

Gandhinagar, Sunday, February 25, 2018

GNLU PRESS NOTE No. 9/2018



**GNLU organized a Conference on
Behavioral Law and Justice
Jointly with
Harvard Law School, University of Michigan Law School and FLAME**

62 District Judges from across the country participated.

Gandhinagar, February 25, 2018:

A Conference on “**Behavioral Law and Justice: Aspects of Negotiations and Decision-Making**” was held today at GNLU Campus, Gandhinagar.

The conference was jointly organized by **Gujarat National Law University, Harvard Law School, University of Michigan Law School**, and **FLAME University** (Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS) Nuffield).

62 district judges from across the country participated in the conference for exchange of insights into topics related to behavioral law and economics such as behavioral decision-making, using data as evidence, and the impact of informal social norms on law.

Conference faculty included

- Prof. Holger Spamann, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School;
- Prof. Vikramaditya S. Khanna, the William W. Cook Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School,
- Prof. Sharon Barnhardt, Director of CESS Nuffield – FLAME University, and
- Professor Pavan Mamidi, Co-Director of CESS Nuffield – FLAME University.

In his inaugural address, **Mr Justice Ravi Tripathi** (Member, Law Commission of India and former Judge, Gujarat High Court) said that “District judges are real face of Indian Judiciary.” He cited a Supreme Court order which took into account behavioral aspects while rendering a judgement. He also quoted Mahatma Gandhi that interpretation of law should benefit the last man. He advised the participating District Judges not to shy away from interpretation stating that famous cases of Bhopal Gas Tragedy and Ratlam Municipal Corporation were first decided by the District Judges.



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

In his welcome address, Dr. Bimal Patel, Director, GNLU, highlighted the importance of behavioral science within law and logic, law and justice and law and society. He emphasized how pioneering initiatives of GNLU aim to contribute directly to the nation's development mission.

Professor Ranita Nagar, Dean Research and Publications underlined the intrinsic value of studying inter-disciplinary fields of law and economics and how the higher judiciary has started using various economic theories and models in understanding the evolving jurisprudence which directly help the society and the justice system at large.

Dr. Kalpeshkumar L Gupta of GNLU coordinated this conference.

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About the Conference:

The Conference explores how insights from the behavioral, social, and negotiation sciences can be leveraged to better understand different aspects of the judicial system in India.

The Conference will provide an opportunity to incorporate cutting-edge research from the behavioral sciences into judicial work with a more nuanced understanding of human decision-making.

The conference will create a unique platform for the judges and academicians from the leading law schools to exchange ideas and widen their perspectives to better address the most pressing social issues of the day.

Pioneered by psychologists Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman, behavioral economics is a discipline that borrows from psychology to study how social, cognitive, and emotional processes affect the way individuals and institutions make economic decisions. It has become an established form of inquiry in the last 20 years, with the most recent Nobel Prize in Economics being awarded to University of Chicago Professor Richard Thaler for his work in the field. The related field of behavioral law and economics has also made its way to legal curricula world-wide, with scholars like Harvard Law Professor Cass Sunstein and Yale Law Professor Christine Jolls advancing the field.

Schedule

Timing	Activity	Venue
9-30 am to 11-30 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Inauguration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kalpeshkumar L Gupta, Coordinator of the Conference • Prof. (Dr.) Ranita Nagar, Dean - Research Division, GNLU • Prof. Sharon Barnhardt, Director, CESS Nuffield - FLAME University • Prof. Vikramaditya Khanna, Professor, University of Michigan Law School • Prof. (Dr.) Bimal N Patel, Director, GNLU • Mr. Justice Ravi Tripathi, Former Judge High Court of Gujarat and Member of Law Commission of India, Chief Guest 	Orientation Hall 2 nd Floor, Admin Block, GNLU
11-30 am to 11-50 am	Group Photo and Tea Break	Preamble
11-50 am to 12-30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1 Key Note Session The Indian Mortgage Market, Law and Economic Development</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prof. Vikramaditya Khanna, Professor, University of Michigan Law School Affiliated Faculty, CLP, Harvard Law School</p>	Orientation Hall 2 nd Floor, Admin Block
12-30 pm to 1-30 pm	Lunch	Ground Floor, Admin Block
1-30 pm to 3-15 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2 Practical Session for Participant Judges</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prof. Pavan Mamidi Co-Director, CESS Nuffield - FLAME University Affiliated Faculty, CLP, Harvard Law School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prof. Vikramaditya Khanna, Professor, University of Michigan Law School Affiliated Faculty, CLP, Harvard Law School</p>	Computer Lab & Classroom B 1.10 <i>Shishya Bhavan</i>

3-30 pm to 4-00 pm	<p align="center">Session 3 Fairness in Decision Making</p> <p align="center">Prof. Sharon Barnhardt Director, CESS Nuffield - FLAME University Faculty Affiliate, MIT Poverty Action Lab</p>	Classroom B 1.10 <i>Shishya Bhavan</i>
4-00 pm to 4-15 pm	Break	
4-15 pm to 5-00 pm	<p align="center">Session 4 Behavioral Dispute Resolution</p> <p align="center">Prof. Pavan Mamidi Co-Director, CESS Nuffield - FLAME University Affiliated Faculty, CLP, Harvard Law School</p>	Classroom B 1.10 <i>Shishya Bhavan</i>
5-00 pm to 5-10 pm	Break	
5-10 pm to 6-00 pm	<p align="center">Session 5 Capstone – Practical Session Debrief</p> <p align="center">Prof. Holger Spamann Professor, Harvard Law School</p>	3 rd Floor, <i>Vitaan II</i> Admin Block
6-00 pm to 6-30 pm	Valedictory Address	Orientation Hall 2 nd Floor, Admin Block