



9th RMLNLU-SCC ONLINE[®]

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LAW MOOT

COURT COMPETITION, 2021

February 26 - 28, 2021



INVITATION BROCHURE



About RMLNLU



Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University was established in 2005 by the State Legislature of Uttar Pradesh and came into existence in 2006 with the objective to encourage and disseminate legal knowledge. The University instils in the students a sense of responsibility towards the society and is committed to promote diverse culture in the field of law. The University attempts to further meet its objectives by organizing one of the most prestigious events, RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition in collaboration with SCC Online®.

The first edition of the moot was organized in 2013 with the aim to foster legal acumen in the vigorously prospering field of International Media Law and garner interest from students nationwide. The University witnessed participation from twenty-seven teams all over India. Mooting is considered to be an intrinsic feature of any law institute and RMLNLU aims at fostering the best mooting culture and legal knowledge through its International Media Law Moot Court Competition.

The 9th edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition is being organized virtually from 26th-28th February, 2021 boasting of highly proficient and eminent panels of judges. Meritorious participants shall receive awards which include cash prizes along with SCC Online® access cards and subscriptions. Welcome to 9th RMLNLU SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021!



About SCC Online®



In 1996, Eastern Book Company became the first Indian legal publisher to bring out a legal database on CD-ROM called the SCC Online® Supreme Court Case Finder®. It was quickly adopted by the legal fraternity and became the choice of research for Supreme Court case laws. Additional databases like the full text of judgments of the Supreme Court of India, case notes and judgments of other High Courts, statutory material, Law Commission Reports and the Constituent Assembly debates have been added over time. One of the unique features of this legal database is the ability to print 'True Prints', exact facsimiles of judgments as published in their respective law reports. Thus, on a few CDs and DVDs, hundreds of volumes of law reports such as Supreme Court Cases (SCC), Current Tamil Nadu Cases (CTC), the Law Reports, the Weekly Law Reports, the Indian Appeals etc. became accessible to legal researchers. SCC Online's tie-up with the ICLR of England and Wales made access to English Law possible.

In 2010, the SCC Online® Web Edition was launched with the best of the CD-ROM Edition and the new features that the internet had to offer. It is a legal database with over seventy-five databases covering the Supreme Court of India, the Privy Council since 1836, the erstwhile Federal Court of India, all the High Courts, major Tribunals and Commissions, statutory material including rules, regulations, circulars and notifications, reports of the Law Commission of India and the Constituent Assembly debates. Case laws and other material are available from the jurisdictions of the United Kingdom (under license from the ICLR), the United States, Canada, South Africa, Singapore (under license from the Singapore Academy of Law), Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the erstwhile West African Court of Appeal. International material includes WIPO domain name dispute cases and Treaties and Conventions. It is noteworthy that over a million cases are reported in this database. SCC Online has now tied up with Hein Online to bring a specially curated bouquet of databases from Hein Online to India and other markets.

The SCC Online® suite of products are used by the Supreme Court of India, all the High Courts, the subordinate judiciary in many States, by advocates, law firms and corporate cells of corporations. This database is in use by the top law schools in India and abroad. The Indian Law Institute in a study has rated it as the most used legal database by judges and legislators, legal practitioners, civil servants and government officials and the second most used by law students and teachers.

From the Vice - Chancellor's Desk



It is a matter of great privilege for Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University to host the 9th edition of RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021. We have constantly persevered as an institution to provide holistic and meaningful legal experience to participants from across the globe. In the course of this journey, we have observed that the ability to think logically and to be able to communicate the drafted arguments are key components for the future lawyers in training.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow attempts to provide a conducive environment for attaining legal education, which is a combination of class room teaching along with practical and technical knowledge of the different subjects. Moot Court Competitions are the best example of this combination where the students are pushed to research, discuss and argue with opponents of a differing point of view but it also inculcates composure and respect for the court.

Media has revolutionized the way people learn about the world in the present times, which has various forms ranging from print to electronic media. But such dependence also has consequences which have irrefutable legal nuances which need to be dealt with in an effective manner and that poses a challenge to the participants of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition. I hope to witness the same interest from the participants this year as well.

I offer you a warm welcome to the 9th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021. Thus, we continue with the tradition of striving to enrich contemporary knowledge on international media law. We welcome distinguished legal luminaries and are proud to have them as Judges on the panel of this competition.

Wishing you the best of luck.

Prof. (Dr.) Subir K. Bhatnagar,

Vice Chancellor,

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow.

Message from Eastern Book Company



When we talk about mooting, it is one of the primary activities that law students engage in to show their legal prowess and get a hand on feel on what the profession of a lawyer feels like. The RMLNLU - SCC Online® Moot is now in its 9th edition. It has come a long way from its inception and limited reach. Many teams compete in their own Intra-Moot Court Competitions to get an opportunity to participate in this Competition.

Mooting is one of those activities that hones the skills and prepares the students for what lies ahead in real life and the mettle required to succeed in the legal profession. From the problem or the fact sheet, one has to look at the facts – discern and find out which are the important issues and discard ones that are not considered to be legally important. After one has formulated the issues, one has to do extensive legal research to find authority and various sources to back up the arguments that will be advanced before the Judge. Techniques and abilities for legal research along with a rich experience in gathering of legal information are the stepping stones for a successful lawyer.

Mooting tests one's ability to understand things from a limited source such as the legal brief and argue on these limited facts with unlimited resources and different legal precedents which are not limited to countries. It allows one to develop his/her own unique style of argumentation in a Court Room. At the same time, it inculcates legal discipline as to how one ought to conduct oneself inside a Court Room and the art of hard work and perseverance.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all the teams, and also a special welcome to the teams from overseas to the 9th Edition of the RMLNLU - SCC Online® Moot Court Competition, 2021.

At EBC and SCC Online® it has always been our goal to provide the most accurate and authentic legal information and supporting and sponsoring Moot Courts which is our way of giving back to the academic community for its contribution to our student publications and their continued support and patronage. As a special consideration to all the participants, we shall provide a one-month free subscription to SCC Online® to assist them in their legal research and preparation for the Moot Court Competition.

Wishing you all the best.

Surendra Malik,

Chief Editor, Supreme Court Cases,

Managing Director, EBC Group of Companies.

Message from the Head of Department



It is my proud privilege to announce the 9th edition of RMLNLU-SCC Online[®] International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021. The benefit of mooting is something that is incomparable and cannot be equated to any other competition especially in a University of law. Mooting inculcates all of the necessary values of advocacy. From enhancing one's drafting and researching skills to improving the verbal abilities, mooting covers it all. The RMLNLU-SCC Online[®] International Media Law Moot Court Competition provides a platform and an opportunity to the to-be-lawyers for improving both their written and oral advocacy skills in this competitive field of law. The Moot Court Competition includes a robust design to provide all participants with valuable training, experience, and feedback at the same time.

The International Media Law is still a very new and a blooming area in the field of law. RMLNLU-SCC Online[®] is a gateway through which the participants can not only gather immense knowledge and substantial experience in the field of International Media Law but also can learn about the virtue of mooting. It further increases one's confidence in public speaking and also develops an understanding of the law. Through this Moot Court Competition, participants also get an opportunity to meet students from different law schools and understand the uniqueness and differences that exist within the mooting culture present both in different parts of the country as well as the world.

The networking opportunities afforded to the participants in the competition are immense as the participants will not only be able to interact with students from different colleges but they will also be able to meet the distinguished members of the Bench and Bar who have judged the oral arguments. The participants can always seek expert opinions of judges and uncover their personal aptitude and improve their shortcomings.

Keeping in mind the favorable outcome of the previous editions, this year, we yet again wish to see a great turnout of achievers and another successful competition. I wish all the participants a memorable experience.

Dr. Visalakshi Vegesna,

H.O.D. (Legal Studies and Humanities-Social Sciences),

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow.

MCC Chairperson's Message



It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the 9th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021 at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow. We have set the stage for the new generation of lawyers to come up with such research and arguments that leave their opponents with nothing but defeat. Participation in various Moot Court Competitions helps you in enhancing your researching skills, because at the end of the day it is your research on the basis of which you will be fighting your case and representing your side and it is your research only that also helps you in framing a good Moot Court Memorial on the basis of which the other team would raise objections and question you.

The skill of discipline, presentation, appropriate and logical response to the spontaneous query of Judges and the art of advocacy are must in order to become a successful lawyer. The students are trained here to present their case with utmost confidence and clarity before the judges.

Competitions nowadays have become an important part and parcel of the modern process of learning. The skills, motivation, confidence one gets while participating in these competitions is more important for a student's career than just winning prizes or just working in academics alone.

