



CNLU-DPIIT-IPR NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026

in association with



RULEBOOK

Short Title: This moot court competition shall be called the "CNLU-DPIIT-IPR NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026".

1. DEFINITION

Unless otherwise stated following shall be construed herein under as—

- 1.1. **Competition:** The Competition refers to all the aspects of the "CNLU-DPIIT-IPR NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2026".
- 1.2. **Organising Body:** It shall mean the DPIIT-IPR Chair and CIRF of the Chanakya National Law University, Patna.
- 1.3. **Participating Team:** It means the team which has registered itself for the competition as per the rules of registration.
- 1.4. **Participating Institution:** It shall be presumed to be the parent institution of the participating team.
- 1.5. **Court Master:** The "Court Master" shall be an officer of the Court. The officer shall be entrusted with the duties of smooth functioning of the Court. Such an officer shall be the medium of communication between the Organising body and the Court during the competition.
- 1.6. **Dispute Resolution Committee:** The appellate committee in certain issues shall be referred to as "Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)". The decision of the DRC shall be final. No further appeal is allowed from any order of the DRC.
- 1.7. **Memorial:** It refers to the written arguments submitted by the team, on behalf of both parties, according to the Rules of the Competition by each team.
- 1.8. **Oral Rounds:** It refers to the competition rounds during which the teams orally submit their pleadings in front of the judges on behalf of one of the parties against another team representing the opposing party.
- 1.9. **Memorial Evaluation Committee:** The committee entrusted with the evaluation of memorials in the competition shall be referred to as the "Memorial Evaluation Committee". The committee shall submit the feedback-

cum-score sheet to the Organising Committee after scrutinising the memorial of the teams.

1.10. **Rules:** It means “CNLU-DPIIT-IPR NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION RULES 2026”.

2. ORGANISATION OF THE MOOT AND ORGANISING BODY

2.1 The official language of the competition is ‘English’, and all oral arguments and memorial must be made in ‘English’.

2.2 The DPIIT-IPR Chair and CIRF of CNLU, Patna will serve as the Organising Body (‘OB’) for the event. The OB retains exclusive authority to:

2.2.1 Enforce all competition rules.

2.2.2 Interpret the rules as necessary.

2.2.3 Settle any disputes that arise during the competition.

2.2.4 Address inquiries and provide clarifications regarding the moot problem.

2.2.5 The OB retains the right to modify the rules or supplement them, if necessary.

2.2.6 The OB reserves the right to modify the moot problem at any stage, provided that prior notice is given to all participating teams.

2.2.7 The OB reserves the right to disqualify any team if their behaviour is deemed to constitute a serious breach of the rules or the overall spirit of the competition.

2.2.8 All relevant materials relating to the competition shall be made available on the DPIIT-IPR Chair Page of the official website of Chanakya National Law University, Patna and the LinkedIn account of the DPIIT-IPR Chair of CNLU.

2.2.9 All questions/queries regarding the competition must be addressed to iprmoot@cnlu.ac.in.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- 3.1 The Competition shall comprise of two stages.
 - 3.2 Stage I shall be the Memorial Qualifier Round. This shall be open to all teams that register for the competition. The results of this round shall be based on evaluation of memorials and shall determine the 16 teams which will proceed to Stage II.
 - 3.3 Stage II shall be the Oral Rounds. The 16 teams that qualify Stage I shall be eligible to participate. The Competition shall consist of the following Oral Pleading Sessions:
 - 3.3.1 The Preliminary Rounds (I and II): **online mode.**
 - 3.3.2 The Quarter-Final Rounds: **online mode.**
 - 3.3.3 The Semi-Final Rounds: **online mode.**
 - 3.3.4 The Final Round: **offline mode (at CNLU Campus).**
 - 3.4 The Online Rounds shall be held on MS Teams. The links to the rounds shall be sent directly to the teams after the Memorial Qualifier Rounds.
 - 3.5 The Offline Round shall be held at the CNLU campus in Patna. Participants shall note that only the final rounds shall be conducted in offline mode. The DPIIT-IPR Chair shall bear only the lodging expenses of the two teams proceeding to the final round. All other expenses shall be borne by the teams themselves.
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4. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 The competition is open to all law students currently enrolled in recognized 3-year LL.B. or 5-year integrated LL.B. programs. Multiple teams from a law school may participate; however cross-institution participation is prohibited.

