

First Symbiosis National Moot Court Competition, supported by London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) India: September 19-21, 2014

FIRST SYMBIOSIS NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2014
SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2014
Symbiosis Law School, Opposite Nokia Siemens Building,
Block A 47/48, Sector-62, Noida - 201301

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Symbiosis Law School, Noida

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“Satisfaction lies in effort not in attainment, full effort is full victory - Mahatma Gandhi”

Introduction: To inculcate this spirit amongst the law students across the country, Symbiosis Law School, Noida organized the first edition of Symbiosis National Moot Court Competition (SNMCC), 2014, supported by London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) India, giving a unique opportunity to students seeking to gain experience in the development of arguments in the field of Arbitration Laws and Insurance Laws. It was a three-day event, which commenced on the afternoon of September 19, 2014 with registration of participants and concluded on the September 21, 2014 with the winning team taking the laurels away.

The moot proposition of this Moot Court Competition aimed at exposing the competitors to the developing frontiers of Insurance Law and Arbitration Law and to foster a better understanding of the issues confronting this area of law today. This wasn't just a battle of wills but also persistence and extensive research as a researcher's test was also organized pertaining to the moot proposition as the backbone of a good legal argument, keeping in mind the indispensable nature of legal research. The participants were given the opportunity to argue before the greatest Academicians, Hon'ble Judges, practicing Lawyers.

ALL RISE: On September, 19, 2014 anticipating the arrival of the participants escorted by their respective team in charges, the learners of Symbiosis Law School Noida, dressed to their best were ready to pull the event off. Once all the teams had arrived and registered, the opening address was delivered which was followed by a short address by **Dr. C.J Rawandale, Director, Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA** wherein he advised the mooters to maintain a fraternal atmosphere and suggested them not to become rivals and keep up the spirit of the moot.

This was followed by the much-awaited part of the opening ceremony, the draw of lots. 40 teams registered only 24 made the cut and were invited to SNMCC'14. Following which the rules of the oral pleading rounds were conveyed, and the exchange of memorials ensued.

PRELIMS – A CHAOTIC CONUNDRUM: The prelims of the SNMCC'14 began with the spirit of carpe diem in every team's heart as each one of them aspired to clear the prelims and get to the quarterfinals. What the contenders did not expect were the acerbic and mordant remarks and counter questions of the judges. The draw of lots had divided 24 teams into groups of 3 in each courtroom, of which one team was to qualify for quarters. The bench comprised of two judges per courtroom who grilled the respondents. The prelims proved to be particularly trying for the participating teams as the judges created a great mental pressure to test each team's mettle. The prelims were a major reality check for the audience, which mainly comprised of first year learners, who thought the moots to be a glib affair. **Shortly after the prelims, the results were declared where 8 out of 24 teams qualified** along with the drawing of lots and exchange of memorials for the quarterfinals.

THE PRELIMS



Following personalities from the Legal Profession judged the Prelims - **Mrs. Mayuri Raghuvanshi**, Advocate on Record, the Supreme Court of India; **Mr. Sumit Attri**, Advocate on Record, the Supreme Court of India; **Mr. Saurabh Ajay Gupta**, Advocate on Record, the Supreme Court of India; **Mr. Abhishek Kumar**, Principal Associate, Rajani, Singhania & Partners; **Mr. Achint Singh Gyani**, Senior Associate, DSK Legal; **Mr. Adab Singh Kapoor**, Managing Partner, Adab Singh Kapoor & Associates; **Mr. Bhardwaj Jaishankar**, Senior Associate, Saikrishna & Associates; **Mr. Manvendra Mishra**, Senior Associate, Amarchand & Mangaldas; **Mr. Zohaib Hossain**, Advocate, the Supreme Court of India; **Mr. Mathews Verghese**, Senior Associate, IP Gurus; **Mrs. Radhika**, Founder & Managing Partner of ALETHEIAA LEGAL; **Mr. Chitranshul**, Senior Associates, Dua Associates; **Mr. Arunadhri Iyer**, Senior Associate, Khaitan & Co.; **Mr. Arjun Khera**, Senior Associate, Economic Law Practice Advocates & Solicitors; **Mr. Apoorv Karmakar**, Partner, the Veritas Chambers; **Mr. Anant Dang**, Senior Associate, Indian Law Partners & **Mr. Vyom Raghuvanshi**, Advocate, the Supreme Court of India.

THE QUARTERS



The difference from the mind jarring prelims was palpable. The mooters seemed more confident after jumping over the first hurdle. In spite of the welcoming aura there was a severity and gravity, which was lacking in the preliminary rounds. It was clear that the finer stuff had been sieved out of the lot and was ready to fight tooth and nail to get to the semifinals. Finally after all the sessions got over, the results for quarters were declared in which 4 teams qualified for the semifinals. This was followed by draw of lots and exchange of memorials for the semifinals.

