

The Tamil Nadu Dr.Ambedkar Law University

தமிழ்நாடு டாக்டர் அம்பேத்கர் சட்டப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் State University Established by Act No.43 of 1997 NAAC Accredited





ORGANIZED BY:

MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION, SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN LAW



18TH PRO BONO ENVIRO NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

(RULEBOOK)

27TH - 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024 &

19TH OCTOBER 2024



TNDALU - ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University (TNDALU), established by the State of Tamil Nadu in 1997, stands as the first full-fledged sui generis Law University in India, setting it apart from other law universities across the nation. Renowned for its comprehensive legal education, TNDALU operates through the School of Excellence in Law in Chennai, along with numerous affiliated colleges throughout the state.

TNDALU offers a diverse array of undergraduate law programs, including both 3-year and 5-year degree courses that integrate interdisciplinary studies. In addition to undergraduate programmes, the university provides postgraduate courses in thirteen specialized branches of law, fostering advanced legal research and academic excellence. Its prestigious Doctoral Programme further extends the university's commitment to global legal research.

With a vision to advance legal education and enhance the knowledge of law, TNDALU is dedicated to cultivating advocacy skills among its law students and research scholars. The university aims to serve society responsibly by providing exceptional legal services, shaping legislation, and advocating for law reforms.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition is a mooting initiative by The School of Excellence in Law that seeks to bring to the forefront the increasing need to address environmental concerns and encourages students to be the pioneers of understanding the complexities of environmental law and the urge for the same. The previous editions of the competition have proved to be an enriching experience for the participants owing to the distinctive, innovative, and challenging nature of the proposition and high caliber of judging by the Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India, High Court of Madras, and various eminent lawyers. The event has continued to garner increasing attention since the year of its inception in light of its transparency and ever-improving quality. The Moot Court Association of School of Excellence in Law is looking forward to conduct the event and expects increasing participation in the present edition as well.







OFFICIAL INVITATION

School of Excellence in Law takes immense pleasure in announcing the 18th Edition of the Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition, the flagship event of the institution. The institution has always strived to promote the interests of the student community and in addressing pressing issues, and has successfully conducted the previous 17 editions with overwhelming participation from across the country. It seeks to bring to the forefront the increasing need to address environmental concerns and encourages students to be the pioneers of understanding the complexities of environmental law and the urge for the same. The previous editions of the competition have proved to be an enriching experience for the participants owing to the distinctive, innovative, and challenging nature of the proposition and the high caliber of judging by various eminent lawyers, Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Madras, and the Supreme Court of India. The event has continued to garner increasing attention since the year of its inception in light of its transparency and ever-improving quality. The Moot Court Association of the School of Excellence in Law is looking forward to conducting the event in a hybrid mode and expects increasing participation in the present edition as well. The preliminary, octa-finals and quarter final rounds of the 18th Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition is scheduled on 28.09.2024 and 29.09.2024 (virtual mode) and advanced rounds on 19.10.2024 (physical mode) respectively.

Warm Regards,
Moot Court Association,
School of Excellence in Law, Chennai.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. AIMS AND PURPOSE

The 18th Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition 2024 has been conceived with the aim to:

- a) Create awareness on the protection and conservation of our environment
- b) Inculcate interest in Environmental Law and understand the various ecological issues that currently plague our society.

B. MODE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition will be conducted in a Hybrid Mode: The Preliminary Rounds, Octa Finals and Quarter Finals will be held virtually, while the Semi Finals and Final Rounds will take place physically at the 'Perungudi' campus of The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.

C. DEFINITIONS:

Unless mentioned otherwise, the following terms shall mean:

- 1. "Organizers" or "OC" will refer to the Moot Court Association of the School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.
- 2. "Host Institution" refers to the School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.
- 3. "Participating Team" means the team, which has registered itself for the Competition.
- 4. **"Participants"** refers to the speakers and the researchers of the Participating Team.

All the rules are only inclusive and not exhaustive for the Competition. Rules should be strictly adhered to. Any deviation therefrom would attract disqualification or other penalties mentioned subsequently.

