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**P** ROFESSIONAL  
**U** NIVERSITY

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NAAC  
GRADE **A++**

# 6<sup>th</sup> GAVELLED

## Moot Court Competition

20-22 March, 2025



MOOT COURT  
SOCIETY

Organized by : **Moot Court Society, School of Law,  
Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab.**

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## ABOUT LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY

Lovely Professional University (LPU) is a multi-faculty research-oriented institution with hi-tech campus offering more than 200 professional programmes. LPU campus is a complete world in itself having students from all states of India and more than 40+ countries of the world. LPU is a world class institution with internationally benchmarked curricula, innovative pedagogy focused on experiential learning, cutting edge research, 450+ foreign tie-ups, well qualified faculty with industry exposure, outstanding sports & cultural facilities, excellent residential facilities, In-campus shopping mall, hospital, banks, postal services etc. The University is ranked high on various parameters by Government Bodies and other credible organisations. LPU receives Highest Grade A++ with 3.68 score on 4 Point Scale by NAAC (National Assessment & Accreditation Council), an Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 has ranked LPU amongst Top 10 Universities in India Including all Government (even IITs & NITs), & Private Institutions, and many more...



## ABOUT SCHOOL OF LAW

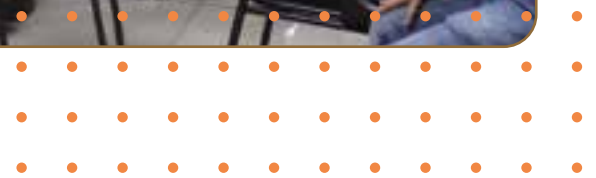
Approved by the Bar Council of India, Law Discipline of LPU is one of the premier institutes in the country and ranked 16th in NIRF rankings (Law) 2023. Outstanding features of the school include the technology and research focus at both UG and PG levels and numerous exposures to Mooting sessions and competitions to bring greater rigor to the litigation skills of graduates and prepare them for a broader range of global professional careers. Our students are groomed to hit the ground running with rigorous practical exposure in drafting, mock trials, and activities like crime scene investigation, discussions, debates, etc.

Besides, the Discipline undertakes meticulous planning of internships with Judicial Officers, prominent legal practitioners, law firms, and Commissions like Human Rights, Women, Child and Information Commission, etc. The Discipline also organizes international conferences and interactions with acclaimed law practitioners to broaden the horizon of students and to familiarize them with emerging legal developments. The school also encourages its student to undertake freelancing projects, to encourage the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership.

## MOOT COURT SOCIETY

The Moot Court Society (MCS) at the School of Law, LPU, takes proactive measures to foster the growth of moot court activities. The MCS is entrusted with the responsibility of orchestrating intra-moot court competitions, inter-university moot court contests on both the national and international levels, as well as trial advocacy competitions.

The MCS plays a pivotal role in nurturing future mooters and cultivating a vibrant, researching and mooted culture within the school. Our ultimate objective is to uphold the principles of justice through the effective practice of law.



## ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Gavelled Moot Court Competition stands as the flagship event of our School of Law, dedicated to hosting a prestigious moot court competition. The primary goal of this competition is to foster a heightened awareness and interest in the pressing contemporary issues and the ever-evolving field of criminal jurisprudence. The competition is built around a challenging moot problem that delves into the conflict between established legal principles and the emerging interests of society in a rapidly changing landscape.

*School of Law, LPU will be organizing the “6th Gavelled, Moot Court Competition” from 20th-22nd March, 2025.*

This year’s moot problem presents a gripping exploration of socio-legal challenges rooted in caste-based discrimination, digital evidence, and mob justice. It intricately weaves together elements of criminal jurisprudence under the new criminal code providing young advocates with a unique opportunity to navigate through complex legal and factual scenarios. This thought-provoking proposition is designed to push boundaries and inspire the brightest legal minds to rise to the challenge.



Glimpse of 5th Gavelled National Moot Court Competition 2024



### Eligibility for Participation

All students enrolled bona fide in an undergraduate course of Law i.e., 3 Yrs./ 5 Yrs. from any college or university shall be eligible for participation in the competition. Each College/ University/ Institution shall be allowed to register only one team in the Competition.



