



## RULES & REGULATIONS

### 1. GENERAL RULES

#### 1.1 DATE & VENUE OF THE COMPETITION:

The 9<sup>th</sup> Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition, 2015 will be held from October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at the School of Excellence in Law, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai – 600028.

#### 1.2 TEAM ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION:

- a. Participation is strictly restricted to *bona fide* law students enrolled in the three year or five year LL.B. or B.L. degree course in any institution in India.
- b. Only one team is permitted to participate from each provisionally registered institution.
- c. Each team shall comprise of a minimum of two and a maximum of three members. In a team consisting of two members, each of the members shall be designated as 'Speaker'. In a team consisting of three members, two of the members shall be designated as 'Speaker' and the third member shall be designated as 'Researcher'.

#### 1.3 REGISTRATION PROCEDURE:

- a. Provisional Registration of the participating institutions shall be sent by e-mail to [probonoenviro2015@gmail.com](mailto:probonoenviro2015@gmail.com) on or before **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, 11:59 PM**. There is a team cap of **30**. The registration of the institutions will take place entirely on first-come-first-serve basis.
- b. Upon receipt of an e-mail confirming provisional registration from the Organising Committee, participants shall complete the Registration Formalities in two steps:
  - i. Participants shall e-mail the duly filled and signed Soft Copy (scanned copy) of the Registration Form (Annexure-I) as well as the scanned copy of the Demand Draft for **Rs. 3,500/-** to [probonoenviro2015@gmail.com](mailto:probonoenviro2015@gmail.com) on or before **6<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM**. The Demand Draft shall be drawn in favour of "**The Registrar, The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai – 600028**", payable at Chennai.



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- ii. The Hard Copy of the said Registration Form and the original Demand Draft shall reach the Organising Committee on or before **9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM** via **Speed Post** or **Courier**. The address for correspondence is as specified in Rule 9.1.
- c. Upon completion of the above steps, the duly filled Travel Form (Annexure-II) is to be e-mailed to [probonoenviro2015@gmail.com](mailto:probonoenviro2015@gmail.com) on or before **12<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM**.
- d. Teams that have completed Registration in accordance with the above shall be assigned a Team Code on or before **13<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM**. Henceforth, all correspondence to the Organising Committee shall specify only the Team Code.
- e. No alteration in the Team Composition shall be permitted after the receipt of the Registration Form, except at the sole discretion of the Organising Committee.

### 1.4 DRESS CODE:

- a. Participants shall be appropriately attired for the rounds of the competition. Robes and collar bands are not permitted.
- b. The Dress Code for the **Inauguration, Researcher's Test, Oral Rounds and Valedictory & Prize Distribution** shall strictly be:
  - i. For **Gentlemen** - Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants and a black blazer); and
  - ii. For **Ladies** - Western Formals (White formal shirt with black formal pants/black formal skirt and a black blazer) or Indian Formals (white kurta with black pants and either a black waistcoat or black blazer).
- c. On **other occasions** while on campus, participants may wear casuals or formals at their convenience.

### 2. CLARIFICATIONS

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition and the Rules regarding submission of the Memorandum shall be sought by sending an e-mail to [probonoenviro2015@gmail.com](mailto:probonoenviro2015@gmail.com) on or before **15<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM**. Clarifications sent after this date shall not be entertained at any cost. The List of Clarifications shall be released on **18<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**.

