

2ND GNLU ESSAY COMPETITION ON LAW AND SOCIETY, 2017

March-April 2017

Organized by

**LAW AND SOCIETY WING,
GNLU CENTRE FOR LAW AND SOCIETY**

In collaboration with

THE CHAMBERS OF RATAN K. SINGH

Under the able guidance of

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.), in addition to LL.M., MBA, PhD and diploma programmes in law and interdisciplinary fields.

The University has created a unique learning environment, emphasizing on the significance of research and training. GNLU constantly strives to establish an all-round and interdisciplinary academic culture consistent with 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 and LSW

Established in 2015, the GNLU Centre for Law and Society (GCLS) seeks to undertake research, legal studies and field work at the confluence of law and society and to provide legal assistance through a variety of methods, including traditional casework, summary advice, self-help, community legal education, community development and policy reform initiatives. The Centre functions with three wings – the Law and Society Wing, the Legal Services Committee and the Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA) Team.

The Law and Society Wing functions as a focal point for research on law and society, and law and legal institutions. The mission of the Wing is to encourage multidisciplinary perspectives to inform analysis and debate on socio-legal issues, thereby providing the most comprehensive approach to research and policy-making.

It seeks to examine and inquire into legal issues from the perspectives of a broad range of disciplines, such as anthropology, communication, critical gender studies, economics, environmental studies, ethnic studies, history, linguistics, philosophy, political science,

psychology, sociology, and urban studies and planning. Findings originating at the Wing are disseminated through conferences and symposia, journals, in-house student vignettes, and policy white papers. The objective is to make the findings easily accessible to professionals in government, business, or the law, and in so doing, to bridge the gap between academia and policymaking.

About the 1st GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2016

In order to encourage research that determines how effective state policies are in achieving the ends of social justice, particularly in the Indian context, the Centre organized the 1st GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2016 under the able guidance of Prof. Upendra Baxi, in collaboration with the Chambers of Ratan K. Singh. The competition, centred around the theme '*New Legal Paths for Seeking Social Justice*', provided a platform to students to express their views on third gender rights, domestic violence laws, national register of citizens, industrial development and agricultural interests, sedition laws in India, CSR, freedom of expression and religious sensitivities, criminal liability of MNCs and death by incarceration. The competition witnessed participation from more than 250 students across the country, enrolled in law and non-law streams. Prizes and awards were given away by Prof. Upendra Baxi. The competition was also supported by Thomson Reuters Foundation, Fox Mandal & Co., Jindal Power & Steel Ltd. and LawyersClubIndia.

About the 2nd GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2017

Law, while aiming at justice, more often than not aims at uplifting and protecting the marginalized and oppressed. Women, as the architects of society, hold the key to progress in a developing country like India. Their rights and duties, assimilated and crystallized within the framework of legislations and welfare schemes, mirror their status in the society. Recent amendments in laws related to women are slated to effect a metamorphosis in the social dynamics that require a thorough understanding of their newfound role in the society.

In order to encourage further research and reflections along these lines in the Indian context, the Law and Society Wing is organizing the 2nd edition of the GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2016, under the able guidance of Prof. Upendra Baxi. This year's theme is:

“TOWARD EMPOWERING THE INDIAN WOMAN: LEGAL REFORMS AND IMPLEMENTATION”

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

1. One Step into a Temple, a Giant Leap for Womankind?: Women's Right to Enter Places of Worship
2. Changing Tides of Indian Surrogacy Laws: Miscarriage of Law?
3. Balancing Work and Motherhood: Desultory Reforms?
4. Lifting the Veil: Muslim Women and Personal Laws
5. Welfare Schemes for Women in India: A Paper Tiger?
6. Women's Ease of Doing Business: Evaluation of Sexual Harassment Prevention Laws in India
7. Mediation as a Panacea for Women

Important Dates

1. The essays must be submitted on or before Sunday, 16 April 2017.
2. The organizers shall endeavour to declare the results of the competition within 2 months from the last date for submission of essays. The winners will be notified by email and on the website of GCLS (<http://gnucls.weebly.com/>).

Prizes

Category: Law Students

1st Prize –

- INR 15, 000
- Internship at Luthra & Luthra Law Offices
- Certificate Course by Enhelion on “Preventing Sexual Harassment at the Workplace”

2nd Prize –

- INR 7, 500
- Internship at Aarna Law Advocates
- Certificate Course by Enhelion on “Preventing Sexual Harassment at the Workplace”

3rd Prize –

- INR 2, 500
- Internship at LawLex
- Certificate Course by Enhelion on “Preventing Sexual Harassment at the Workplace”

Category: Non-law Students

1st Prize –

- INR 15, 000
- Internship at Centre for Social Research
- Certificate Course by Enhelion on “Preventing Sexual Harassment at the Workplace”

2nd Prize –

- INR 7, 500
- Internship at ActionAid
- Certificate Course by Enhelion on “Preventing Sexual Harassment at the Workplace”

3rd Prize –

- INR 2, 500
- Internship at Centre for Social Justice
- Certificate Course by Enhelion on “Preventing Sexual Harassment at the Workplace”

- **Certificates will be issued to all participants and winners.**
- **The authors of best entries under each sub-theme will be offered a Certificate Course by Enhelion on “Preventing Sexual Harassment at the Workplace”.**

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, 19th Edition.

Submission Procedure

1. The essays must be sent by email to gcls@gnlu.ac.in with the subject ‘2nd GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2017’.
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”). GNLU shall have the right to publish the entries in the form of a journal or a book.
2. A Panel of Evaluators (“Panel”) shall be constituted to select the winning entries. The decision of the Jury shall be final and binding.
3. All matters related to the internships shall be subject to the convenience of the concerned organization.
4. GNLU Centre for Law and Society (“GCLS”) possesses the right to reject entries which do not conform to the Guidelines for Submission.
5. GCLS 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.
6. In case of any dispute, the decision of GCLS shall be final and binding.

Contact Persons

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

1. Mr. Saurabh Anand,
Faculty Convener, GNLU Centre for Law and Society,
Contact: +91 8128650808; sanand@gnlu.ac.in
2. Mr. Sameer R. Bhat,
Student Convener, GNLU Centre for Law and Society,
Mobile: +91 9998925880; sameer.gnlu@gmail.com
3. Ms. Gayathree Devi K. T.,
Student Coordinator, Law and Society Wing,
GNLU Centre for Law and Society,
Mobile: +91 8511970905; gayathree.d@gmail.com
4. Ms. Yashi Saraswat,
Secretary, Law and Society Wing,
GNLU Centre for Law and Society,
Mobile: +91 9898238740; yashilata@gmail.com
5. Mr. Jayaditya Mallik,
Member, Law and Society Wing,
GNLU Centre for Law and Society,
Mobile: +91 9909964944; jayaditya.m@gmail.com

Sponsors



Luthra & Luthra
Law Offices

XXV

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE



AARNA LAW
ADVOCATES



LAWLEX.ORG
CONVERGENCE OF LEGAL MINDS



enhelionSM



CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
An Institution for the women and girls in India

act!onaid



Centre for
Social Justice