

26th KERALA LAW ACADEMY CLIENT CONSULTING COMPETITION 2026

(NATIONAL LEVEL COMPETITION)

For Justice P. Govinda Menon Memorial Ever Rolling Trophy

Organized by

THE KERALA LAW ACADEMY MOOT COURT SOCIETY

12th to 14th November 2026

The Client Consulting competition promotes greater knowledge and interest among law students in practical laws and consulting functions of law practice. It also encourages participants to develop interviewing, planning, and analytical skills in the lawyer-client relationship as interviewing and advising areas form a significant part of most lawyers' work. The Competition thereby provides an opportunity for a valuable educational interchange between students, law teachers, and legal practitioners.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The prestigious 26th Kerala Law Academy Client Consulting Competition for Justice P. Govinda Menon Memorial Ever Rolling Trophy, hosted by The Kerala Law Academy Law College, will be held in a comprehensive two-stage hybrid format. To ensure maximum participation while maintaining highly competitive standards, the initial round will be a Virtual Preliminary Round conducted in October 2026. Only the selected qualifying teams from this stage will advance to the Offline Advanced Rounds, scheduled from 12th to 14th November 2026 at The Kerala Law Academy Law College Campus, Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

REGULATIONS

(1) ELIGIBILITY

(A) The Competition is open to all Law Colleges/Law schools/Law Universities and Faculties/University Departments of Law in India recognized by the Bar Council of India. The participation is strictly limited to LL.B. students currently enrolled in either the Three-Year Scheme or the Five-Year Scheme. Students pursuing post-graduation in law (LL.M.) or students undergoing correspondence courses are not eligible to participate.

(B) Multiple teams from a single College/Institution may participate, provided that explicit, written permission (e.g., authorization letter from the Principal/Dean) has been granted. Each team shall consist of exactly two students. Solo participation is not permitted.

(2) REGISTRATION & PAYMENT STRUCTURE

Provisional Registration (Virtual Preliminary Round)

- Process: Interested teams must email the organizers for provisional registration on or before the specified deadline. All interested teams for the competition are requested to send email for the purpose of provisional registration on or before 15th September, 2026 via clientcompetitionkla2026@gmail.com.
- Fee: Teams are required to pay a non-refundable Stage 1 Registration Fee of Rs 3,000/- This fee covers the evaluation of the preliminary round.
- Confirmation: Upon successful payment and form submission, teams will receive a Team Code and confirmation email.

Final Registration (Offline Rounds - Selected Teams Only)

- Selection: The results of the virtual preliminary round will be announced soon after the preliminary rounds. The selected teams will receive an official "Selection Mail".

The final registration should be completed by the team on or before September 28th, 2026 by submitting the duly filled pro forma via:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRNAjuDQre5D-uzbRPmfm9Z4KXN_eXGfqB-8EF-bkoh9gODQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

and make an online payment of Rs. 2500/- as nonrefundable registration fee. If accommodation is required, the total fee shall be Rs. 3,000/- (AC Dormitory).

- Fee: Selected teams must pay the Phase 2 Offline Registration Fee (covering offline participation, food and optional accommodation) strictly within 3 days of receiving the selection email.
- Waitlist Mechanism: If a selected team fails to pay the Phase 2 fee within the 3-day window, their slot will be automatically forfeited and passed to the next team on the merit waitlist. No extensions will be granted.

(3) COMPETITION FORMAT

The Competition simulates a law office consultation in which two law students, acting as lawyers, are presented with a client matter.

Stage 1: Virtual Preliminary Round.

Details of the virtual preliminary rounds will be shared with all registered teams soon after the final registrations.

Stage 2: Offline Rounds (Selected Teams)

- The qualifying teams will participate in live sessions at the KLA Campus; each session shall last 35 minutes (25 mins interview + 10 mins post-consultation).
- Teams will interact with live clients provided by the organizers, followed by an immediate Q&A/critique session by the judging panel.

(4) COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

Teams must consist of exactly two students. They will conduct the simulated interviews together to provide mutual assistance in researching, planning, and conducting the interview. Any change in team composition after Phase 1 registration

is strictly prohibited unless exceptional circumstances arise, subject solely to the discretion of the organizers.

During the Online Preliminary Rounds:

At any point during the competition, reading from any prepared document or using any electronic gadget or device at any stage of the Online Preliminary Round will result in disqualification. While addressing each other, please adhere to the team codes assigned/advocate/sir/madam/ Proxy names may be kindly avoided.

