

**HIMACHAL PRADESH  
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,  
SHIMLA**



**1<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL  
CLIENT  
COUNSELLING  
COMPETITION,  
2026**

**Centre for Personal Law Studies and  
Matrimonial Dispute Resolution Cell**

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**RULEBOOK**

**14th March-16th March, 2026**



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## SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

1. These Rules shall be called the “Rulebook of the 1st National Client Counselling Competition.”
2. The Rules shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain operative until the completion of the Competition.

## DEFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “**Competition**” means the 1st National Client Counselling Competition.
2. “**Client Counselling**” means the process of interviewing and advising a client on a legal problem assigned for a particular round.
3. “**Institution**” means the University/College organising the Competition.
4. “**Judges**” means the panel appointed to evaluate the teams in each round.
5. “**Organising Committee**” means the body constituted by the Institution for the administration and conduct of the Competition.
6. “**Team**” means a pair of two eligible participants representing a registered institution.
7. “**Team Code**” means the unique identification code allotted to each team upon successful registration.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Students enrolled in **three-year or five-year LL.B. programmes**, in any year, from any recognised University, Law School, College, or Department of Law are eligible to participate.
2. Only **one team per institution** shall be permitted to participate.
3. Each team shall consist of **two participants only**, designated as Counsel 1 and Counsel 2.
4. Participants must be bona fide students of the institution they represent.
5. Any violation of the eligibility criteria shall result in immediate disqualification.

## REGISTRATION RULES

1. Teams shall register for the Competition by filling out the prescribed online registration form within the stipulated time.
2. The **registration fee shall be ₹2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) per team.**
3. The registration fee shall be **non-refundable and non-transferable.**
4. Registration shall be considered complete only upon successful payment of the registration fee.
5. Upon completion of registration, each team shall be allotted a **Team Code**, which shall be used for all purposes during the Competition.
6. All disputes relating to registration shall be resolved by the Organising Committee, whose decision shall be final.
7. For registration link, refer to the brochure.



## ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

1. Teams shall maintain strict anonymity throughout the Competition.
2. Participants shall not disclose their names, institution, or any identifying information during the counselling sessions.
3. Teams shall be identified solely by their **Team Codes**.
4. Any breach of anonymity shall lead to immediate disqualification.

## FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Competition simulates a professional **law office consultation**, wherein participants counsel a client on a given legal issue.
2. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:
  - Preliminary Round
  - Quarter-Final Round
  - Semi-Final Round
  - Final Round
3. An **Office Memorandum** describing the client's problem shall be provided to teams prior to each round.
4. Both participants must actively participate in the counselling process.

## THEME OF THE COMPETITION

The legal problems shall be based on areas of law including, but not limited to:

- Family Law
- Constitutional Law
- Law relating to Succession
- Other relevant codified and uncoded laws



## TIME LIMITS

1. Each counselling session shall be conducted within the time limits prescribed by the Organising Committee.
2. The total time shall include:
  - Client interaction, and
  - Post-counselling interaction with judges, if any.
3. Exceeding the prescribed time limit may attract penalty marks at the discretion of the judges.

<b>Rounds</b>	<b>Total Time</b>	<b>Client Counselling session</b>	<b>Post-Counselling session</b>
<b>Prelims</b>	25 minutes	20 minutes	5 minutes
<b>Quarter-finals</b>	40 minutes	30 minutes	10 minutes
<b>Semi-finals</b>	40 minutes	30 minutes	10 minutes
<b>Finals</b>	50 minutes	40 minutes	10 minutes

## DRESS CODE

Participants shall adhere to the following dress code:

- **Female Participants**: White shirt, black trousers, and black blazer
- **Male Participants**: White shirt, black trousers, black tie, and black blazer

Non-compliance with the dress code may result in penalties.



## CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Participants shall maintain decorum, discipline, and professionalism throughout the Competition.
2. Any form of misconduct, indiscipline, or disruption shall not be tolerated.
3. Use of mobile phones or electronic devices during counselling rounds is strictly prohibited.
4. Participants shall comply with all instructions issued by the Organising Committee.

## PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATION

A team may be penalised or disqualified for:

1. **Breach of anonymity**: Revealing a participant's identity during the competition.
2. **Misconduct or unprofessional behaviour**: Acting inappropriately or disrespectfully.
3. **Use of unfair means**: Cheating or gaining an unfair advantage.
4. **Violation of any rule of the Competition**: Breaking any official competition guideline.

The decision of the Organising Committee in this regard shall be **final and non-appealable**.



## AWARDS, PRIZES AND RECOGNITION

1.The following awards shall be conferred:

a. Winning Team

- Cash Prize of ₹15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only)
- Trophy
- Certificate of Achievement

b. Runners-Up Team

- Cash Prize of ₹10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only)
- Trophy
- Certificate of Achievement

c. Best Counsel Award

- Cash Prize of ₹8,000/- (Rupees Eight Thousand only)
- Certificate of Merit

d. Runner-Up Counsel Award

- Cash Prize of ₹5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only)
- Certificate of Merit

2.Certificates of participation shall be awarded to all participating teams.

3. The decision of the judges and Organising Committee regarding awards shall be final.

## AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION

1.The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend, modify, or repeal any rule at any stage of the Competition.

2.Any matter not covered under these Rules shall be decided by the Organising Committee.

3.The interpretation of these Rules by the Organising Committee shall be final and binding.



## SCORING AND JUDGING CRITERIA

Teams shall be evaluated on the following parameters:

- Identification of legal and factual issues
- Client interviewing and listening skills
- Clarity and practicality of legal advice
- Analytical and problem-solving ability
- Professional ethics and conduct
- Team coordination and communication
- The decision of the judges shall be **final and binding**.

S.No.	CRITERIA	MARKS
1	Working atmosphere & opening	10
2	Problem identification & tools	10
3	Client goals & expectations	10
4	Analysis & problem formulation	10
5	Alternatives & informed choice	10
6	Ethical & professional conduct	10
7	Conclusion & teamwork	10
8	Legal & ethical issues	10
9	Emotional & legal needs	10
10	Post-consultation & Q/A	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>



## CONTACT DETAILS

FOR ANY QUERIES OR CLARIFICATIONS, PARTICIPANTS MAY CONTACT:

### CENTRE FOR PERSONAL LAW STUDIES AND MATRIMONIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION CELL

EMAIL: [ccws@hpnlu.ac.in](mailto:ccws@hpnlu.ac.in)

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