### 3. MEMORANDUM/WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS



### 3.1 SUBMISSION OF MEMORANDUM:

- a. Participants are required to submit Memorandum or Written Submissions for both the Petitioner and the Respondent.
- b. Teams shall e-mail two Soft Copies each of the Memorandums, in PDF and Microsoft Word formats, i.e. four (4) separate file attachments, titled “Team CodeP” and “Team CodeR” for the Petitioner and Respondent respectively, on or before **23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM** to [probonoenviro2015@gmail.com](mailto:probonoenviro2015@gmail.com). For example, if the assigned team code is 21, the team shall title the Memorandums as “21P” and “21R” respectively. The Soft Copy should be compatible with at least Microsoft Word 2003. Late submission shall attract penalties in accordance with Rule 3.3.
- c. Only the Team Code shall be specified on the Memorandum. Any reference to the participating institution/college/university shall result in immediate disqualification.
- d. Teams shall send **One (1) Hard Copy each of the Petitioner and Respondent Memorandums** on or before **26<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM** via **Speed Post** or **Courier** to the address mentioned in Rule 9.1. Late submission shall attract penalties in accordance with Rule 3.3. On mailing the Hard Copy, participants are requested to e-mail [probonoenviro2015@gmail.com](mailto:probonoenviro2015@gmail.com) providing the relevant Tracking ID or Tracing Consignment Number of the Speed Post or Courier service.
- e. No amendment to the memorandum shall be permitted after submission of the soft copies. Variation found in the Hard Copy shall be penalised in accordance with Rule 3.3.
- f. The last date for sending the Hard Copy of the Memorandum with penalties is **28<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, 11:59 PM** beyond which the same shall not be accepted at any cost. Teams not submitting the Hard Copy by the aforesaid date may be listed last for the purpose of determination of fixtures for the Preliminary Rounds and the Memorandum Score shall not be added to the Oral Rounds Score for the Total Score in the Preliminary Rounds. Teams must note that the Memorandum Score shall not be considered even if the Soft Copy has been e-mailed but the Hard Copy has not been received by the Organising Committee on the abovementioned date. Exceptions may be made at the sole discretion of the Organising Committee.
- g. **Six (6) Hard Copies of each of the Petitioner and Respondent Memorandums** shall be submitted during the Team Registration on **30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**.
- h. Participants are advised to carry additional copies of their Memorandum for their own use. Copies submitted to the Organising Committee shall be used for the evaluation of



the Memorandum, for the Exchange of Memorandum and for the Judges Bench for each of the Oral Rounds.

- i. The Organising Committee reserves the right to use the memorandum submitted by the participating teams, as it deems appropriate. The memorandum submitted shall not be returned to the participants.

### 3.2 CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM:

- a. Each Memorandum shall contain at least the following sections:
  - i. Cover Page (shall include Year of the Competition, Cause Title, Forum/Court, designation as Petitioner or Respondent Memo, Team Code on the top right corner - e.g. 21P or 21R)
  - ii. Table of Contents
  - iii. Index of Authorities
  - iv. Statement of Jurisdiction (strictly restrict to 1 page)
  - v. Summary/Statement of Facts (strictly restrict to 1 page; argumentative Statement of Facts shall be penalised)
  - vi. Issues Raised/Questions Presented
  - vii. Summary of Arguments/Pleadings
  - viii. Arguments Advanced/Written Pleadings (strictly restrict to 20 pages or less)
  - ix. Prayer
- b. The following content specifications shall be strictly adhered to:

Language: English

**Body** Font & Size: Times New Roman, 12; Line Spacing: 1.5  
[The spacing need not be followed for the Cover Page, any Tabular Column, Header or Footer]

**Footnotes** Font & Size: Times New Roman, 10; Line Spacing: 1.0; Paragraph Spacing: None; No additional space between footnotes

Alignment (Body & Footnotes): Justified

Margin: 1 inch on all 4 sides

Citation Method: *The Bluebook, A Uniform System of Citation*, Harvard Law Review, 19<sup>th</sup> edition

Substantive Footnoting is strictly prohibited.
- c. The following printing specifications shall be strictly adhered to:



- i. The Cover Page shall be:
  - Blue for Petitioner Memorandum
  - Red for Respondent Memorandum
- ii. Only white A4 sized paper shall be used for all other pages. Use of recycled papers is encouraged.
- iii. The Memorandums shall be printed on both sides. Each side shall be counted as one page.
- iv. The Memorandums shall be staple bound with two/three staples on the left margin. No other form of binding shall be accepted. The use of plastic/cellophane sheets or films shall attract penalties.
- v. The Memorandums shall not contain any Annexures/Appendices, Photographs, Sketches, Exhibits, Affidavits, etc.

