

THE KERALA LAW ACADEMY LAW COLLEGE

Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram

7th KERALA LAW ACADEMY TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION (HYBRID)

*[18th – Inaugural Ceremony
19th & 20th September - Online rounds;
10th October - Finals (Offline)]*

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of 7th Kerala Law Academy Trial Advocacy Competition, 2025, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned hereunder:

1. **“Administrators”** – Refers to the Director, Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram; the Trial Court Forum; and/or any other person(s) appointed by the organizers to administer the competition.
2. **“Competition”** – Refers to the 7th Kerala Law Academy Trial Advocacy Competition, 2026.
3. **“Disqualification”** – Means that the concerned team will not be permitted to participate further in the competition and will not be awarded a Certificate of Participation or any prize.
4. **“Judge”** – Any person appointed to evaluate a participant’s procedural test or oral pleadings.
5. **“Trial Proposition”** – Refers to the set of annexures, evidences, and testimonies published or supplemented by the administrators for the purpose of the competition.
6. **“Procedural Test”** – Refers to the online test conducted by the organizers exclusively for the researchers.
7. **“Trial Proposition Clarifications”** – Means the official clarifications pertaining to the Trial Proposition and the Rules, as published by the administrators.
8. **“Participants”** – Refers to student representatives from eligible law colleges/schools/universities, recognized by the administrators, participating in the competition.
9. **“Rules of the Court”** – Refers to the official competition rules, including any supplementary rules that may be issued or modified by the organizers.

2. DATE

The 7th Kerala Law Academy Trial Advocacy Competition 2026 (Hybrid) will be held from **18th to 20th September 2025 (online) and 10th October (offline)**. The online rounds will be conducted via zoom/g meet. The offline venue will be- Krishna Iyer Hall, Kerala Law Academy Law College, Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram.

Mandatory Requirement: All participating teams must ensure stable internet connectivity and access to the Zoom/G Meet platform on the scheduled dates and times.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION

- a. The competition is open to all law colleges/law schools/universities and Departments of Law in India (hereafter referred to as “participating institutions”) recognized by the Bar Council of India. It is open to LL.B. students from both three-year and five-year courses.
 - b. Each team shall comprise a maximum of **three members – two speakers and one researcher**. The team must confirm this composition at the time of registration. Any changes must be communicated to the organizers **on or before 1st September 2026**. Once finalized, no rearrangement of roles among team members will be permitted at any stage of the competition.
 - c. **No coach, assistant, or external person** shall be permitted to remain in the courtroom during any round of the competition.
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4. MEDIUM OF LANGUAGE

The official language of the competition is **English**. Any communication in any other language will result in **immediate disqualification**.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

The competition will focus on **Criminal Law**, adhering to the principles and procedures of a Criminal Trial Court. It is designed to enhance advocacy skills and deepen participants' understanding of criminal trial mechanisms.

Judging panels for the Preliminary Rounds will consist of **two judges**, consisting of academicians, legal professionals, or sitting/retired judges.

The objectives of this competition are:

1. To provide practical insights into the working of the **Criminal Justice System**.
 2. To help participants understand how a **criminal trial is conducted**.
 3. To enhance understanding of **criminal law procedures** and foster interest in criminal law careers.
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6. WITNESSES

General:

A selected number of **Prosecution and Defense witnesses (hereinafter called allotted witnesses)** will be provided by the organizers. However, their order of appearance may not be strictly sequential.

Prosecution:

- Only allotted witnesses will be available for examination. The Prosecution Team may **choose to examine or abandon** any of the allotted witnesses.
- This decision must be communicated to the host during the **Prosecution Witness Briefing Session**, held **25 minutes prior** to the round.

Defense:

- Only allotted witnesses will be available for examination. The Defense Team may **choose to examine or abandon** any of the allotted witnesses.
- This decision must be communicated to the host during the **Defense Witness Briefing Session**, held **10 minutes prior** to the round.
- Only selected witnesses will be available for examination.

7. MATERIAL OBJECTS (MO)

- All evidentiary materials (documents, annexures, etc.) will be provided by the organizers.
- **Only** materials supplied by the organizers may be used as evidence.
- Participants may **screen share/present** these materials, if necessary, provided they inform the respective ushers **at least 24 hours in advance**. While screen sharing/presenting, no information which discloses their identity shall be disclosed.
- No new documentary evidence or additional witnesses may be introduced.
- The trial proceedings will **not strictly mirror actual court procedures** due to the time and resource limitations of the competition.

