

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE, TAMILNADU NATIONAL
LAW UNIVERSITY, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI**

COMMITTEE REPORT : 2018-19

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) is the newest committee formed in the academic year of 2018-19 in Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirappalli (TNNLU). The ADRC is created with the objective of fostering the skills in the Alternative Dispute Resolution activities focusing specifically on Arbitration, Mediation, and Negotiation. In addition, the ADRC also looks into training of students in Client Counseling techniques. The ADRC is constituted with the following student members:

1. Hari Vignesh, V YEAR, B.Com.,LLB(H)
2. Ayushi Parashar , V YEAR, B.Com.,LLB(H)
3. Priya Venkatasan, IV YEAR, B.A.,LLB(H)
4. Ravindran V-IV YEAR, B.A.,LLB(H)
5. Sharumathi K- III YEAR, B.COM.,LLB(H)
6. Payaswini Rai- II YEAR , B.A.,LLB(H)
7. Mrinali Dave- - I YEAR, B.A.,LLB(H)
8. Fathima Hussain - I YEAR, B.COM.,LLB(H)

The various events/activities conducted by the ADRC are as follows:

1. **ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON ARBITRATION AND CLIENT COUNSELLING
COMPETITIONS**

On 20th August (Monday), 2018, the ADR Committee hosted a one-hour workshop on Arbitration and Client counseling. The workshop started with Karan Kr Khetani of 5th year introducing to the attendees the main idea of Arbitration and its mechanism. He further explained in detail the technical aspects of Arbitration and threw light upon the process of drafting a memorial. The workshop was carried forward by Ayushi Parashar of 5th year, who gave an insight on the National and International Arbitration competitions and their selection criteria. To give the attendees a better understanding of how the Arbitration process takes place, the students of the

university demonstrated a mock Arbitration procedure where Abhay Siddhanth of 5th year and Sarthak Mishra of 3rd year played the role of Counsels and Ayushi Parashar, Payaswini Rai of 2nd year, Priya Venkatesan of 4th year played the role of Arbitrators. The Arbitration orientation ended with Ayushi Parashar and Abhay Siddhanth pointing out the minute details one needs to consider while participating in an Arbitration competition: The need for maintenance of eye contact with all the Arbitrators• Limitation of hand gestures• The importance of presenting your statements with confidence• The workshop was then carried forward by Indhu Vadhana of 5th year who briefed the audience about Client Counselling and its procedural setting, she was joined by Ayushi Parashar, who gave further briefing on the Client Counselling procedure. Indhu Vadhana elucidated the major details of the Client Counselling competition, she highlighted the following points one needs to keep in mind while counseling a client: Working atmosphere• Confidentiality• Consultation cost• Consultation etiquettes• Consideration of both legal and non-legal aspects (e.g., socio-economic aspects)• Suggesting the client with the best suited legal procedure (Arbitration, Mediation,• Negotiation, Litigation) Equal engagement of both the Counsels• The workshop was indeed enlightening and gave major insight on how Arbitration and Client Counseling competitions work practically.

2. REPORT OF MR. AISWARYE DUBEY'S 3 DAY WORKSHOP ON MEDIATION AND NEGOTIATION

Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee upon its inception has taken the initiative of organizing a 3-day workshop on “Negotiation and Mediation” for enhancing the skills of the students of TNNLU to attend the various National and International Competitions. In respect of the same, Mr. Aiswarye Dubey, a Pass out of National Law University, Odisha and Winner of ICC Young International Mediation Competition, 2015 and Best Mediator of NLS ADR Tournament, 2015 was invited to conduct the sessions. The workshop was conducted from 21-23rd August, 2018 from 5pm – 8.30pm to selected 30 students. The session was attended by students from all the years particularly from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year both B.A. LL. B (hons) and B.Com LL.B. (hons). The session started with Mr. Dubey explaining the importance of Negotiation and Mediation skills in the current legal profession and prospective of the same as a career option. Then Mr. Dubey introduced

the negotiation skills emphasizing upon the principled style of negotiation. Over the next two days, Mr. Dubey went on to train the students by showing videos, lectures and various sessions of simulations on mediating skills. Mr. Dubey also conducted mock sessions and personally gave feedbacks to students upon how to improvise their skills. The workshop was very much welcomed by the students of TNNLU and concluded successfully on 23 August 2018 with a small feedback session.

