

3rd Virtual International Mediation Competition

17th March to 19th March 2023

being organised in Collaboration with



Title Sponsor

Hosting University



(a still from Finals of 2nd VIMC'22)

ABOUT COMPETITION

MediateGuru is proud to announce its landmark, 3rd Virtual International Mediation Competition to be held on **17th, 18th, 19th of March 2023**. This competition drives the spirit of MediateGuru in spreading awareness among the public on the peaceful resolutions of Mediation as through this competition and it also captures the essence of the time constraint's in Court, MediateGuru envisions that law students will get a practical exposure of the Mediation world along with the opportunity to connect with ADR professionals around the globe.

3RD VIMC

TIMELINE

Preliminary Round 1
17th March 2023

Preliminary Round 2
18th March 2023

Semi Finals
19th March 2023

Finals
19th March 2023

OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this competition is:

- 1) Help you develop a stake in the Mediation industry.
- 2) Provide you a networking opportunity to connect with likeminded people from different countries.
- 3) Opportunity to evolve your communication skills.
- 4) Help you establish key factors that must be considered when communicating with multiple parties, online.
- 5) Help you overcome potential communication barriers during an online mediation.
- 6) Assist you in understanding the cross-cultural barriers that can arise in a mediation.
- 7) Enable you to become more familiar with the use of online video conferencing tools in this rapidly digitalizing world.



ABOUT MEDIATEGURU

In the era of emerging legal disputes due to high population which within its purview has different demographics, not all people can afford the high cost of going to court to seek justice or wait for years to get justice at the constant burden to monetary terms and time. Here we come to assist you.

We intent to bridge the gap between the classes in a community and the mediators, provide a linkage between the same with an aim to provide social awareness.

Apart from this, we all organize various conferences, webinars, competitions.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN A MEDIATION COMPETITION?

*Words of Wisdom from our Advisors, Mediation Experts and Alumni's
of 1st VIMC'21 & 2nd VIMC'22*



Dr. Ashu Dhiman
(Academician, Chief
Advisor)

“

"Participating in a mediation competition makes you develop the skills like effective listening, communication, finding commercially viable solutions, teamwork, understanding human psychology etc"



**Ms. Kathleen
Leedy**
(Mediator, Advisor)

“

"I encourage all law students to participate in mediation competitions to hone their ADR skills, network with others students across the globe, and meet judges who are already in the field. Mediation tournaments also captures the pressure of the mediation table and pressure begets diamonds!"



**Ms. Reshma
Oogorah**
(Arbitrator Advisor)

“

"Mediation can be a powerful vehicle to reinstate a declining business relationship while avoiding the usually higher costs, time and stress of adversarial methods of conflict resolution."



**Ms. Maureen
Robershaw**
(Mediator, Advisor)

“

"This is a golden opportunity for students to sharpen and hone their mediation skills as well as make connections with established mediators and fellow students of mediation. Students will also receive personal feedback on their performances. This tournament is perfect for first time participants as well as seasoned competitors."



Dr. Astha Mehta
(Asst. Prof. at Sushant
University)

“

Mediation Competitions are a potential opportunity to gain practical insight into how mediation works. There are certain skills required when you have to facilitate the parties to arrive at a settlement beneficial to both. These competitions will surely enhance your skills.



**Mr. Pascal
Comvalius**
(Criminal Mediator, 1st
VIMC'21 Judge)

“

Participating is essential to develop yourself. Not only by observing other participants, digesting feedback from expert assessors or following workshops but from being aware how you behave yourself and want to be treated and work together to find a solution to the problem presented. A global event which will blow your mind, satisfy your soul, puts a smile on your face and will be rewarded with getting to know people from around the globe.



**Ms. Diana
Lokajíčková**
(Mediator, Advisor)

“

"If you head to the competition, follow the rule of "three C" - compete, connect, cut to the chase" :)



**Ms. Federica
Simonelli,**
*(Italian Civil and
Commercial mediator)*

“

"Preparing for a precious international mediation competition has taught me invaluable interpersonal and negotiation skills, along with team building opportunities. When you negotiate you learn how to manage language, body posture and emotions well before the legal content of your message. There is no impasse that cannot be overcome and you'll learn soft skills essential to any profession. ADR play an essential role in today's world and an experience like this will turn your academic and professional world upside down, for the better."



