

The following are the Official Rules for the event **“Verdict” - 3rd National IP Law Moot Court Competition** to be organized in association with Kshitij, the techno-management fest of Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur from 31st January to 2nd February, 2014.

For the purpose of these rules, the following terms shall mean:

- i. “Competition” means the event **“Verdict” - 3rd National IP Law Moot Court Competition**.
- ii. “Judge” means any person appointed to adjudicate / evaluate a participating team’s memorial or oral submissions.
- iii. “Memorial” means the written pleadings of each participating team, written and submitted pursuant to these rules.
- iv. “Organizers” means Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law (‘RGSOIPL’) and Team Kshitij, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur.
- v. “Participating Institution” shall be presumed to be the parent Law College / University / Department of the participating team.
- vi. “Participating team” means the team which is eligible as per the Official Rules and has registered itself for the competition as per **Rule B** mentioned below.
- vii. “Penalty” means points deducted in case of violation of any rule.
- viii. “Selected Team” means the participating team qualifying from the Elimination Stage to the Finals.

It should be duly noted that:

- i. These rules are only inclusive and not exhaustive. If there is any situation which is not contemplated in the Official Rules, the Organizers decision on the same shall be final.
- ii. The Organizers reserve the right to vary, alter, modify, or repeal any of the rules if so required and as they may deem appropriate.
- iii. The Organizers decision as regards to the interpretation of Official Rules or any other matter related to the competition shall be final.
- iv. Imposition of penalties including disqualification rests solely with the Organizers in case of failure to comply with the rule(s) or deadline(s).
- v. The Organizers reserve the right to take appropriate action against any participating team for any unethical, unprofessional and immoral conduct.



- vi. The **Team-ID** issued to each participating team as per **Rule B.2** shall be their sole source of identity throughout the competition.

A. General

1. RGSOIPL, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur in association with Kshitij, shall be organizing "*Verdict*" - 3rd National IP Law Moot Court Competition from 31st January to 2nd February, 2014.
2. The official working language of the competition would be English.
3. Participation is open to bonafide law students pursuing either **LL.M. or LL.B.** (3-year or 5-year integrated) law programme from any law College / Department / University recognized by the Bar Council of India.
4. Each participating team shall comprise of **three (3) members** only, consisting of two **(2) speakers** and **one (1) researcher**. Any additional member shall not be entitled to hospitality or certification.
5. Every Participating Institution shall register only **one (1) team**.

B. Registration

1. All interested teams are required to register themselves by sending an e-mail to mcs.iitkgp@gmail.com latest by **7th December 2013**. The subject should read as "**Registration for Verdict**".
2. On successful completion, a **Team-ID** would be communicated. This Team-ID issued to each participating team shall be their sole source of identity throughout the competition.

C. Competition

1. All participating teams, registered for the competition are required to submit their memorials as per **Rule D**.
2. Soft copies of the memorials (in .pdf and .doc or .docx format) must be mailed to mcs.iitkgp@gmail.com latest by **4th January 2014 (11:59 PM)**. The subject should read as **Memorial Submission for Verdict: Team Code <Team-ID>**. Please refer to **Rule D.1**.



3. The competition shall consist of two stages:

- i. **Elimination Stage:** All memorials shall be evaluated and marked as per the **Rule E**. The top **eight (8) teams**, ranked according to the memorial scores shall be invited to participate in the Finals to be held at the campus of RGSOIPL.
- ii. **Finals:** The finals shall consist of a **series of Oral Rounds**. Please refer to **Rule F**.

D. Memorials

1. Late submission of the memorials will attract a **two (2) marks penalty** per day. No memorial shall be accepted after **6th January 2014 (11:59 PM)**. Submission of hard copy of the memorials is not required.
2. All participating teams must submit memorials for both Petitioner and Respondent for the Problem Statement.
3. All participating teams must submit typed memorials fulfilling the following specifications:
 - i. The memorials shall contain the following:
 - a) Cover Page
 - b) Table of Contents
 - c) Index of Authorities
 - d) Statement of Jurisdiction
 - e) Statement of Facts
 - f) Issues Involved
 - g) Summary of Arguments



h) Body of Arguments

i) Prayer

ii. The **Team ID** (Refer **Rule B.2**) should be clearly mentioned on the **top right corner** of the Cover Page.

iii. The memorial shall not exceed **thirty (30) pages**, including the Body of Arguments, which shall not be more than **twenty (20) pages**.

iv. The memorials shall be typed on **A4 size pages** in font type : **Times New Roman Font Size : 12** **Line spacing 1.5** and **1 inch margin** on each side. **Footnotes** should be in Font type: **Times New Roman Font Size: 10** and **Line spacing 1**. Use of The Bluebook style of citation is recommended.

v. The memorials shall not contain any Annexure / Photographs / Sketches / Exhibits / Affidavit etc. Violation of the said provision will entail immediate disqualification from the competition.

vi. The identity of the Participating Institution or the names of the participants if revealed in the memorials in manner would amount to disqualification.

