MOHAMMAD ABDUL BARI INSTITUTE OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE

NATIONAL CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION 2026

RULES AND REGULATIONS | THEME: MAINTENANCE

28 AND 29 DECEMBER 2026 • ENTIRELY ONLINE

I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Organiser. The Competition is organised by the Mohammad Abdul Bari Institute of Juridical Science (MABIJS), through its Moot Court Society and the Organising Committee.

2. Mode and dates. All rounds will be conducted online on 28 and 29 December 2026. The Organising Committee will notify the platform, links, access instructions and detailed timetable to registered teams.

3. Theme. The central theme is "Maintenance". The case problem may raise related legal or practical issues as specified in the problem materials.

II ELIGIBILITY AND TEAMS

4. Eligible institutions. The Competition is open to students enrolled in a three-year LL.B. or five-year integrated LL.B. programme at a law college, school or university recognised by the Bar Council of India.

5. Team composition. Each competing team shall consist of two eligible law students from the same institution. Both team members shall act as counsel in the client interview and post-interview conference.

6. Multiple teams. An institution may register more than one team, subject to the capacity of the Competition and confirmation by the Organising Committee. Each team must register separately.

7. Team changes. Team members may not be substituted after registration except with prior written approval of the Organising Committee for exceptional reasons.

III REGISTRATION AND FEE

8. Registration deadline. The completed registration form must be submitted by 5th December 2026 through the official registration form: https://forms.gle/KKohJPm3NUA4eT517

9. Registration fee. The registration fee is **Rs.1,000 per team**. The payment QR code is shared at the end of this regulations. Teams should retain proof of payment and provide it if requested.

10. Confirmation. Registration is complete only after the form and fee have been received and acknowledged by the Organising Committee. The Committee may contact teams to correct incomplete or inconsistent details.

11. Team codes and problem outline. Team codes and an outline of the problem will be sent to registered teams on 10th December 2026. Teams must use their assigned code in communications and must not disclose it to judges during a round.

IV COMPETITION FORMAT

12. Simulation. The Competition simulates a professional lawyer-client consultation. Each team will receive a short outline describing the general nature of the matter. Detailed client facts and confidential role instructions will be provided to the Organising Committee's client-role player.

13. Interview and conference. Each round will ordinarily consist of a client interview of up to 25 minutes followed by a 10-minute post-interview conference without the client. The team should use the conference to identify issues, further work and a practical strategy for the client.

14. Client role. The Organising Committee will appoint and brief the person playing the client. Teams must obtain facts through appropriate questions, explore the client's priorities and explain suitable options. Judges may seek clarification from the client after a performance.

15. Rounds. The Competition will include preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds. The Organising Committee will announce the draw, the number of teams advancing and the order of appearance before the relevant rounds. The format may be adjusted to suit the number of registered teams.

16. Same-round materials. Teams in the same round will receive equivalent case materials. Teams must not communicate round-specific facts or confidential client information to teams that have yet to compete.

V ASSESSMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

Each judge will assess the consultation independently using the proposed 100-point rubric below. The Organising Committee may issue a final score sheet with performance indicators before the Competition.

#	ASSESSMENT CRITERION	POINTS
1	Rapport and professional approach	10
2	Active listening, questioning and fact gathering	15
3	Understanding the client's goals, needs and expectations	10
4	Issue identification and legal analysis	15
5	Practical options and clear, appropriate advice	15
6	Supporting the client's informed choice	10
7	Empathy, ethics and professional responsibility	10

8	Teamwork and coordination	**5**
9	Clear conclusion and next steps	**5**
10	Post-interview analysis and planning	**5**
	TOTAL	**100**

17. Ranking. Scores from all judges for a team will be aggregated. Teams will be ranked in descending order. The Organising Committee will announce the advancement cut-off before the rounds begin, based on the draw and number of teams.

18. Tie-break. If teams are tied for an advancement place, the higher combined score in legal analysis and advice will rank first; if still tied, the higher score for client-centred options and informed choice will prevail. If the tie remains, the judges will decide by majority vote.

VI ONLINE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

19. Joining the session. Participants must join using the official link and team code at the reporting time stated by the Organising Committee. They should test their camera, microphone and internet connection beforehand and keep their display name consistent with the instructions received.