4.2 Registration Procedure & Fees:

- 4.2.1 Interested teams are required to register for the Competition by filling the registration form. The link to the form is https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_Z0iiR8h4lq7e2wgEXv2G0shwJhIJnzmCJmhatHOWQE/edit
 - 4.2.2 Each Team is required to upload a copy of a bona-fide letter issued by the appropriate authority of their Institution/College/University as a part of the Registration Form.
 - 4.2.3 While filling the Registration Form, the teams must choose a person to be designated as the 'Point of Contact' ('POC'). All communications concerning the Competition will be sent by an e-mail to the nominated contact person. The nominated contact person shall be responsible to convey all the information to the team.
 - 4.2.4 Any changes in the contact details of team members must be notified to the OB at the earliest. This obligation to inform shall continue throughout the course of the Competition, unless such a team withdraws or is otherwise disqualified from the Competition.
 - 4.2.5 Each team will receive a unique Team Code, which must be used for identification throughout the competition. It is imperative that all team members refrain from revealing their institution's identity at any time or in any form during the competition. Any violation of this rule may result in disqualification at the discretion of the OB. The decisions of the OB regarding compliance are final and binding.
 - 4.2.6 The registration fee for the competition is Rs. 4000. The fee is non-refundable.
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5. THE MOOT PROBLEM AND CLARIFICATIONS

- 5.1 **Theme:** The theme of this year's moot problem would be Copyright and Artificial Intelligence ('AI').
- 5.2 **Release of the Moot Problem:** The moot problem will be released on 05.12.2025.

6. TEAM COMPOSITION AND SUBSTITUTION

- 6.1 Each team shall comprise of three members. Two members shall perform the role of speakers, and one member shall perform the role of a researcher. Only speakers are allowed to make submissions during the oral rounds.
- 6.2 Substitution of any team member after the registration deadline is generally prohibited. Exceptions will only be considered in extenuating circumstances and must receive prior approval from the OB.
- 6.3 Alterations to the team composition as specified at the time of registration are not allowed. Any changes to the team composition will only be permitted under exceptional circumstances and require prior authorisation from the OB.
- 6.4 Multiple teams from the same university may participate subject to confirmation from the authorities (Moot Court Committees/Deans) of their respective universities with a cap of two teams per university.

7. MEMORIAL

7.1 Memorial Submission:

- 7.1.1 Every team that has successfully registered for the competition is required to prepare two memorials: Memorial on behalf of the Petitioner(s) and Memorial on behalf of the Respondent(s).
- 7.1.2 All teams are required to send soft copies of their memorials for Stage I: Memorial Elimination Round before **15th January 2025 (11:59 P.M. IST)** to iprmoot@cnlu.ac.in with the subject, "Team Code: Submission of Memorials".
- 7.1.3 The memorials which are submitted for the memorial qualifier round shall be considered final. After the completion of the Competition, the OB reserve the right to use the memorials as they deem appropriate.

