

REPORT OF THE 3RD INTRA MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2024,
CONDUCTED BY ADRC, SLS- NAGPUR

In pursuit of its commitment to provide Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur students with essential skills and knowledge, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) of SLS, Nagpur successfully organized the *3rd Intra-Mediation Competition on September 28th, 2024*. This event brought together *students from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year batches* with the primary goal of honing their dispute resolution skills. The competition was meticulously designed to reflect the intricacies of mediation as a credible and effective method of dispute resolution. Furthermore, the competition aimed to identify the most proficient participants to represent the institution in national Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)-related competitions held by various law schools throughout the year.

The competition emphasized the vital role that mediation plays in the ever-evolving legal landscape, as it has emerged as a pivotal component of modern dispute resolution mechanisms. **Equipping law students with these skills is essential, and the successful outcome of this competition owes much to the guidance and foresight of *Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari, the Director of SLS, Nagpur*, who has consistently provided students with diverse opportunities to broaden their horizons. He has been a constant source of support, guidance and mentor throughout, since the beginning of this Cell, and our gratitude towards him is indispensable.**

Dr. Shilpa Sharma's dedication and commitment to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) served as a cornerstone for the event's success. The seamless execution of the competition owes much to her leadership, making Dr. Shilpa Sharma an indispensable force in shaping the success of the 3rd Intra-Mediation Competition at SLS, Nagpur.

Preparations for the competition commenced well in advance, fostering a collaborative work environment with the aim of achieving the set objectives. ***The structure of the competition was carefully crafted with the guidance of Dr. Shilpa Sharma, the ADRC***

faculty in-charge. The organization, groundwork, and arrangement of the event were efficiently planned out by student conveners, Ms. Khooshi Singh and Ms. Gauri Malviya, penultimate year law students, who demonstrated precision and diligence. The ADRC members and student conveners formed the organizing committee, effectively implementing the action plan and delegating responsibilities among the members to ensure a systematic process.

The registration for participating in the 3rd Intra-Mediation Competition was opened to students from the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year batches. To ensure that participating students were adequately prepared and familiar with the mediation process, the ADRC conducted a comprehensive training session on "Mediation and Client Counselling-Mock sessions and Nuances" on September 20th & September 21st, 2024. This session, facilitated by *Mr. Vivek Joshi, Senior Associate, PSL Advocates & Solicitors, New Delhi along with Mr. Rohan Gulati, Associate, PSL Advocates & Solicitors, New Delhi and Ms. Vatsala Pandey, MCL Candidate (University of Cambridge), ex- Law Clerk cum Research Associate at the Supreme Court of India*, covered topics ranging from the fundamentals of mediation to the intricacies of the competition. It also included mock demonstrations and group exercises to help students visualize and understand the mediation process more effectively.

Following this, a total of *112 teams* under the composition of Mediating Pair (Client and Counsel) and Mediator, registered for the Competition. To these teams *the General information was shared on 14th September* i.e. 14 days prior to the competition providing them with sufficient time to prepare Strategy Papers. Participating teams developed their strategy papers based on the provided General Information, with submissions from both the sides i.e. requesting and responding party were completed by September 25th, 2024. The Strategy papers are significant as they lay down certain important heads as to the interests of the party, objective their BATNA (Best Alternative Negotiated Agreement) and WATNA (Worst Alternative Negotiated Agreement). Additionally, the format of the competition had a separating marking and result ranking for "Best Strategy Paper".

In addition, *on September 26th, a crucial Draw of Lots was conducted* to determine several important aspects of the competition. This draw allocated each participating team to either the requesting or responding side of the mediation, thus providing clarity on their roles. With a total of 11 conference rooms available for the competition, a systematic order was established through chit-picking to place mediating pairs in their respective rooms. To ensure a fair and competitive environment, mediators were strategically placed in immediate next- door conference rooms. This arrangement ensured that mediators were competing against the same team as their mediating partners but in different conference rooms, thus maintaining the integrity of the competition.

