

## **Cultural Rights of Local Population and Influx of Illegal Migrants and Refugees: NHRC-GNLU National Moot Court Competition inaugurated at GNLU**

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**Gandhinagar, Sep 26, 2019:** The NHRC-GNLU National Moot Court Competition was inaugurated today at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) by Mr Justice N.V. Anjaria, Judge of Gujarat High Court as the Chief Guest. Mr Jaideep Govind, Secretary-General, NHRC was the Guest of Honor at the inaugural function.

The theme of the Moot Court Competition is “Cultural Rights of Local Populations and influx of illegal Migrants & Refugees”.

In his inaugural address, Mr Justice Anjaria described moot court competitions as a help to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and practical application of the laws and understanding the working of legal concepts. “The moot court experience for the students would work like fertilizer to increase efficiency when the students enter the real legal profession and conduct cases in the courtrooms,” said Justice Anjaria.

In his key-note address, Mr Jaideep Govind said that the NHRC took the initiative to raise human rights concerns through moot courts among the budding lawyers to bring them at centre stage in legal discourse. He expressed satisfaction that from a modest beginning in 2013, moot courts with themes on human rights have become very popular. Record participation of 76 teams from different law colleges and universities at NHRC-GNLU National Moot Court Competition this year is a testimony to that. He complimented GNLU for its efforts.

Mr Govind described the theme of the competition as a global issue with great relevance to India and said, “human rights of illegal migrants and asylum-seekers versus rights of the local population is a contemporary global issue which needs to be discussed and debated. However, a balance is required and care is needed to protect the basic rights of local population also.”

Giving an overview of the NHRC’s functioning, Mr Govind said that beginning with less than 500 cases in the first year of its inception in 1993, NHRC is now investigating more than lakh cases a year.

The moot is organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with GNLU.

The purpose of organizing this moot court is to create awareness and sensitize students to pressing human rights issues of the day and encourage the mainstreaming of human rights study and research in their future academic pursuits. The competition will also provide the students with a platform to deliberate before experts in the field, thus rigorously testing the legal acumen, research, and oratory skills of the participating teams.



# Gujarat National Law University

## Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

The competition will unfold over the course of the next three days, with preliminary rounds on September 27 and 28, and quarters, semis and the final occurring on September 29.

No registration fee has been charged from the teams participating in the competition.

The Winners and Runners-up of the competition will receive cash prizes of INR 50,000 and INR 25,000 respectively along with other prizes. Additionally, cash prizes and other awards will be handed out to the Best Orator (Final Rounds), the Best Orator (Preliminary Rounds), and the Best Written Submissions.

Mrs Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC will be the Chair of the Jury for the final round and also the Chief Guest of the Valedictory function on September 29. Other members of the jury include Mr Aman Lekhi, Additional Solicitor General of India and Mr Murali Neelkanthan, Principal, amicus.

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