



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



SICTA 2025 – Press Report

SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE

**TENTH EDITION OF THE SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE – INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL TRIAL ADVOCACY (SICTA), 2025**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), proudly hosted the Tenth Edition of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune – International Criminal Trial Advocacy (SICTA), 2025 from April 10–13, 2025. Known for its academic rigour and global outlook, the institution is the only law school in India offering a platform for participants to simulate proceedings before the International Criminal Court. The competition has consistently attracted premier law schools from India and across the world, including teams from China, U.K., Poland, Malaysia, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa, and Kuwait. This year the competition saw participation from 21 national as well as international institutes.

The Inaugural Ceremony took place on 10th April 2025 at 4:00 PM IST, in the Moot Court Hall at the Viman Nagar New Campus of Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The event was graced by the presence of the **Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris**, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka at United Nations and Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. The **Welcome Address** was delivered by **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).

This year's theme for SICTA 2025 was formally announced as: *“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 moot proposition was drafted by **Adv. Parth Dixit**, SLSP Alumnus and Senior Associate, Wadhwa Law Office, revolved around the procedural and interpretative challenges that arise before the International Criminal Court while navigating international treaties in the evolving domain of international criminal law.

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The Preliminary Rounds were conducted on April 11, 2025 and Semi Final Rounds were held on April 12, 2025, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from 21 national and international teams. Following closely contested rounds of legal arguments; 9 teams proceeded to the Semi-Final Rounds. After further rigorous competition, three teams advanced to the Final Round: National Law University, Jodhpur, NMIMS Mumbai, and Christ University, Bangalore.

The Final Round, was held on April 13, 2025. NLU Jodhpur emerged as the Winner of the Tenth Edition of SICTA. In recognition of outstanding performances, NLIU Bhopal was awarded Best Memorial, while NLU Jodhpur received the Second-Best Memorial award. The Best Witness Award was won by Sanath D. Hegde from 1st year LL.B. and the Second-Best Witness Award was presented to Mahati Sethumadavan, 4th year BALLB. Both are students of Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

The final rounds were adjudicated by an esteemed and accomplished panel comprising **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, **Prof. (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 competition concluded with a Valedictory Ceremony, which was honored by the presence of **Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shriram Madhusudan Modak**, Judge, Bombay High Court. His presence, along with that of many distinguished guests and faculty members, marked the end of a thought-provoking and intellectually enriching competition that continues to set a benchmark in the arena of international criminal law advocacy. Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Virendra Singh Thakur, Faculty in-charge, Student Bar Association, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

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Dignitaries on the dais during the valedictory ceremony (from left to right)- **Adv. Sampath Bulusu**, Convener of SLSP Alumni and Director, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Shell Energy India & Hazira Port, **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), **Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shriram Madhusudan Modak**. Judge, Bombay High Court, **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohan Peiris**, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, **Adv. Vadeendra Joshi**, Advocate, Telangana High Court.

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AWARDS

FIRST RUNNERS UP



NMIMS, MUMBAI

WINNERS



NLU, JODHPUR

SECOND RUNNERS UP



CHRIST UNIVERSITY
BANGALORE

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