Following personalities from the Legal Profession judged the Quarter Finals - **Mr. Manish Sharma**, Advocate, High Court of Delhi; **Mr. Amitesh Mishra**, Founder & Managing Partner, ACM Legal; **Mr. Purvish Malkan**, Advocate on Record, the Supreme Court of India; **Mr. P K Solanki**, Dy. Head - Legal, GAIL; **Mrs. Sanjana Bali**, Partner at KB Partners; **Mr. Ashok Kumar**; **Mr. Sunando Mukherjee**, Principal Associate, Amarchand & Mangaldas; and **Mr. J K Sharma**, Advocate, High Court of Delhi.

SEMI FINALS

The air was so thick with tension that one could cut it with a knife as the semifinals for the first National Moot Court Competition commenced in the morning of September 21, 2014. One could feel the adrenaline gushing through the mooters as the series of questions were shot by the bench which was being answered by equal fervour. Riffing through pages of bare acts, commentaries and compendium, shuffling the sheets doing everything to help themselves affirm their case, two teams emerged victorious from the two courtrooms, Amity Law School (LC -1) and National University of Judicial Science, Kolkata vanquishing over the other two teams.

Following personalities from the Legal Profession judged the Semi Finals –

Mr. **Gourab Banerjee**, Senior Advocate, the Supreme Court of India & Former Additional Solicitor General of India; Mr. **Vikas Goel**, Partner, Rajani, Singhania & Co.; Mr. **A J Bhambani**, Senior Advocate, High Court of Delhi.



Mrs. **Rashmi Verma**, Head - Legal, BHEL; Mr. **S N Bhatt**, Advocate on Record, the Supreme Court of India; and Mr. **Sanjeev Kapoor**, Partner, Khaitan & Co.



THE D-DAY-FINALS

And so it was on, the intense two-day war in this three-day event was finally at its last step, from 24 teams it was down to just two.



The bench for the finals comprised of 4 judges who were 'cruel to be kind'. The counsel for the appellant's side was from NUJS Kolkata. As the speakers proceeded with the summary of arguments and issues, was bombarded by a volley of questions which kept not only the pleader but also the researcher on their feet. In totality the appellants seemed intimidated by the caustic comments and quick counters by the jury to which they had no convincing replies.

Next up were the Respondents, the Amity Law Centre- I Noida, who seemed more confident than their competitors. The pleaders were questioned in the similar manner but they proved to be more efficient in answering the questions than his opponents. Being more conversant with the facts and the laws applicable, they maneuvered the questions in a better manner. The rebuttals and sur-rebuttals were equally riveting as the judges tried to send the participants on a wild goose chase with their mind boggling questions but the counsels held their footing and were not deterred.

The session was concluded shortly after this and both the teams shook hands.

Following personalities from the Legal Profession judged the Finals –

Mr. Justice P. S. Narayana, Former Judge, Andhra Pradesh High Court & Member, Mahadayi River Tribunal, **Mr. R. Venkataramani**, Senior Advocate, the Supreme Court of India & Member, Law Commission of India, **Mr. Murali Neelakantan**, Global General Counsel, Cipla Ltd.; and **Mr. Ajay Thomas**, Registrar, London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) India.

VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

VALEDICTORY CEREMONY:

The valedictory ceremony of the SNMCC'14 was held shortly after finals in the Moot Court hall. The occasion was graced by **Hon'ble Justice P. S. Narayana**, Former Judge, Andhra Pradesh High Court & Member, Mahadayi River Tribunal, **Mr R. Venkataramani**, Senior Advocate, the Supreme Court of India & Member, Law Commission of India, **Mr. Ajay Thomas**, Registrar, London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) India and **Dr. C J Rawandale**, Director, Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA.

Mr.

Ajay



Thomas, Registrar of London Court of international Arbitration (LCIA) India, who was also counsel and head of South Asia desk at the Singapore international Arbitration Centre, first addressed the gathering of participants and SLS learners and expressed his gratitude to the college, volunteers, organizing committee and participating colleges for hosting the event further expressing his desire to collaborate with SLS-N for its future moots.

Mr. **R. Venkataramani**, Senior Advocate, the Supreme Court of India & Member, Law Commission of India and the guest of honor for the occasion addressed the audience next. He spoke about the paradox involved in judging and advised the participants of Moot court competition of their role as future litigators to' keep in mind

the bigger picture' of being just and fair and that the actual role of a Lawyer is to mitigate litigation and not encourage it.