**Mr. Pallav
Bhargava**
*(Mediator, Alumni of
1st VIMC'21)*

“

"Mediation competitions are the best way to experience ADR. Students should participate in them to gain valuable skills of the field, the way it's practised in practicality."



Mr. Tanmay Malik

*(Student, B.A. LL.B.
(Hons.) at NALSAR
University of Law,
Hyderabad. Best Mediator
at 1st VIMC.)*

“

"Mediation is not just a competition, but a life skill that aids us to pacify our and our fellows' mutual interest. My mantra has always been - Do compete but definitely engage in mediation competition to expand my horizons."

*Scan the QR Code to get the glimpse of 1st Edition of
VIMC'21*



***“A horse never runs so fast as when he
has other horses to catch up and
outpace.”***

- Ovid

PLATFORM

The training session will be held on WebinarJam and the rest of the competition will take place on either Google Meet or Zoom. The online platform will help you to participate in the competition from anywhere in the world.

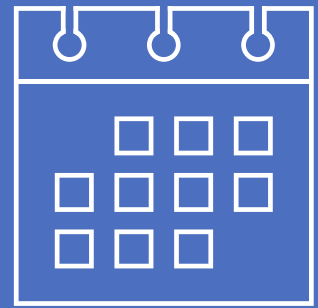


IMPORTANT DATES

- Opening of Provisional Registration: October 1st, 2022
- Exclusive Launch: October 10th, 2022
- General Worldwide Launch: October 15th, 2022
- Last Date of Registration: March 9th, 2023
- Launching of General Information: March 14th, 2022

Date of Mediation Competition:

- a) Training Session: 16th March 2023
- b) Preliminary Round 1: 17th March 2023
- c) Preliminary Round 2: 18th March 2023
- c) Semi Finals: 19th March 2023
- d) Finals: 19th March 2023



PHILANTHROPISTS

DR. ASHU DHIMAN
(Chief Advisor, MediateGuru)

MS. MAUREEN ERICKSON ROBERTSHAW
(Advisor, MediateGuru)

MS. KATHLEEN RUANE LEEDY
(Advisor, MediateGuru)

MR. PARAM BHAMRA
(Founding Partner, MediateGuru)

MR. ADITYA MATHUR
(Founding Partner, MediateGuru)

EVENT COORDINATOR

MS. GARIMA RANA
(Senior Partner, MediateGuru)

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CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION



MediateGuru (hereinafter referred to as "MG"), hereby launches the 3rd Virtual International Mediation Competition 2023 (hereinafter referred to as "VIMC") which is scheduled to be conducted from 24 to 26 March 2023, to enable law students from all across world to participate and showcase their skills in resolving disputes through Mediation.

"MG" hereby makes the following rules for the VIMC.

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

- (1) These rules may be called 'VIMC Rules & Procedure, 2023'.
- (2) They shall come into force from the date of publication, on the official website of MG

2) DEFINITIONS

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) "MG" refers to MediateGuru.
 - (b) "Advanced Rounds" refers to Semi-Finals and Final rounds of the Competition.
 - (c) "Clarifications" refers to the queries arising out of the mediation problem that would only be accepted and reverted in the timeline prescribed.
 - (d) "Competition" refers to the 3rd Virtual International Mediation Competition 2022.
 - (e) "Conference Room" refers to the virtual venue of the mediation session.
 - (f) "Institute" refers to MediateGuru
 - (g) "Judge" refers to a professional selected by the Organizing Committee to evaluate and score the Teams' performance during a mediation session in accordance with the judging criteria.
 - (h) "Mediating Pair" refers to the client and counsel pair of the participating Team.
 - (i) "Mediation Session" refers to the timeframe for each round as specified in the rules below
 - (j) "Mediator" refers to the third member of the mediating Team who has applied and registered for the Competition as Participants.
 - (k) "Organizing Committee" refers to the body of members of Event Coordinators and includes any other person, appointed by the MG for the administration and functioning of the Competition.
 - (l) "Participants" refers to and includes only the bona-fide representatives of the University/College/Institute who have applied and registered for the Competition by complying with the procedure prescribed hereinafter.
 - (m) "Qualifying Rounds" refers to Preliminary Round I and Preliminary Round II of the Competition.

CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION



(n) "Requesting Party" and "Responding Party" refer to the competing Team which argues on behalf of the party requesting the Mediation and the party responding to the request for Mediation at any given point in the Competition.

(o) "Team" refers to the Mediating Pair and Mediator representing their Institute.

(p) "Team Code" refers to the unique number allotted to the Team which would be used to identify them throughout the Competition.

3. INTERPRETATION

The Organizing Committee shall reserve the right to interpret the rules as it may deem fit in the interests of the participants and the organizers to maintain fairness and equality in the Competition. The interpretation placed upon these Rules & Procedure shall be conclusive and the decision of the Organizing Committee regarding the application of these Rules & Procedure shall be final. Any such decision shall be binding on all the stakeholders and Participants.

CHAPTER II - REGISTRATION



4. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to sign up, students must be registered as full time or part time law students in the academic year of 2022-2023. Students who graduated in 2022, before the competition but no longer than 6 months prior to the commencement of competition are still eligible to participate.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

- (1) The Organizing Committee will communicate the acceptance of the registration and e-mail the participants.
- (2) The Participating Team shall mandatorily fill their necessary details as contained below.
- (3) The payment of registration fees will be made available below in Registration fees section.
- (4) The Participating Team shall mandatorily email a scanned copy of the duly completed Registration and Payment Form along with the receipt of payment.
- (5) The Organizing Committee shall send a confirmation of participation email after verifying the entire process as enlisted under the aforementioned clauses.
- (6) In case of any withdrawal after making the payment of the registration fee, the same shall not be refunded.
- (7) Any failure or non-adherence with the aforementioned procedure may be treated as withdrawal from the competition and no claim of whatsoever nature shall be entertained thereafter.
- (8) Any additional charges incurred by the Team while making the payment are to be borne by the Team.

6. WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

- (1) Any Team may withdraw from the competition by sending a detailed email to the Organising Committee.
- (2) In case of a withdrawal after making the payment of the registration fee as prescribed in the rules, the same shall not be refunded to the Team.

CHAPTER III - THE COMPETITION



7. FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

- (1) The Competition shall comprise of Qualifying Rounds and Advanced Rounds.
- (2) The Qualifying Rounds shall consist of two Preliminary Rounds and the Advanced Rounds shall consist of two knock-out rounds viz, Semi-Final Round and the Final Round.

8. COMPOSITION OF TEAM

- (1) A Team shall comprise of 3 participants viz, Client, Counsel and Mediator (in case of 2 participant in a team - one participant will be Mediator and one will assume the role of Advocate - as representing the interest of his/her client)
- (2) The Participants may change their roles within their Team only after the prior intimation and approval of the Organizing Committee.

9. LANGUAGE

- (1) The official and only language of the Competition shall be English.

10. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- (1) The competition will be held across a span of 3 days, commencing from 17th to 19th March, 2022.
- (2) *Preliminary Round(s)*-
 - a. Each Team shall be once the Responding Party and once the Requesting Party in each session.
- (3) *Semi-Final Round*-
 - a. Top 4 teams from the Preliminary rounds shall qualify for the Semi-Final Round.
- (4) *Final Round*-
 - a. The top 2 Teams from Semi-Final Round shall qualify for the Final Round.
- (5) In case of a tie between the scores of two Teams in any round, the following component from the scoresheet shall be considered as the tie-breaker-
 - a. For the Mediating Pair – Mediation Advocacy.
 - b. For the Mediator – Qualities of a Good Mediator.

CHAPTER III - THE COMPETITION



11. TIME PERIOD

(1) The following shall be the time period for each round-

- a. Preliminary Round 1 and 2 : **45 minutes.**
- b. Semi-Final Round : **60 minutes**
- c. Final Round : **90 minutes.**

12. MEDIATION PROBLEM

(1) The Mediation Problem(s) for any/all will be provided through mail 3 days prior to the mail.

13. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

(1) Participants shall receive the confidential information 40 minutes prior to the allotted time slot.

(2) Participants shall not disclose the confidential information to any other Participant throughout the Competition. Any such disclosure made to other Participants before or after their round shall lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without scope of appeal.

14. SCOPE OF INTERPRETATION

(1) Participants shall restrict the interpretation of the problem to reasonable conclusions and are not allowed to create additional facts.

