

**1ST SCHOOL OF LAW, CHRIST UNIVERSITY NATIONAL TRIAL
ADVOCACY AND JUDGMENT WRITING COMPETITION**

STRUCTURE AND RULES

1. AIM AND PURPOSE

1.1. The 1st School of Law, Christ University National Trial Advocacy and Judgment writing competition (Hereinafter referred as “competition”) , shall be for the purpose of nurturing and creating opportunities for developing the skills of cross examination and litigation in trial courts.

1.2. The competition includes a judgment writing competition, which enhances the reasoning and writing skills of budding lawyers and students aspiring to enter judiciary.

2. VENUE AND DATE

2.1 The 1st School of Law, Christ University National Trial Advocacy and Judgment writing competition shall be held, from 19th- 21st of February, 2016. It will be held in School of Law, Christ University, Hosur Road, Bangalore-560 029.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 The Competition shall be open for students who are pursuing three or five-year LL.B. Degree Course in Universities/Colleges/Law Departments in India.

3.2 The competition shall be conducted in English.

3.3 For the purpose of this competition, participants are to conform to formal sense of dressing. Only Black and white. Violation of the same shall attract penalties.

4. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

4.1 Teams must consist of three (3) members, studying law as mentioned above and must have been so authorized by the respective institution to participate in the competition.

4.2 Only one team per college shall be entertained.

4.3 In an event that a team member cannot participate because of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance, the Organizing Committee may determine whether to permit substitutions.

4.4 Teams will not identify the institution they are representing to the fellow participants, evaluators or judges. Disclosure of the same shall invite penalties or disqualifications.

- 4.5 Students may introduce themselves by name, and to refer to each other by name throughout the trial, but scores would be awarded as per the team code allotted.
- 4.6 Each advocate will remain on his or her respective sides and will not be asked or allowed to switch throughout the Competition from the advocate and witness roles selected in the opening round.

5. REGISTRATION

- 5.1 The competition is open for 24 teams to participate, which will be decided on first come first serve basis.
- 5.2 Team Composition shall be composed of three (3) members, with two speakers and one witness. In the semi-finals the witnesses will be provided by the Host Institution. In the finals, the participants can chose their witness as provided by the Host Institution.
- 5.3 For the purpose of Judgment writing competition, the teams can choose who would represent the team for the same. However, the teams qualifying to the semi- finals and finals shall send the member who was the witness for the judgment writing competition, for the sake of convenience.
- 5.4 Registration fee per team – Rs. 3, 500/-
- 5.5 Institutions/Teams interested in participating in the Competition will have to make an initial 'REGISTRATION'. The Registration shall be done by e-mailing the scanned copy of the Registration Form and the Scanned Copy of a Demand Draft for Rs. 3,500/ (Rupees Three Thousand Five Hundred only) drawn in favor of "CHRIST UNIVERSITY", payable at "Bengaluru" The subject of the e-mail shall be "REGISTRATION".
- 5.6 The priority of the teams shall be determined in accordance with the date and time of receipt of the e-mail communication containing the scanned copies of the Registration Form and Demand Draft.
- 5.7 The last date for Registration is 23:59 hrs on 30th January, 2016.
- 5.8 The registration fee is Non-refundable.
- 5.9 If a team, which has been registered, fails to e-mail the scanned copy of the Final Registration Form within January 25th, 2016 their Provisional Registration shall stand cancelled and a chance shall be granted to the teams in the waiting list in the order of their position in the waiting list.
- 5.10 If a team, which has dispatched the hard copy of the demand draft, fails to turn up for the competition the registration fee shall not be refunded.

6. ACCOMMODATION

- 6.1 Accommodation will be provided from 19th February, 2016, 9 am onwards to 21st February, 2016 till 12 pm.
- 6.2 If the participants wish to extend their stay, they will be accommodated in the University Hostel.
- 6.3 No use of any form of intoxication will be tolerated within the premises of the accommodation or campus. Such issues shall be seriously dealt with by the organizing committee.
- 6.4 The organizing committee claims no responsibility towards any damages or additional expenses during, or after the completion of the stay.

