

**3RD NLIU-LAC
PARALEGAL
WORKSHOP
&
TRAINING
PROGRAMME**



17 - 18 MARCH 2024



Access to Justice for all



Legal Aid Clinic

ABOUT NLIU

The National Law Institute University, Bhopal (NLIU), established in 1997, has consistently been accredited as one of the leading legal institutions of the country and it has gained its stature as a reputed institution in the global legal arena. The vision of NLIU is to become one of the best centers of legal education, training, and research so that the graduating lawyers profoundly commit to this noble profession. The University has made significant strides in promoting the holistic development of its students by organising a wide array of co-curricular events aimed at enhancing practical legal skills.

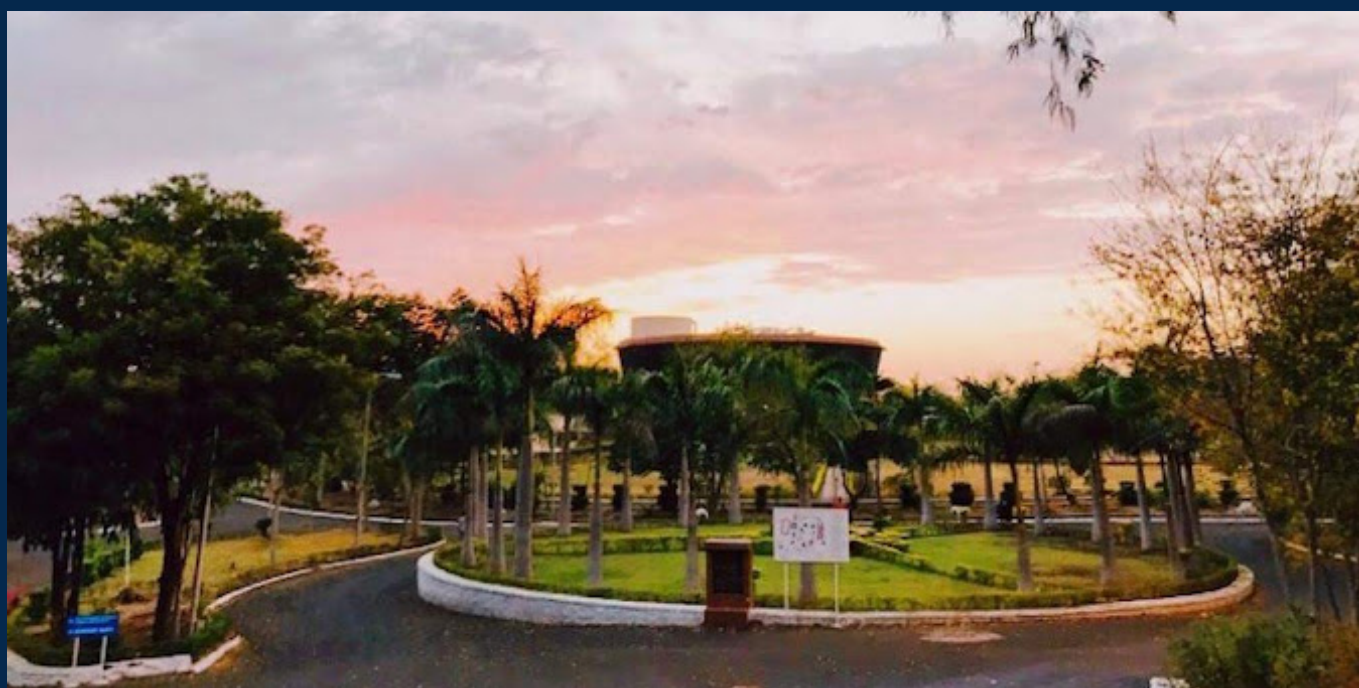


ABOUT NLIU - LAC

The NLIU Legal Aid Clinic, operating under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority, is a student-led initiative focused on offering legal assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged and marginalised groups that struggle to access the judicial system. Rooted in the principles of Article 39A of the Indian Constitution, the clinic firmly believes in the idea that law should serve the public good.

However, the clinic's endeavours go beyond merely offering pro bono litigation services. It also actively engages in legal literacy initiatives, spreads social awareness, and conducting prison reform activities. By adopting this holistic approach, the clinic aims to make a broader and more meaningful impact on the lives of those in need.