7.2 Memorial Format:

- 7.2.1 All submissions of the memorial must be provided in both Microsoft Word Document format (.doc/.docx) and PDF format. Teams are required to submit both versions of the memorial: one in Microsoft Word and one in PDF.
- 7.2.2 The files should be named according to the Team Code and the side for which the Memorial is prepared. The Team Code on the upper right-hand corner of the cover page is to follow the same format (for instance, Team 01 will name its Memorial for the Petitioner as 01_P and the Memorial for the respondent as 01_R). Use of any other format (example “Team 08C” or “Team 10R”) will be penalized.
- 7.2.3 The citation format must be the OSCOLA. Speaking footnotes and endnotes are not allowed.
- 7.2.4 The cover page of the memorial must contain only the following information in the same format and in the same order:
- Team Code in the upper right-hand corner, followed by a ‘P’ for the Petitioner(s) Memorial, or an ‘R’ for the Respondent(s) Memorial. (i.e. Team 01 shall write “01_P” and “01_R”)
 - The name of the Competition and Year
 - Case Title
 - The title of the document (i.e. “Memorial for Respondent” or “Memorial for Plaintiff”)

Note: The background colour of the front page of the “Memorial for Plaintiff” shall be blue and of the “Memorial for Respondent” shall be “Red”.

- 7.2.5 All pages of the Memorial including the cover page, shall adhere to the following mandatory specifications:
- Page Size: A4
 - Font Type: Times New Roman
 - Font Size: 12

- Line Spacing: 1.5
- Body of Text: Justified
- Paragraph Spacing: Before 0, After 6 (the option “don’t add space between paragraphs of the same style” should not be selected)
- Margin: 1.5 Inch on the left and 1 Inch on the remaining sides
- Border: No borders
- Preliminary Pages: Number using Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, etc.).

Note: The preliminary pages must include:

- *Table of Contents*
- *List of Abbreviations*
- *List of References*

- Main Pages: Number using Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.), starting with "1" at the first page of the main text.

Note: Main pages include:

- *Statement of Jurisdiction*
- *Statement of Facts*
- *Statement of Issues*
- *Summary of Arguments*
- *Arguments Advanced*
- *Prayer*

- For footnotes, the formatting specifications are:
 - Font Type: Times New Roman
 - Font Size: 10
 - Line Spacing: 1.0
 - Paragraph Spacing: 0
 - No additional space between 2 footnotes
 - Body of Text: Justified.

- 7.3. Teams are required to send the soft copies of the Memorials within the specified time frame, taking all contingencies into account. Equipment failure, computer disk failure, internet connectivity issues, etc., shall not be considered as grounds for condoning any penalty imposed due to late submission.
- 7.4. Each team is responsible for ensuring that the soft copy of the Memorial is accessible and can be opened using Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 8/Microsoft Word 2010 or later. Additionally, the document must be free of viruses and should not be password protected.

7.5. Memorial Content:

7.5.1 The Memorial shall mandatorily to contain the following sections:

- Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- List of Abbreviations
- List of References
- Statement of Jurisdiction
- Statement of Facts
- Statement of Issues
- Summary of Arguments
- Arguments Advanced
- Prayer

7.5.2 The Body of Arguments should not exceed 25 pages in total. The entire memorial including the cover page should not exceed 40 pages. The sections on Statement of Facts and Summary of Arguments are limited to 2 pages each. The section on Issues Raised is restricted to 1 page, and the Prayer may also be no more than 1 page.

7.5.3 The Memorial shall include the headers, footers, footnotes, page numbers and cover page.

7.6. Penalties:

- 7.6.1 Non-compliance with rule 7.4 or sub-rule 7.2.1 shall be deemed a complete failure to submit memorandums, and the team's memorandums shall not be evaluated.
- 7.6.2 Non-compliance with sub-rule 7.2.2 shall result in a penalty of 5 marks per document not properly named.
- 7.6.3 Non-compliance with sub-rule 7.2.3 shall result in a penalty of 1 mark per page.
- 7.6.4 Non-compliance with sub-rules 7.2.4 & 7.2.5 shall result in a penalty of 1 mark per page
- 7.6.5 Non-compliance of sub-rule 7.5.2 shall result in a penalty of 2 mark for each additional page.
- 7.6.6 There shall be a cap on maximum formatting penalties which shall not transcend 20 marks in any case.
- 7.6.7 The plagiarism in the memorial shall not exceed 15% of the overall content. The use of AI generated content in any manner is strictly prohibited and must be 0%. Any violation of this sub-rule may result in disqualification or other penalties at the discretion of the OB.
- 7.6.8 Non-Compliance of Rule 12 shall result in a penalty of 5 marks per memorial or disqualification as per the discretion of the OC.

