

**LEND A LAWYER –
A CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION**

INTRODUCTION

The event promotes greater knowledge and interest among law students in interviewing and counseling functions of law practice. It encourages students to develop interviewing, planning, and analytical skills that are most essential in a lawyer-client relationship. Lawyers need to have the listening and questioning skills for effective conduct of an interview with the client. This competition provides an opportunity for promoting these necessary skills.

The competition simulates a law - office consultation situation in which two law students (participants), as lawyers are presented with a client matter. The students conduct an interview with a person donning the role of the client. Students are expected to elicit the relevant information from the client, explore with the client his or her preferred outcome, outline the nature of the problem, and present the client with a means (or range of alternatives, if appropriate) for resolving the problem. The interview with the client is then followed by a post-consultation period during which the students, in the absence of the client, analyze the interview and discuss the legal and other work to be undertaken. The interview and post interview consultation period is for a total of 35 minutes. The participants will be evaluated by a panel of judges.

The evaluation criteria are specific and emphasize the use of listening, questioning, planning, and analytical skills in a lawyer/client interview. Once the judges have completed their evaluation of the interview, the participants are called back in and the judges are allowed to provide a brief critique of the team's handling of the consultation and post-consultation periods.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF
LEND A LAWYER**

1. **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

Registration for Lend a Lawyer shall have to be effected in accordance with the general rules for Lex Novitas 2011

2. **TEAM COMPOSITION**

2.1. A team shall consist of two members as student advocates.

2.2 Client allotment to teams shall be on the basis of draw of lots.

3. **DATE OF THE EVENT**

3.1. The Competition shall be held on 22nd of January 2011.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. Teams should strictly adhere to the time allotted.
- 4.2. The participant shall not reveal the identity of his/her college/university at any point of time.

5. COMPETITION ROUNDS

- 5.1. This event shall be conducted in three Rounds namely, Preliminary Round, Semi Final Round and the Final Round
- 5.2. Top 6 teams will go to the semi final round on the basis of average team score of both preliminary rounds.
- 5.3. In case of a tie for the 6th place, all the tied teams will also be eligible to compete at the semifinals.
- 5.4. Top two teams from the semi final rounds shall qualify for the finals on the basis of team scores
- 5.5. In case of a tie for the 2nd place, the finalist shall be decided by draw of lots.

The given legal problem will be on the following subjects:

Law of Contract

Law of Torts

6. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

- 6.1. The teams will have a maximum of 35 minutes of which 25 minutes will be for client interviewing and counseling. The remaining 10 minutes may be used for discussing among themselves (team) and summarizing as to how they will proceed with the case.
- 6.2. During this period of 35 minutes if necessary, the competing students can consult any books or laptop, which they may bring with them.
- 6.3. During the post interview period of 10 minutes when the client will not be there, the students will have to summarize the interview, analyze the problem and indicate the course of action to be undertaken. If the team exceeds the time allocated there will be negative marking.
- 6.4. In both the interviewing and Counseling stage as well as post interviewing and counseling stage, out of the students in a given team, one will take the lead role and another a supplementary role.
- 6.5. There should be good co-ordination between the two team members throughout the 35 minutes period.

7. JUDGING CRITERIA

The competition shall be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- 7.1 Establishing the working atmosphere and professional approach
- 7.2 Eliciting the problem of the client and the tools used in doing so.
- 7.3 Eliciting Clients' goals, expectation and needs.
- 7.4 Analysis and formulation of the problem with precision.
- 7.5 Suggesting alternatives and allowing the client to informed choice.
- 7.6 Effective conclusion of the counseling session.
- 7.7 Team work
- 7.8 Management of ethical and professional relation with the client – dealing with emotional and legal needs of the client.
- 7.9 Post interview session interaction with the judges/among themselves
- 7.10 The lawyer's office set up and use of accessories and of objects will not be considered while judging their performance.

8. AWARDS

- 8.1 Winner of this event will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 3001/- and trophy.
- 8.2 Runner-up at this event shall be awarded a cash prize of Rs 2001/- and trophy.
- 8.3 The host team shall not be eligible for any of the above prizes.

