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NMIMS

Deemed-to-be UNIVERSITY

THE LEGAL AID COMMITTEE, NMIMS HYDERABAD

PRESENTS
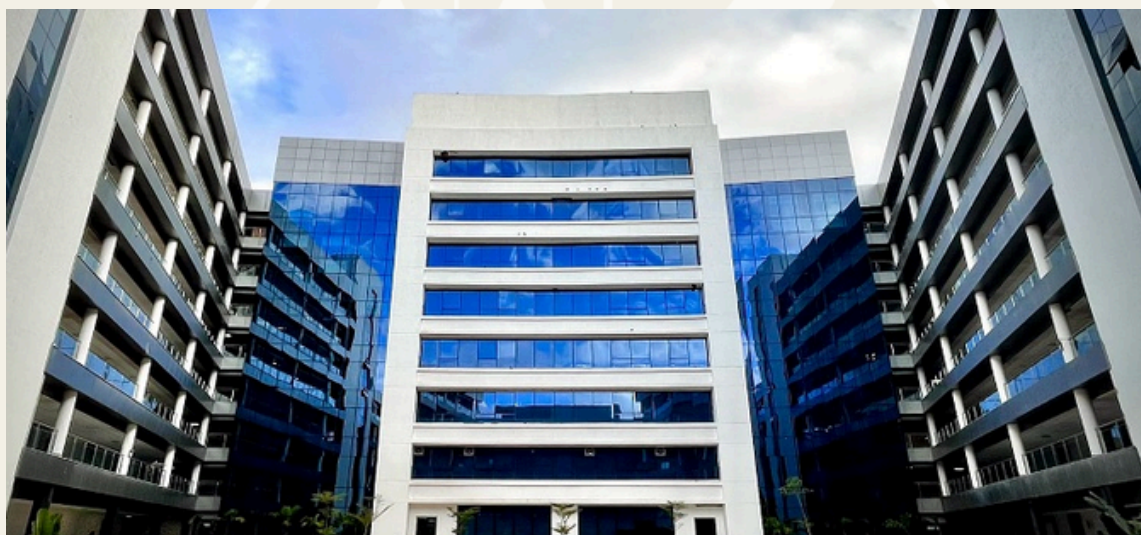
1st Legal Aid Policy Drafting Competition, 2025

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

SVKM's NMIMS Deemed to be University was established under the patronage of SVKM in 1981. With a rich legacy of 43 years, NMIMS has grown to be one of the top 10 B-schools in India. It has also emerged as a multi-disciplinary University with 8 campuses at Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Indore, Navi Mumbai and Shirpur, and Chandigarh.

NMIMS School of Law Hyderabad offers an outstanding legal education to inculcate a wide range of legal skills useful for the legal profession, including the corporate level. Established in 2019 by NMIMS University, one of the premier Deemed- to-be Universities in India, the programs offered in our law school have all qualities and niceties of the programs offering by the world-class Universities over the world.

43	12000+	8	650+	7
Years of Legacy	Full-Time Students	Campuses	Faculty Members	Departments

ABOUT SCHOOL OF LAW, HYDERABAD

NMIMS School of Law offers an outstanding legal education so as to inculcate a wide range of legal skills useful for the legal profession including the corporate level. Established in 2019 by NMIMS University, one of the premium Deemed to be University in India, the programs offered in our law school has all qualities of the programs offered by the world class Universities across the world with a global focus and international outreach dedicated to advance human dignity, social and economic welfare, and justice through knowledge of law.

School of Law aspires to be a global centre of scholarly excellence in the field of law and justice and will prepare outstanding and innovative law professionals with socially responsible outlook through holistic legal education. The School's faculty members are well qualified and experienced with wide range of quality legal publications and also associated with social justice legal education.

ABOUT THE LEGAL AID COMMITTEE

The NMIMS Hyderabad Legal Aid Committee is dedicated to promoting public awareness of legal rights, ensuring equal access to justice for all, and providing effective legal assistance to those in need. We focus on bridging the gap between the privileged and underprivileged by developing strategic legal service programs.

