



# VIPS

Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies

# DRCC

Dispute Resolution and Client Counselling

1ST VIPS DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND  
CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION

7th April

2017

8th April

Agreement

## General

1. These rules shall regulate all aspects of the Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies Dispute Resolution And Client Counselling Competition (VIPSDRCC) 2017, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies to foster skills and learning beyond litigation in our society.

The 1st Edition of VIPS Dispute Resolution and Client Counselling Competition 2017 will be held at Vivekananda Law School, VIPS, Delhi on 7th April and 8th April,

2. Client Counselling Competition will be held on 7th April, 2017. Teams will counsel problems complemented by their respective clients. The Counsellor Teams will compete in the Single Preliminary Round which is followed by the “semi-finals” and “finals”.

## Aim & Purpose

3. Client Counselling is a strategic skill which is deeply embedded in the basic principles of sound advocacy. The Client Counselling Competition promotes greater knowledge and interest among law students and exposes them to practical aspects of advocacy which help them to develop holistically. It also encourages student to develop inter-viewing, planning, and analytical skills in the lawyer –client relationship in the law office. Moreover, a healthy educational and cultural interchange between various learners, law teachers and legal practitioners is also envisaged.

## Participation and Eligibility

4. The Competition is open to all bona fide students pursuing under graduate degrees in law from law Schools/Colleges/Institutions/Universities all over

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India. Each Institution is permitted to enter a maximum number of two teams in the Competition.

5. All Participants must be registered in their respective institutions as full-time Students or part-time students for the academic year 2016- 2017.

## Team Formation

6. Each team shall consist of two student participants..
7. Teams cannot be changed or altered after registration. Any change or alteration in the registered team is subject to the sole discretion of the Organizing Committee.
8. Team codes shall be allotted to the respective teams by the Organizing Committee which shall be used to identify the team throughout the competition.
9. Cross-teams i.e. participants belonging to different colleges are not allowed to form a team for the competition.

## Dress Code

10. The dress code for the competition will be business formals. All the participants are required to adhere to the dress code

## Code Of Conduct

11. Participants are to conduct themselves with the required etiquette during the span of the entire competition. Reckless or irresponsible behavior by any of the team members of an institution may result in the disqualification of the entire team.
12. All and any grievances are to be presented only to the organizing committee of the Competition.

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13. Participants shall not reveal their identity or that of their University to any judge or participant during the course of the competition. In order to preserve anonymity, each team will be identified by a code, which will be provided to each team during registration process. **Disclosing the name of the participating college to the judges will result in a penalty.**
14. Any attempt to obtain the information about client or his problem before the commencement of the rounds shall again render a team liable for disqualification.
15. The Judges and the teams shall agree beforehand to the commencing time of the interview. Failure to adhere to any of the time limit will result in a penalty against whomsoever the delay is attributable to.
16. Observers may watch any interview session but shall not be permitted to communicate with any other participating team. **Scouting is prohibited** and will result in a **penalty**.

Note: The penalty will be decided by the Judges/Organizing Committee.

## Clarifications

17. The last date of seeking Clarifications regarding any aspect of the competition, the procedure or the rules of the competition is 31st March 2017. All the clarifications are to be diverted through an e-mail at [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com).

## Registration

18. Online: Each team is required to submit Registration Form and demand draft at [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com) on or before 20th March, 2017. The participating teams may kindly keep in view that the maximum number of teams is 25. Registration shall be confirmed on first come first serve basis.
19. Hard Copy Submission: Registration Form and Demand Draft shall be sent by 25th March, 2017.

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20. Each institution participating in the competition can send up to TWO teams consisting of two students each. Their travelling expenses shall be met by their respective institution. Lunch and High Tea for all participants will be provided by the host College FROM 7th April, 2017 (morning) TO 7th April, 2017 (evening).

## Format

21. Each team shall consist of two student participants and would be allotted a room for the interview and counselling. Here, the two student participants will present themselves as advocates in a lawyer's chamber. The client will be a person trained by the organisers and the advocates will counsel the clients regarding the given problem. The two participants are required to elicit all relevant information from the client by interviewing or questioning the client and then counsel the client.

