

The Verdict

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following are the Rules for the event “The Verdict: A National Moot Court Competition” to be organized in Kshitij-2012, the Annual Techno-Management Fest of IIT Kharagpur on 28th – 29th January, 2012.

For the purpose of these rules, the following terms shall mean:

- i. “Competition” means the event “The Verdict: A National Moot Court Competition”
- ii. “Judge” means any person appointed to evaluate a Participating Team’s Memorial or Oral Pleadings.
- iii. “Memorial” means the written pleadings of each Participating Team, written and submitted pursuant to these Rules.
- iv. “Organizers” means the Team Kshitij, IIT Kharagpur.
- v. “Participating Institution” shall be presumed to be the parent Law College/University/Department of the participating team.
- vi. “Participating Team” means the team which is eligible as per the rules and has registered itself for the competition as per the Rules of registration given below.
- vii. “Penalty” means points deducted in case of violation of any rule
- viii. “Selected Team” means the participating team qualifying from memorial round to oral round.

It should be noted that:

- i. These rules are only inclusive and not exhaustive for the competition.
- ii. All the Participating Teams should strictly adhere to the rules. Any deviation wherefrom would attract disqualification.
- iii. All decisions by the Organizers in case of any disputes/ doubts etc. will be final. The Organizers may make any rule and procedure at any point of time, as required.
- iv. Imposition of penalties including disqualification rests solely with the Organizers in case of failure to comply with the rule(s) or deadline(s).



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A. GENERAL SECTION

1. Team Kshitij in association with Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur shall be organizing the event “The Verdict: A National Moot Court Competition” on 28th – 29th January, 2012.
2. Rounds

The eligible Colleges/Universities interested to participate would be required to submit the memorials as per the rules, out of which the teams corresponding to the best **eight** memorials would be invited to participate in the competition at IIT Kharagpur. Late submissions beyond the stipulated date will attract a 1 point penalty for each day of delay.
3. Language

The official working language of the Competition would be English.
4. Eligibility

This competition is open only to students pursuing their Bachelors Degree in Law, i.e., 3 year or 5 year LL.B. from any Law College/Department/University recognized by the Bar Council of India.
5. Team Composition
 - i. Each Participating Team shall compulsorily consist of 2 speakers and 1 researcher (total three).
 - ii. Any additional Member of any Team shall not be entitled for hospitality or for any award.
6. Registration
 - i. All the members of a particular team are first required to register individually at www.ktj.in.
 - ii. All the participants must then register team-wise under the event “The Verdict”.



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- iii. A Team-ID would be generated by the computer on successful completion of the above steps.
- iv. The selected teams would be notified/informed by 5th January, 2012, regarding the further steps in registration, by the Organizers.

B. MEMORIAL ROUND

1. Each eligible College/University interested in participating in the competition, after registration should mail the soft copies (in PDF as well as Doc format) of the memorials from both sides to mcs@ktj.in by 12th December, 2011 (12 midnight) with subject as *Team Code <>: Memorial Submission for 'The Verdict'*.

2. Requirements of the Memorials.

All teams must submit typed Memorials for both the sides fulfilling the following specifications: The Memorials shall contain the following parts:

- a. Cover Page
 - b. Table of Contents.
 - c. Index of Authorities.
 - d. Statement of Jurisdiction.
 - e. Statement of Facts.
 - f. Issues Involved.
 - g. Summary of Arguments.
 - h. Body of Arguments.
 - i. Prayer.
3. The Statement of Facts may not be argumentative. Any argumentative Statement of Facts will attract negative marking.
 4. Length of the Memorial
 - a) The main body of arguments should not be more than 20 pages.
 - b) The Statement of Facts must not be longer than 2 pages.



