



SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, NOIDA
Symbiosis International (Deemed University)

SYMFIESTA'23

CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION, 2023

Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA is organizing **Client Counselling Competition** as part of Seventh Edition of its Annual National Youth Festival, "SYMFIESTA'23 " from **March 17-19, 2023**.

SYMFIESTA'23 provides versatile opportunities for the nationwide youth to display their ingenuity in multiple talent pursuits. SYMFIESTA'23 is filled with plethora of Cultural and Literary Events, and includes two **Legal Events**, co-organized by Pro-Bono Club and Moot Court Society namely, **Mock Trial and Client Counselling**.

Rules & Regulations

I. AIM AND PURPOSE

Client Counselling is a strategic skill which is deeply embedded in the basic principles of sound advocacy. The Client Counselling Competition promotes greater knowledge and interest among law students and exposes them to practical aspects of advocacy which help them to develop holistically. It also encourages students to develop interviewing, planning, and analytical skills in the lawyer-client relationship in the law office. Moreover, a healthy educational and cultural interchange between various learners, law teachers and legal practitioners is also envisaged.

II. DATE AND VENUE

The Client Counselling Competition shall be held from March 18-19, 2023 at Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA campus.

III. LANGUAGE

The Official language of the competition is English.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

- a. The competition is open to all students currently pursuing bachelor's degree in law i.e. 3 Year LL.B. or 5 Year LL.B. Programme, or any post-graduate degree/diploma in law, from any recognized college/institute/university in India.
- b. Each participant is required to carry his/her college ID-card on all days of the competition.

V. TEAM COMPOSITION

- a. Each Team shall be composed of **two members**.
- b. Teams cannot be changed or altered after registration. Any change or alteration in the registered team is subject to the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee.
- c. Team Codes shall be allotted to the respective teams upon arrival at the venue, by the Organizing Committee which shall be used to identify the team throughout the competition.
- d. Cross-teams i.e. participants belonging to different colleges are not allowed to form a team for the competition.

VI. DRESS CODE

For all rounds: strictly Formals **or** Advocate's uniform as per the Advocates Act, 1961 (except band and gown).

VII. REGISTRATION

- a. **Online:** Each team is required to register through the Google Form of this event at the following link on or before **March 11, 2023**:

<https://forms.gle/UGE3nrFnCvVCPjSp6>

The participating teams may kindly keep in view that the maximum number of teams is 28. Registration shall be confirmed on *first-come-first-serve* basis.

Each team shall be allotted a Team Code at the time of desk registration. This team code will be used to identify the team throughout the competition.

b. Fee:

- i) The Registration Fee for the Client Counselling Competition is INR 500 per team.
- ii) The fee for this event has to be paid at:

<https://easebuzz.in/link/client-counselling-competition-EGDYT>

OR

<https://ease.buzz/202302Tp3F42Yu>

VIII. ROUNDS

a. STRUCTURE OF ROUNDS:

- i. There will be one Preliminary round, Semi-final and Final round.
- ii. Each team will have one counselling session in Preliminary Round, and one counselling session each in semi-final and final rounds if the team advances.
- iii. Only **eight** teams will advance to the Semifinals, i.e., two teams from each court-room – one, team obtaining highest team score in the court-room, and two, team obtaining second highest team score in the court room.
- iv. Two teams from amongst the semifinalists will advance to the finals based on the highest team score in their respective court rooms. Only one team will be adjudged the winner.
- v. In case of a tie, the team that has higher score for 'consultation' part, will advance to the next round.

b. COUNSELLING SESSION FORMAT:

Each session shall be divided into three parts, namely:

- a. Consultation**
- b. Post-Consultation**
- c. Critique**

Consultation:

- 1) This time period shall start from the moment the client enters the chamber.
- 2) This time period is meant to be used for consultation with the client during which participants are expected to elicit the relevant

information, outline of the problem, find the client's expectations etc.

Post Consultation:

- 1) During this time period the client will leave the chamber and the team members may talk to each other in a manner that is audible to the judges.
- 2) This time shall start as soon as the client leaves the chamber.
- 3) The team members may talk with each other about the law which may concern the situation, clarification of facts; attorney fees etc. and the teams will be marked on the same.