### **3.3 EVALUATION OF THE MEMORANDUM:**

- a. Each Memorandum shall be marked on a total of 100 points. The Memorandum Score added to the Oral Rounds Score during the Preliminary Rounds shall be for the respective Round, i.e. the Petitioner Memorandum Score shall be added to the Oral Score while arguing for the Petitioner and the Respondent Memorandum Score shall be added to the Oral Score while arguing for the Respondent.
- b. The Best Memorandum Award shall be given to the team with the highest aggregate score out of 200 for both the Memorandums.
- c. The Memorandum will be evaluated by a separate panel of judges who will not Judge in the Oral Rounds.
- d. The Memorandum Score will be used in determining the fixtures for the Preliminary Rounds in accordance with Rule 4.5.
- e. The following shall be the judging criteria:

Knowledge of law & depth of research	20
Use of authority/precedents	20
Incorporation of facts into the arguments	10
Interpretation of applicable law	10
Clarity of thought and organisation of arguments	15
Style of Presentation	10





Originality	10
Relief sought	5

f. Penalties shall be attracted in the following manner:

VIOLATION	PENALTY
Late Submission - Soft Copy	1 point per day per Memo
Late Submission - Hard Copy	2 points per day per Memo
Any violation under Rule 3.2 (a.)	1 point for each violation under the Rule
Any violation under Rule 3.2 (b.)	0.5 point for each violation under the Rule
Any violation under Rule 3.2 (c.)	1 point for each violation under the Rule
Variation in content between Soft Copy and Hard Copy	0.5 point for each variation
Violation of Anonymity	Disqualification

#### 4. ORAL ROUNDS

##### 4.1 GENERAL PROCEDURE:

- a. Teams are requested to bring their appropriate institution ID cards along with the six (6) hard copies of the Memorandums for each side to be submitted during the formal registration on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.
- b. The language to be used during the Rounds is English.
- c. The Competition shall consist of the following rounds:
  - i. Preliminary Rounds; and
  - ii. Advanced Rounds:
    - (i) Quarter-finals,
    - (ii) Semi-finals,
    - (iii) Finals.
- d. During each of the abovementioned rounds, the order in which the teams shall present their arguments is as follows:
  - i. Petitioner Speaker 1
  - ii. Petitioner Speaker 2
  - iii. Respondent Speaker 1
  - iv. Respondent Speaker 2



- v. Rebuttal: Petitioner - Any one of the two Speakers
  - vi. Sur-rebuttal: Respondent - Any one of the two Speakers
- Sur-rebuttal may be permitted only at the discretion of the Judges.
- e. The Best Speaker Award shall be determined on the basis of the individual aggregate score of the Speaker taken only from the Preliminary Rounds.
  - f. The Researcher shall not be permitted to address the Court during the Oral Rounds. The Researcher may however, be permitted to pass notes to the Speakers at the discretion of the Judges.
  - g. Teams are not permitted to raise issues in the Oral Rounds that have not been submitted in the Memorandum.
  - h. The use of mobile phones, laptops, or any other electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited during the Oral Rounds.
  - i. Participants may use their own bare acts, print outs and commentaries provided that anonymity is not violated during the Rounds.
  - j. The decision of the Judges as to the marks allotted to each team shall be final.
  - k. So as to ensure uniformity in the marking system all Judges will be provided with a scoring guideline.

#### **4.2 SPLITTING OF TIME BETWEEN SPEAKERS:**

- a. Teams shall notify the Bench Clerks of the division of time between the 2 Speakers (including time reserved for Rebuttal & Sur-rebuttal) 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the Rounds.
- b. If Speaker 1 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved by Speaker 2. Similarly, if Speaker 2 exceeds his/her reserved time, the additional time taken shall be deducted from the time reserved for Rebuttals/Sur-Rebuttals as the case may be. This rule may not be followed if the additional time is awarded at the discretion of the Judges to not be deducted from the time of the subsequent Speaker.
- c. While granting additional time, if the additional number of minutes granted is not specified by the Judges, it shall be presumed that the additional time granted is 2 minutes.
- d. The finality of the decision as to the time structure and the right to Rebut or Sur-rebut shall vest with the Judges.