During the Offline Rounds:

Carrying or referring to any notes, books, printed materials, or any other reference material is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this rule may result in disqualification. Participants may carry bare acts/books to the court room only to set the atmosphere and not for reference. While addressing each other, please adhere to the team codes assigned/advocate/sir/madam/ Proxy names may be kindly avoided.

(5) COMPETITION FORMAT

The Competition simulates a law office consultation in which two law students, acting as lawyers are presented with a client matter. The students are given a brief written memorandum that identifies the general nature of the subject matter of the client's problem before the interviews are held. The students conduct an interview with a person playing the role of the client. During the interview period, 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, analyse the interview and discuss the legal and other work to be undertaken. The interview and post-consultation period last a

total of 35 minutes. The interview period will be 25 minutes and post-consultation period will be 10 minutes. The students are evaluated by a panel of judges, usually composed of three lawyers or two lawyers and a counsellor. The inclusion of a non-lawyer counsellor on the judging panel may broaden the interdisciplinary perspectives of the panel both in terms of skills and possible solutions to a problem. The students are evaluated against specific criteria that 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 students may be called back and the judges may, at their discretion, ask questions for clarification or provide a brief critique of the team's handling of the consultation and post-consultation periods

(6) COMPETITION ROUNDS

There will be five rounds namely preliminary rounds, Pre-quarter Final, Quarterfinal, Semifinals and Final. Each group will be judged by a panel of two or three judges in the preliminary and quarter final rounds and a panel of three judges in the semi-final and final rounds. From preliminary and quarter-final rounds, teams with the highest number of points will be qualified to participate in next round respectively, while the teams with the highest points in the semi-finals will be qualified to the final round.

Panel of judges may be from among the following categories. Practicing Lawyers, Judges, Counsellors, Psychologists. In each panel, at least one judge shall be a practicing lawyer.

Immediately following each team's post-consultation presentation, the judges may provide the team with a critique of the team's handling of the consultation and post consultation periods. This critique should focus on the Assessment Criteria. The critique should last not more than ten (10) minutes.

In the order of merit, the top 16 teams will go to quarter finals. From the quarter finals, top 6 teams will be going to semi-finals and the top 2 teams compete for the championship. These numbers are subject to change based on the number of participating teams.

The list of teams going to the quarter finals, semi-finals and finals will be notified as soon as possible after the respective rounds are over.

(7) JUDGING CRITERIA

The competition shall be judged based on the following exhaustive criteria (Total 50 Marks per Judge):

1. Establishing the working atmosphere and professional approach.
2. Eliciting the problem of the client and the tools used in doing so.
3. Identifying the Client's goals, expectations, and needs.
4. Analysis and formulation of the problem with legal precision.
5. Suggesting practical alternatives.
6. Allowing the client to make an informed choice.
7. Effective conclusion of the counselling session.
8. Teamwork and coordination between the co-counsels.
9. Management of ethical and professional relationship with the client (dealing with emotional and legal needs).
10. Post-interview session (interaction among counsels analyzing the case).

(8) CLIENTS & INTEGRITY

- The Competition organizers will provide and brief the clients for all rounds.

Teams are strictly prohibited from interacting with the clients prior to their designated round.

(9) TEAM CODES & ANONYMITY

- (a) To preserve strict anonymity, each team will be assigned a Team Code upon Phase 1 registration.

- Virtual Round: At the beginning of the competition, participants must state ONLY their Team Code (e.g., "We are Team Code 15"). Mentioning the name of their institution, wearing college IDs, proxy names or displaying institutional logos will lead to automatic disqualification.
 - Offline Round: Teams will be identified exclusively by their Team Codes. Spectators shall not be permitted during the Preliminary, Pre-Quarterfinal, and Quarterfinal Rounds to ensure fairness. While addressing each other, please adhere to the team codes assigned/advocate/sir/madam/ Proxy names may be kindly avoided.
- (b) Teams that have conducted their interviews in a particular session will be segregated from those who have not yet participated. Other teams, participants and observers shall not be allowed to watch the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds. Mobile phones of all participants shall be handed over to their respective ushers on commencement of each round.
- (c) Other teams, participants and observers will be allowed to watch the semi-final and final rounds.

(10) OFFICE MEMO & CLARIFICATIONS

On October 3rd, 2026, the official memorandum for the virtual preliminary round will be emailed to all registered teams. The memo may contain intentional vagueness; it is the duty of the counsels to elicit relevant facts (better legal drafting) from the client during the interview. No clarification requests regarding the facts of the memo will be entertained.

(11) COMPETITION TOPIC

The subject matter of the problem will primarily be based on Family Law, Law of Torts, Property Law, Contract/Specific Relief, and Intellectual Property Rights. Incidentally, it may also touch upon elements of Penal Laws and Constitutional Law.

