

KLA Trial Advocacy Forum



**THE KERALA LAW ACADEMY LAW COLLEGE,**  
**PEROORKADA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY**  
**COMPETITION (VIRTUAL)**

**TRIAL ADVOCACY**  
**(6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2021)**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**1 DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF KLA'S TRIAL  
ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2021.**

The following terms have the corresponding meanings:

- 1 **“ADMINISTRATORS“** mean Director, Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram; Trial Court Forum and / or any other person(s) appointed to administer the Competition by the organizers of KLA.
- 2 **“COMPETITION”** means Kerala Law Academy, Thiruvananthapuram– 2<sup>nd</sup> National Trial Advocacy Competition, 2021.
- 3 **“DISQUALIFICATION”** means that the team will not be allowed to participate in the competition, shall not be awarded a Certificate of Participation or any Prize.
- 4 **“JUDGE”** means any person appointed to evaluate a Participants procedural test or Oral Pleadings.
- 5 **“TRIAL PROPOSITION”** means the annexures and all evidences and testimonies of the Competition supplemented or published by administrators.
- 6 **“PROCEDURAL TEST”** means the online test conducted by the organizers of Kerala Law Academy
- 7 **“TRIAL PROPOSITION CLARIFICATIONS”** means the official clarifications of the Competition trial proposition and of the Rules, as published by the Administrators.
- 8 **“PARTICIPANTS”** means student representatives from eligible Law College / School / University, recognized by the Administrators, participating in the Competition.
- 9 **“RULES OF THE COURT”** means the Official Rules of the Competition and any applicable Supplementary Rules. Subject to change by the organizers.



**2 DATE:**

Amidst COVID-19 pandemic, the prestigious Trial Advocacy Forum, hosted by the Kerala Law Academy will be held via virtual mode from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 at the Kerala Law Academy Law College Campus, Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The competition is conducted through the online platforms ZOOM or GOOGLE MEET. All the participating teams should have good access to internet and be able to access the above said online platform at the scheduled dates and time. This is a mandatory requirement for participation.

**3 TEAM COMPOSITION:**

- a. The Competition is open to all Law Colleges / Law Schools / Universities, Departments of Law in India (hereafter “participating institutions”) recognized by the Bar Council of India. The participation is limited to LL. B students both in the Three- Year Scheme and Five-Year Scheme.
- b. Each team shall consist of a maximum of 3 members. The composition shall be of two speakers, one researcher. The team shall notify such an arrangement during the time of registration. Any changes shall be informed to the organizers, on or before 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Such team shall not during any stage of the competition rearrange the position of its members to form any new combination. No coach/assistant/person shall be permitted in the room during the conduct of the trial other than the participants.

**4 MEDIUM OF LANGUAGE**

All communication and procedure during and of the competition shall be in English. Any kind of communication in any other language will lead to immediate disqualification.



## **5 GENERAL INFORMATION**

Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Trial Advocacy Competition(virtual), October 2021 on Criminal Law in accordance with the Criminal Trial Court proceedings. The Competition has been conceived with the aim of creating awareness for Criminal Law Jurisprudence and providing a platform for development of advocacy and other allied skills. The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Trial Advocacy Competition, 2021 will be held at KLA, Thiruvananthapuram on October 6th to 8th 2021. The Rounds will be judged by a 3 Judge Panel. The judges panel includes Professors, Lawyers, Scholars and Judge of various Courts. The purpose of The Kerala Law Academy Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition, 2021 is to:

1. Help and understand students the dimensions of Criminal Justice System and encourage students to consider careers in the Criminal Justice System;
2. To understand how a trial is to be conducted;
3. To give an in-depth understanding and knowledge of Criminal Law System.

## **6. LOTTING**

There will be a lotting for each round starting from preliminary round. The teams will get the session/court room, prosecution/defense side from the lotting session. Before every round there will be a lotting round. Once a team selects a number for lot, they cannot change their selection.

## **7. WITNESS**

The appearance of the prosecution witness provided by the college may not be in the strict order. Both the prosecution and defense witnesses will be provided by the college. The briefing/ interaction shall be done by the appropriate teams.

### **Prosecution:**

The organizers will be providing the prosecution witnesses. The team that is on the prosecution side shall select any number of witnesses of their choice from the provided



witnesses. Prosecution Team has the discretion to abandon any witnesses provided by the college at their own risk. The prosecution witness briefing/ interaction shall be done **45 minutes** prior to session.