#### 4.3 COMPENDIUM:

- a. All relevant case laws and statutory material to be passed on to the Judges during the Oral Rounds may be submitted in the form of a Compendium **10 minutes prior** to the commencement of the Rounds to the Bench Clerks.
- b. The Compendium shall not exceed 50 pages whether printed on one side or both sides. For this purpose, each side shall be considered as one page.
- c. Participants are also permitted to pass on relevant material to the Judges, at their discretion, any time after the commencement of the Rounds and before its completion.
- d. The Compendium or other relevant materials shall be returned to the participants after the completion of each Round.
- e. Participants shall ensure that anonymity is not violated while passing on any material to the Judges. If any mark, name, seal, symbol or logo of the institution/college/university is present, participants must ensure that the same is rendered unrecognisable.

#### 4.4 EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDUM:

- a. The exchange of memorandum shall take place prior to each Oral Round as planned in the Tentative Schedule.
- b. Teams are prohibited from making any marks on the memorandum thus exchanged. Teams are also prohibited from taking photocopies of such memorandums.
- c. The opponent's memorandum shall be returned to the Bench Clerks after the completion of each Round.

#### 4.5 PRELIMINARY ROUNDS:

- a. Every team shall argue twice in the Preliminary Rounds, once for the Petitioner and once for the Respondent.
- b. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.
- c. The fixtures for the Preliminary Rounds will be based on **dynamic seeding** or **power matching**. The top eight (8) teams based on the Memorandum Score will not face each other during the Preliminary Rounds.
- d. Each side shall get a maximum time of **30 minutes** to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 18 minutes. The time





- limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 2 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 1 minute.
- e. The Total Score of the Preliminary Rounds shall be a combined score of the Memorandum Score as well as the Oral Rounds Score.
  - f. The top eight (8) teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall advance to the Quarter-finals.
  - g. The top eight teams shall qualify on the basis of the maximum number of wins per team. In the event of a tie, the aggregate score of the team shall be considered.

#### 4.6 ADVANCED ROUNDS:

- a. Every team shall argue once in each of the Advanced Rounds.
- b. The side to be argued shall be determined on a Pick of Lots.
- c. The qualification of teams to subsequent rounds shall be on a **knock-out** basis for each of the Advanced Rounds. In the event of a tie, the aggregate score of the team shall be considered.
- d. The Memorandum Score shall not be considered for any of the Advanced Rounds.

##### 4.6.1 QUARTER-FINALS

- i. The maximum time for arguments per side shall be the **same as in the Preliminary Rounds.**
- ii. The top four (4) teams from the Quarter-finals shall advance to the Semi-finals.

##### 4.6.2 SEMI-FINALS

- i. Each side shall get a maximum time of **45 minutes** to present their arguments of which no Speaker shall be permitted to address the Court for more than 25 minutes. The time limit is inclusive of the time for Rebuttal or Sur-rebuttal respectively. The maximum time for Rebuttal is 5 minutes and the maximum time for Sur-rebuttal is 2 minutes.
- ii. The top two (2) teams from the Semi-finals shall advance to the Finals.

##### 4.6.3 FINALS

- i. The maximum time for arguments per side shall be the **same as in the Semi-finals.**



- ii. The winner of the Final Round shall be declared the Winner of the Competition.
- iii. The Best Speaker in the Finals shall be determined based on the individual scores of the Speakers in the Finals.

#### **4.7 SCOUTING:**

- a. Scouting is strictly prohibited.
- b. Any person may submit a complaint regarding Scouting to the Organising Committee.
- c. Teams found scouting shall be disqualified immediately.

#### **4.8 DELAYS IN APPEARANCE/PRESENTATION:**

If a team scheduled to take part in a Round does not appear within 10 minutes of the scheduled time, the other team present shall be allowed to submit ex-parte.