7.7 Memorial Evaluation: Each Memorial shall be evaluated out of 100 marks by an evaluator. The criteria for evaluation are as follows:

Parameter	Mark allocated
Understanding of Law and Extent of Research	25 marks
Originality, Articulation and Clarity of Analysis	25 marks
Knowledge and Integration of Facts	20 marks

Clarity, Organisation and Logical Progression	20 marks
Grammar, Style and Citation	10 marks
TOTAL	100 marks

7.8 Qualification of Memorials:

- 7.8.1 After evaluation of the memorials submitted, the teams based on their total scores in Stage I: Memorial Qualifier Round shall qualify to Stage II: Oral Rounds.
- 7.8.2 The results of Stage I: Memorial Qualifier Round shall be declared on 25.01.2026
- 7.8.3 The teams that qualify Stage I will be required to confirm their participation in Stage II by filling the confirmation form sent to them by an e-mail before 26.01.2026 (11:59 P.M. IST).
- 7.8.4 The teams that qualify for the final round shall submit 3 hard copies of both “Memorial for Petitioner” and the “Memorial for Respondent” at least 24 hours before the beginning of the Round. Spiral binding of all hard copies of memorials shall be mandatory.
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8. ORAL HEARING

8.1 General Procedure:

- 8.1.1 The preliminary rounds shall consist of Preliminary Round 1 (“PR-1”) and Preliminary Round 2 (“PR-2”).
- 8.1.2 The fixtures for the Preliminary rounds shall be based on the Draw of Lots.
- 8.1.3 The team representing the plaintiff shall submit their arguments first, followed by the team representing the Respondent.

- 8.1.4 Rebuttals or Replies to Rebuttals shall be delivered by only one speaker from each team. The Plaintiff's Rebuttals are limited to addressing the Oral Pleadings of the Respondent, while the Respondent's Reply to Rebuttals is restricted to responding to the Petitioner's Rebuttals.
- 8.1.5 Teams shall reserve a minimum of 1 minute for Rebuttals or Replies to Rebuttals during all Oral Pleading Sessions throughout the Competition. However, no team may reserve more than 5 minutes for this purpose.
- 8.1.6 Participants are strictly prohibited from disclosing their individual identity and the identity of the institution. In all instances, they must use the Team Code without exception.
- 8.1.7 Memorials shall be exchanged 24 hours prior to the start of the preliminary rounds. For subsequent rounds, the exchange of memorials shall occur at a reasonable time determined by the OB before each advanced round.
- 8.1.8 Teams are permitted to submit compendiums to assist the judges. Compendiums must be submitted in the PDF format along with the moot memorials. The title of the compendium must be in the format i.e. [COMPENDIUM_TC_P/R]. For an instance, if the TC of a team is 01 and the compendium is submitted for the plaintiff side, the title of the document should be 'COMPENDIUM_01_P'. If a team fails to comply with the rules related to the submission of the compendium, the submission will not be accepted.
- 8.1.9 If any opponent Team fails to appear in an Oral Pleading Session, the round shall be conducted ex-parte and the scoring shall be done as if the defaulted Team had been present and arguing.

8.2 Procedures for Oral Submissions:

- 8.2.1 Each team shall be allotted 30 minutes to present their case in the Preliminary Rounds. Each team shall be allotted 40 minutes to present their case in the Quarterfinals and Semi-finals and 50 minutes in the

Finals. This shall include time allotted for arguments advanced, rebuttals, and reply to rebuttals.

8.2.2 Teams may allocate speaking time between their two speakers at their discretion; however, the following time limits apply:

- Preliminary Rounds: Each speaker must speak for a minimum of 14 minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes.
- Quarter Finals and Semi-Finals: Each speaker must speak for a minimum of 17 minutes and a maximum of 23 minutes.
- Finals: Each speaker must speak for a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 25 minutes.