### Registration

The teams are required to duly complete the registration by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (11:59 P.M.) by filling out the following Google form and the registration fees shall be ₹6000/-. If registered by 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 (11:59 P.M.), the registering team can avail, the early decision benefit & the registration fees shall be ₹5500/-



### Format of the Competition

The Competition comprises of the Following Rounds:

- Researcher's Test (20th March)
- Preliminary Rounds - Rounds 1 and 2 (21st March)
- Quarter Finals (21st March)
- Semi Finals (22nd March)
- Grand Finale (22nd March)

<https://www.lpu.in/events/gavelled/registration.php>

## TEAM COMPOSITION

Each team shall consist of three members, comprising of two speakers and one researcher. Any alterations in the composition of the team should be informed to organizing committee. It is the discretion of the committee to permit/reject such proposed alteration. However, any such alteration shall not be permitted without a satisfactory and reasonable justification, after the submission of memorials (Soft Copy). The inability of any team member to participate in accordance with the rules of this Competition shall lead to immediate disqualification of the team from the Competition.



## THE MEMORIALS

The Teams shall prepare memorials for both the sides: Petitioners and Respondents. The cover page of the memorials sent, for both the soft and printed copies, shall clearly mention the word “P” for memorials on behalf of the Petitioner, and the word “R” for memorials on behalf of the Respondent.

Each memorial should be contained in a single file with the name of the file being the allocated team code followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, i.e., an ‘R’ for Respondent(s) and ‘P’ for Petitioner(s). For instance, the respondent(s) memorial of team code 10 should be named as ‘10R’.

To conserve paper, teams may print their memorials on both sides of the A4 sheet and submit accordingly and it is advised to avoid use of plastic files and Paper files are encouraged.

### Contents of the Memorial

Memorials must contain not more than a total of 35 pages and the following sections should be present in the same order, as stated below-

- Cover Page;
- Table of Contents;
- Index of Authorities;
- Statement of Jurisdiction;
- Statement of Facts;
- Statement of Issues;
- Summary of Arguments;
- Arguments Advanced; (Not exceeding 20 pages)
- Prayer

The cover page of the petitioner's memorial shall be printed on blue colour A4 size paper, and the cover page of the respondent's memorial shall be printed on Red colour A4 size paper.

### Formatting

The font style and size of the text of all parts of the Memorial, excluding the Cover Page shall be Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5- line spacing. The Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, size 10, single (1) line spacing.

### Evaluation

The maximum scores for the memorials shall be 100 marks. The memorials shall be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Total 100 marks
- Knowledge of Law and Facts: **30 Marks;**
- Proper and Articulate Analysis: **30 Marks;**
- Extent and Use of Research: **20 Marks;**
- Clarity and Organization: **10 Marks;**
- Grammar and Style: **10 Marks**

### Penalties

- Disclosure of team identity by any means: **5 Marks**
- Exceeding the page limit: **1 Mark per page**
- Violation of formatting rules: **0.25 Marks per page**
- Delay in submission of memorial: **1 mark per hour**
- Use of any internet sources during Oral Rounds: **Disqualification**
- Scouting: **Disqualification**

## CLARIFICATION

Clarifications to the Moot Proposition may be sought by sending an e-mail to the Organising Committee on or before 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (11:59 P.M. IST). Clarifications sent after the provided deadline shall not be entertained. The clarifications, if any, will be circulated amongst the registered teams shortly thereafter



## ORAL ROUNDS

The researcher shall sit with the speakers during the orals and at no point of time the researcher shall be allowed to speak or address the bench.

Maximum marks for the oral rounds shall be 100 marks per speaker.

KNOWLEDGE OF LAW	20 MARKS
APPLICATION OF LAW TO FACTS	20 MARKS
INGENUITY AND ABILITY TO ANSWER	20 MARKS
STYLE, POISE, COURTESY AND DEMEANOUR	20 MARKS
TIME MANAGEMENT	10 MARKS
ORGANISATION OF ARGUMENTS	10 MARKS

