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SENIOR ADVOCATE LATE SHRI P.M. SHAH 5th MNLUCS NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION, 2027

13th and 14th February, 2027

MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

TRAINING PARTNERS



FOX & MANDAL
SOLICITORS & ADVOCATES
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LAW OFFICES

ANM GLOBAL
Advocates & Legal Consultants



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SCC ONLINE TIMES

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ABOUT MNLUCS

Recognizing the importance of quality legal education and the need for well-trained law graduates to serve the Bar, the Bench, and various professions, the State of Maharashtra took a significant step by establishing three National Law Universities at Mumbai, Nagpur, and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Each of these universities was established as an independent and autonomous institution under the Maharashtra National Law University Act, 2014.

The newest addition to this group is Maharashtra National Law University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, which officially commenced operations on March 16, 2017. The establishment of this University fulfilled a long-standing aspiration of the people of the Marathwada region for a premier national institution dedicated to legal education.

ABOUT SENIOR ADVOCATE LATE SHRI P.M. SHAH

(30th November, 1948 – 11th September, 2020)

Shri Pravin Mukutlal Shah was born into a humble family that faithfully followed Gandhian philosophy. He graduated from Government Law College, Mumbai, in 1975 and began his professional career at the 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, as well as the High Court and the Supreme Court of India. His contribution to the legal profession was recognised by the Bombay High Court when he was designated as a Senior Advocate on 18th January 2001.

His unparalleled reputation earned him the privilege of serving as a Member and Vice-Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa. Mr. Shah, a lawyer par excellence, stood like an institution in himself and was one of the finest positive role models in the legal profession.

Like a lighthouse, his teachings, experiences, and the principles and ethics he practised will continue to guide members of the Bar. He will always be regarded among lawyers of the highest calibre and professional acumen in the history of the Bombay High Court, remembered for the great dignity and character embodied 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 Alternate Dispute Resolution is an initiative aimed at promoting academic research on themes pertaining to Alternate Dispute Resolution. The Centre strives to contribute to the vision and mission of MNLUCS by developing human beings who are technically sound, socially relevant, and emotionally strong. This is achieved by imbibing skills associated with ADR methods, such as active listening, understanding others' points of view, discussion, empathy, rational thinking, and a commitment to community interest.

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT CICCL

The Centre for International Corporate and Commercial Laws focuses on the dissemination of knowledge relating to Corporate and Commercial Law prevailing in domestic as well as international arenas, and covers emerging trends in these fields. It works to bring together experts in these areas of law to stimulate research and debate in corporate and commercial law and practice, and to strengthen cooperation with other academic centres, international organisations, and the legal profession and fraternity.

ABOUT TRAINING PARTNERS

ANM GLOBAL

ANM Global is a leading full-service commercial law firm established in 2009, providing comprehensive legal and commercial solutions to Indian and international clients across a wide range of practice areas and industry sectors.

The firm advises a diverse clientele, including domestic and international high-growth ventures, financial institutions, start-ups, family offices, production houses, and high-net-worth individuals on complex legal, regulatory, transactional, and commercial matters. With its headquarters in Mumbai and additional offices in New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, the firm has established a strong presence across key commercial centres in India. Supported by a team of over 85 lawyers, ANM Global offers partner-led representation and strategic legal advice on domestic and cross-border matters. The firm emphasises technical excellence, commercial practicality, clarity, and collaborative problem-solving, while maintaining a client-centric approach focused on building long-term professional relationships and delivering effective, commercially viable legal solutions.

FOX & MANDAL

Fox & Mandal, founded in 1896, is one of India's oldest full-service law firms. From its origins in Kolkata, the firm has grown into a nationally prominent practice with five offices across four Indian cities, building a legacy of distinguished lawyers and contributing significantly to India's legal landscape.

The firm is a market leader across several practice areas and maintains a strong global network supporting cross-border transactions and foreign investments. In 2023, India Post issued a special cover and commemorative stamp marking its 125-year legacy. The firm has also been consistently recognized by Chambers and Partners, India Business Law Journal, Benchmark Litigation, Asialaw, Asian Legal Business, and IFLR1000 and remains a strong proponent of alternative dispute resolution.

SARAF & PARTNERS

Saraf & Partners is a contemporary fullservice law firm whose lawyers bring over three decades of experience in delivering practical, business-focused legal solutions aligned with global best practices.