All decisions of the Organizers in case of any disputes/ doubts etc. will be final. Imposition of penalties including disqualification rests solely with the Organizers in case of failure to comply with the Rule(s) and Deadline(s).

D. TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION

- a) Participation is strictly restricted to bona fide law students enrolled in the three year or five-year LL.B. or B.L. degree course in any institution recognized by the Bar Council of India.
- b) Only **ONE TEAM** is permitted to participate from each registered institution.
- c) Each team shall comprise of a minimum of two and a maximum of three members. In a team consisting of three members, two of the members shall be designated as "Speaker" and the third member shall be designated as "Researcher"

E. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

a) The Registration Formalities shall be done in two steps:

Provisional Registration of the participating institutions shall be sent to **ProBonoenviromcc18@gmail.com.** Participants shall complete the following Registration Formalities:

- Teams are required to complete the registration on or before 22.09.2024, 11:59
 PM IST by filling the registration form in the link https://forms.gle/WSseroA7pszpLhnE8
- The Registration Fee is Rs. 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only) per team.
- b) The Registration fee payable for the Competition must be paid latest by 22.09.2024 11:59 PM IST through NEFT to the below mentioned account:

Account Name - TAMIL NADU DR. AMBEDKAR LAW UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT ASSOCIATION

Account Number - 67104604033

Name of the Bank - STATE BANK OF INDIA

Branch Name – PNSB BRANCH RAJA ANNAMALAIPURAM IFSC Code - SBIN0070688

Branch Code - 70688

c) The payment reference number and date of payment have to be mentioned in the registration form. Scanned copy of the payment receipt must also be attached to the google registration form and only then will the registration be deemed to be complete.

- d) The Registration shall be done by filling up the form available by clicking on the link mentioned: https://forms.gle/WSseroA7pszpLhnE8
- e) Scanned copies of Identity cards must be attached in the registration form. In case, there is an issue with the production of scanned copies of the identity card, a bonafide certificate, issued by the University may be attached. In case of the absence of both the items, kindly contact the O.C.
- f) Once the form is submitted, an acknowledgement mail will be sent within 24-48 hours to the teams.

g) Registration fee, once paid is neither refundable nor transferable.

- h) Teams that have completed Registration in accordance with the above shall be assigned a Team Code. All correspondence to the Organizing Committee shall specify only the Team Code.
- i) No alteration in the Team Composition shall be permitted after registration except at the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee.

F. CONTENTS OF MEMORANDUM:

- a) Each Memorandum shall not exceed 30 pages, inclusive of cover page, and shall contain the following sections:
 - Cover Page (shall include Year of the Competition, Cause Title, Forum/Court, designation as Petitioner or Respondent Memo, Team Code on the top right corner-e.g. 14P or 14R).
 - Table of Contents.
 - · Index of Authorities.
 - Statement of Jurisdiction (strictly restrict to 1 page).
 - Summary/Statement of Facts (strictly restrict to 1 page; argumentative Statement of Facts shall be penalized).
 - Issues Raised/Questions Presented.
 - Summary of Arguments/Pleadings.
 - Arguments Advanced/Written Pleadings.
 - · Prayer.
- b) The following content specifications shall be strictly adhered to:

- Language: English.
- Body Font & Size: Times New Roman, 12;
- Line Spacing: 1.5 [The spacing need not be followed for the Cover Page, any Tabular Column, Header or Footer].
- Footnotes Font & Size: Times New Roman, 10; Line Spacing:1.0;
- Paragraph Spacing: None; No additional space between footnotes.
- Substantive Footnoting is strictly prohibited.
- Alignment (Body & Footnotes): Justified Margin: 1 inch on all 4 sides.
- c) The following printing specifications shall be strictly adhered to:
 - The Cover Page shall be: Blue for Petitioner Memorandum Red for Respondent Memorandum..
 - The Memorandums shall not contain any Annexure/Appendices, Photographs, Sketches, Exhibits, Affidavits, etc.

