



**VINAYAKA MISSION'S
RESEARCH FOUNDATION**
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of the UGC Act 1956)



VMLS
VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL



SURANA & SURANA
AND
VINAYAKA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL
PUBLIC POLICY COMPETITION 2024
SOUTH INDIA CHAPTER

Sep 21, 2024

CONCEPT NOTE & RULES

Host & Joint Organizer

Vinayaka Mission's Law School
Chennai

Joint Organizer

Surana & Surana International Attorneys
Chennai

Venue

Vinayaka Mission's Law School
Vinayaka Nagar
Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR)
Paiyanoor, Chennai 603 104

eMail : publicpolicycompetition@vmls.edu.in



ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

ABOUT VMLS

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), a constituent college of the Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation - Deemed to be University, Salem, is mentored by the finest law school in India, Jindal Global Law School (QS World University Rankings 2024 - No. 1 in India, No. 72 in the world), and the OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat.

In furtherance of its emphasis on skills-based learning and inclusive legal education for the 21st century, VMLS has associated with more than 50 law firms and law practitioners who offer value added courses, internships, and knowledge partnership avenues for the law school and its students. In academic year 2023-24 alone, nearly 60 different guests from across various streams of legal practice addressed VMLS students and trained them in areas as diverse as sports law, arbitration, and criminal trial advocacy.

VMLS' foreign-qualified faculty, including its Dean who is double-Ivy League qualified, design and teach nearly 30 future-focused electives on cutting edge areas like emerging technologies and their impact on law and policy, climate transitions, and new models of interdisciplinary legal education. Its 4 centres of excellence incubate varied research commitments in the areas of justice through technology, public international law, maritime law, and Tamil language and culture and its interplay with the world of law and justice. VMLS also takes pride in its state-of-the-art infrastructure that includes smart classrooms that are digitally enabled, a regal moot court hall, a library designed with reading culture as its DNA, and a comprehensive Digital Library that offers access to leading treatises and databases.

ABOUT SURANA & SURANA INTERNATIONAL ATTORNEYS

Surana & Surana International Attorneys, established in 1971, is dedicated to providing clients with prompt support and has been recognized as the "first choice" and "go-to" firm for legal counsel in South India.

Since 1998, the firm has been consistently listed among the top law firms in India by national and international magazines as well as clients, providing legal services such as Dispute Resolution, Real Estate & Infrastructure, Corporate, Commercial, Intellectual Property, Defence Law, Regulatory Investigation Advisory, Tax, Cyber-Entertainment-Media-Technology.

It is the world's first law firm to achieve SA8000 and ISO 14000 certification as well as Asia's first to achieve ISO 9001 certification for professional legal services.

The firm was featured as the only Indian case study in the best-selling book "Developing a Profitable Practice in Asia" by Mr. Robert C Sawhney, Hong Kong in a full chapter titled 'An Uncommon Law Firm: Principles before Profits'.

The firm is well-known for leading and supporting initiatives in policy, research, and education. SSIA has always shown a strong commitment to working with professionals and students to help them develop the various proficiencies required for a successful career.

The firm's Academic Initiatives division has pioneered the Moot Court Competitions in the country which is now the world's largest moot court program. The firm has collaborated on several moot court competitions and research publications across various law schools in India.



CONCEPT NOTE & RULES

I. CONCEPT NOTE

Governments worldwide are grappling with the challenge of delivering an expanded set of policy objectives amidst macroeconomic uncertainty, technological innovation, increasing debt burdens, and shrinking budgets. India, like many other countries, is experiencing significant shifts in its policy-making landscape. On one end, innovative ideas are emerging, while on the other, many of these ideas are being implemented through outdated practices that no longer serve their purpose.

The gap in effective policy formulation is often not due to a lack of drive or goodwill but rather the absence of the right training, skills, and knowledge. There is an urgent need for fresh, innovative approaches to public policy, and this begins with equipping the next generation of practitioners with the ability to critically analyze and address public policy problems effectively.

The Public Policy Competition aims to provide a unique platform for aspiring policymakers to showcase and refine their skills. This competition is designed to motivate students to engage with contemporary topics in the policy-making process, offering them the opportunity to:

- **Develop Critical Skills:** Participants will gain hands-on experience in engaging with complex contemporary issues, interdisciplinary policy analysis and formulation.
- **Showcase Innovative Ideas:** Participants will present their solutions to contemporary public policy challenges, demonstrating creativity and forward-thinking.
- **Receive Expert Feedback:** Participants will receive constructive feedback from experienced judges, policymakers, and academicians, helping them to enhance their proposals and understanding.
- **Network with Peers and Experts:** The competition will facilitate connections with like-minded peers and industry professionals, fostering a community of future leaders in public policy.

By participating in this competition, students will not only contribute to the discourse on effective policy-making in India but also position themselves as the next generation of skilled and knowledgeable policymakers ready to tackle the complex issues of tomorrow.