The firm's partners are consistently ranked by leading legal publications, reflecting the depth and quality of expertise that defines its practice. Guided by its "Smart Law" philosophy, the firm focuses on combining legal acumen with efficiency and innovation to address the evolving needs of clients. Grounded in the principles of integrity, accountability, and professional excellence, the firm approaches every mandate with careful attention to detail and clarity of purpose. With a team of more than 250 professionals, the firm adopts a client-centric approach supported by ethical standards and technology-driven processes, ensuring solutions that are both effective and commercially relevant while fostering long-term client relationships.

PREVIOUS EDITIONS :

1ST EDITION (2023)





2ND EDITION (2024)





3RD EDITION (2025)





4TH EDITION (2026)





ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Eligibility:

Students enrolled in three-year and five-year law degree programmes, in any year, from any University, Law School, College, or Department are eligible to apply for registration.

Team Composition:

Each team shall comprise two participants, designated as Counsel 1 and Counsel 2. A maximum of two (2) teams shall be permitted to participate from one university/institution. Registration shall be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the availability of slots and compliance with the eligibility requirements. Cross-institutional teams are not permitted.

Registration:

- The registration fee, which includes accommodation and food, shall be ₹7,000/- per team. The registration fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- To register, teams must fill out the Google Form through the provided link. Proof of payment must be submitted along with the online registration form.

Registration link: LINK

Payment link: LINK

- Upon successful completion of registration, a Team Code shall be assigned to each team. The Team Code will be communicated to the registered team within 48 hours of registration.
- The Organising Committee shall have the exclusive authority to resolve any disputes related to registration. The decision of the Organising Committee in this regard shall be final and binding.

PROCESS OF THE COMPETITION

- 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.
- 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.
- The participants will be evaluated by a panel of Adjudicator considering the specific criteria based on listening to clients, questioning, planning and analytical skills of a lawyer.
- During Post counselling and consultation, Adjudicator can ask questions to the competitor for further clarification.
- 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:

- IPR and AI Law
- White Collar Crimes

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	*	30 minutes
Quarter-Final	8	35 minutes
Semi-Final	4	40 minutes
Final	2	50 minutes

- **The Consultation Period (Interview Period):**

The first 20 minutes in the Preliminary rounds, 25 minutes in the Quarter-final rounds, 30 minutes in the Semi-final rounds and 40 minutes in the 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):**

In addition to the time provided above, a post consultation period would be provided . During the post-consultation period, the students may either talk to each other loudly enough to be overheard by the Adjudicator, dictate a file memorandum on the interview, or both. The additional time would be of 5 minutes in the preliminary and the quarter-final rounds and of 10 minutes in the semi-final and the final rounds.

*Teams will be allotted on the basis of first come first served

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. The adjudicator 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.

- ***Adjudicators' Question-Answer round:***

The Adjudicators' question-answer round will be of 5 minutes in the preliminary and the quarter-final rounds and 10 minutes in the semi-final and the final rounds 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 Adjudicator 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 Adjudicator 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 Adjudicator 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 12th February, 2027 (6 pm onwards) to 15th February, 2027 (till 10 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 12th February to Breakfast on 15th February, 2027.

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 Adjudicator 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.

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 – 15th January, 2027

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 – 13th February, 2027

Semi-Final, Final Round and Valedictory – 14th February, 2027

Venue: The competition will be organised within the campus area of MNLUCS.

Address: Maharashtra National Law University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nath Valley Road, Kanchanwadi, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar - 431005 (Maharashtra)

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Winner: Trophy, a cash prize of Rupees 51,000/- and an internship oppourtunity at Saraf & Partners.

Runners up: Trophy, a cash prize of Rupees 31,000/- and an internship opportunity at ANM Global.

Best Counsel: Trophy, a cash prize of Rupees 10,000/- and an internship opportunity at Fox & Mandal Solicitors & Advocates.

Second Best Counsel: Trophy, a cash prize of Rupees 8000/- and an internship opportunity at Fox & Mandal Solicitors & Advocates..

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.

PATRON

Prof. Dr. D. M. Jadhav

Registrar
Maharashtra National Law University,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

PATRON-IN-CHIEF

Prof. Dr. Bindu S. Ronald

Vice-Chancellor
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