PARTICIPATION BROCHURE

2nd NUJS NATIONAL TRIAL & ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2027



22nd to 24th January, 2027

ABOUT NUJS

West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) is one of the country's top three premier Tier I law universities, widely remarked for its pedagogical approach to academic excellence and intellectual rigour. NUJS has emerged as a national leader in legal education, having consistently produced alums who excel in diverse legal fields. The university is distinguished by its various, wide-ranging pioneering achievements, like being the first Indian law institution to win the prestigious Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Competition in Vienna (2003) and, more recently, emerging as the World Champions at the 27th Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition. The university's outstanding placement record reflects its commitment to producing skilled, adaptive, and ethically grounded professionals. As an incubator of legal thought and research, NUJS continuously attracts distinguished legal scholars and practitioners, further enhancing the institution's academic environment. NUJS maintains a strong presence in the global legal community through academic partnerships with renowned institutions and firms, such as the university's collaboration with Herbert Smith Freehills, LLP, UK, on its flagship Moot Court competition. NUJS alums are recruited by top-tier Indian and international law firms, major corporations, and leading non-governmental organizations. Further, our graduates frequently earn prestigious scholarships to pursue advanced legal studies, including the Rhodes Scholarship, Chevening Scholarship, Fulbright Program, the Felix Scholarship (University of Oxford), and the Vanderbilt Scholarship (New York University). Powered by its unique approach to law education, a driven student community and a network of successful alums worldwide, NUJS continues to advance legal erudition and contribute to societal progress through the law.

ABOUT SACJ

The Society for Advancement of Criminal Justice (SACJ) is a premier academic body under the Student Juridical Association (SJA) at the National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Kolkata. The SACJ focuses on raising awareness regarding contemporary issues concerning Criminal Law and Justice.

The principles governing the interplay of criminal laws with the society and its conception of morality form the core of this Society. Considering the perennial importance of law and crime in any civilised society and given the increasing awareness regarding individual and collective human rights, the field of criminal justice has attained greater social significance than ever before. The role of criminal justice interventions in producing safe and just societies cannot be overemphasised upon, and the Society aims at fulfilling its greater responsibility towards the society. In doing so, the Society facilitates interaction between future lawyers and lawmakers to develop a holistic view of the criminal justice system and identify its loopholes, to allow remedial measures to be taken and mitigation mechanisms to be developed. Furthermore, the Society follows an interdisciplinary approach, which includes sociological and jurisprudential aspects of criminal justice within its ambit. In addition to this, it is the contemporaneous relevance of the functioning of Society that serves to raise the interest quotient of its members, thereby making it one of the most active academic associations in the University.

The Society's primary objective is to foster a comprehensive research environment within the fields of Criminology and Criminal Justice, while encouraging meaningful academic discourse on Criminal Law and its allied disciplines. It seeks to advance quality legal scholarship through initiatives such as the National Criminal Law Essay Writing Competition and the Judgement Analysis Competition, alongside hosting lectures, discussions, and interactive sessions with eminent lawyers, academicians, jurists, and journalists working in these fields. Further, building on the successful inaugural edition of the NUJS Trial and Advocacy Competition, the Society strives to bridge the gap between legal theory and courtroom practice by providing students with opportunities to engage with the practical dimensions of criminal law and advocacy.

MESSAGE FROM FACULTY ADVISOR

It gives me immense pleasure to pen this message on the occasion of the 2nd NUJS National Trial and Advocacy Competition scheduled to be organized by the Society for Advancement of Criminal Justice (SACJ) after the overwhelming response and grand success of the its inaugural competition conceptualised and organised by the former student office bearers. The SACJ is one of the longest-standing societies at WBNUJS, having contributed to the development of legal education in various ways. The society comprises diverse students across all batches of WBNUJS as its members, along with former office bearers many of whom hold distinguished positions in various government, non-governmental, and prestigious national and international organizations.

SACJ has consistently endeavoured an active role to foster engagement with several legal luminaries, stalwarts and stakeholders of the criminal justice system. Over the years, the society has had privilege of hosting distinguished members of the legal fraternity including as judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Judiciary, Senior Advocates, police officers, prosecution officers, representatives of correctional administration and others. Their valuable contribution through interactions during seminars, workshops, webinars, and programs organized by the Society has enriched academic discourses in the field of criminal justice system. Students of the SACJ also undertake a range of annual activities, such as a call for blog posts on various developments in criminal law, organizing quizzes and essay-writing competitions. These initiatives draw participation from universities across India, showcasing their academic potential.

I warmly welcome and invite students across our country to participate in this competition organised by SACJ. I am sincerely confident that this experience will be intellectually enriching. I extend my best wishes to our students, Tannistha Tridib Ghosh (Convenor), Anya Kumar (Co-Convenor), Ishika Mullick (Co-Convenor), Sounisha Mukherjee (Treasurer) and the entire team of SACJ all the success for this event.

