

CHANAKYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY



LEGAL AID CELL

presents



Vidhikta 4.0

National Client Counselling
Competition

About CNLU

Chanakya National Law University, Patna came into being on 15th July 2006 under the Chanakya National Law University Act, 2006 (Bihar Act No. 24 of 2006) and is recognized in Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956. It was established with a noble vision of serving society through the dissemination of high-quality legal education and the promotion of legal awareness. Over the years, CNLU has earned a strong pan-India reputation as a centre of excellence in legal education and research. To further enhance professional readiness, CNLU regularly organises career development initiatives, skill-development workshops, and personalised one-to-one career guidance for its students.

The University is committed to nurturing intellectual growth by providing students and research scholars with extensive opportunities to develop their academic insight, practical acumen, and research capabilities. This is achieved through conferences, capacity-building programmes, and guest lectures on contemporary legal issues, organised in collaboration with central and state statutory bodies, think tanks, research centres, national and state educational institutions, law firms, and trade associations. Such sustained academic and legal discourse on relevant and emerging issues forms a cornerstone of learning at CNLU, equipping learners with the proficiency required to excel in the legal profession.

CNLU is enriched by the contributions of eminent retired Judges, Senior Advocates, and Academicians to its teaching and research programmes. The University is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure for the successful imparting of legal education of the highest standards.



About LEGAL AID CELL

The CNLU Legal Aid Cell, with its motto "Stand, Speak, Act," was established in the year 2007 with the vision of ensuring fair and meaningful access to justice for marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society by spreading legal awareness and providing legal assistance. The primary objectives of the Legal Aid Cell are to promote legal awareness across the State of Bihar, to provide pro bono legal aid to those in need, and to inculcate a sense of social responsibility among students, thereby contributing to the realization of the ideals enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The Legal Aid Cell regularly conducts legal awareness and outreach programs across various districts of Bihar, focusing on constitutional rights, welfare schemes, and essential legal entitlements of citizens. The Cell operates a fully functional Legal Aid Clinic on campus, which functions six days a week. Through the clinic, daily client counselling sessions are conducted, wherein individuals are guided on legal issues, provided necessary assistance, and supported in navigating appropriate legal remedies.

Through these sustained efforts, the CNLU Legal Aid Cell strives to bridge the gap between law and society by making legal assistance accessible, inclusive, and impactful.



About CCADR

The Chanakya Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CCADR) has been established at Chanakya National Law University, Patna, in the year 2021, with the objective to promote academic research on themes pertaining to the resolution of disputes. Alternative Dispute Resolution is a new and emerging interdisciplinary field that is concerned with, inter-alia, the following themes: (a) the study of the causative structural factors and the subjective motives of the actors giving rise to disputes; (b) the study of the formal and informal institutions dedicated to the resolution of disputes; and (c) the study of the laws and regulations to produce fair outcomes of disputes.

With the establishment of this research centre, we aim to develop a congenial environment for students and researchers to further their interest in ADR, which enables skill development and helps us compete at the national and international levels. CCADR will strive to promote Lok Adalat as an indigenous means of the dispute resolution process, involve in the policy framework related to ADR, and encourage law students to take up activities in the field of ADR by conducting competitions, workshops, and encouraging research.

We strive to collaborate with governmental authorities as well as both national (NLUs) and international universities, colleges, and centres to encourage research and innovation in the field of ADR. In the future, CCADR will conduct certification, online training, diploma/degree programs, and specialized courses in the field of ADR.



About THE COMPETITION

National Client Counseling Competition aims to promote greater skill, knowledge and interest among law students in the preventative law and counseling functions of law practice. It will help the participants to develop interviewing, planning, and analytical skills in the lawyer client relationship in the law office. The Competition will provide a platform for a valuable educational and cultural interchange between students, law teachers, and legal practitioners. This competition aims at enhancing skills relating to the initial interview with a person playing the role of the client, addressing the client's legal and non-legal needs, the advocate-client relationship, building rapport, determining client goals, considering applicable law, etc.



CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION

ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

After the resounding success of its previous three editions, we are proud to announce the Fourth Edition of the National Client Counselling Competition, to be held under its prestigious Annual Legal Aid Fest - **Vidhikta 4.0**. Building upon the remarkable legacy of earlier editions graced by eminent academicians, seasoned legal practitioners, and distinguished members of the judiciary, the competition continues to uphold excellence in legal education and advocacy. This year's edition will be conducted in a hybrid format, ensuring a dynamic and comprehensive competitive experience for participants.

The National Client Counselling Competition serves as a vital platform for nurturing core professional competencies essential for aspiring legal practitioners. Through simulated client consultations, participants will develop effective interview techniques, sharpen their legal analysis, and enhance client communication skills, while also addressing ethical considerations and time-management challenges inherent in legal practice.

ELIGIBILITY:

This competition is open to all law students enrolled in either a 5-year integrated law program or a 3-year LLB program from any recognised University, Colleges or School of Law in India.

Team Composition:

The team composition for the Competition shall be as follows:

- **Two Teams** are eligible for participation from each institution.
- **Two Member Team** (Counsel 1 & Counsel 2)

NOTE:- The Client will be arranged by the Organising Committee.

A total of 32 teams will be selected for the competition on a first come, first served basis.

MODE AND IMPORTANT DATES:

- Commencement of provisional registration: 02nd February 2026
- Conclusion of provisional registration: 18th February 2026
- Commencement of final registration: 19th February 2026
- Release of problem statement: 01st March 2026
- Conclusion of final registration: 05th March 2026
- Last day of seeking clarifications: 08th March 2026
- Release of clarifications: 10th March 2026
- **Virtual Preliminary rounds:** 15th March 2026
- **Offline Semi-final & Final Rounds:** 28th - 29th March 2026

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

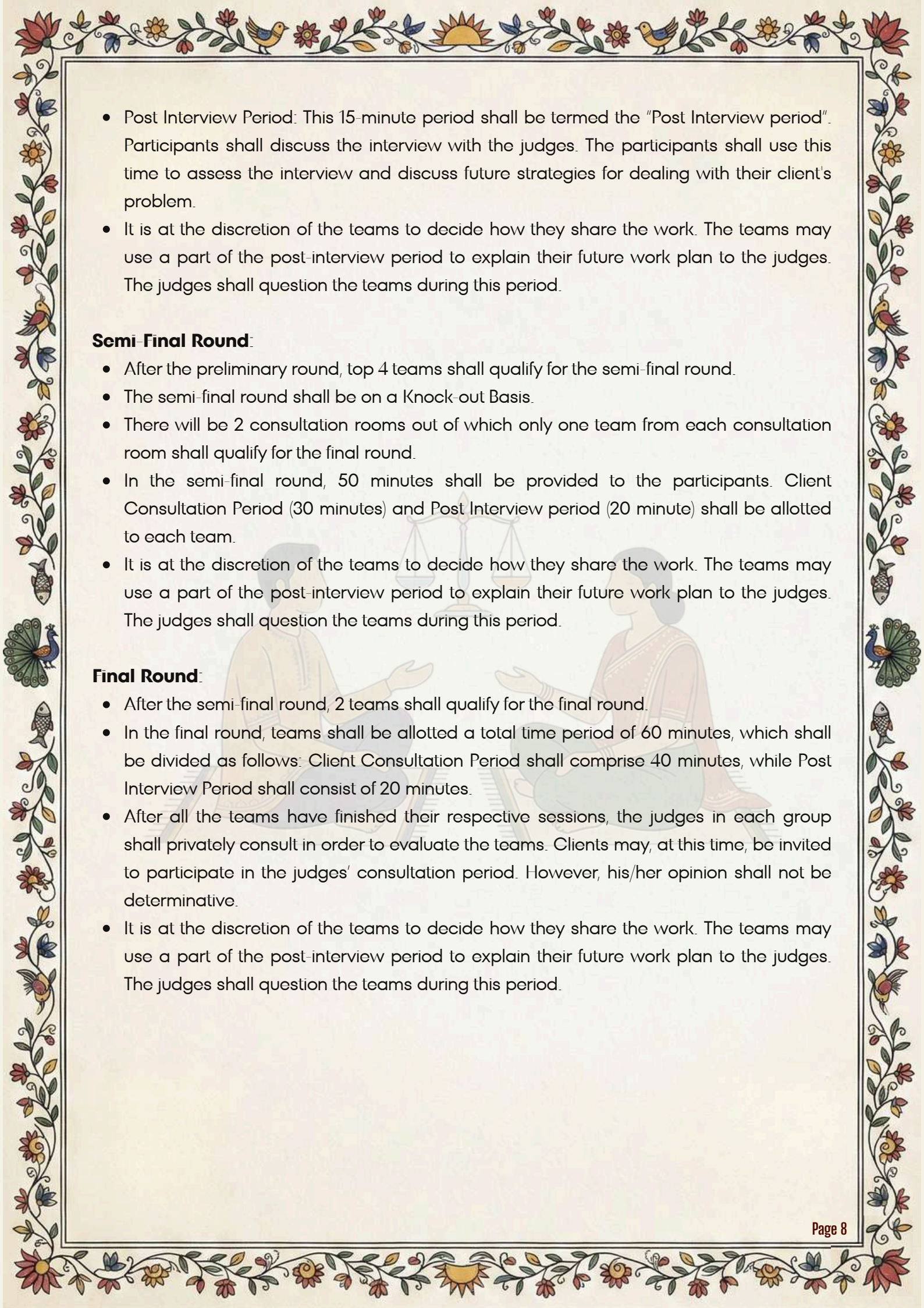
The registration fee for the preliminary rounds shall be Rs. 1500/- per participant. The teams qualifying for the advanced rounds, to be conducted in person at CNLU shall be Rs. 2000/- per participant, which includes food and entry passes to the renowned talk show and cultural night. The registration fee shall be non-refundable and non-transferable.