**Defense:**

The organizers will be providing the defense witnesses. It is the discretion of the Defense Team whether or not to call their witnesses for examination. 10 minutes will be given to the defense team to brief/ interact with the witnesses during the session.

**8. ALL MATERIAL OBJECTS (MO)**

All evidence for conducting the trial shall be provided by the organizers during the competition. The Participants can use only those photos which are provided by the organizers as evidence. During the competition participants can screen share the evidence provided by the college, if and when necessary. No new documentary evidence/ witnesses are permissible other than those provided by the college. It is also to be noted that, as it is a competition with time constraint, limited documents and evidence, the proceedings will not strictly adhere to the exact proceedings of the court.

**9. REGISTRATION PROCESS:**

Only one team per College/Institution shall be permitted to take part in the Competition. Institutions/Teams interested in participating in the competition will have to provisionally register by sending an email to [klatrialadvocacyforum@gmail.com](mailto:klatrialadvocacyforum@gmail.com) along with an authorization letter/ email from the corresponding college and only after confirmation of provisional slot by the Organizers, they can complete the formalities of the final registration.



## **10. REGISTRATION FEES:**

The participants shall pay a non-refundable initial registration fee of 750/- rupees to enter the competition. The teams which are selected after clearing the procedural test shall pay an amount of 2,000/- rupees on qualifying to the main competition. All payments are to be done via the college website: <https://keralalawacademy.in/forms/national-trial-advocacy-2nd-virtual-competition/>

After completing the payment, a copy of the transaction (either a screenshot or a photo) shall be send to the e-mail id - [klatrialadvocacyforum@gmail.com](mailto:klatrialadvocacyforum@gmail.com) with your details. Only after acknowledgment from the organizers, the registration will be completed. The Organizers will not take any responsibility for any fault of payment arising from the bank or third-party applications.

## **11. DRESS CODE**

The dress code for the competition shall be strictly formals (without College and University logo).

Dress code shall be Advocate's Attire during the competition rounds i.e.

- Gentlemen - Black trousers and White shirt, Plain Black Blazer (without College/ University logo), Black Tie
- Ladies - Black trousers, White Shirt, White Kurta and Black Churidar pants, Plain Black Blazer, white or Black saree and black jacket (without College/University logo).



## **12. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**

The competition shall consist of FOUR rounds.

### **I. Round ONE: Procedural Test**

- i. All provisionally registered teams are required to appear for the procedural test.
- ii. The procedural test shall consist of 25 objective Questions.
- iii. Each correct answer carries 4 marks and 1 mark will be deducted for each wrong answer.
- iv. The researcher of the participating team has to undertake a procedural test, wherein 25 question will be assigned for 25 minutes, online viva-voce.
- v. The Questions will be based on the subject matter (subjects include Procedural laws, IPC, CrPC, and Evidence) of the competition.
- vi. The top FIFTEEN teams securing highest marks will be proceeding to the Preliminary Rounds.
- vii. In case of any tie between any number of teams, it shall be decided by another rounds of tests consisting of 5 objective questions.
- viii. Teams can only qualify to Preliminary Round through the procedural test.
- ix. The decision of the organizers shall be final.

### **II. Round TWO: Preliminary Round**

- i. This round shall consist of 2 sessions, Prelims 1 and Prelims 2.
- ii. Each team has to argue as both prosecution as well as defense.
- iii. The teams that played as the Prosecution in Prelims 1 shall be playing the role of Defense in Prelims 2.



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- iv. The marks given is entirely unrelated to the judgement pronounced in each session.  
The evaluation of the teams will be based on a criterion created by the organizers.
- v. The FOUR teams with maximum marks in preliminary rounds will proceed to Semi Final Round. (in case of tie marks of examination will be taken)
- vi. All rounds of the competition will follow the rules of Trial Courts.

### III. **Round THREE: Semi-Final Round**

- i. The FOUR teams with the highest marks will qualify to Semi-Final.
- ii. The teams will only be representing either Prosecution or Defense according to lot picking.
- iii. There will only be ONE session in Semi-Final round.
- iv. The Semi- Finals will also follow the rules of trial courts.
- v. Semi-Finals will be a KNOCKOUT round will be organized on 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021.
- vi. The Team winning the Semi-final Round in their respective Chamber shall qualify for the Final Round.
- vii. The marks given is entirely unrelated to the judgement pronounced in each session.
- viii. The evaluation of the teams will be based on a criterion created by the organizers.





