



THE KERALA LAW ACADEMY LAW COLLEGE,
PEROORKADA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

5TH NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY
COMPETITION (VIRTUAL)

TRIAL ADVOCACY
(18th to 20th October, 2024)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF KLA's TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2024.

The following terms have the corresponding meanings:

- 1 **“ADMINISTRATORS”** means Director, Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram; Trial Court Forum and/or any other person(s) appointed to administer the competition by the organizers of KLA.
- 2 **“COMPETITION”** means Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram – 5th National Trial Advocacy Competition, 2024.
- 3 **“DISQUALIFICATION”** means that the team will not be allowed to participate in the competition, shall not be awarded a Certificate of Participation or any Prize.
- 4 **“JUDGE”** means any person appointed to evaluate a Participants’ procedural test or Oral Pleadings.
- 5 **“TRIAL PROPOSITION”** means the annexures and all evidence and testimonies of the competition supplemented or published by administrators.
- 6 **“PROCEDURAL TEST”** means the online test for the researcher conducted by the organizers of Kerala Law Academy.
- 7 **“TRIAL PROPOSITION CLARIFICATIONS”** means the official clarifications of the competition’s trial proposition and the rules, as published by the administrators.
- 8 **“PARTICIPANTS”** means student representatives from an eligible Law college / school / university, recognized by the administrators, participating in the competition.
- 9 **“RULES OF THE COURT”** means the official rules of the competition and any applicable supplementary rules. Subject to change by the organizers.

2 DATE:

The prestigious Trial Advocacy Competition, hosted by the Kerala Law Academy will be held via virtual mode from 18th to 20th of October 2024 at the Kerala Law Academy Law College Campus, Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The competition is conducted through the online platform ZOOM. All the participating teams should have good access to the internet and be able to access the above said online platform at the scheduled dates and time. This is a mandatory requirement for participation.

3 TEAM COMPOSITION:

- a. The Competition is open to all Law Colleges / Law Schools / Universities, Departments of Law in India (hereafter “participating institutions”) recognized by the Bar Council of India. The participation is limited to LL. B students both in the Three-Year Scheme and Five- Year Scheme.
- b. Each team shall consist of a maximum of 3 members, the composition consisting of two speakers and one researcher. The team shall notify such an arrangement during the time of registration. Any changes shall be informed to the organizers, on or before the 30th of September, 2024. Such a team shall not during any stage of the competition rearrange the position of its members to form any new combination. No coach/assistant/person shall be permitted in the room during the conduct of the trial other than the participants.

4 MEDIUM OF LANGUAGE

All communication and procedure during and of the competition shall be in English. Any kind of communication in any other language will lead to immediate disqualification.

5 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram will be hosting the 5th Kerala Law Academy Trial Advocacy Competition (virtual), in October 2024 on Criminal Law in accordance with the Criminal Trial Court proceedings. The Competition has been conceived with the aim of creating awareness for Criminal Law Jurisprudence and providing a platform for the development of advocacy and other allied skills. The 5th National Trial Advocacy Competition, 2024 will be held at The Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram from October 18th to 20th of 2024. The Preliminary Rounds will be judged by a 2 Judge Panel. The judges' panel includes Professors, Lawyers, Scholars, and Judges of various Courts. The purpose of The Kerala Law Academy Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2024 is to:

1. Help and understand students the dimensions of the Criminal Justice System and encourage students to consider careers in the Criminal Justice System;
2. To understand how a trial is to be conducted;
3. To give an in-depth understanding and knowledge of the Criminal Law System.

6 LOTTING

There will be a lotting for each round starting from the preliminary round. The teams will get the session/courtroom, and prosecution/defense side from the lotting session. Before every round, there will be a lotting round. Once a team selects a number for the lot, they cannot change their selection.

7 WITNESS

The appearance of the prosecution witness provided by the college may not be in strict order. Both the prosecution and defense witnesses will be provided by the college. The briefing/ interaction shall be done by the appropriate teams.

