

3RD GNLU ESSAY COMPETITION ON LAW AND SOCIETY, 2018

May-June 2018

Organized by

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

Under the able guidance of

Prof. Upendra Baxi



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 through two wings – the Law and Society Wing and the Legal Services Committee.

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 Essay Competition

In order to encourage further research that determines how effective certain policies are in achieving the ends of social justice, particularly in the Indian context, the GNLU Centre for Law and Society organized the 1st edition of the GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2016, under the able guidance of Padma Shree Professor Upendra Baxi and in collaboration with the Chambers of Ratan K. Singh. Centered around the theme “*New Legal Paths for Seeking Social Justice*”, the competition witnessed participation from more than 250 students across the country, enrolled in law as well as non-law streams. The competition was also supported by Thomson Reuters Foundation, Fox Mandal & Co., Jindal Power & Steel Ltd. and Lawyers Club India.

Encouraged by the success of the inaugural edition, the Centre organized the 2nd edition of the GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2017, which focused on an understanding of the newfound role of women in the society after a multitude of amendments in women-related laws. Centered on the theme “*Toward Empowering the Indian Woman: Legal Reforms and Implementation*”, the 2nd edition emulated the success of the inaugural edition and was organized in collaboration with the Chambers of Ratan K Singh, the competition was supported by Luthra & Luthra Law Offices, Aarna Law Advocates, LawLex.org, Enhelion, Centre for Social research, Action Aid and Centre for Social Justice.

About the 3rd GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2018

In recent times, the Supreme Court of India has passed numerous decisions having momentous social, economic and political ramifications. Drawing from historical, philosophical, political, sociological and economic sources, legal interpretation is no longer practiced as a static affair, but has led to passing of judgments which are pertinent, relevant and effective. This has led to the question as to whether usage of social tools or realities is an accepted method of interpreting the Constitution and statutory provisions. Development of jurisprudence along these lines necessitates socio-legal analysis of judicial developments to assess the methodology used, the alleged overstepping of the Apex Court’s role under the scheme of separation of powers and the relevance of the interpretation or policy laid down by the Court. Only such an analysis will truly

reflect the gravity of the actions taken by the Court and solidify its enhanced role in our mature democratic society.

In order to encourage further research and reflections along these lines, the GNLU Centre for Law and Society is organizing the 3rd GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2018, under the able guidance of Padma Shree Professor Upendra Baxi. This year's theme is:

“THE CAREFUL QUESTIONING OF SOCIO-LEGAL PREMISES”

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

1. Aadhaar, Government Spending and Social Progress
2. The Conformity of Religious Practices with the Constitutional Scheme
3. Recognizing the Need to Affect Behaviour and Regulate Contemporary Social Practices
4. Deliberating Electoral Reforms
5. A Step Towards Criminalising Marital Rape
6. The Queer Movement and 'Unnatural' Sex
7. The Nexus between Autonomy and the Identity of a Parsi Woman
8. The Extent of India's Adherence to Humanitarian Principles

Important Dates

1. The essays must be submitted on or before Friday, June 15 2018.
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://gnlucls.weebly.com/>).

Prizes

Category: Law Students

1st Prize –

INR 15,000

Internship at Luthra & Luthra Law Offices

Certificate Course of one's choosing out of a specified list of courses by Enhelion

2nd Prize –

Internship at Verist Law Offices

Certificate Course of one's choosing out of a specified list of courses by Enhelion

3rd Prize –

Internship at LawLex

Certificate Course of one's choosing out of a specified list of courses by Enhelion

Category: Non-law Students

1st Prize –

INR 15, 000

Internship at ActionAid

Certificate Course of one's choosing out of a specified list of courses by Enhelion

2nd Prize –

Internship at Centre for Social Research

Certificate Course of one's choosing out of a specified list of courses by Enhelion

3rd Prize –

Internship at Centre for Social Justice

Certificate Course of one's choosing out of a specified list of courses by Enhelion

Certificates will be issued to all participants and winners.

The authors of best entries under each sub-theme will be offered a Certificate Course of their own choosing out of a specified list of courses offered by Enhelion.

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 ‘3rd GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2018’.
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. There is no requirement of registration formalities to be completed in order to participate in the competition. No registration fees is to be paid for the same.
2. Participants are not required to submit a permission letter or bonafide letter from the relevant authorities of their College/University for participating in this competition.
3. 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.
4. A Panel of Evaluators (“Panel”) shall be constituted to select the winning entries. The decision of the Jury shall be final and binding.
5. All matters related to the internships shall be subject to the convenience of the concerned organization.

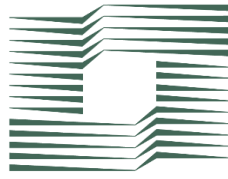
6. GNLU Centre for Law and Society (“GCLS”) possesses the right to reject entries which do not conform to the Guidelines for Submission.
7. GCLS reserves the absolute rights to cancel, defer, or postpone indefinitely, the competition in the event of the accruing of any incident, natural or man-made.
8. 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:

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CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

An Institution for the women and girls in India