



*Communique*  
*a new beginning...*

THAKUR RAMNARAYAN COLLEGE OF LAW

LEX COMMUNIQUE 2026

CLIENT COUNSELLING  
RULES & REGULATIONS



## ABOUT CLIENT COUNSELLING

The Client Counselling Competition, organized by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Society of Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law, aims to simulate real world legal consultations, providing participants with a platform to develop essential legal skills. This competition focuses on testing students' abilities to understand client needs, offer informed legal advice, and explore various dispute resolution options. By fostering critical thinking and effective communication, the event prepares aspiring legal professionals to navigate client interactions with confidence and competence. The competition seeks to cultivate a new generation of lawyers who are adopting evolving methods of dispute resolution.

### 1. ELIGIBILITY

Students enrolled in 3-year and 5-year law degree courses studying in any year from any University, Law School, College, or Department are eligible to apply for registration of their team in the Competition.

### 2. LANGUAGE

The official language of the Competition shall be English. All oral submissions must be undertaken in English.

### 3. TEAM COMPOSITION

A. Each participating team shall consist of two eligible students from the same institution, designated as Counsel 1 and Counsel 2.

B. All participants will be assigned a Team Code by the Organizing Committee, which must be strictly adhered to throughout the Competition.



C. A total of 30 teams will be participating in the Competition. Hence, registration will be on a first-come first-serve basis. The Organizing Committee, however, reserves the right to extend the number of teams if found suitable, in which case the cap may be removed.

## 4. ROUNDS

The Competition shall consist of three rounds: the Preliminary Round, Quarter-Final Round and the Final Round. The Office Memorandum shall contain a brief description of the client and the legal problem(s) for which the client seeks legal consultation.

### A. Preliminary Round

- Duration: 15 minutes (10 minutes consultation period + 5 minutes post-consultation period)
- All registered teams will participate in the Preliminary Round
- The Office Memorandum and client will be provided on the spot
- Top eight teams based on scores will advance to the Quarter-Final Round

### B. Quarter-Final Round

- Duration: 20 minutes (15 minutes consultation period + 5 minutes post-consultation period)
- The Office Memorandum shall be provided in brief 3 hour prior to the Round
- Top Two teams based on scores will advance to the Final Round

### C. Final Round

- Duration: 25 minutes (20 minutes consultation period + 5 minutes post-consultation period)
- The Office Memorandum shall be provided in brief 1 hour prior to the Final Round
- The client will be provided on the spot
- Winners and awards will be determined based on performance in this round



## 5. COMPETITION FORMAT

A. The Competition simulates a law office consultation in which two participants (Counsel 1 and Counsel 2) deal with a client.

B. The participant teams will conduct an interview with a dummy client assigned by the Organizing Committee, and the Judges will evaluate their performance based on the Assessment Criteria.

**C. Consultation Period (Interview Period):** During this period, participants are expected to:

- Elicit relevant information from the client
- Explore with the client his or her preferred outcome
- Outline the nature of the problem
- Suggest appropriate means to resolve the problem
- Demonstrate effective listening, questioning, and analytical skills

**D. Post-Consultation Period (Post-Interview Period):** During this period, participants may:

- Talk to each other loud enough to be heard by the Judges
- Dictate a file memorandum on the interview
- Reflect on their consultation strategy
- Judges may question the teams during the post-consultation period for further clarification

E. Team members are entirely free to decide the work distribution, but both participants must consult with the client as a team.

F. The participants will be evaluated by a panel of Judges considering specific criteria based on listening to clients, questioning, planning, analytical skills, and overall professional conduct.

G. It shall be at the full discretion of the Organizing Committee to select and allot the clients for each session.





F. Each Round has been assigned a time limit as follows:

- **Preliminary Round:** Consultation Period: 10 minutes, Post-Consultation Period: 5 minutes, Total Duration: 15 minutes
- **Quarter-Final Round:** Consultation Period: 15 minutes, Post-Consultation Period: 5 minutes, Total Duration: 20 minutes
- **Final Round:** Consultation Period: 15 minutes, Post-Consultation Period: 10 minutes, Total Duration: 25 minutes

G. No extra time will be given in any round under any circumstances. The Judges may penalize participants for exceeding time limits. Timekeepers appointed by the Organizing Committee will strictly monitor the time during all sessions.

## 6. THEME & SUBJECT MATTER

The theme for all rounds shall be based on any or the entire spectrum of laws including, but not limited to:

1. Labour Law
2. Contract Law
3. Family Law
4. Company Law
5. Environmental Law
6. Intellectual Property Law

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to include any other area of law as deemed appropriate for the Competition.

## 7. REGISTRATION PROCESS

A. Registration shall be conducted online through the Registration Form provided by the Organizing Committee.

B. The Registration Fee is Rs. 2000/- per team. Accommodation is available at Rs. 2000/- per person. The acknowledgement of payment must be submitted along with the online registration form.

C. The registration fee is nonrefundable and nontransferable under any circumstances.





D. The Organizing Committee has the exclusive right to decide in case of any dispute related to registration. The decision of the Organizing Committee in such cases shall be final and binding.

