

## **Report on the Intra-Client Counselling Competition 2025**

**10-12<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Organised by the Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR), RGNUL Punjab

The Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR), Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, successfully organised the Intra-Client Counselling Competition 2025 from 10th to 12th September 2025. The three-day event was designed to provide students with a hands-on opportunity to engage with simulated client scenarios and develop practical lawyering skills beyond the classroom.

The competition attracted an overwhelming participation of 99 teams, each comprising two students. The event was open to RGNUL students, reflecting the Centre's commitment to nurturing in-house talent and building a strong culture of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) within the university. The enthusiastic response demonstrated not only the growing interest in ADR among law students but also their eagerness to test their interpersonal and analytical abilities in a competitive environment.

The core objective of the Intra-Client Counselling Competition 2025 was to foster client-centred lawyering a skill often overlooked in traditional legal education. Through this platform, students were expected to demonstrate their ability to interact with a client, identify legal and non-legal issues, advise on possible courses of action, and employ negotiation or problem-solving techniques consistent with ADR practices. The format mirrored real-life client interviews: participants acted as advocates, while trained volunteers played the role of clients presenting factual situations requiring advice.

The competition tested a range of competencies including active listening, empathy, ethical awareness, legal analysis, and strategic thinking. Teams were evaluated on parameters such as the quality of client interaction, identification of client goals, clarity of legal advice, teamwork, and professionalism. This multi-stage assessment

ensured that the best performers were those who combined doctrinal knowledge with a client-oriented approach.

The event also provided students with valuable exposure to practical ADR processes, complementing RGNUL's academic curriculum. By emphasising client counselling as a gateway skill for negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, CADR underscored its mission of preparing students to meet the demands of modern dispute resolution frameworks. Faculty coordinators and student volunteers from CADR played an instrumental role in planning logistics, designing problem statements, training clients and maintaining the integrity of the competition. The Intra-Client Counselling Competition 2025 at RGNUL Punjab marked a significant step in strengthening the university's culture of experiential learning