National Virtual Client Counselling Competition 2023-2024

RULE BOOK

Date of Competition

Saturday, 17th February, 2024

Legal Aid Clinic (LAC)

Faculty of Law

GLS University, Ahmedabad

Faculty of Law

Faculty of Law (*previously GLS Law College*), a constituent department of GLS University, was established in 2015. In a short period, Faculty of Law has emerged as the most preferred destination for legal education. Faculty of Law offers five-year integrated B.A.LL.B, B.B.A LL.B (Hons.) and LL.M (one year) are recognized by the Bar Council of India. Faculty of Law has an advantage of senior and well experienced faculty members in the field of law. The senior practicing advocates also contribute in teaching and experiential learning. As pedagogy, the institute follows classroom discussion, case studies, interactive presentations, guest lectures, expert sessions, seminars, conferences and case law methods coupled with practical training through moot courts. The undergraduate programmes have special emphasis on law practice and legal edu cation with pleading, drafting skills and pro- bono approach. The programmes are designed to provide participants enough drafting and pleading skills in all areas of law, intermixed with non- law areas. In the final year, students learn the skills of legal drafting and dissertation writing. The theoretical knowledge gained in the class rooms are supplemented by the clinical papers. FOL has secured a position in Forbes Legal Power list 2020 as one of the most promising and top law schools. **Legal Aid Clinic (LAC)**

Legal Aid Clinic responds to the legal needs of the under privileged section of the society. The LAC was established to seek justice for the indigent and weaker sections of the society. It aims on providing comprehensive legal aid, legal advice as well as legal literacy and access to justice. The clinic provides professional legal services to inmates of Sabarmati jail, Ahmedabad. The LAC strives to work for raising the skills of the budding legal professionals and upgrade the legal awareness of the people. The Faculty of Law under the aegis of Legal Aid Clinic shall organize this competition.

I. About Client Counselling

The client counselling competition promotes greater knowledge and interest among the law students in the preventative law and counselling functions of law practice. It encourages students to develop interviewing, planning, and analytical skills in the lawyer-client relationship in the law office. Interviewing and advising are a significant part of most lawyers' work. Too often, it is assumed that lawyers have the listening and questioning skills needed to conduct an effective interview. Regrettably, not all lawyers possess these skills. The competition provides an opportunity for a valuable educational and cultural interchange between students, law teachers and legal practitioners.

The prime objective of the competition is to impart professional skills of client counselling to the budding lawyers. All total 32 teams shall be selected for the competition on the *first-come-first-serve basis*.

The four rounds of competition will be held virtually

a. Preliminary Round (Recorded Video Submission)
b. Quarter final, Semi-final, and Final rounds (Virtual Presentation)

II. The Registration

The intending participants should register for the competition by tapping the below mentioned link by January 28th, 2024 (up to 11:59 pm).

Registration Link: https://forms.gle/JCirDxqSsJ5nqh787

III. Payment for Registration

The participant team must undertake a payment of ₹ 500/- (Five Hundred Only) to complete the registration process. The payment can be undertaken in the following account:

Account Name - GLS LAW COLLEGE
Bank name - HDFC Bank, Navrangpura Ahmedabad
Account number - 57500000018593
IFSC code - HDFC0000006
MICR: 380240002

The acknowledgment receipt of the payment must be submitted along with the online registration form.

IV. Eligibility Criteria

a) Students pursuing Undergraduate and Postgraduate Law Programme shall be eligible to participate in this competition.
b) One team shall comprise of two participants only (Counsel 1 & Counsel 2)

Not more than one team from any particular institution shall be permitted in the competition. If two teams of the same institution apply, the first registered team will be selected for the participation.

V. Process of Competition

a) The competition simulates a law office consultation in which two participants (Counsel 1 and 2) deal with a client. The participants are given a written memorandum that identifies client's problem prior to session. The participant team conducts an interview with a dummy client and the judge evaluates the performance.

b) During the counselling period, students are expected to elicit the relevant information from the client, explore with the client his or her preferred outcome, outlines the nature of the problem, and suggest the client to resolve the problem.

c) 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.

d) Post counselling and consultation, judges shall ask questions to the competitors for further clarification. Team members are entirely free to decide the work distribution, but both the competitors must consult with the client as a team. It will be the full discretion of the organizing committee to select and all the clients.

   a) The team may use books, notes, and other materials during the consultation and post consultation period.

