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1st VIMAC'24

Virtual Intl. Med-Arb Competition
2024



to be held from

17th Oct 2024
to
20th Oct 2024

Hosted by

International
University of Sarajevo



1 Important Dates

Launching of Med-Arb Proposition - 4th August 2024

Last date to Register - 10th October 2024

Submission of Memorials - 13th October 2024

Preliminary Rounds - 17th to 18th October 2024

Quarter Final and Semi Final Round - 19th October 2024

Final Round - 20th October 2024



Why should you participate in a Med-Arb Competition

Participating in a Med-Arb competition offers a unique blend of practical experience and skill development, encompassing both mediation and arbitration processes. This exposure not only enhances your negotiation and advocacy skills but also provides a comprehensive understanding of hybrid dispute resolution methods



Benefits

Engaging in such competitions allows for significant **networking opportunities** with professionals and peers, fostering valuable connections in the legal field.

Additionally, the experience gained from tackling real-life scenarios and understanding international standards can greatly **bolster your academic and professional credentials**, making you a more versatile and attractive candidate in the legal and ADR sectors.

Eligibility

To be eligible to sign up, students must be registered as full time or part time law students in the academic year of 2023-2024. Students who graduated in 2024, before the competition but no longer than 6 months prior to the commencement of competition are still eligible to participate.

Team Composition

Composition of the Team: Each participating team shall consist of 3 members.

- Each team in the **Mediation Round(s)** shall play the role of a **Client and Advocate** pair and 1 member as a **Mediator**.
- The team in the **Arbitration Round(s)** shall constitute of **2 Counsels** and 1 member as an **Observer/Researcher**.
- Requests for changes in team composition or roles should be communicated to the OC by 13th October 2024.

The roles of the members shall not be changed throughout the competition.

2 Rounds of the Competition

All the teams shall participate in both sessions (a Mediation session followed by an Arbitration Session) in all the rounds.

Structure of Rounds:

- Preliminary Rounds
- Quarter Final Rounds
- Semi-Final Rounds
- Finals

Nature of the Competition

- All Competing Teams shall participate in the Preliminary Round. The Client Advocate/Counsel-Counsel pairs shall advance separately, and the Mediators shall advance separately.
- The Top 8 Client-Advocate/Counsel-Counsel pairs and Top 8 Mediators from the Preliminary Rounds shall participate in the Quarter Final Rounds.
- All the Rounds from the Quarter Final Rounds shall be knockout rounds. The Quarter Final Round shall have a total of 4 rounds.

- **Example: Aditya and Bobby are the Client- Advocate/Counsel- Counsel Pair of Team A and shall be competing against Team B, composed of Leslie and Chen. The Mediators are Cyril and Nissan, belonging to Team C and D, respectively.**
- The qualifying client-advocate/counsel-counsel pair shall be determined based on which team obtains the highest cumulative score in that round alone.
- The cumulative score is a total of the scores obtained by the Client Advocate/Counsel- Counsel pairs in the Mediation and Arbitration Session.
- The Mediator shall qualify based on who scores the highest individual in the Mediation Session. The Higher scoring mediator shall qualify to the Semi Final round.
- The Highest Scoring Client-Advocate/Counsel-Counsel pairs and The Highest Scoring Mediator in their respective Quarter Final round shall participate in the Semi-Final Round.
- The Highest Scoring Client-Advocate/Counsel-Counsel pairs and The Highest Scoring Mediator in their respective Semi-Final round shall participate in the Final Round.
- The Round Structure may be changed at any point before the start of the competition at the discretion of the organisers. The changes, if any, shall be communicated to the participants as required.
- This knockout system shall apply to all sessions in each round of the Competition excluding the Preliminary Rounds.

Registration Process

- Each team shall register to the competition by filling in their details in the following link. Please note this will be the link for Preliminary Registration - <https://forms.gle/jEFWwYU8jnfWCBE67>
- On receipt of the duly filled Preliminary registration form the organization shall respond to the participating team, acknowledging the receipt and mentioning the step to conclude Final Registration. Each team will have 3 days to conclude their Final Registration, after communication of Successful Preliminary Registration.
- After successful Final registration, the Governing Council shall respond to each registered team before 1 month of the commencement of the competition, with a unique team code, which shall be used to identify the teams during the competition.