8. REGISTRATION PROCESS

- **Multiple teams** from the same institution may participate, provided they have **explicit permission** from their institution.
- **Provisional Registration** – Interested institutions/teams should email: [✉ klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in](mailto:klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in)
- **Final Registration** – Teams must complete registration by **20th September 2025 (Saturday)** by submitting the duly filled proforma via: <https://forms.gle/hX1e3LnciykzBe8s5>

9. REGISTRATION FEES

- Initial registration fee: ₹1,000 (non-refundable), payable via the college website.
- Teams selected after the **procedural test** must pay an additional amount of **₹2,600**.
- Payment details and link will be shared after selection.
- A copy of the transaction (screenshot/photo) must be emailed to: [✉ klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in](mailto:klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in)
- Registration is complete **only after acknowledgment** from the organizers.
- Organizers will not be responsible for payment errors caused by banks or third-party applications.

10. DRESS CODE

Participants must adhere to a **formal dress code** throughout the competition. **Anonymity is mandatory** (no college or university logos may be made visible).

Advocate's Attire:

- **Male Participants-** White shirt, black trousers, black blazer, black tie (no institutional logos).
- **Female Participants-** White shirt or kurta with black churidar trousers or formal pants and black blazer (no institutional logos).

A. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition shall consist of **four rounds**, as detailed below:

I. ROUND ONE: Procedural Test

- i. All **provisionally registered teams** are required to appear for the procedural test.
 - ii. The test shall consist of **30 objective type questions**, to be completed in **25 minutes**.
 - iii. Each correct answer shall carry **4 marks**, and **1 mark will be deducted** for each incorrect answer.
 - iv. The **researcher** from each team must undertake the procedural test via **online viva-voce**, where the **30 questions** will be administered.
 - v. Questions will be based on **procedural laws**, including the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**, **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)**, previously known as CrPC, IPC, and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.
 - vi. The **top fifteen (15)** teams with the highest scores will qualify for the **Preliminary Rounds**.
 - vii. **Any malpractice** during the test will result in **immediate disqualification**.
 - viii. In the event of a tie, an additional round of five objective questions will be administered to the tied teams.
 - ix. **Only teams that qualify via the procedural test** will proceed to the Preliminary Rounds.
 - x. The **decision of the organizers** shall be final and binding.
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II. ROUND TWO: Preliminary Rounds

- i. This stage shall consist of **two sessions** – Prelims 1 and Prelims 2.
 - ii. Each team shall argue **once as Prosecution** and **once as Defense**.
 - iii. Teams acting as **Prosecution in Prelims 1** will act as **Defense in Prelims 2**, and vice versa.
 - iv. Evaluation will be based on a **detailed score sheet**, designed by the organizers (As annexed in point D., “Marking Criteria”)
 - v. The **top four (4)** teams with the highest cumulative marks will proceed to the **Semi-Final Round**. *(In the event of a tie, the mark allotted for the first criterion (in oral rounds) for both the speaker cumulatively will be considered. If the tie still persist, subsequent criterion(s) in the order will be considered for tie breaker.)*
 - vi. All rounds shall follow the **rules of trial courts** to the extent applicable in the competition setting.
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III. ROUND THREE: Semi-Final Round

- i. The **four qualifying teams** will advance to the Semi-Finals.
- ii. Each team will represent **either the Prosecution or the Defense**, as allotted by the organizers.

- iii. There will be **one session per team** in the Semi-Finals.
 - iv. The Semi-Finals will adhere to **trial court procedures**.
 - v. This is a **knockout round**, scheduled for **20th September 2026**.
 - vi. The **winner of each chamber** will qualify for the **Final Round**.
 - vii. Evaluation will be based on a **scoring criterion provided by the organizers**.
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IV. ROUND FOUR: Final Round

- i. The **winners of the Semi-Final chambers** will compete in the Finals.
 - ii. Each team will represent **either Prosecution or Defense**, as allotted.
 - iii. The Final Round will consist of **one trial session**.
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B. TIME DISTRIBUTION

- i. The **total duration** of each round will be approximately **2 hours and 24 minutes**.
 - ii. **25 minutes** shall be allotted for the **Prosecution Witness Briefing**.
 - iii. **2 minutes each** will be allotted for **opening statements** by both sides.
 - iv. Examination of **Prosecution witnesses** –
 - Prosecution: 20 minutes
 - Defense: 30 minutes
 - v. **10 minutes** shall be allotted for the **Defense Witness Briefing**.
 - vi. During this briefing, the **Prosecution and Judges** shall have a **10-minute break** (cameras must remain on).
 - vii. Examination of **Defense witnesses** –
 - Prosecution: 10 minutes
 - Defense: 10 minutes
 - viii. A **5-minute preparation break** will follow the witness examination before the hearing begins.
 - ix. **Hearing of arguments** will be for **15 minutes per team**.
 - x. A **grace period of 10 minutes** may be granted at the **discretion of the judges**.
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C. 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. MARKING CRITERIA

- Ability to Conduct examination
 - Articulation and Presentation of Arguments
 - Understanding of Procedural Law
 - Knowledge and Application of Law
 - Knowledge and Use of Facts
 - Witness Management
 - Courtroom Etiquette
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E. AWARDS

