliciting Problem of The Client	10 Marks
3. Legal Knowledge and Application	10 Marks
4. Satisfaction Of Client's Goals, Expectations and Needs	10 Marks
5. Suggesting Alternatives	10 Marks
6. Effective Conclusion of Consultation	10 Marks
7. Confidentiality Clause	10 Marks
8. Managing Ethical and Professional Relation with The Client	10 Marks
9. Post Consultation Session with The Judges	20 Marks
10. Total	100 Marks

Grounds for Disqualification: -

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

1. Disclosure of identity to other participants or judges during the competition. The participants should use the Team Codes provided.
2. Any attempt by participants to obtain the client Counselling topic before notification.
3. 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.
4. Any discussion with client(s) before competition.
5. Cheating or using unfair means.
6. Intimidation in any form.

Scouting: -

1. If any team, jointly or individually, attempts to watch or scout any other team in any other courtroom or asks any of their friends or colleagues to scout on other teams in any manner whatsoever shall be immediately suspended from the competition.

2. Only the MLC Client Counselling Organizing Committee members, Judges, Volunteers, Participants (of the relevant courtroom) shall be allowed to be present in any courtroom.

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 (12 teams).
7. The participants are always required to comply with the rules formulated by the Organizing Committee during the competition. In case of any noncompliance 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 Organizing Committee.

Awards and Prizes:

- **Winner Team:** Cash Prize of **Rs.10000**, Trophy & Certificate
- **Runner-Up Team:** Cash Prize **Rs. 7000**, Trophy & Certificate
- **Best Client Counsellor:** Cash Prize **Rs. 5000**, Trophy & Certificate

Organizing Committee: -

Faculties-in-Charge

1. Asst. Prof. Kirtimalini Tike
2. Asst. Prof. Tanishka Kawade

Student Coordinators

1. Rudra Ragate
2. Avantika More
3. Shiva Upase
4. Sonam Kumari