



MOOT COURT COMMITTEE

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Chairperson	Dr. Visalakshi Vegesna
Faculty Coordinator	Dr. Prasenjit Kundu
Faculty Advisors	Dr. Vikas Bhati Dr. Abdullah Nasir Dr. Ankita Yadav
Convenors	Smera Sarnath Sonkar Sushmita Sharma
Treasurer	Khushboo Sharma
Jt. Secretaries	Anushka Bajpai Arushi Mehul Raj Yash Bhatnagar

The Moot Court Committee at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, is the official student-run body consisting of members across the 5 batches of the B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) program. It is entrusted with the responsibility of administering mooting activities at the university. To assign qualified students to national moots, the Committee organizes an annual intra-moot court competition. On the other hand, Open Challenges are used to allot International Moots. Additionally, it organizes a number of practice moots and orientations and demonstrative workshops for the batch of freshers to help them getting accustomed to the nuances of mooting. Apart from maintaining a vibrant mooting culture, it has also been entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the flagship event every year. With an aim to acquaint the law students more with the concept of Arbitration in India and to give them an enriching experience that will help them gain a basic understanding about the working of arbitration through stimulated arbitral proceedings, the University, in association with Kochhar & Co., organizes the RMLNLU – Kochhar & Co. Arbitration Moot Court Competition.



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EVENTS ORGANIZED: ACADEMIC SESSION 2023-34

ORIENTATION FOR THE BATCH OF 2028

The Moot Court Committee conducted its Orientation Session for the Batch of 2028 on 16th July, 2023. This interactive event aimed to introduce first-year students to the Committee, its role, and the vibrant mooting culture at the university, featuring a comprehensive presentation.

The session began with an overview of the Moot Court Committee, its history, purpose, and the events conducted by it like Navitas, Concours, University Moot Court Selection, and the flagship RMLNLU-Kochhar & Co. Arbitration Moot Court Competition. The Moot Court Committee also announced the hosting of the Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot for the first time in India.

Committee members were introduced, sharing their passion for mooting and highlighting the opportunities the committee offers, including networking and alumni success stories. The Moot Court Committee is dedicated to fostering a thriving mooting culture, organizing events, workshops, and training sessions throughout the year, and this was highlighted throughout this session

A demo moot was conducted, giving the First years their initial insight into the world of mooting. The session concluded with a Question-and-Answer round, addressing queries and concerns, setting a promising tone for an enriching year ahead.



PRACTICE MOOT- 1

The Moot Court Committee conducted the Practice Moot-1 (PM-1) on 23rd July, 2023, an event tailored specifically for first-year students to take the first step towards mooting. This innovative competition deviated from traditional formats by eliminating written submissions, instead, focusing solely on participants' ability to think on their feet and articulate arguments from both sides of a judgment. This event was judged by third year students of the University. The theme for this year's competition was Constitutional Law. PM-1 served as a vital initiation into the realm of mooting, providing a unique opportunity for students to hone their advocacy skills and critical thinking.

As a precursor to the two primary first-year moots, Navitas and Concours, PM-1 aimed to give first-year students a head-start in their mooting journey. The Moot Proposition/Case for Practice Moot-1 was released during the Orientation Session conducted by the Committee, setting the stage for an enriching experience.

The sole purpose of PM-1 was to create an environment wherein students were more comfortable and confident in participating in further mooting events that were to be conducted.



WORKSHOPS

The Moot Court Committee has been at the forefront of organizing workshops to enrich the skills and knowledge of the First-year batch. These workshops are instrumental in preparing them for Moot Court Competitions. One significant workshop, led by Subhi Pastor on the 14th August, 2023, focused on oral rounds and was designed to refine participants' abilities in structuring speeches, presenting arguments effectively, and exhibiting courtroom decorum. Another workshop, held on 18th August, 2023, centred on memorial drafting was guided by Sushmita Sharma. This workshop aimed to enhance drafting skills, covering crucial aspects of memorial creation such as formatting and drafting issues and sub-issues. The participants greatly benefited from the personalized guidance and interactive exercises, enriching their understanding and proficiency in memorial drafting.