I sincerely hope that you have a pleasant and hospitable stay and gain and improve significantly from this experience.

Dr. Atul Kumar Tiwari,

Chairperson, Moot Court Committee,

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow

MCC Coordinator's Message



We, at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow take immense pleasure in hosting the 9th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021. It has been our endeavor to provide a holistic mooting exposure to the upcoming generation of lawyers.

International Media Law is a burgeoning domain of law and RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition has been an avenue that acquaints the students with the nuances of the law and helps in development of better understanding of the same.

Benefits that mooting reaps are substantial. Mooting helps one in improving the skills pertaining to the handling of and engaging with legal materials. Mooting also enhances one's ability to work under pressure and within time constraints. Along with this, mooting substantially helps refine teamwork skills. It further augments self-possession, fluency and enunciation, clarity of thoughts alongside acquainting the participant with nuances of Court procedure. Mooting also makes the participant well-versed with the nuances of the particular aspect of law. It helps a great deal in augmenting presentation and persuasion skills as well.

Through prizes and other incentives, mooting reinforces a student's will to participate and excel. It offers an individual sufficient scope for uncovering personal aptitude and potential, and evaluating oneself.

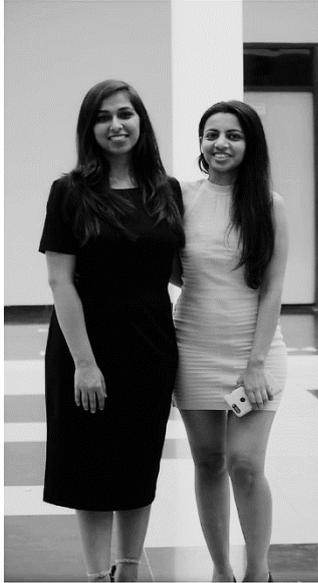
I look forward to hosting as grand an event as all our previous editions. I am hopeful that this edition, like all previous editions, will prove to be beneficial for the participants.

Dr. Prasenjit Kundu,

Faculty Coordinator, Moot Court Committee,

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow.

Convenors' Message



It is an absolute delight to welcome everyone to the 9th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Competition, 2021. The past eight editions, starting in the year 2013, have seen the Moot Court Committee make consistent progress with an aim to offer a competitive experience that only improves with each passing year. From an organizational perspective, each subsequent year presents a unique set of challenges and hurdles for us, and overcoming them stands to be an unparalleled privilege for us. This year owing to the present COVID - 19 pandemic, restrictions have been cast on the physical movement of the society, but has definitely not affected our enthusiasm to provide the best experience. We would be adopting the online method for conducting the competition this year. It is going to be a new learning activity for all the participants as well as the organising team.

With this edition of the competition, we are extremely thankful to Mrs. Anumeha Mishra, Assistant Professor, Campus Law Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi and Mr. Ankit Sahni, Principal, Ajay Sahni Associates LLP and leading IP & Technology Law lawyer, for kindly consenting to draft this edition's moot proposition. It goes without saying that our sponsors are instrumental, in no small part, for the success of this event. Their unconditional belief in us makes it all possible and brings all our endeavours to fruition. We are profoundly grateful to the Eastern Book Company for their unparalleled support.

Enhancing the quality of the competition by having carefully curated panels of judges, having a contemporary moot proposition and conducting the whole competition virtually are some of the numerous efforts we have made to ensure that the competition grows. Despite the unprecedented pandemic, we strive to make the 9th edition of the moot a memorable and enriching experience for all the participating teams through the virtual mode. We look forward to hosting you and we wish you the best.

Punya Mehrotra & Sanjica,

Convenors, Moot Court Committee,

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow.

Timeline

Release of the Problem	Tuesday, December 8, 2020
Deadline for Provisional Registration of Institution	Wednesday, December 30, 2020
Deadline for seeking Clarifications	Tuesday, January 5, 2021
Release of Final Clarifications	Thursday January 7, 2021
Deadline for Registration of Team	Friday, January 15, 2021
Deadline for Submission of Soft Copy of Memorials	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Release of Results of Memorial Knockout (if any)	Saturday, February 13, 2021
Deadline for Online Payment of Registration Fee Through the Authorized Payment Gateway (SBI)	Friday, February 19, 2021
Deadline for submission of Soft Copy of Payment Receipt	Friday, February 19, 2021
Inauguration Ceremony and Participant Briefing	Friday, February 26, 2021
Oral Rounds	Saturday-Sunday, February 27-28, 2021
Valedictory Ceremony	Sunday, February 28, 2021

Participating Universities

- Alliance School of Law, Alliance University, Bengaluru
- Amity Law School, Noida
- Amity Law School, New Delhi
- Amity Law School, Raipur
- Army Institute of Law, Mohali
- Babu Banarasi Das University, Lucknow
- Banasthali Vidyapith, Vanasthali
- Bangalore Institute of Legal Studies, Bengaluru
- Bishop Cotton Women's, Christian Law College, Bengaluru
- Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi, New Delhi
- Chanakya National Law University, Patna
- Chanderprabhu Jain College of Higher Studies, New Delhi
- City Academy Law College, Lucknow
- CMR Law School, Bengaluru
- Damodaran Sarvodaya National Law University, Visakhapatnam
- Dharamshastra National Law University, Jabalpur
- Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Chennai
- Faculty of Law, Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India University, Dehradun
- Faculty of Law, University of Allahabad, Allahabad
- Faculty of Law, University of Lucknow, Lucknow
- Gandhinagar National Law University, Gandhinagar
- Government Law College, Mumbai
- Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur
- IFIM Law school, Bengaluru
- Indian Law Society's Law College, Pune
- Institute of Law, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
- Institute of Law, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra
- Institute of Law, Sastra University, Thanjavur
- Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
- Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat
- Karnavati University, Gandhinagar
- KLE Society's Law College, Bengaluru
- Law Center II Faculty of Law, Delhi University, New Delhi
- Law College Dehradun, Dehradun

- Law School, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia
- Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur
- Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, School of Law, Mumbai
- National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University of Law, Hyderabad
- National Law Institute University, Bhopal
- National Law School of India University, Bengaluru
- National Law University, Delhi
- National Law University, Jodhpur
- National Law University, Odisha, Cuttack
- National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi
- National Law University and Judicial Academy, Guwahati
- National University of Singapore, Singapore
- National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi
- Nepal Law Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Nirma Institute of Law, Ahemdabad
- O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat
- Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai
- Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala
- School of Law, Christ University, Bengaluru
- Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad
- Symbiosis Law School, Noida
- Symbiosis Law School, Pune
- SASTRA Deemed University, Tanjavur
- Tamil Nadu National Law School, Tiruchirappalli
- University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh
- University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun
- Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies, New Delhi
- West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences, Kolkata



1st RMLNLU-SCC Online® Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2013

The 1st RMLNLU-SCC Online® Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2013 witnessed twenty-seven participating teams arguing on a problem authored by Mr. Anand Shankar Jha, Advocate, Supreme Court of India. Gandhinagar National Law University, Amity Law School, Delhi, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi and Hidayatullah National Law University emerged as the semi-finalists. The Final rounds saw NUALS, Kochi and Amity Law School, Delhi put forth their best arguments and judged by a noteworthy bench of Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice D. K. Arora, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice D. P. Singh, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice K. D. Shahi, Judges of the High Court of Allahabad, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Judge of the Calcutta High Court and Shri Surendra Malik, Director, Eastern Book Company. The competition ended ceremoniously with a valedictory function which saw the Chief Guest, Shri Salman Khurshid, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs, Guest of Honor, Shri D. K. Shahi, retired Judge of the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court and Special Guest Shri Surendra Malik, Director, Eastern Book Company gracing the event and awarding the deserving participants.

WINNERS: The team from National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi, comprising:

- Lakshmi Menon
- Miriam Jacob
- Shreyas B. Bhushan

RUNNERS'- UP: The team from Amity Law School, Delhi, comprising:

- Ravin Kapur
- Chitragada Sharma
- Mrinal Verma

BEST MEMORIAL: The team from Amity Law School, Delhi.

BEST SPEAKER: Lakshmi Menon, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.



2nd RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2014

The 2nd edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2014 again witnessed twenty-seven teams arguing before a well-qualified and acclaimed panel of judges. The semi-finals took place among West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat and Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The moot problem for the edition was drafted by Mr. Subhiksh Vasudev, practicing Advocate at the Supreme Court of India. The finals were conducted between WBNUJS, Kolkata and Jindal Global Law School, Sonapat. The bench comprising judges from the Allahabad High Court, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice (Retd.) Vishnu Sahai, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice D.K. Arora, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice R.R. Awasthi, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Mrs. Rajdipa Behura, Advocate Supreme Court, collectively adjudged WBNUJS, Kolkata as the winners. The event culminated with the Valedictory ceremony, which saw coveted awards being handed over to the deserving participants and the encouraging words of wisdom by esteemed scholars and officials in the field of law.

