



EVENT REPORT

MNLU-M NATIONAL CORPORATE **CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION** 2025







ABOUT THE EVENT

Mastering the art of client counselling is the key to unlocking success in legal practice, it's where law meets empathy, strategy, and problem-solving. The first edition of the MNLU-M National Corporate Client Counselling Competition (NCCCC) truly embodied this idea. The preliminary online rounds, held on the 22nd and 23rd of February 2025, were brimming with enthusiasm as participants demonstrated not just legal knowledge but also empathy, active listening, and problem-solving skills.

The success of this competition was made possible by the unwavering support of our esteemed partners, whose invaluable contributions were instrumental in the success of this competition. Our sincere gratitude to **Luthra and Luthra Law Offices India**, our Partner, for their steadfast collaboration and commitment to fostering legal excellence. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to **Ashlar Law**, our Strategic Partner, for their insightful guidance and dedication to shaping future legal professionals. We sincerely thank **Lexport**, our Advisory Partner, for their expert counsel and invaluable mentorship. Lastly, we are immensely thankful to **Ex-Curia International**, our Networking Partner, for creating meaningful avenues for engagement within the legal community. Their collective support, vision and generosity not only strengthened this event but also left a lasting impact on all involved.

The Organizing Committee, comprising over 70 dedicated and enthusiastic individuals, played a crucial role in ensuring the seamless execution of the competition. Their meticulous planning, teamwork, and commitment were evident in every aspect of the event. With over 32 teams from 28 universities across India, the competition saw an impressive display of legal acumen beyond theory, making it a resounding success. The prestigious law schools that participated in the preliminary rounds are as follows:

- National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad.
- Tamil Nadu National Law University
- The West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences
- Damodaram Sanjivavya National Law University
- O.P. Jindal Global Law University
- Government Law College, Mumbai
- Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur
- Symbiosis Law School, Pune
- National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi
- National Law Institute University, Bhopal
- National Law University, Delhi



















- National Law University, Delhi
- India International University of Legal Education and Research
- Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla
- Panjab University, Chandigarh
- Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab
- National Law School of India University, Bengaluru
- Chanakya National Law University, Patna
- North CAP University
- UPES, Dehradun
- Amity University
- Sinhgad Law College
- Bennet University
- National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi
- NMIMS
- Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur
- School of Law, Mahindra University
- National Law University, Jodhpur
- National Law University, Odisha

OPENING CEREMONY (PRELIMINARY ROUNDS)

The opening ceremony was graced by **Dr. Bertold Bar-Bouyssiere**, our esteemed Chief Guest and Partner at Dentons Link Legal, who shared insightful perspectives on competition law and the role of client counselling in achieving optimal client outcomes. Additionally, we had the privilege of welcoming **Ms. Ananya Agarwal**, founder of our networking partner, Ex-Curia International, who introduced dynamic outlooks and strategic ideas for our participants.



The competition was officially declared open by our co-event head, Ms. Alisha Jain. This was followed by a participants' briefing by Mr. Arjun Kapur, Convener of the CTRCR at MNLU Mumbai, who shed light on the art of client counselling. Finally, Mr. Arnav Awari conducted an equity briefing to ensure that all participants were well-versed with the nuances of our equity policy.

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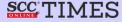


















PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

Day 1 of the preliminary rounds commenced with briefings for judges, participants, and OC members to ensure smooth proceedings. The rounds followed a structured format: 20 minutes of client counselling, during which counsels engaged with clients to understand their legal position and available options, followed by a 10-minute post-consultation discussion. This was succeeded by feedback and scoring.

The clients, here, played a pivotal role, demonstrating their ability to articulate concerns, provide crucial insights, and engage effectively with the counsels, contributing significantly to the overall dynamics of the competition and influencing its outcome. The counsels showcased their ability to build client trust, analyse legal issues, and provide strategic guidance with professionalism and empathy.



An esteemed panel of 18 judges presided over the rounds, generously dedicating their time to evaluate and provide invaluable feedback to participants. Their insightful critiques ensured a rigorous and fair assessment of each team's counselling skills.



Day 2 dawned with heightened enthusiasm and an intensified competitive spirit, making the contest even more thrilling. The anticipation was palpable as teams and the Organizing Committee eagerly awaited the final results, wondering who would

cross the mark and secure their place in the offline rounds. The scoring and tabulation process was rigorous, as both counsels and Clients were assessed based on their ability to communicate, strategize, and navigate complex legal dilemmas. It was no easy task, but our dedicated tabulation team worked tirelessly to ensure fairness and accuracy. After this meticulous process, we proudly announced the names of our outstanding qualifiers, who will now advance to the final rounds hosted by MNLU Mumbai in April.



















