

International Moot Court Competition

Concept Note

1. About Presidency University

Presidency University, Bengaluru, established under the Presidency University Act, 2013, is a multidisciplinary institution committed to academic excellence, innovation, research, and industry-oriented education. As part of the esteemed Presidency Group of Institutions, which has been shaping educational excellence for nearly five decades, the University has emerged as one of India's leading centres of higher learning. The University is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and its professional programmes are approved by the respective statutory bodies, including the Bar Council of India (BCI).

Spread across a vibrant 100+ acre campus in Bengaluru, India's technology and innovation capital, the University offers a wide spectrum of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes in engineering, management, law, design, commerce, computer science, media studies, liberal arts and sciences, and allied health sciences. Its academic philosophy integrates rigorous scholarship with experiential learning, interdisciplinary engagement, research, entrepreneurship, and global exposure.

Accredited with *NAAC 'A' Grade*, Presidency University has earned recognition for its commitment to quality education, student success, and institutional excellence. The University has received the prestigious *QS I-GAUGE Gold Rating* and has been featured in the *QS World University Rankings: Asia*, reflecting its growing international standing and commitment to global academic standards.

Guided by the motto "*Gain More Knowledge, Reach Greater Heights*," Presidency University continues to nurture future-ready professionals, researchers, innovators, and leaders equipped to contribute meaningfully to society and address contemporary global challenges.

2. About Presidency School of Law

Presidency School of Law (PSOL), Presidency University, Bengaluru, is a dynamic institution committed to excellence in legal education, research, professional training, and social impact. Approved by the Bar Council of India (BCI) and functioning within a multidisciplinary university ecosystem, PSOL offers contemporary legal education through its B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) and B.B.A.

LL.B. (Hons.) programmes with specializations in Constitutional Law, Business Law, International Trade Law, Crime and Criminology, International Law, and Intellectual Property Law. The School also offers LL.M. programmes in Intellectual Property and Technology Law, International Law, Criminal Law, Corporate Law, and Constitutional & Administrative Law, along with a vibrant Ph.D. programme that promotes advanced legal scholarship and interdisciplinary research.

The School's academic framework integrates doctrinal learning with practical legal training through moot courts, legal aid initiatives, ADR training, internships, research projects, policy engagement, simulation exercises, and industry collaborations. Students benefit from interaction with distinguished academicians, judges, senior advocates, policymakers, industry experts, Professors of Practice, and Professors Emeritus, creating a rich ecosystem that bridges legal theory and professional practice.

Presidency School of Law has earned national recognition for academic excellence, including being named the Best Emerging Law College in India (*India Today Best Colleges Survey 2025*), receiving an AAA+ Rating (*Careers360 India's Best Law Colleges 2025*), being ranked among the Top 4 Law Colleges in Karnataka (*CSR Rankings 2024*), securing the 16th position nationally (*IIRF Law Rankings 2023*), and being recognized as a Top Law School of Eminence by *GHRDC Law Schools Survey 2026*, ranking 5th in India, 8th in Karnataka, and 9th in South India.

3. Introduction to the Competition

Following the outstanding success of its *Inaugural International Moot Court Competition*, organized in collaboration with the *National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)*, India, Presidency School of Law, Presidency University, Bengaluru, proudly announces the **2nd International Moot Court Competition, 2027**.

The Competition is envisioned as a premier international platform for aspiring legal professionals to engage with contemporary and complex issues of international law through rigorous legal research, written advocacy, and oral argument. It seeks to foster intellectual excellence, advocacy skills, critical thinking, and cross-cultural academic engagement among law students from India and across the world.

The moot proposition for this edition, ***The Prosecutor v. General Darius Vokshi***, is set before a fictional hybrid international tribunal and presents participants with intricate questions arising under International Criminal Law, Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and Transnational Justice. Participants will be required to address challenging issues concerning jurisdiction, admissibility and complementarity, immunity *ratione materiae* of former State officials, individual criminal responsibility including command responsibility, extradition, human rights obligations, and the principle of non-refoulement.

The Competition has been carefully designed to reflect contemporary developments in international criminal justice and accountability mechanisms while encouraging participants to engage with evolving jurisprudence, treaty frameworks, customary international law, and comparative legal approaches.