G. EVALUATION OF MEMORANDUM

a) The Memorandum will be evaluated by a separate panel of judges who will not Judge the Oral Rounds. The memorandum shall be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

CRITERIA	MARKS	
Knowledge of law & depth of research	20	
Use of authority/precedents	20	
Incorporation of facts into the arguments	10	
Interpretation of applicable law	10	
Clarity of thought and organization of the arguments	15	
Style of Presentation	10	
Originality	10	
Relief sought	5	

b) Penalties shall be attracted in the following manner

VIOLATION	PENALTY	
Late submission (soft copy)	2 points for every 6 hours of delay	
Any violation under rule f(a)	1 point for each violation under the Rule	
Any violation under rule f(b)	1 point for each violation under the Rule	
Any violation under rule f(c)	2 points for each violation under the Rule	
Violation of Anonymity	Disqualification	
Memorandum submitted after 22.09.2023	Disqualification	

H. CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition shall be sought by sending an e-mail probonoenviromcc18@gmail.com on or before 20.09.2024 A set of Final Clarifications will tentatively be released on 22.09.2024

I. MEMORANDUM/WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

- a) Participants are required to submit Memorandum or Written Submissions on behalf of both the Petitioner(s) and the Respondent(s).
- b) Teams shall e-mail Soft Copies of the Memorandums in both PDF and Microsoft Word formats for both the sides (i.e. four attachments in total) in a single mail on or before 25.09.2024 by 23:59hours to probonoenviromcc18@gmail.com
- c) Any memorandum submitted after 25.09.2024 (23:59 hours) shall not be evaluated and the team shall be disqualified.
- d) For example, if the assigned team code is 14, the team shall name the Petitioner and Respondent Memorandums as "14P" and "14R" respectively. The Soft Copy should be compatible with at least Microsoft Word 2007. Late submission shall attract penalties in accordance with Rule 10.
- e) Only the Team Code shall be specified on the Memorandum. Any reference to the participating institution/college/university shall result in immediate disqualification.

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- f) No amendment to the memorandum shall be permitted after submission of the soft copies.
- g) The Organizing Committee reserves the right to use the memorandum submitted by the participating teams, as it deems appropriate.

J. DRESS CODE

- a) Participants shall be appropriately attired for the rounds of the competition. Robes and neck bands are not permitted.
- b) The Dress Code for the Inauguration, Researcher's Test, Oral Rounds, Valedictory & Prize Distribution shall strictly be:
 - For Gentlemen Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants and a black blazer with black tie); and
 - For Ladies Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants/black formal skirt and a black blazer) or Indian Formals (white kurta with black pants and either a black waistcoat or black blazer).

K. ORAL ROUNDS

GENERAL PROCEDURE

- a) The language to be used during the Rounds is English. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:
 - Preliminary Rounds; and
 - Advanced Rounds consisting of:
 - a) Octa-finals (if the total number of teams exceed 48)
 - b) Quarter-finals
 - c) Semi-finals
 - d) Finals
- b) The performance of the speakers shall be adjudged based on the following parameters:

CRITERIA	MARKS
Knowledge of Facts	10
Interpretation of Facts	10
Knowledge of Law	20
Application and Interpretation of Law	20
Ability to answer questions	15
Courtroom conduct	10
Style, Poise and Demeanor	10
Prayer	5
Total	100

- c) During each of the above-mentioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:
 - Petitioner Speaker 1
 - Petitioner Speaker 2
 - Respondent Speaker 1
 - Respondent Speaker 2
 - Rebuttal: Petitioner Any one of the Two Speakers
 - Sur-rebuttal: Respondent Any one of the Two Speakers. (Sur- rebuttal may be permitted only at the discretion of the Judges.)
- d) The Best Speaker Award shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the Speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds.
- e) The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Court during the Oral Rounds.
- f) Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Memorandum.
- g) The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final.
- h) To ensure uniformity in the marking system, all Judges will be provided with a scoring guideline.
- i) Memorial scores shall NOT be taken into account for scoring in preliminary rounds