All this has been made possible by the constant support of our collaborators – the Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, the District State Legal Services Authority, Bhopal, the Indian National Bar Association, the International Council of Jurists, Committee for Legal Aid to Poor, SCC Online, EBC, LiveLaw, Red FM, Everyday India.



ABOUT THE EVENT

The NLIU Legal Aid Clinic, in partnership with several organisations like the Madhya Pradesh State Legal Service Authorities (MPSLSA) and the India National Bar Association, has been organising flagship event the NLIU-LAC Workshop and Training Programme over the years, to enhance legal education and promote access to justice in Madhya Pradesh and across India. This initiative is in line with NLIU-LAC's commitment to nurturing future legal professionals equipped to address societal legal needs and contribute to the advancement of justice.

The first edition of the workshop, titled 'LAC – WTP: Capacity Building,' was a significant milestone, with participation from twenty law universities and colleges. The program featured intensive training sessions conducted by experts in mediation and related services, focusing on establishing Legal Aid Clinics. Additionally, three established Legal Aid Centers from around the country shared their models and insights, contributing to the shared goal of NLIU-LAC to provide effective legal aid and promote legal literacy.

Building on the success of the first edition, the second edition, cultivated practical skills in students to handle real-life cases and develop expertise in providing legal advice, essential for operating legal aid centers effectively, through a client-handling competition.

The competition assessed participants' abilities to analyse case facts and provide legal advice, in line with guidance from empaneled advocates (or judges in the context of the competition). Participants were evaluated on their legal opinions and responses to judges' questions, based on various criteria.

ABOUT THE CURRENT EDITION



In this edition of the NLIU-LAC Paralegal Workshop and Training Programme, two new components have been introduced: the Round Table Conference and the essay writing competition. The Round Table Conference provides a platform for participants to engage in in-depth discussions and exchange ideas with experts, practitioners, and scholars in the field of legal aid and social justice. Through this interactive session, participants will have the opportunity to explore current issues, share insights, and collaborate on potential solutions, thereby fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the field. Additionally, the essay writing competition aims to encourage participants to showcase their research and analytical skills while addressing relevant legal and social issues.

By providing a platform for scholarly inquiry and constructive dialogue, these new components enrich the overall learning experience of the programme and contribute to the advancement of legal aid and social justice efforts in India. The ultimate goal of the NLIU-LAC Workshop and Training Programme is to instil a sense of commitment to legal aid and social justice in the next generation of legal professionals.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

THEME:

Building Bridges: Collaborative Partnerships between Legal Aid Organizations, Law Firms, and Community Stakeholders

SUB-THEMES:

1. Capacity Building and Training
2. Innovative Funding Models
3. Technology and Digital Inclusion

This theme underscores the importance of fostering collaborative partnerships to effectively address legal aid and social justice issues.

The Round Table Conference offers a dynamic platform for participants to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to advance collaborative partnerships in the legal aid sector. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among legal aid organizations, law firms, and community stakeholders, the conference aims to strengthen the collective efforts to promote access to justice and social inclusion.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

17 March 2024

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	On-desk registration
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Essay presentation
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch Break
2:45 PM - 4.45 PM	Round table conference
4:45 PM - 5:00 PM	Felicitations Ceremony

18 March 2024

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Preliminary Round (Round of 16)
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch Break
2:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Advanced Rounds
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Valedictory Ceremony

PARALEGAL TRAINING COMPETITION

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition aims to provide a holistic simulation of responding to clients in a real-life situation. Thus, in the course of participation, the participants are to prepare written submissions on the factual-matrix of the problem drafted for the preliminary and the advanced rounds. The written submissions are to be followed by the oral rounds which are spread across preliminary and advanced rounds.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

