



MIAMC
HYDERABAD

5TH **GALSF**

**MEDIATION
COMPETITION
RULEBOOK**

29 - 31 MARCH, 2024



GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY,
GANDHINAGAR

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Gujarat National Law University

Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar is a premier institution of legal education in India established under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. With its exemplary faculty, staff, and committed students, the University endeavors to impart quality legal education, contextualizing it within the latest policy and practical developments in the fields of humanities, commerce, business administration, social work, science, and technology. GNLU is the largest National Law University in India with regard to student, faculty, and academic discourse strength and the only Indian National Law University to offer integrated law degrees in five streams including B.S.W. L.LB, and LL.M., Ph.D. and diploma programs in a wide multitude of legal and interdisciplinary fields.

GNLU Legal Services Committee

The GNLU Legal Services Committee has been established as the epicenter of legal aid and all allied activities. The Legal Services Committee (LSC) is set up under Section 4(k) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The committee rides on the principles of empowering society with legal awareness and legal aid. Over the years, the GNLU LSC has strived to recognize law as an instrument of social change. The Committee leads a wide range of activities from pro-bono and legal aid clinics to piloting research projects and organizing sessions.

International Arbitration and Mediation Centre

The International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) is a first-of-its-kind facility located in Hyderabad, India. The Centre is spread over an area of 16,000 square feet and is situated in the heart of the financial district of Hyderabad. The Centre has multi-functional rooms that cater to small and medium-sized arbitrations and mediations.

The IAMC aims to provide efficient, cost-effective, and impartial methods of eliminating hurdles at various stages of the life cycle of the conflict. The Centre focuses on assisting in resolving commercial and legal conflicts by providing a speedy dispute redressal mechanism. The Centre is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and technology to ensure that the arbitration and mediation

proceedings are conducted smoothly and efficiently. The IAMC is governed by a Board of Trustees and a Governing Council, which includes distinguished legal professionals from around the world³. The Centre offers a range of services, including arbitration, mediation, and online filing. The IAMC also conducts events and webinars to promote awareness of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

About the Conference

"The true test of a just society is how it treats its weakest members. Legal aid is our tool to protect and uplift them,"

- Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer

The GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum (GALSF) is the annual flagship event of the GNLU Legal Services Committee. The premise of the Annual Legal Forum is to connect and establish a foundation and a consortium of all Legal Aid/Legal Services Committees across the nation, and address pertinent socio–legal issues, and facilitate discussion, cooperation, and contribution. We seek to give a platform to all exemplary voices, Law Universities, NGOs, and Legal Services Authorities throughout India in order to achieve the goal of providing affordable and accessible legal services to the underprivileged sections of society and bridging the gap that hinders the fulfillment of the aforementioned goal, by sharing their distinctive experiences.

The 5th edition of the GALSF will focus on the theme of ***Inclusive Justice- Building Sustainable Societies***. This year's forum is dedicated to addressing pressing issues in society by combining two vital components, a Mediation Competition and the GNLU LSC Annual Grant Presentation. The Mediation Competition is focused on family laws, property issues, labor laws, and consumer matters; on the other hand, the Annual Grant Presentation highlights the rights and conditions of domestic workers and street vendors through an empirical research and implementation program.

5th Annual Legal Services Forum - Mediation Competition

The primary objective of the mediation competition is to offer participants a hands-on opportunity to tackle legal disputes in the realms of everyday issues the common man faces. Participating in

this competition will cultivate a nuanced comprehension of these complex legal domains and gain invaluable expertise in alternative dispute resolution techniques. Moreover, this practical experience will equip them with the confidence and efficacy needed to effectively address inquiries brought to legal aid centers. The Mediation Competition is focused on family laws, property issues, labor laws, and consumer matters. Ultimately, this component serves as a dynamic educational platform, fostering the development of well-rounded legal professionals capable of comprehending intricate legal matters and proficiently navigating and resolving disputes to enhance access to justice for those in need.