**IV. Round FOUR: Final Round**

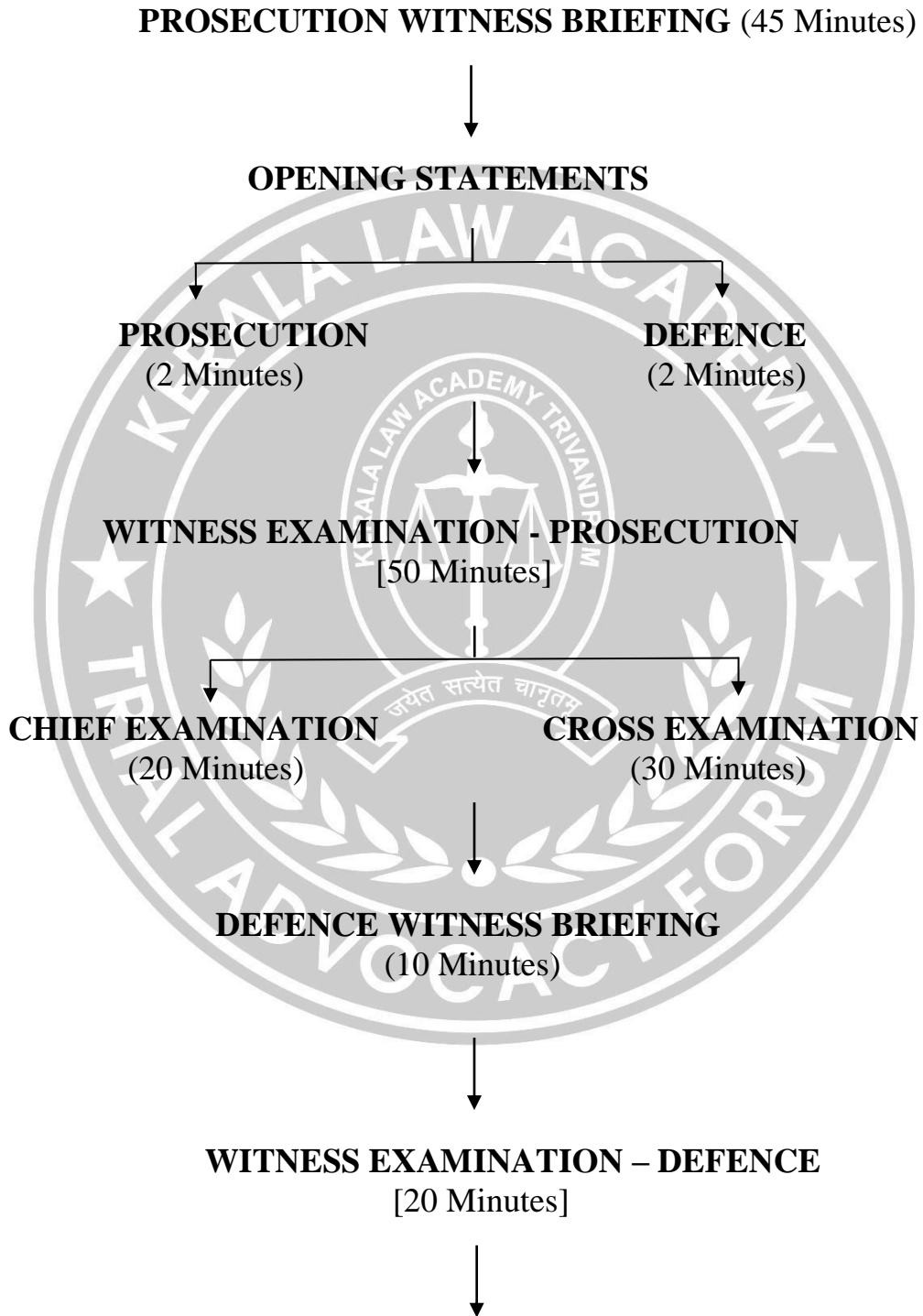
- i. The teams winning in each court room will qualify to Finals.
- ii. The teams will only be representing either Prosecution or Defense according to lot picking.
- iii. There will only be ONE session in the Final Round.
- iv. The Finals will also follow the rules of trial courts.
- v. The marks given is entirely unrelated to the judgement pronounced in each session.
- vi. The evaluation of the teams will be based on a criterion created by the organizers.