II. THEME OF THE COMPETITION

“India as a global drone hub by 2030: Opportunities and challenges”

Participants must prepare a policy brief on one or more of the following sub-themes, addressing the current or potential issues, challenges and opportunities associated with the chosen sub-theme(s). The policy brief should not be limited to legal aspects but should also include relevant interdisciplinary dimensions. The sub-themes are indicative and not exhaustive and participants are encouraged to explore other relevant sub-themes.

- Legal and regulatory environment
- Deployment of drones in various sectors
- Investment
- Workforce and skill development
- Safety and security
- Infrastructure and technology
- Sustainability, society, and ethics
- International competition and collaboration

III. VENUE AND DATE

The **Surana & Surana and Vinayaka Mission's Law School Public Policy Competition 2024** shall be held on **Sep 21, 2024** at **Vinayaka Mission's Law School Campus, Chennai**

IV. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

Stage 1	Participants are required to register and submit their policy briefs within the prescribed timeframe. There is no registration fee for this stage.
Stage 2	The top 10 teams will be selected by an expert panel and will be provided constructive feedback to improve their briefs. Only these top 10 teams will be eligible to participate in Stage 3.
Stage 3	The top 10 teams who have paid their registration fees will be required to make their presentations at VMLS. The presentation should include their revised policy brief as well as a PPT and oral presentation.

V. GENERAL RULES

1. Eligibility and team composition:
 - Each team must consist of a minimum of 2 members and a maximum of 3 members.
 - Age of each member must be between 18 to 32 years.



- Each team must contain at least one undergraduate law student (BA / BBA / BCOM / BSc / B. Tech LLB or Three year LLB). The other member(s) may be undergraduate students pursuing law or any of any other discipline.
 - Team members may belong to the same college/ university or to different colleges/ universities.
 - All team members must be undergraduate students currently enrolled in any college/ university located in the states of Tamil Nadu/ Kerala/ Andhra Pradesh/ Telangana since the inaugural edition of this competition is limited to the South India region.
2. The submissions should be made and shall be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation matrix prescribed.
 3. Word limit for the submissions in Stage 1 is 1000 words (including references / citations).
 4. Word limit for the submissions in Stage 3 is 2000 words (including references / citations).
 5. The top 10 teams from Stage 1 will be selected for Stage 3 and shall be duly notified of their selection. These teams will get feedback from an Expert Panel to improve their policy briefs. These teams will submit their revised policy briefs after incorporating the suggestions and making requisite changes for Stage 3.
 6. Stage 3 will be conducted at VMLS and Stage 3 participants are required to be present in person. While all the team members are encouraged to participate physically in Stage 3, a minimum of 2 members from each team are required to be physically present at VMLS for Stage 3.
 7. All submissions are to be made to publicpolicycompetition@vmls.edu.in with the subject: "PUBLIC POLICY BRIEF SUBMISSION- [*Name of institute of participants*]".
 8. The timelines mentioned below will be followed strictly and no submission made after the prescribed date shall be entertained.
 9. Submissions found to be plagiarized or prepared using generative AI (ex- ChatGPT) will be rejected.

VI. REGISTRATION

- a. Online registrations are open from **17th July 2024**. The teams must register online by **14th August 2024**. Teams will have to register online at www.moot.in & [Registration Link](#)
- b. No temporary registration requests will be entertained. Kindly refrain from sending such requests to Surana & Surana or Vinayaka Mission's Law School.
- c. Participants will receive an automated system generated acknowledgement on successful submission of registration. Participants will receive an approval as

acceptance of their request for participation by **16th August 2024** or earlier.

d. **Registration Process**

Option 1 - The Registration form cum Approval letter as provided in the rules duly signed & sealed by your university / college / Law School.

Option 2 - Upload both (i) & (ii) together as a **single PDF**

- i. The Registration form cum Approval letter (without seal & signature) as provided in the rules duly filled along with
- ii. Scanned copy of authorisation letter with sign and seal from your university / college / moot society

or

An email communication from the official id (to be filled as notification email id during online registration process) of the institution, from your university / college / moot society to complete the registration process.

Note :

1. Signatories on the registration form should be any of the following :- Faculty- in-charge of MCA / MCS / MCC, Registrar, Dean, Principal, Director, Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor
 2. Registration without the scanned copy of the approval letter / an email communication from the college/institution/university or duly attested registration form will not be valid.
- e. Soft copy of the registration and approval letter/ an email communication as a **single PDF** to be sent by email to : publicpolicycompetition@vmls.edu.in marked as **Surana & Surana and Vinayaka Mission's Law School Public Policy Competition 2024 - Registration** as subject of the mail latest by **16th August 2024**. The provisional team code shall be allotted to the registered teams by Host University soon after receiving of registration particulars.
- f. **Top 10 (Shortlisted teams be announced by Aug 30th) - a registration fee of Rs. 2,000/-** is to be paid online by **5th September, 2024** thru the given QR code.
Receipt of the online payment to be sent by email to:
publicpolicycompetition@vmls.edu.in
Fee once paid will not be refunded.