WINNERS: The team from West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, comprising:

- Rakshit Akshay Jha
- Anirudh Nath Lekhi
- Ameya Vikram Mishra

RUNNERS'-UP: The team from Jindal Global Law School, Haryana, comprising:

- V. Balaji
- Nehmat Kaur
- Aishwarya Gupta

BEST MEMORIAL: The team from School of Law, Christ University, Bangalore.

BEST SPEAKER: Rohan Deshpande, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

3rd RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2015

The 3rd edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2015 saw participation from forty-five teams out of which thirty-two were selected for the oral rounds based on a memorial knockout. These thirty-two teams argued before a dynamic panel of judges. The semi-finals took place among Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat, Amity Law School, (IP University), Delhi and Symbiosis Law School, Noida, who managed to put forward creative arguments taking the competition up by a notch. The moot problem for the edition was framed by Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayan, Advocate at the Supreme Court of India. The stirring final rounds were held between Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat and Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar which managed to gather a courtroom full of spectators. The bench comprised of Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice A.K. Sikri, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Mr. Rakesh Munjal, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Mrs. Geeta Luthra, Senior Advocate, Delhi High Court, Mr. Jaideep Narain Mathur, Senior Advocate, Allahabad High Court and Mr. Surendra Malik, Chief Editor, Supreme Court Cases which adjudged Jindal Global Law School as the winners.

WINNERS: The team from Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat, comprising:

- Sajal Mendiratta
- Rhea Choksi
- Shyam Agarwal

RUNNERS'-UP: The team from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, comprising:

- Atharva Sontakke
- Himaja Bhatt
- Rishika Mendiratta

BEST MEMORIAL: The team from Army Institute of Law, Mohali.

BEST SPEAKER: Atharva Sontakke, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar and Neerja Gurnani, Amity Law School (IP University), Delhi.

4th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2016

The 4th edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2016 had a total of thirty teams representing law schools from all over the nation. The semi-finals took place among Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, School of Law, Christ University, Bangalore, Amity Law School (IP University), Delhi and Symbiosis Law School, Pune, who managed to put forward elaborate and carefully crafted arguments. The moot problem for the edition was framed by Mr. Alok Prasanna, Advocate at the Supreme Court of India. The well-contested final rounds were held between Amity Law School (IP University) and Christ University, Bangalore, which managed to garner a huge number of spectators. The Final bench comprised of Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice A. R. Masoodi, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice D. K. Arora, Mr. K. V. Viswanathan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and Mr. Jaideep Narain Mathur; Senior Advocate, Allahabad High Court all of whom adjudged Amity Law School (IP University) as the winners. The event ended on a ceremonious note with a Valedictory function graced by distinguished legal luminaries.

WINNERS: The team from Amity Law School (IP University), Delhi, comprising:

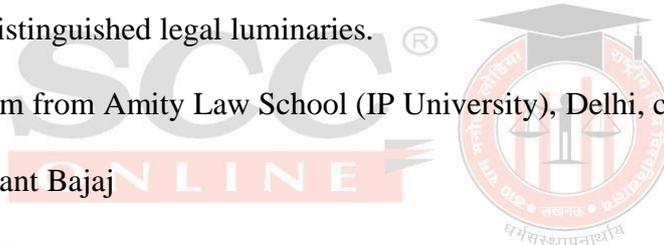
- Siddhant Bajaj
- Avni Sharma
- Ishita Mohanty

RUNNERS'-UP: The team from School of Law, Christ University, Bangalore, comprising:

- Aashima Panikar
- Rouble Sorkkar
- Parmita Banerjee

BEST MEMORIAL: The team from Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

BEST SPEAKER: Siddhant Bajaj, Amity Law School (IP University), Delhi.



5th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2017

The 5th edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2017 was privy to an unprecedented thirty-three teams representing law schools from all over the nation as well as abroad. The semi-finals took place among RGNUL, Patiala, Christ University, Bangalore, NUALS, Kochi and WBNUJS, Kolkata. The moot problem for the edition was framed by Mr. Ankit Yadav, Advocate, Supreme Court, an alumnus of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University and New York University. The grand finale witnessed some intense advocacy between National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi and West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata. The Final bench comprised of eminent judges from the High Court, comprising Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice A. P. Sahi, Senior Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court; Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice D. K. Upadhyay, Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court; Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice A. R. Masoodi, Judge, Lucknow Bench, Allahabad High Court; Mr. K.T.S. Tulsi, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court, Mr. Surendra Malik, Managing Director, EBC all of whom adjudged NUALS, Kochi as the winners. The event concluded with the Valedictory function embellished by distinguished legal luminaries along with the Book release of "B M Gandhi's Indian Penal Code" as revised by Dr. K. A. Pandey.

WINNERS: The team from National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi, comprising:

- Samyukta Ramaswamy
- Karthik Venkatesh
- Shilpa Sangameswaran

RUNNERS'-UP: The team from West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, comprising:

- Adrija Ghosh
- Parmeet Singh
- Sakshi Agarwal

BEST MEMORIALS: The team from Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Vishakhapatnam.

BEST SPEAKER: R.V. Srikara (Symbiosis Law School, Pune).

6th RMLNLU SCC-Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2018

The 6th edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2018 saw an unprecedented forty seven registrations from across the globe comprising teams from Australia, Pakistan as well as teams from law schools from all over the nation. The finals took place among GNLU, Gandhinagar and Macquarie University, Sydney who managed to put forth exquisite arguments before the Bench. The moot problem for the edition was framed by Mr. Aakash Prasad, Advocate, Allahabad High Court (Lucknow Bench), an alumnus of NALSAR. The final rounds of the moot were judged by an eminent bench comprising Justice D.K. Arora, Justice R.R. Awasthi, and Justice A.R. Masoodi of the Allahabad High Court, Dr. K.A. Pandey, Associate Professor, RMLNLU, and Mr. Aakash Prasad, Advocate, Allahabad High Court all of whom adjudged Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar as winners.

WINNERS: The team from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar comprising:

- Abhijeet Chakraborty
- Mansa Venkatachalam
- Anushka Sinha



RUNNERS'-UP: The team from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia comprising:

- Aidan O'Callaghan
- Michael Docker
- Fraser Lawrence

BEST MEMORIALS: The team from West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.

BEST SPEAKER: Aidan O'Callaghan (Macquarie University).

7th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2019

The 7th edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2019 witnessed thirty-three teams arguing before well-qualified and acclaimed panel of judges. The Semi-finals took place between Symbiosis Law School, Pune; Symbiosis Law School, Noida; West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, and National Law University, Jodhpur who managed to put forward elaborate and carefully crafted arguments. The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata emerged as the Winners and National Law University, Jodhpur were Runners'- Up after a tenacious legal battle. The moot problem for this edition was drafted by Mr. Abhishek Dwivedi, advocate at Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court and was previously an Associate at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. The final bench for the grand finale comprised of Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice Moin, Addn. Judge Allahabad High Court (Lucknow bench), Hon'ble (Mr.) Justice Lavania, Addn. Judge Allahabad High Court (Lucknow bench), Mr. Vikramjit Banerjee, Additional Solicitor General of India, Mr. Murali Neelakantan, Principal at Amicus and Mr. Abhishek Dwivedi who collectively adjudged WBNUJS, Kolkata as the winners. The event culminated with the Valedictory ceremony, which saw coveted awards being handed over to the deserving participants and the encouraging words of wisdom by esteemed scholars and officials in the field of law.

WINNERS: The team from West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata comprising:

- Aman Goyal
- Shaurya Mittal
- Raksha Raina

RUNNERS'-UP: The team from National Law University, Jodhpur comprising:

- Rishika Arya
- Praneesh Goyal
- Anshika Chadha

BEST MEMORIALS: The team from National Law University, Odisha.

BEST SPEAKER: Eashwari Nair (Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad).