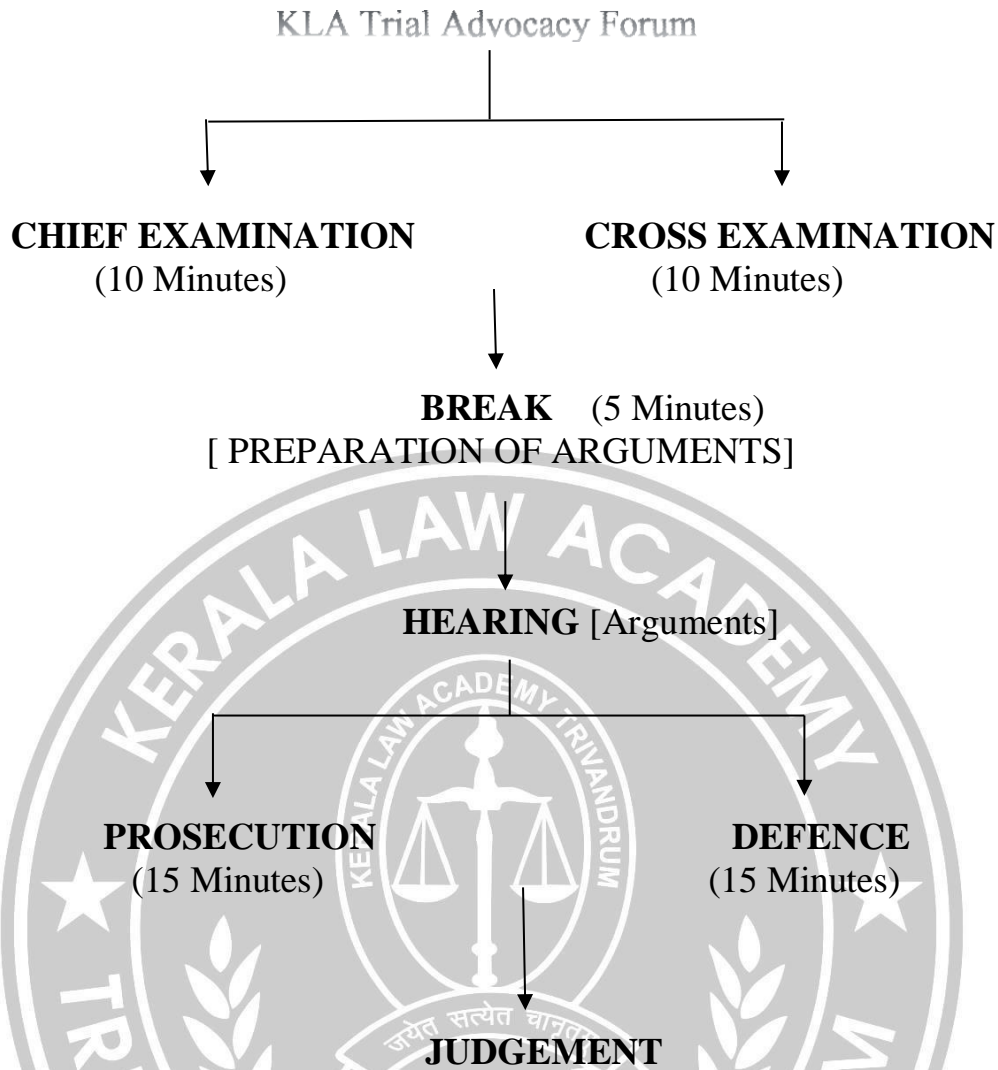
**13. TIME DISTRIBUTION**

- i. The total duration for the competition will be of 2 hour and 45 minutes.
- ii. 45 minutes will be allotted for Prosecution Witness Briefing.
- iii. 2 minutes each will be reserved for the opening statements of both the sides.
- iv. The prosecution witnesses can be examined for 50 minutes i.e., 20 mins. for chief examination and 30 mins. for cross examination.
- v. The Prosecution side and Judges will have a 10 minutes break while the Defense witness briefing is going on.
- vi. The examination of Defense witnesses shall be for a duration of 20 minutes, i.e., 10 mins for chief examination and 10 minutes for cross examination.
- vii. Questioning time of judges will be excluded.
- viii. There shall be a 5-minute break after the examination of Defense witnesses if any, to prepare for hearing.
- ix. The Hearing of arguments will be for a duration of 15 minutes for each team.
- x. A total of 10 minutes grace period will be provided at the discretion of the organizers.



**TRIAL ADVOCACY TIME DISTRIBUTION**





#### **14. TIE BREAKER**

In case of a tie between any number of teams in any round, the tie shall be broken by referring to the marks of witness examination in the main competition.

#### **15. AWARDS**

The winner will be awarded merit certificates and a cash prize of ₹10,000/- and the Runners-up will be awarded merit certificates and a cash prize of ₹7,000/- All the participants will be awarded E-certificates of participation.



