

RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

The practice of law is, for most of us, not just our profession, but also our passion. This simple truth makes this a highly testing time for us, where, while we practice the rigours of social distancing and self-isolation, we also run the risk of losing touch with our professional aptitude and routine. In order to help young lawyers dismiss the lethargy brought about by this imposed lockdown, the organizers of this competition offer a solution in the form of a Mock Court Proceedings competition, suitably adapted to our current unique circumstance.

We invite all eager Advocates to register and peruse the interesting and challenging legal propositions prepared by us; and exhort them to apply their legal minds to these problems, which shall hopefully help them put this time to good use.

1. ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

The competition is being organized by the Law Offices of Mr. Naresh Markanda, Senior Advocate, and Mr. Aashish Chopra, Advocate, in association with the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association (Regd.).

2. IMPORTANT DATES

Release of Invitation	24.04.2020	
Last date for Registration	26.04.2020 (8 p.m.)	
Last Date for submission of Written Submission/ Synopsis	29.04.2020 (12 noon)	
Oral Presentations	30.04.2020	—
(via Zoom Cloud Meeting App/Whatsapp)	01.05.2020	
Announcement of Winners	05.05.2020	

3. **VENUE**

Making the best use of technology in this era of self-isolation and social distancing, the venue of this online competition is the comfort of the participant's own home. The entire competition will be conducted through emails and video conferencing.

4. **ELIGIBILITY AND RULES FOR APPLICATION**

- 4.1 The competition is open to all Advocates with a standing of 5 years or less, i.e. Advocates enrolled with any State Bar Council in India from 2015 and onwards. The Advocate should also be registered as a member of the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association.
- 4.2 Participation is limited to a single individual only.
- 4.3 The Advocates desirous of participating in this competition must submit the Registration Form provided [here](#) with their particulars before the last date and time specified for the said purpose. The email address and phone number provided in the Form shall be the medium through which the Organizers shall correspond with the participants, and therefore the participants are required to ensure that they remain available on the same.
- 4.4 The written submission and the oral presentation shall be in the English language only.
- 4.5 The competition will only be able to entertain a limited number of participants and the selection of participants will be made strictly on a 'first come, first served' basis.
- 4.6 Each selected participant would, shortly after their registration, receive a confirmation email, the Legal Propositions, and a Participant Code.

4.7 The Participant Code shall be cited by the selected participants in their written submission and any other correspondence with the Organisers and vice versa.

4.8 All timelines specified herein shall be strictly observed. No provision shall be made for waiver of any delay.

5. **STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**

The Organizers of the competition will provide the selected participants, upon their successful registration, with three legal propositions. Each of these propositions centre around the fields of Arbitration and Contract law. Each participant can choose any one of these propositions and prepare their argument from the side of the Petitioner or the Respondent, as per their choice. The competition will consist of written submissions/synopsis followed by an oral presentation. Each of these will account for 50% of the total marks to be scored.

6. **WRITTEN SUBMISSION**

6.1 Each selected participant will have to submit a brief summary of their arguments, duly supported by judgments to be cited. The written arguments should explicitly state at the outset itself which proposition it addresses and the side chosen by the participant. The submission has to be made positively before 12 noon on April 29, 2020.

6.2 The participants are required to submit only a brief written submission, that shall not exceed three A4 size pages in Font type Times New Roman, and Font size 12, with 1.5-line spacing and 1 inch margin on each side.

6.3 Written submission/synopsis has to be submitted as a soft copy in the form of .doc/.docx or .pdf, and should be mailed to mockcourt2020@gmail.com with the subject title being “*Written Submission*”.

6.4 The scoring for the written submission/synopsis shall be, *inter alia*, based on the following criteria:-

- clarity in understanding the proposition,
- depth of research,
- proper and articulate analysis,
- grammar and style

7. **ORAL PRESENTATION**

7.1 Each participant will have to give an oral presentation, not exceeding 20 minutes, on the proposition chosen by them. The judges may, if they so choose to do, address questions to the participants during and/or at end of their presentation. The aim of the exercise is to simulate the atmosphere of a courtroom, so the participants must prepare their presentation on similar lines.

7.2 The oral round of the competition shall be held over the course of 2 days on April 30 and May 1, 2020. The exact timing for their oral presentation will be allocated to each individual participant via email/text message on their registered email address/mobile number. Each participant will also be provided with a unique Zoom video meeting code through which they can participate.

7.3 Participants will be required to mark their presence by logging in 5-10 minutes before the actual start of their presentation.

7.4 During the Oral Presentation, the participants are urged to maintain decorum and shall be required to observe a presentable dress code. The participants are also to ensure a noise and disturbance-free atmosphere at their end, so as to enable smooth conduct of the competition.

7.5 The Organizers have the discretion to invite legal luminaries, including sitting and retired hon'ble judges, to witness the oral presentation.

7.6 The scoring of the oral presentation shall be, *inter alia*, based on the following criteria:

- Organization, structure and time management
- Knowledge and application of rules and principles of law
- Persuasiveness and style of presentation

7.7 The decision of the winners will be announced on May 5, 2020. The decision of the judges in this regard will be final and no review of the same shall be considered.

8. **REWARD**

First Place:	Rs. 50,000/-
Second Place:	Rs. 30,000/-
Third Place:	Rs. 20,000/-
Fourth Place:	Rs. 10,000/-
Fifth Place:	Rs. 10,000/-

9. **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

9.1 In case of any disputes the decision of the Organizers shall be final.

9.2 The Organizers reserve the right to make adjustments to the procedures for the conduct of this competition in order to tackle any emergent issues or

obstacles. The participants will, however, be informed well in time of any such changes.

9.3 The Organizers reserve the right to disqualify any participant for any just and cogent reasons, as may be deemed appropriate by the Organizers.

9.4 In case of any queries, you may contact us through email on mockcourt2020@gmail.com or call any of the members of the Organizing Committee between 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for clarifications. The names and contact numbers of the members of the Organizing Committee are as under:

Ms. Niharika Sharma	9501355633
Ms. Neihal Dogra	9569050030
Ms. Rupa Pathania	9815216382
Ms. Lakshita Sahni	9855158888
Mr. Rohan Markanda	9501031506
Ms. Swati Dayalan	9871922337