8th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2020

The 8th edition of the RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2020 witnessed thirty-three teams arguing before well-qualified and acclaimed panel of judges. The Semi-finals took place between NMIMS, Mumbai; Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tamil Nadu; National Law University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi and National Law University, Jodhpur who managed to put forward elaborate and carefully crafted arguments. National Law University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi emerged as the Winners and NMIMS, Mumbai were Runners'- Up after a tenacious legal battle. The moot problem for this edition was drafted by Mr. Hari Krishnan, Advocate at the Kerala High Court. The final bench for the grand finale comprised of Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.N. Bhandari of the Allahabad High Court, Mr. Upendra Nath Mishra, Senior Advocate at Allahabad High Court (Lucknow Bench), Mr. Sudeep Seth, Senior Advocate at Allahabad High Court (Lucknow Bench), Mr. Jaideep Narain Mathur, Senior Advocate at Allahabad High Court (Lucknow Bench) and Mr. Hari Krishnan, the problem drafter and an advocate at the Kerala High Court who collectively adjudged NUALS, Kochi as the winners. The event culminated with the Valedictory ceremony, which saw coveted awards being handed over to the deserving participants and the encouraging words of wisdom by esteemed scholars and officials in the field of law.

WINNERS: The team from National Law University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi comprising:

- Padmavathi Prasad
- Abhinav Mathur
- Pankaj Kumar Mishra

RUNNERS'-UP: The team from NMIMS, Mumbai comprising:

- Dharmi H. Jilka
- Bhumica Veera
- Sumana Roychowdhury

BEST MEMORIALS: The team from National Law University, Jodhpur.

BEST SPEAKER: Aakruti Jayendran (Symbiosis Law School, Pune).

Gallery



Awards



The winners of Competition received Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand (INR 25,000) as prize money and SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscription to Supreme Court Cases –Print Edition. The Runners’-Up received Rupees Fifteen Thousand (INR 15,000) and an SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscription to Supreme Court Cases –Print Edition. The winners of the Best Memorial received Rupees Ten thousand (INR 10,000) and an SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscription to Supreme Court Cases–Print Edition and finally the Best Oralist received Rupees Ten Thousand (INR 10,000). Also, 10 Practical Lawyer Subscriptions were awarded to the Winning team, Runners’ - Up Team, Best Memorial Team and the Best Oralist.



Members of the Moot Court Committee

Jt. Convenors

Punya Mehrotra

Sanjica

Jt. Secretaries

Anchit Baliyan

Anushka Singh

Arunima Athavale

Ayushi Agrawal

Rhythm Kataria



Members

Ayush Chaudhary

Aryan Singh

Anshika Saini

Deepika Kacholia

Hardik Bansal

Ishika Chauhan

Kashish Jain

Prashansa Singh

Rohan Bansla

Shravani Nag

Sushmita Sharma

Siddhant Pal

Sidhant Kampani

Tarushi Sharma

Tejas Jaiswal

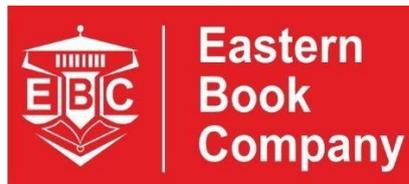
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9th RMLNLU – SCC ONLINE[®]

**INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LAW
MOOT COURT COMPETITION,
2021**

February 26 – February 28, 2021

MOOT PROPOSITION

JOINT NOTIFICATION ADDRESSED TO THE REGISTRAR OF THE COURT

The Hague, 28th February 2021

On behalf of the State of Histanbul and the State of Alsara, and in accordance with Article 40 paragraph 1, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, we have the honor to transmit to you an original copy of the Special Agreement for submission to the International Court of Justice on the differences between the Applicant and the Respondent concerning the Alsarian Elections, signed in The Hague, The Netherlands, on the thirty first day of July in the year two thousand eighteen.

/s/ _____

/s/ _____

Ambassador of the State of Histanbul

Ambassador of the State of

Alsara

to the State of Alsara

to the State of Histanbul

SPECIAL AGREEMENT

**SUBMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY THE
STATE OF HİSTANBUL AND THE STATE OF ALSARA ON THE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM CONCERNING THE ALSARIAN
ELECTIONS**

**The State of Histanbul (the Applicant) and the State of Alsara (the Respondent)
(hereinafter the Parties):**

Recalling that the Parties are Members of the United Nations and that the Charter of the United Nations calls on Members to settle international disputes by peaceful means;

Considering that differences have arisen between them concerning the Alsarian Elections and other matters;

Noting that the Parties have been unable to settle these differences by direct negotiations;

Desiring further to define the issues to be submitted to the International Court of Justice (the Court) for resolution;

In furtherance thereof the Parties have concluded this Special Agreement:

Article 1

The Parties submit the questions contained in this Special Agreement (the Case) to the Court pursuant to Article 40(1) of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

Article 2

It is agreed by the Parties that the State of Histanbul shall appear as Applicant and the State of Alsara as Respondent, but such agreement is without prejudice to any question of the burden of proof.

Article 3

- (a) The Court is requested to decide the Case on the basis of the rules and principles of International Law, including any applicable treaties.
- (b) The Court is also requested to determine the legal consequences, including the rights and obligations of the Parties, arising from its Judgment on the questions presented in the Case.

Article 4

- (a) The proceedings shall consist of written pleadings and oral arguments.
- (b) The written pleadings shall consist of memorials to be submitted simultaneously to the Court by the Parties. Procedures shall be regulated in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Official Rules of the 9th RMLNLU-SCC OnLine® International Media Law Moot Court Competition 2021.
- (c) No change can be made in any written pleadings once it has been submitted as per the Official Rules of the 9th RMLNLU-SCC OnLine® International Media Law Moot Court Competition 2021.

Article 5

- (a) The Parties shall accept any Judgment of the Court as final and binding upon them and shall execute it in its entirety and in good faith.
- (b) Immediately after the receipt of any Judgment, the Parties shall enter into negotiations on

the modalities for its execution. In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed the present Special Agreement and have affixed thereto their respective seals of office. Done in The Hague, The Netherlands, this thirtieth day of April in the year two thousand twenty one.

/s/ _____

/s/ _____

Ambassador of the State of Histanbul
Alsara
to the State of Alsara

Ambassador of the State of
to the State of Histanbul

Statement of Facts

1. Histanbul is the largest and the oldest democracy in the world. It is situated in the continent of Panlaysia which has had a long history of autocratic regimes. Histanbul and its neighboring country Vangal have democratic governments. Over the last decade, the relations of Histanbul and Vangal have not been cordial with other countries of Panlaysia. This is specifically because these two democratic nations have been vocal critics of the authoritarian regimes and the human rights violations occurring in other countries. However, this has not affected the diplomatic ties or trade relations among countries of Panlaysia.
2. Histanbul is a strong believer of independent media and freedom of expression is considered a non- negotiable liberty in its legal framework. The Histanbulian media has a global presence and its leading television network 'Freedom News' has been at the forefront of several national and international exposé. It has recently drawn the ire of Alsara, another country in Panlaysia for highlighting the human rights violations committed by the Alsarian government on 'Siman' community, an ethnic minority in Alsara as well as Histanbul. Alsara is another developed nation in Panlaysia having a Parliamentary Democracy. Alsarian People's Congress (APC) has been in power in Alsara for the last 30 years. APC enjoys majority in both the upper house as well as the lower house of the Parliament of Alsara.
3. Simans are well represented in Histanbul government and are considered a powerful community. It is believed that the Simans in Histanbul have been extremely critical of the incumbent Alsarian government and have been actively involved in creating pressure groups through the use of media and otherwise to expose the human rights violations in Alsara.
4. 'Jumbo' is a popular online social media and social networking service that allows individuals to connect with friends and share news, opinions and images. It has become so

popular that more than 40 percent of the world population is said to be a part of it. 'Jumbo' is based in Histanbul and its co-founders are Zafran and Panth, citizens of Vangal and Histanbul respectively. The server of 'Jumbo' is also located on the riverine border of Histanbul and Vangal, such that it lies partly in Histanbul and partly in Vangal. Several government companies of Histanbul are shareholders of 'Jumbo', such that the total shareholding of the different government companies in 'Jumbo' amounts to 45 percent.