15. GENERAL RULES OF THE COMPETITION

(1) There shall be two Teams competing against each other in a Conference Room before the Judges.

(2) A Mediation Session shall comprise of six people wherein there shall be two Mediators and two Mediating Pairs (each Mediating Pair shall comprise of a client and a counsel).

(3) The Mediator(s) shall lead towards a settlement between the two disputing parties.

(4) Breakup of time:

a. Each session shall go on for a time period as prescribed above in the Rules & Procedure.

b. In the aforementioned time frame, it is the discretion of the Mediator(s) to adopt the common code of procedure of the mediation session, provided that no such procedure shall contravene the general rules of the Competition at any cost.

CHAPTER III - THE COMPETITION



c. No extra time shall be granted in any case whatsoever.

(5) Private Caucuses & Conferences-

a. During the session, it is solely the discretion of the Mediator(s) to call for caucuses or conferences, whichever he/she may want.

b. A caucus is private meeting between one party and the Mediators while a conference is a joint session between both the parties and a Mediator.

c. However, the Mediator(s) shall call for at least one caucus or conference in order to facilitate the mediation process.

d. Whenever the Mediator(s) calls for a caucus, the other party shall leave the room. The caucus shall take place between the Mediator and one party at once.

e. During the call for a conference by the Mediator(s), both parties shall be present in the room.

f. The Mediator(s) are permitted to call for both, caucuses and conferences, whichever he/she may deem fit in the interest of the parties. Provided that the disputing parties may request the Mediator(s) to conduct a caucus.

(6) The Team(s) may carry and use its own prepared notes for its own use and may, if need be, make its own notes during the Mediation Session. Carrying of electronic devices to the Conference Room during the session is strictly prohibited. No audio or videotaping of Mediation Sessions is permitted.

16. CLARIFICATIONS

(1) The Team(s) may submit queries regarding the mediation problem during the prescribed time frame. The response to the Clarifications is subject to the drafter's discretion. The Clarifications will not be accepted after the given time.

17. DRESS CODE

(1) The dress code for the Competition shall be business formals.

18. AWARDS AND PRIZES

(1) The Team that scores the highest in the Final Round shall be declared as the "Winners" and shall be awarded with a certificate of merit.

(2) The other Team that qualifies to the Final Round shall be declared as the "Runners-Up" and shall be awarded with a certificate of merit.

(3) The Team that scores the 3rd highest marks in the Semi-Final Rounds shall be declared as the "2nd Runners-Up" and shall be awarded with a certificate of merit.

CHAPTER III - THE COMPETITION



- (4) “Best Team” shall be determined on the basis of the highest average marks obtained in the Preliminary Round, and shall be awarded with a certificate of merit.
- (5) Every Participating Team shall be awarded a “Certificate of Participation”.

19. JUDGING CRITERIA FOR MEDIATORS

- Opening Statement of the Mediator (1-10 points)
- First Caucus (1-10 points)
- Conference (1-10 points)
- Qualities Of A Good Mediator (1-10 points)
- Cooperation Between Mediators (1-10 points)

20. JUDGING CRITERIA FOR CLIENT/COUNSEL EVALUATION

- Advocate’s Opening Statement. (1-10 points)
- First Caucus (1-10 points)
- Conference (1 – 10 points)
- Teamwork Between Advocate and Client (1-10 points)
- Overall Evaluation

21. REGISTRATION FEES

(1) The registration fees per team shall be:

- For Indian Students: Rs. 3000/-
- For European Students: £50/-
- For other International Students: \$50/-

The same shall be inclusive of an exhaustive training session exclusively for the participants.

Please register by filling the google form at <https://forms.gle/tw2ooXHFsbp1wRM9> or scan the QR Code provided.



Note:

- 1) Account Details and Mediation Competition Composition will be released to participants individually via e-mail, only after the provisional registration process is completed.
- 2) The fee is non-refundable.
- 3) Any other overhead charges (if applicable) are to be bear by the team or participating university.

