



GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, SILVASSA

presents

1st edition

of

NATIONAL
PUBLIC INTEREST
LITIGATION DRAFTING
COMPETITION, 2025

organised by

Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law

ABOUT UNIVERSITY

Gujarat National Law University Silvassa Campus was established in July 2023 to promote quality legal education in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and provide the students of the UT with skill development and job opportunities. The Transitory Campus is at Old Sachivalaya, Secretariat Building, Amli, Silvassa. The five-year integrated B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) degree and one-year specialised LL.M. in Constitutional and Administrative Law are offered at the residential campus of GNLU Silvassa. Notably, 25% seats in both programs are reserved for students with domicile in the Union Territory.

As a premier research-oriented institution of legal education, the campus is nestled amidst multicultural pastures, inclusive of diversity and reflective of the rich heritage of Silvassa. The campus is designed to empower students, scholars, and professionals through dynamic academic programs, research initiatives, and collaborations that contribute to shaping policy. Furthermore, the campus is blessed with abundant resources, elite educators and ambitious students of law; the harmony of the foregoing factors emits a hopeful climate for unparalleled research and educational prowess.

ABOUT CENTRE

The GNLUS Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law (CCAL) was founded on August 15, 2023, on the belief that the subject of constitutional and administrative law is quintessential for the just governance of a democratic country. It aims to create awareness and explore the new horizons of the basic tenets of the Constitution. The CCAL is dedicated but not confined to the latest developments and interdisciplinary research projects in Constitution and Administrative Law. It reflects the thought that no sincere democracy can function optimally in the absence of active and sincere research in this field. Constitutional and Administrative Law are two foundational branches of public law that define the relationship between individuals and the state. Together, they provide the framework within which governments function, balancing the powers of different branches of the state; ensuring accountability, protecting civil rights and liberties and shaping public administration. They represent the backbone of any democratic governance system, offering direction for fair and just governance.

ABOUT COMPETITION

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Writing Competition serves as a distinguished platform for law students to channel their legal knowledge and drafting skills towards the formulation of impactful petitions. It provides an opportunity to critically engage with contemporary socio-legal issues, interpret constitutional mandates, and frame arguments for the protection of collective rights. By simulating the process of drafting PILs, the competition nurtures analytical reasoning, rigorous legal research, and precise drafting skills. It further fosters a deeper appreciation of constitutional remedies, strengthens clarity in legal argumentation, and enhances the ability to communicate effectively within the legal framework.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. General Guidelines

- The Competition shall be conducted in accordance with the rules mentioned herein. Participants are required to comply with the rules and procedures prescribed herein.
- The Organising Committee (“OC”) shall function as the point of contact, and any changes in the Rules of the Competition shall be notified by email to all participating teams.
- The official email for all correspondence with respect to the Competition is ccal@gnlus.ac.in.
- The competition is organised by the Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law (Gujarat National Law University, Silvassa Campus).

2. Eligibility and Team Composition

- The Competition is open to all students, enrolled in bona fide Institution/College/University at the time of the competition on a regular basis in an Undergraduate or Postgraduate (LL.B./L.L.M.) Law degree programme in India.

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- Participation can be individual or in teams of two members. Cross-institutional teams are not permitted.
- The substitution of any Team Member is not allowed after the registration deadline.

3. Registration Guidelines

- Participants must register by filling out the following Google form commencing from 20th October, 2025 and to be closed on 20th November, 2025.
- **Registration Form:** [Registration Link](#)
- A registration fee of:
 - Authorship: ₹100 (excluding GST)
 - Co-Authorship: ₹150 (excluding GST)
 - **Payment Link:** <https://rzp.io/rzp/YZo1rgxN>
- The registration payment e-receipt will be sent to the participant's email through an automated mail. The receipt must be downloaded and subsequently affixed to the registration form to ensure successful registration.
- Upon successful registration, a confirmation email will be sent to the participants containing submission guidelines and the submission link.
- Participant(s) who have completed registration in accordance with the above procedure shall be assigned a unique team code. All further correspondence with the Organising Committee shall be done only by specifying the respective Team Code.

4. Clarification of the Problem

- Teams may seek clarifications via e-mail to ccal@gnlus.ac.in, latest by 25th November, 2025 (11:59 P.M. IST).
- All clarifications, if any, shall be sent out to all teams via email by 30th November, 2025.
- Please seek clarifications at ccal@gnlus.ac.in with a subject line **“Clarifications_1st PIL Drafting Competition, 2025”**.

5. Submission Guidelines

- The cover page of a written submission must contain the following information:
 - The Team Code in the upper right-hand corner.
 - The name and year of the Competition.
 - The name of the case.

Note: Participants must ensure that all entries are free of identifying information. Disclosing the participant's identity will lead to immediate disqualification.

- The PIL must be submitted in PDF format and Word format along with a plagiarism report [i.e. three attachments in total], before 5th January, 2026.
- The file should be named as: “TCXX_PIL2025”.
- Page Limit: Minimum 15 pages. There is no cap on the maximum page limit.
- Submissions after the deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances.

6. Formatting Guidelines

- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12 (main text), 10 (footnotes)
- Line Spacing: 1.5 (main text), single (footnotes)
- Alignment: Justified
- Margin: 1 inch on all sides
- Citation Style: 21st Harvard Bluebook citation style.
- There must be no additional space between the two footnotes.