Lastly, **Hon'ble Justice P. S. Narayana**, Former Judge, Andhra Pradesh High Court & Member, Mahadayi River Tribunal and the Chief Guest for the occasion, addressed the audience about the pragmatic approach towards the profession of law. He advised budding learners not be deterred by the competition as being a competent professional pays you in the future.



PRIZES



This was followed by the vote of thanks and the felicitation of all the participants for their hard work which was followed by the much-anticipated results. Which were as follows-

- 1. Winning Team:** Amity Law Centre-1, Prize: Winning Team: Winners Trophy, Rs. 50,000 in cash, Internships from Lall & Sethi and Praxis Legal, books on Insurance and Arbitration by Gogia Law Agency and a One Year Subscription from SCC Online.

2. Runners Up: National University of Juridical Sciences Kolkata, Prize: Runners Up Trophy, Rs. 30,000 in cash, books on Arbitration by Gogia Law Agency and a Six months Subscription from SCC Online.



3. Best Speaker: Mr. Avinash K.R., Amity Law Centre 1, Prize: Best Speaker Trophy, Rs. 10,000 in cash, Internship from Neo Juris and a One Year Subscription to LCIA's quarterly Journal, 'Arbitration International'.



4. Second Best Speaker: Mr. Manan Popli, Amity Law Centre 1, Prize: Second Best Speaker Trophy and Rs. 7,500 in cash.



5. Best Researcher: Mr. Rohit Lalwani, Institute of Law, Nirma University, Prize: Best Researchers Trophy and Rs. 10,000 in cash.

6. Best Memorial: RGNUL, Patiala, and Prize: Best Memorials Trophy and Rs. 15,000 in cash.

And after months of meticulous preparation and days of sweat blood and tears, First Edition of Symbiosis National Moot Court Competition, Supported by London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) India came to close.



The Team

Core Committee

Mr. Arihant Jain
Ms. Priya Misra

Pomotion

Ms. Shalini Nair,
Ms. Nainjyot Gandhi
Ms. Dipshi Swara

Registrations

Ms. Neha Maniktala,
Mr. T. Mayur Priyen,
Ms. Shambhavi Shukla,
Ms. Rishika Sugandh

Logistic and Technical

Mr. Sushanth Singh,
Mr. Saksham Gogia,
Ms. Eva Biswal,
Mr. T. Mayur Priyen,
Mr. Ayush Mehrotra,
Mr. Naman Mittal,
Mr. Tarang Agarwal,
Ms. Nitu Mittal
Mr. Dharendra Singh

Budgeting

Ms. Harimohana Narayanan,
Mr. Shashank Kumar V

Sponsorship

Ms. Jayashree Parihar,
Mr. Harjap Malik,
Mr. Harkirat Singh,
Mr. Kartikeya Dutt,
Mr. Dhruv Nayar

Hospitality

Mr. Varun Tandon,
Mr. Arunesh Bhardwaj,
Mr. Abhay Singh,

Mr. Saurabh Vamsi,
Ms. Preksha Dwivedi,
Mr. Antariksh Karnik,
Mr. Ram Mandil
Mr. Utkarsh Singh

Food

Ms. Reeva Chugh,
Mr. Sahil Jaggi,
Ms. Nishtha Chaturvedi
Ms. Ayushi Harsh

Judges

Mr. Arihant Jain,
Mr. Kaushal Prabhat,
Ms. Jayashree Parihar,
Mr. Shashank Kumar V.
Mr. Yashashvi Virendra

Audience

Mr. Tanmay Sharma,
Mr. Ayush Kaushik
Mr. Prithviraj Singh Raghav

Teams: Heads

Ms. Priya Misra
Mr. Rounaq Joshi

Team In-charge

Ms. Abhipsa Upasana Dash,
Ms. Akshita Saxena,
Ms. Ananya Maitin,
Mr. Anish Kapoor,
Ms. Ansha Pathak,
Mr. B Rudhvir Vadhan,
Mr. Devyash Tripathi,
Ms. Dhriti Gupta,
Mr. Emmanuel DSouza,
Ms. Jayanti Mishra,

Mr. Mohit Raj,
Mr. Pranjal Singh,
Ms. Priyamwada Sinha,
Mr. Shantanu Rathore,
Mr. Shashank Pandey,
Ms. Shaurvi Kapur,
Ms. Shikha Khurana,
Ms. Simran Sethi,
Ms. Sohini Bardhan,
Ms. Uma Murugiah,
Mr. Subham Dutta and
Mr. Vishal Gourav

Prizes:

Ms. Harimohana Narayanan
Mr. Avanish Chandrashekhar (Winning Team's Sketch)

Rapporteur

Ms. Anushree Kapooria
Ms. Antara Rastogi

Moment Catcher

Mr. Rishabh Saxena

Editor

Ms. Nainjyot Gandhi