Definitions

- "BATNA" means "Best Alternative to a Mediation or Negotiation Agreement" and refers to what is the most feasible step for a party to take if the parties fail to reach an agreement.
- "WATNA" means the Worst Alternative to a Mediation or Negotiation Agreement and refers to the worst outcome if the mediation or negotiation fails.
- "GALSF " means the GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum which is the flagship event of the GNLU Legal Services Committee of the Gujarat National Law University.
- "Competition Rules" means the rules and guidelines mentioned herein.
- "General Information" is the factual information provided to the registered participants by the GALSF Mediation Competition that is delineated as such.
- "Confidential information" means factual information given exclusively to one party in accordance with the rules of the competition.
- "Conflict of Interest" is a claim for recusal of one or more of the judges, only to be made in a scenario where a client-advocate/counsel-counsel pair or any of the two mediators face a judge or judges from the immediately preceding round, as it can negatively impact their scores due to possible bias culminated from the judge's/judges' impression of the participant in the last round.
- "Eligible Student" means a student enrolled in an undergraduate law degree programme at any of the universities recognized by the Bar Council of India. Each participant must be a current undergraduate student (5-year or 3-year course) at their respective institution.

- "Judge" means a lawyer or an academician nominated and/or selected by the GNLU LSC who evaluates and scores the performance of the participating team during the competition in accordance with the Competition Rules.
- "Mediator" refers to a participant who has registered or is designated as a mediator.
- "Participating Team" refers to a team from a recognised law university whose registration has been approved by the GNLU LSC for the GALSF.
- "Requesting Party" stands for the party, in the proposition, at whose behest the option of mediation or negotiation was exercised.
- "Responding Party" stands for the party other than the requesting party in the mediation or negotiation proceedings.

Language and Eligibility

- I. The competition will be solely conducted in the English language. All the law students currently pursuing three-year LL.B. or five-year LL.B. are eligible to participate in the competition.
- II. All the recognized universities are allowed to send only one team for the event. No cross-university team(s) are allowed.

Team Composition

Each participating team shall consist of 3 members - 2 members shall act as a client and counsel pair and 1 member as a Mediator. The role of the members shall not be changed (i.e., the participant in the role of Mediator shall continue to play the role throughout the competition). Client and Counsel are not permitted to interchange their roles in ordinary circumstances. However, under exceptional circumstances, they may apply for the same. However, the decision of the GNLU LSC shall be final and binding in this regard.

General Rules of the Competition

- I. Scouting is strictly prohibited. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification after an immediate inquiry.
- II. Participants shall not attend any of the sessions of other teams or individuals during the competition or receive information from any person who has attended any previous rounds.
- IV. Participants shall not reveal their identity or university to the panel of arbitrators/mediators or judges. Teams are not allowed to switch their roles during the competition. Participants shall address themselves as with the respective team codes allotted to them during the entire event.
- V. If any team fails to be present in the competition room for the mediation oral rounds, for more than 10 minutes even after the commencement of the session, they shall not be allowed to appear for that round.
- VI. The organizing committee shall serve as the final authority for the implementation and interpretation of these rules and of any supplementary rules or clarifications.
- VII. If there is any situation that is not contemplated in the rules, the organizing committee's decision on the same shall be final and binding.
- VIII. All forms of sexual harassment are prohibited and any reported instance will be thoroughly investigated and addressed in accordance with the GNLU LSC code of conduct.
- IX. Participants are instructed to maintain mutual respect and decorum while contacting other participants or any members of the organizing committee. Please refrain from using derogatory, disrespectful, or sexist language and remarks.
- X. Each member of the participation team shall be dressed in formals (western) for the duration of the competition.

Code of Conduct

The participating teams should mention only their allotted team codes for the purpose of communication with judges/organizers. The identity of the participating team or members or the name of their college/university shall not be disclosed to any other person during the course of the competition in any form other than to the organizing committee, whether directly or indirectly. In addition, sporting any visible or distinguishable badges/ card/ uniform by any participant which

provides an opportunity to infer/disclose their identity or the identity of the law college/ university being represented, is strictly forbidden.

All the participants are to adhere to the western formals/business formals style of dressing. The organizing committee reserves the right to disqualify any team for misconduct during the competition. In case of doubts, the decision of the student convenors and the faculty coordinators of the board shall be final.