The guidelines for the written submissions are as follows-

- The problems for preliminary and advanced rounds will be shared by **08 March, 2024**, the participants shall be required to draft their legal opinions on the said problems which may include the pointers like facts of the case, legal research, eligibility of the client for free representation under S. 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, jurisdiction or admissibility, possible remedies or recourses available, etc.
- The draft opinion may contain case laws from the Supreme Court and High Courts, foreign judgments, statutes, etc. to support the opinion. Secondary sources such as articles, text books, journals, and websites may be referred.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- The body of the submissions must be in the font '**Times New Roman**' with **font size 12, line spacing of 1.5 and justified**.
- Authorities shall be uniformly cited in the footnotes, preferably as per the **OSCOLA** citation method.
- The Footnotes shall be in Times New Roman, size 10, single line spacing and justified.
- All the Draft Legal Opinions (Preliminary and Advanced) must be submitted in both Microsoft Word Document format (.doc/.docx) and PDF Format (.pdf) [i.e., each participant is required to send 2 files of each draft- One in MS Word format and one in PDF format; which means 4 files in total].
- Any submission with any name reference of the participant will be disqualified.
- Scores of the written submission(s) will be counted for qualifying to the advanced round and determining the 'Best Legal Opinions' award.
- The marking parameters for the written submissions may be accessed here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Nh7IrplMOA6TKpdkyef9lnRo8LhEd7ly/edit>
- All Draft Legal Opinions must be uploaded on the google link [to be shared post registration] on or before **11 March 2024, 11:59 PM** with the file name 'Draft Legal Opinion(Preliminary/Advanced) Team Code'.
- Any submission made after the deadline will not be considered for evaluation.

ORAL ROUNDS: PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

- The guidelines for the preliminary round are as follows-
- The Preliminary Round will be for a total of 30 minutes, with the following division-
- 10 min: The participants will be expected to gather as many facts of the case as possible from the clients.
- 10 min: The participants will have to present their legal opinion of the case to the judges and answer their questions.
- 5 min: The participants may make changes to their legal opinion, after consulting with the judges and as per the additional facts disclosed by the client if any.
- 5 min: The participants shall then be required to give advice to the clients and explain legal recourse(s) available on the basis of the updated legal opinion.
- Judges may give feedback to the participants.

ORAL ROUNDS: ADVANCED ROUNDS

The guidelines for the advanced round are as follows-

Only 4 teams from the preliminary rounds shall qualify to the Advanced Round. The Advanced Round will be for a total of 40 minutes, with the following division:

- 15 min: The participants will be expected to gather as many facts of the case as possible from the clients.
- 10 mins: The participants will have to present their legal opinion of the case to the judges and answer their questions.
- 10 mins: The participants may make changes to their legal opinion after consulting with the judges and as per the additional facts disclosed by the client if any.
- 5 mins: The participants shall then be required to give advice to the clients and explain legal recourse(s) available on the basis of the updated legal opinion.

ESSAY WRITING AND PRESENTATION COMPETITION

This competition aims to spur conversation and increase academic engagement on the various facets of access to justice.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

The participants are invited to submit essays as per the submission guidelines. The top-six presenters from the competition will be shortlisted and invited to present their essays to a distinguished panel of legal luminaries and eminent persons in the advocacy.

THEMES FOR THE COMPETITION

1. Immigration and Refugee legal aid
2. Legal Aid and Indigenous Rights
3. Legal Aid and Trauma-Informed Care: Building Resilience in Survivors
4. Legal Aid as Community Healing: Restorative Justice Approaches
5. Funding Challenges for Legal Aid
6. Integrating ADR in Legal Aid: Perspectives from the Mediation Act
7. Democratising access through and to Digital Courts

Kindly note that this is an indicative list. While we encourage participants to follow the themes, innovative submissions on the issues related to 'Legal Aid' are welcome and appreciated.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND REGISTRATION PROCESS

- The competition shall be open for the students currently pursuing the bachelor's degree in law i.e., 3-Year LL.B. course or 5-Year LL.B. course from any recognized university/college in India.
- Participation only in a team of two is allowed.
- Students from two different colleges/universities cannot form a team.
- The substitution of any team member is not allowed after the registration deadline except in extenuating circumstances and only with permission of the organising committee.
- The number of participating teams is limited to 16.
- Registration will take place on **First Come, First Serve basis**. For Preliminary Registration kindly fill this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegbDNXfSl3Dw9Vl1m_esqW4Mzsw_egXEU9_H3wn2RjkJYeCEg/viewform

- Registration Fee for the event is **Rs. 3500 per team**. The teams will receive payment details on the confirmation of registration.
- After the successful payment of registration fee, each participant or team shall be allotted a unique team code for further references. Last date to register for the competition is **07 March 2024, 11:59 PM**.