Prosecution:

The organizers will be providing the prosecution witnesses. The Prosecution Team has the discretion to select/abandon any of the witnesses of their choice from the provided

ones, during the prosecution witness briefing session which shall be communicated to the host. And only those witnesses, will be provided for the examination. The prosecution witness briefing/ interaction shall be done **25 minutes** prior to the examination.

Defense:

The organizers will be providing the defense witnesses. The Defense Team has the discretion to select/abandon any of the witnesses of their choice from the provided ones, during the defense witness briefing session which shall be communicated to the host. And only those witnesses, will be provided for the examination. The defense witness briefing/ interaction shall be done **10 minutes** prior to the examination.

8 ALL MATERIAL OBJECTS (MO)

All evidence for conducting the trial shall be provided by the organizers during the competition. The Participants can use only those photos which are provided by the organizers as evidence. During the competition, participants can screen share the evidence provided by the college, if and when necessary (in case of such screen-sharing, the participants must notify their respective ushers of the same, less than a day before the commencement of the competition). No new documentary evidence/ witnesses are permissible other than those provided by the college. It is also to be noted that, as it is a competition with time constraints, limited documents, and evidence, the proceedings will not strictly adhere to the exact proceedings of the court.

9 REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- More than one team** per College/Institution may take part in the Competition, provided that explicit permission has been provided from the specified College/Institution for the same.
- Provisional Registration - Institutions/Teams interested in participating in the Competition can provisionally register by sending an e-mail to klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in
- Direct Registration - The Institutions/Teams intending to participate in the Competition must register on or before 30th September 2024, Monday (30.09.2024) by submitting the duly filled Proforma provided in the Kerala Law Academy website: <https://keralalawacademy.in/forms/5th-national-trial-advocacy-2024-virtual-competition/>

10 REGISTRATION FEES:

The participants shall pay a non-refundable initial registration fee of 800/- rupees through the college website to enter the competition. The teams which are selected after clearing the procedural test shall pay an additional amount of 2,200/- rupees on qualifying for the main competition through the link which will be send to you after selection. After completing the payment, a copy of the transaction (either a screenshot or a photo) shall be sent to the e-mail id – klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in with your details. Only after acknowledgment from the organizers, the registration will be completed. The Organizers will not take any responsibility for any fault of payment arising from the bank or third-party applications.

11 DRESS CODE

The dress code for the competition shall be strictly formals (without the College and University logo). The dress code shall be Advocate's Attire during the competition rounds i.e.

- Gentlemen - Black trousers and white shirt, Plain Black Blazer (without College/ University logo), Black Tie
- Ladies - Black trousers, White Shirt, White Kurta and Black Churidar pants, Plain Black Blazer, white or Black saree and black jacket (without College/University logo).

a. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition shall consist of FOUR rounds.

I. Round ONE: Procedural Test

- i. All provisionally registered teams are required to appear for the procedural test.
- ii. The procedural test shall consist of 25 objective questions.
- iii. Each correct answer carries 4 marks and 1 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer.
- iv. The researcher of the participating team has to undertake a procedural test, wherein 25 questions will be assigned for 25 minutes, online viva-voce.
- v. The Questions will be based on the subject matter (**subjects include the Procedural laws, the BNS, the BSA, and the BNSS, which previously used to be the IPC, Indian Evidence Act, and CrPC respectively**) of the competition.
- vi. The top FIFTEEN teams securing the highest marks will be proceeding to the Preliminary Rounds.
- vii. In case of any tie between any number of teams, it shall be decided by another rounds of tests consisting of 5 objective questions.
- viii. Teams can only qualify to Preliminary Round through the procedural test.
- ix. The decision of the organizers shall be final.

II. Round TWO: Preliminary Round

- i. This round shall consist of 2 sessions, Prelims 1 and Prelims 2.
- ii. Each team has to argue as both prosecution as well as defense.
- iii. The teams that played as the Prosecution in Prelims 1 shall be playing the role of Defense in Prelims 2.

- iv. The evaluation of the teams will be based on a criterion created by the organizers.
- v. The FOUR teams with maximum marks in preliminary rounds will proceed to Semi-Final Round. (In case of tie, marks of the examination will be taken)
- vi. All rounds of the competition will follow the rules of Trial Courts.