(a) The Judges will receive a copy of the Judging criteria/Memoranda before the competition and will be briefed by the organizers before the round, in which they are to judge.

(b) The preliminary round may take place simultaneously. The clients in each round will have the same problem.

(c) Once the rounds start, the competing teams should not be interacting with others till that round gets over as this may unduly benefit certain teams. Such an interaction will be a misconduct and the teams so interacting, if found out, may be disqualified.

(12) VALUATION PROCEDURE & TIE-BREAKERS

- Virtual to Offline Progression: The Virtual Preliminary Round will be evaluated by independent panels. The selected teams with the highest cumulative scores will be invited to the offline rounds.
- Score Reset: Scores from the Virtual Preliminary Round DO NOT carry over to the offline rounds. The Offline Pre-Quarterfinal Round shall commence with a clean slate.
- Tie-Breaker: In the event of a tie in cumulative scores during any stage, the team with the higher score in "Analysis and formulation of the problem with precision" (Criterion 4) will advance. If the tie persists, the score in "Teamwork" (Criterion 8) will be considered.

(13) AWARDS

- Winners: Justice P. Govinda Menon Memorial Ever Rolling Trophy + Cash Prize.
- Runners-up: Trophy + Cash Prize.
- Best Counsel & Second-Best Counsel: Trophy + Cash Prize/Certificate.
- Best Client & Second-Best Client (Applicable to offline rounds only): Trophy +

Cash Prize/Certificate.

- All participants who successfully complete final registration and take part in the preliminary rounds will receive an E-Certificate of Participation. Offline attendees will receive physical certificates.

(14) DRESS CODE

The dress code for both the Online and Offline Rounds is strictly formal.

- Men: Black suit with white shirt and black tie.
- Women: White shirt, black trousers/skirt and black jacket, OR white salwar kameez and black jacket.
- Prohibited: Gowns and advocate bands are strictly NOT permitted at any stage of the competition.

(15) APPEAL COMMITTEE

The organizers reserve the right to alter the format, schedule, or rules in unforeseen circumstances. Any disputes or grievances must be formally submitted in writing to the Appeal Committee within one hour of the incident. The decision of the Appeal Committee, consisting of the principal and senior faculty members, shall be absolute and final.

(16) SCHEDULE OF THE COMPETITION

Stage 2: Offline Rounds

- Desk Reporting & Inaugural Function: November 12th, 2026
- Pre-Quarters Rounds (selected teams only): November 13th, 2026 (Morning)
- Quarter Finals: November 13th, 2026 (Afternoon)
- Semi Finals & Finals: November 14th, 2026
- Valedictory Function: November 14th, 2026

REGISTRATION

The team for the competition must register on or before 28.09.2026 (28th September, 2026), after complying with the formalities in Clause (2) of the Regulations above, by submitting the duly filled Proforma via: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRNAjuDQre5D-uzbRPmfm9Z4KXN_eXGfqB-8EF-bkoh9gODQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

☐ Non-Refundable Registration fee: Rs 3000/- for preliminary rounds shall be transferred on or before the last date of final registration. A copy of the transaction (screenshot/ photo) must be emailed to: clientcompetitionkla2026@gmail.com

For offline rounds, if accommodation is needed, the total fee is Rs 3,000/- (AC Dormitory) and without accommodation, the total fee of Rs 2,500/- is shall be transferred within 3 days of receiving the selection emails. A copy of the transaction (screenshot/ photograph) must be emailed to: clientcompetitionkla2026@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF THE COMPETITION

Final Registration: On or before September 28th, 2026

Stage 1: Virtual Round

- Problem Release: October 3rd, 2026
- Virtual Preliminary Rounds: October 6th, 2026
- Announcement of Selected Teams & Selection Mails: October 7th, 2026

Stage 2: Offline Round

Desk Reporting & Inaugural Function: November 12th 2026

Briefing Session: November 12th, 2026

Pre-Quarterfinal Rounds: November 13th 2026

Quarter Final Rounds: November 13th 2026

Cultural event and Dinner at KLA campus; November 13th 2026

Semifinals: November 14th 2026

Final: November 14th 2026

Valedictory Function & Prize Distribution: November 14th 2026

All participants shall report to the Kerala Law Academy Law College Campus by 2:00 p.m. on 12 November 2026 for registration and the inaugural function.

CONTACT

For any queries regarding the rules or registration, please write to clientcompetitionkla2026@gmail.com or contact the designated Faculty and Student Convenors.