CLOSING CEREMONY (PRELIMINARY ROUNDS)

The evening of Day 2 marked the official closing ceremony of the MNLU-M NCCC. Our event head, Ms. Alisha Jain, delivered the welcome note and introduced the faculty-in-charge, Dr. Kiran Rai. Mr. Ekam Khera, our co-event head, then had the honor of introducing our respected chief guest, Mr. Saswat Mohanty, a Partner Designate at Luthra and Luthra's Capital Markets Practice. With over a decade of experience advising clients on takeovers, mergers, private equity transactions, and more, his expertise made him an inspiring presence at the event.

Mr. Omkar Tamhane, our core member, had the privilege of announcing the Ex-Curia Spirit of the Competition Award. The most anticipated moment arrived with the qualifiers' announcement, conducted by our Associate Convener, Ms. Suhasini Thakur, recognizing the outstanding counsels and clients who will advance to the offline rounds in April 2025.



QUALIFICATIONS TO SEMI-FINALS

After rigorous evaluation, the teams that qualified for the semi-finals were:

- Team Erebus from National Law School of India University (Open Team)
- Team Thalia from Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law
- Team Gaia from O.P. Jindal Global University
- Team Selene from Symbiosis Law School, Pune

These teams stood out for their ability to navigate complex client scenarios with professionalism and strategic thinking, securing their place in the next stage of the competition.

The closing ceremony concluded with an inspiring address by Mr. Ekam Khera, marking the successful completion of the preliminary rounds of the CTRCR NCCCC.



















DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS: EQUIPPING THE COUNSELORS

Lawyering is not just about knowing the law — it's about knowing your client...

To kick off the first day of MNLU-M NCCCC 2025, the Centre for Training and Research in Commercial Regulations (CTRCR) hosted an engaging and informative session with **Mr. Shriraj Duane, Ambassador of SCC Online.** Mr. Dusane provided participants with a comprehensive walkthrough of the SCC Online platform, demonstrating key features and offering practical tips for effective legal research.



He also highlighted the role of EBC in accessing authoritative legal commentaries and texts—an essential tool for any law student aiming to deepen their understanding of legal principles. In the latter part of the session, Mr. Dusane focused on the nuances of client counselling, sharing practical advice on how to approach client interactions with clarity, empathy, and professionalism. The session offered a perfect blend of technical know-how and soft skills, equipping students with tools essential for both academic success and real-world legal practice.



As part of the first edition of MNLUM-NCCCC 2025, the CTRCR organized a comprehensive Training Workshop on Client Counselling in Commercial Regulations. The workshop, coordinated and hosted by Anjnay Bansal and Prerna Sharma, led the participants through an enriching, interactive session on the essential aspects of client counselling in commercial law.

We were honored to have two distinguished professionals, Kosha Thaker, Partner at Trilegal, and Priyadarshini Rao, Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, as our expert speakers. Both generously shared their wealth of knowledge and experience with the participants, addressing a broad spectrum of topics including the evolving role of artificial intelligence in legal practice, strategies for balancing work and life, essential skills that law students must cultivate, and tips for handling complex client interactions.



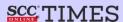




















Their personal stories, from navigating early client experiences to sharing a glimpse of what a typical day in their careers looks like—offered invaluable insights that enriched the attendees' understanding of real-world legal practice.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Kosha Thaker Ma'am and Priyadarshini Rao Ma'am for their time, dedication, and willingness to engage with the next generation of legal professionals. Their contributions were instrumental in making this workshop a memorable and impactful experience.

<u>DAY 2</u>

OPENING CEREMONY (ADVANCED ROUNDS)

The Advanced rounds commenced with an inspiring Inaugural Ceremony graced by Mr. Vishnu Shriram, Partner at Khaitan & Co., who joined as the Chief Guest. In his address, Mr. Shriram encouraged participants to treat client interactions as central to their professional identity and reminded them that in the real world, good counsel is often measured by emotional intelligence as much as intellectual clarity.

Welcoming the gathering, **Dr. Kiran Rai**, Director of CTRCR, spoke about the growing need for practical exposure in legal education and emphasized how events like this bridge the crucial gap between theoretical training and the demands of professional life. Her guidance and unwavering support were instrumental in shaping every aspect of the event, from design to execution.





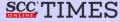


















THE SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS

Kicking off from 32+ teams in the Preliminary Rounds held online on the 21st and 22nd of February 2025, for the advanced rounds the competition boiled to the four best teams. The Participants, throughout these rounds, were assessed on their ability to comprehend client issues, offer clear and actionable legal advice, demonstrate emotional sensitivity, and maintain professional ethics.

The Four Teams for advanced rounds included:

- Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab
- National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore [Open Team]
- Symbiosis Law School, Pune
- O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat



An integral and unique aspect of the competition was the presence of 12 distinct client roles, each portrayed by student actors from MNLU Mumbai. These role-players brought depth to the simulations by posing complex, layered problems, challenging the participants' listening skills, and testing their ability to counsel under pressure. Among them, Ashmit Firoz and Sumedha Kashyap stood out for their realism, nuance, and ability to mirror the emotions of real clients. Both were selected to continue into the advanced rounds.

