



THAKUR RAMNARAYAN COLLEGE OF LAW

LEX COMMUNIQUE 2025

TRIAL ADVOCACY

RULES & REGULATIONS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. DEFINITIONS:

- 1.1. '*Clarifications*' refers to the clarification(s) to the Trial Proposition issued by the Organizers;
- 1.2. '*Competition*' refers to the Lex Communique Trial Advocacy Competition, 2025;
- 1.3. '*Disqualification*' means the team will not be allowed to further participate in the competition and there shall not be awarded a certificate of participation or any cash price or award;
- 1.4. '*Penalties*' means the points which are deductible on account of non-adherence to limitation of court time and on any other ground as determined by the organizers;
- 1.5. '*Rules*' means and includes the rules and regulations of the competition, any other supplementary rules issued, and notified by the organizers;

2. DATE AND VENUE:

- 2.1. Lex Communique Trial Advocacy Competition, 2025 shall be held from **8th February 2025 to 9th February 2025**. It will be held offline at Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law, Thakur Educational Campus, Dahisar (East), Mumbai. The detailed schedule of the Competition is attached at the end of this rulebook.

3. ELIGIBILITY:

- 3.1. The Competition is open for all students who are pursuing a three-year or five-year degree course in Universities Colleges/ Law Departments in India as recognized by the Bar Council of India.

4. MEDIUM OF LANGUAGE:

- 4.1. The official language for the Competition shall be English only. Use of vernacular language by the participants during the competition is prohibited.

5. TEAM COMPOSITION:

- 5.1. The team must consist of minimum 3 and maximum of 4 Members only. Two Speakers and One Researcher/ Two Speakers and Two Researchers. This number cannot be modified under any circumstances.
- 5.2. Each team will be provided a unique team code. Team codes only shall, throughout the Competition, be used to communicate with the judges, court clerks, volunteers and organizers.
- 5.3. No changes in the team composition shall be permitted once the final registration is confirmed by the organizers. However, the organizers may permit, subsequent to a request made by participating team, and prior to the commencement of the competition, change in the order of the Speakers in the team.
- 5.4. The participants are strictly prohibited from disclosing or revealing their college/university identity to any other participant belonging to another college/ university, or the judges, either directly or through symbolic representation, including but Limited to their dress code or through applications, books, compendiums, and any other material submitted or used by the participants. Contravention of the same may lead to disqualification based on sole discretion of the organizers.

6. DRESS CODE:

- 6.1. The dress code for the competition shall be strictly formals. Teams are not permitted to wear neck bands, or Advocate Gowns for the competition. The participants are allowed to wear the following dress code only:

Gentlemen – Black Trousers, White Shirt, Black Blazer, Black Tie

Ladies - Black Trousers, White Shirt, White Kurta and Black Chudidar Pants, Black Blazer

7. REGISTRATION:

- 7.1. Participation in the Lex Communique Trial Advocacy Competition, 2025 is restricted to 30 teams only.
- 7.2. Institutions/Teams interested in participating in the competition will have to provisionally register by sending an email to mca@trcl.org.in and only after the confirmation of provisional slot by the Organizers, they can complete the formalities of the final registration.

7.3. Only the teams who have received confirmation of provisional registration via an email from the Organizers must submit the registration form.

7.4. The Teams shall pay a non-refundable registration fee through the payment link, which would be sent to the teams registered.

7.5. Not more than 2 teams per College/Institution/University shall be permitted to take part in the Competition.

7.6. Registration Fees:

Registration Fees per team: INR 4000/-

Accommodation Charges: INR 2000/- per person.

The registration fee shall be accepted only through online transaction.

7.7. Bank Details for UPI/RTGS/NEFT:

Name of the Account: Lex Communiqué

Bank name: Indian Bank.

Branch: Kandivali (EAST)

Account No.: 6701666981

IFSC Code: IDIB000K161

8. ORAL ROUNDS:

8.1. There shall be four rounds conducted for the purpose of this Competition:

- a) Preliminary Rounds I & II;
- b) Quarter-Final Rounds;
- c) Semi-Final Rounds;
- d) Final Rounds.

8.1.a Preliminary Rounds – Each team shall argue before a distinct bench appearing once on behalf of the Prosecution and appearing once on behalf of the Defence. No team shall argue before the same Judge twice in the Preliminary rounds. No teams shall go up against each other twice in the Preliminary Rounds. The top eight teams as determined by the scoring criteria shall qualify for the Quarter Final Rounds.

8.1.b Quarter Final Rounds – The team shall argue only from one side for this round. The team with highest aggregate speaker scores from each court room will qualify for the Semi-Final Rounds.

