

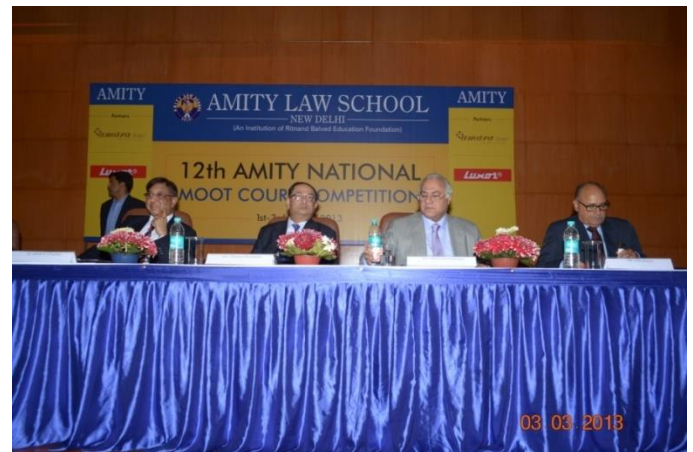
The 12th Amity National Moot Court Competition

The 12th Amity National Moot Court Competition held from 1st to 3rd March, 2013. The opening ceremony was inaugurated with the benison of the Swasti Vahan. The Chief Guests for the inaugural session were: Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. K. Jain (Chairman, Law Commission of India), Mr. Siddharth Luthra (Senior Advocate and Additional Solicitor General of India), Dr. Arun Mohan (Senior Advocate), Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan (Founder President, Ritnand Balved Education Foundation), Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi (Advocate) and Prof. M. K. Balachandran (Director, Amity Law School).

The welcome address was given by Prof M. K. Balachandran, Director, Amity Law School, Delhi who talked about the college's journey from the very first moot in 2002.

The ceremony continued with our Guests of Honour sharing their wisdom and years of experience by defining their perception of Law as a profession. Advocate and social activist Ms. Menakshi Lekhi talked about her interpretation of Advocacy, she very candidly agreed that “all advocates can

become Parliamentarians but not all Parliamentarians can become advocates”. Advocacy for her is not just about being a class I orator but what matters is the logistic application and assimilation of knowledge coupled with systematic display of such intellect. Thereby encouraging students to hone their cognitive faculties and strive to build upon their skills.



These inspiring words were followed by a speech from Senior Advocate and Additional Solicitor General, Mr. Siddharth Luthra, who reminded us that in this profession we are to prove “our metal” persistently. He unequivocally believes that the norms and sanctity of this profession ought to be upheld, but in saying that he honestly accepted that “being an idealist at

the age of 21 years is appropriate but being an idealist and not a realistic at the age of 31 can cause a problem”. Thus he talked of tempering idealism with realism - a great message for the gathering in toto. Before leaving though, he was quick to share an anecdote. He warned all the spectators to never end up as the senior most advocate on a canteen table to avoid picking up the tab. His parting words were enough to send the audience into gales of laughter.

Next to address the gathering was Senior Advocate, Dr. Arun Mohan, who talked about the true meaning of ‘JUSTICE’, the current conditions of our justice delivery mechanism and its failure to delivery speedy justice. He encouraged the students to have an attitude of learning to learn and to use such knowledge in furthering justice to the masses. He was also kind enough to distribute to the entire audience, copies of excerpts from his multi-volume work, 'Justice, Courts and Delays' absolutely free!

Last to address the audience was our Guest of Honor, Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.K.Jain, who with his words of astuteness encouraged students to choose litigation as a profession as the “thrill of the court couldn’t be substituted by money”. He concluded his speech by reminding the students of the 3 H’s: 'Honestly, Hardwork and Humility'. The ceremony was concluded by a Vote of

thanks given by Dr. Mona Sharma and presentation of mementoes to all the Chief Guests.

As soon as the participants settled into their courts, a calm only seen before a storm could be felt in the air. The clouds ominously huddled together, their dark curves mocking the landscape. Nervousness was visible, feet were tapping, pens were clicking, water bottles were being drained as parched throats prepared for their initial assault. And suddenly, with a crack the clouds burst open; the judges had entered the building.

The rain, slow at first, fell, plummeted to the dry ground as the substantive arguments began to take shape. Counsels for both the Plaintiff and the Defendant took their stand, in a no holds barred fashion. Forsaking everything for a smiley.

With sixteen courtrooms and two sessions to look forward to, the crises could be smelled from afar, and we are not just talking of the crises outside the courtroom. Most of them saw arguments being raised over the jurisdiction; maintainability of the suit with respect to *res subjudice*; forum shopping; goodwill and passing off. Some participants were able enough to fend off these questions easily, others, not so much. Various others failed to identify their client's

logo and were successfully fooled by the Hon'ble Judges who had simply exchanged the 2 logos.

While most participants got remarks on their preparation or lack thereof, others were taught a word or two of court room mannerisms. In an attempt to find order in chaos, the Hon'ble judges of Court No 3 were compelled to point out to the counsels that they were in a courtroom and not a *panchayat*! A judge even remarked that the situation in the court reminded him of his sisters when they would fight over the same dress!

Each round ended with a few words of advice from the judges. We bring to you the best ones to keep in mind. The Judges in one Court advised the participants to not put logic in 'cold storage' while arguing because some things cannot always be satisfied by law and that is what logic is there for. Also, some were of the opinion that, both the judges should be kept engaged in arguments, because if only one judge is engaged, the other one is going through the memorial, preparing more questions!