As the competition transitioned to its offline leg, anticipation soared. The teams and clients brought their A-game to the courtroom.



















An esteemed panel of distinguished legal professionals brought their expertise and discernment to the judging process, presiding over the intense rounds with exceptional insight. The panel included:

- Mr. Vishnu Shriram Partner, Khaitan & Co.
- Mr. Harsh Loonker Senior Associate, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.
- Mr. Anurag Prasad Senior Associate, IndusLaw
- Mr. Alister Sequeira Senior Associate, JSA
- Ms. Sakshi Sharma Senior Associate, Desai and Dewanji
- Ms. Priyanka Desai Senior Associate, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas

Each semi-finalist team was tested not just on legal knowledge, but also on their ability to connect, empathize, and think on their feet—skills that lie at the heart of real client advocacy.

THE GRAND FINALE: A LEGAL DUEL TO REMEMBER

Post semi-finals and lunch, the curtains rose on the most awaited round of the competitionthe Grand Finale. The two finalists, **Thalia from RGNUL** and **Erebus (Open Team) from NLSIU**, walked into the final room knowing that every word, every gesture, and every argument could tip the scales. What followed was a battle of minds and methods, where both teams impressed with their articulation, strategy, and depth of analysis.

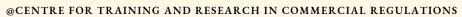




Presiding over the final round was a panel of legal luminaries whose presence added gravitas to the event:

- Mr. Anu Tiwari Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
- Mr. Kumar Saurabh Singh Partner, Khaitan & Co.
- Mr. Saswat Mohanty Partner Designate, Luthra & Luthra Law Offices
- Mr. Souvik Bhadra Managing Partner, Ashlar Law

Their keen observations, probing queries, and feedback pushed the finalists to dig deeper and reflect harder, making the round as educational as it was competitive.





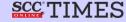


















VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

The Valedictory ceremony began with the most-awaited and anticipated declaration of the results, setting the tone for celebration.

And the much-awaited Results were:

As the final scores were tallied and the deliberations concluded, the competition recognized and celebrated the brilliance of the best performers:

- Winner: Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL)
- Runner-up: National Law School of India University (Open team), Bangalore
- Ex-Curia Spirit of the Competition: National Law University Jodhpur
- Best Counsel: Mahek Jhaveri
- Best Client: Ashmit Firoz

The teams in this competition showed not just their impressive legal knowledge but also their ability to connect on a human level. They listened deeply, stayed composed under pressure, and brought qualities to the table that no textbook could ever teach. They reminded us that the best legal minds are also the most human ones.





Further, the event drew to a memorable close with heartfelt closing remarks delivered by Mr. Ekam Khera, Event Co-Head, who reflected on the journey of organizing the inaugural edition and the incredible efforts that went into bringing it to life. Ms. Alisha Jain, Event Co-Head, followed with the official event report, offering a comprehensive overview of the competition's highlights and milestones.



















ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Our deepest gratitude goes to **Dr. Kiran Rai**, the guiding force behind the Center for Training and Research in Commercial Regulations at Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai, for her unwavering support and leadership in organizing this competition. We also express our deep appreciation to **Prof. Dr. Dilip Ukey**, our Vice-Chancellor, whose encouragement and vision continue to inspire excellence within our institution. A special thank you to **Dr. Pratapsinh B. Salunke**, our Registrar, and **Prof. Sham Gulve**, our Assistant Registrar, for their invaluable administrative support in ensuring the event's seamless execution. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Student Affairs Department for facilitating participant coordination and logistics, as well as to the Technology Department for their impeccable technical assistance, which was instrumental in the smooth execution of the online rounds.

We are immensely grateful to our Event Heads, Mr. Ekam Khera and Ms. Alisha Jain, for their exceptional leadership and dedication in overseeing every aspect of the event. We are also deeply grateful to Mr. Arjun Kapur, the Convener of the CTRCR, and Ms. Suhasini Thakur, the Associate Convener, for their invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout this journey. Special appreciation goes to our Core Members, whose tireless efforts ensured the flawless execution of the competition. Finally, a huge thank you to the entire Organizing Committee for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and hard work—without them, this event would not have been the remarkable success that it was.



Competitions are not just about winning or losing—they are about learning, growing, and pushing boundaries. As Nelson Mandela once said, "I never lose. I either win or learn." Every participant in this competition has gained invaluable experience, honed their skills, and taken a step forward in their journey toward becoming exceptional legal professionals.

At the Centre for Training and Research in Commercial Regulations, innovation never stops—we're always brewing something new and exciting for aspiring legal minds. As we close this chapter, we extend our best wishes to the qualifiers for the offline rounds—may you continue to excel and make the most of this incredible opportunity! Stay tuned for the upcoming offline rounds and other exciting events through our social media accounts and website, where we will keep you updated on all the latest happenings and insights from the competition



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