E. Marking Criteria for the Memorials

1. Every participating team shall be marked on a total of 100 marks. There shall be separate marking for the Petitioner and Respondent memorials.

2. The following shall be the marking criteria and the allocation of marks to each category:

S.No.	Marking Criteria	Marks Allocated
1.	Knowledge and Application of Facts and Law	25
2.	Depth and Quality of Research	25



VERDICT

3.	Proper And Articulate Analysis	10
4.	Citation of Authorities and Referencing	10
5.	Grammar and Style	10
6.	Clarity and Organisation	10

TOTAL

100

F. Finals

1. The Finals of the “Verdict” - 3rd National IP Law Moot Court Competition shall take Place at RGSOIPL’s campus in Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.
2. The dress code for the participants for the Oral rounds shall be Western formals for gentlemen and Western or Indian Formals for ladies.
3. The teams shall make their own provisions to comply with **Rule F.2.**
4. The Finals shall be held over a period of **two (2) days** with the first day reserved for Preliminary Rounds and the second day for the Semi-finals and the Grand Finale.
5. The selected teams are allowed to use a compendium of cases and other materials referred to in the memorials in the competition, provided the compendium should not disclose the identity of the Participating Institution or the names of the participants in any manner whatsoever.
6. Every selected team shall make oral submissions for the Petitioner and the Respondent in two (2) separate Preliminary Rounds, respectively.
7. Four (4) teams shall advance to the **Semi-finals**. Teams with two (2) wins shall automatically qualify for the Semi-finals. In the event of less than four teams with two wins, the memorial score shall be added to the oral score to credit qualification.



8. During the Semi-finals, a team will be credited with a win if their oral score is greater than that of the opposing team. In case the oral score of the two teams is the same, the memorial score shall be added to the oral score to credit a win.
9. Two (2) teams shall advance to the **Grand Finale**. The team with the higher Round Total in the Grand Finale shall be declared as the *Winning Team* of “Verdict” - 3rd National IP Law Moot Court Competition. The team with the lower Round Total in the Grand Final shall be declared as the *Runners-Up Team* of the competition. In case the oral score of the two teams is the same, the memorial score shall be added to the oral score to credit a win.
10. Each selected team will have a maximum of **25 minutes** to present their Oral Submissions during the Preliminary Rounds and **35 minutes** during the Semi-finals and the Grand Finale. This will include the time that each team may want to reserve for their Rebuttal / Sur-rebuttal.
11. No speaker will be permitted to address the Court for more than **15 minutes** during the Preliminary Rounds and **20 minutes** during the Knock-out stage.
12. At the commencement of each Preliminary Round, each team must notify the Court Officer as to the division of time between the two (2) speakers and the amount of that the team reserves for their Rebuttal / Sur-rebuttal. A maximum of 5 minutes can be reserved for the Rebuttal / Sur-rebuttal.
13. If any speaker continues to speak after the completion of his / her time, the additional time which he / she speaks for will be deducted from the time allocated to his / her co-speaker, or from the time allocated for the rebuttal / sur-rebuttal, as the case may be. Granting of additional time would be on the discretion of the Judges. Exceeding the time limit after the grant of additional time by the judges shall attract a one point penalty per minute.
14. Five (5) minutes before the completion of the allocated time for each speaker there will be a warning bell and at the completion of the allocated time for each speaker there will be a final bell.
15. The team codes issued to each participating team as per **Rule A.3** shall be the sole source of identity of the respective teams throughout the competition.



16. All team members shall refrain from wearing, using or carrying in any form, any identifying items, such as badges, blazers, pins or any other identifying material(s) such as books / bags with a College / Department / University / Library logo or seal during the competition.

17. All Participants are expected to strictly maintain decorum in the Court Room during the competition and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the legal profession.