To achieve this, we collaborate closely with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), and we regularly conduct legal awareness campaigns on domestic violence and bullying, organize legal aid camps to educate the public about their rights and provide direct legal assistance.

Our members regularly attend Lok Adalat proceedings, conduct seminars, and workshops to enhance legal knowledge and understanding. We also disseminate daily news updates and legal resources through social media to keep the community informed about legal developments and available support. We believe that by working together, we can create a more equitable and just society for all.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

This is a one-of-a-kind policy drafting competition designed to empower students from diverse backgrounds to explore innovative solutions for real-world policy challenges. Focused on the intersection of Generative AI and legal aid, this competition provides participants with a platform to think critically and creatively about making legal assistance more accessible to underserved communities. By encouraging students to engage with complex policy issues, this competition aims to enhance their problem-solving abilities and foster a deeper understanding of the potential for technology, like AI, to transform the legal landscape. Participants will have the unique opportunity to develop policy proposals that aim to bridge gaps in legal access, showcasing their skills in policy analysis and drafting while contributing to the future of legal aid accessibility.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

POLICY THEME

"Harnessing Generative AI to Revolutionize Legal Aid Accessibility and Efficiency"

Access to legal aid remains a significant challenge for marginalized communities due to high costs, language barriers, and the lack of legal resources in rural or underserved areas. Meanwhile, generative AI tools, capable of producing human-like text and automating complex processes, present an opportunity to transform legal aid by enhancing outreach, simplifying legal processes, and democratizing access to legal information.

However, the integration of generative AI into legal aid raises critical concerns regarding data privacy, ethical usage, potential biases in AI models, and the risk of over-reliance on technology in place of human judgment.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the bustling city of Raiepally, where progress and disparity coexisted in stark contrast, a small legal aid clinic was a lifeline for those who couldn't afford justice. For years, this clinic had been a lifeline for underserved communities, providing free or low-cost legal assistance to those in desperate need. However, its resources were stretched thin—case backlogs piled up, lawyers were overwhelmed, and many deserving clients were turned away due to the sheer volume of requests.

One day, a tech entrepreneur, Purvana approached the clinic with a bold proposal: The integration of generative AI into their operations. She envisioned AI-powered systems that could draft legal documents in minutes, provide instant legal advice in multiple languages, and analyze case histories to predict outcomes—all at a fraction of the time and cost.

At first, the clinic staff were hopeful. The AI tools seemed to work wonders, providing clients with quick, accessible legal solutions. A shopkeeper quickly resolved a dispute with a supplier. A single mother received clear instructions on filing for child support. A retired teacher prepared a will effortlessly with AI's help. For a moment, it felt like the clinic was finally catching up with the overwhelming demand.

But soon, cracks began to show. A tenant relied on the AI to draft a lease agreement, only to face legal trouble when critical clauses were overlooked. A retired factory worker seeking help to resolve a pension dispute felt ignored when the AI's standardized responses failed to capture the emotional weight of her situation. Concerns also surfaced about the AI's handling of private client data and the possibility of biased recommendations, sparking intense debates among the clinic staff, clients, and legal expert.

As the challenges mounted, it became clear that while generative AI held immense potential, its integration into the legal aid framework needed careful regulation. How could the clinic ensure that technology augmented rather than replaced human empathy and expertise? What safeguards were needed to protect client data and uphold the principles of justice? How could they address biases and errors in the AI's functioning?

Participants are invited to draft a policy that navigates the promise and peril of generative AI in legal aid. Your policy should provide a roadmap for:
1. Ethical and secure implementation of AI in legal aid services.
2. Safeguards to prevent data misuse and ensure client confidentiality.
3. Mechanisms to address errors and biases in AI-generated outputs.
4. Strategies to balance technological efficiency with human oversight and empathy.
5. Training programs to equip legal professionals and beneficiaries to use AI responsibly.

