

# **GNLU ESSAY COMPETITION ON LAW AND SOCIETY**

January, 2016

Organized by

**THE GNLU CENTRE FOR LAW AND SOCIETY**

In collaboration with

**THE CHAMBERS OF RATAN K. SINGH**

Under the able guidance of

**Padma Shree Prof. Upendra Baxi**



CHAMBERS OF  
**Ratan K. Singh**



## **INFORMATION BROCHURE**

### **About the University**

Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Gandhinagar, established under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003 and recognized by the Bar Council of India and the University Grants Commission, endeavours to impart quality legal education to produce responsible lawyers who are professionally competent, socially responsible and receptive to the needs of a changing nation. GNLU is the only National Law University, which offers integrated law degrees in five streams: B.A., LL.B. (Hon.), B.Com., LL.B. (Hon.), B.B.A., LL.B. (Hon.), B.Sc., LL.B. (Hon.), B.S.W., LL.B. (Hon.), one-year LL.M. and PhD programmes in law and interdisciplinary fields and foreign law and languages programmes.

GNLU has created a unique learning environment, emphasizing on research and training, coupled with solid grounding in theory, with a vision to address the user's requirement, whether academic or not. The university constantly strives to establish an all-round and interdisciplinary academic culture consistent with the other National Law Universities of the country. In order to achieve the same, the university has established a number of Centres of Excellence, which work in niche areas for specialized knowledge and professional distinction.

### **About GCLS**

Established in 2015, the GNLU Centre for Law and Society (GCLS) is a venture of Gujarat National Law University to facilitate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, study and teaching of law and society, and law and legal institutions. The Centre identifies issues of contemporary interest and importance, and distils academic expertise and analysis in order to equip practitioners with knowledge of immediate relevance to their work. The GCLS provides a platform for the exchange of ideas on the most contemporary, relevant matters, while inspiring future generations of students to pursue careers at the nexus of society and law. Findings originating at the Centre will be disseminated through conferences and symposia, journals, in-house student vignettes, and policy white papers. Driven by creativity and curiosity, the Centre strives to fulfil its social, cultural and economic obligations to India and the world.

### **About the Essay Competition**

*"The centre of gravity of legal development, therefore, from time immemorial, has not lain in the activity of the state, but in society itself, and must be sought there at the present time." - Eugen Ehrlich*

Law as a social institution reflects and influences the society in innumerable ways. Neither the society nor the law can exist independent of each other. Therefore, a comprehensive appreciation of the technicalities, complexities and patterns of the society is indispensable for realizing the goals of the law. There can be little doubt that a harmonious, cooperative and peaceful society can exist only when there is effective interaction between law and society and the field of 'Law and Society' was conceived in light of this growing recognition.

The field of Law and Society appreciates the mutual relationship between law and society, by taking into account the dynamic nature of the society and the legal responses to the changes in society. Empirical research in the field has taken on three dimensions hitherto: the social origins of various rules that comprise the law, how and why the legal system is organized the way it is and the social content of various legal cultures. The subject is an attempt to evolve an interdisciplinary approach to provide optimal solutions to legal and social problems.

In order to encourage further research and reflections in this field, particularly in the Indian context, the GNLU Centre for Law and Society is organizing the GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2016, under the able guidance of Padma Shree Professor Upendra Baxi. The competition aims to provide a platform to students to express their views on various critical issues having socio-legal implications.

### **Theme**

#### **“NEW LEGAL PATHS FOR SEEKING SOCIAL JUSTICE”**

The law is understood as a reflection of the society at a given moment in its evolution. Concrete events, situations, expectations, thoughts, social movements and human behaviour impinge upon the legal process and shape it according to the needs of the society. Law and society research has demonstrated that how the law is organized and what people think about it affects the operation and consequences of law. However, it is imperative to analyze whether the new law positively addresses the situation it was meant to address. After all, the law is not a goal in itself; it is a means to achieve a goal.

Ensuring the welfare of all groups within the society is a daunting task. Social justice requires, however, that all groups, including historically marginalized, victimized and disadvantaged groups be treated equally, with dignity and fairness. The progress and success of a nation

requires the creation of a just and fair society. As citizens, our role in ensuring progressive social change in India through new laws extends to eliminating the existence of systemic inequities and dispensing social justice by fulfilling the legitimate expectations of marginalized, victimized and disadvantaged groups. In the light of recent social and political developments, there is a need to evaluate whether proposed solutions are 'legal' and amenable to the notions of social justice and social welfare.

