

## GNLU PRESS NOTE No. 57/2020

### **Durham Law School Dean, Prof. Thom Brooks gave tips to GNLU students on 'Finding Success in a Global Legal Sector'**

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**Gandhinagar, December 03, 2020:** Prof Thom Brooks, Professor of Law and Dean at Durham Law School delivered a lecture on 'Finding Success in a Global Legal Sector' at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU). The lecture was organized in association with the International Association of Law Schools.

Prof. Brooks acknowledged that the USA has more lawyers per capita as compared to other countries and even so other countries too have exponential numbers of law graduates entering the market with every passing year. He said, “Law attracts both the smartest and weakest students and so law schools have become more and more competitive. However, it is not just enough to be smart or to go to a good law school to be successful.” The legal profession is not just limited to the local limits but now it is hugely internationalized. This is the reason why now law schools are opening their doors to a global legal sector. He pointed out that, “Graduates feel they cannot establish themselves without any family member practising law or without any connections.” For this Prof. Brooks suggested along with researching for good law schools a student shall also look out for law firms in his/her local areas to scout for opportunities to gain work experience, even if it is just for a day. He implored the students, “Contact judges, lawyers and others even if it’s to follow them around.”

Prof. Brooks opined that for getting an edge over other law graduates you can either have connections or be proactive to gain work experience before graduating along with maintaining good scores. For this, he says, “A clear resume is not necessary in all cases. A resume with diverse work experiences which shows that you’ve tasted many different areas of law can be helpful.” A diverse work experience does not make you weaker; it can make you desirable. He stated, “Diversifying your work experience can make you aware of different branches of law and may open options for you.” Not all students studying law are intending to be a lawyer but most of them are while all are prepared to qualify for the degree so the competition would always be cut-throat. What he suggested was to follow certain pointers to succeed such as gaining work experience during law school, diversifying the experience, being aware of the recent developments and going beyond subject-specific knowledge. He emphasised that “There is never a right time to start getting a work experience, so start right now!” Reflecting on the current situation during the COVID-19 pandemic Prof. Brooks said, “Having some work experience is better than having none. And it is not necessary to have experience from a big firm or a physical experience only. So even if the virtual work experience is not the same as a physical one but still it can be used to your advantage given the current circumstances.”



# Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Earlier, GNLU Director Dr S. Shanthakumar welcomed Prof Brooks and said “We are extremely fortunate to have an eminent authority like Prof Brooks to address our students on 'Finding Success in a Global Legal Sector.' I am sure students will immensely benefit from his rich experience in the global legal sector.”

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