- Kindly note that we are unable to provide accommodation for the Competition. However, the team will assist in arranging accommodation at the participants' own cost.
- The acknowledgement of the payment must be submitted along with the online registration form.
- Once a team registers by completing the formalities given, a Code (hereinafter "Team Code") shall be assigned to the team.

FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION:

Preliminary Round:

- Each team, in the preliminary rounds, will have a total of 45 minutes. This shall be further divided into - Client Consultation Period & Post Interview Period. The Client Consultation Period shall be followed by Post Interview Period.
- Client Consultation Period: In this period, each team shall be given a slot of 30 minutes. The 30-minute time period shall be termed as the "Client Consultation period".
- The participants are expected to extract the relevant information, make an outline of the problem, and make legal suggestions for its resolution to their client.
- At the end of the Client Consultation Period, the client shall leave the consultation room.

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- Post Interview Period: This 15-minute period shall be termed the "Post Interview period". Participants shall discuss the interview with the judges. The participants shall use this time to assess the interview and discuss future strategies for dealing with their client's problem.
 - It is at the discretion of the teams to decide how they share the work. The teams may use a part of the post-interview period to explain their future work plan to the judges. The judges shall question the teams during this period.

Semi-Final Round:

- After the preliminary round, top 4 teams shall qualify for the semi-final round.
- The semi-final round shall be on a Knock-out Basis.
- There will be 2 consultation rooms out of which only one team from each consultation room shall qualify for the final round.
- In the semi-final round, 50 minutes shall be provided to the participants. Client Consultation Period (30 minutes) and Post Interview period (20 minute) shall be allotted to each team.
- It is at the discretion of the teams to decide how they share the work. The teams may use a part of the post-interview period to explain their future work plan to the judges. The judges shall question the teams during this period.