Structure of the Competition

1. Preliminary Rounds I and II (ONLINE)
2. Quarter Final Rounds
3. Semi-Final Rounds
4. Finals

Preliminary Rounds (Online)

The preliminary rounds shall consist of preliminary round I ("Prelims-I") and preliminary round II ("Prelims II"). Each team shall mediate and negotiate in both rounds, once as a requesting party and once as a responding party. No team shall face the same bench or team more than once in the preliminary rounds. In the case of mediation, mediators can decide among themselves who wants to be mediator 1 or mediator 2 before the rounds.

Fixtures: In the preliminary rounds, match-ups will be in random order.

Scoring: Each round shall be decided through the allocation of a total of six round points, with all points being awarded based on the scores of the client counsel pair and also the mediator, in the case of mediation. A total of 3 points per judge will be allocated for the preliminary rounds. If the difference between the cumulative scores is more than 10% of the higher score, the pair or mediator with the higher score will be awarded 3 points. If the difference is less than 10%, then the pair or

mediator with the higher score will be awarded 2 points, and the other team will be awarded 1 point. In the case of a tie, the pair or mediator will be awarded 1.5 points each for that judge.

Example:

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS (ONLINE) ROUNDS

Pair A: 150 marks

Pair B: 130 marks

Difference: 20 marks

Since the difference is more than 10% of 150:

Pair A: 3 points

Pair B: 0 points

Pair A: 120 marks

Pair B: 115 Marks

Difference: 5 marks

Since the difference is less than 10% of 120:

Pair A: 2 points

Pair B: 1 point

Pair A: 110 marks

Pair B: 110 marks

Difference: 0

Since there is a tie:

Pair A: 1.5 points

Pair B: 1.5 points

All competing teams shall participate in the preliminary round I and II in online mode. The client advocate/counsel-counsel pairs shall advance separately, and the mediators shall advance

separately. The teams will be ranked based on the points secured in the preliminary rounds I and II. In case of a tie, whoever has scored higher under **criteria 7** of the client-counsel and **criteria 8** of the mediator score sheet shall be considered to break the tie. If and only if the tie cannot be resolved using the previously mentioned procedure, the teams shall be given equal points.

Advance Rounds

- The advance rounds shall proceed on a knockout basis i.e only 1 team from each round shall proceed to the next round.
- The top 8 client-counsel pairs and top 8 mediators from the preliminary rounds shall participate in the quarter final rounds. The top 8 client-counsel pairs shall be ranked based on the score . The top 8 mediators shall be ranked on the basis of their scores obtained during the mediation session.
- The winning client-counsel pairs and mediators from each one of the quarter final rounds shall participate in the semi-final rounds. The qualifying client-counsel pair shall be determined based on which team obtains the highest cumulative score in that round alone.
- The highest-scoring client-counsel pairs and the highest-scoring mediator in their respective semi-final round shall participate in the final round.
- The round structure may be changed at any point before the start of the competition at the discretion of the organizers. The changes, if any, shall be communicated to the participants as required.

Clarifications

Teams are required to submit their requests for clarification regarding the proposition via email.

There is no restriction on the number of clarifications that a team can request.

The deadline for submitting clarifications is as follows:

- Preliminary Rounds I & II - 2nd February 2024
- Quarter Finals, Semi- Finals & Finals - 17th March 2024

Any requests for clarification received after the specified deadlines will not be considered valid.

The Organizing Committee will release the clarifications on 5th February 2024 and 20th March 2024 for the respective rounds.

Note: Please mention the teamcodes while writing an E-mail for seeking clarifications or else the clarifications shall not be entertained.

Conflict of Interest

As per the nature of the competition, there might arise situations wherein the participants or the mediators find themselves in a situation wherein they are judged by the same panel or one of the members therein. The organizers will try their best to ensure that this does not take place. However, the participants are encouraged to report any such event whatsoever, to the organizers of the GALSF.

Any such claim shall be made only during the first 5 minutes of the concerned round and shall hold no ground once the time has elapsed. The acceptance of any such claim is subject to the approval of GNLU LSC, and they retain absolute discretion to accept or reject such claim. No disputes whatsoever shall be entertained as against the decision of the organizers.