SPLITTING OF TIME BETWEEN SPEAKERS

- j) Teams shall notify the Bench Clerks of the division of time between the
- 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.
- k) If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 2. Similarly, if Speaker 2 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved for Rebuttals/Sur-Rebuttals as the case may be. However, this rule may not be followed if the additional time is awarded, at the discretion of the Judges.
- l) The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebut or Sur-rebut shall vest with the Judges

DRAW OF LOTS AND EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDUM

- m) The decision regarding the fixtures for the oral rounds will be taken by the Organizing committee. The decision of the Organizing Committee regarding the fixtures will be final. The same will be intimated to the teams via the respective Email IDs provided by the teams before the commencement of the rounds.
- n) No teams will face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds. The exchange of memorials for the preliminary rounds will be done via the respective Email IDs provided by the teams. Memorandums of the opponents for each respective round will be mailed to the teams.
- o) Exchange of memorials for advanced rounds, beginning with the octa finals, will take place shortly before the commencement of the round via the respective Email IDs provided.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

- The preliminary rounds of the competition shall be hosted online on a video conferencing application such as Google meet.
- WhatsApp Groups will be created to facilitate communication with the 'Ushers' as Admins. The contact numbers given by the teams at the time of registration will be used for the creation of WhatsApp Groups. The Ushers will send instructions and guide the teams throughout the competition throughout this WhatsApp Group.
- The preliminary rounds will take place on the 28th September, 2024. The team fixtures shall be determined through DRAW OF LOTS.
- Teams will face each other only ONCE during the preliminary round.
- ONLY the team members (2 speakers and 1 researcher) are allowed to be present inside the venue.
- Following this, if a team is not present, no additional time will be granted by the O.C. The other team present at the round, will be heard ex-parte. The decision of the O.C is final and binding in this matter.
- The teams are to provide their ID card at the time of registration and also have it with them during the rounds. In case the team members have any issues regarding the availability of their ID cards, the same is to be intimated to the Organizing Committee via mail before the round starts.
- Each team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent.
- The time limit for the oral round shall be twenty (20) minutes for each team.
 This shall include the time for both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal and sur-rebuttal. Judges may at their discretion, extend the time allotted for the oral arguments up to a maximum of 5 minutes.
- Only one speaker shall be allowed to present the rebuttal / sur-rebuttal and the sur-rebuttals shall be limited only to rebuttals made by the opponent team. No team shall be permitted to reserve more than two
 (2) minutes for rebuttals / surrebuttals.

- The top sixteen (16) teams from the Preliminary Rounds, shall advance to the Octa finals.
- The top sixteen teams shall qualify on the basis of the aggregate scores. In the event of a tie, the memorandum score of the team shall be considered.

DISQUALIFICATION

OC reserves the right to disqualify the participation of any team on the grounds of:

- Availing assistance of any person, who is not a member of the team during the oral rounds
- If any participant leaves the court room in the middle of the rounds without a legitimate reason
- If the Organizing Committee have any reason to believe that a team has resorted to any unfair means during the oral rounds
- For any other just reason the OC deems fit.

L. ADVANCED ROUNDS (Octa Finals, Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals

GENERAL RULES

- Every team shall argue once in each of the Advanced Rounds.
- The qualification of teams to subsequent rounds shall be on a knock-out basis for each of the Advanced Rounds.
- The Memorandum Score shall not be considered for any of the Advanced Rounds.

OCTA-FINALS

- The maximum time for arguments per side shall be the same as in the Preliminary Rounds.
- Sixteen (16) teams from the Octa-finals shall advance to the Quarter- finals, which will be selected on a knock- out basis.

OUARTER-FINALS

- Each side shall get a maximum time of 30 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal 5 minutes.
- Eight (8) teams from the Octa-finals shall advance to the Quarter-finals, which will be selected on a knock- out basis.

SEMI-FINALS

- The maximum time for arguments per side shall be the same as in the Quarter-Final Rounds.
- Two top (2) teams out of the 4 teams qualified for the Semi-finals shall advance to the Finals, which shall be selected on a knock-out basis.