5. In order to increase its membership, 'Jumbo' has come up with a referral scheme, wherein the account of its members is credited with 5 anaa for every referral made and 10 anaa if the person referred joins the platform. This credit can be used to shop at certain online retail platforms. The referral process includes filling up of a survey where some personal information is sought. It is not necessary to be a part of the referral scheme to join 'Jumbo' and an individual may opt not to be a part of this scheme.
6. This referral scheme helped 'Jumbo' grow its membership, and the continent of Panlaysia saw a steep rise in 'Jumbo' usage. Jumbo's growing user base has made it a go-to platform for public figures to connect with masses. Almost every public figure in all walks of life is a part of this platform and uses it to communicate with the people. 'Jumbo' also verifies the account of such public figures to ensure that fake profiles of such people are not created. Such verified accounts are distinguished by a green star sign.
7. 'Jumbo' has recently seen a rise in membership in Alsara. Its rising popularity in Alsara is also attributed by many to the several programmes funded by 'Jumbo' for achieving 'digital equality' in Alsara. One of its initiatives 'Connect' provides internet access at low rates in far flung areas of Alsara. This initiative is being run in collaboration with 'Pride', an Alsarian telecom company.
8. The Alsarian Simans have been vociferously voicing their discontent with the incumbent

government for its discriminatory attitude. A law was passed on April 14, 2020 in Alsara that required all residents of Alsara to enroll in a National Register (NR). It was proposed that over a period of time, the National Register Identity Number (NRIN) would be linked to all social welfare schemes. This law required residents of Alsara to prove that they or their ancestors have been residents of Alsara since January 1, 1961. It was believed that this law specifically targeted minority communities in Alsara, because a large percentage of minority community had immigrated to Alsara from the neighboring countries in search of job and livelihood. This law was also criticized because it was believed that the cut-off date of January 1, 1961, would deprive many immigrants who formed the minority group in Alsara from social benefits and perhaps citizenship. Many members of ‘Krashans’, an ethnic group which forms approximately 40 percent of Alsarian population, have been critical of the lenient immigration rules of Alsara. ‘Krashans Unified Front (KUF)’, an Alsarian organization, has been making legal and policy interventions for years to bring about a stricter immigration law in Alsara. KUF publicly supported NRIN and hailed it as a landmark decision that would change the political landscape of Alsara. The conflict between the supporters and critics of NRIN intensified to such an extent that the entire Alsara was embroiled in protests. In July, 2020, Alsara witnessed unprecedented civil society movement against NRIN in the form of peaceful protests, candle marches and sit-in protests. The internal strife boiled over on social media platforms, including ‘Jumbo’. ‘Jumbo’ was accused by KUF of being biased towards the critics of NRIN as many accounts of KUF members were suspended for engaging in abusive and hate speech. On August 12, 2020, ‘Jumbo’ defended this accusation by releasing the following public statement:

“We, as an organization, are extremely committed to upholding free speech and are committed towards ensuring diversity and plurality. The suspension of accounts of members of ‘Jumbo’ is strictly in compliance with the terms

and conditions of ‘Jumbo’ membership as well as the international standards on free speech.”

9. A political party ‘Alsaran Independent Coalition’(AIC) has been at the forefront of these protests. The leader of this party ‘Sasha’ has been the most vocal critic of NRIN and other policies of APC. She has also been critical of APC for destroying democratic institutions in Alsara. AIC’s slogan is ‘Transparency and Accountability’. As an indication of its commitment to democratic values, AIC has published the source of its funding on its website. Every contributor’s name is displayed public unless the contribution is anonymous. ‘Pride’, the telecom company of Alsara, is one of the major contributors to AIC, according to the information on its website.
10. Elections were due in Alsara and voting was to begin from February 14, 2021. The election was to be held in four phases, concluding with the declaration of result on March 14, 2021. The preliminary survey conducted by some news channels showed that APC may return to power again. However, it was also predicted that AIC would pose strong challenge to APC in the forthcoming elections. The growing support to AIC was imputed to the successful movement launched against National Register.
11. In the midst of this strife and ongoing elections, Panth, the co-founder of ‘Jumbo’, visited Alsara on February 10, 2020 to promote Jumbo’s digital initiatives, especially project ‘Connect’ and its referral scheme. On February 12, 2020, just two days before the commencement of voting, Rayan, a member of AIC published a statement on his account on ‘Jumbo’, alleging that the Prime Minister of Alsara was guilty of corruption and had misappropriated public funds to the tune of 10,000,000 anaa. This statement was picked up by newspapers and other media platforms across the globe presumably causing severe damage to the electoral prospects of APC. The very next day Panth and Rayan were arrested by the

Alsarian government under Section 190 of Alsara Criminal Law Code, 1910 (ACLC) which made defamation, a criminal offence. The maximum penalty for defamation under ACLC is ten years of rigorous imprisonment. The Consulate of Histanbul in Alsara was denied the permission to meet Ms. Panth on February 13, 2020, who was held in judicial custody after the arrest.

12. A huge public outcry occurred against this arrest. However, ignoring such outcry, the government of Alsara constituted an investigation committee to inquire into the operation of 'Jumbo' in Alsara on February 13, 2020. The Investigation Committee was also mandated to inquire whether 'Jumbo' complied with the privacy laws of Alsara and whether the data collected by 'Jumbo' through its various initiatives was secure or not.

13. The Investigation Committee released its report on February 20, 2020. According to the report 'Jumbo' had been involved in using the data of Alsarian citizens to create psychographic profiles of its users. This profile according to the report was used to target Alsarian citizens with negative opinions about APC. It was also found that based on their search history, Alsarians were also shown information about 'Protest against NR' events. It was stated in the report that there is enough evidence to presume that data was being shared by 'Jumbo' with opposition parties in Alsara to help them target voters and this is one of the main reasons for the growing popularity of AIC.

14. Histanbul was extremely upset with the arrest of Panth. The Ministry of External Affairs of Histanbul released the following statement on February 21, 2020:

“The arrest of Ms. Panth, a citizen of Histanbul, is a serious affront on the freedom of expression. Any allegation of any wrongful conduct by Ms. Panth, needs to be investigated in a fair and neutral manner. The action of the Government of Alsara is in violation of International Law. The Government of Histanbul calls upon the

Government of Alsara to immediately hand over the custody of Ms. Ms. Panth to Histanbul where she will be tried for any alleged offences.”

15. Alsara’s response to this statement was:

“The Government of Alsara is well within its right to arrest and try Ms. Panth for the offences committed by her. Histanbul has interfered with the political independence of Alsara by trying to manipulate our democratic election process through its agent ‘Jumbo’ for which it should issue a public apology to the Government of Alsara and should immediately cease any further activities that may impinge upon Alsara’s sovereignty.”

16. Concerned with the aggravating situation, Histanbul and Alsara initiated several diplomatic negotiations to settle their disputes. However, all such efforts failed and as a result, the Parties agreed to submit the matters of dispute to the International Court of Justice under the Special Agreement.

17. Histanbul and Alsara have, at all relevant times, been parties to the Charter of the United Nations, the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

18. Histanbul respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:

- i. Histanbul has not violated the territorial integrity or political independence of Alsara.
- ii. Alsara is responsible for violating the freedom of speech and expression of Ms. Panth, a citizen of Histanbul.

- iii. Alsara has no jurisdiction to try Ms. Panth and she must be immediately transferred to the custody of Histanbul.

19. Alsara respectfully requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:

- i. Histanbul has violated the territorial integrity or political independence of Alsara.
- ii. Alsara is not responsible for violating the freedom of speech and expression of Ms. Panth, a citizen of Histanbul.
- iii. Alsara has jurisdiction to try Ms. Panth for the violation of Alsarian laws.

Note: Participants are not allowed to frame additional issues.

APPENDIX

Section 190 of the Alsara Criminal Law Code, 1910¹

Defamation—Whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person, is said, except in the cases hereinafter expected, to defame that person.

Explanation 1

It may amount to defamation to impute anything to a deceased person, if the imputation would harm the reputation of that person if living, and is intended to be hurtful to the feelings of his family or other near relatives.

Explanation 2

It may amount to defamation to make an imputation concerning a company or an association or collection of persons as such.

Explanation 3

An imputation in the form of an alternative or expressed ironically, may amount to defamation.

¹ Please note that the law of defamation in Histanbul allows for truth as an exception. It stipulates that it is not defamation to impute anything which is true concerning any person, if it be for the public good that the imputation should be made or published. Whether or not it is for the public good is a question of fact.

Explanation 4

No imputation is said to harm a person's reputation, unless that imputation directly or indirectly, in the estimation of others, lowers the moral or intellectual character of that person, or lowers the character of that person in respect of his caste or of his calling, or lowers the credit of that person, or causes it to be believed that the body of that person is in a loathsome state, or in a state generally considered as disgraceful.

Exceptions

1. Public conduct of public servants – It is not defamation to express in good faith any opinion whatever respecting the conduct of a public servant in the discharge of his public functions, or respecting his character, so far as his character appears in that conduct, and no further.
2. Conduct of any person touching any public question. -It is not defamation to express in good faith any opinion whatever respecting the conduct of any person touching any public question, and respecting his character, so far as his character appears in that conduct, and no further.



9TH RMLNLU – SCC ONLINE[®]
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LAW MOOT COURT
COMPETITION, 2021

REGISTRATION FORM

All Participating Teams are required to fill the details in this form in **block letters**, scan and email a soft copy to rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com. The organizers must receive the soft copies as mentioned in the Rules to the Competition.

