



SVKM'S
NMIMS
Deemed to be UNIVERSITY

KIRIT P. MEHTA
SCHOOL OF LAW



**NMIMS CENTRE FOR CYBER AND
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (CCAI)**

**1ST NATIONAL MOCK TRIAL
ADVOCACY COMPETITION**

RULEBOOK 2025

Hybrid Mode- 23rd March 2025

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

The trial advocacy competition is aimed at fostering and providing opportunities for the enhancement of skills and litigation, evidence presentation, and examination within the trial court. The intent behind organizing this competition is to provide exposure to all the participants to how exactly a court functions and enhance their research, drafting, and oratory skills which are essential in the field of law. Provide a platform for participants to interact with legal professionals, judges, and peers and build up networking and exposure. It will help in developing resilience and adaptability in dynamic legal environments. Educate participants about trial processes and advocacy strategies to enhance awareness of procedural and substantive law.

(The registrations and entry to the competition are on first-cum-first-serve basis).

DATE AND VENUE:

The initial rounds will be held online from 8-9 March 2025. The finals and semi-finals will take place on the 23rd of March at the Kirit P. Mehta School of Law, NMIMS, Mumbai campus.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Competition is open for all students who are pursuing a three-year or five-year Law course in Universities Colleges/ Law Departments in India.

MEDIUM OF LANGUAGE:

The official language for the Competition shall be English only. The use of any other language by the participants during the competition is strictly prohibited.

DRESS CODE:

The official dress code for the competition that shall be strictly adhered to by the participants is as follows:

1. **LADIES** - black trousers and a formal white shirt or black salwar and white kurti, black blazer, and formal black shoes.
2. **MEN**- black trousers and formal white shirt and black tie, black blazer, and formal black shoes

(The CCAI reserves the right to bar any participant on account of non-adherence to the same.)

TEAM COMPOSITION

- The team must consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4 Members only. Two Speakers and One Researcher/ Two Speakers and Two Researchers. This number cannot be modified under any circumstances.
- Each team will be provided a unique team code. Team codes shall only be used throughout the Competition to communicate with the judges, court clerks, volunteers, and organizers. (TEAM CODE will be communicated to the teams once the registrations are done).
- No changes in the team composition shall be permitted once the final registration is confirmed by the organizers. However, the organizers may permit, after a request made by the participating team, and before the commencement of the competition, a change in the order of the Speakers in the team.
- The participants are strictly prohibited from disclosing or revealing their college/university identity to any other participant belonging to another college/ university, or the judges, either directly or through symbolic representation, including but limited to their dress code or through applications, books, compendiums, and any other material submitted or used by the participants. Contravention of the same may lead to disqualification based on the sole discretion of the organizers.

DRAW OF LOTS

1. A chart will be prepared by CCAI that will include the time slots and courtroom number, hereinafter referred to as the 'Draw of Lots Chart'
2. The Draw of Lots Of Charts is divided into slots that fix the side a team pleads and the time of the session, which is determined by 'Draw of Lots'.
3. The CCAI shall conduct the Draw of Lots, for which the procedure is as follows:
 - Chits with the team code of all teams shall be drawn at random by the Faculty in charge/ Convenor or any other person as decided by the Faculty In- Charge; and
 - Every first team code drawn will be the Prosecution and the second team code drawn will be the Respondent/ Defendant; and
 - In order of the team codes being drawn, each slot corresponding to time sessions will be filled in order; and
 - The decision about which team pleads won which side and during which session is solely dependent on the Draw of Lots and the outcome of the same is final and binding.
4. No request to change the side or time session shall be entertained. However, the Faculty In-Charge reserves the right to entertain such request and allow the same, under extreme circumstances and urgencies as deemed fit.

ORAL PLEADINGS

1. The team shall plead their side as determined by Draw of Lots on the day of the competition as decided and declared by the CCAI, hereinafter referred to as 'Oral Pleadings'.

2. The team must be present for the Oral Pleadings at least 20 minutes before the scheduled time as determined by the Draw of Lots and in the prescribed Dress Code.