POLICY RULES

Participants must draft a comprehensive policy addressing the integration of generative AI into legal aid frameworks, ensuring:

- Equitable access to AI-assisted legal resources for all citizens.
- Measures to mitigate privacy risks and ensure compliance with data protection laws.
- Guidelines to eliminate biases in AI systems and promote fairness.
- Balance between technological efficiency and the indispensable role of human legal professionals.
- Frameworks for training and educating stakeholders, including legal aid beneficiaries and practitioners, on the ethical and effective use of generative AI.
- The policy should propose actionable, innovative solutions while considering the social, legal, and technological dimensions of the issue.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Mode of the Competition: Online.
- Language: The competition will be conducted in English.
- Any participant's request to postpone the registration date will not be considered.
- The host university will provide a unique team code to each registered team after they submit proof of their final registration and payment. This code will be provided by email to the email address of the first participant. Please note that all communication must be made with the email address provided in the registration form of the first participant.
- Any form of identification mark of the participants is restricted on the draft policy except the team code.
- File submission must be made in both Doc-Docx & PDF Formats.
- Submission made by the participants is to be titled -
  '**TEAM CODE - Policy Draft**' through E-mail only.
   (legalaid.solhyd@nmims.edu)
- Any clarifications must be addressed to the Legal Aid Committee via email only and must adhere to the clarification date set by the organizers.
- 50% similarity of two or more drafts will lead to disqualification of the participants from the competition.
- Plagiarism up to 10% only is allowed.
- The participants would hold all the rights over their draft after the competition ends.

RULE-MAKING POWER - The Organizing Committee is entitled to draft the Competition Rules and change them, including the Competition format, with prior intimation to cater to any and every contingency that may arise before or during the progression of the Competition.

- The decision of organizers is final and binding.
- Non-adherence to any of the guidelines may lead to disqualification of the participants.

II. DEFINITIONS

- Competition" shall refer to the 1st Legal Aid Policy Drafting Competition, 2025.
- "Organizing Committee" shall refer to the Organizers of the given competition.
- "Rules" shall refer to the Official Rules of the Competition and shall apply to any supplementary Rules published by the Organizing Committee.
- "Team Code" refers to the unique code allotted to a Team after the completion of their registration process.
- "Written Submission" refers to the Submission of the Policy Draft.

III. ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION

- The competition welcomes participation from Law students enrolled in a UG/PG program and Research scholars.
- Individuals or a team of 2 members may register for the competition.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- All interested students shall be required to register for the competition in order to be eligible to participate before **26-02-2025 (11:59 PM).**

- The registration fee for each team is **INR 500/-** (Rupees Five Hundred Only) per team. The same shall be non-refundable.

- The Registration shall be deemed to be successful only when the participating team receives a confirmation mail along with their team code from the Organizing Committee.

- Any changes in the contact details of Team members must be notified to the Organizing committee through mail at the earliest.

- After the payment has been successfully made, a screenshot of the payment details should be attached to the registration form and subsequently you will receive a confirmation mail along with a unique team code.

- Registration is to be done through the link provided. The last date for registrations is 26th February. The last date for submission of Draft Policy is 28th February.

ACCOLADES

- First Prize - Rs. **5000/-** + Certificates of Merit.
- Second Prize - Rs. **3000/-** + Certificates of Merit.
- Certificate of Merit and Appreciation for Top 10 policies.
- Certificate of Participation for all the Participants.

GUIDELINES OF POLICY STRUCTURE

The policy submitted must contain the following:

1. **Cover Page**: It must include the Long Title of the Policy Draft along with the Team Code at the top right corner of the cover page.
2. **Title of the Policy**: A title that briefly and aptly summarizes the body of the draft.
3. **Abstract**: A summary of the policy.
4. **Existing Jurisprudence**: A brief overview of the jurisprudence of the subject matter in India and globally, loopholes in existing legislations and schemes.
5. **Statement of Problem**: A concise statement of the problem dealt with in the policy.
6. **Definitions**: Defining uncommon or complex terms used in the policy.
7. **Policy Statement:** A detailed policy statement that is comprehensive as to conditions and restrictions, target audience, applicability and inapplicability of policies, etc.
8. **Implementation Procedure**: Reference to detailed procedures that are recommended to carry out the intent of the policy. It is advised to list the procedures in the order in which they are to be carried out.
9. **Cost-benefit Analysis**: An indication of the costs involved and the benefits aimed through the policy.
10. **Concluding Remarks**: A brief concluding observation outlining the future roadmap.