8.1.c Semi-Final Rounds – The team shall argue only from one side for this round. The top 2 scorers with highest aggregate speaker scores will qualify for the Final Rounds.

8.1.d Final Round –The team shall argue only from one side for this round. Witnesses for this round will be provided by the Organizers.

8.2. The teams shall examine maximum 5 witnesses from each side, within the time allotted to them. Each speaker shall have to conduct Examination-in-Chief and Cross Examination of at least two witnesses in each round.

8.3. It shall be at the discretion of the Speakers with regards to the distribution of businesses of Opening Statement and Final Arguments among themselves. No one Speaker can deal with both businesses.

8.4. The order of the speakers and the examination and statements they would present, is to be intimated by the teams to the court officers before the commencement of the rounds and can be altered only with the permission of the organizers before starting the respective round. Roles of Speaker 1 and 2 can be swapped subject to Organizing Committee's approval. However, swapping between Speaker to a Researcher and vice-versa is not allowed.

8.5. The order of examination is as follows:

i) Examination-in-chief of Prosecution Witness No.1 by the Prosecution

ii) Cross Examination of Prosecution Witness No.1 by the Defence

Likewise, for all remaining Prosecution Witnesses.

iii)Examination-in-chief of Defence Witness No.1 by the Defence

iv)Cross Examination of Defence Witness No.1 by the Prosecution

Likewise, for all remaining Defence Witnesses.

9. ALLOCATION OF TIME:

9.1. Preliminary Rounds

- i) Each team shall get a maximum of 30 minutes in each Preliminary Round.
- ii) Thus, the total time of each Preliminary Round shall not exceed 60 minutes.
 - a. *Opening Statement by the Prosecution* – 03 minutes;
 - b. *Opening Statement by the Defence* – 03 minutes;
 - c. *Examination-in-Chief of all Prosecution Witnesses* – 08 minutes;
 - d. *Cross Examination of all Prosecution Witnesses* – 14 minutes;
 - e. *Chief Examination of all Defence Witnesses* – 08 minutes;
 - f. *Cross Examination of all Defence Witnesses* - 14 minutes;
 - g. *Closing Statement/Final Arguments by the Prosecution* – 05 minutes;
 - h. *Closing Statement/Final Arguments by the Defence* – 05 minutes;

9.2. Quarter and Semi-Final Rounds

- i) Each team shall get a maximum of 45 minutes in Quarter and Semi-Final Rounds.
- ii) Thus, the total time of each Round shall not exceed 90 minutes in each round.
 - a. *Opening Statement by the Prosecution* – 05 minutes;
 - b. *Opening Statement by the Defence* – 05 minutes;
 - c. *Chief Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses* – 12 minutes;
 - d. *Cross Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses* – 20 minutes;
 - e. *Chief Examination of all the Defence Witnesses* – 12 minutes;
 - f. *Cross Examination of all the Defence Witnesses* – 20 minutes;
 - g. *Closing Statement/Final Arguments by the Prosecution* – 08 minutes;
 - h. *Closing Statement/ Final Arguments by the Defence* – 08 minutes;

9.3. Final Round

- i) Each team shall get a maximum of 60 minutes in the Final Round.
- ii) Thus, the total time of the Final Round shall not exceed 120 minutes;
 - a. *Opening Statement by the Prosecution* – 05 minutes;
 - b. *Opening Statement by the Defence* – 05 minutes;
 - c. *Chief Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses* – 16 minutes;
 - d. *Cross Examination of all the Prosecution Witnesses* – 24 minutes;
 - e. *Chief Examination of all the Defence Witnesses* – 16 minutes;
 - f. *Cross Examination of all the Defence Witnesses* – 24 minutes;
 - g. *Closing Statement/Final Arguments by the Prosecution* – 10 minutes;
 - h. *Closing Statement/ Final Arguments by the Defence* – 10 minutes;

10. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF ORAL SUBMISSIONS:

10.1 Parameters for evaluating Speakers: Each Speaker shall be marked on the following criteria:

SR. NO.	PARAMETERS	MAXIMUM MARKS
1.	Knowledge of facts	10 Marks
2.	Logic, reasoning, and clarity articulate and systematic analysis of the issues arising out of facts	20 Marks
3.	Persuasiveness & deference to court	20 Marks
4.	Understanding of the laws of evidence and procedure	20 Marks
5.	Ability to conduct chief/ cross examinations in allotted time	10 Marks
6.	Ability to elicit favourable facts from witnesses	10 Marks
7.	Ingenuity (ability to argue by analogy) & innovate	10 Marks
8.	TOTAL	100 Marks

