

4TH GNLU ESSAY COMPETITION ON LAW AND SOCIETY, 2019

July-August 2019

Organized by

**CENTRE FOR LAW AND SOCIETY,
GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY**

Under the able guidance of

Professor 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

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 as a focal point for research on law and society, and law and legal institutions. The mission of the Centre 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 Centre 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 on 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. Focussing 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.

3rd edition

The 3rd edition of the GLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2018 sought to encourage discourse in context of the numerous decisions pronounced by the Apex Court with momentous social, economic and political ramifications. The theme focussed on the question of usage of social tools or realities as an accepted method of interpreting the Constitution, encapsulated in “*The Careful questioning of Socio-Legal Premises*”, and invited entries from more than 250 students across the country. The Competition was supported by Luthra & Luthra Law Offices, Verist Law, LawLex.org, Enhelion, Centre for Social Justice, Action Aid and Centre for Social Research.

About the 4th GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2019

In what ways are we to think and respond about the increasing presence of algorithms in our laws and lives? Advances in multiple technological sites including, robotics, ICTs and their

attendant digital infrastructures, and automation techniques within the heuristic practices of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, render the increasing presence of algorithms in our daily lives and public decision-making processes. The spread of new information and communication technologies have already transformed the way governments function. The lack of transparency in automated data collection, aggregation and analysis is often seen as threatening the rule of law and democracy. The rapid advancement in technology gives rise to demands for immediate and effective responses from the lawmakers. Several grey areas are already apparent in the attendant interface of law and technology, for instance in the fields of security, privacy information, communication, intellectual property and science. Indian surveillance laws have particularly come into question in the recent judgments by the apex Court. The very contents and contours of citizenship itself are seen to be coming under a cloud in the wake of algorithmic structuring of legal and social worlds. Complex ethical, legal and social concerns surround the increasing deployment of algorithms in a wide range of arenas including the justice system, health and health care, disaster management, biodiversity and ecological monitoring, border control and pandemic management.

In light of this, the GNLU Centre for Law and Society is organizing the 4th GNLU essay Competition on Law and Society, 2019. This year's theme is:

“ALGORITHMS, LAW AND DEMOCRACY”

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

1. In the wake of a Big Brother State: Surveillance and Privacy vis-à-vis section 69 of the Information Technology Act
2. Algorithmic Bias and the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
3. Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property Rights: Challenges new technology poses to the existing legal framework
4. The Emergence of Big Data and Surveillance: How has Data-driven Policing changed law enforcement?
5. The Internet of Things: How should the Law keep pace?
6. Issues of Responsibility and Liability in Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic Platforms
7. The changing contours of Citizenship through Artificial Intelligence
8. The politics and power in Algorithmic Infrastructures

Important Dates

1. The essays must be submitted on or before Monday, August 12th, 2019.
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 10, 000

Internship at Luthra & Luthra Law Offices

Publication in the Law & Society Review

2nd Prize:

INR 5,000

Internship at Software Freedom Law Centre

Publication in the Law & Society Review

Category: Non-law Students

1st Prize:

INR 10, 000

Internship at Tandem Research

Publication in the Law & Society Review

2nd Prize:

INR 5,000

Internship at Centre for Social Justice

Publication in the Law & Society Review

Certificates will be issued to all participants and winners

About the Law & Society Review

The GNLU Law and Society Review is the official publication of the Centre for Law and Society, at Gujarat National Law University, India. The Review employs and encourages an interdisciplinary approach to research in law, particularly law and sociology and focuses on issues of socio-legal significance. The aim of the Review is to usher in a dialogue on issues at the confluence of law and society, and to encourage academic and practical solution-seeking among the fraternity. For more information on the law review, please visit the website here: <http://glsr.in>

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 4500 – 6000 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, 20th Edition.
11. Submissions shall be assessed as per the criteria and weightage of marks (total: 100 marks) as specified:
 - Understanding of the Theme and the Sub-themes (10)
 - Quality of Research (30)
 - Originality and Creativity (10)
 - Language, Grammar and Style (15)
 - Organization, Structure and Clarity of Expressions (20)

- Quality and Viability of Suggestions or Recommendations made (15)

Submission Procedure

1. The essays must be sent by email to gcls@gnlu.ac.in with the subject '4th GNLU Essay Competition on Law and Society, 2019'.
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, and also fill them in the Google form: [Submission & Author Details](#)
 - Sub-theme Chosen
 - Title of the Essay
 - Name of the author(s), College/Institute/University of author(s), programme enrolled, and year of study of author(s)
 - E-mail address and 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 fee 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. The prize money will be awarded at the discretion of the centre.
7. GNLU Centre for Law and Society ("GCLS") possesses the right to reject entries which do not conform to the Guidelines for Submission.
8. 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.
9. 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. Dr. Saurabh Anand,
Director, Centre for Law and Society,
Contact: +918128650808; sanand@gnlu.ac.in

2. Mr. Zaid Deva,
Student Convener, Centre for Law and Society,
Contact: +91 9419061802; deva.zaid@outlook.com

3. Ms. Yashi Saraswat,
Student Coordinator, Law and Society Wing, Centre for Law and Society,
Contact: +91 9898238740; yashilata@gmail.com

4. Ms. Keertana Venkatesh,
Student Co-Coordinator, Law and Society Wing, Centre for Law and Society,
Contact: +91 9743564868; keertanavenkatesh01@gmail.com