NAME OF UNIVERSITY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

OFFICIAL CONTACT PERSON: _____

EMAIL ID: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

SPEAKER 1

NAME: _____

GENDER: _____ **PHONE No. :** _____

EMAIL ID: _____

SPEAKER 2

NAME: _____

GENDER: _____ **PHONE No. :** _____

EMAIL ID: _____

TEAM MEMBER 3 (RESEARCHER)

NAME: _____

GENDER: _____ **PHONE No. :** _____

EMAIL ID: _____

Seal & Signature of the Head of the Institution



9TH RMLNLU – SCC ONLINE®

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LAW MOOT
COURT COMPETITION, 2021

February 26-28, 2021

RULES

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1. DEFINITIONS

- 11 **“Competition”** means the 9th RMLNLU- SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021.
- 12 **“Court Bailiff”** refers to the student volunteer who shall be entrusted with duties such as maintenance of order in a courtroom during a round and letting speakers know the time duration for which they’ve spoken.
- 13 **“Institution”** means any recognized law school/college or university.
- 14 **“Memorial”** means the written arguments submitted, on behalf of both the Applicants and Respondents, according to the official Competition Rules by each Team. Memorials are also referred to as written pleadings.
- 15 **“Organizing Committee”** includes the members of the RMLNLU Moot Court Committee.
- 16 **“Payment Receipt”** means a written acknowledgment that the payment of the registration fees has been made.
- 17 **“Applicant”** means the party which is presenting an application to the court alleging the commission of a wrong.
- 18 **“Preliminary Seeding Chart”** means the chart that has been prepared on the basis of memorial scores wherein the top 50% teams with higher marks are made to face the bottom 50% teams in the preliminary oral rounds.
- 19 **“Researcher”** means the team member whose role is confined to preparation of the Memorial and is not allowed to speak in the oral rounds.

- 110** *“Respondent”* means the party against whom the petition is filed.
- 111** *“Rules”* means these official Competition Rules and any applicable supplements to these Rules published by the Organizing Committee.
- 112** *“Speaker”* refers to the members of the team who will be pleading before the judges in the oral rounds.
- 113** *“Valedictory Ceremony”* refers to the closing ceremony of the 9th RMLNLU-SCC Online® International Media Law Moot Court Competition, 2021 wherein the distribution of prizes shall also take place.

2. TEAM COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY

- 21** Students pursuing the three or five year courses of the LL.B. degree or its equivalent in the academic year 2020-2021 from any recognized law school/college/university in India/abroad are eligible to participate.
- 22** Any recognized law school/college/university shall be entitled to send only one (1) team to the Competition.
- 23** The participating team shall comprise a minimum of two and a maximum of three members. In a team of two members, both the members shall be designated as Speakers. In a team of three members, two members shall be designated as Speakers and the third member of the team shall be designated as a Researcher.
- 24** No additional member or team coach is allowed to accompany the team.

3. LANGUAGE

The official language of the competition shall be English.

4. REGISTRATION

- 41** The Institutions should provisionally register themselves by sending an e-mail to rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com, latest by **December 30, 2020 (23:59 hrs IST)**.
- 42** Institutions must complete their registration by sending an e-mail to rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com, latest by **January 15, 2021 (23:59 hrs IST)**. The e-mail should include a scanned copy of the duly filled registration form.

5. REGISTRATION FEE

5.1 Indian Universities

The Registration Fee is **INR 3,500** for Indian teams. Indian teams must make the payment of such amount through the “State Bank Collect” multi-modal payment portal. [For Details see Annexure]

5.2 Foreign Universities

All foreign teams shall pay an equivalent sum of **INR 4500** (excluding service/conversion charges, if any).

[For Details see Annexure]

- 53** In case of a memo knockout, the teams shall be required to pay the registration fee only after they have cleared the memo knockout round by **February 19, 2021**.

6. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE MOOT PROPOSITION

- 61** Participating teams may request for clarifications to the official moot problem by sending an email to rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com latest by **January 5, 2021 (23:59 hrs IST)**.

- 62** A full list of clarifications shall be released by **January 7, 2021**.

7. ANONYMITY

- 71** The participating team shall be allotted a team code upon final registration.

- 72** The student counsels shall not state their names or the names of the institution to which they belong during the oral rounds, and instead must use the code allotted.
- 73** The team shall not disclose their identity anywhere in their written Memorials and instead should use the code allotted.
- 74** Non-compliance with the Rules 7.2 and 7.3 shall result in immediate disqualification of the participant/team.
- 75** The decision of the Organizing Committee in this regard shall be final.

8. MEMORIAL

- 81** Each team shall prepare an Applicant and a Respondent Memorial.
- 82** One (1) soft copy (in MS Word .doc/.docx and PDF format) must be emailed to rmlsconlinemoot@gmail.com latest by **January 28, 2021 (23:59 hours IST)** with the subject “**Memorials for Team Code**”. The file names of the electronic copies of the Memorials must contain only the team code and the side being represented in the following format: e.g. (for Team Code 13) 13A or 13R, “A” being for “Applicant” Memorial and “R” for “Respondent” Memorial and so forth.
- 83** The Memorial for each side should be submitted as one single file and not in multiple files. Any violation of this rule shall invite penalty in accordance with rule 8.5.
- 84 Format of Memorials**
- 8.4.1.** The Memorials shall necessarily consist of only and only the following sections:
- a) Cover Page
 - b) Table of Contents
 - c) List of Abbreviations
 - d) Index of Authorities (with page number where the authority has been cited)

- e) Statement of Jurisdiction
- f) Statement of Facts (not exceeding 2 pages)
- g) Statement of Issues
- h) Summary of Arguments (not exceeding 2 pages)
- i) Arguments Advanced (not exceeding 20 pages)
- j) Prayer (not exceeding 1 page)

8.4.2. Each Memorial shall have the following and only the following on its cover page:

- a) The team code on the upper right-hand corner of the cover page
- b) The name and place of the forum
- c) The relevant legal provision under which it is filed
- d) Name of parties and their status
- e) On whose behalf the memorial is filed

8.4.3. Teams shall cite authorities in the Memorial using footnotes following the *Harvard Bluebook 20th Edition*. Explanatory or illustrative footnotes are not allowed.

8.4.4. The Memorial shall be made on A4 size paper, with the following mandatory formatting specifications:

- a) Font Type: Times New Roman
- b) Font Size:12
- c) 1.5 line Spacing
- d) Margins: 1 inch on each side.

For footnotes, the formatting specifications are:

- a) Font type: Times New Roman
- b) Font Size:10
- c) Single Line Spacing

8.4.5. The following colour scheme shall be followed for the Cover Page of the Memorial:

Applicant: Blue

Respondent: Red

8.4.6. Penalties

Late Submission	1 mark per memorial every 12 hours after the deadline of submission. Disqualification beyond 48 hours.
Wrong File Name	1 mark per Memorial
Failure to submit Memorial as one File	1 mark per Memorial
Exceeding page limits (Refer to Rule 8.4.1)	1 mark per exceeding page
Failure to include the sections in the Memorial (Refer to Rule 8.4.1)	3 marks per section
Failure to comply with footnote specifications (Refer to Rule 8.4.3 and 8.4.4)	0.25 mark per footnote
Failure to include the required information on the cover page (Refer to Rule 8.4.2)	1 mark per violation
Failure to use the correct colour coding as per Rule 8.4.5	2 marks per Memorial

9. EVALUATION OF MEMORIAL

91 Every Memorial will be marked on scale of 100.

92 The Memorial shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a) Knowledge of Law and Facts: 20 Marks
- b) Proper and Articulate Analysis: 15 Marks
- c) Depth and Use of Research: 15 Marks
- d) Organisation, Presentation and Overall Formatting: 15 Marks
- e) Grammar and Language: 10 Marks
- f) Novelty of arguments: 15 Marks
- g) Clarity of Thought and Originality: 10 Marks

10. QUALIFICATION OF MEMORIALS AND SEEDING

- 101** There shall be a Memorial Elimination Round subsequent to the submission and evaluation of the Memorials.
- 102** The top 32 teams shall be selected based on their Memorial scores. Only these 32 teams shall be eligible to participate in the Oral Rounds of the Competition.
- 103** The Result of the Memorial Elimination Round shall be notified to the teams latest by **February 13, 2021**.
- 104** The top 32 teams from the Memorial Elimination Round shall be seeded or ranked on the basis of their memorial scores and thus a Preliminary Seeding Chart shall be prepared.

11. EXCHANGE OF MEMORIALS

There shall be an exchange of Memorials online between the respective opposing teams, in accordance with the fixtures as determined by Seeding, prior to all the rounds of the Competition.