- The **Winner** will receive a **Merit Certificate** and a **Cash Prize of ₹15,000.**
 - The **Runners-Up** will receive a **Merit Certificate** and a **Cash Prize of ₹10,000.**
 - **All participants** will receive **E-Certificates of Participation.**
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F. MISCELLANEOUS

a) Secrecy of Identity:

Participants must not reveal their identity or that of their college/university during any stage of the competition. Violation of this rule will lead to **disqualification**. Teams are not permitted to observe the rounds of other teams.

b) Scouting:

Scouting is **strictly prohibited**. Any team found scouting shall be **immediately disqualified**.

c) Knowledge of Law:

All teams must be well-versed with the **laws, procedures, and practices followed by Indian courts**, especially those relevant to evidence, examination, and final arguments in criminal trials.

d) Respectful Conduct:

All participants must maintain **decorum and respect** toward judges, organizers, and fellow participants. Any form of misconduct shall result in **disqualification**.

e) The Law and Procedure

The Law and Procedure for the purpose of this competition to the extent to which it is applicable will be *in pari materia* with India. However, the decision of the organisers in the interest of the competition will be binding notwithstanding any of the said law.

G. ONLINE PLATFORM

- The competition will be conducted via **Zoom/G Meet**.
 - **Meeting ID, password, and link** will be shared on the respective **WhatsApp group or by any other means 15-20 minutes before each round**.
 - Teams must ensure **stable internet access** and use **devices with functional cameras**.
 - **Cameras must remain ON throughout the session**. Participation without this is not allowed.
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H. APPEAL COMMITTEE

- The **organizers reserve the right to make changes** to the rules without prior notice.
 - In case of **complaints or disputes**, teams may approach the **Appeal Committee**, which will consist of:
 - The **Principal** of Kerala Law Academy (President)
 - Two senior faculty members of the host institution
 - The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be **final and binding**.
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I. CLARIFICATIONS

All requests for clarifications must be sent via email with the subject: **“Clarifications: 6th NTAC 2025”**

to ✉ klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in

Deadline for sending clarifications: **28th September 2025**

No queries shall be entertained after this date.

J. SCHEDULE OF THE COMPETITION

Date	Event
1 st September 2026	Last date for Registration
8 th September 2026	Last date for Clarifications
9 th September 2026	Allotment of Team Codes
10 th September 2026	Procedural Test (Online)
13th September 2026	Deadline for Payment of Final Registration Fee

18th September 2026	Inaugural Session and Lotting
19th, 20th September 2026	Preliminary Rounds, Semi-Final
Date	Event
10th October 2026	Final Rounds, and Valedictory Session

Note: All participants are required to attend the Inaugural and Valedictory Sessions.

K. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE ARGUMENTS

1. The competition will be conducted on **Zoom**. Participants must use a **desktop or laptop** (mobile phones are not allowed).
2. Use of **earphones** is mandatory unless exempted for medical reasons (to be communicated in advance).
3. Teams must ensure a **stable internet connection**. The organizers will not be responsible for participant-side issues.
4. A **Technical Assistant** will be present in each virtual courtroom to assist with tech-related problems.
5. The **organizers accept responsibility** for technical errors arising on their part.
6. **Malpractices** will result in immediate disqualification.
7. Participants must keep their **videos ON throughout the round** and **mute/unmute** microphones appropriately. Points may be deducted for disturbances.
8. Participants should compete in a **quiet, disturbance-free environment**.
9. **Zoom links, passcodes, and slot details** will be shared in the WhatsApp group **15–20 minutes prior** to the round. Teams must **join at least 15 minutes early**.
10. Only the **researcher** is allowed in the room with the speakers during rounds. Any violation will lead to disqualification.
11. The **organizers reserve the right** to modify rules or procedures as necessary.

CONTACT

For queries, contact: [✉klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in](mailto:klatrialadvocacy@keralalawacademy.in)

Faculty Convenors

- **Mrs. Gayathri Devi GB** – 81368 46353
- **Mr. Manu Krishna S. K.** – 9995400709
- **Mr. Sakthi Prabha M.** – 9495897855
- **Mr. N. K. Sasidharan** – 8281606060
- **Mr. Shibu P. G.**
- **Mr. Shinto Edwin**
- **Mrs. Sharanya V. N.**

General Student Convenors, MCS

- **Mathew George K.** – 7012269631
- **Vaishnavi Nagaraj** – 8589066688

Student Convenors

- **Jorge Abraham Thomas** – 9497512442
- **Keerthi B.S.** – 7306452916

Student Co-Convenors

- **Jewel Jacob**
 - **Pooja Lekshmi**
 - **Anjali N.S.**
 - **Aswathy S.**
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