22. All teams will be given their tag numbers (as, DRCC1, DRCC2, DRCC3 etc.) by the organisers by picking of lots.

23. The Competition is divided into three rounds, namely:

Preliminary Round

Semi Final Round

Final Round

24. Thereafter, calculating the scores of the Preliminary Round, the top 4 scoring teams shall move forward to the Semi Final Round.

25. 2 highest scoring teams from the Semi Final round shall enter the Final Round. Thereafter, the highest scoring team among the finalist teams will be titled as the Winner of 1st VIPS National Client Counselling Competition.

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Total Time Period – Client Counselling Session:

26. The whole Client Counselling Session shall be for 35 minutes in the Preliminary Round. As regard to the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, the session will last for 45 minutes. The whole session will be divided into consultation period and post-consultation period, the details of which are given in Point 41 and Point 42 respectively.

The participating teams shall adhere to this time limit in every circumstance.

The Consultation Period (Interview Period):

27. The first 25 minutes in the Preliminary Round and 30 minutes in Semi-Final and Final Round are devoted for consultation with the client during which lawyers are expected to elicit the relevant information, outline the problem and propose a solution or other means of resolving the problem (Further information is contained in the Judging Standards for the Client Counselling Competition.) During the consultation and post-consultation, the teams may use books, notes and other materials.

Post Consultation Period (Post Interview Period):

28. The remaining time from the total time as specified above will be for post-consultation period i.e. the last 10 minutes in the Preliminary Round and last 15 minutes in Semi-Final and Final Round are devoted for post consultation. During the post-consultation period, the students may either talk to each other loudly enough to be overheard by the judges, or dictate a file memorandum on the interview, or both.
29. The concept behind the post-consultation period is to summarize the interview, indicate the scope of the legal work to be undertaken, and state the legal issues that should be researched. Explanation of the position or attitude taken by the

students may be useful. Judges may question the teams during the post consultation period.

**30.** If the students feel that some documents are appropriate, they may dictate such a document at the post consultation stage.

**31.** The Judges may penalize students who allow the interview session to run excessively beyond the 25/30 minute period allotted in the rules. However the judges in their discretion, taking into account the circumstances, may allow some more time beyond the 25/30 minute period for the interview session. If the extended consultation session allowed an opportunity for a team to gather more information than other teams, this circumstance should be taken into consideration by the judges in making their decision.

**32.** From the Preliminary Rounds, 4 teams, with the highest number of points, will enter into the Semi-Final Round.

**33.** From the Semi Final Round, 2 teams, with the highest number of points, will enter into the Final Round.

**34.** The Final Round will consist of a single panel judges. After the judges have seen both the teams' performance, they should discuss each team's performance among themselves. Judges are encouraged to consult the client. The judges can discuss with the teams regarding their performance. Then judges will individually rank the teams

## Judging Standards

**35. Establishing the working atmosphere.** The lawyers established the beginning of an effective professional relationship and working atmosphere and at an appropriate point oriented the client to the special nature of the relationship in a courteous, sensitive and professional manner.

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- 36. Description of the problem.** The lawyers learned how the client viewed his or her situation, using a combination of listening and questioning, drawing out both information and feelings, as appropriate, to develop a reasonably complete and reliable description of the problem and reflecting this understanding to the client. In this regard relevant information voluntarily said by the client could be elicited by asking relevant specific questions.
- 37. Client's goals, expectations and needs.** The lawyers learned the client's goals and initial expectations and modified or developed them as necessary, giving attention in doing so to all aspects of the problem, including the emotional ones.
- 38. Problems Analysis.** The lawyers analyzed the client's problem with creativity and from both legal and non-legal perspectives, resulting in a clear and useful formulation of the problem by asking relevant specific questions.
- 39. Legal analysis, alternative courses of action and the giving of advice.** Legal analysis and the consequent legal advice given should be both accurate and appropriate to the situation and its context. Consistent with the analysis of the client's problem develops a set of potential and feasible alternatives, if any, both legal and non-legal.
- 40. Client's informed choice.** The lawyers, having developed a set of potentially effective and feasible courses of action consistent with the analysis of the client's problem, assist the client in his or her understanding of the problems and solutions and in making an informed choice. Potential legal, economic, social and psychological consequences should be taken into account.
- 41. Effective conclusion.** The lawyers concluded the interview skillfully, and left the client with feeling of reasonable confidence and understanding, with appropriate reassurance, and with a clear sense of specific expectations and mutual obligations to follow.



