

PARTICIPATION BROCHURE

1ST NUJS NATIONAL TRIAL & ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2026



16-18 January, 2026



ABOUT NUJS

The 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 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. 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 quintessential objective of this Society is to foster a holistic research environment related to the school of Criminology and Criminal Justice as well as to promote discourse in the area of Criminal Law and its related disciplines. This objective is aimed to achieve by promoting quality academic writing through various competitions like National Criminal Law Essay Writing Competition as well as by hosting sessions and talks by eminent lawyers, academicians, jurists and journalists related to this field of law.

MESSAGE FROM FACULTY ADVISORS

“It gives me immense pleasure to write this message for the ‘NUJS National Trial and Advocacy Competition’ scheduled to be organised by Society for Advanced Criminal Justice (SACJ). The idea of having this flagship program was conceived by the students. The SACJ is one of the oldest societies at WBNUJS, having contributed to the development of legal education, which now comprises students across all batches of WBNUJS as its members. Several legal luminaries, stalwarts, and stakeholders of the criminal justice system, such as judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Judiciary, Police Officers, Prosecution officers, Correctional administration, and others have visited our university to deliver their lectures during seminars, workshops, webinars, and programs organized by the Society. Students also undertake annual activities, such as a call for blogs on various developments in criminal law, organizing quizzes, and essay competitions, which also attract participation from other universities. The Society has also been associated with organisations such as the Bureau of Police Research and Development, the International Justice Mission, as well as central and state governments and non-Governmental institutions, which have collaborated with us in various programs. I welcome and invite all students from across India to participate, as I am sure they will have an enriching learning experience throughout the competition in the city of joy. I wish our students, Arpitha Mariam Roy, Convenor; Junaid Hossain, Co-Convenor; Sayak Ray, Co-Convenor; Tannistha Tridib Ghosh, Treasurer; and the entire team of SACJ all success for this event.”

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

MESSAGE FROM FACULTY ADVISORS

“It has been a privilege to witness the growth of the Society for Advancement of Criminal Justice (SACJ) over the years, from a student initiative to one of NUJS’s most dynamic academic societies. The launch of the NUJS National Trial and Advocacy Competition marks another milestone in SACJ’s journey to promote critical engagement and practical learning in criminal law. From its inception, SACJ has consistently sought to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the realities of criminal practice. The NUJS National Trial and Advocacy Competition represents a continuation of that mission — to equip students with the analytical rigour, ethical grounding, and advocacy skills essential to the profession. I take great pride in SACJ’s evolution over the years and wish the organisers and participants every success in making this inaugural edition truly memorable”

– Faisal Fasih
Assistant Professor of Law, WBNUJS
& Faculty Advisor, SACJ WBNUJS

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The NUJS National Trial and Advocacy Competition 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 records, the trial court serves as the foundation where facts are unearthed, narratives are tested, and justice begins its journey. 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 examination-in-chief, cross-examination, and the presentation of expert testimony. 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 hosting this event, 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 Rounds: 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
23.10.2025	Commencement of Registration
5.11.2025	Problem Release
12.11.2025	Last Date of Seeking Clarifications
20.11.2025	Release of Clarifications
23.11.2025	Last Date of Registration
5.12.2025	Memorial Submission
26.12.2025	Result of Memorial Rounds
16.01.2026	Preliminary Rounds I & II
17.01.2026	Octa-Finals and Quarter-Final Rounds
18.01.2026	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 RECOGNITION

The competition features a cash prize pool of over ₹45,000 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 ₹8500 + applicable GST (inclusive of accommodation for the entire team from 15th to 18th) or ₹3000 + applicable GST through the payment gateways provided below.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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

- Go to the site: <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm>
- Select Type of Category as 'Educational Institutions'
- Select the Institution Name as 'The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences'
- Select the Payment Category as 'NUJS Trial and Advocacy Competition' and make the payment.
- Kindly, remember to fill the form: <https://forms.gle/SYjPrEMdwTfo7PSH6>
- Once the form is received by the Organizing Committee, a mail confirming the successful registration of a team in the competition will be sent within a week, after the verification of the documents attached and payment of the team registration fees.

Note: Please don't use any Special Character during filling the information, keep the SBI Collect Reference Number with a copy of receipt for reconciliation of fees at our end, if any.

CONTACT US

Registration and accommodation-related queries:

Sangbit Roy (Participation BoD): +91 98305 76536

Shubhankar Singha (Participation BoD): +91 96797 30493

Siva Dutt Reddy (Participation BoD): +91 93914 89618

For other queries:

Arpitha Mariam Roy (Convenor): +91 75078 96434

Junaid Hossain (Co-Convenor): +91 84361 68647

Sayak Ray (Co-Convenor): +91 79086 43804

Tanishtha Tridib Ghosh (Treasurer): +91 8263923090

Or write to us at: trialadvocacy.sacj@nujs.edu

