

UPES LAW FEST
VIDHIUTSAV

ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ASSOCIATION

IXth UPES NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION'24



STEP INTO THE
WORLD OF
RESOLUTION,
WHERE DISPUTES
FIND HARMONY,
AND CONFLICTS
MEET THEIR END.

RULEBOOK

16TH - 17TH MARCH (ONLINE)

6TH - 7TH APRIL (OFFLINE)

GENERAL INFORMATION

01 Purpose of the Competition

The Client Counseling competition aims to foster increased understanding and enthusiasm among law students regarding the real-world legal aspects and consultancy aspects of legal practice. It also motivates participants to enhance their skills in interviewing, planning, and analysis within the lawyer-client relationship, given that these areas constitute a substantial portion of a lawyer's duties. Consequently, the competition creates a valuable platform for educational exchange between students, law educators, and legal professionals.

02 Definitions

- 2.1. "**ADRA, UPES**" - Alternate Dispute Resolution Association, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun. The ADRA is the organizing and administrating body for this competition.
- 2.2. "**Competition**" - IXth UPES National Client Counseling Competition.
- 2.3. "**Participant**" - Any individual eligible and participating in the Competition.
- 2.4. "**Team**" - Any team comprising not more than two participants, eligible and participating in the Competition.
- 2.5. "**Undergraduate student of law**" - Any student enrolled in an undergraduate, 3-year or dual-degree (5 years) course of law at a college and/or university recognized by the University Grants Commission.
- 2.6. "**Lawyer**" - A person who practices law, such as an attorney, or a solicitor, or a legal practitioner.
- 2.7. "**Country of residence**" - For the sake of this Competition, any and every client's country of residence shall be as mentioned in the office memo for a particular round.

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2.8. "**Client**" - A person or organization, as assigned by the ADRA, UPES in accordance with the office memo for a particular round, seeking and/or receiving the services of a lawyers, as defined in 2.7.

2.9. "**Office Memo**" - A sheet of correspondence briefly describing the clients and/or his or her problems for which s/he seeks the services of a lawyer(s).

03 Eligibility Criteria

Undergraduate students of law may participate in the Competition.

04 Registration

4.1. By registering for and/or entering this Competition, all participants agree to be bound by the rules contained herein.

4.2. By entering this Competition, all participants consent to being photographed or filmed and to such images photographed and/or videos filmed being published by ADRA, UPES.

4.3. One team from each institution will be permitted to participate in the competition. Based on first-come, first served basis, the registration will be restricted to 24 teams only.

4.4. Participating teams must register themselves for the Competition by submitting an online registration form, before the stipulated deadline for such submission.

4.5 A Registration Fee of INR 3000/- is applicable for the competition.

Please note, that the accommodation fee is not included in the registration fee and the participants competing in the advanced rounds will be charged separately for the same.

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05 Payment Details

The participants are required to complete the payment at this [Payment Link](#).

The QR scanner for the payment is attached herewith:



06 Official Language

The official language of the Competition shall be English. All written and/or oral submission made to and/or before the judges shall be in English.

07 Nature of the Competition

7.1. The Competition shall simulate a client's interview at a law office/chamber.

7.2. Each round shall be divided broadly into two segments, i.e. (a) client-counseling session and (b) post-consultation session.

7.2.1. In the client-counseling session, Participants shall be expected to extract fact-information from the client, briefly analyze the issue(s) at hand, and make recommendations to the client in order to resolve his or her problem.

7.2.2. In the post-consultation session, the Participants shall be expected to legally analyze the interview and the various issues the matter (or case) presents and discuss a future course of action.

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7.2.3 They shall further be expected to discuss the recommendations made by them to the client and whether an alternative approach could be or have been adopted to attain a better outcome from the session. The judges may, during this period, question the participants on their presentation.

7.3. It is clarified here that the Participants may tender legal advice to their clients with reference only to the laws prevailing to the country of his or her residence.

7.4. Participants are advised to keep in mind professional rules of ethics and conduct, as are applicable to lawyers, and act in accordance with them during rounds. All participants, regardless of the country of their residence, shall be deemed subject to the rules and regulations as issued by the Bar, Council of India under the Advocates Act, 1961 or any other regulatory body.

08 Rounds

8.1. The Competition shall comprise of two preliminary rounds following which, the top 8 teams shall qualify for the quarter-final rounds on the basis of their total score in the preliminary rounds.

8.2. Four teams with the highest total score in the quarter-final rounds shall qualify to the semi-final rounds.

8.3. Two teams with the highest total score shall qualify from the semi-final rounds to the final round.

8.4. The winner of the final round, decided based on the highest score in the final round, shall be declared winner of the Competition.

Provided that any dispute arising out of such rounds shall be resolved by the ADRA, UPES. The decision of the ADRA, UPES shall be final in such regard.

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Time Limits

The Client-Counseling Sessions shall be of the following lengths respectively:

Preliminary Rounds : 40 minutes

Quarter-Final Rounds: 40 minutes

Semi-Final Rounds: 50 minutes

Final Round: 60 minutes

In each round, other than the Final Round, teams shall have not more than 10 minutes for the Post-Consultation Session. In the Final Rounds, 15 minutes shall be provided for the same.

10

Use of External Equipment(s)

Participants are expected not to bring any props or office furnishings of the kind, for usage during the rounds. There shall be no marking done based on such extra-offerings.

Provided that this shall not be construed as a prohibition against bringing books or any other relevant materials into the room.