In keeping with Presidency University's commitment to global engagement and inclusivity, the Competition shall be conducted in a **hybrid format**. Teams from India shall participate in person at the Presidency School of Law, Bengaluru, while international teams may participate virtually, thereby facilitating wider global participation and fostering meaningful international academic exchange without compromising the quality and rigor of the competition.

The Competition aspires to create a vibrant forum where future lawyers, researchers, policymakers, and advocates can engage with pressing international legal challenges and contribute to the advancement of justice, accountability, human rights, and the rule of law in an increasingly interconnected world.

4. About the Inaugural International Moot Court Competition (2026)

The Presidency School of Law successfully organized its *Inaugural International Moot Court Competition* from 20-22 February 2026 in collaboration with the *National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India*. The Competition marked a significant milestone in the school's commitment to promoting excellence in advocacy, legal research, and international legal education.

The inaugural edition featured an original moot proposition before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) titled *Case Concerning the Legality of Detention of Mittal: United Republic of Othello v. The Republic of Verona*, addressing complex issues relating to Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), customary international law, state sovereignty, diplomatic protection, and human rights.

The Competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from *44 teams representing leading law schools and universities from India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka*, reflecting its growing international appeal and academic standing. The event was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Justice Shivraj V. Patil**, Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India and Former Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.

The rounds were adjudicated by an esteemed panel of *judges comprising distinguished legal practitioners, academicians, and experts from India, Germany, Singapore, and Australia*, providing participants with valuable exposure to diverse legal perspectives and international advocacy standards.

The overwhelming success of the inaugural edition laid a strong foundation for establishing the Presidency International Moot Court Competition as a premier platform for fostering advocacy skills, international legal scholarship, professional excellence, and cross-border academic engagement among future legal professionals. Building upon this success, the second edition seeks to further expand its international reach and strengthen its position as a leading moot court competition in the field of international law and transnational justice.

5. Rationale

International criminal law raises some of the most challenging questions concerning accountability, human rights, sovereignty, and justice. Through a realistic and complex moot proposition, the Presidency International Moot Court Competition seeks to equip future legal professionals with advanced skills in legal research, written advocacy, oral argumentation, and strategic thinking. The Competition provides a unique platform for academic exchange, professional engagement, and benchmarking advocacy skills against national and international standards, while fostering a commitment to justice, accountability, and the rule of law.

6. Objectives of the Competition

- To provide law students with an opportunity to research, analyse, draft memorials, and argue a complex proposition in International Criminal Law before a simulated international tribunal.
- To strengthen legal research, memorial drafting, oral advocacy, and courtroom presentation skills.
- To promote critical understanding of contemporary issues relating to international criminal justice, State responsibility, jurisdiction, immunity, extradition, and human rights.
- To facilitate academic exchange and collaboration among students, academicians, judges, and legal practitioners from India and abroad.
- To foster international engagement and promote cross-cultural legal learning through a globally accessible competition.
- To strengthen the Presidency School of Law's commitment to excellence in advocacy training and international legal education.

7. Competition Format

7.1 Mode of Competition: The 2nd International Moot Court Competition, 2027 shall be conducted in a hybrid format to encourage broad participation from institutions across the globe.

- Indian Teams: Physical participation at Presidency School of Law, Presidency University, Bengaluru, India.
- International Teams: Participation either virtually or physically, at the discretion of the participating institution.

- The hybrid format is intended to promote international accessibility while ensuring a rigorous and enriching advocacy experience for all participants.

7.2 **Competition Rounds:** The Competition shall comprise the following stages:

- *Memorial Round:* Submission of memorials on behalf of both the Prosecution and the Defence.
- *Researcher's Test:* Assessment of participants' legal research skills and understanding of the moot proposition through objective and analytical questions.
- *Preliminary Oral Rounds:* Each team shall argue twice, once as the Prosecution and once as the Defence.
- *Octa-Final Rounds:* The highest-ranking teams from the Preliminary Rounds shall advance to the Octa-Final Rounds. Knock-out rounds based on the cumulative performance of teams in the preceding rounds.
- *Quarter-Final and Semi-Final Rounds:* Knock-out rounds based on the cumulative performance of teams in the preceding rounds.
- *Final Round:* The finalist teams shall argue before an eminent bench comprising distinguished judges, senior academicians, and legal practitioners.