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The Memorial should be typed on A4 size sheets in Times New Roman with font size-12, 1.5 lines spacing & 1 Inch margin on each side; Footnotes in Times New Roman with Font Size 10 and Single Spacing (use of Blue Book style of Citation would be recommended)

5. The Memorial should not contain any Annexure/Photographs/Sketches/Exhibits/Affidavit etc. in the memorial. Teams shall not disclose their identity or that of their institution or city, etc. except in the registration form. Any disclosure shall invite strict penalty including disqualification. The decision for the same shall be at the discretion of the Organizer.
6. Marking criteria for the Memorials
Every Memorial will be marked on a total of 100 marks. There will be separate marking for the Appellant's and Respondent's Memorials. The following will be the marking criteria and the allocation of marks to each category:

S. No.	Marking Criteria	Marks Allocated
i.	Knowledge of Facts and Law	20
ii.	Proper and Articulate Analysis	20
iii.	Depth of Research	20
iv.	Citation of Authorities	20
v.	Clarity and Organization	10
vi.	Grammar and Style	10
Total		100

7. The selected teams are allowed to use a compendium of cases and other materials referred to in the memorials in the competition, provided the compendium should not disclose the identity of the Participating Institution anywhere.



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C. ORAL ROUNDS

1. The Competition shall be extended to two days with the first day reserved for preliminary rounds and the second day for semi-finals and final.

2. Advancing in the Preliminary Rounds.

- i. In the preliminary rounds, each team shall argue for both the sides (Plaintiff and Defendant) in two separate rounds. Memorial scores will be added to the individual oral scores in the preliminary rounds for declaring the winner. However, memorial scores will not be added during the knockout stage. (Semi Finals & Final).
- ii. Qualification to the Semi Final rounds shall be based on Win Points. Teams with two wins will qualify for the semi finals. In case of more than four teams with two wins each, the four teams with the highest aggregate total will qualify. In the event of less than four teams with two wins, then the teams with one win with the highest aggregate total (both rounds) will qualify. The Semi-Finals will be a knock-out round.
- iii. A team will be credited with a win if their Round Total is greater than that of the opposing team. In case the Round Total of the two teams is the same, the team with higher memorial marks will be credited with a win.

3. Distribution of time

- i. Each team will have a maximum of 25 minutes to present their Oral Submissions during the preliminary and 35 minutes during the Semi Final and Final Rounds. This will include the time that each team may want to reserve for their rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.
- ii. At the commencement of each session of Oral Submissions, each team must notify the Court Officer of the amount of time that the team reserves for their rebuttal/sur-rebuttal. A maximum of 5 minutes can be reserved for the rebuttal/sur-rebuttal.



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- iii. No speaker will be permitted to address the Court for more than 15 minutes (20 minutes in case of Semi-Final and Final Rounds). This includes the time the speaker addresses the Court during the rebuttal /sur-rebuttal.
- iv. If any speaker continues to speak after the completion of his/her time, the additional time which he/she speaks for will be deducted from the time allocated to his/her co-speaker, or from the time allocated for the rebuttal and sur-rebuttal, as the case may be. Granting of additional time would be on the discretion of the Judges. Exceeding the time limit after the grant of additional time by the judges shall attract a one point penalty per minute.

4. Prohibition on use of certain material

During the course of oral submissions the participants cannot submit to the court any material containing pictorial representation whatsoever. Further the participants will not be permitted to make any audio/visual representation nor will they be allowed to use personal computers, laptops and any other technical or mechanical device during their oral submissions.

5. All teams are expected and allowed to carry with them any case law and authorities which they intend to refer to.
6. Each Speaker will be marked on a total of 100 marks per judge. The Round Total will be the aggregate of the total of the marks for oral submission of the 2 (two) speakers.
7. The evaluation criteria for the Oral Rounds would be:
 - a. Knowledge of Law
 - b. Application of Law to Facts
 - c. Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions
 - d. Evidence of original thought
 - e. Application of legal principles
 - f. Style, Poise, Courtesy and Demeanor
 - g. Use of Authorities and Citations



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- h. Time Management and Organization (Penalties may be imposed for exceeding time limit and will be subject to the judge's discretion)
- i. Effective Rebuttals

Note: The decision of the judges as to the marks allocated to any team shall be final (So as to ensure uniformity in the marking system all the judges will be provided with a marking guideline).