11

Subject Matter

The broad area of law, for all the rounds, shall be released in advance, which may be Civil, Criminal, IPR laws etc.

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12 Rules of Participation

12.1. Each participating team shall compete in two preliminary rounds.

12.2. The matchups shall be released on the basis of team codes.

12.3. On the basis of their absolute scores in the preliminary rounds, the top eight teams shall qualify to the quarter-final rounds.

12.4. In the event of a tie of scores between two teams, the same shall be resolved on the basis of -

12.4.1. First, the aggregate points of problem analysis, followed by client's goals and expectations (in case the aggregate points in problem analysis are the same), followed by obtaining information (in case the aggregate points in client's goals and expectations are the same); and

12.4.2. Second, on the basis of a coin (unbiased) toss, if and only if the tie is not resolved by the above mentioned method.

12.5. The matchups of the semi-final rounds shall be on the basis of power matchups.

13 Adjudication of Rounds

Each team shall be marked out of a maximum of 100 marks, per judge, and every team shall be judged for their performance based on the criteria that shall be notified at or before the commencement of the Competition.

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14 Code of Conduct of Participants

14.1. The ADRA, UPES reserves the right to disqualify any team or participant for any kind of misconduct on the part of any team members during the Competition. In case of any doubt/ dispute, the decision of the ADRA, UPES shall be final.

14.2. Misconduct includes:

14.2.1. Disclosure of identity to other Participants during the course of the rounds or to any judge,

14.2.2. Any attempt made by Participant(s) to obtain problem particulars with regard to the Client-Counseling Session;

14.2.3. Any attempt made by Participant(s) to contact any judge before or during the Competition, unless specifically invited to do so by that particular judge(s).

14.2.4. Any other conduct which may give a team(s) unfair advantage over another team(s)

14.2.5. Any other conduct which is regarded as such by ADRA, UPES.

15 Dispute Resolution

All grievances/disputes shall be addressed to the Core and the Faculty Convenors of ADRA, UPES. The body's decision in this regard shall be final.

16 Power to Remove Difficulties

The ADRA, UPES reserves the right to add, modify or repeal any rule in order to give effect to the purpose of the Competition.

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17 Dress Code

All participants shall be in formal wear (Indian or Western) for the duration of the Competition.

18 Competition Awards

Every Participant shall be awarded with a Certificate of Participation. However, the best performing team(s) shall be awarded in the following manner -

Winner Team:

- Prize Money worth Rs. 25,000/-
- Trophy
- Appreciation Certificate

Runner-up Team:

- Prize Money worth Rs. 20,000/-
- Trophy
- Appreciation Certificate

Best Counsel Team:

- Prize Money worth Rs. 10,000/-
- Appreciation Certificate

Please note, the Best Counsel award will be based on the team's performance in the Preliminary Rounds.

19 Residuary

The ADRA, UPES may take such other measures as may be required for the purposes of giving effect to any or all provisions of these rules and for the fair conduct of the Competition.

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20 Scoring

Each round may be judged by two judges or more, each of whom will award marks on the basis of the following criteria:

PARAMETERS	MARKS
Creating a professional work environment	10
Analysis of the problem and the approach towards it	10
Acquiring relevant information	10
Ethical Considerations (how well the the ethical concerns are answered while maintaining professional standard)	10
Client centric approach (focus on client's needs and preferences)	10
Time Management	10
Teamwork and Co-ordination	10
Successful conclusion of the counseling session	10
Post Consultation session	20
TOTAL	100

TIMELINE

Event	Date
Final Registration	1st February 2024
Release of Subject-Matter of Problems	15th February 2024
Last Date for Registration	20th February 2024
Preliminary Rounds	16th March 2024
Quarter Final Round	17th March 2024
Semi-Final Round	6th April 2024
Final Round and Valedictory Ceremony	7th April 2024

The dates, schedule, and details pertaining to the competition are tentative in nature and subject to change. In the event of any change, the details shall be communicated by the organizing committee.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Ms. Anwasha Pathak Singh

Faculty Convener

Contact Number: +91 9028122008

Mr. Surya Saxena

Faculty Co-Convener

Contact Number: +91 9811924202

Vihaan Pathak

Student Convener

+91 7355297596

Shivam Chaturvedi

Student Secretary

+91 98309 52210

Akash R Nair

Student Treasurer

+91 98186 45174

Khushi Gandhi

Student Co-Convener

+91 7540972000

Bhargavi Rathore

Student Co-Convener

+91 8824880691

Punit Vyas

Student Jt. Secretary

+91 9116842267

Manya Pundir

Student Jt. Secretary

+91 7252801656

Palak Dhingra

Student Jt. Secretary

+91 9896667789

Bhavika Thakur

Student Jt. Treasurer

+91 7734800884

✉ soladr@ddn.upes.ac.in

📷 [@upes_school_of_law](https://www.instagram.com/upes_school_of_law)

📷 [@upes_adr](https://www.instagram.com/upes_adr)

🌐 [UPES School of Law](https://www.linkedin.com/company/upes-school-of-law)

🌐 [Alternate Dispute Resolution Association, UPES](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alternate-dispute-resolution-association-upes)

Disclaimer: The dates, schedules, and details pertaining to the tournament are tentative in nature and subject to change. If there is any change, the details shall be communicated by the organizing committee. Kindly follow the social media handles of ADR Association and School of Law, UPES, Dehradun for timely updates.