III. **Round THREE: Semi-Final Round**

- i. The FOUR teams with the highest marks will qualify to Semi-Final.
- ii. The teams will only be representing either Prosecution or Defense according to lot picking.
- iii. There will only be ONE session in Semi-Final round.
- iv. The Semi-Finals will also follow the rules of trial courts.
- v. Semi-Finals will be a KNOCKOUT round which will be organized on the **20th of October, 2024.**
- vi. The Team winning the Semi-final Round in their respective Chamber shall qualify for the Final Round.
- vii. The evaluation of the teams will be based on a criterion created by the organizers.

IV. **Round FOUR: Final Round**

- i. The teams winning in each courtroom will qualify to the Finals.
- ii. The teams will only be representing either Prosecution or Defense according to lot picking.
- iii. There will only be ONE session in the Final round.
- iv. The Finals will also follow the rules of trial courts.
- v. The evaluation of the teams will be based on a criterion created by the organizers.

b. TIME DISTRIBUTION

- i. The total duration of the competition will be of 2 hours and 24 minutes.
- ii. 25 minutes will be allotted for the Prosecution Witness Briefing.
- iii. 2 minutes each will be reserved for the opening statements of both sides.
- iv. The prosecution witnesses can be examined for 50 minutes i.e., 20 min. for prosecution and 30 min. for defense.
- v. 10 minutes will be allotted for the Defense Witness Briefing.
- vi. The Prosecution side and the judges will have a 10-minute break while the Defense Witness Briefing is going on. (Participants should keep their camera on)
- vii. The examination of Defense witnesses shall be for a duration of 20 minutes, i.e., 10 mins for Prosecution and 10 minutes for Defense.
- viii. Questioning time of judges will be excluded.
- ix. There shall be a 5-minute break after the examination of Defense witnesses if any, to prepare for the hearing.
- x. The Hearing of arguments will be for a duration of 15 minutes for each team.
- xi. A total of 10 minutes grace period will be provided at the discretion of the judges.

c. TIE BREAKER

In case of a tie between any number of teams in any round, the tie shall be broken by referring to the marks of witness examination in the main competition

TRIAL ADVOCACY
TIME DISTRIBUTION

PROSECUTION [Witness Briefing]

(25 Minutes)

OPENING STATEMENTS

PROSECUTION

(2 Minutes)

DEFENCE

(2 Minutes)

WITNESS EXAMINATION - PROSECUTION

[50 Minutes]

CHIEF EXAMINATION

(20 Minutes)

CROSS EXAMINATION

(30 Minutes)

DEFENCE [Witness Briefing]

(10 Minutes)

WITNESS EXAMINATION – DEFENCE

[20 Minutes]

CHIEF EXAMINATION

(10 Minutes)

CROSS EXAMINATION

(10 Minutes)

BREAK (5 Minutes)

[PREPARATION OF ARGUMENTS]

HEARING [Arguments]

PROSECUTION

(15 Minutes)

DEFENCE

(15 Minutes)

d. **AWARDS**

- The winner will be awarded a merit certificate and a cash prize of ₹15000/-
- Runners-up will be awarded a merit certificate and a cash prize of ₹10000/-
- All the participants will be awarded E-certificates of participation.

e. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. **Secrecy of Identity:** During the course of the Oral Submissions, the speaker shall neither reveal his/her identity nor the identity of their College/University by any means whatsoever. Such actions on part of any member of the team will lead to disqualification of the team from the competition. Teams will not be allowed to observe the oral rounds of any other teams.
- b. **Scouting:** Scouting is strictly prohibited. Teams found scouting will be disqualified immediately.
- c. **180 Statement:** In the event, that there is any contradiction between the evidence recorded in court and the statements recorded under section 180 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the participants must be aware of the procedure to deal with such contradictions/omissions.
- d. **Knowledge of Law:** All participating teams must be conversant with the Indian Laws, Legislations, and procedures as followed by the Indian Courts, whilst taking evidence and advancing final arguments for the prosecution and defense.
- e. **Be respectful:** Participants should behave respectfully towards the other participants and the organizers. Failure of the same will lead to disqualification.