18. All research, writing and editing must be solely the product of the members of the participating team. Persons other than the members of the participating team are not permitted to research on the Problem Statement of the competition or to provide any other kind of assistance to the participating members.

19. During the course of oral submissions, the participants cannot submit to the court any material containing pictorial representation whatsoever. Further, the participants will not be permitted to make any audio / visual representation nor will they be allowed to use personal computers, laptops and any other technical or mechanical device during their oral submissions.

20. If at any instance a submission is made with any material in violation to **Rule F.16** and if any picture, sketches, photos, cartoons, caricatures, audio film, video film, projector-slide or a computer generated image is submitted or presented to court, the teams shall be subject to strict penalty including disqualification.

21. No member of any team or any individual connected with any team shall be permitted to hear the oral submissions in any court room in which that team is not one of the contesting teams whilst that team is still in the competition. The Organizers shall take strict action, including disqualification from the competition, against any team found to be scouting through a team member or through any other means.

G. Marking criteria for Oral Submissions in the Finals

1. Each speaker shall be marked on a total of 100 marks by each Bench Judge.
2. The Round Total will be the aggregate of the total of the two (2) speakers.



3. The following will be the Marking Criteria and the Marks Allocated to compute the Round Total for each team :

SL. No.	Marking Criteria	Marks Allocated
1.	Knowledge and Application of Relevant Law	20
2.	Interpretation and Application of Facts	20
3.	Ingenuity and Ability to Answer Questions	10
4.	Evidence of Original Thought	10
5.	Organization and Flow of Arguments	10
6.	Style, Poise, Courtesy and Demeanour	10
7.	Reference to Memorials in the course of Arguments	10
8.	Time Management	10
Total		100

4. The decision of the judges as to the marks allotted to any team shall be final.

H. Awards

1. The following awards shall be presented:

- i. Winning Team:* Certificates to all team members and cash prize of Rs. 25,000 to the team with the higher Round Total in the Grand Final.



VERDICT

ii. *Runners-Up Team*: Certificates to all team members and cash prize of Rs.15,000 to the team with the lower Round Total in the Grand Final.

iii. *Best Speaker*: Certificate and cash prize of Rs. 5,000 to the Best Speaker of the competition.

iv. *Best Memorial*: Certificate and cash prize of Rs. 5,000 to the Researcher of the team with the highest memorial score in the competition.

2. In addition to the above award, a certificate of participation will be given to all the selected teams participating in the competition. Also, two (2) teams among the participating teams, not selected for the Finals based on the memorial scores, would be given certificates of appreciation.
3. A special panel of Judges shall assess the memorials for the Best Memorial award.
4. The Best Speaker award shall be determined by the points scored by a team member during the Preliminary Rounds alone.

I. Copyright

1. The copyright over the memorials submitted for the purpose of the competition shall be deemed to be assigned by the participants and the Participating Institution completely and fully with the Organizers. The participants shall certify in writing the originality of materials contained therein and shall be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.
2. Further use and exhibition of these materials, electronically or otherwise, shall be the exclusive right of the Organizers and they shall not be responsible for any liability to any person for any loss caused by errors or omissions in the collection of information, or for the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in these materials.

J. Hospitality

1. Accommodation to all participants (Refer **Rule A.4**) shall be provided by the Organizers from the night of 30th January 2014 to 3rd February 2014 (till 10.00 a.m.).



VERDICT

Teams wishing to stay back later than the above date and time shall make arrangements for accommodation on their own.

2. The competition being a part of Kshitij 2014, which expects to be attended by over 10,000 students from all over the country, provides some excellent food options at reasonable rates.
3. The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur campus is well connected by Auto and Taxi services from Kharagpur station and also from Kolkata through continuous trains. The organizers may facilitate the travel for the selected teams to the campus, but the cost shall be borne by the teams themselves.

K. Clarifications

1. Teams may request clarifications regarding the Problem Statement and Official Rules of the competition via e-mail to mcs.iitkgp@gmail.com. The subject of such e-mails must read ***Request for clarification for The Verdict***.
2. The last date to seek such requests for clarifications for the Problem Statement is **20th November 2013**.

L. Official Communication

Moot Court Society

mcs.iitkgp@gmail.com

Ms. Caroline Pinto
Convenor, The Verdict
Tel. +91 987 481 4811

Mr. Abhishek Jain
Convenor, MootCourtSociety
Tel. +91 987 494 1111

