

# 3<sup>RD</sup> TEJSHREE MEMORIAL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

"VOICE FOR HUMANITY"

KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

JANUARY 2026



# TEJSHREE THAPA: A CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Tejshree Thapa, a tireless advocate for the world's most vulnerable, sadly passed away at the age of 52 in New York City. She is fondly remembered by her loved ones for her brilliant mind, compassionate heart, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Born in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1966, Thapa's journey towards human rights advocacy began with her education. She attended the prestigious National Cathedral School in Washington DC and graduated from Wellesley College with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. She continued her pursuit of knowledge at Cornell University, where she earned a Juris Doctorate in 1993.

Thapa's professional path was firmly rooted in the pursuit of justice. Her first foray into human rights came as a membership to the team supporting the first- ever UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. During her time in Sri Lanka amidst the nation's civil war, she played a crucial role in researching and writing a comprehensive report on gender-based violence for the UN Commission on Human Rights.



“

She was able to connect with families in an extraordinary way, She handled them with so much empathy. At some point, most people in her position walk away. She never walked away.

- Meenakshi Ganguly, Deputy director for Human Rights Watch

”

Thapa's dedication to human rights led her to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague. For nearly a decade, she meticulously researched and documented crimes of sexual violence under international law as part of the prosecutor's office. Her contributions to the ICTY were groundbreaking. She served as the primary investigator and researcher on a landmark case that resulted in the prosecution, conviction, and imprisonment of eight paramilitary leaders and supporters from the town of Foča in eastern Bosnia. This case marked the first exclusive prosecution and conviction for sexual slavery under international criminal law.

Her work at ITCY helped establish sexual slavery as a new act constitutive of crimes against humanity in the famous Foča case, transforming legal understanding and providing justice for countless women who had been brutalized by war. Tejshree Thapa stood as a beacon of hope for the world's most marginalized and oppressed. Her unwavering commitment to justice, her brilliance, and compassion has left an indelible mark on the global human rights landscape and on those around her.



*TEJSHREE THAPA AT ICTY*



# BHASKER-TEJSHREE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Bhasker-Tejshree Memorial Foundation (BTMF), a nonprofit non-governmental organization, was born out of the grief of prematurely losing two precious children, Dr. Bhasker- a globally known geotechnical engineer, and globally acclaimed Human Rights advocate Tejshree. BTMF is, propelled by its core aspiration that no parent should go through a similar unbearable pain.

BTMF focuses on two core areas: promoting awareness of public health and inalienable human rights among adolescents, the largest proportion of the total population of Nepal. Its goal is to have an increased body of adolescent youths who are experientially empowered with knowledge and skills to lead healthier, safer, and gender-friendly lives.

Accordingly, BTMF aims to empower school adolescents experientially to avoid risky health behaviors and discriminatory practices to lead safer, healthier, and gender-friendly lifestyle behaviors.

BTMF employs a three-pronged strategic approach to fulfill its vision, goals, and objectives. Firstly, it targets to empower the young population aged 10-25, the largest segment of the total population and vulnerable to the risks of non- communicable diseases and sexual harassment. Secondly, BTMF utilizes locally proven research based BISHES and TIPSH experiential learning tools to empower the youths. Thirdly, BTMF actively mobilizes partnerships across sectors related to education, health, and human rights at federal, provincial, and local government levels. BTMF's partnership with the KUSoL in supporting this Tejshree Memorial National Moot Court Competition is a case in point.

BTMF has covered important milestones towards achieving its vision, goal, and objectives since its establishment in 2015. Recently, BTMF has been awarded with the prestigious Health Minister Bloomberg Public Health Award 2023 for its groundbreaking original research published in the Global Heart Journal on May 21, 2020.

BTMF's other important study Tejshree Initiative for Empowerment of School Adolescents for Prevention of Sexual Harassment (TIPSH), addressed to empower school adolescents with knowledge, attitude, and skills to protect themselves from gender discrimination and sexual harassment is completed and published. After its results were graciously released by the former Rt. Hon'ble President Bidya Devi Bhandari at Shital Niwas on 15th November 2022, it was published in 2024 in the 20th volume of Empowerment Journal by the Ministry of Women and Senior Citizens in 2024. TIPSH's results show a statistically significant increment in knowledge, attitude, and self-defense skills among school adolescents enabling them to protect themselves from gender discrimination and sexual harassment.





# KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW- KUSOL

Kathmandu University has educational achievements spanning more than three decades since its inception in 1991 A.D. With its mission of providing education for leadership and a vision of becoming a world-class university devoted to bringing knowledge and technology to the service of mankind, KU has expanded into various schools within the Kathmandu University System. With an aspiration of serving the nation by taking knowledge and skills from campus to the community, KU has relentlessly pursued innovation. As such, Kathmandu University School of Law was established.

Kathmandu University School of Law is the seventh school in the Kathmandu University System, based in Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchok established in 2013. Its establishment is enshrined in the belief that law is an honorable profession worthy of public trust, which can be garnered through quality legal education. KUSoL currently provides integrated undergraduate degrees of Bachelor of Business Management and Bachelor of Laws (BBM-LL.B) and Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws (BEC-LL.B), and a graduate degree of LLM in Energy and Infrastructure Law/ Masters in Energy and Infrastructure Law.

KUSoL provides unwavering support to its students and student bodies to partake in various academic and extracurricular activities within and outside the School and provides for an overall enriching academic experience.



# THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: KUSOL DAMS

The Kathmandu University School of Law's Debating and Mooting Society (KUSoL-DAMS) is a student-run society. Since its inception in 2020, KUSoL-DAMS has been in the forefront of fostering mooting and debating culture within and beyond the School. For the past three years, KUSoL-DAMS has tirelessly worked with the students, alumni, faculty and academic partners to change the landscape of mooting and debating within the institution. And this unwavering dedication to furthering these disciplines will remain as tenacious moving into the future.