### BANK DETAILS FOR RTGS/NEFT

Name of the Account: Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law- A/c Lex

Communique

Bank name: Indian Bank

Branch: Kandivali (East)

A/c. No.: 6701666981

IFSC Code: IDIB000K161

## 8. MATERIALS & RESOURCES

A. Teams may use books, notes, and other reference materials during all Rounds.

B. Participants are permitted the use of personal notes and stationery items during the consultation sessions.

C. The use of electronic devices for communication purposes (other than for reference materials if permitted) is strictly prohibited during the consultation period.

## 9. ASSESSMENT

A. The Assessment Criteria includes but is not limited to:

- Establishing an effective professional relationship
- Obtaining information and understanding client's goals
- Analysis of the client's problems (factual and legal)
- Developing reasoned courses of action and advice given
- Effectively concluding the interview
- Post-consultation reflection period
- Responding to Judges' questions
- Teamwork and coordination



- B. The total marks for assessment shall be 100 marks per team per round.
- C. The decision of the Judges regarding scoring and evaluation shall be final and binding.
- D. Feedback may be provided to teams at the discretion of the Judges and the Organizing Committee.

## 10. RULE REGARDING TIE-BREAKER

- A. In case of a tie between the scores of teams, preference shall be given to the team that has received more marks in the "Analysis of the client's problems (factual & legal)" portion of the score sheet.
- B. If the tie persists after applying the first criterion, preference shall be given to the team that has received more marks in the "Developing reasoned courses of action & advice given" portion of the score sheet.
- C. If the tie still persists, the Organizing Committee, in consultation with the Judges, shall determine the ranking based on overall performance and other relevant factors.

## 11. ANONYMITY

- A. No participating team shall reveal their identity, college, university, or institution in any form during the Competition, except by means of the Team Code allotted to them.
- B. The use of advocate's gowns, bands, and robes is strictly prohibited.
- C. Any violation of the provisions of this rule shall attract severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Organizing Committee.
- D. The decision of the Organizing Committee in this regard shall be final and binding without any scope of appeal.
- E.



## 12. SCOUTING

- A. No member of any team will be permitted to witness the proceedings in any Counselling Room in which that team is not participating whilst that team is a part of the Competition.
- B. Scouting is not allowed under any circumstances and may lead to immediate disqualification of the team.
- C. In case of any violation of this rule, the Organizing Committee shall take strict action, which may include, but not be limited to, the expulsion of the said team from the Competition.

## 13. RIGHT TO AMEND, MODIFY OR REVOKE

- A. The Organizing Committee shall have the power to amend, modify, or revoke the provisions of these rules, either in part or in whole, subject to the feasibility, transparency, and smooth functioning of the Competition.
- B. Any such amendment or modification shall come into force upon the notification of such amendment or modification as the case may be.
- C. Any such amendment or modification shall be deemed to be part of these rules.
- D. Due notice shall be provided to all participating teams regarding any amendments or modifications to the rules.

## 14. ETHICS CODE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Organizing Committee has the right to expect a minimum standard of acceptable conduct by participants. All participants are expected to adhere to the following:

### A. Professional Conduct:

- The aim of each participant should be to provide competent, ethical, and professional legal counselling to the client.
- Participants shall demonstrate respect, empathy, and active listening skills when interacting with clients.



- Participants shall maintain confidentiality regarding all information disclosed during the consultation session.
- Participants shall treat the client, fellow team members, Judges, and all other participants with dignity and respect.

#### **B. Prohibited Conduct:**

- Verbal abuse, threats, acts of intimidation, or violence will not be tolerated.
- Any kind of abusive or offensive language is strictly prohibited.
- Making derogatory remarks about any participant, client, or Judge during the session is prohibited.
- Any participant who is subjected to unacceptable behavior should politely and immediately communicate to the person that they are not comfortable with the discussion and ask them to withdraw from the situation.
- Acts that endanger the health and safety of any participant or which substantially interfere with the orderly operation of the session will not be tolerated.

#### **C. Dress Code:**

- Participants must wear formal attire at all times during the Competition.
- Mandatory Dress Code:
  - Male participants: Black pants and white shirt
  - Female participants: Black pants and white shirt OR white kurta and black salwar (Indian formals)
- The use of advocate's gowns, bands, and robes is strictly prohibited.
- Any form of casual or informal clothing whatsoever is prohibited.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify or penalize participants for inappropriate attire.



## 15. CLARIFICATIONS

- A. Clarifications regarding the rules, procedures, or any aspect of the Competition may be requested by participants.
- B. All requests for clarification must be made through email to the official email address provided by the Organizing Committee.
- C. Clarifications will be released by the Organizing Committee via email to all participants to ensure fairness and transparency.
- D. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to decline requests for clarifications that seek additional information beyond the scope of the Competition materials provided.
- E. Email: [adrs@trcl.org.in](mailto:adrs@trcl.org.in) and CC: [lexcommunique@trcl.org.in](mailto:lexcommunique@trcl.org.in)

## 16. AWARDS

| TITLE             | AWARDS                             |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Winners           | Cash Prize + Trophy + Certificates |
| Runners-Up        | Cash Prize + Trophy + Certificates |
| Best Counsel      | Cash Prize + Trophy + Certificates |
| Runner-Up Counsel | Cash Prize + Trophy + Certificates |
| Participation     | Certificates                       |