#### **5. RESEARCHER'S TEST**

- a. The Researcher's Test shall be conducted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015 as per the Tentative Schedule.
- b. In a team consisting of three members, the member designated as Researcher shall take part in the test. In a team consisting of two members, one of the two Speakers shall take part in the test.
- c. Participants are requested to write only the Team Code on the question paper.
- d. The Researcher's Test shall be in the format of Multiple Choice Questions with the questions based on the applicable law, precedents and facts pertaining to the Moot Proposition.
- e. The duration of the Researcher's Test shall be **45 minutes**.
- f. No additional material such as the bare text of Acts, Memorandum, etc. apart from stationery may be brought by the participant to the test and no such material shall be provided by the Organising Committee.
- g. The Winner of the Test shall be determined by the highest score attained and negative marking shall not be given while evaluating.



## **6. AWARDS**

The following Awards shall be given away during the Valedictory & Prize Distribution:

*Winner of the Competition:* Cash Prize and Trophy

*Runner-up of the Competition:* Cash Prize and Trophy

*Best Memorandum:* Cash prize and Trophy

*Best Speaker:* Cash prize and Trophy

*Best Researcher:* Cash Prize and Trophy

*Best Speaker in the Finals:* Cash Prize and Trophy

- a. All participants of the Competition will be given Certificates.
- b. All teams shall be present during the Valedictory & Prize Distribution. Certificates will only be given to the teams present during the Valedictory & Prize Distribution.

## **7. ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORT & FOOD:**

- a. Accommodation and transport shall be provided to the participating teams from the **morning of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015** till the **morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015**.
- b. Food shall be provided to the teams from the **afternoon of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2015** till the **night of 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2015**.
- c. Any specific requirements regarding accommodation must be specified in the Travel Form. Such requirements may be accommodated at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- d. Facilities such as photocopying, library usage, internet connectivity, etc. may be provided subject to the convenience of the Organising Committee and will be informed to the teams closer to the commencement of the Competition. Irrespective, participants are requested to make their own arrangements for the same.
- e. All facilities shall be provided only to the registered members of a team and no additional members, parents, observers, coaches or faculty advisors shall be accommodated at any cost.



## **8. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **8.1 GENERAL ETIQUETTE:**

- a. Participants are expected to behave in a dignified manner and not to cause any inconvenience to the Organising Committee, the Judges of the Competition or any of the other participants.
- b. The Organising Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action for any unethical, unprofessional or immoral conduct.

### **8.2 INTERPRETATION OF RULES & REGULATIONS:**

- a. All interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents or other decisions in the administration of the Competition are at the complete discretion of the Host Institution and the Organising Committee.
- b. Any decision made by the Host Institution or the Organising Committee shall be final and binding on all participating teams.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE/CONTACT DETAILS**

### **9.1 REGISTRATION FORMALITIES & MEMORANDUM SUBMISSIONS:**

The physical address for correspondence for all Registration Formalities and Memorandum Submissions is:

**Organising Committee**

**“9<sup>th</sup> Pro Bono Enviro National Moot Court Competition, 2015”**

**Moot Court Association, School of Excellence in Law**

**“Poompozhi”, No. 5, Dr. D.G.S. Dinakaran Salai**

**Chennai – 600028**

**Tamil Nadu, India.**

### **9.2 MOOT PROPOSITION AND RULES & REGULATIONS:**

Any and all clarifications regarding the Moot Proposition and Rules & Regulations shall be sought only via **e-mail** at the following addresses:

[probonoenviro2015@gmail.com](mailto:probonoenviro2015@gmail.com), cc: [mca.soel@gmail.com](mailto:mca.soel@gmail.com)



### 9.3 OTHER QUERIES:

Any other queries may be directed at the following persons:

#### REGISTRATION

**Vadhana Bhaskar:** + 91 9791121793

**Ashwathy Nair S.:** +91 9789045431

**Divya Ranjani:** + 91 9543566480

**Chindan K.:** +91 9677287956

#### HOSPITALITY

**Salai Varun Isai Azhagan:** + 91 9677958816

**Ashwin Kumar M.:** + 91 9677745023

**T. Shrinikethan:** +91 8056255861

**Bhargavi Kannan:** +91 9789877129

Participants may keep themselves updated by following:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Moot-Court-Association-School-of-Excellence-in-Law-201136933274208/timeline/>

**Website:** [www.mcasoel13.webs.com](http://www.mcasoel13.webs.com)

