



## TENTH SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE — INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2025



### SICTA 2025 - CURTAIN RAISER

**Symbiosis Law School, Pune**, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), is proud to announce the *Tenth Edition of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune – International Criminal Trial Advocacy (SICTA), 2025*, from April 10-13, 2025. Symbiosis Law School, Pune, is the only law school in India that provides participants the unique opportunity to demonstrate their advocacy skills in an International Criminal Court simulation in the presence of experts and scholars excelling in this domain of law. A key pillar of SICTA's continued success has been the active involvement and unwavering support of the illustrious alumni of SLS Pune, who have consistently contributed their time, mentorship, and expertise to elevate the competition consistently. Their commitment to giving back to the moot community has helped shape SICTA into a one-of-its-kind platform—respected both nationally and internationally. The competition has consistently attracted participation from renowned law colleges in India and around the world, including teams from China, U.K., Poland, Malaysia, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa, and Kuwait.

Furthermore, the competition has been adjudged by eminent legal luminaries such as Prof. Gudmundur Eiriksson (Professor and Executive Director, Centre for International Legal Studies, Jindal Global Law School), Dr. Sandeep Gopalan (Vice-Chancellor, Piedmont International University, North Carolina), and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris (Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka), among others. Adding to the legacy of excellence, Prof. Siobhán Mullally, (UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children) and Dr. Navi Pillay (Judge, Ad Hoc, International Criminal Court) have also adjudicated SICTA in previous editions—contributing immensely to its prestige and continued success on the international stage.

Marking a decade of excellence, the 10th Edition of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune – International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition (SICTA) stands as a testament to its enduring legacy and distinctiveness. SICTA is India's only moot competition that uniquely simulates the

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proceedings of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Over the past ten editions, the competition has seen robust participation from premier law schools across India, along with a growing international presence, reinforcing its global relevance. Each edition of SICTA is renowned for its high-caliber advocacy, reflecting a strong commitment to international criminal trial practices. Participants argue cases based on the Rome Statute, engaging in dynamic debates on some of the most pressing international legal issues of our time. Conducted in a trial-based format, SICTA offers an immersive and rigorous experience that mirrors the real-world functioning of the ICC. Over the years, National Law Universities of India, along with international teams from Nepal and Sri Lanka, have consistently lifted the coveted SICTA championship trophy, showcasing their exceptional advocacy and legal acumen. Various international teams have also been recipients of prestigious awards such as *the Best Defence Advocate Award – International*, *the Shree P.V. Ramanayaa Memorial Best Prosecutor Award*, and *the Late Yogini Kunder Memorial Best Lady Student Advocate Award*. Their continued success reflects the high standards of the competition and its role in recognizing excellence in international criminal trial advocacy.

In light of these factors, as well as the path charted by the International Criminal Court, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, is pleased to announce the theme for SICTA 2025 to be - ***“The distribution of liability in the context of a conflict aided and/or occasioned by the use of decentralized technology emanating from principles of blockchain edifice.”*** The proposition revolves around the procedural challenges faced by the International Criminal Court in interpreting treaties vis-à-vis international criminal law.

The inaugural ceremony of SICTA, 2025 will take place on April 10, 2025, at 04:00 PM (1600 Hours IST) at the Moot Court Hall, SLS Pune. The event will be graced by the esteemed Chief Guest, **Hon’ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris** (Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka). **Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur**, Fulbright Scholar, Director of Symbiosis Law School-Pune, Dean of Faculty of Law, SIU, Jean Monnet Chair Professor (EUC- LAMP co-funded by EU), will deliver the welcome address in the inaugural.

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The preliminary rounds of the competition will be held on April 11 & 12, 2025, with participation from 21 national and international teams. The top 9 teams will qualify for the semi-final rounds, scheduled to be held on April 12, 2025.

The final rounds of the competition will be held on April 13, 2025, adjudicated by an esteemed and reputable panel, including **Dr. Sanoj Rajan**, Distinguished Professor of International Law & Human Rights, Distinguished Professor at Zhejiang Gongshang University, Hangzhou, China. **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris**, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, **Dr. Luther Rangreji**, Joint Secretary, Legal and Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, **Professor (Dr.) Aniruddha Rajput**, Distinguished Professor of Law, National Law University, Delhi, Former member of United Nations International Law Commission, Consultant & Barrister, Withers LLP (London), **Dr. Venkatachala G. Hegde**, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for International Legal Studies (CILS), School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and **Adv. Tapas Baul**, Senior Associate, South Asia Democratic Forum and Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court.

The valedictory ceremony of the competition will be held on April 13, 2025, at 04:00 PM (1600 Hours IST), graced by the presence of the esteemed Chief Guest, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shriram Madhusudan Modak**, Judge at Bombay High Court, and **Dr. Venkatachala G. Hegde**, Professor and Chairperson, Centre for International Legal Studies (CILS), School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), along with the panel adjudicating the Final Round.

The ceremony will be followed by the declaration of the Winner and the Runner-Up teams, Best Student Advocates, Best Witnesses, and the Best Memorial, together with the announcement of awards sponsored by our Alumni Convenor Adv. Sampath Bulusu, Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Shell Energy India & Hazira Port.

**DATES OF THE EVENT: APRIL 10 - 13, 2025**