



National Law University, Delhi
presents

Confluence 2017

The Legal Industry - Academia
Linkages Conclave

18th March, 2017

3:00 PM onwards

'Jacaranda', India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

in association with

**Bar Association of India
Society of Indian Law Firms**

under the auspices of

University Grants Commission (UGC)

The Vision

‘Confluence 2017’ is a first-of-its-kind conclave to explore the linkages between the legal industry and the academia, organised by National Law University, Delhi (NLU, Delhi) in association with the Bar Association of India and the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF), under the auspices of the University Grants Commission (UGC). Coming at a time when both legal education and the legal industry are in need of fresh ideas and reforms, this conclave attempts to forge an understanding of the objectives of legal education and engage in a dialogue on the intersection between legal education and the legal industry in the context of ever-changing landscape of business activities in India. We hope to take a step towards imparting practice-oriented legal education and training to our students in collaboration with experts from the legal industry. NLU Delhi hopes to strengthen this mutually enriching relationship between Indian legal industry and the academia by leading the dialogue on the next generation of reforms needed to create a brighter future for lawyers who are technically sound and socially-relevant.

Schedule

3:00 PM- 3:30 PM: Reception and High Tea

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM: Inaugural Address on “Women in Law and Business” by Ms. Pratibha Singh, Senior Advocate, Delhi High Court

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM: [Panel 1] Legal Education at Crossroads

5:15 PM - 6:15 PM: [Panel 2] Law, Business and the Legal Profession

6:15 PM - 7:30 PM: [Panel 3] Towards a New Era of Academia-Legal Industry Collaboration

7:30 PM- 10:00 PM: Networking Dinner

Inaugural Panel and Special Address [3:30 PM to 4:15 PM]

- Welcome Remarks- Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Vice Chancellor, NLU Delhi [10 mins]
- Inaugural Address- “Women in Law and Business” by Ms. Pratibha Singh, Senior Advocate, Delhi High Court [20 mins]
- Special Address- Mr. Lalit Bhasin, Senior Advocate and President, SILF and Bar Association of India [10 mins]
- Vote of Thanks- Prof. (Dr.) G.S. Bajpai, Registrar, NLU Delhi [5 mins]

Panel I [4:15 PM to 5:15 PM]
Legal Education at Crossroads

Panelists:

- Prof. (Dr.) MP Singh, Visiting Professor, NLU Delhi
- Mr. Manas Kumar Chaudhuri, Partner, Khaitan & Co., New Delhi
- Dr. Prabhash Ranjan, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, South Asian University
- Mr. J. Sai Deepak Iyer, Founder at Law Chambers of J. Sai Deepak

Moderator: Dr. Aparna Chandra, Assistant Professor, NLU Delhi

Agenda:

- Objective and purpose of higher education in law: Are we any closer towards justice-oriented legal education?
- The Ivory Towers of National Law Universities: Three decades of experimentation in legal education.
- Regulating entry into law schools: a regime of lowered expectations?
- Breaking the silos: Multi-disciplinary legal curriculum and provision of soft-skill training to law students; effectiveness of the legal curriculum in skill-based training.

Format: Number of Speaker: 4+1 [Moderator]; Time per Speaker: 5 minutes for opening remarks+2 minutes of direct questions by the Moderator; Floor Discussion: 20 minutes

Panel II [5:15 PM - 6:15 PM]

Law, Business and the Legal Profession

Panelists:

- Mr. Anand Prasad, Partner, Corporate, Trilegal Delhi
- Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
- Mr. Abhishek Saxena, Partner, Phoenix Legal, Delhi
- Mr. Ananth Padmanabhan, Fellow, Carnegie India

Moderator: Ms. Madhurima Mukherjee, Partner, AZB & Partners

Agenda:

- The reality and myth of a 'Level playing field': Liberalisation of legal industry and increased demand for finance, corporate and capital market advice; Effect of liberalisation on domestic firms and lawyers- its impact on graduate recruitments.
- Legal industry in the shadow of technology: technological replacements in the legal industry and its impact on the business law curriculum and recruitments.
- Syncing legal curriculum with global business law: how do we make the current legal curriculum relevant to the ever-changing global landscape of business and the law?
- Breaking the glass ceilings: women in law and business, career advancement support for women seeking re-entry in the legal industry.
- Regulating entry to the legal profession: Mandatory practical training as a necessary requirement for qualification to the Bar; centralised selection process for law firms as practised in foreign jurisdictions
- Looking beyond business: Industry engagement with diversity and pro-bono work and corporate social responsibility.

Format: Number of speakers: 4+1 [moderator]; Time per speaker: 5 minutes for opening remarks + 2 minutes of direct questions by the moderator; Floor Discussion: 20 minutes

Panel III [6:15 PM - 7:30 PM]

Exploring Synergies: Towards a New Era of Academia - Legal Industry Collaboration

Panelists:

- Mr. Seetharaman S., Principal Partner & Country Head, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan attorneys
- Mr. Shyam Divan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
- Mr. G. R. Raghavender, Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India
- Ms. Manjula Chawla, Partner, Phoenix Legal, Delhi
- Mr. Ritvik Lukose, Co-founder & CEO, Vahura

Moderator: Mr. Yogesh Pai, Assistant Professor, NLU Delhi

Agenda:

- Investing in the future: Looking beyond internships. Feasibility of providing litigation fellowships, support for moot court activities, career development etc. to law students and early professionals.
- What kind of academic engagement can be expected with the legal industry in shaping legal curriculum, student and faculty capacity building and career development?
- Academic consulting and contribution to legal research and policy: engagement with the judiciary, government, social sector and the legal profession. Experiences in exploring synergies between the legal academia and the Government in administering the IPR Chairs.
- Network: Creating a network of academicians, business lawyers, technocrats/ government and the members from the bar and bench towards strengthening the rule of law.

Format: Number of speakers: 5+1 [moderator]; Time per speaker: 5 minutes opening remarks + 2 minutes of direct questions by the moderator; Floor Discussion: 20 minutes

Organising Committee

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