VII. POLICY SUBMISSIONS

All submissions are to be made to publicpolicycompetition@vmls.edu.in with the subject: "PUBLIC POLICY BRIEF SUBMISSION- [*Name of institute of participants*]" on or **30th August 2024** latest by **5.00 pm**.

VIII. EVALUATION MATRIX

Stage 1:

- Each team shall submit in 1 (One) policy brief on the theme. The brief should contain the following elements:
 - i. Title
 - ii. Executive summary (10 marks)
 - iii. Introduction (10 marks)
 - iv. Identification of issues, challenges, and opportunities (20 marks)
 - v. Implications and recommendations (20 marks)
 - vi. Results and conclusions (20 marks)
 - vii. Research methodology (10 marks)
 - viii. References (10 marks)

Stage 3:

- In the final round, the participants will be required to prepare a PPT based on their final policy brief (in addition to their public policy brief) and make an oral presentation followed by Q&A with the judges. The final policy brief for Stage 3 should be in the same structure as prescribed for Stage 1. However, the policy brief in Stage 3 should have incorporated the feedback received from the Expert Panel.
- In the final round, the teams will be judged on the basis of their policy brief / PPT, oral presentation and Q&A session.
- Each team will be provided 10 minutes to make their presentation and will be judged as per the evaluation matrix below:
 - i. Policy brief (20 marks)
 - ii. Knowledge of subject matter (20 marks)
 - iii. Innovation and creativity (10 marks)
 - iv. Feasibility of proposed recommendations/ solutions (10 marks)
 - v. Presentation and soft skills (20 marks)
 - vi. Q&A (20 marks)



IX. RESULTS (Announcement)

- Stage 1 Result - announcement of the selected Top 10 teams will be done by Aug 30th
- The Final result and the winners of the various categories will be announced only during the valediction / prize distribution ceremony.

X. AWARDS

- i. Best Team : Rs. 20,000 + Internship Opportunity with SSIA, Chennai*
- ii. Runner up : Rs. 15,000 + Research Internship Opportunity (remote) with VMLS*
- iii. 2nd Runner-up : Rs. 10,000 + Research Internship Opportunity (remote) with VMLS*

All participants will be awarded participation certificates.

**The internships will be awarded to those students who are interested in such opportunities and the schedule and duration of the internships shall be based on the sole discretion of SSIA and VMLS respectively.*

XI. ACCOMMODATION, FOOD & TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

- a. Participants for Stage 3 may arrange their own accommodation and transportation.
- b. VMLS shall provide accommodation and transportation (in case requested by participants) on/ near the VMLS campus on a chargeable basis for 20th September and 21st September.
- c. The cost of accommodation provided by VMLS shall be INR 500/- per person per day (including food).
- d. Food and refreshments shall be provided to the participating team members at the venue of the competition.

XII. QUERIES

For queries, please contact publicpolicycompetition@vmls.edu.in

XIII. COPYRIGHT

- a. The copyright over the Policy's submitted for participation in the competition is assigned by participants and shall also vest completely and fully in, Vinayaka Mission's Law School and Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai. The participants shall certify in writing the originality of materials contained therein and shall be responsible for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.
- b. Further use and exhibition of these materials, electronically or otherwise, shall be the exclusive right of Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai and Vinayaka Mission's Law School, and they shall not be responsible for any liability to any person

for any loss caused by errors or omissions in this collection of information, or for the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in these materials.

- c. Distribution of these materials in print or on affiliated websites such as www.moot.in and other platforms by Surana & Surana does not constitute consent to any use of this material for commercial redistribution either via the Internet or using some other form of hypertext distribution. Links to the collection or individual pages in it are welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES

Start of Online Registration	17th July, 2024
Last date for Online Registration & Submission of Policy	14th August, 2024
Last date for receiving copies of Reg. Form/Approval letter by Vinayaka Mission's Law School	14th August, 2024
Announcement of selection of top 10 teams to Stage 2	30th August, 2024
Last date to pay Registration Fees & submission of Travel Plans	5th September, 2024
Last Date for Submission of Final Policy brief and PPT	19th September, 2024
Final Presentation (Stage 3) followed by Guest Lecture & Award Ceremony	21st September, 2024

Date:

Registration form/ Approval letter

(Please fill in capital letters)

Undertaking

1. We hereby state that our participation complies with the rules and regulations of the competition.
2. We certify that the materials submitted/to be submitted are prepared by us and agree to indemnify the organizers, i.e. the Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai and the Vinayaka Mission's Law School for any claim or dispute arising out of the further use and exhibition of these materials.

(All particulars must be given)

Name & Address of the participating Institution:

Name of the Participant	Gender	Course	Year	Signature
Primary Email id and Contact number				

Seal & signature of
the Head of the
Institution

Duly filled, sealed & signed soft copy of the Registration form should be sent by eMail : publicpolicycompetition@vmls.edu.in by 16th August 2024. The subject of the email must be "Surana & Surana and Vinayaka Mission's Law School Public Policy Competition 2024 - Registration"