12. ORAL SUBMISSIONS

- 121** The time split between the speakers must be communicated to the Court Bailiff prior to the commencement of each Round. Once so informed, these timings shall not be changed.
- 122** Use of any electronic gadgets is not permitted during the course of oral

- 123** Teams shall not disclose, in any manner whatsoever, for the entire duration of the Rounds, either their own individual identities or the identity of the institution that they represent, even if asked by the judges.
- 124** Teams can pass on compendium of the sources they cite in their Memorials to their respective Court Bailiff if so, permitted by the judges.
- 125** Team scores shall not be disclosed after every round. Teams must not make any attempt to gather any such information, until notified by the Organizing Committee.
- 126** Delay in appearance for a round exceeding five (5) minutes will render disqualification of the team for that round. In such a case, their opponent shall make their oral submissions *ex-parte*.
- 127** Evaluation shall be done on the basis of the following criteria:
- a) Knowledge of Law & Use of Authorities: 20 Marks
 - b) Application of Law to Facts: 20 Marks
 - c) Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions: 20 Marks
 - d) Time Management and Organisation: 20 Marks
 - e) Style, Courtesy, Demeanour: 10 Marks
 - f) Effective Rebuttals: 10 Marks
- 128 Preliminary Rounds**
- 12.8.1.** Each team will have the opportunity to argue from both the sides.
- 12.8.2.** Time limit for the oral submissions shall be thirty (30) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal. No speaker may reserve more than fifteen (15) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.
- 12.8.3.** No team shall be allowed more than five (5) minutes for rebuttal or sur-rebuttal.

12.8.4. The sur-rebuttal shall be limited to the rebuttals made by the opponent team.

12.8.5. Only one (1) speaker from each team shall be permitted to rebut/sur-rebut.

12.9 Quarter Final Rounds

12.9.1. Time limit for the oral submissions shall be thirty (30) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

12.9.2. The sur-rebuttal shall be limited to the rebuttals made by the team.

12.9.3. No speaker may reserve more than fifteen (15) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

12.9.4. Only one (1) speaker from each team shall be permitted to rebut/sur-rebut, as the case may be, subject to a maximum time limit of five (5) minutes.

12.10 Semi Final Rounds

12.10.1. Time limit for the oral submissions shall be forty-five (45) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

12.10.2. No speaker can speak for more than twenty-five (25) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

12.10.3. No team shall be allowed more than five (5) minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

12.11 The Final Round

12.11.1. Time limit for the oral submissions shall be forty-five (45) minutes for each team. This shall include the submissions of both the speakers from the team and the time reserved for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

12.11.2. No speaker can speak for more than twenty-five (25) minutes for his/her individual oral submissions.

12.11.3. No team shall be allowed more than five (5) minutes for rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.

13. STRUCTURE OF THE ORAL ROUNDS

13.1 The Oral Rounds of the Competition shall be held over a period of three days i.e., **February 26th to 28th**. The Inaugural Function and the orientation programme shall be held on **February 26, 2021**.

13.2 The Competition shall consist of four sets of rounds: The Preliminary Rounds, the Quarter Final Rounds, the Semi Final Rounds, and the Final Round.

13.3 Preliminary Rounds

13.3.1. The Preliminary Rounds shall be held on **February 27, 2021**. In the Preliminary Rounds, each team shall have to argue twice, once as the Applicant and once as the Respondent.

13.3.2. The teams shall be paired on the basis of the Preliminary Seeding Chart as per the provisions of Rule 10. Following shall be the pairing of teams in the two Preliminary Mooting rounds.

ROUND 1		
Petitioner		Respondent
Seed 1	v.	Seed 32
Seed 2	v.	Seed 31
Seed 3	v.	Seed 30
Seed 4	v.	Seed 29
Seed 5	v.	Seed 28
Seed 6	v.	Seed 27
Seed 7	v.	Seed 26
Seed 8	v.	Seed 25
Seed 9	v.	Seed 24
Seed 10	v.	Seed 23
Seed 11	v.	Seed 22
Seed 12	v.	Seed 21
Seed 13	v.	Seed 20
Seed 14	v.	Seed 19
Seed 15	v.	Seed 18
Seed 16	v.	Seed 17

ROUND 2		
Petitioner		Respondent
Seed 24	v.	Seed 1
Seed 23	v.	Seed 2
Seed 22	v.	Seed 3
Seed 21	v.	Seed 4
Seed 20	v.	Seed 5
Seed 19	v.	Seed 6
Seed 18	v.	Seed 7
Seed 17	v.	Seed 8
Seed 32	v.	Seed 9
Seed 31	v.	Seed 10
Seed 30	v.	Seed 11
Seed 29	v.	Seed 12
Seed 28	v.	Seed 13
Seed 27	v.	Seed 14
Seed 26	v.	Seed 15
Seed 25	v.	Seed 16

13.3.3. These two Rounds shall be jumbled and divided into three Preliminary Sessions.

Explanation: Dividing the Preliminary rounds into three Sessions does not mean that a team shall argue thrice. Rather, a team shall argue in any two of the three sessions, once as the Applicant and once as the Respondent.

13.3.4. The Seeding chart shall not be disclosed until the Valedictory Ceremony in order to maintain the spirit of the Competition.

13.3.5. No team shall be provided with any information regarding the identity of their opponent team or any other team.

13.3.6. No two teams will argue against each other more than once in the Preliminary Rounds.

14. SCORING IN THE ORAL ROUNDS

14.1 Preliminary rounds

14.1.1. For the Preliminary Rounds, the winner of each such round shall be determined on the basis of the criteria of evaluation of the speaker scores, as mentioned in the Rule 12.7

14.1.2. Each preliminary round shall be decided by awarding a maximum of six (6) points.

14.1.3. Each preliminary round matchup will be judged by two (2) orals judges, each of whom shall mark every speaker on a score of 0-100. The team with the higher total marks on a particular judge's score-sheet will be the winner on that judge's score-sheet.

14.1.4. If the winner on a particular judge's score-sheet is ahead of the other team by a margin of ten (10) per cent or more of the winning team's score, that team will be awarded 3 round points by that judge and the team which has lost on that

judge's score-sheet will be given 0 Round Points by that judge. If the margin of victory on a particular judge's score-sheet is less than ten (10) per cent of the winning team's score, the winning team will be awarded 2 round points by that judge and the losing team will be awarded 1 round point by that judge. In case of a tie between the two teams, each team shall be awarded 1.5 round points for the concerned judge. Thus, every preliminary round will have 6 round points allotted to the orals.

For Example- In a round between Team A and Team B, Judge 1 gives a cumulative Oral Score of 170 marks to Team A and 165 marks to Team B. The difference is 5 marks. Since this difference is less than 10% of 170 (which is 17), for Judge 1, Team A will be awarded 2 points and Team B will be awarded 1 point. In the same round, Judge 2 gives a cumulative Oral Score of 155 marks to Team A and 175 marks to Team B. Here, the difference of 20 marks is more than 10% of 175 (which is 17.5) and hence, Team A will be awarded 0 points and Team B will be awarded 3 points.

Team A: 2.0 (Judge 1) + 0.0 (Judge 2) = 2.0 points

Team B: 1.0 (Judge 1) + 3.0 (Judge 2) = 4.0 points

- 14.1.5.** If two or more teams have the same cumulative points, then the team with higher cumulative speaker scores shall be ranked higher. If two or more teams have the same cumulative points and same cumulative speaker scores, then the team with the higher memorial score shall be ranked higher.

142 The Quarter Final Rounds

- 14.2.1.** The highest ranked eight (8) teams from the Preliminary Rounds, as determined by the Rules 14.1.2-14.1.5. stated above, shall qualify for the Quarter Final Rounds.
- 14.2.2.** The eight (8) teams that proceed to the Quarter Final Rounds shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Quarter Final Rounds shall be as follows:

- Rank 1 v. Rank 8 (Quarter Final Round I)
- Rank 2 v. Rank 7 (Quarter Final Round II)
- Rank 3 v. Rank 6 (Quarter Final Round III)
- Rank 4 v. Rank 5 (Quarter Final Round IV)

14.2.3. The winners of the Quarter Final Rounds shall be determined on a round point basis wherein one (1) point shall be awarded by each judge to the Team that won the round according to that judge. The bench-strength for the Quarter-Final Rounds shall be an odd number but not one (1).