GUIDELINES OF POLICY STRUCTURE

Formatting Guidelines:

- The document's font must be Times New Roman, and the font size must be 12 for the main body.
- The policy must **not exceed 7 pages** (excluding the cover page)
- Line Spacing must be 1.5 for the body of the document.
- Please ensure that all pages are numbered.
- Ensure that there is no paragraph spacing, with a one-inch margin on all sides. Also, the text should be justify aligned.
- Footnotes: Times New Roman, font size 10, line spacing 10.
- All citations must be in the format of Bluebook 21st edition.
- Similarity and AI up to 10% shall be allowed. Please note that exceeding similarity or AI percentage shall result in penalties.

Submission Guidelines:

- The submission must not include personal details of the participants, for example, name of participants, name of college, etc.
- Team Codes shall be assigned to all teams, and the submission file must be renamed to the team code before submission. Submission must be made through email only.
- The Name of the Document must be -
  "TEAM CODE - POLICY DRAFT".
- Furthermore, the Subject of the submission mail should be -
  "TEAM CODE - POLICY DRAFT SUBMISSION"
- The submissions must be made in both Word document and PDF formats. The file should not be password protected.
- All the submissions shall be made through mail at legalaid.solhyd@nmims.edu before 26/2/2025 (11:59 PM).

PAYMENT DETAILS

A registration fee of **Rs. 500** is to be paid by the participants to the following bank account:

- **Account Holder Name**- SVKMS NMIMS DEEMED UNIVERSITY

- **Bank** - HDFC BANK

- **Branch**- TARNAKA, HYDERABAD

- **Account Number** - 50200017463427

- **IFSC Code** - HDFC0004291

Proof of payment must be enclosed in the registration form. Please upload a screenshot for payment proof.

For registration, click the following link- https://forms.gle/ue6SqaJBMqq7BTtZ6

Or, Register through the QR Code:

IMPORTANT DATES

- BROCHURE RELEASE- **30th JANUARY, 2025**

- LAST DATE FOR SEEKING CLARIFICATIONS- **14th FEBRUARY, 2025.**

- REGISTRATION AND FEE PAYMENT CLOSES- **26th FEBRUARY, 2025.**

- SUBMISSION OF POLICY'S DRAFT CLOSES ON- **28th FEBRUARY, 2025.**

- RESULTS- **7th MARCH, 2025.**

A valedictory session will be conducted on the results day, to announce winners and address the participants (ONLINE MODE).

MARKING CRITERIA

PARAMETERS	MARKS (OUT OF 100)
KNOWLEDGE	20
ORIGINALITY AND INNOVATION	20
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS	20
QUALITY AND OVERALL ARTICULATION OF THE DRAFT	20
PRACTICAL APPLICABILITY OF SOLUTIONS	20
TOTAL	100

PENALITIES

PARTICULARS	MARKS
DELAY IN SUBMISSION	05 MARKS PER DAY
RE-SUBMISSION	10 MARKS
INCORRECT FONT SIZE, MARGINS, CITATION STYLE OR SPACING	02 MARKS
DISCLOSURE OF TEAM IDENTITY BY ANY MEAN	05 MARKS
SCOUTING	DISQUALIFICATION
EXCEEDING THE PAGE LIMIT	02 MARKS PER PAGE
FAILURE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES FOR COVER PAGE	02 MARKS
PLAGIARISM BEYOND 10%	02 MARKS FOR EVERY 1%

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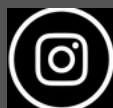NMIMS Hyderabad.

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