VI. Four Rounds of Competition

Preliminary Round

a) After the registration, each team will submit a 10 minutes video of client counselling on the selected theme by February 4, 2024 (up to 11:59 pm). The participants are required to create a 10-minute video where they present themselves as lawyers, acting as if they have a client before them. The judges will evaluate the video based on predetermined criteria.

b) The results of the preliminary round will be declared and notified through email on 12th February, 2024. Any phone call regarding the results will not be entertained.

c) The Google form link for video submission as well as the topic for the round shall be shared with the participants post registration. While video shooting, the participants should be in formal black pants and white shirt wear. The topic on which the video is to be made shall be sent through email at the appropriate time.

d) <u>Guidelines for video submission:</u>

   i. Video (MP4) should not exceed more than 10 minutes.

   ii. Video should be shot in lighted and quiet surroundings to ensure proper audio and visual quality.

Quarter- Final Round:

a) Out of 32 teams, best eight teams of preliminary round will qualify for the quarter– final round competition. Unlike the preliminary round, the quarter final team will undertake client counselling virtually. The web link for the virtual participation will be provided at the appropriate time. The counselling topic will be provided one day prior to the competition. The team would be allotted 30 minutes for the counselling. All the rounds, i.e. the Quarter-Final, Semi- Final and Final Round of this competition shall be knock – out rounds. The time distribution for the aforementioned round is as under.

- A Consultation session of 20 minutes
- A post-consultation session of 10 minutes

Semi-Final Round:

a) The top four teams of the quarter final round will qualify for the semi – final competition. The counselling topic will be provided to the qualified participants 30 minutes prior to the round. Qualified teams will undertake a 35 minutes session in the semi-final round. The time distribution for the aforementioned round is as under.

- Consultation session: 25 minutes
- Post-consultation session: 10 minutes

Final Round:

The top two teams of quarter final round will qualify for the final competition. Here also, the Counselling topic will be provided to the participants 30 minutes prior to the competition. Each team will be allotted 40 minutes in the final round. The time distribution for the aforementioned round is as under.

- Client Counselling: 30 minutes
- Post- Counselling consultation: 10 minutes

Summary of Time Distribution: All Rounds

- **Post Counselling Consultation**

a) During the post-counselling consultation, the participants may discuss loudly enough so that they can be heard by the judges.

b) The purpose of post-counselling consultation is to summarize the session, indicating the scope of the legal work and identifying the issues for research.

c) Judges may ask question the team during/after the post consultation period.

Adjudication of the Competition

Each participant shall be judged and assigned marks (out of 100) on the pre-determined criteria.

VII. Code of Conduct

The participants are expected to follow under mentioned code of conducts.

i. The official language of the competition shall be English. All written or oral submission must be undertaken in English.

ii. All the participants must wear black and white formal wears for the entire duration of the competition. Use of advocate's gowns, bands and robes is strictly prohibited.

iii. No extra time will be allotted in any round without the permission of the judge. If any participant exceeds the time limit, he/she will be muted by the courtroom coordinator.

iv. The decision of the judges and the organizers shall be final and binding on all.

iv. Any team or participant will be disqualified for any kind of misconduct on the part of any team member(s) or coach during the Competition.

VIII. Misconduct

a) Disclosure of identity to other participants or judge during the competition is strictly prohibited. The participants should use the Team Codes provided by FOL.

b) Any attempt by participant(s) to obtain the client counselling topic before notification will be treated as misconduct.

c) Any attempt by participants to comment on religion, caste, race, gender or use foul language and anti-national rhetoric during the competition shall be treated as misconduct.

IX. Theme of Client Counselling

The theme of the quarter-final, semi-final and final round competition shall be based on any or entire spectrum of laws. They are as under.

a) Labour Law
b) Cyber Law
c) Constitutional Law
d) Contract Law
e) Company Law
f) Arbitration Law and
g) Transfer of property law
h) Other codified and un-codified laws relevant to the theme

X. Important Dates

a) Last Date of Registration: 28th January, 2024

b) Submission of Preliminary Round Video: February 4th, 2024

c) Result Declaration of Preliminary Round: February 12th, 2024

d) Quarter Final, Semi - Final and Final Round: February 17th, 2024

e) Result Declaration and Prize Distribution: February 17th, 2024

XI. AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

- Best Team: **Certificate of Excellence** and cash prize of Rupees 10,000/-. (Ten Thousand Only)
- 1st runner up Team: **Certificate of Excellence** and cash prize of Rupees 8000/- (Eight Thousand Only)
- Best Advocate: **Certificate of Excellence** and cash prize of Rupees 5000/- (Five Thousand Only)
- All the participants shall receive Certificate of Participation.

Convener

DR. MAYURI PANDYA

(Dean, Faculty of Law)

Legal Aid Clinic - Faculty Coordinators

Mr. Darshan Pandya (Coordinator)

Dr. Binod K. Das (Co-Coordinator)

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