143 The Semi Final Rounds

14.3.1. The four (4) teams that proceed to the Semi Final Rounds, as determined by the Rule 14.2.3 stated above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots. The fixtures for the Semi Final Rounds shall be as follows:

- Rank 1 v. Rank 4 (Semi Final Round I)
- Rank 2 v. Rank 3 (Semi Final Round II)

14.3.2. The winners of the Semi-Final Rounds shall be determined on a round point basis wherein one (1) point shall be awarded by each judge to the participant that won the round according to that judge. The bench-strength for the Semi-Final Rounds shall be an odd number but not one (1).

144 The Final Round

14.4.1. The two (2) teams that proceed to the Final Round, as determined by the Rule 14.3.2 stated above, shall each argue only ONCE for the side allotted by a draw of lots.

14.4.2. The team which wins the Final Round shall be declared as the ‘Winning Team’. The other team shall be declared as the ‘Runners-Up Team’.

14.4.3. The winner of the Final Round shall be determined on a round point basis wherein one (1) point shall be awarded by each judge to the team that won the round

according to that judge. The bench-strength for the Final Round shall be an odd number but not one (1).

15. ONLINE PLATFORM RULES

- 151** The participants must ensure that they have a strong internet connection with good audio and video facilities. They must use laptops or PC for the oral rounds. The use of cell phones is prohibited.
- 152** The participants are required to have the video-conferencing software installed on their computers as the oral rounds would be held on that platform.
- 153** The participants (speakers) must ensure that any noise or audio other than the voice of the participant should not disturb the other participants during the online oral rounds. It is advisable to plan and prepare for the online oral rounds in advance accordingly.
- 154** All participants must join the session using their team code and speaker code. The teams must ensure that they do not disclose the identity of their college at any stage during the competitions. Any kind of canvassing shall lead to the disqualification of the teams.
- 155** The Organizing Committee's interpretation of the rules shall be final and binding.
- 156** The Organizing Committee has the full authorization to adopt any measures not outlined in the Virtual Rules in case of a contingency to facilitate the conduct of the rounds.
- 157** The Organizing Committee reserves the right take strict actions against any team on the spot, if in the opinion of the Judges, the team is acting in a manner so as to unfairly cause prejudice to the opposing team or indulging in any other inappropriate conduct that is averse to the idea of fair competition.

- 158** Some of these rules may be subject to amendment or addendums may be added so as to account for a situation previously not contemplated. The participants will be notified of these changes as and when they happen.

16. SCOUTING

- 161** Scouting shall be deemed to have happened if the speakers, researcher or any other person affiliated with a team is found:
- 16.1.1.** Witnessing, hearing, observing, etc. the oral submissions in a Round, except where the Round is one in which the team to which he/she is affiliated is participating in, or
- 16.1.2.** Reading a Memorial of a team except where: it is of the team to which he/she is affiliated; or the Memorials have been obtained on account of an exchange of Memorials prior to a Round of the team to which he/she is affiliated.

17. AWARDS

- 171** The speaker with the maximum score in the Preliminary Rounds (Total Preliminary Score) will be declared the “Best Oralist”.
- 172** The team with the maximum Memorial scores will be awarded “The Best Memorial”.
- 173** The prize money to be awarded to the winners are as follows:
- a) *Winning Team*: Rs. 25,000 and SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscriptions to Supreme Court Cases – Print Edition.
 - b) *Runners Up Team*: Rs. 15,000 and SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscriptions to Supreme Court Cases – Print Edition.
 - c) *Best Memorials*: Rs. 10,000 and SCC Online Web Edition Platinum card including English Law One Year Subscriptions to Supreme Court Cases – Print Edition.

- d) *Best Oralist (Preliminary Round)*: Rs.10,000
- e) 10 Practical Lawyer Subscriptions for the Winning team, Runner up Team, Best Memorial Team, and the Best Oralist.

18. MISCELLANEOUS

- 181** Implementation and interpretation of rules regarding Moot Court practice and procedures, the final decision lies with the Organizing Committee.
- 182** If any one of the members of a team is notified or informed of any detail or information concerning the Competition, it shall be deemed as if the said team as a whole has been duly notified or informed.
- 183** The dress code to be adhered to for the duration of the Competition is:
Ladies: Black Western or Indian formals.
Gentlemen: Black Western formals.
- 184** The Proposition is neither intended to nor does it attempt to resemble any incident or any person, living or dead. Any such resemblance is purely coincidental. The Proposition is a fictitious factual account prepared for the purposes of the present Competition only and it does not attempt to influence or predict the outcome of any matter whatsoever.
- 185** The copyright in the Memorials submitted by the teams shall vest jointly with RMLNLU and SCC Online. The acceptance of such vesting is a precondition to participation in the Competition. The Rules governing the conduct of the Competition should be strictly adhered to. Any deviation thereof can attract penalties or disqualification at the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee.
- 186** The Organizing Committee reserves the right to amend, alter, vary or change, in any manner whatsoever, the Rules governing the Competition, which would be communicated to the teams within a reasonable period of time.

- 187** The Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of RMLNLU shall be the final arbiter for these Rules and any such decision made by him on any issue/dispute arising in relation to the Competition shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 188** The Organizing Committee, as mentioned in these Rules, refers to the Moot Court Committee of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow

ANNEXURE

FOR INDIAN TEAMS

1. The registration fee payable by Indian teams is Indian Rs. 3500 (three thousand five hundred) per team.
2. The payment of fee is to be made through the “State Bank Collect” Multi Modal Payment Portal.
3. Please access this web link <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm> for the payment gateway.
 - After agreeing to the T&Cs, please select “Uttar Pradesh” as State of Institution category, and “Educational Institutions” as Type of Institution category from the two drop-down lists.
 - *Firstly*, please select “DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW”
 - *Secondly*, please select “REGISTRATION FEE” as the Payment category.
 - *Lastly*, please select “MOOT COURT” as the Event/Academic Activity from the drop-down list.
 - Please fill in “RML SCC ONLINE MOOT” as the name of the event.
4. Fill in the details as mandated thereafter.
5. Payments can be made through debit/credit cards, net banking and also through physical counters at any SBI after generating a pre-acknowledgement slip.

DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW
SECTOR-D1, AASHIANA, , LUCKNOW-226012

Provide details of payment

Select Payment Category * REGISTRATION FEE

Event/Academic Activity * Moot Court

Name of the Participant/ Institute * XYZ University

Name of the Event * RML SCC ONLINE MOOT

Contact No. * xxxxxxxxxxxx

Date/Period of Event * 3

Amount * 4000

Remarks

Please enter your Name, Date of Birth & Mobile Number. This is required to reprint your e-receipt / remittance(PAP) form, if the need arises.

Name * xyz

Date of Birth * 19/10/2016

Mobile Number * xxxxxxxx

Enter the text as shown in the image *

8478F 8478F

Submit Reset Back

ILLUSTRATION – 1

6. Please send us the transaction details at rmlnlusconlinemoot@gmail.com after successful remittance to enable us to trace the same back to you.

FOR INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1. All foreign teams shall pay an equivalent sum of INR 4500 (excluding service/conversion charges, if any).
2. The mode of payment is through International Fund Transfer.
3. The amount is exclusive of any service/conversion charges.
4. The beneficiary account details are as under-
 - a. Bank Name – State Bank of India
 - b. Branch –Aashiana
 - c. City –Lucknow
 - d. State – Uttar Pradesh
 - e. Country –India
 - f. A/C Holder Name – RMLNLU Misc. Account
 - g. A/C No. – 00000035763171774
 - h. IFSC – SBIN0012734
 - i. SWIFT –SBININBB500
5. Please mention your team details in the “transaction remarks” if applicable.
6. Please send us the transaction details at rmlnlusconlinemoot@gmail.com after successful remittance to enable us to trace the same back to you.



9TH RMLNLU-SCCONLINE[®]
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION,
2020-21

TIMELINE

Release of the Problem	Tuesday, December 8, 2020
Deadline for Provisional Registration of Institution	Wednesday, December 30, 2020
Deadline for Seeking Clarifications	Tuesday, January 5, 2021
Release of Final Clarifications	Thursday, January 7, 2021
Deadline for Registration of Team	Friday, January 15, 2021
Deadline for Submission of Soft Copy of Memorials	Thursday, January 28, 2021
Release of Results of Memorial Knockout (if any)	Saturday, February 13, 2021
Deadline for Online Payment of Registration Fee Through the Authorized Payment Gateway (SBI)	Friday, February 19, 2021
Deadline for Submission of Soft Copy of Payment Receipt and Travel Form	Friday, February 19, 2021
Inauguration Ceremony and Participant Briefing	Friday, February 26, 2021
Oral Rounds	Saturday-Sunday, February 27-28, 2021
Valedictory Ceremony	Sunday, February 28, 2021