8.2.3 Time allocation between team speakers, as well as time reserved for rebuttals or replies to rebuttals, must be measured in whole minutes only.

8.3. Before the Oral Round begins, the team must inform the manner in which the team wishes to divide its total time between its (i) first speaker, (ii) second speaker, and (iii) the rebuttal (for Petitioner) or reply to Rebuttal (for Respondent).

8.4. The parties may make submissions during their oral arguments extending beyond the arguments advanced in the memorials.

8.5. The researchers are also required to attend the oral rounds.

8.6. All participants shall be dressed in formal courtroom attire.

8.7. The use of any electronic device, except the system through which a participant is appearing for the online round, is strictly prohibited during oral pleadings.

8.8. The oral pleadings will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) marks by each of the judges.

8.9. Each speaker shall be judged based on the following criteria:

Parameter	Marks allocated
Knowledge of Law, Identification of Legal Principles and Facts	25 marks
Application of Law to Facts	20 marks
Persuasiveness and Ability to Answer	20 marks
Organisation, Presentations, Clarity and Logical Reasoning of Arguments	15 marks
Time Management	10 marks
Style, Poise, Courtesy and Demeanour	10 marks
TOTAL	100 marks

8.10. Preliminary Rounds:

- 8.10.1 All the teams that qualify Stage I: Memorial Qualifier Round shall be eligible to participate in the preliminary rounds.
- 8.10.2 The preliminary rounds shall be conducted in online mode on MS Teams.
- 8.10.3 There will be two preliminary rounds in which each team must argue once as the Plaintiff and once as the Respondent.
- 8.10.4 No team shall face the same bench or the same team more than once in the preliminary rounds.
- 8.10.5 The scores from both preliminary rounds shall be averaged to determine the overall score.
- 8.10.6 For determining which teams shall advance to the Quarterfinals, the scoring will be based on oral round scores.

8.11. Quarterfinals:

- 8.11.1 The top 8 teams with the highest marks will qualify for the Quarterfinals. In the event of a tie, memorial marks will be used as a tiebreaker.
- 8.11.2 The Quarterfinals shall be conducted in online mode on MS Teams.
- 8.11.3 For determining which teams shall advance to the Semi-Finals, the scoring will be weighted on oral round scores in Quarterfinal. This will be used to decide which team advances to the Semi-Finals.

8.12. Semifinals:

- 8.12.1 The winning team from each of the four Quarter-Final Rounds shall advance to the Semi-final Rounds.
- 8.12.2 The Semifinals shall be conducted in online mode on MS Teams.
- 8.12.3 For determining which teams shall advance to the Finals, the scoring will be weighted on oral round scores in the Semi-final.

8.13. Finals:

- 8.13.1 The winning team from each of the two semifinal rounds shall advance to the final round.
- 8.13.2 The final round shall be conducted in offline mode at the CNLU campus in Patna.
- 8.12.4 For determining the winning team, the scoring will be weighted as follows: 30% for memorial scores and 70% for oral round scores.

- 8.14.**Winner:** The winner of the final round shall be declared the winner of the competition.
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9. RESEARCHER TEST

- 9.1 A Researcher Test shall be conducted on 31st January 2026 in online mode.
 - 9.2 The test will comprise of both objective and descriptive questions, with a total of 100 marks. The objective section will carry 75 marks, and the descriptive section will carry 25 marks.
 - 9.3 The test shall consist of 50 MCQs of 1.5 marks each. Answering an MCQ wrongly shall result in negative marking of 0.5 marks per MCQ.
 - 9.4 The time limit for the test is 45 minutes. Only researchers who score at least 35 marks in the objective section will have their descriptive answers evaluated.
 - 9.5 Only the researcher designated by the teams in their registration form shall be eligible to write the researcher's test.
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10. AWARDS