- Each Team shall appear in two Preliminary Rounds. They shall have to argue as the appellant and Respondent once each. No two teams shall face each other more than once in the preliminary rounds.
- Draw of lots shall determine which two teams would face each Other and the side shall be represented by each team.
- Each team will get a total of 25 minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur- rebuttal time. Non-adherence to time may result in deduction of marks.
- The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 10 minutes per speaker.
- For the purposes of qualification from the Preliminary Rounds to the Qualifiers, the top 8 teams shall be decided on the basis of Wins. In case two or more teams having the same number of Wins then the aggregate Oral Round Scores, and if the tie persists their memorial scores shall be taken into consideration.
- The Qualifiers shall be knock-out rounds and the determination of opponents for the 4 qualifying teams shall be based on their ranking in the Preliminary rounds.
- Each team will get a total of 25 minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur- rebuttal time. Non-adherence to time may result in deduction of marks. The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 10 minutes per speaker.
- The highest-ranking team shall compete with the lowest ranking team and same method shall be followed for the other teams and the Draw of lots shall determine the side shall be represented by each team in the knock out rounds.
- The Winning teams of the Qualifier rounds shall compete in the semi final round. Each team will get a total of 45 minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur-rebuttal time. Non-adherence to time may result in deduction of marks.

- The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 15 minutes per speaker and upper limit of 30 minutes per speaker.
- Teams having highest scores in the semi final round shall qualify for the final round. In case of a tie, the team with the higher memorial score will stand qualified for the final round
- Each team shall get a total of 45 minutes to present their case. This time will include rebuttal and sur- rebuttal time. Non-adherence to time may result in deduction of marks.
- The division of time per speaker is left to the discretion of the team subject to a lower limit of 15 minutes per speaker and upper limit of 30 minutes per speaker.

## DRESSING

The dress code for the oral rounds shall be an advocate's attire, i.e., Black and White combination, including Blazer, Tie, Formal Trousers and Black Shoes.



*LPU students emerged victorious at the National Moot Court Competition held by Rayat Bahra College of Law*

## ANONYMITY

The student counsels shall not state their names during the oral rounds and must use the assigned team code for all correspondence. All team members must refrain from disclosing the identity of their institutions at any time and in any manner during the entire Competition.

Scouting is strictly prohibited and scouting by any team shall entail instant disqualification. Non-compliance with this Rule will result in immediate disqualification of the team.

## AWARDS

- **Winning Team Award** – The winning team will receive certificate of winning, trophy with a prize money of ₹51,000/-.
- **Runner-up Team Award** – The runner-up team will receive certificate of runner up, trophy, with a prize money of ₹31,000/-.
- **Best Speaker** will receive a trophy, certificate and a prize money of ₹10,000/-.
- **Best Researcher** will receive a trophy, certificate and prize money of ₹10,000/-.
- **Best Memorial** -The team submitting the best Memorial will receive a trophy, Certificate and a prize money of ₹10,000/-.
- All the participants will be awarded with the participation certificate.
- One month access to the SCC Online Web Edition to all participants valued at Rs. 1099 each. E-mail ids of the participants to be provided to SCC Online to activate the subscriptions.
- Three (3) one-year complimentary subscription to SCC Online Web Edition to be distributed to the winning team worth Rs. 24,000 each. Total value = Rs. 72,000.
- One-hour Online training session on SCC Online for all the participants. This is a mandatory session. Please prefer to schedule prior to draw of lots.

## FINALITY OF THE DECISION

The decision of the judges with regard to the outcome of the rounds shall be final. For all purposes and in any dispute, the decision of the Moot Court Coordinator of the Competition shall be final and binding.

5 Feb   11: 59pm	Early Decision Benefit
10 Feb   11: 59pm	Last date of Registration
20 Feb   11: 59pm	Last date for any clarifications
15 Mar   11: 59pm	Memorial Submission
20 March, 2025	Inaugral & Researchers Test
21/22 March, 2025	Oral Rounds