## **16. MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. **Secrecy of Identity:** During the course of the Oral Submissions, the speaker shall neither reveal his/her identity nor the identity of their College/University by any means whatsoever. Such actions on part of any member of the team will lead to disqualification of the team from the competition.
- b. **Scouting:** Scouting is strictly prohibited. Teams found scouting will be disqualified immediately.

## **17. ONLINE PLATFORM**

The competition is conducted through the online platforms zoom and google meet. The meeting ID, Password and Link will be communicated to the teams via WhatsApp Groups 15 to 20 minutes before each round in which they are participating. All participating teams should have access to good internet and be able to access the above said online platform with a good camera. This is a mandatory requirement for participation.

## **18. APPEAL COMMITTEE**

The organizers are entitled to change the format of the competition, without prior intimation. In case of complaints/disputes, the same shall be submitted to the appeal committee, which shall consist of Principal of Kerala Law Academy as its President and two other senior faculty members of the host institution. The decision of the Appeal committee shall be final.



**19. SCHEDULE OF THE COMPETITION**

- a. The last date for registration will be on 25-09-2021(Saturday).
- b. The Procedural Test (Online) for the competition will be on 01-10-2021, (Friday).
- c. The Registration fees for Second Rounds shall be completed by 03-10-2021(Sunday).
- d. Inaugural session will be held on 5:00 pm on 06-10-2021, (Wednesday).
- e. The Preliminary Rounds will be held on 07-10-2021, (Thursday).
- f. Prelims I will begin at 9:15 am on 07-10-2021, (Thursday).
- g. Prelims II will begin at 2:15 pm on 07-10-2021, (Thursday).
- h. The Semi Final and Final rounds will be held on 08-10-2021, (Friday).
- i. Semi Finals will begin at 8: 30am on 08-10-2021, (Friday).
- j. Finals will begin at 1:30pm on 08-10-2021, (Friday).

**20. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE ARGUMENTS**

1. The competition will be held either in Google Meet or Zoom or both. All the Participants are required to have the respective apps in their Desktop or Laptop.
2. During the competition, participants are required to use Desktops or laptops. Mobile phones can cause technical issues and therefore not permitted for video conference, for the purpose of participate in the competition.
3. Sound internet connection is a mandatory requirement. The organizers will not be responsible for any such connection errors from the side of the participants.
4. In each panel or section there will be a technical assistant who will be helping the participants and judges to deal with the technical issues.
5. The organizing team will take all the responsibility in case of any technical error on the part of the organizers.



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6. No kinds of malpractices are allowed and if found, such team will be disqualified.
7. When the competition starts, the team members are asked to switch on their videos till the end of the session. With respect to the mic, the team member has to unmute it while they are speaking and mute when they are not speaking in order to avoid disturbances, failing which, points may be deducted from the score by the judges at their discretion.
8. Team members are requested to participate in the competition in a closed or disturbance free area for the smooth conduct of the competition.
9. Link, passcode or entry for the particular slot will be sent to their WhatsApp Groups 15 to 20 minutes before the rounds. The teams are supposed to join the slot 15 minutes prior to the actual time.
10. Every participant should use earphones during the rounds except in cases of medical conditions which should be intimated to the organizers in advance.
11. There should be a distance of 1 meter between the webcam and the participants.
12. There should not be anyone present in the room with the participants, except the researcher during the rounds and in case of any malpractice, the team will be disqualified.
13. The organizers reserve the rights to make changes to any rules and regulations of this competition

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## **21. CONTACT**

*For any queries, please write to [klatrialadvocacyforum@gmail.com](mailto:klatrialadvocacyforum@gmail.com) or contact any of the following*

### **Faculty Convenors**

1. Adv. Renjini Ponnas Sheela – 7994708480
2. Adv. Arun V. Unnithan – 9446348413
3. Prof. Anil Kumar G. - 9447005946
4. Adv. N.K Sasidharan – 8281606060
5. Adv. Renjith R. Nair – 9074874113
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7. Adv. Sachin B– 9446668991
8. Adv. Vidhya V.V-7907838598

### **Student Convenors**

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2. Nandakishore A- 9567604290
3. Ajay Y- 9746525734
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5. Ananthu R.S – 7907300938

### **Student Co-Convenors**

1. Gautham Viswam – 8891001101
2. Lakshmi V S – 9605530081
3. Gowri A H- 9400574520
4. Anjitha Unnithan- 9188860384