~Dr. Surja Kanta Baladhikari
Assistant Professor, WBNUJS
Faculty Advisor, SACJ WBNUJS



ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The 2nd NUJS National Trial and Advocacy Competition, to be held from 22nd to 24th January, 2027, seeks to recreate the dynamic and intellectually stimulating atmosphere of an Indian trial court, where the real essence of criminal justice unfolds. Unlike appellate courts that interpret the law on record, the trial court serves as the foundation where facts are unearthed, narratives are tested, and justice begins its journey. Building on the success of its inaugural edition, this competition is a sincere attempt to immerse law students in that crucial first stage of the justice delivery system, where every argument, piece of evidence, and witness testimony has the potential to alter the fate of a case.

At its core, the competition aims to bridge the gap between legal theory and courtroom practice by simulating the procedural intricacies and emotional intensity that define trial advocacy. Participants will engage with every significant component of trial proceedings, from evidence collection and admissibility to opening statements, examination-in-chief, cross-examination, the presentation of expert testimony, and closing arguments. The event promises to test not only the advocacy and oratory skills of the participants but also their command over the new substantive and procedural criminal laws. Every team shall demonstrate its ability to argue from both sides, prosecution and defence, mirroring the adversarial structure of real courtrooms.

Organised by the Society for Advancement of Criminal Justice (SACJ), NUJS, the competition reflects the Society's long-standing effort to deepen engagement with criminal law and its practice. By bringing together participants from law schools across the country, SACJ hopes to offer students a glimpse into the human and intellectual demands of advocacy at the trial level, where every word can alter the course of justice.

FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

Memorial Qualifier Rounds: All participating teams are required to submit memorials for both sides. Based on the memorial scores, the top 32 teams shall qualify for the Preliminary Rounds.

Preliminary Rounds: Each of the 32 qualifying teams will present arguments twice, once as the Prosecution and once as the Defence, as allotted by the Organizing Committee. The 16 teams with the highest cumulative oral scores will advance to the Octa-Final Rounds.

Octa-Final Rounds: The Octa-Finals shall be conducted in a knockout format. Each team will argue from an allotted side, and the team with the higher cumulative oral score in each room will qualify for the Quarter-Final Rounds. A total of 8 teams will progress.

Quarter-Final Rounds: The Quarter-Finals shall also follow a knockout format. Each team will argue from an allotted side, and the team achieving the higher cumulative oral score in each room will proceed to the Semi-Final Rounds. Four teams will qualify for the next stage.

Semi-Final Rounds: The Semi-Finals shall be knockout rounds. Each team will argue from an allotted side, and the two teams with the higher cumulative oral scores from their respective rooms will qualify for the Final Round.

Final Round: In the Final Round, each team will argue from a side determined by a draw of lots. The team securing the higher cumulative oral score shall be declared the winner of the competition.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
05.11.2026	Commencement of Registration
10.11.2026	Proposition Release
17.11.2026	Last Date of Seeking Clarifications
01.12.2026	Release of Clarifications
05.12.2026	Last Date of Registration
15.12.2026	Memorial Submission
05.01.2027	Result of Memorial Rounds
22.01.2027	Preliminary Rounds I & II
23.01.2027	Octa-Finals and Quarter-Final Rounds
24.01.2027	Semi-Final and Final Rounds

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Students pursuing either a three-year LL.B. course or a five-year integrated law degree from any Law School, College, University, or Institution recognized by the Bar Council of India (BCI) are eligible to participate. Teams may comprise students from any institution, and cross-institutional registration is permitted.

TEAM COMPOSITION

Each team shall comprise three members: two Speakers and one Researcher-cum-Witness. The two Speakers will present oral arguments for their respective sides, while the Researcher-cum-Witness will assist in the preparation of the case, support the Speakers during the rounds, and perform the role of the designated witness when required.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The competition features a cash prize pool of over ₹50,000 along with trophies and certificates to recognise outstanding performances. Prizes shall be awarded in the following categories and more:

- Winner
- Runners-up
- Best Student Advocate
- Best Memorial

All participants will receive certificates of participation acknowledging their efforts and contribution to the competition.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Each team is required to pay a Team Registration Fee of ₹2500 + applicable GST through the designated payment gateway.
- Once the payment is completed, teams must upload a screenshot or scanned copy of the payment receipt as proof of payment.
- Teams qualifying for the offline rounds shall be required to make an additional payment of ₹3500 + applicable GST through the payment gateways provided below. Details with respect to accommodation shall be released after the completion of the memorial qualifier rounds.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

All participants are requested to follow the Instructions for making the payment through SBI Collect -

- Access https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm
- Select Type of Category as 'Educational Institutions'
- Select the Institutions Name as 'The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences'
- Select the Payment Category as 'Registration for NUJS NTAC'

CONTACT US

Registration and accommodation-related queries:
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For other queries:
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Or write to us at: trialadvocacy.sacj@nujs.edu