3 Registration Fees

The registration fee for the competition is

Rs. 4000/- per team (For Indian Participants)

£ 70/- per team (For United Kingdom Participants)

€ 70/- per team (For European Union Participants)

\$ 70/- per team (for any other foreign team not mentioned above)

Code of Conduct

for 1st VMAC'24

The official language of the Competition shall be English. The Participating Teams should mention only their allotted Team Codes for the purpose of communication with Judges/Organizers. The identity of the Participating Team or the name of their University shall not be disclosed to any other person during the course of the competition in any form other than to the OC, whether directly or indirectly. In addition, sporting any visible or distinguishable badges/ card/ uniform by any participant which provides an opportunity of inferring/ disclosing their identity or the identity of the Law College/ University being represented, is strictly forbidden.

Anti-Scouting: The teams shall uphold the integrity of the Competition at all times and any form of scouting, disclosure of confidential information or any other unethical/unprofessional conduct is strictly barred; the practice of the same shall result in immediate disqualification of the team. Any attempt to obtain confidential information or any other information from the other parties or participants, which may give the team an unfair advantage in the competition, will result in immediate expulsion of the team. Participating Teams will not be allowed to observe the Sessions of any other team(s) taking part in any event excluding the Final Rounds of the Event. Scouting shall result in immediate disqualification and any decision taken by the Governing Council in consonance with OC Committee in this regard shall be final and binding upon the Participating Team(s).

4 Dress Code



All the participants are to adhere to Western Formals/Business Formals style of dressing. The OC reserves the right to disqualify any team for misconduct during the competition. In case of doubts, the decision of Governing Council shall be final.

Release of Confidential Information

Confidential information for each Mediation round shall be released

- 30 minutes before the Mediation session for the Preliminary and Quarter Final Rounds.
- 40 minutes before the Mediation Session for the Semi-Final Round.
- 50 minutes before the Mediation Session for the Final Round.

Participants are strictly instructed to keep the contents of the Confidential Information exclusively to themselves. Any violation of this rule shall result in immediate disqualification. In this regard, the discretion of the Governing Council shall be final.

5 Time Allotments

- For Mediation Session - 45 minutes in total
- For Arbitration Session - 45 minutes in total

Note: There will be a 5 minute break in between the Mediation Session and the Arbitration Session during which teams are required to prepare for the forthcoming Round of Arbitration.

Mediation Session

Structure of the Mediation Session

A Mediation Session will consist of 2 Co-Mediators and 2 Client-Advocate teams from different teams. One team will represent the Requesting Party, while the other team will represent the Responding Party. In a team, the Client-Advocates of the Mediation Round(s) shall become Counsels for the Arbitration Round(s). The Mediator becomes the researcher/observer subsequent to the Mediation Round, for the Arbitration Round. The Client-Advocate Team will represent the side allocated to them by the Organising Committee. The sides and the co-mediator shall be intimated to the Participants prior to the rounds.

Illustration - In a particular court hall, Team 'A' Client-Advocate act as Requesting Party in Mediation and Team 'B' Client Advocate acts as the Responding Party in Mediation, competing against each other. Co-Mediators/Researchers from Team 'C' and Team 'D', respectively, will act as Co-Mediators for Team 'A' and Team 'B' in the court hall.

6 Caucus

Mediators will have the opportunity to call for one or multiple Caucuses during each Mediation Session. A Caucus, throughout the round, may last a maximum of 10 minutes. It is the discretion of the Mediators to call for a Caucus. While one team is participating in the Caucus, the other team will be asked to leave the Virtual Breakout room by a member of the Organising Committee (OC) of the Governing Council for a specific period of time after which they will be requested to enter the Room again. The Team that is not a part of the caucus must not disturb the other team during their caucus and this shall be strictly monitored by the Organising Committee Member.

Brief Time Allotments

for Mediation Session

Mediation Session: 45 minutes + 2 Minutes for post discussion and evaluation

- Opening Statement of Mediators (5 Minutes)
- Opening Statement of Client-Advocate Team (3 Minutes each)
- Caucuses and Conference (25 minutes)
- Closing Statement of Client-Advocate Teams (3 Minutes each) · Closing Statement of Co-Mediators (3 Minutes)
- Post- Mediation Session (2 Minutes)

for Arbitration Session

Arbitration Session: 40 Minutes + 6 minutes for Rebuttals and Sur- Rebuttals in total

- Each Party will not be permitted to speak for more than 23 minutes including rebuttals and Rebuttals.
- The time split among the speakers for each team (not exceeding 23 minutes per team) may be decided amongst themselves and intimated to the Organising Committee member at the beginning of the Round.