3. INTRA-UNIVERSITY ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMPETITION **REPORT**

The ADRC has successfully conducted the 4th Intra - University ADR competition 2018 for the selection of students from TNNLU to represent various International and National Arbitration, Mediation, Negotiation and Client Counselling Competitions for the academic year 2018-19 on 1st and 2nd September, 2018. The competition this year was complimented with a 3 days' workshop on different issues relating to Alternate Dispute Resolution which was conducted by the ADRC in association with Mr. Aishwarye Dubey. This workshop was an initiative with the objective of familiarising the students with the related concepts of ADR. On the 1st of September, the stage was ready for the IUADR 2018 and the participants were in full zeal. The competition was scheduled for two days, where the first day hosted the Arbitration and Negotiation competition each following two rounds and the second day hosted the mediation and the client counselling competition. Day one started with a short briefing session for the judges, wherein they were introduced to the propositions and the rules of the competitions according to the competition they were to judge. The day further proceeded with the 1st and the 2nd rounds of the competition. Day 2 again started with a short briefing and continued with the rounds of mediation and client counseling. Around 20 students participated for the Arbitration Rounds including the oral rounds and Researcher's Test. The Mediation Competition alone witnessed the participation of around 89 over the various batches. Similarly, in the Negotiation Competition about 56 students enthusiastically extended their participation and finally, more than 60 students attended the Client Counselling Competition. The IUADR

Competition 2018 had an overall participation of 194 students from over the 5 years LLB program. The Judges for the different rounds were selected from pool of certified and practising Arbitrators, practising lawyers and various law firms like the Samsung, AK Law Chambers, etc. and also Academicians. The entire event paced so smoothly that it might have mistaken many to be a very effortless job, but it has to be noted that the ADRC had been working on this event with all its heart and soul from the day this thought took birth.

4. 1ST TNNLU NATIONAL MED-ARB COMPETITION-2019

The Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) of Tamil Nadu National Law University successfully hosted the 1st edition of TNNLU National Med-Arb Competition in association with the NaniPalkivala Arbitration Centre, Chennai from 8th march- 10th march 2019. TNNLU is the one of the first law University in the whole of India to conduct the Med-Arb competition, a two-step dispute resolution process in which parties attempt to resolve their dispute in mediation, and, if they fail to resolve some or all of their issues, the remaining issues are automatically submitted to arbitration where the arbitrator imposes a binding decision. The competition included a unique element of arbitral award writing which is prepared by the arbitrator/mediator after the oral submissions of both the parties in the arbitration session. This arbitral award was also judged in the competition which makes TNNLU the first among all the Universities in the country to organize such a competition on arbitral award making. Various teams from private colleges and national law universities across the country took part in the competition. The competition aimed at honing the decision making and award drafting skills of the arbitrators as well as the skill of negotiating and conducting mediations by mediators. The participants were judged by eminent arbitrators, academicians and lawyers from across the country.

The event commenced on 08.03.19 with the registration of the participating teams and followed by an inaugural ceremony. The event began with Tamil Thai Vazhthu, followed by a speech by the vice chancellor of the university, Prof. Dr. Kamala Sankaran emphasizing the importance of skills in arbitration and mediation. This was followed by an orientation by the committee. The participants were allotted their opponents by picking of lots and the exchange of memorials happened on the same day.

The preliminary round-I and preliminary round-II took place on 09.03.19. Participants from 8 universities qualified for the semifinals. The semifinal and the final rounds were held on 10th march. The participants were qualified for the finals on the basis of merit in the semifinals. Participants from 4 different universities qualified for the final round.

The winning client-counsel team was from Alliance University, Bangalore and the winning mediator/arbitrator was from Symbiosis Law School, Noida. The runner-up client–counsel team was from Symbiosis Law School, Noida and the runner-up mediator/arbitrator was from Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad. The best memorial award was given to participants from School of Excellence in Law, Chennai. The best client-counsel teams were from Alliance University and the best Mediator/Arbitrator was from Christ University, Bangalore. The finalists were judged by:

- Registered mediators at the Madras High Court - Ms. PushpaSitaraman, Mr. Vijaya Krishnan and Ms. Uma Ramanathan,
- Independent arbitrator & Practising Advocate, Madras High Court- Mr. InbaVijayan
- Designated Senior Advocate Founding Director, NPAC- Mr. N.L. Rajah
- Arbitrator, HSB partner- Ms. Priyadarshini Natarajan

The event ended with a valedictory ceremony on 10th march, where the winning teams were honored with trophies and total cash prizes worth INR 47,000/-. The valedictory ceremony ended with the National Anthem and followed by a high tea.

5. INTERNAL SELECTION ROUNDS FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS FROM TNNLU IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The ADRC conducted various Internal Selection rounds for selecting teams from the students to represent various International and National ADR competitions. The selection rounds were conducted as per the ADR Allotment Policy 2018-19. A panel of Internal and External members adjudged these selection rounds. The External Panel of adjudicators were: Mr. Saravan , Arbitrator and Mediator , Member of IIAC, Mr. Aiswarye Dubey, Pass out of National Law University, Odisha and Winner of ICC Young International Mediation

Competition, 2015 and Best Mediator of NLS ADR Tournament, 2015, Mr. Prakash, Former Vis Participant and Independent mediator.

6. INTERNAL SIMULATION SESSIONS

ADRC has also conducted various simulation sessions in Mediation, Client counseling, Arbitration and Negotiation among the students of TNNLU to make the interested students practice and update their skills. Few propositions were send in prior and the students were asked to come prepared after which the students were given simulation and a feedback on how to approach the problem from different angle. These sessions were conducted on weekly basis for 1 hour.