KUSoL-DAMS has made a rather significant impact on the mooting and debating demographic within the school, with its function spanning from streamlining the internal selection processes for external moot court and debate competitions, to organization of Internal Moot Court Competition to debates tournaments and workshops.

KUSoL-DAMS has committed itself to a relentless pursuit for mooting and debating brilliance and overall betterment of the academic culture.





# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPETITION

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is a body of law that aims to protect individuals caught up in armed conflicts. IHL plays a major role in limiting the means and methods of warfare and thereby also plays a major role in alleviating human suffering during wartime. IHL moot courts are a type of legal competition in which participants argue hypothetical cases based on IHL principles and rules. These competitions play a crucial role in promoting understanding, awareness, and application of IHL among students, legal practitioners, and policymakers.

Nepal went through a decade-long armed conflict from 1996 to 2006. Several studies have shown that international human rights and international humanitarian laws were violated by both the State security forces and the insurgents during the conflict. However, the cases of violations have not been properly addressed yet. One of the reasons for that is, as many people argue, the lack of critical mass having a good understanding of International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and the IHL. Most of the law schools do provide human rights education to their students but classroom education alone is not enough to impart knowledge and advocacy skills on IHL.

Thus, Kathmandu University School of Law in collaboration with Bhaskar Tejshree Memorial Foundation is organizing a national-level Moot Court Competition to advance the legacy of justice of the Late Tejshree Thapa, a globally acclaimed human rights lawyer who helped to express the scope of mass rape in the war-torn Balkans to build the legal arguments for the persecution of those rapes as a crime against humanity within the scope of IHL.

3rd Tejshree Memorial National Moot Court Competition aims to further the legacy of Tejshree Thapa, by imparting light and wisdom she once stood for among the future generations of lawyers from all over the country.



The overall objective of the competition is to allow the students to broaden their knowledge, skills, and practical understanding on the subject of International Humanitarian Law as it is intrinsically and intimately connected to the etched history of Nepal. The event intends to facilitate an exchange of ideas and interaction between law colleges from every part of the country and to provide for an overall fulfilling experience.

The third Tejshree Memorial National Moot Court Competition is organized by KUSOL in a cost-sharing partnership with the Bhaskar-Tejshree Memorial Foundation.



# **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**WINNER - NRs. 66,600**

**1<sup>ST</sup> RUNNER UP - NRs. 33,300**

**BEST MEMORIAL - NRs. 20,000**

**BEST SPEAKER - NRs. 13,300**

*Participation certificatess for all participants..*



# 1ST TEJSHREE MEMORIAL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2024

The inaugural 1st Tejshree Memorial National Moot Court Competition was a huge success, bringing together law students from across Nepal and elevating the standard for future national competitions. The first edition successfully boosted the importance of IHL and provided participants with an indispensable platform to engage with real-world legal challenges.



*DR. RITA THAPA AND PROF DR. RISHIKESH WAGLE AT THE FINALS OF THE  
1ST TEJSHREE MEMORIAL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION 2024*



WINNER AND BEST ORALIST-KATHMANDU SCHOOL OF LAW



# 2<sup>nd</sup> TEJSHREE MEMORIAL NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION, 2025

The 2nd Tejshree Memorial National Moot Court Competition continued the legacy established by its inaugural edition. With enthusiastic participation from law students across Nepal, the second edition successfully advanced the discourse on IHL and challenged participants to engage with complex legal scenarios mirroring real-world humanitarian issues. Building on the momentum of the first year, the second edition not only refined the standard of national-level mooting but also reinforced the competition's role in nurturing analytical rigor, advocacy skills, and a deeper commitment to humanitarian principles.



WINNERS & BEST ORALIST – NATIONAL COLLEGE OF LAW (NaLC)

# COMPETITION SCHEDULE

DATES	EVENT
NOVEMBER 27 2025	REGISTRATION OPENS
DECEMBER 1 2025	MOOT PROBLEM AND RULEBOOK RELEASE
DECEMBER 15 2025	DEADLINE FOR MOOT PROBLEM CLARIFICATIONS
DECEMBER 20 2025	CLARIFICATION RELEASE
DECEMBER 27 2025	REGISTRATION CLOSES
JANUARY 3 2026	ONLINE ORIENTATION
JANUARY 13 2026	MEMORIAL SUBMISSION
JANUARY 24 2026	OPENING CEREMONY, PRELIMINARY & SEMI FINAL ROUNDS
JANUARY 25 2026	FINALS, AWARD DISTRIBUTION & CLOSING CEREMONY



# ACCOMMODATION

Each team is required to travel to Dhulikhel, where food and lodging will be provided for the duration of the Competition. All teams must arrive in Dhulikhel by 23 January 2026 (6:00 PM NST). Further details regarding accommodation will be communicated to the teams 10 days prior to the commencement of the Competition.

# REGISTRATION

The registration fee for each team shall be Rs.3000. The registration needs to be done by filling the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/6nkvTdxPgRKZ8c8h7>) and communicating the completion to the Organizing Committee at [tejshreememorialmoot@gmail.com](mailto:tejshreememorialmoot@gmail.com).

# CONTACT

For any queries and concerns, you can reach out to the Organizing Committee at:

✉ [tejshreememorialmoot@gmail.com](mailto:tejshreememorialmoot@gmail.com)

☎ + 977 - 9767489866 / 9823410688

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/kusldams>

📷 @kusoldams

📞 + 977-9810347437