f. **ONLINE PLATFORM**

The competition is conducted through the online platform ZOOM. The meeting ID, Password, and Link will be communicated to the teams via WhatsApp Groups 15 to 20 minutes before each round in which they are participating. All participating teams should have access to good internet and be able to access the above said online platform with a good camera. This is a mandatory requirement for participation.

g. APPEAL COMMITTEE

The organizers are entitled to change the rules of the trial advocacy competition, without prior intimation. In case of complaints/disputes, the same shall be submitted to the appeal committee, which shall consist of the Principal of Kerala Law Academy as its President and two other senior faculty members of the host institution. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be final.

h. CLARIFICATIONS

All Clarifications must be sent by email with the subject as “Clarifications: 5th NTAC 2024” to klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in on or before October 2nd, 2024, post which no queries regarding the trial proposition shall be entertained.

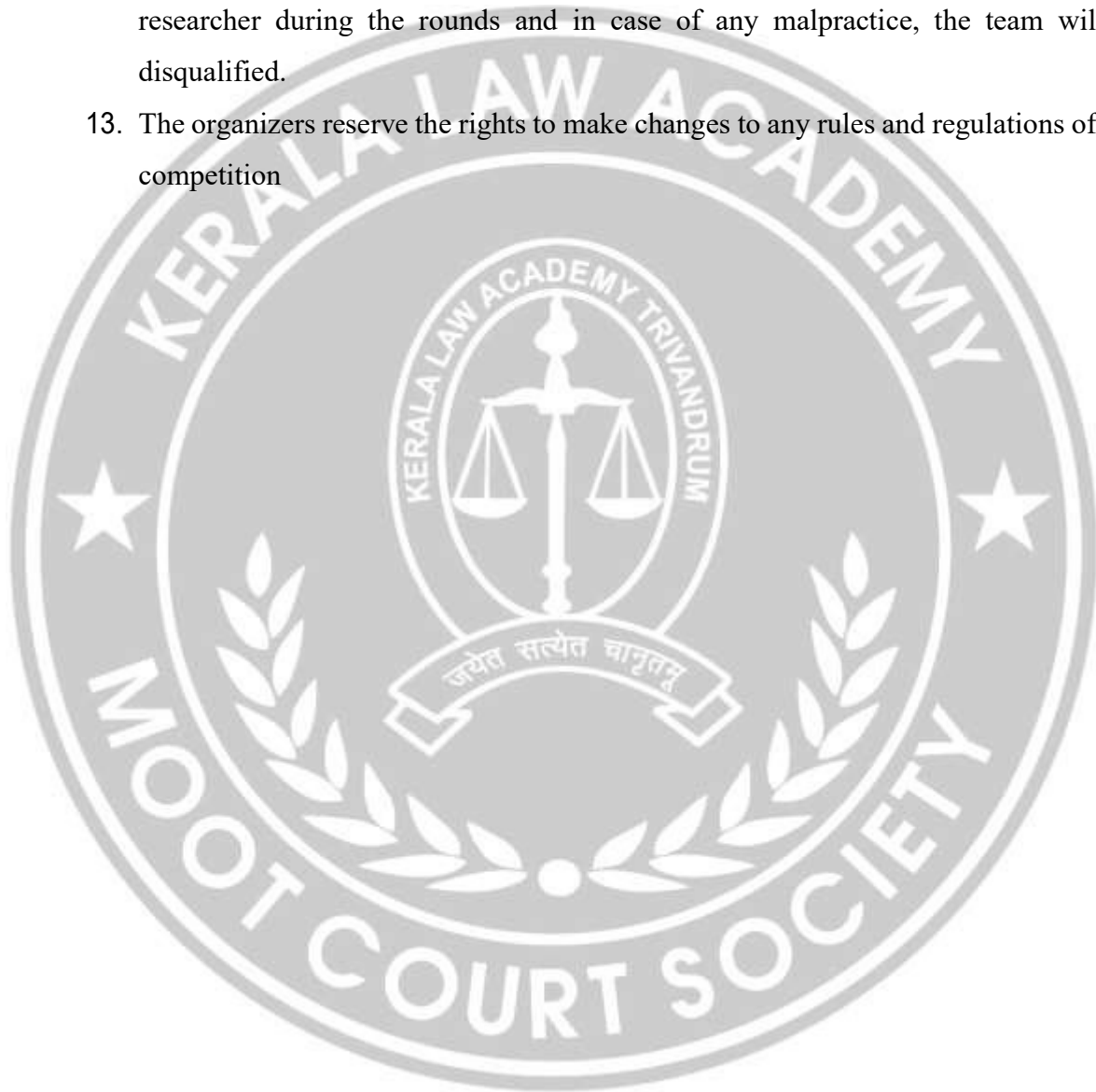
i. SCHEDULE OF THE COMPETITION

- a. The last date for registration will be on **30-09-2024, (Monday)**.
- b. The team codes will be allotted on **12-10-2024, (Saturday)**.
- c. The Procedural Test (Online) for the competition will be on **14-10-2024, (Monday)**.
- d. The Registration fees for Second Rounds shall be completed by **16-10-2024, (Wednesday)**.
- e. Inaugural session will be held on **18-10-2024, (Friday)**. [All the participants must join and it will be followed by the lotting session.]
- f. The Preliminary Rounds will be held on **19-10-2024, (Saturday)**.
- g. The Semi-Final and Final rounds will be held on **20-10-2024, (Sunday)**.
- h. Valedictory Session will be held on **20-10-2024, (Sunday)**. [All the participants must join]

j. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE ARGUMENTS

1. The competition will be held in ZOOM. All the participants are required to have the respective app in their Desktop or Laptop in order to participate for the same.
2. During the competition, participants are required to use Desktops or laptops. Mobile phones can cause technical issues and therefore not permitted for video conference, for the purpose of participating in the competition.