After the end of the second session of preliminary rounds, the tired, but not dejected participants and volunteers gathered together for lunch following which, the participants were taken to the waiting

hall where they anxiously awaited the result from the prelim rounds. Out of a total of 32 teams (including the dummy) only 8 would qualify on to the quarters. If the participants had a tough time in front of the judges, it wasn't an easy job for the judges either.

After much anticipation, the result from the prelims were announced and 8 teams made it to the Quarter finals. They were: 9, 11, 14, 18, 19, 24, 29 and 31. Soon after the results were announced, these quarters finalists were again thrown into the battle pit. With only 4 court rooms and 1 session per team, the competition was just getting tougher. The quater-finals were judged by Mr. Arnab Narain, Ms. Archana Sahadeva, Mr Sushant Kumar, Mr Palani Ramasway, Mr. Sahil Narang, Ms. Meenu Maheshwary, Mr. Karan Chandhiok and Mr. Thomas George.



The Semi-final round of the 12th Amity National Moot Court Competition took place between Symbiosis Law School, Noida and National University of Advanced

Legal Studies, Kochi; Symbiosis Law School, Pune and National Law School, Odisha. The benches comprised Prof. Ashwani Kumar Bansal, Ms. Soumili Das, Hon'ble Justice M.L. Mehta and Hon'ble Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw.

The final was marked by the gracious presence, ever present patience and persistent smiles of Hon'ble Justice Manmohan and Hon'ble Justice Manmohan Singh, sitting judges in the Supreme Court of India.



The counsels were made to think on their feet given certain questions asked by the judges that demanded the same. In addition, the second counsel from the plaintiff's side and the first counsel from the defendant's side also applied their wit and humour, though very subtle, was found to be quite amusing.

The counsels were seen adopting a more interactive approach for the finals. The second council from the plaintiff's side, for

example, flagged annexure which contained the logos of the two companies in order to support his argument that a prima facie case is to be based on the similarities of the trademarks and not the dissimilarities.

The valedictory ceremony of the 12th Amity National Moot Court Competition began with a soothing invocation by the ALSD student choir. The audience, which consisted of students of Amity Law School, Delhi and the 32 participant teams, sat in silence, excited and awaiting the announcement of the winners. The chief guests for the evening were Mr. Mohan Parasaran (Solicitor General of India), Mr. Raian Karanjawala (Founder and Managing Partner, Karanjawala & Co.), Mr. Lalit Bhasin (Honorary President, Amity Law School, Delhi), Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan (Founder President, Ritnand Balved Education Foundation) and Prof. M.K. Balachandran (Director, Amity Law School, Delhi). They were later joined by Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra (Sr. Advocate and Chairman, Bar Council of India).

Prof. Balachandran gave the welcome address giving a brief description of the rounds and the judges who had graced the college with their esteemed presence. He then proceeded to address each of the chief guests individually, introducing them to the audience with an overview of their achievements and professional lives.

The audience was then addressed by Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan who referred to the participants as the “rising stars” of the legal fraternity. He went on to praise his fellow chief guests for what they had achieved in their lives stating that in his opinion the lawyers of India were the best in the world. Mr. Mohan Parasaran spoke about the new generation and how it is much more intelligent but slightly impatient. He urged the students to opt for litigation as a profession and requested the faculty to hold special classes to teach students the art of arguing for which he would be glad to come to the college for guest lectures. Mr. Lalit Bhasin advised the students that moot courts will give them practice to become a “good lawyer”, but to become a “complete lawyer” they must have knowledge beyond law.



Next to address the gathering was, Mr. Raian Karanjawala. He talked about the advantages of having a college in Delhi. Furthermore, as a valuable piece of advice to the budding

lawyers in the audience, he said that while deciding where to start working, one must ask oneself where one would be kept more busy

Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra spoke about his experience with moot courts and how the opportunity to participate in a moot was “a lottery” back in his day.

Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra then gave away the Best Student Awards which went to Ananya Kapoor (Batch 2008), Prashant Kumar (Batch 2009), Sameeksha Chowla (Batch 2010) and Akshay (Batch 2011).

The results of the National Legal Essay Writing Competition were also announced. The Consolation Prize of Rs. 2500/- was won by Anil Sebastian from National Law School of India University, Bangalore. The Third Prize of Rs. 5000/- was won by Shanu Thomas from IIMT School of Law, Delhi. The Second Prize of Rs. 7500/- was won by Ayush Joshi from Institute of Law, Nirma University and the First Prize of Rs. 10,000/- was won by a member of the winning team NUALS, Kochi, Rubin George Rock.



The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Mona Sharma, calling the valedictory ceremony to a close and with that the Amity National Moot Court Competition 2013 officially came to a fulfilling and successful end.

The Participation Certificates were then given away by Mr. Karanjawala following which the prize distribution for ANMC commenced. Symbiosis Law School, Pune was awarded the Runner-Up trophy by Prof. M. K. Balachandran and Mr. Mishra along with a cash prize of Rs. 5000/-, online legal IDs by SCC Online and a set of books each by Universal Law Publication. NUALS, Kochi was then awarded the Winner's trophy along with a cash prize of Rs. 7500/-, online legal IDs by SCC Online and a set of books each by Universal Law Publication. The individual awards were as follows: The Best Researcher Award went to Omkaresh Pathak from Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, who also received the Best Memorial Award won by RGNUL, Patiala. Ritu Nichani won the Best Lady Advocate Award as well as the Best Speaker Award. Symbiosis Law School, Noida and National Law University, Odisha received certificates for qualifying to the Semi-Finals and after a long round of applause and cheering the prize distribution ended.