For researching using SCC Online, a workshop on 22nd August, 2023, led by Kavya Dwivedi, focused on enhancing legal research skills. Participants learned about Boolean search methods, navigating secondary sources, and maximizing the utility of SCC Online, contributing significantly to their research capabilities. Similarly, a workshop for learning to use Manupatra was held on 22nd August, 2023, by Ishaan Singh, Campus Ambassador for Manupatra, giving valuable insights into utilizing Manupatra for various legal research purposes. Practical demonstrations and clear instructions were highly appreciated.

These workshops collectively played a pivotal role in augmenting the skills and knowledge for the Batch of 2028, preparing them comprehensively for their future Moot Court Competitions.





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NAVITAS, 2023

Navitas 2023, organized by the Moot Court Committee, was a Moot Court event aimed at introducing first-year students to the intricacies and practical aspects of Moot Court Competitions. This event was judged by fourth year students of the University. The theme for this year's competition was Constitutional Law, a subject matter fundamental to understanding the broader legal landscape. The moot problem was thoughtfully drafted by Mr. Arnav Mathur and Mr. Abhyuday Pratap, fourth year students of the University.

The competition commenced with the Researcher Test on September 1, 2023, designed to assess the participants' research skills and their understanding of constitutional principles. Following this, the oral rounds were held on September 7, 2023. These rounds provided a platform for the first-year students to showcase their oral advocacy skills, legal reasoning, and ability to articulate and defend their arguments effectively.

The Navitas Moot Court Competition not only served as an educational exercise but also aimed to build confidence and competence among first-year students while showcasing their research and argumentation skills. The participants gained valuable feedback and practical experience from this event.





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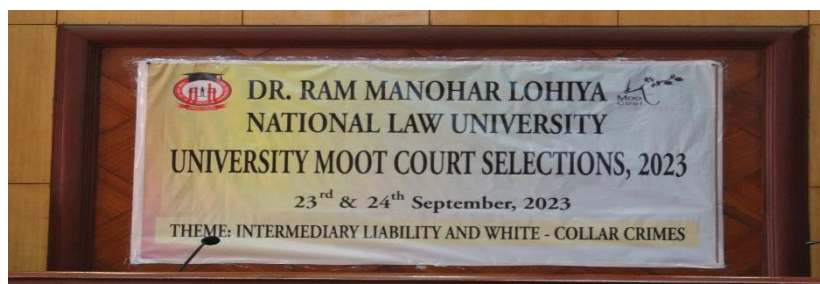


UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT SELECTION, 2023

The University Moot Court Selection Competition 2023, organized by the Moot Court Committee (MCC), was an intra-event, for the purpose of allotment of National Moots. The competition focused on the contemporary theme of Intermediary Liability and White-Collar Crimes. The Moot Problem was meticulously drafted by Mr. Devanshu Gupta, a distinguished Panel Advocate based in Delhi; and Mr. Shantanu Singh, a legal counsel with the Enforcement Directorate.

The competition commenced with the Researcher Test on September 20, 2023, followed by the oral rounds held on September 23-24, 2023. The event witnessed distinguished judges from the legal field. The event was designed to rigorously test the participants' legal acumen, research capabilities, and advocacy skills. After intense and highly competitive rounds, the team comprising Bhavna Bothra, Maanya Kocher, and Akarsh Anand emerged as the winners. The team consisting of KS Arartik, Ayushi Yeliminati, and Aditya Bhatia were the Runner's up for the competition.

Based on their performances, the participating teams were allocated National Moot Court Competitions, for representing the university at these competitions. This competition not only provided an opportunity for students to hone their skills but also served as a stepping stone for their future competitions.





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FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION MOOT, 2023

The Global Rounds of the Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot, 2023, were successfully hosted by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University in Lucknow from 2nd to 5th November 2023. The event witnessed participation from over 40+ countries and was graced by the presence of distinguished arbitrators stimulating discussions on international arbitration. The competition was supported by esteemed sponsors, including APS Law Chambers, Aziz Tayabali and Associates, Investor-State Law Guide, Jus Mundi, Maxwell Chambers, SCC Online®, Skadden etc, whose commitment to legal excellence and education was crucial to the event's success.