20. Presence on camera. Both team members must be visible and audible throughout their interview and post-interview conference, unless the Organising Committee or judges direct otherwise for a technical or accessibility reason.

21. Technical interruption. A team must notify the host immediately if it loses connection or experiences a serious audio/video failure. The Organising Committee may pause, resume or reschedule an affected session to protect fairness. A technical interruption does not automatically determine a team's score.

22. Formal dress. Participants must wear neat formal attire suitable for a professional legal consultation. Gowns and bands are not required.

VII CONDUCT, FAIRNESS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

23. Professional conduct. Participants must treat the client, judges, opposing teams, organisers and technical staff respectfully. They must not intimidate, insult, mislead or harass any person involved in the Competition.

24. No outside assistance. During a live round, team members must not receive coaching, prompts or messages from any person outside the team. Coaches, spectators and other teams must not communicate with a team until its round has concluded.

25. No unauthorised observation. Teams may not observe another team's preliminary performance unless the Organising Committee expressly permits it. The Committee will advise whether later rounds are open to observation.

26. Confidential materials. Case materials, confidential client instructions, team codes, meeting links and recordings (if any) must not be shared publicly or with teams awaiting their

round. Participants must not record, photograph, stream or distribute a session without the Organising Committee's written permission.

27. Anonymity. Judges will identify teams by code wherever practicable. Participants must not reveal their institution or personal names to judges during a scored session unless directed to do so for verification.

28. Permitted resources. Teams may use only the materials and resources allowed in the round instructions. The Organising Committee may restrict external communication, internet searches or other resources during a round and will communicate those restrictions in advance.

VIII JUDGES AND FEEDBACK

29. Judging panel. The Organising Committee will appoint the judges for each round. A judge may not assess a team with which the judge has a conflict of interest. Participants should disclose a potential conflict to the Committee promptly.

30. Independent assessment. Judges will assess performance against the rubric. They may take notes, confer as appropriate and provide brief feedback after a round, subject to the timetable.

31. Score sheets. The Organising Committee may share a team's score summary or feedback after the relevant round. Individual judges' deliberations and confidential client materials will remain confidential.

IX AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

AWARD	PRIZE
Champions	**Rs. 10,000 cash prize and certificates**
Runners-up	**Rs. 5,000 and certificates**
Third Position	**Rs. 3,000 and certificates**
Best Counsel	Rs. 2,000 and certificate
Best Client	Rs. 1,000 and certificate
All participants	E-certificates

32. Best Counsel. This individual award will be selected by the judges from among the counsel participants, based on performance in the client interview and counselling process.

33. Best Client. Client-role players will be appointed and briefed by the Organising Committee. The judges will select the Best Client independently of the team score, based on consistency with the assigned role and realistic, responsive interaction.

X COMPLAINTS AND BREACHES

34. Procedural complaint. A team that has a concern about the conduct of a round must raise it with the Organising Committee as soon as possible and before the next round begins, where practicable. The Committee may hear the affected parties and take proportionate steps to preserve fairness.

35. Scoring decisions. Judges' assessment of a team's performance is final. A procedural complaint may not be used to relitigate a judge's good-faith evaluation of counselling performance.

36. Sanctions. The Organising Committee may issue a warning, deduct points or disqualify a team for serious or repeated misconduct, unauthorised assistance, breach of confidentiality, false registration information or material non-compliance with these rules. The team will be given an opportunity to respond where practicable.

XI ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND NOTICES

37. Operational directions. The Organising Committee may issue clarifications and round-specific instructions consistent with these rules. If an unforeseen circumstance makes a change necessary, the Committee may adjust the schedule, format or platform and will notify registered teams promptly.

38. Final authority. The Organising Committee is responsible for interpreting these rules and resolving matters not expressly covered. Its decision will be final, subject to the requirement to apply the rules consistently and fairly.

XII IMPORTANT DATES AND CONTACT

05th December 2026	Last date for registration
10th December 2026	Team codes and problem outline shared
28–29 December 2026	Competition

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Registration: https://forms.gle/KKohJPm3NUA4eT517

PAYMENT QR CODE

UPI ID: purkait.rahulp@oksbi