D. GENERAL DIRECTIONS

1. No Scouting

No team shall be allowed to scout into the arguments in any courtroom by any means, in which that team is not one of the contesting teams as long as that team is still in the competition. Strict action will be taken against that team, including disqualification from the competition.

2. Court Decorum

All Participants are expected to strictly maintain decorum in the Court Room during the competition.

3. External Assistance

All research, writing and editing must be solely the product of Participating Team Members. Persons other than the participating team members are not permitted to Research on the Moot Problem of the Competition or providing any other kind of assistance to the participating members.

4. Maintenance of Anonymity

All team members shall refrain from wearing, using or carrying in any form, any identifying items, such as badges, blazers, pins or any other identifying material(s) such as a books/bags with a college/university/library logo or seal during the competition.



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5. Team Codes

The team codes issued to each selected college as per Rule A.6 shall be the sole source of identity of the respective teams throughout the competition. This team code should also be clearly printed on top of all copies of the memorial or else it would not be considered for evaluation either in memorial round or in the competition.

E. AWARDS

There shall be following awards in The Verdict: A National Moot Court Competition:

- i. Winning Team
Certificates to all team members and cash prize of Rs. 25,000 to the team
- ii. Runner-Up Team
Certificates to all team members and cash prize of Rs. 15,000 to the team
- iii. Best Speaker
Certificate and cash prize of Rs. 5,000
- iv. Best Memorial
Certificate and cash prize of Rs. 5,000

In addition to the above awards, a certificate of participation will be given to all the selected teams participating in the competition. Also, the best two teams among the participating teams not selected for the oral rounds would also be given certificates of appreciation.

Note:

- a. A special panel of Judges will assess the Memorials for the Best Memorial Award.
- b. The Best Speaker awards will be determined by the points scored from the preliminary rounds alone.

F. COPYRIGHT

1. The copyright over the memorials submitted for the purpose of the competition will be deemed to be assigned by participants completely and fully with the Organizers. The participants shall certify in writing the originality of materials contained therein and shall



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be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.

2. Further use and exhibition of these materials, electronically or otherwise, shall be the exclusive right of the Organizers and they shall not be responsible for any liability to any person for any loss caused by errors or omissions in the collection of information, or for the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in these materials.

G. DISCLAIMER

It is hereby declared by Team Kshitij that the Moot Court Competition is based on a purely fictitious problem, whereby the characters & the incidents or the course of events in the moot problem are completely imaginary and the same has no relation to any person living or dead or any post/present real life incident.

H. HOSPITALITY @ IIT Kharagpur

1. Accommodation shall be provided by the Organizers from the night of 27th January, 2012 to 30th January, 2012 (till 10.00 a.m.). Teams wishing to stay back later than the above date and time shall make arrangements for accommodation on their own.
2. The event being a part of Kshitij 2012, which expects to be attended by over 10,000 students from all over the country, provides some excellent food options at reasonable rates.
3. The IIT campus is well connected by taxi services from Kharagpur station and also from Kolkata through continuous trains. The organizers may facilitate the travel for the selected teams to the campus, but the cost shall be borne by the teams themselves.

I. CLARIFICATIONS

1. Last date for requesting clarifications on the Moot Problem is: 5th November, 2011.
2. Teams may submit their clarifications via E-mail to mcs@ktj.in.
3. All the clarifications will be posted on the Moot Court Competition website: www.kti.in/#theverdict.



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J. CONTACT

All correspondences in respect of the Moot Court Competition should be mailed to the official email-id of the event, i.e., mcs@ktj.in.

For any other general queries, refer to the contacts tab under the event “The Verdict” @ www.ktj.in.

