

CENTRE FOR LAW AND DEVELOPMENT  
*presents*

NUALS NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION



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ADVOCACY COMPETITION**  
2026



# About NUALS



The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS) in Kochi stands as a beacon of legal education in India. Established in 2005 by the Kerala State Legislature, NUALS quickly rose to prominence, offering a cutting-edge curriculum that blends traditional legal principles with contemporary challenges. NUALS has brought home several national and international laurels and has established itself as one of the premier law institutions in the country. Our distinguished faculty, composed of legal luminaries and experienced professionals, mentor students to become the legal experts of tomorrow.

At NUALS, we pride ourselves on our state-of-the-art campus, featuring modern facilities that foster a conducive learning environment. We believe in providing a global perspective to our students through international collaborations, enriching their academic experiences and preparing them for a globalised legal landscape. We place a strong emphasis on extracurricular activities and personality growth, ensuring that our graduates are not just skilled legal professionals, but well-rounded individuals ready to take on leadership roles in society.

By focusing on the advancement and dissemination of legal knowledge to produce young and brilliant lawyers for the nation, NUALS has established itself as a leading centre of excellence in legal studies.

# About CLD



The Centre for Law and Development is one of the research centres under the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi dedicated to advancing legal developments in our nation. The Centre understands the relevance of law in all aspects of human life and conduct; both individual and collective and that development must be for the common good of the society.

The Centre thereby emphasises the recognition and prioritisation of areas for development, contribution to policy formulation by the State and other decision-making authorities, research into various aspects of development including rights of affected members of the general public from socio-legal, economic and other relevant perspectives, collection and dissemination of information and compliance with relevant international obligations.

The Centre for Law and Development has established itself as a dynamic entity organizing impactful initiatives such as the Trial Advocacy Workshop, Mock Trials, the prestigious National Securities Law Moot, and series of Special Lectures covering crucial topics like Insolvency and Bankruptcy, Mergers and Acquisitions etc.

Led under the effective guidance and leadership of the Director, the Centre effectively fulfils its aims and obligations within the legal sphere, focusing on achieving even further headway in all future goals and objectives.

# About NUALS NTAC



NUALS NTAC is envisioned as an ideal platform for law students to hone their advocacy skills in a competitive environment, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and courtroom practice to deepen their understanding of trial court procedures and the rule of law. Since establishing the National Trial Advocacy Competition in 2006, NUALS has consistently upheld premier standards in the field.

## About NTAC 2025

The 2025 edition of the NUALS National Trial Advocacy Competition was structured to provide participants with a comprehensive introduction to the mechanics of criminal trials. Centred on a problem based on India's newly enacted criminal law codes, the competition required students to think critically, argue persuasively, and adopt a strategic approach to litigation. Its format reflected the pace and discipline of actual courtroom proceedings, allowing participants to refine both their legal reasoning and advocacy techniques.

NUALS NTAC 2025 also facilitated interaction among students from institutions across India, fostering collaboration, exposure to diverse advocacy approaches, and the exchange of ideas on criminal law and trial practice. The Final Round was adjudicated by **Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.V. Jayakumar (Judge, High Court of Kerala)**, **Adv. Sasthamangalam Ajith Kumar (Senior Advocate, Kerala High Court)**, and **Adv. N. K. Unnikrishnan (Advocate)**. The team from **Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam**, emerged as the winners, while the team from **School of Law, Christ University, Bengaluru**, secured the runners-up position.

Through initiatives such as NTAC, NUALS continues to foster collaborative learning, promote healthy competition, and develop skilled, courtroom-ready trial lawyers.

# Event Format

## Phase 1: Virtual Qualifier Rounds

The journey begins with the virtual Qualifier Rounds, scheduled to be conducted on 10th January 2026, via Google Meet. The Researcher shall represent the teams in the Qualifier Rounds, facing a focused 15-minute oral descriptive interview before a panel of evaluators. This Round tests the legal acumen, analytical ability, and understanding of procedural and substantive law, through direct questions and short hypothetical scenarios.

Participants must join on time, maintain camera and microphone access throughout, and strictly refrain from referring to external materials or receiving assistance. Any instance of unfair means will result in immediate disqualification.

All registered teams will compete in this round, and the top 16 teams will secure their place in the prestigious offline Advanced Rounds to be held at the National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.

## Phase 2: Advanced Rounds

The top 16 teams from the Qualifier Rounds step into this dynamic offline showdown, immersing themselves in the full spectrum of trial court proceedings, including opening statements, witness examination, cross-examination, and closing arguments. Each team will have the opportunity to represent both the Prosecution and the Defence in the Preliminary Rounds. Witness briefing windows, knockout eliminations, and rigorous time management define these stages, pushing teams to demonstrate strategy, clarity, and advocacy excellence.

The top eight teams will advance to the Quarter-Finals, followed by the Semi-Finals, ultimately leading to the Final Round where the top two teams battle for championship honours, including the coveted **Best Trial Advocacy Team Award**.

# Event Schedule

25 Nov 2025	Release of Registration Forms, Event Brochure and Rulebook.
10 Dec 2025	Release of Trial Proposition
25 Dec 2025	Last Date for Registration
10 Jan 2026	Qualifier Rounds (Online)
12 Jan 2026	Publication of Qualifier Round Results, Opening of Advanced Rounds Payment Portal, Release of Travel, Witness, and Clarification Forms.
15 Jan 2026	Last Date for Seeking Clarifications
18 Jan 2026	Release of Clarifications
20 Jan 2026	Last Date for Advanced Rounds Payment
30 Jan 2026	Inaugural Ceremony
31 Jan 2026	Preliminary Rounds Quarter Finals
1 Feb 2026	Semi-Finals Final Round Valedictory Ceremony

# Awards

## **Best Trial Advocacy Team Award**

A Trophy and a Cash Prize of **Rs. 36,000/-**

## **Best Trial Advocacy Team Runners-up Award**

A Trophy and a Cash Prize of **Rs. 24,000/-**

## **Best Trial Advocate Award**

A Trophy and a Cash Prize of **Rs. 10,000/-**

## **Best Trial Advocate Runner-Up Award**

A Trophy and a Cash Prize of **Rs. 7,500/-**

## **Best Researcher Award**

A Trophy and a Cash Prize of **Rs. 7,500/-**

## **Best Researcher Runner-Up Award**

A Trophy and a Cash Prize of **Rs. 5,000/-**

# Contact

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