The event spanned four days, starting with the valedictory ceremony greeted by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Professor Sanjay Singh. The preliminary rounds took place on the 3rd and 4th of November, followed by an enriching round table discussion on 'Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) in the 21st Century: Adept Responses to the Evolving Dynamics' on November 4, 2023. The distinguished panellists and moderators, included Mr Steven P. Finizio, Mr Mrinal Jain, Ms Chitra Rentala, Ms Niyati Gandhi, Mr Anubhab Sarkar and others. The event also featured a cultural night showcasing the vibrant and diverse culture of India through dance and music, including Stalls, which offered various experiences adding to the festive atmosphere.

The Final Match of the Global Rounds were headed by Dipen Sabharwal, Steven Finizio and Vera Bykova as the arbitrators. The event concluded with a grand closing ceremony, where the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) emerged as the winners for the Global Rounds. The Runner's Up and the team securing the 3rd Best Team in the Oral Rounds were claimed by Law Centre 1, University of Delhi (Aranguren), and Universitas Diponegoro (Crawford), respectively. The winners were honoured with the prestigious Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom Trophy, highlighting their exceptional legal prowess and dedication. The Global Rounds of the Foreign Direct Investment International Arbitration Moot, 2023, were a remarkable success, showcasing the university's commitment to excellence in legal education and international collaboration.



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CONCOURS, 2024

The Moot Court Committee of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow, organized a first-year specific mooting event, “Concours’ on 13th-14th January. Concours is a crucial Moot Court Competition that provides a platform for First year student. The problem of the competition this year was drafted by Mr. Abhyuday Jaiswal and Mr. Mohd. Shahis Raini, and oral rounds of the competition were judged by the final-year students of the University.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation from first-year students. This mooting tournament was structured around individual participation, where a contestant can be a speaker, researcher, or both. The moot proposition drafted addressed sensitive topics such as intolerant politics, freedom of speech, media ethics, sexual violence, and the administration of justice. While the researcher’s test focused on specific legal cases or moot proposition. Students were assessed on their ability to identify relevant legal issues, conduct legal research using appropriate legal resources, analyse legal precedents and case law, and apply legal principles to the proposition.

The oral rounds were conducted on 13th and 14th January which included preliminary rounds, followed by the advanced rounds and finals. Each participant got the chance to present their arguments in front of a panel of judges. The Final round of the competition was conducted in Moot Court Hall of the University.

Post the Competition the highest ranked speakers and researchers were allotted National Moot Court Competitions via their ranks.





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2ND RMLNLU – KOCHHAR & CO. ARBITRATION MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow conducted the 2nd edition of RMLNLU – Kochhar & Co. Arbitration Moot Court Competition, 2024, from 23rd-25th February, 2024. The Competition was organized in collaboration with Kochhar & Co. as its title sponsor, Taylor Wessing as a research partner, EBC Reader as its Knowledge partner, Law offices of India and APS Law Chambers as institutional partners, and SCC Online® as its Media Partner. Apart from the incredible cash prizes, the top performers in the competition were also awarded internships with distinguished luminaries in the arbitration field.

The Moot Proposition of the 2nd edition of RMLNLU – Kochhar & Co. Arbitration Moot Court Competition, 2024, was drafted by Mr. Aayush Jain, the Principal associate at Khaitan and Co. The moot proposition was based on the theme of Commercial International Arbitration, one of the blooming fields of Arbitration in recent times.

A panel discussion on Emerging Trends in International Commercial Arbitration was also organized by the Moot Court Committee on 23rd February presided over by Mr. Aayush Jain, Zoltan Novak, Partner at Taylor Wessing, and Ajay Thomas, Independent Arbitrator and ADR consultant.

Preliminary rounds, advanced rounds, and a final round was conducted to conclude the competition. Each team got the chance to present their arguments in front of a panel of judges from esteemed Firms and Law offices around the world.

The final round of the competition was conducted in the Moot Court Hall of the university and graced with the presence of Justice Alok Mathur, Mr. Shiv Sapra, Mr. Ajay Thomas, Ms. Alkanshree Dahar, and Mr. Zoltan Novak. The Valedictory Ceremony was held in the presence of our chief guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikram Nath, our guest of Honour, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Alok Mathur, Mr. Shiv Sapra, our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Faculty in charge, and students of the University.

The 2nd edition of the RMLNLU – Kochhar & Co. Arbitration Moot Court Competition, 2024, held from 23rd-25th February, was a resounding success.



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