ESSAY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- The article must not exceed **3000 words**. The Editorial Board may be flexible with the word limit according to individual articles.
- Submissions should be accompanied by a short summary (5-6 lines) of the article.
- Submissions should adhere to academic standards, demonstrating clarity, coherence, and analytical rigor.
- Submissions that purposefully target or intend to harm the religious, socio-cultural, and/or political sentiments shall not be accepted.
- Authors should explore original perspectives. The submissions shall be checked for plagiarism, including AI writing. The plagiarism percentage should not exceed **10%** limit.
- Co-authorship up to **2 authors** is permitted.
- The body of the submissions must be in the font 'Times New Roman' with font size 12, line spacing of 1.5 and justified.
- Authorities should be uniformly cited in the footnotes with font size 10, preferably as per the OSCOLA method of citation.
- The submission must be submitted in both Microsoft Word Document format (.doc/.docx) and PDF Format (.pdf). The document should not have any information that could disclose the identity of the author(s).
- All submissions must be uploaded on the google link [to be shared post registration] on or before **03 March 2024, 11:59 PM** with the file name 'Title of the Essay'.

ESSAY PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- Entrants must be available for the final in-person presentation scheduled on 18 March, 2024. In exigent circumstances, the organisers may consider revoking this requirement.
- Please ensure that the total number of slides does not surpass 10.
- The allocated time for the presentation is 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute question and answer session with the panel/audience.
- The presentation will be presented using PowerPoint.
- In the case of co-authorship, all of the participants must present.
- Kindly submit your presentation on or before **March 14, 2024, 11:59 PM** (Thursday). Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of your participation.
- The marking parameters for the written submissions may be accessed here:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oaLQyl4je4dEKuogn8yK2nF2QPrr3piyaoU3BRrx69o/edit?usp=sharing>

ELIGIBILITY

- The competition shall be open for the students currently pursuing the bachelor's degree in law i.e., 3-Year LL.B. course or 5-Year LL.B. course from any recognized university/college in India.
- Students from two different colleges/universities cannot co-author.
- The substitution of any team member is not allowed after the registration deadline except in extenuating circumstances and only with permission of the organising committee.
- The Registration Fee for the Essay Writing Competition is **Rs. 300/-**.
- Participants may register by filling the following form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1AAKbo6mtTqRrZFv4_o-g_emeoZPbnKu5wT9__RZOxQs/edit
- The selected entries will have to pay an additional fee of **Rs. 1200**. The payment link for the same will be shared on the selection of the entry.
- Last day to register for the essay writing competition is **29 February 2024, 11:59 PM (Thursday)**.
- Participants are permitted to register for both Paralegal Training Competition as well as the Essay Competition.

AWARDS AND PRIZE MONEY

Exciting prizes will be awarded to the winners. Certificate of recognition will be given to all participants. More details regarding the prizes and INTERNSHIPS shall be released in the coming weeks. Please follow our social media pages for such details!

Merit Awards along with Cash Prize:

PARALEGAL TRAINING COMPETITION

- First Place - **Rs. 8500**
- Second Place - **Rs. 7000**
- Third Place - **Rs.6000**
- Best team in Preliminary Rounds - **Rs. 2000**
- Best Legal Opinion Draft - **Rs. 2000**

ESSAY PRESENTATION

- First Place - **Rs. 6000**
- Second Place - **Rs.4500**
- Third Place - **Rs. 3500**