10.2 Parameters for evaluating Witness: Every Witness-cum-Researcher in the Preliminary Round shall be marked on the following criteria:

SR. NO.	PARAMETERS	MAXIMUM MARKS
1.	Knowledge of Problem	20 Marks
2.	Ability to maintain Character of Witness	20 Marks
3.	Ability to Answer Questions	20 Marks
4.	Logical Reasoning and Clarity	20 Marks
5.	Court Etiquette	20 Marks
	TOTAL	100 Marks

11. WITNESSES:

- 11.1. The organizers will **not** be providing witnesses for the Preliminary, Quarter-Final and Semi-Final rounds. The researcher of the teams will play the role of the Witnesses. The witness scores will be combined with the team’s overall score in the Preliminary Round.
- 11.2. Teams must inform the court officers prior to the start of each round, which witnesses they intend to examine in that round.
- 11.3. All participating teams are requested to send an email with the subject line “List of Witnesses -: Lex Communique” to mca@trcl.org.in, listing the witnesses intended for both the Prosecution and Defence. This must be submitted on or before 1st February 2025. No changes to the witness list will be accepted after this date.

12. MISCELLENOUS:

- 12.1. The Trial Proposition includes "Undisputed Facts" that cannot be altered, amended, or interpreted by the teams to suit their convenience.
- 12.2. All requests for clarifications must be sent via email with the subject line “Clarifications: Lex Communique 2025” to mca@trcl.org.in by the deadline specified in Exhibit 1. No queries regarding the Trial Proposition will be entertained after this date.

- 12.3. If any rules or scoring criteria are not explicitly defined and cannot be reasonably anticipated, the organizers, in consultation with the faculty-in-charge, reserve the right to establish such rules or criteria.
- 12.4. The contents of the Trial Proposition are entirely fictional and are not intended to resemble any real-life incident or person, living or deceased. All names, characters, locations, dates, and other materials are fictitious and do not aim to offend or degrade any community, religion, group, or individual. Any resemblance is purely coincidental and unintentional.
- 12.5. The competition will be conducted based on the current major criminal laws, namely the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1873, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and **NOT** the new criminal laws (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha).
- 12.6. The laws of Ionia are *pari materia* with the laws of India.

13. AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

13.1 The following are the Awards that will be presented during the valedictory ceremony:

TITLE	AWARDS
Winners	Cash Prize + Trophy + Certificates + Additional perks
Runners-Up	Cash Prize + Trophy + Certificates
Best Speaker	Cash Prize + Trophy + Certificate

14. ACCOMODATION:

- 14.1. The teams opting for accommodation must pay an additional amount of INR 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand) Per Person to the Host College for such accommodation. It will be at the discretion of the participating teams to opt for accommodation.
- 14.2. Payment shall be made in accordance with the specified rule. Information regarding accommodation will be communicated to the teams by the Organizers.

NOTE:

- No pick-up or drop services will be provided by the host college from the airport or bus station to the accommodation.
- Drinking and smoking are strictly prohibited at the accommodation and on the college campus. Non-compliance with this rule will result in disqualification, and the MCA will take strict action against any team found violating this rule.
- The nearest railway stations to the college are Dahisar, Borivali, and Mira Road. The nearest airport is Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai. Please specify whether you are arriving at the International or Domestic terminal when traveling to Mumbai.

15. DISCLAIMER

The institution/society reserves the right to modify or cancel any rules as deemed appropriate at any time during the competition, and the organizers decisions shall be final.

CONTACT DETAILS:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mca@trcl.org.in

STUDENT CONVENERS:

Sushanth S Anchan

+91 9372547205

Udit Gangawane

+91 7045665542

EXHIBIT 1: LEX COMMUNIQUE 2025 SCHEDULE

Sr. No.	Date	Event
1	15th November 2024	<i>Release of Provisional Registration</i>
2	15th November 2024	<i>Release of Rules, Registration Forms and Trial Problem</i>
3	10th January 2025	<i>Last Day for Final Registration</i>
4	15th January 2025	<i>Last Day for Seeking Clarification Regarding Trial Problem</i>
5	1st February 2025	<i>Submission of List of Witnesses</i>
6	7th February 2025	<i>Draw of Lots (Virtual)</i>
7	8th February 2025	<i>Inauguration, Preliminary Round 1 & 2, Quarter Final Rounds</i>
8	9th February 2025	<i>Semi-Final Rounds, Final Round and Valedictory</i>