Final Round:

- After the semi-final round, 2 teams shall qualify for the final round.
- In the final round, teams shall be allotted a total time period of 60 minutes, which shall be divided as follows: Client Consultation Period shall comprise 40 minutes, while Post Interview Period shall consist of 20 minutes.
- After all the teams have finished their respective sessions, the judges in each group shall privately consult in order to evaluate the teams. Clients may, at this time, be invited to participate in the judges' consultation period. However, his/her opinion shall not be determinative.
- It is at the discretion of the teams to decide how they share the work. The teams may use a part of the post-interview period to explain their future work plan to the judges. The judges shall question the teams during this period.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

S. No.	Evaluation Criteria	Marks
1	Handling of Client (Creating a safe environment for the client, explaining the formalities, and overall relationship building with the client)	20
2	Extraction of Information (Extraction of Client's needs, Description of the Problem)	20
3	Legal Application of Law to Facts (Advice provided to make an informed decision, as well as the alternative option discussed)	20
4	Time Management	20
5	Research, Persuasiveness, Integrity, Logic, Reasoning & Clarity (Ethical Conduct, Overall application of mind, understanding the concerns, and applying correct law for creating solutions)	20
TOTAL		100

AWARD CITATION:

- Winner: Rs. 15,000/- + Trophy + Internship Opportunity
- Runner-Up: Rs. 10,000/- + Trophy + Internship Opportunity
- Best Counsel Team (Preliminary Rounds): Rs. 5,000 + Trophy

Note: Any query regarding the availability of internship slots will be at the sole discretion of the Collaborating firm(s), and the Organising committee will only facilitate communication and will not be responsible for confirmation of the preferred month.

CODE OF CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS:

- The participants are expected to follow below mentioned code of conduct:
- The official language of the competition shall be English. All written or oral submissions must be undertaken in English.
- All the participants must wear black pants and a white shirt formal dress for the entire duration of the competition. Girls are allowed to wear white kurti/black salwar. Use of advocate's gowns, bands and robes is strictly prohibited.
- No extra time will be allotted in any round without the permission of the judge.

If any participant crosses the time limit, a warning will be issued by the courtroom coordinator.

- The decision of the judges and the Organising Committee shall be final and binding on all. Any violation of the code of conduct will invite disqualification.

GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

Misconduct, whether behavioural or otherwise, is not allowed and if indulged into shall result in the disqualification of the team. **Misconduct shall include:**

- Disclosure of identity by participants to other teams or to the judges during the course of the competition (since the participants shall strictly use only the Team Codes allotted to them)
- Engaging in or referring to sensitive or controversial subjects, including but not limited to religion, caste, race, gender, the use of offensive or inappropriate language, either before or during the competition;
- Any form of interaction or communication with the client prior to the commencement of the competition;
- Cheating, plagiarism, or the use of any unfair means at any stage of the competition; and
- Intimidation, coercion, or harassment in any form, whether directed towards participants, clients, judges, or organisers.

FOOD AND EVENT PASSES:

- Chanakya National Law University, Patna, is located near Jakkanpur Police Station, Nyaya Nagar, Mithapur, Patna 800001, Bihar, India.
- The University is easily accessible both from the Railway station and the Airport by Auto-Rickshaws or Cabs (Uber/Ola).
- Refreshments for the participants (at the event venue) during the days of the Competition will be arranged by the organisers.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- The decision of the Judges shall be final regarding the outcome of the Rounds.
- The Organising Committee reserves the right to take any action against unethical, wrongful or unprofessional conduct.
- Scouting is not allowed under any circumstances and may lead to disqualification.
- If there is any situation, not covered by the Rules, the decision of the Organising

Committee shall be final and binding.

- The Organising Committee reserves the right to amend the rules, as and when necessary.
- The participants are always required to comply with the rules formulated by the Organising Committee during the competition. In case of any non-compliance with the rules of the competition, a penalty may be imposed and the teams may also be disqualified.
- The clients for the competition will be provided internally by the Organising Committee.

REGISTRATION:

Please use the [link by clicking here](#) or
Scan the QR code to complete your registration.



FOR ANY QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE UNDERSIGNED:

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