The following sub-themes have been identified as requiring academic consideration in the Indian context:

1. Reconsidering Socio-Economic Parameters for Defining Caste
2. Securing Rights Conducive to Social Change: Third Gender Rights in India
3. Escaping Persecution: National Register of Citizens as a Measure to Counter Illegal Immigration?
4. Era of Land Reforms: Balancing Industrial Development and Agricultural Interest
5. Challenging the Leviathan: Sedition Law in India
6. Death By Incarceration: A Limitation on the Term of Punishment
7. Domestic Violence Laws: More Misuse Than Use
8. Freedom of Expression v. Religious Sensitivities: Are Blasphemy Laws the way out?
9. Is the soft law vehicle of CSR sufficient for domestic corporates to discharge their responsibility towards the society?
10. Should MNCs be held criminally responsible for human rights violations?

### **Important Dates**

1. The essays must be submitted on or before January 31, 2016.
2. The winners will be notified by email and on the website of the GNLU Centre for Law and Society (<http://gnlucls.weebly.com/>) on March 6, 2016.

### **Prizes**

#### **Category: Law Students**

##### **1st Prize –**

- INR 15, 000
- Internship at Thomson Reuters Foundation
- Certificate Course by LAWyersclubindia.com and iPleaders

### **2nd Prize –**

- INR 7, 500
- Internship at Fox Mandal & Co.
- Certificate Course by LAWyersclubindia.com and iPleaders

### **3rd Prize –**

- INR 2, 500
- Internship at Fox Mandal & Co.
- Certificate Course by LAWyersclubindia.com and iPleaders

### **Category: Non-law Students**

#### **1st Prize –**

- INR 15, 000
- Internship at Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

#### **2nd Prize –**

- INR 7, 500
- Internship at Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

#### **3rd Prize –**

- INR 2, 500
- Internship at Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.

- **Certificates will be issued to all participants and winners.**
- **The top 3 essays under each sub-theme will be published as a collection of essays.**
- **The authors of best entires under each sub-theme will be offered Certificate Courses by LAWyersclubindia.com and iPleaders, provided they fall under the Category of Law Students.**

### **Eligibility**

1. The competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled in any discipline in a recognized University/ College/ Institute in India.
2. Only one submission per author shall be entertained.

3. Co-authorship by a maximum of 2 students is permitted.

### **Guidelines for Submission**

1. The essays must be submitted in English only.
2. The essays should be the original work of the authors. Any kind of plagiarism will lead to disqualification.
3. The essays published elsewhere or selected/ submitted for publication elsewhere shall be disqualified.
4. The name(s) of the author(s) should not be mentioned anywhere in the essay.
5. The word limit for the essay is 3000 – 5000 words, not including footnotes.
6. The essays should be typed in: Times New Roman, Font Size 12 and Line Spacing 1.5.
7. The footnotes must be typed in: Times New Roman, Font Size 10 and Line Spacing 1.
8. The margins should be 1” or 2.54 cm on all sides.
9. All text should be justified.
10. Every citation must follow the Harvard Bluebook, 19<sup>th</sup> Edition.

### **Submission Procedure**

1. The essays must be sent by email to [gcls@gnlu.ac.in](mailto:gcls@gnlu.ac.in) with the subject ‘GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2016’.
2. The body of the e-mail must specify the name(s) of the author(s).
3. The essay may be attached in ‘.doc’ or ‘.docx’ format.
4. The participants are required to send the following details in a separate word document attached to the e-mail:
  - Sub-Theme Chosen:
  - Title of the Essay:
  - Name(s) of the Author(s):
  - College/ Institute/ University of Author(s):
  - Programme Enrolled & Year of Study of Author(s):
  - E-mail address & Contact No. of Author(s):

### **Important Note**

1. All original essays submitted for this competition shall become the sole property of Gujarat National Law University. GNLU shall have the right to publish the entries in the form of a journal or a book.

2. A Committee of Experts shall be constituted as a Jury, to select the winning entries. The decision of the Jury shall be final and binding.
3. GNLU Centre for Law and Society possesses the right to reject entries which do not conform to the Guidelines for Submission.
4. The Organizing Committee reserves the absolute rights to cancel, defer, or postpone indefinitely, the competition in the event of the accruing of any incident, natural or man-made.
5. In case of any dispute, decision of the GNLU Centre for Law and Society shall be final and binding.

### **Contact Persons**

For any queries, you may leave us an e-mail at [gcls@gnlu.ac.in](mailto:gcls@gnlu.ac.in) or contact:

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