Critique:

- 1) During this time period the client will re-enter the chamber.
- 2) In this time period, the teams have to explain to the client the strategy for dealing with client's legal problem, the basis for their arguments and also clarify any doubts the client may have.
- 3) Some crucial information may be revealed by the client to the teams, but the participants will have to work for/around it...!
- 4) The judge(s) may ask questions during this time period.

TIME DURATION:

PRELIMINARY AND SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS:

Stage of Counselling Session	Maximum time (in minutes)
Consultation	6
Post-Consultation	5
Critique	3
Total	14

FINAL ROUND:

Stage of Counselling Session	Maximum time (in minutes)
Consultation	8
Post-Consultation	6
Critique	6
Total	20

IX. APPLICABLE LAW

The problems shall be broadly based on, but not completely limited to, the **"Law of Contracts"**, **"Intellectual Property Rights"**, **"Information Technology Law"** and **"Law of Torts"**. The participants are expected to have knowledge of any other ancillary laws and procedures.

X. CLIENTS

- 1) The clients will be assigned by the organizers. Each team shall interact with their client for the first time during the 'consultation' session.
- 2) The participants shall be expected to interact with clients on the spot and no prior information with respect to the problem shall be intimated.
- 3) Participants' conduct towards client should be professional.

XI. ANONYMITY

A pleader may state his or her name before beginning to plead. However, no team/member shall disclose their college affiliation to any judge at any time. Such disclosure shall amount to disqualification.

XII. SCOUTING

Participants shall not be allowed to watch proceedings of other rounds or other courtrooms. Scouting is strictly prohibited and if any member of a team is found indulged in scouting activity, the same shall result in disqualification of the concerned team.

XIII. RESOURCE MATERIALS

- 1) Participants will be provided with basic stationery items for use during the competition rounds.
- 2) Use of electronic gadgets like laptop, tablets, mobile phone etc. shall not be allowed. (Use of any electronic gadget for the purpose of communication and/or use of internet may result in disqualification of the team).

XIV. GENERAL RULES

- 1) The participants shall maintain the decorum of the court room and behave accordingly during the competition.
- 2) The decision of the judges with respect to the results of each rounds shall be final and binding.
- 3) The organizers may change parts of the rules and/or format of the competition, without prior intimation, but every team shall be informed about the change, if any, before the competition.
- 4) For all rounds, each team will be marked on a scale of 50 marks. For calculation of Final Team Score in case of semi-finals and final round, the cumulative score of all judges shall be taken.
- 5) The decision of the organizers shall be final on any matter including circumstances not envisaged in the rules and regulations of the competitions.

XV. AWARDS

- a. All awards and certificates shall be announced and awarded at the Results Ceremony only, on March 19, 2023.
- b. Winning team shall receive prize in cash INR nine thousand in addition to 'Winner' certificate.
- c. Second best team/Runners-Up team shall receive prize in cash INR five thousand.
- d. Winning Team will also receive other exciting prizes including SCC Subscription.
- e. All teams will receive participating certificates only during Results Ceremony. Certificates will not be provided to the participants who are absent during the ceremony.

XVI. SAVINGS

- a. The Organising Committee shall be the final authority to resolve and decide all disputes arising out of the rules. Its decision shall be final and binding on all.
- b. NO CASH PRIZE shall be given to any team from the host college if they stand as the finalists in the competition. However, other prizes in kind shall be awarded to them.

XVII.MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Teams are required to report to the venue for **Desk Registration** on the day(s) scheduled for rounds at **11:00am IST**.
- b. Participants are required to carry their college ID-Card for the purpose of identification at desk registration. Participants should also carry their PAN Card.

XVIII. IMPORTANT DATES

- a. Registrations Open: March 02, 2023
- b. Last Date for Registrations: March 11, 2023

For any further information contact:

Aarshia Shantharam +91 – 9871959436

Jay Wadhwa +91 – 9873119465

***** ALL THE BEST! *****