- 42. Team work.** The lawyers as collaborating counsellors, worked together as a team, with flexibility and an appropriate balance of participation.
- 43. Continued an ethical and professional relationship throughout the interview.** The lawyers recognized, clarified and responded to any moral or ethical issues which may have arisen, without being prejudicial in judgments. The lawyers developed an appropriate balance in dealing with the legal and emotional needs of the client.
- 44. Debriefing (Post interview Reflection).** The lawyers, during the post consultation time, gave evidence of having recognized their own and the client's feelings; the strengths and limitations of their interviewing skills; their handling of the substantive aspects of the client's problems (both legal and non-legal); the quality and appropriateness of their Advice and provided for an effective follow-up. Judges should expect to see evidence of students learning through making this reflection on the experience of the interview.

Subject  
Matter

- 45.** All the Problems shall be based on either of the subjects, solely or in combination therewith:

Contract Law  
Property Law  
Criminal Law  
Family Law  
Intellectual Property Rights  
Information Technology

The participants are expected to have knowledge of other ancillary laws and procedures.

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## Rounds

### PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

46. Each team will get ONLY ONE opportunity to represent them in the Preliminary Round. Each team will get a total of 35 minutes. The following 35 minutes are to be divided in two parts, as follows:

First 25 minutes is termed as “Client Consultation period”. The participants are expected to extract the relevant information, make an outline of the problem and make legal suggestions for its resolution.

Next 10 minutes is termed as “Post Interview period”. The participants shall discuss the interview with the judges. The participants are to use this time to assess the interview and discuss future strategies for dealing with the client’s problems.

47. It is on the discretion of the teams to decide, “How will they share the work?” **The work plan is subject to judging.** However, the teams may use a part of this post interview period to explain their work plan. The judges may question the teams during this period.

### SEMI-FINAL ROUND

48. Top 4 teams from the combined marks of Preliminary Round will enter into the Semi-Final round, teams will have a total time period of 45 minutes, which will be divided as follows:

First **30 minutes** devoted to *consultation period*, and

Last **15 minutes** for *post-consultation period*.

49. After all the teams have finished their respective sessions, the judges in each group shall privately consult in order to evaluate the teams. Clients may, at this time, be invited to participate in the judges’ consultation period. However, his/her opinion shall **not be determinative**.

FINAL ROUND

- 50.** Top 2 teams from the Semi Final Round will enter into the Final Round. Teams entering the Final round of the competition will have a total time period of 45 minutes, which will be divided as follows:  
First **30 minutes** devoted to *consultation period*, and  
Next, **15 minutes** for *post consultation period*.

**Clients**

- 51.** The clients will be assigned by the organizers. Each team shall interact with their client for the first time during the ‘consultation’ session.
- 52.** The participants shall be expected to interact with clients on the spot and no prior information with respect to the problem shall be intimated.
- 53.** Participants’ conduct towards client should be professional.

**Judges**

- 54.** Each group will be judged by a panel of one or two judges. Each panel of judges may be from among the following categories: Practicing Lawyers, Academicians, Judges, Counsellors, and Psychologists.
- 55.** Each judge will evaluate for a maximum of **100 marks** independently. The scores of all the judges for each team will be added and then listed according to the team scores (best team scoring highest points).
- 56.** If a tie persists, the team scoring the higher marks as according to Point 39, will be entitled to move forward to the next round. If a tie still persists, the marks of the tied teams will be compared with respect to the following Points in the Judging Standards, until either of the team come out as a clear winner:  
Point 38, if still a tie, then  
Point 37, if still a tie, then

Point 41, if still a tie, then Post Consultation Session with the Judges (of 10 minutes each)

## Resource Materials

- 57.** Participants may use their own bare acts and basic stationery items for use during the rounds. No resource material shall be provided by the organizing institute.
- 58.** Use of electronic gadgets like laptop, tablets, mobile phone, etc. Shall not be allowed during the rounds. It may result in disqualification.

