



**1<sup>ST</sup> INTER-UNIVERSITY  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW JUDGMENT WRITING  
COMPETITION**

*Organized by  
Constitutional Law Society  
of  
National Law University, Jodhpur (India)*

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



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**RULES AND REGULATIONS**



The Constitutional Law Society at National Law University, Jodhpur in furtherance of its initiative of encouraging debate and discussion in the subject of Constitutional Law is organizing the First Inter-University Constitutional Law Judgment Writing Competition [“**Competition**”].

**ABOUT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR:**

National Law University, Jodhpur [“**NLUJ**”] is one of India’s leading law schools situated at the vibrant city of Jodhpur, Rajasthan. NLUJ has been ranked as one of the top law schools of India. Since, its establishment in 1999, NLUJ has endeavored to produce exceptional lawyers and legal scholars aimed at pushing and challenging the existing boundaries of law.

The University is a recipient of the annual Best Brand in India Awards consecutively in 2016 and 2017. Recently, the University has been ranked 5<sup>th</sup> amongst the best law schools of India as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework rankings issued by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India.

**ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL LAW SOCIETY:**

The Constitutional Law Society at National Law University, Jodhpur [“**Society**”] was founded in the year 2018 by Mr. Swapnil Tripathi (batch of 2019) to encourage discussion and deep rooted understanding in the subject of Constitutional Law. The society aims to cover aspects of the subject which cannot/are not covered in the class room due to several constraints. The society undertakes several activities in the form of special lectures, competitions and general student discussions that augment and further the understanding of the students in the field of Constitutional Law.

Since, its establishment in January, 2018 the Society has successfully organized Guest Lectures by Ms. Shylashri Shankar (Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy and Research) who spoke on ‘From Parliamentary Sovereignty to Activist Courts and Back.. and Back



again. The Tale of Indian Constitutionalism’ and Mr. Sandeep Suresh (Faculty Member, Jindal Global Law School), who addressed the students on ‘Gun Control in USA and the Second Amendment: The Implications’.

The Society also started a novel initiative in the form of a Student Lecture Series wherein the students of the 4th and 5th year, take special lectures for the junior batches. Under this Series, a lecture on ‘History of Racial Discrimination in Education in the US: The Journey to the Present’ was organized.

In March, the Society hosted its First Panel Discussion, wherein the judgment of the Supreme Court in *S.K. Mahajan v. State of Maharashtra* was debated upon amongst the students. This was concluded with an Expert Talk by our esteemed faculty members Mr. Gowthaman Ranganathan and Ms. Preeti Joseph.

In April-June, the Society organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Intra-University Constitutional Law Judgment Writing Competition, 2018 wherein the students of the University wrote judgments on a factual proposition on the niche area of privacy law. The winners received prizes in the form of leading books on Constitutional Law and Letters of Appreciation, penned by Prof. I.P. Massey, Dean (Faculty of Law).

In August, the Society became the first in the University to draft and adopt its own Constitution, which shall govern and regulate its proceedings and working. The Constitution was signed by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Poonam Saxena, Registrar Shri Sohan Lal Sharma, Dean Prof. I.P. Massey (Faculty of Law), Asst. Dean (Faculty of Law), Faculty Advisor and the Founding Convenor during a ceremony.

The Society has also started a YouTube series titled ‘Intra Vires’ wherein members of the Society shall be discussing key Constitutional Law Decisions rendered by the



Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and explaining it in a manner suited for a common man's understanding.

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE COMPETITION:**

The objective of this Competition is for the students to approach a factual matrix from the point of view of a judge, apply the law and render a judgment. The student shall be expected to think like a judge and reach a well-reasoned conclusion. The detailed rules and Regulations of the Competition are produced below:

#### **Eligibility:**

- ❖ The Competition shall be open for the students currently pursuing their Bachelor's Degree in law i.e. 3-Year LL.B. course or 5-Year LL.B. course from any recognized university/school in India.
- ❖ Individual participation as well as participation in a team of two i.e. co-authorship is allowed.
- ❖ There is no restriction on the number of entries from any college or university.
- ❖ The participants shall be provided with a factual matrix (attached as Annexure A) and would be required to write a judgment based on the same.<sup>±</sup>
- ❖ The participants shall write a single opinion. Multiple opinions/dissenting opinions are not allowed.

#### **Content:**

The Judgment should *inter alia* include: (in no particular order, except the Operative Part which must come last)

- ❖ Jurisdiction
- ❖ Determination of Facts Admissibility/Maintainability Issues for Determination

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<sup>±</sup> The Proposition shall be drafted by Mr. Rishabh Sancheti (Advocate, Supreme Court of India). Any attempt to contact him shall result in immediate disqualification.