## MOOT PROPOSITION

1. The district Deshrath, located in the rural heartland of State of Uttam Pradaesh, Aryavarta, is steeped in superstition and marked by caste divisions. Upper-caste influential figures of the village, Keshav Singh, who is the village headman, and his friend Raghav Chauhan, have exercised unchecked control over the village's resources and governance. Caste-based discrimination has persisted historically, while recent years saw occasional collaborative efforts between communities, especially in village festivals and governance. However, Keshav Singh also had political rivals, notably Arvind Dhodia, who had contested against him in the panchayat elections but was defeated twice.
2. At the edge of this village lived Rukmini Devi, a widowed woman from the SC/ST community. Rukmini had inherited a modest plot of land from her deceased husband, but her life was far from easy. Often viewed with suspicion, she was a reclusive figure in the village. Her knowledge of herbal medicine and natural remedies was highly regarded, but her solitary lifestyle and mysterious aura led some to whisper about her involvement in the darker aspects of spiritual practices including witchcraft and black magic.
3. From August 2023 to September 2024, five women from SC/ST families vanished under mysterious circumstances, while some villagers believed these were cases of elopement or human trafficking, others accused Keshav and Raghav of orchestrating the abductions to silence dissent against their authority. The missing women, aged 15 to 20, all came from families that had recently challenged the authority of Keshav and Raghav in panchayat meetings.
4. Despite desperate pleas from the victims' families, the local police failed to act decisively, dismissed the disappearances as cases of elopement. Meanwhile village panchayat fuelled the villagers' fears by spreading stories that Rukmini was performing dark rituals and sacrificing young women to increase her powers. The final straw came when a piece of torn clothing belonging to one of the missing women was found near Rukmini's house, it was enough to set the village on edge.
5. On 20th September, after a heated panchayat meeting led by local political leaders including Keshav and Raghav, a mob of villagers, including individuals from both upper caste and SC/ST groups, gathered outside Rukmini's hut. Convinced by the leaders' rhetoric, they accused her of causing the disappearances.
6. The mob, armed with sticks, sickles, and stones, dragged Rukmini out of her home. Despite her cries of innocence, she was stripped naked and paraded through the village streets. Next morning Rajni and her husband Shyam (cured by Rukmini) discovered Rukmini Devi abandoned near the village square in an impaired condition, from where they took her to hospital, medical reports showed brutal marks of injuries and presence of semen samples confirming presence of DNA from at least four to five individuals.
7. Blurred videos of the horrific act of naked parade surfaced on social media, sparking national outrage, pressurizing authorities to take actions. The police after the direction of SP filed the FIR on 26-10-2024 against several individuals including Keshav and Raghav and day after made the arrests, while arresting Keshav and Raghav a crowd of villagers justifying their actions tried to stop the police officers.
8. Subsequently, after the completion of investigation, sessions court started the trial and during the trial, on 20th November while farmers were working in the field, they observed dogs acting strangely and digging in farmland near to the Keshav Singh's house. When the farmers approached, they were met with a strong foul odor. Upon digging further, they discovered the decomposed bodies of the three women. After investigation two more bodies were recovered from the nearby pond, all bodies were without clothes and in a severely degraded condition. The remains were later moved to a forensic lab, where DNA tests confirmed the identities of the victims as the missing women.
9. The revelation made it evident for the villagers that the witchcraft accusations against Rukmini were a ploy to cover up the crimes. As the bodies were discovered in a property near to Keshav's house, the villagers believed that Keshav was behind the disappearance of the women, sending shockwaves through the village.
10. Outraged by the new evidence and the miscarriage of justice, villagers including local political leaders began discussing their frustration in WhatsApp groups such as "Justice for victims" "Justice for Rukmini". Messages calling for direct action circulated, including vague plans to gather near the district jail. The local political leaders, around 500 villagers, predominantly women including Arvind Dhodia, Rukmini Devi, Rajni, Shyam, and family members of the disappeared women started a peaceful protest in front of the district jail located in the centre of the town.
11. On the foggy winter night of 27th November, the peaceful protest suddenly turns to violence and stormed into the district jail. They overwhelmed the guards, broke into the cells of Keshav and Raghav and the other accused, dragged them from their cells, in the heckle situation Keshav managed to escape the



death but others were lynched by mob in frenzied manner, leaving their bodies unrecognizable. Several villagers filmed parts of the attack and circulated on the internet quoting "Justice served, our way", "The system failed, we won't", but the poor visibility and low-quality footage made identification difficult.

12. Based on blurry video clips, cell tower data, WhatsApp messages & DNA evidence found on the weapons at the scene, including sticks, sickles containing bloodstains, 300 suspects were arrested.
13. Several accused individuals denied any involvement, claiming they were falsely implicated due to caste biases or personal vendettas. Additionally, some stated that they had gathered for a peaceful protest, were unaware that violence would occur, and denied participating in any violent acts.
14. Following the investigation the matter went before the court of sessions, a group of 60 individuals, including Arvind Dhodia, Manu, Rajni, Shyam, family members of disappeared women, other men, women, and young adults, were charged. Considering the facts of the case the trial court clubbing both the trials. Hearing both the side the trial court acquitted the accused Keshav Singh and Ragav Chauhan on the ground of insufficient evidence. Also, the trial court acquitted the group of 60 individuals including Arvind Dhodia, Manu, Rajni, Shyam and family members of disappeared women accused of mob lynching as the prosecution failed to produce the adequate evidences to implicate the accused.
15. Aggrieved by the order of the case the appellant approached the High Court of Uttam Pradesh challenging the acquittal, following are the issues before the hon'ble court for adjudication.