## Miscellaneous

- 59.** The participants shall maintain the decorum of the court room and behave accordingly during the competition.
- 60.** The decision of the judges with respect to the results of each round shall be final and binding.
- 61.** The organizers may change parts of the rules or format of the competition, without any prior intimation, but every team shall be informed about the change.
- 62.** For all rounds, each team will be marked on a scale of 100 marks. For calculation of Final Team Score in case of semi-finals and final round, the cumulative score of all judges shall be taken.
- 63.** The decision of the organizers shall be final in any matter including circumstances not envisaged in the rules and regulations of the competitions.
- 64.** Participants are required to carry their college ID Card for the purpose of identification at desk registration.

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Registration  
Procedure

65. A team is required to register by sending the duly completed registration form annexed herein and thereafter sending a scanned copy of the Registration form filled, duly signed and stamped by the Head of Institution/Principal/Head of Department along with the Demand Draft (DD) of Rs. 2,000/- (in case of participation in VIPSDRCC Client Counselling Competition) or of Rs. 3,500/- (in case of participation in VIPSDRCC Mediation and Client Counselling competitions) in favour of ‘**Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies**’ at [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com) with the mail marked as “**REGISTRATION:VIPSDRCC Client Counselling Competition**”. The Last Date of provisional Registration is 20th March, 2017
66. To complete the process of Registration the hard copy of the Registration Form along with the Demand draft must be sent (by Post or by hand) reach the following address latest by 25th March, 2017

The Dean, Vivekananda Law School,  
Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies,  
AU Block, Pitampura, New Delhi – 110034,  
Phone: +91 (11) 27343401, 27343402, 27343403

Further, any delay in such submission shall be considered only on case by case basis.

67. Registration fees thus can be categorized into two:  
VIPSDRCC Mediation and Client Counselling Competition-Rs 3500/-  
VIPSDRCC Client Counselling Competition-Rs 2000/-
68. In case a team is registering for both the competitions the team shall fill out the registration forms of both the competitions and a scanned copy of the Demand Draft(DD) shall be drawn for a total of Rs 3,500/- and the forms shall be sent in a mail at [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com) marked as ‘**REGISTRATION:VIPSDRCC Mediation and Client Counselling**’

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## Awards

**69. Best Team**

Winner's Trophy

Cash Prize: Rs. 10,000/-

Winner's Certificate of Merit

**70. Runner's up Team**

Runner's up Trophy

Cash Prize: Rs. 7,500/-

Runner's up Certificate of Merit

**71. Best Counsellor**

Best Counsellor Trophy

Cash Prize: Rs. 5,000/-

Best Counsellor's Certificate Of Merit

**72. Best Client**

Best Client's Trophy

Best Client's Certificate Of Merit

**73. Other Participants**

Certificate of Participation

## Important Dates

**74. Last Date of Soft Copy Submission – 20th March, 2017**

Last Date of Hard Copy Submission – 25th March, 2017

Last Date of Clarification – 31st March, 2017

Date Of Event – 8th April, 2017

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Contact  
Details

75. For additional information and clarifications please contact;

DIVYA SUGAND

- STUDENT CONVENOR

+91-8860314984

NIDHI AGNIHOTRI

- STUDENT CONVENER

+91-8285353180

Email ID: [vipsdrcc@gmail.com](mailto:vipsdrcc@gmail.com)

For Further updates, visit us at:

[www.facebook.com/VIPS-DRCC-597751867089808/](http://www.facebook.com/VIPS-DRCC-597751867089808/)

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# REGISTRATION FORM

## VIPSDRCC CLIENT COUNSELLING COMPETITION

(Fill in Block Letters)

### INSTITUTION DETAILS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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### PARTICIPANTS DETAIL:

Name of Counsel I (Gender): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Counsel II (Gender): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Incharge  
(Signature with Institutional Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head of the Institution  
(Signature with Institutional Seal)

**We the undersigned declare that the institution and its team members will abide by all the rules of the competition set out as official and as notified to us from time to time throughout the period of the competition. We also declare and confirm that all the information provided in the registration form is true and accurate.**

COUNSEL I: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNSEL II: \_\_\_\_\_

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