10.1 Award Categories:

- 10.1.1 **Winning Team:** Awarded to the team that is judged to have the highest overall score, calculated by combining 30% of the memorial marks and 70% of the final oral round marks.
- 10.1.2 **1st Runner-Up:** Awarded to the team that is judged to have the second-highest overall score, calculated by combining 30% of the memorial marks and 70% of the final oral round marks.
- 10.1.3 **Best Memorial:** Awarded to the team with the highest-scoring written submission (memorial) based on the criteria specified in the rules.
- 10.1.4 **Best Researcher:** Awarded to the individual who attains the highest score in the researcher test.
- 10.1.5 **Best Speaker:** Awarded to the individual who presents the most compelling, persuasive, and effective oral arguments over two consecutive preliminary rounds.

10.2 Award Determination:

- 10.2.1 Award decisions are final and made based on the collective judgment of the competition's panel of judges.
 - 10.2.2 The decisions regarding award recipients are not subject to appeal.
 - 10.2.3 All the award recipients shall be given a Certificate of Merit.
 - 10.2.4 All the teams successfully participating in the Oral Rounds post submission of their memorials (both soft copy & hard copy) shall be awarded a Certificate of Participation.
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11. SCOUTING

- 11.1 Scouting is the act of attending an oral round (except the final round) by any member/coach of a team in which the concerned team is not competing. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Scouting by any team shall entail instant disqualification.
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12. ANONYMITY

- 12.1 Teams shall not reveal their identity in any form, except by means of the Team Code assigned to them.
- 12.2 Teams shall not, in any way, reveal their identity in the Memorial or in the course of the Oral Pleading Session. The Memorial shall not bear the logo, name, etc. of the Team, its members or the Institution/College/University represented by the Team. Additionally, the teams must ensure that the names of the team members, their institutions or any such marking that reasonably reveals the identity of the team must not appear in the meta-details of the memorial.
- 12.3 Any material, including the Compendium, books, legal texts, or any other reference material, carried during the Oral Pleading Session, whether presented to the Bench or not shall not reveal the Team's identity and will be

devoid of any identification marks/seal of the Team or the Institution/College/University represented. If anything on the material carried during the Oral Pleading Session reveals the Team's identity, the Team shall render the same unrecognizable to the satisfaction of the OB prior to joining the Oral Pleading Session.

12.4 Any violation of the anonymity rule may attract a penalty under sub-rule 7.6.8. The decision of the OB in this regard shall be final and not subject to challenge.

12.5 Any attempts by a Team or a member of the Team to contact, either directly or indirectly, the drafter of the Moot Problem for any reason whatsoever after the release of the Moot Problem and before the Competition closes shall lead to the disqualification of such Team from the Competition.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT

13.1 All participants are expected to maintain the decorum in the Court during the competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.

14. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

14.1 In case of any dispute regarding the interpretation or understanding of any matter concerning the competition, the decision of the Organising body shall be final and binding on all those concerned.

15. MISCELLANEOUS

15.1. Changes to Rules: The OB reserves the right to modify any rule as it deems fit at any stage of the competition.

- 15.2. Official Communication: Any communication issued through official channels and attributed to the OB shall be considered formal notification.
- 15.3. Team Responsibility: Participating teams are advised to remain attentive to and promptly acknowledge any announcements or updates issued by the OB.
- 15.4. Interpretation: In the event of any ambiguity or uncertainty, all interpretations, as well as any waivers, consents, or other decisions related to the administration of the competition, shall be made at the sole discretion of the OB. Such decisions will be final and binding on all participants
- 15.5. Unfair Means: In case of any unfair means the discretion of disqualifying the team will lie with the OB of the Moot Court Competition.
- 15.6. Decision: The decision of the judges with regard to the outcome of the rounds shall be final.
- 15.7. Conflict of Interest: Teams must disclose any potential conflict of interest and inform the OB if they have any association with a judge, such as being an intern or otherwise, at any point during the competition.