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- ❖ Framing Specific Questions for Determination
  - ❖ Relevant Legislations
  - ❖ The Arguments of the Petitioner(s)/ Appellant(s)
  - ❖ The Arguments of the Respondent(s)
  - ❖ Reasoning of the Court
  - ❖ Reference to Authorities & Precedents
  - ❖ Decisions/Outcomes on Issues

The participants may fill in necessary particulars/fillers to the judgment (i.e. name of advocates, judges etc.).

Such fillers should not reveal the identity of the participants. Such a revelation would lead to immediate disqualification.

**Formatting:**

- The language of the Judgment should be in English.
- The word limit is 3500 words (not including foot notes).
- The file must be a Microsoft Word file (97-2003).
- The font used in all parts of the judgments must be Times New Roman, Size 12, with 1.5 line spacing. The judgment must be justified.
- The font used in the footnotes must be Times New Roman, Size 10, with single line spacing. The footnotes must be justified. The citation in the footnotes should be Bluebook 20<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Page numbers must be at the bottom center

**Consent for Participation:**

- ❖ Students interested to participate, shall send an email to [judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com](mailto:judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com) on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. The email should be in the below provided format:



**Subject:** Consent for Participation: (Name of the Candidate)

**Body:**

“Dear Sir/Ma’am,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_ year student at \_\_\_\_\_. I wish to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Inter-University Constitutional Law, Judgment Writing Competition.

I consent to the rules of the Competition and agree to abide by them.

Thanking you,”

- ❖ Please include your contact details in the email.
- ❖ The consent to participate should be submitted latest by **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018** after which no consent shall be considered.

**Clarifications:**

If the participants require clarifications regarding the proposition, they may send an email to [judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com](mailto:judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com) on or before **10<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**.

A list of clarifications shall be issued on **20<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**.

**Submission Guidelines:**

- ❖ The participants have to submit their judgments on or before **15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018** by emailing it to [judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com](mailto:judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com) .
- ❖ The subject should read: “Submission of Entry: Code x (i.e. allotted code)”.
- ❖ The attachment should be titled ‘Submission\_Code x’ (i.e. the allotted code).
- ❖ Nothing in the document or in the submission email should reveal the identity of the participants. Such a revelation would lead to immediate disqualification.



- ❖ The electronic copies must be submitted in Microsoft Word Document format (97-2003). In case two e-mails are sent by the participant, the copy of the draft sent last will be considered, both for the purposes of evaluation and also for awarding the penalty for late submission (if any).

**Assessment:**

The submissions shall be assessed on the following parameters:

Adherence to the Rules	15
Formatting	10
Arrangement of facts and issues addressed	10
Statement of rival contentions and framing of issues	15
Knowledge of legal principles, and citing of relevant case laws, statues, and opinion of jurists.	20
Critical analysis of the problem and analytical reasoning	15
Language, style of writing, presentation, appearance, and overall impression	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The assessment shall be undertaken by the drafter of the problem.

**Prizes:**

The participants securing the first three positions i.e. First, Second and Third shall be felicitated with the following prizes.

❖ ***Late Sri. K.R. Viswanatha Iyer Award:***

Late Sri. K.R. Viswanatha Iyer was a leading trial court lawyer in Nadapuram in the state of Kerala. He was a distinguished jurist and a doyen of the Bar. He worked closely with Late Justice Krishna Iyer on several matters.



The award includes the cash prize of Rs. 15,000/- and shall be awarded to the first position holder. The award has been instituted by Mr. K.V. Viswanathan, who is a reputed Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India.

- ❖ Second Position: Rs. 10,000/- (sponsored by the Eastern Book Company)
- ❖ Third Position: Rs. 5,000/- (sponsored by Advocate P.S. Narasimha, Additional Solicitor General of India)

In addition to the cash prize, all the above prize winners shall also get a copy each of the Constitution of India-Coat Pocket Edition and One year access to the EBC Learning platform worth Rs. 5,000/-.

**Important Dates/ Timeline:**

Release of the Hypothetical	11 <sup>th</sup> September, 2018
Last date for the Consent of Participation	30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2018
Last day for seeking Clarifications	10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018
Release of the Official Clarifications	20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018
Submission of Manuscripts	15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2018
Declaration of results	Last week of January

*Kindly note that the timeline is tentative and subject to change.*

For any further information/clarification, kindly send an email to [judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com](mailto:judgementwriting.conlawsociety@gmail.com) or contact Mr. Swapnil Tripathi (Convenor, Constitutional Law Society) at +91 7568919894.