

4th VIMC

MediateGuru's 4th Virtual International Mediation Competition 2024

When?

MediateGuru is proud to announce its landmark, 4th Virtual International Mediation Competition to be held on the following dates;

14th, 15th, 16th and 17th of March 2024.

About Competition

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.

Objectives of VIMC

The primary objectives of this competition are as follows:

1. Facilitate the cultivation of your involvement in the Mediation industry.
2. Provide a platform for networking, allowing you to connect with individuals who share similar professional interests across diverse international backgrounds.
3. Offer an opportunity for the enhancement of your communication skills.
4. Assist in the identification and establishment of key considerations essential for effective communication in online settings involving multiple parties.
5. Equip you with strategies to overcome potential communication barriers inherent in the context of online mediation.
6. Foster an understanding of cross-cultural barriers that may manifest in mediation processes.
7. Familiarize participants with the utilization of online video conferencing tools, aligning with the demands of an increasingly digitalized world.

Platform

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

Important Dates (Registration)

- Exclusive Launch: Dec 1st, 2023
- Opening of Provisional Registration: Dec 5th, 2023
- General Worldwide Launch: Dec 7th, 2023
- Last Date of Registration: March 8th, 2024
- Launching of General Information: March 12th, 2024

Important Dates (Competition)

- Training Session: 14th March 2024
- Preliminary Round 1: 15th March 2024
- Preliminary Round 2: 16th March 2024
- Semi Finals: 17th March 2024
- Finals: 17th March 2024

What Experts say about VIMC



**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. 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."



**Ms. Federica Simonelli,
(Italian Civil, 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."

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Chapter I - Introduction

MediateGuru (hereinafter referred to as "MG"), hereby launches the 4th Virtual International Mediation Competition 2024 (hereinafter referred to as "VIMC") which is scheduled to be conducted from 14th to 17th March 2024, 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, 2024'.
- (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 4th 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 2023-2024. Students who graduated in 2023, 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 - 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)

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 4 days, commencing from 14th to 17th March, 2024.

(2) Preliminary Round(s)-

- a. Each Mediating Pair shall be once the Responding Party and once the Requesting Party in each session.

(3) Semi-Final Round-

- a. Top 4 Mediating Pair and Mediators from the Preliminary rounds shall qualify for the Semi-Final Round.

(4) Final Round-

- a. The top 2 Mediating Pair and Mediators from Semi-Final Round shall qualify for the Final Round.

- (5) In case of a tie between the scores of two Mediating Pair and Mediators 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 - Competition

11. TIME PERIOD

- (1) The following shall be the time period for each round-
- Preliminary Round 1 and 2 : 45 minutes.
 - Semi-Final Round : 60 minutes
 - 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:
- Each session shall go on for a time period as prescribed above in the Rules & Procedure.
 - 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 - 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 Mediator and the Mediating Pair that scores the highest scores (separately) in the Final Round shall be declared as the "Best Mediator" and "Best Mediating Pair", shall be awarded with a Certificate of Merit

(2) The Runner Up Mediator and the Runner Up Mediating Pair shall be awarded with a Certificate of Merit.

(3) Certificate of Merit and Rank for Top 5 Mediators and Mediating Pair.

(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".

Chapter III - Competition

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/nVVurGAckBrbKtos8> 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 IV - Code of Conduct

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.

About MediateGuru

Welcome to MediateGuru, a distinguished institute in the realm of alternative dispute resolution. We pride ourselves on being more than just a service provider; we are a dedicated community committed to facilitating amicable resolutions through expert mediation and arbitration services.



Our team of seasoned professionals brings a wealth of experience and a deep sense of empathy to every case, ensuring a fair, efficient, and compassionate resolution process. We uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism, providing our clients with unparalleled support and guidance.

Beyond our core services, MediateGuru plays a pivotal role in enriching the ADR field through a series of meticulously curated events, competitions, and conferences. These initiatives are designed to foster professional development, encourage knowledge sharing, and cultivate the next generation of resolution experts.

Engage with industry thought leaders at our workshops, participate in challenging competitions, and become part of a network that values and promotes the principles of peace and resolution. At MediateGuru, we are steadfast in our mission to create a more harmonious world, one resolved dispute at a time.

What we do?

We organise various Students' centric competitions, in order for them to get practical exposure of ADR world;

- 1) Series of Client Counselling Competition (Every January)
- 2) Series of Mediation Competition (Every March)
- 3) Series of Negotiation Competition (Every June)
- 4) Series of Arbitration Moot (Every October)

MediateGuru offers Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) services for professionals, MNC's and anyone else in need, providing a digital platform for people to resolve disagreements without going to court. It's a quicker, more affordable way for everyone to find common ground and settle issues. Join us for a hassle-free resolution experience.

Contact us

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