All preparations were finalized a day before the competition, sub-committees recruited volunteers for various roles, facilitating the smooth functioning of the competition. Subsequent volunteers' briefing sessions were conducted to clarify roles and responsibilities, such as timekeeping, supervision, and judges' ushers.

On September 28th, 2024, the competition officially began with the arrival of judges who served as assessors. They were warmly welcomed by the faculty in-charge of ADRC, Mrs. Shilpa Sharma.

The judges were first taken to the Conference Room for breakfast followed by Judges' Briefing, wherein our Student In Charges for the event, *Ms. Gauri Malviya and Ms. Khooshi Singh*, in the presence of Faculty in Charge, briefed the judges w.r.t General Information, Scoring Criteria's, Scoring Scale and Bench Strategy Plan.

Simultaneously, we had the participants in the CI rooms. Emphasizing the utmost confidentiality throughout the event, distinct Confidential Information (CI) was presented for each round. Mediating pairs instructed and escorted to their respective confidential rooms by the conveners. The CI was revealed by the Advisory Board members- *Ms. Sakshi Tolani and Mr. Gautam Seshadari*. Immediately after the CI session, the participating parties were swiftly and discreetly directed to their respective conference rooms to avoid any potential information leaks. To further enhance

confidentiality, participants' phones were collected before entering the CI rooms and returned to them after their session, ensuring the integrity of the competition and maintaining the trust of all participants.

There were 11 Local Advocates from the *High Court of Bombay, Nagpur Bench*, were invited to preside over the competition as Judges, and this was arranged across 11 conference rooms. The judges were:- *Adv. Kanika Acharya, Adv. Parth Malviya, Adv. Prakash Rawlani, Adv. Rahul Kishnani, Adv. Deoul Pathak, Adv. Aditya Bansod, Adv. Saurabh Tapadia, Adv. Dhiraj Ailani, Adv. Sahil Dewani, Adv. Aniket Dhabadgaon* and *Adv. Poonam Pandey*.

There were a total of *11 conference rooms*, conducting mediation sessions simultaneously, organized in five rounds, each lasting *40 minutes including a private caucus of a total of 6 mins* (3mins for each side). Effective cooperation and communication among judges' ushers, supervisors, and OC members ensured the efficient management and supervision of each session. Timely updates were conveyed to the Advisory board members and Dr. Shilpa Sharma Ma'am, who were helping us in each and every aspect of the Competition.

Upon the conclusion of the final round, the judges offered their insights and reflections on the performance of the participating teams and the overall competition. The feedback provided by both the assessors and the teams was highly valuable, significantly enhancing the success of the event and underscoring the growing acceptance of mediation and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The event culminated with expressions of sincere gratitude extended to the judges by the members of the ADRC and the faculty in charge of ADRC at SLS Nagpur, as they bid the judges a formal farewell.

Lastly, the primary objective of the competition was not only to provide participants with knowledge and awareness about mediation but also to establish rankings based on their performance. These rankings would enable them to potentially represent the college in external ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) competitions. Consequently,

the results will be categorized into **three awards: *Best Strategy Paper, Best Mediating Pair, and Best Mediator***. Furthermore, the rankings of the mediating pairs and individual mediators will determine their eligibility to participate in external competitions through a bidding process.

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IMAGES FROM THE EVENT



Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari, the Director of SLS, Nagpur with one of the Judges for the Event.



A Group photograph all the Judges for the Event, with Faculty In Charge of the Cell – Mrs. Shilpa Sharma & Director of SLS, Nagpur- Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Dari



Mrs. Shilpa Sharma, the Faculty In Charge of ADRC, Nagpur, with one of the Judges for the Event.



Student In Charges for the Event- Ms. Gauri Malviya and Ms. Khooshi Singh.



Glimpses from conference rooms.



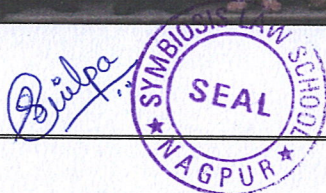


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The Team of ADRC



[Signature]
Director

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Nagpur