Time Limits

The time limits for each round are as follows:

- Preliminary round I and II (Online): 40 minutes for each round + 10 minutes post Discussion and Evaluation.
- Quarter final round: 60 minutes + 10 minutes post discussion and evaluation.
- Semi-final rounds: 90 minutes + 10 minutes post discussion and evaluation.
- Final rounds: 120 minutes + post discussion and evaluation (Judges' discretion).

Please note that the organizing committee reserves the right to make changes to the time limits before the release of the confidential information.

Time Keeping

The organizing committee member supervising the session shall be the official timekeeper. Teams have the responsibility to adhere to the time limit. Participants must note that they can speak only for the allotted time limit, as mentioned above. The Organising Committee member shall notify teams about the remaining time during the round. Judges will be advised to not give any additional time and hence participants must adhere to the time split mentioned for the respective rounds.

Release of Confidential Information

- Confidential information for each Mediation round shall be released:
 - 30 minutes before the mediation session for the preliminary and quarter final Rounds.
 - 45 minutes before the mediation session for the semi-final round.
 - 60 minutes before the mediation session for the final round.

Participants are strictly instructed to keep the contents of the confidential information (CI) exclusively to themselves. The participants shall be required to submit their mobile phones and electronic devices to the person who is in charge of the confidential information rooms and they can only be collected when the participants are leaving the confidential information rooms. Any violation of this rule shall result in immediate disqualification. In this regard, the discretion of the organizing committee shall be final.

Tentative Timeline

<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>IMPORTANT DATES</u>
Deadline for Registration.	31st December 2023
Release of Problem for Preliminary Rounds I and II.	20th January 2024
Deadline for Seeking Clarifications	2nd February 2024
Release of Clarifications	5th February 2024
Preliminary Round I and II.	10th and 11th February 2024
Date of Results for Preliminary Rounds.	20th February 2024
Release of Problem for Quarter Final, Sem-Final, and Final Rounds.	25th February 2024
Deadline for Seeking Clarifications	17th March 2024
Release of Clarifications	20th March 2024
Date of Events.	29th March-31st March 2024

Note: The Release of sides for the specific rounds shall be released a day prior to the rounds.

Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria for the Client-Counsel Team

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Marks</u>
1.	Opening Statement	10
2.	Argument	10
3.	Understanding of Problem(Issue Identification/Prioritization of stakes)	20
4.	Teamwork and Cooperation	10
5.	Professionalism and Advocacy	10
6.	Strategy + Use of CI	20
7.	Time Management	10
8.	Post Consultation Session (Identification of BATNA and WATNA)	10
	<u>Total</u>	100

Evaluation Criteria for Mediators

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Marks</u>
1.	Opening and Closing Statement	10
2.	Effective Negotiation Skills (Relationship Building and Problem Solving + other soft skills)	10
3.	Advocating Interests	20
4.	Mutually Generating Creative Opinions	10
5.	Collaborating with the Other Party	10
6.	Teamwork and Coordination	10
7.	Effective use of Caucus	10
8.	Mediation Strategy	20
	<u>Total</u>	100

Awards and Prizes

- Each participating team shall be provided with a certificate of participation.
- The best performing team of the preliminary rounds 1 & 2 shall be given a certificate of appreciation and a memento.
- The Winner and Runner-Up client-counsel pair as well as the mediator shall be given respective certificates as well as the prizes mentioned below along with the provided Internship opportunities.

<u>Prize</u>	<u>Prize Money</u>
Winner Client-Counsel Pair	16,000
Runner-Up Client-Counsel Pair	10,000
Best Mediator	8,000
Runner-Up Mediator	5,000

Internship Opportunity

- 1. Winner Client-Counsel Pair & Mediator**
- 2. Runner-Up Client-Counsel Pair & Mediator**

Contact

All correspondence with the organizing committee should be conducted through email, using the address- galsf.legalservices@gnlu.ac.in and contact:

Karma Shah (Student Convenor):- 82004 75805

Diya Vaya (Student Convenor):- 86576 72718

Aaryan Dwivedi (Student Co-Convenor):- 83404 51150

Varuni Tewary (Student Co-Convenor):- 96079 04343