The time splits shall apply to all the competition rounds.

7 Time Keeping

The Organising Committee Member supervising the session shall be the official timekeeper. Teams have the responsibility to adhere to the time limit. Participants must note that they can only speak for the allotted time limit, as mentioned above. The Organising Committee member shall notify teams about the remaining time during the round.

Arbitration Session

Structure of the Arbitration Session

An Arbitration Session shall include 2 or 3 Arbitrators depending on the rounds of the competition, 4 Counsels (2 from each participating side). The Team representing the Requesting Party in the Mediation Session of that round shall be the Claimant in the Arbitration Session. The team representing the Responding party in the Mediation Session of that round shall be the Respondent in the Arbitration Session. The Judges will play the role of Arbitrators. Participants may be required to deal with certain designated issues during the rounds. The participants must nevertheless be prepared with the entire case. The mediators in the Mediation Session of that round shall act as observers in the same court hall for the arbitration session.

Written Submissions

for the Arbitration Session

Teams are required to draft written submissions for the Requesting Party (claimant in the arbitration session) as well as the Responding Party (respondent in the arbitration session). The last date to submit the written submissions is 13th October 2024. All the participants are requested to submit a soft copy of both the written submissions in PDF and Word format to admin@mediateguru.com.

Guidelines

for Written Submissions

Each Participating Team shall prepare Memorials on behalf of the Claimants (Statement of Claims) and Respondents (Statement of Defence) between 10-20 pages. Each Memorial should be maximum of 20 pages.

Any changes made to the soft copies after submission and subsequently produced during the rounds will be disqualified. The decision of the Governing Council would be final in this regard.

Format of Submission

Each of the memorials should contain all of, and only, the following components in the following order:

1. Cover page
2. Table of Contents
3. Index of Authorities
4. Statement of Jurisdiction
5. Statement of Facts
6. Issues Raised
7. Summary of Arguments
8. Arguments Advanced/ Pleadings
9. Prayer

Formatting Guidelines

The page must have 1-inch margins from all sides.

The text font and size for the written submissions must be Times New Roman, size 12 with 1.5 line spacing with justified alignment for the text.

The footnote style to be followed is the 20th Edition Bluebook Citation and the text font of the footnotes must be Times New Roman, size 10 with 1.0 line spacing, margin of 1-inch to be used and the text must be justified.

There must be no other additional space between two footnotes. Character spacing should not be condensed in any manner.

Scorecard for Mediation Session for Mediator

Criteria of Evaluation	Maximum Marks	Marks Alloted
Opening Statement	10	
Establishing professional relationship with the parties	10	
Identifying key issues of the dispute	10	
Propose creative settlement properties	10	
Ability to contribute to an effective process and outcome	10	
Effective use of conference and caucus	10	
Closing Statement	10	
Post session, Self-evaluation of the dialogue	10	
Code of conduct and control of the session	10	
Understanding the needs and interests of the parties	10	
Total	100	

Scorecard for Mediation Session for Client

Criteria of Evaluation	Maximum Marks	Marks Alloted
Client opening statement	10	
Teamwork between advocate and client	10	
Caucus	10	
Conference	10	
Willingness to reach an amicable solution	10	
Strategic use of facts and confidential information	10	
Generating and selecting creative solutions	10	
Relationship building and problem solving	10	
Closing statement	10	
Post session self-evaluation of dispute	10	
Total	100	

Scorecard for Mediation Session for Counsel

Criteria of Evaluation	Maximum Marks	Marks Alloted
Advocate opening statement	10	
Teamwork between advocate and client	10	
Caucus	10	
Conference	10	
Willingness to reach an amicable solution	10	
Strategic use of facts and confidential information	10	
Advocating client's interest	10	
Relationship building and problem solving	10	
Closing statement	10	
Post session self-evaluation of dispute	10	
Total	100	

Scorecard for Arbitration Session for Counsel

Criteria of Evaluation	Maximum Marks	Marks Alloted
Knowledge of facts and evidence on record	10	
Proper articulation of issues	10	
Knowledge of law	10	
Interpretation and application	10	
Skill of advocacy	10	
Persuasiveness and response to question	10	
Use of authorities in persuading arbitrators	10	
General impression and mannerism	10	
Identification of issues	10	
Nature of relief sort	10	
Total	100	

Scoring Criteria

For Mediators

The mediator scores obtained in the Mediation session in the Preliminary Round shall be ranked and the top 8 Mediators shall qualify for the Quarter Final Round, and the highest scoring mediator from each session shall qualify for the subsequent round. In case of a tie, whoever has scored higher under criteria 3 of the Mediator Scoresheet shall be considered to break the tie, in case of a further tie, criteria 4 shall be considered, if such a tie persists, criteria 10 shall be considered to break the tie.