Note: The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) shall not contain any identifying information, such as the participant's name, institutional affiliation, or team code, within the body of the document.

7. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Marks
Comprehension of the Factual Matrix	15
Framing of Issues/Questions for Determination	10
Depth of Research and Legal Framework	20
Application and Articulate Analysis	15
Locus Standi, Maintainability, and Jurisdiction	15
Drafting Skills and Coherence of Arguments	10
Appropriateness and Specificity of Prayer	10
Adherence to Structure and Formatting	5
TOTAL	100

8. Plagiarism

- Submissions must be original.
- Plagiarism above 10% will lead to immediate disqualification.
- The decision of the Organising Committee regarding plagiarism shall be final.
- Use of Artificial Intelligence should be less than 10%.

9. Disqualification

- The organising committee reserves the right to disqualify the participant(s) for any other just reason which the organising committee deems fit.

10. Results and Awards

- Results will be announced later, and the date of announcement will be duly notified via ccal@gnlus.ac.in.
- Prizes include:
 - **Winner:** ₹20,000 + E-Certificate of Merit
 - **1st Runner-Up:** ₹15,000 + E-Certificate of Merit
 - **2nd Runner-Up:** ₹10,000 + E-Certificate of Merit
 - **Best Identification of Legal Issues:** E-Certificate of Recognition
 - **Top 5 submissions:** E-Certificate of Excellence
 - **All participants** will receive E-Certificates of Participation.

11. Centre's Discretion on Award of Prize Money

- The Centre reserves the right to withhold or not confer the prize money in the event that the submitted entries do not meet the requisite standards of quality or merit.

12. Interpretation of Rules and Regulations

- All interpretations, as well as waivers, consents, or other decisions in the administration of the competition are at the complete discretion of the organising committee.
- Any decision made by the organising committee shall be final and binding on all participant(s).

13. Important Dates

- Opening of Registration - 20th October 2025
- Closing of Registration - 20th November 2025
- Last date to seek Clarification - 25th November 2025
- Release of Clarifications- 30th November 2025
- Submission of PIL draft- 5th January 2026

14. Queries may be directed to

- Email ID: ccal@gnlus.ac.in

NOTE: The organising committee reserves the right to alter the rules or schedule at any time before the deadline with due notice.

15. Point of Contact

- Mr. Divyansh Joshi (Coordinator): +91 89491 39787
- Ms. Ankita (Co-Coordinator): +91 6200 405 930

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on PIL

1. What is a PIL?

Answer: A PIL refers to a 'Public Interest Litigation'. It is undertaken to secure public interest and demonstrate the availability of justice to socially disadvantaged parties. The concept of PIL was introduced by the Former Chief Justice of India, late Justice P.N.Bhagwati. It is a rule of law declared by the courts of record.

2. What ensures the validity of a PIL?

Answer: The person (or entity) filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition serves the interest of the public and is not a frivolous lawsuit brought for monetary gain.

3. What is the aim and purpose of a PIL?

Answer: The concept of a PIL is suited to the principles enshrined in Article 39A of the Constitution of India to protect and deliver prompt social justice with the help of law. It gives a wider description of the right to equality, life and personality, which is guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution of India. It also functions as an effective instrument for change in the societal structure.

4. Who can file a PIL?

Answer: A PIL is a petition that an individual or a non-government organisation, or citizen groups, can file in the court seeking justice in an issue that has a larger public interest. It aims at giving common people access to the judiciary to obtain legal redress for a greater cause.

5. Where to file a PIL?

Answer: A PIL can be filed in the High Court under Article 226 or the Supreme Court under Article 32, depending on the circumstances.

6. Against whom can a PIL be filed?

Answer: Any public-spirited person can file a PIL in a court of law seeking some relief for the general public at large, and such a PIL can be filed against the State Government, Central Government or any Municipality Authority. However, a private party can also be made liable to respond to a PIL if it performs any government functions or functions that can affect the general public at large.

7. What are the prerequisites of a PIL?

Answer: The basic conditions/requirements to file a PIL can be listed down as follows:-

- i. Violation of ethical rights or fundamental rights.
- ii. Violation of human rights of the poor.
- iii. Force the municipal authorities to conduct a public duty.
- iv. Execution of government policy.

8. What are the benefits of a PIL?

Answer: A PIL helps to clarify a law in its entirety and gives a chance to the Judicial body to re-interpret the existing laws to further give a profound interpretation of the same for public welfare. It further educates, raises awareness among the citizens by making them vigilant. It also gives hope and raises a voice for the poor and the neglected sectors of society by highlighting their major issues. Its primary aim and intention are public welfare and the protection of the rights of the citizens in every possible way.

9. Why do we need a PIL?

Answer: It clarifies the general and the societal law and provides a proper and crisp interpretation, meaning and aid to the general public at large. In the modern society where there are certain classes still neglected not only by their own strata but also by the local authorities, a PIL helps them by giving them a platform to voice out their concerns and seek legal aid.

10. What are the reliefs available through a PIL?

Answer: Any case pending may have two types of relief, one being the interim measures and the other being the final order. The interim measures are those which the court considers while the case is pending, and it orders any person or a committee to act in accordance, and the final order is something that all have to abide by within a stipulated time.

Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law

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*Apart from the aforementioned details, you may mail us at
ccal@gnlus.ac.in for any clarifications.*