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### The laws in the state of Aryavarta are in pari materia to the laws applicable in India

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#### Issues of the Case

- Whether the trial court erred in its appreciation of evidence in acquitting the accused Keshav Singh, Raghav Chauhan, and others of the charges under sections 70(1) and 103 of the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) Act, relating to the gang rape of Rukmini Devi and the murders of the five missing women?
- Whether the actions of Keshav, Ragav and others constitute offences under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act?
- Whether the WhatsApp messages meet the legal standards of admissibility and evidentiary value required to be treated as evidence in court proceedings?
- Whether the acquittal of Arvind Dhodia, Manu, Rajni, Shyam, and the family members of the disappeared women is legally justifiable based on the evidence and circumstances presented in the case?

#### Disclaimer

- The facts stated in the moot proposition are fictitious and have been drafted solely for the moot court competition.
- The names, locations, dates used and the situation described in the proposition have no resemblance to any person alive or dead, or any event.
- No real incident can be attached to anything contained in this proposition.
- The proposition doesn't intend to hurt the feelings of any person or any section of society.



## AUTHORITIES AT SCHOOL OF LAW LPU

### **Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal**

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### **Ms. Rashmi Mittal**

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### **Prof.(Dr.) Sanjay Modi**

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### **Prof (Dr.) Pavitar Parkash Singh**

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Assistant Professor  
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Head of the Department  
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School of Law, Lovely Professional University

### **Prof (Dr.) Shobha Gulati Jain**

Moot Court Coordinator,  
School of Law, Lovely Professional University

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Organising Committee (O.C.) shall be responsible for all administrative matters concerning the competition and shall supply and distribute all necessary information to the participating teams. The official email ID for all the correspondence is [Solmootcourt@lpu.co.in](mailto:Solmootcourt@lpu.co.in)



*Moot Court Society at 5th Moot Court Competition, 2024*



*Office Bearers, MCS at 5th Moot Court Competition, 2024*

## CONVENERS

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# 6TH GAVELLED MOOT COURT COMPETITION

20-22nd March, 2025

Moot Court Society, School of Law, Lovely Professional University, Punjab

## Registration Form

### I. Institute Details:

Name & Address of the Institution/University/College

.....  
.....

Email Address (Institution/ Director/Dean/Principal).....

### II. Details of Speaker – I

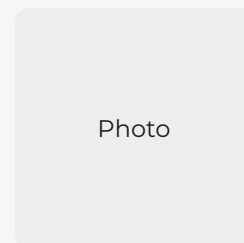
Name .....

Gender.....

Class.....

Contact Number.....

E-mail Address.....



### III. Details of Speaker – II

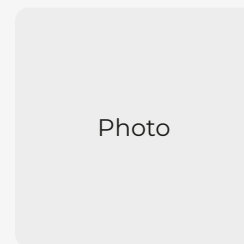
Name .....

Gender.....

Class.....

Contact Number.....

E-mail Address.....



### IV. Details of Researcher

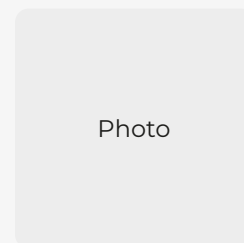
Name .....

Gender.....

Class.....

Contact Number.....

E-mail Address.....



### V. Fee Amount ₹5500/- till 05-01-2025 thereafter late fee application i.e. ₹6000/- per team (including accommodation)

Payment Gateway : <https://www.lpu.in/events/gavelled/registration.php>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seal and Signature of Dean/ Principal/ Director

#### KINDLY NOTE

1. Registration form to be mailed at [solmootcourt@lpu.co.in](mailto:solmootcourt@lpu.co.in) (hard copy of the same to be deposited by hand at the registration desk at the time of competition).
2. Please Contact the organizing committee for post-deadline registration slots.
3. Accommodation is available from the morning of 20th March to the evening of 22nd March 2025, with food provided from the evening of 20th March to 22nd March 2025.
4. Travel form shall be provided after confirmation of Registration.



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Jalandhar-Delhi G.T. Road, Phagwara, Punjab

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