7. TRAVEL

- 7.1 Pick-up services shall be provided to the participants from the Railway Station (YPR or SBC).
- 7.2 No pick up service is provided from the airport

8. ORAL ARGUMENT ROUNDS

- 8.1. There shall be two Preliminary Rounds, a Semi-Final and a Final.
- 8.2. The oral submission of an individual speaker will be judged on the following grounds:
- Knowledge of law.
 - Use of authorities.
 - Interpretation of facts and appreciation of principles of evidence.
 - Ingenuity and persuasiveness.
 - Style, poise and court manners.
- 8.3. The judges are expected to score the oral submissions of an individual speaker keeping in mind the following criteria:
- Excellent: 18 - 20 marks.
 - Good: 16 - <18 marks.
 - Fair: 14 - <16 marks.
 - Average: 10 - <14 marks.
 - Poor: <10 marks.
- 8.3 A Judge shall adjudge each speaker for a total of 100 marks.

Teams shall not reveal the name of their institutions or the names of the participants in the course of the Oral Arguments.

8.4. In the first week of February, the teams shall be allotted a Team Code and each participant in a team will be allotted a Participant Code.

8.5. Only the Team Code shall identify a team and only their Participant Codes shall identify the participants.

9. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

9.1. Draw of lots for preliminary rounds will be conducted on 19th February, 2016.

9.2. Preliminary rounds will be held on 20th February, 2016.

9.3. The Preliminary Rounds shall be judged by a panel of judges.

9.4. There will be two preliminary rounds of arguments per team.

9.5. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds.

9.6. No team shall face the same bench more than once. In the event that a team faces the same bench/judge more than once, they shall inform the organizers regarding the same before the first speaker is called upon the podium, failing which they shall forego their opportunity to object at any later point in time.

9.7. Each team will get a total of 160 minutes (2hrs 40 minutes) to present their case. A speaker shall not use more than 165 minutes of the total time.

9.8. The maximum time provided would include the time that each team may want to reserve for their rebuttal/ sur-rebuttal. At the commencement of each session the team shall notify the Court Clerk as to the division of time between the 2 speakers (including rebuttal/ sur-rebuttal).

10. WITNESS

10.1. The 3rd member/researcher shall act as witness for their team for the prelim rounds. However, for the semi-finals and finals, the hosting college shall provide the qualifying teams with witnesses.

10.2. Teams qualifying to the semi-finals and finals will be given their witnesses before the rounds begin and time shall be provided for witness briefing.

11. JUDGMENT WRITING

- 11.1.** The judgment writing competition will be conducted on February 20, 2016.
- 11.2.** One participant from each team shall be eligible to take part in the judgment writing competition.
- 11.3.** The participants are advised to carry their own Internet enabled laptops for the session, as campus Wi-Fi will not be available to the teams. Further, the judgment submitted by the participants shall not exceed 3000 words.
- 11.4.** The results of the judgment writing competition shall be announced during the valedictory ceremony.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- 12.1.** Case laws the parties wish to rely on at the time of final arguments shall be submitted in two copies, one for each judge.
- 12.2.** Opening statement of the prosecution will require the prosecutor to address the judges on the charge it wishes the court to frame. It shall be necessary to point out the supporting material from the charge sheet here with provided to sustain the charge. As far as the defence is concerned, the opening address shall require them to point out if there is any charge, which the court ought not to frame as there is no material in the charge sheet provided herewith to support the same.
- 12.3.** All exhibits in the charge sheet are assumed to be exhibited in accordance with the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the same shall be taken as being duly proved.
- 12.4.** The judges will be recording the evidence for both the prosecution and defence as taken by participants in the competition.
- 12.5.** In the event there is any contradiction between the evidence recorded in court and the Statements recorded under section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the participants must be aware as to the procedure to deal with such contradiction.
- 12.6.** After completion of evidence, the participants will be given notes of evidence of prosecution and defense recorded by the court. A fifteen (15) minutes break will be given to the participants for the perusal of the said notes of evidence. The participants will have to advance Final Arguments only on the basis of notes of evidence and the exhibited documents so provided to them.

12.7. All participating teams must be conversant with the Indian laws, legislations and procedures as followed by the Indian courts, whilst taking evidence and advancing final arguments for the prosecution and the defense.

13. DISCLAIMER

13.1. The Material in the Moot Court proposition is not intended to and does not attempt to resemble any incident or any person living or dead. All material in the problem is fictitious and any resemblance to any incident or person, if any, is not intended, but merely co-incidental.