PAYMENT DETAILS

Step 1: Go to <https://erp.nliu.ac.in/payment/#/>

Step 2: Fill the details

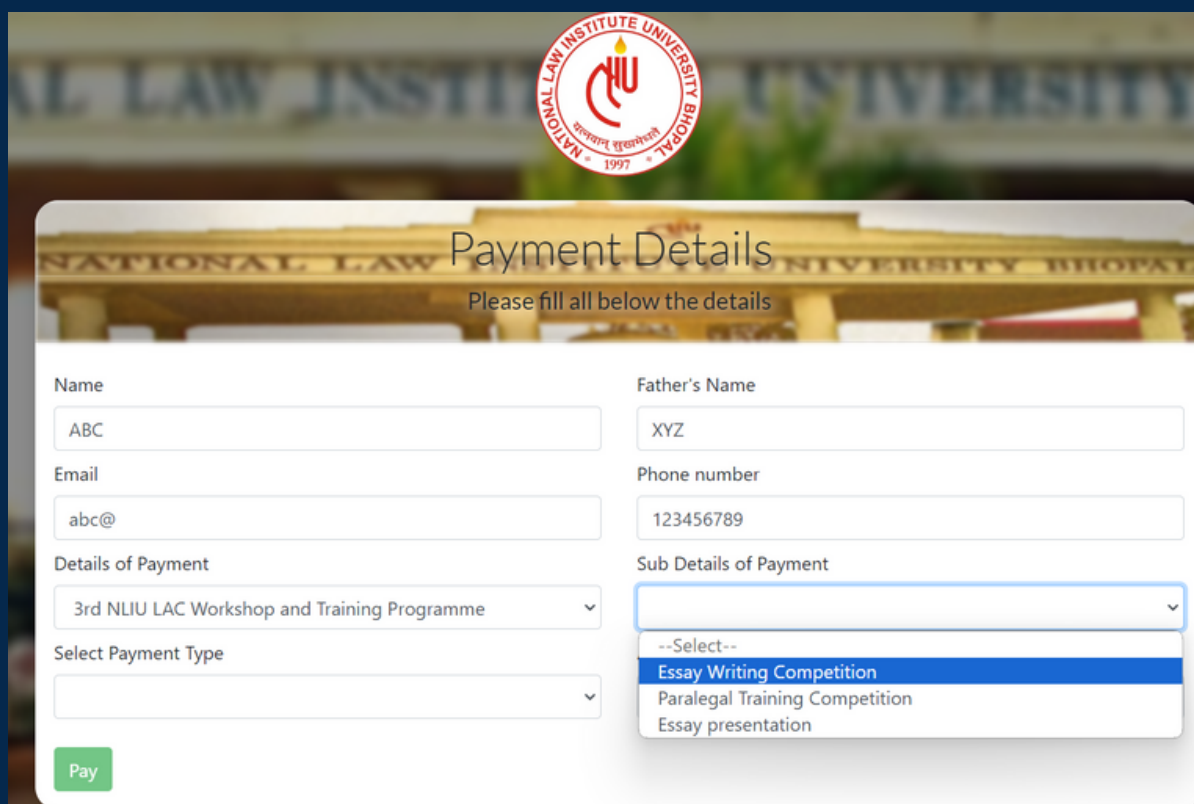
Step 2: Under 'Details of Payment', select '3rd NLIU-LAC WTP'


Step 4: From 'Sub Details of Payment', select the head that you are registering under.

Step 5: Choose, 'Full Payment'

Step 6: Proceed to make the payment.

NOTE: Participants registering for the Paralegal Training Competition are to make a payment only on the confirmation of their slot.





Payment Details

Please fill all below the details

Name	Father's Name
<input type="text" value="ABC"/>	<input type="text" value="XYZ"/>
Email	Phone number
<input type="text" value="abc@"/>	<input type="text" value="123456789"/>
Details of Payment	Sub Details of Payment
<input type="text" value="3rd NLIU LAC Workshop and Training Programme"/>	<input type="text" value="--Select--"/>
Select Payment Type	<input type="text" value="Essay Writing Competition"/>
<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value="Paralegal Training Competition"/>
<input type="text" value=""/>	<input type="text" value="Essay presentation"/>

IMPORTANT DATES

PARALEGAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

- Last Date for Preliminary Registrations: 07 March 2024
- Confirmation of Registrations: 08 March 2024
- Release of Competition Problems (Preliminary and Advanced rounds): 08 March 2024
- Submission of Draft Legal Opinions: 11 March 2024
- Dates of the Event: 18 March 2024

ESSAY WRITING AND PRESENTATION PROGRAMME

- Last Date to Register: 29 February 2024
- Submission Date: 03 March 2024
- Announcement of Selected Entries: 08 March 2024
- Date of the Competition: 17 March 2024

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

PATRON:

Prof. (Dr.) S. Surya Prakash
Vice Chancellor
National Law Institute University, Bhopal



CO - PATRON:

Prof. (Dr.) Bir Pal Singh
Faculty In-charge
Legal Aid Clinic
National Law Institute University, Bhopal



CORE COMMITTEE

Vijpreet Pal

Convenor

+91 8601-192-665

Rishitosh K. Akshaya

Co-Convenor

+91 7779-841-015



legalaidclinic@nliu.ac.in



<https://facebook.com/nliulac/>



@lac_nliu



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/legal-aid-clinic-nliu-bhopal>