FINALS

- Each side shall get a maximum time of 45 minutes to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 25 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal and Sur-rebuttal 5 minutes
- The winner of the finals shall be declared as the winner of the Competition.

SCOUTING

- Scouting is strictly prohibited.
- Any person may submit a complaint regarding Scouting to the Organizing Committee.
- Teams found scouting shall be disqualified immediately.

M. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEAMS

CONFIRMATION AND TRAVEL DETAILS

The qualifying teams shall confirm their participation in advanced rounds and furnish their travel details latest by 05.10.2024 (18:00 hours).

The teams ranking 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th will be placed on a waitlist. If any of the teams from the top 16 fail to confirm their participation, the highest-ranking team from the waitlist will have the opportunity to qualify and participate instead. The Organizing Committee (OC) will communicate this to the waitlisted teams by 08.10.2024 22:00 hours).

ACCOMMODATION

The host institute shall offer accommodation for the teams which shall qualify to Semi-Finals at the cost of INR 5200 (Five Thousand Two Hundred only) for a team of 3 members per night.

Teams opting for the same shall avail the following:

- 1) Complimentary Breakfast at the Hotel
- 2) Lunch & Dinner on 19th October 2024
- 3) Travel to and from the Accommodation to the Institution
- 4) Deluxe Air-Conditioned Stay

The said amount is to be paid only by the qualifying teams on or before 08th October 2024 to the account as prescribed in E(b) of this same Rulebook. Any costs related to extending the stay or acquiring extra rooms will be the responsibility of the teams and will not be covered by the host institute.

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

 The host institute will offer breakfast, lunch, dinner, and refreshments to all the teams

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

- The Participating teams will need to submit their memorandums via Online Mode on or before 25.09.2024 and the teams participating in Semi Final rounds shall submit 5 copies of the Memorial for Petitioner as well as Respondent to the OC on 18.10.2024 (17:00 hours)
- Teams are kindly asked to bring their Institute's ID card or Bonafide letter along with a valid government ID proof.

N. AWARDS

The following Awards shall be given away during the Valedictory & Prize Distribution:

Winner of the Competition – Trophy, certificate and cash prize of Rs.40,000/-

Runner-up of the Competition - Trophy, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 30,000/-

Best Memorandum - Trophy, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-

Best Researcher - Trophy, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-

Best Speaker - Trophy, certificate and cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-

2nd Runner-up of the Competition - Trophy and certificate

2nd Best Memorandum - Trophy and Certificate

2nd Best Speaker - Trophy and Certificate

2nd Best Researcher - Trophy and Certificate

Best Speaker - Finals - Trophy and Certificate

Spirit of the Competition Award - Trophy and Certificate

All participants of the Competition will be given Participation E- Certificates. The certificates will be emailed to the participants after the completion of the competition.

0. MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL ETIQUETTE

- Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Organizing Committee, the Judges of the Competition or to any of the other participants.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

- All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition are at the complete discretion of the Host Institution and the Organizing Committee.
- Any decision made by the Host Institution or the Organizing Committee shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

TENTATIVE DATES OF THE COMPETITION

DATE
28.08.2024
01.09.2024
22.09.2024
20.09.2024
22.09.2024
25.09.2024
27.09.2024
28.09.2024
29.09.2024
05.10.2024
08.10.2024
19.10.2024

CHIEF PATRON

COL.PROF.(DR.) N.S. SANTHOSH KUMAR

Hon'ble Vice- Chancellor, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University

PATRONS

Prof. (Dr.) Gowri Ramesh

Registrar, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University

Prof. (Dr.) V Balaji

Dean, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University

CONVENER

Dr. P. Brinda

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STUDENT CONVENERS

Miss H N Shree Harini

Miss Donna Gadiel

President, MCA, SOEL

Vice President, MCA, SOEL

Mr. Surya S P Secretary, MCA, SOEL

POINT OF CONTACT

For queries regarding Registration:

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For queries regarding Proposition/Clarifications:

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For queries regarding Memorial Submissions:

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