CHAPTER IV - CODE OF CONDUCT



22. CODE OF CONDUCT APPLICABLE TO THE PARTICIPANTS

- (1) All the Teams are bound to follow the code of conduct and the rules laid down by the organizing committee.
- (2) Any behavior of indiscipline with the Judges, Organizing Committee, any other staff member or student volunteer shall be dealt with strictly and may lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without scope of appeal.
- (3) Any attempt to approach the framer(s) of the problem(s) or the panel of Judges of the Competition, prior to the Competition shall lead to immediate disqualification from the Competition without scope of appeal.

23. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

- (1) After the registration of the teams, succeeding the receipt of acknowledgement, teams shall receive a unique Team Code, which shall be used to identify the teams during the course of the Competition.
- (2) No participating Team shall reveal their identity in any form during the Competition, except by the means of the Team Code allotted to them.
- (3) Any violation of the provisions of this rule shall attract severe penalty or disqualification as determined by the Organizing Committee. The decision of the Organizing Committee in this regard shall be final and binding without scope of appeal.

24. SCOUTING

- (1) No member of any Team will be permitted to witness the proceedings in any Conference Room in which that Team is not one of the participating Teams whilst that Team is a part of the Competition. In case of any violation of the aforementioned rule, the Organizing Committee shall take strict actions, which may include but not limited to, the expulsion of the said Team from the Competition.

25. Walkover

If any team, on their allotted time, doesn't appear. The opposing team would get there scores doubled in their previous or upcoming round.

For ex. If in Prelim 1 - Team 01 doesn't appear in front of Team 02, Team 02 would get a walkover and there scores of Prelim 2 would be doubled to compensate for Prelim 1.

CHAPTER V - MISCELLANEOUS

25. POWER TO MAKE AMENDMENTS, MODIFICATIONS OR REVOCATIONS

- (1) The Organizing Committee shall have power to amend, modify or revoke the provisions of these rules, either in part or in whole, subject to the feasibility, transparency and smooth functioning of the Competition.
- (2) Any such amendment or modification shall come into force upon the notification of such amendment or modification as the case may be.
- (3) Any such amendment or modification shall be deemed to be part of these rules.

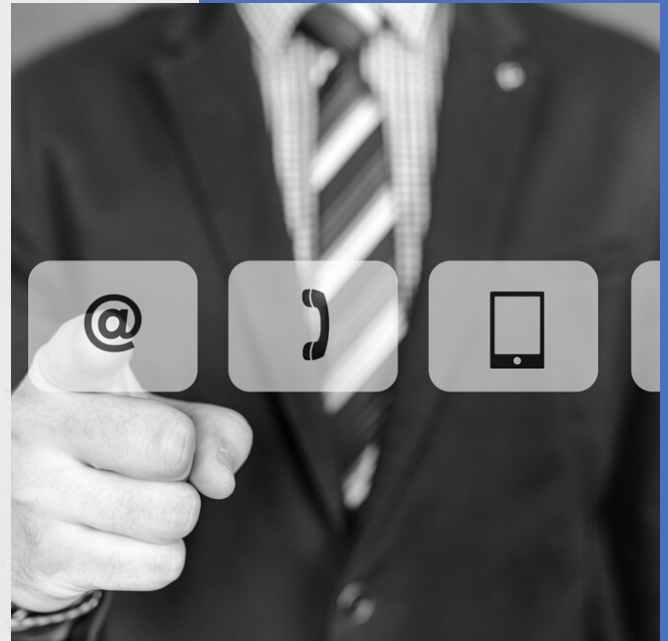
26. SAVINGS

- (1) Nothing in these Rules & procedure shall prejudice any right which any Participant would have had before the enactment of this Rules & Procedure.
- (2) The Organizing Committee or the Institute shall not be held responsible for any actions of the Participants before or during the course of the Competition, which are violative under the present Rules & Procedure.

CONTACT US:

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

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OUR MESSAGE

BY MEDIATEGURU

WE BELIEVE THAT STRONG NEGOTIATION AND MEDIATION SKILLS CAN HELP PEOPLE IN ALL INDUSTRIES RESOLVE CONFLICTS IN THEIR WORKPLACE, IN THEIR HOME AND IN THEIR PERSONAL LIFE. THE ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE CAN CHANGE HOW YOU PERCEIVE CONFLICT AND HOW YOU DEAL WITH IT. ADDITIONALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT TAKING THINGS ONLINE IS THE NEW MUST. THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT STUDENTS IN TAKING THIS STEP.