The decision of the Judges shall be final and binding on the participants, no disputes with regard to the scores shall be entertained by the Governing Council and any such practice shall lead to immediate disqualification of the team.

For Client-Advocate (also acting as Counsel-Counsel for Arbitration)

The cumulative score obtained in the Mediation and Arbitration Session in the Preliminary round shall be ranked and the top 8 pairs shall qualify to the Quarter Round.

From the Quarter Final round, the highest scoring team from each session shall qualify for the subsequent round. In case of a tie, whoever has scored higher under criteria 2 of the Client Advocate Scoresheet shall be awarded the round, in case of a further tie, criteria 7 of the Marking criteria shall be used, in case the tie further persists, criteria 6 of the Marking Criteria for the client and advocate shall be used to break the tie.

8 Best Preliminary Team

The highest scoring team from the Preliminary Rounds of both, Mediation and Arbitration, shall be adjudged as the Best Preliminary Team. The total of all the scores obtained, by the three members of a team, shall be calculated for this purpose.

9 Clarifications for competition

For any clarifications, regarding the problem or the conduct of the competition, teams are requested to mail their queries and concerns to the GC at: admin@mediateguru.com by 12th October 2024.

Awards for 1st VMAC'24

Participation Certificate will be given to all the participants. In the advanced rounds, starting from Quarter Finals till the Finals, Certificate of Merit would be provided.

Following awards will be distributed during the Valedictory ceremony:

- Best preliminary med-arb team
- Best Mediator/Arbitrator
- Second best mediator
- Best Med-arb Client advocate team
- Second best Med-Arb Client Advocate team
- Best memorial

Note:

- a. E-Certificates for participation will be sent through email within 1 month of the declaration of result
- b. Separate E- Certificates will be provided to the Semi-Finalists, Runners-up and Winners.

Grievance Redressal/Dispute Resolution

All grievances are to be addressed to the Governing Council by sending an email to admin@mediateguru.com, within one hour of the occurrence of the dispute/grievance. Non compliance with this requirement will amount to a waiver of the dispute and subsequent filing of such grievance, post the time allotted, will not be entertained. Decisions on all grievances shall be taken by the OC members and such decisions shall be final and binding on all participants.

Amendments made to the Policy

All participants must take note of the fact that the OC members holds the power to make amendments to this Policy, from time to time. It is the duty of the participants to remain informed of the updated Policy of the GC. The decision of the OC members, along with the advice of the Governing Council, shall be final and binding for matters not mentioned in the Policy

Objective behind 1st VIMAC'24

The primary objectives behind organizing the Med-Arb competition are to provide participants with practical exposure to hybrid dispute resolution mechanisms, enhance their skills in both mediation and arbitration, and foster a deeper understanding of the integration of these processes. By simulating real-life scenarios, the competition aims to develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and effective negotiation and advocacy skills among participants. Additionally, it seeks to create a platform for networking and knowledge exchange among students, professionals, and academics, thereby contributing to the growth and development of future ADR practitioners. The competition also aspires to promote awareness and understanding of international standards and practices in Med-Arb, preparing participants for the global landscape of dispute resolution.

10 What you'll gain

- Skill Enhancement
- Supporting Academic Growth
- Fostering Professional Networks
- Practical Learning Experience Encouraging Innovation in Dispute Resolution
- Enhancing Career Prospects
- Cultivating Ethical Practices

About MediateGuru

Our story

In the era of increasing legal disputes driven by diverse and growing populations, the high costs and prolonged timelines associated with traditional court proceedings are often prohibitive for many individuals seeking justice. Recognizing these challenges, our mission is to provide accessible and efficient alternatives to litigation through mediation and arbitration.

Our objectives include bridging the gap between different community classes and professional mediators, thereby enhancing access to dispute resolution services and promoting social awareness. To achieve this, we organize various conferences, webinars, and landmark competitions in mediation, negotiation, and arbitration, fostering knowledge exchange and skill development among participants.

11 Contact Us

In case of any query please contact:
Kindly refer to below mentioned (in this order):

- Ms. Garima Rana (Event Coordinator)
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adimathur07@gmail.com



Register by Scanning QR Code