3. Sound internet connection is a mandatory requirement. The organizers will not be responsible for any such connection errors from the side of the participants.
4. In each panel or section there will be a technical assistant who will be helping the participants and judges to deal with the technical issues.
5. The organizing team will take all the responsibility in case of any technical error on the part of the organizers.
6. No kinds of malpractices are allowed and if found, such team will be disqualified.
7. When the competition starts, the team members are asked to switch on their videos till the end of the session. With respect to the mic, the team member has to unmute it while they are speaking and mute when they are not speaking in order to avoid disturbances, failing which, points may be deducted from the score by the judges at their discretion.
8. Team members are requested to participate in the competition in a closed or disturbance-free area for the smooth conduct of the competition.
9. Link, passcode or entry for the particular slot will be sent to their WhatsApp Groups 15 to 20 minutes before the rounds. The teams are supposed to join the slot 15 minutes prior to the actual time.

10. Every participant should use earphones during the rounds except in cases of medical conditions which should be intimated to the organizers in advance.
11. There should be a distance of 1 meter between the webcam and the participants.
12. There should not be anyone present in the room with the participants, except the researcher during the rounds and in case of any malpractice, the team will be disqualified.
13. The organizers reserve the rights to make changes to any rules and regulations of this competition



12 . CONTACT

For any queries, please write to

klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in or *contact any of the following:*

Faculty Convenors:

1. Adv. Renjini Ponnann Sheela – 7994708480
2. Adv. Sakthiprabha M- 9495897855
3. Adv. N K Sasidharan – 8281606060

General Secretary MCS:

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Gautham S R- 8129289147

Student Convenors:

1. Krishna I S - 8301006335
2. Keerthana Sajeev - 9846540900
3. Niya Fathima Ashraf - 7736992906

Student Co-Convenors:

1. Gouri C V
2. B S Prarthana Karma
3. Anandhulal S K
4. Irene Elsa Cherian
5. Aparna A Kurup

6. Nandana Prakash

7. Jorge Abraham Thomas

8. Jewel Jacob