3. Failure of a team to comply with any clause shall result in strict action taken against the team which shall not be limited to debarring the team from participating in the National level Mock Trial Advocacy Competition in the following academic year.

4. A team shall plead only once before the Bench, against the other team by adhering to the following standards:

- The team is required to follow etiquette and court mannerisms and conduct themselves professionally during the session, to maintain the decorum of the courtroom.
- The courtroom will consist of judges, one courtroom master, and one timekeeper.
- The Courtroom Master shall handle all the transactions in a courtroom relating to the compendium or any other reference material to be given to the judges. The courtroom master shall also maintain the decorum of the courtroom.

5. The Timekeeper shall keep a check on the allotted time of each speaker. The total time for Oral Pleadings is Thirty (30) minutes per team.

WITNESSES

- The organizers will not be providing witnesses, teams are requested to bring their witnesses (a minimum of 1 or a maximum of 2 witnesses per team).
- Teams must inform the court officers before the start of each round, which witnesses they intend to examine in that round.
- The researchers of the team will be witnesses.

JUDGES

The CCAI shall nominate impartial judges to evaluate and judge the whole competition, moreover, confidentiality would be maintained throughout.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Here are the detailed judging criteria for all levels of the competition:

1. Familiarity with the Facts
2. Logical and Clear Reasoning
3. Persuasiveness and Respect towards the Court
4. Proper, Articulate, and Systematic Analysis of Issues Derived from the Facts
5. Understanding of Evidence and Procedural Laws
6. Competence in Conducting Direct and Cross-Examinations within the Given Time
7. Skill in Extracting Favorable Information from Witnesses
8. Ability to Manage Uncooperative, Argumentative, or Hostile Witnesses
9. Creativity (Skill in Making Analogies from Related Legal Areas)
10. Knowledge of Relevant Penal Law Provisions

TIME ALLOCATIONS

ROLE	ONLINE ROUND	SEMI FINALS AND FINALS
Opening Statement (Prosecution speaker -1)	5 mins	6 mins
Opening Statement (Defence speaker -1)	5 mins	6 mins
Prosecution speaker-1 Chief examination of both witnesses	8 mins	12 mins
Defense speaker -2 Cross examination of both witnesses	10 mins	17 mins
Defense speaker -1 Chief examination of both witnesses	8 mins	12 mins
Prosecution speaker-2 Cross examination of both witnesses	10 mins	17 mins
Closing Statement (Prosecution speaker-2)	7 mins	10 mins
Closing Statement (Defence speaker-2)	7 mins	10 mins
Total Time	60 mins	90 mins

ORAL PLEADINGS EVALUATION

Sr. No	MARKING CRITERIA	MARKS ALLOTTED
1	Knowledge of Facts	10
2	Knowledge of Law	20
3	Framing of Issues	10
4	Advocacy Skills(Arguments/Expressions/Articulation)	20
5	Examination	20
6	Courtroom Etiquettes	10
7	Response to Questions Posed	10
	Total	100

MISCELLANEOUS

- The Organizing Committee (OC) shall function as the point of contact, and all participating teams shall be notified by email of any changes in the rules of the Competition.
- The OC reserves the right to amend, modify, change, or repeal any of the Rules of the Competition. The OC shall communicate any changes made in the rules of the Competition to the Teams.
- The OC reserves the right to make decisions on any matter not mentioned in the Rules of the Competition. Any such decision taken by the OC shall be final and binding.
- The OC reserves the right to interpret any of the Rules of the Competition. Such interpretation shall be final and binding.
- If any one member of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team as a whole has been duly notified or informed.
- Any audio or video recording of oral pleadings by any team is prohibited.
- If a Team believes that the Rules of the Competition have been violated at any stage of the Competition, the Team shall, within half an hour after the completion of the round in which the alleged violation has occurred, register a complaint with the Chairperson of the Competition.
- Team(s) shall not approach the Bench with any complaints, under any circumstances whatsoever.