7.3 **Eligibility**

- The Competition is open to students enrolled in three-year LL.B., five-year integrated LL.B., LL.M., or equivalent law programmes offered by recognised universities and institutions in India and abroad.
- Each team shall consist of three members, comprising either:
 - Two Speakers and One Researcher, or
 - Three Speakers, one of whom shall also perform the role of the Researcher.

7.4 **Team Composition and Participation**

- Each institution may provisionally register one team.
- Additional teams may be permitted subject to seat availability and approval by the Organising Committee.
- The decision of the Organising Committee regarding eligibility and participation shall be final and binding.

5. Registration:

Interested teams shall register through the official online registration portal. **T**

Link for registration: <https://forms.gle/kTWw1EHKVoAfzjhYA>

Registration Fee for Indian Teams:

Category	Registration Fee
With Accommodation	₹9,000 per team
Without Accommodation	₹4,500 per team

Registration Fee for International Teams:

Category	Registration Fee
International Team (Virtual Participation)	USD 125
International Team (Physical Participation)	USD 125*

**Accommodation, travel, visa, and related expenses shall be borne by the participating team unless otherwise notified by the Organising Committee. However, the Organising Committee shall provide an official invitation letter and participation confirmation, upon request, to support visa applications.*

8. Tentative Schedule

Activity	Date
Release of Moot Proposition	15 December 2026
Last Date for Team Registration	15 February 2027
Clarification Window	16–22 February 2027
Release of Clarifications	28 February 2027
Submission of Memorials	15 March 2027
Researcher's Test	16 April 2027
Preliminary Oral Rounds	17 April 2027
Octa Rounds and Quarter-Final Rounds	17 April 2027
Semi-Final Rounds	18 April 2027

Final Round & Valedictory Ceremony	18 April 2027
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9. Awards and Recognition

Award Category	Recognition
Champion Team	Trophy, Certificates and Cash Prize
Runner-Up Team	Trophy, Certificates and Cash Prize
Best Oralist (Prelim Round)	Trophy, Certificate and Cash Prize
Best International Team	Certificate and Cash Prize
Best Memorial	Certificate and Cash Prize
Second Best Memorial	Certificate and Cash Prize
Best Researcher	Certificate and Cash Prize
Second Best Researcher	Certificate and Cash Prize
All Participants	Certificate of Participation

- Certificates of Merit may be awarded to outstanding performers at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
- The cash prize amounts shall be announced separately by the Organising Committee.
- All awards shall be presented during the Valedictory Ceremony.

10. Why Participate?

- Engage with a contemporary and challenging international law proposition.
- Receive feedback from eminent judges, practitioners, and academicians.
- Compete with leading law schools from India and abroad.

- Develop advanced skills in legal research, memorial drafting, and oral advocacy.
- Build professional networks with peers and experts from diverse jurisdictions.
- Gain exposure to international standards of advocacy and legal reasoning.

11. Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced understanding of contemporary issues and emerging developments in International Criminal Law, Public International Law, and Transnational Justice.
2. Strengthened competencies in legal research, memorial drafting, oral advocacy, critical analysis, and persuasive argumentation among participating students.
3. Increased academic collaboration, professional networking, and cross-cultural engagement among students, academicians, judges, and legal practitioners from diverse jurisdictions.
4. Promotion of excellence in advocacy training and international legal education through exposure to international standards of legal reasoning and courtroom practice.
5. Strengthened national and international academic partnerships and enhanced visibility of participating institutions within the global moot community.

Organising Committee

Patron-in-Chief: Dr. Nissar Ahmed, Chancellor, Presidency University

Vice President: Mr. Suhael Ahmed, Mr. Salman Ahmed

Patron: Dr. SJ Thiruvengadam, Vice Chancellor; Dr. Dinesh Nilkant, ProVost

Chairperson: Prof. (Dr.) Saroj Sharma, Dean, Presidency School of Law

Faculty Convenors: Pallavi Chhabaria, Priyanka Mangaraj

Contact Information

Organising Committee

2nd International Moot Court Competition, 2027

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