



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI

Punishment and Sentencing in a Democratic Society – A Dialogue *19th December 2015*

There have been significant developments in the area of punishment and sentencing laws in the recent times that are evidenced by the enactment of harsh punishment measures and severe sentencing decisions, including the Yakub Memon decision that had captured the national imagination till the very last. Despite such vital developments there has been only a sparse intellectual or academic analysis/critique of the involved issues. Though the national English language print media has to some extent made up for the lack of intellectual inquiries, but these initiatives, marked by the quality of spontaneity and news-orientation, are far from what can serve the needs of an aspiring democratic society like India. Keeping in mind the fact of lack of adequate, scientific and informed information on the theme of punishment/sentencing and realizing the knowledge generation role of a premier legal institution of the nation the National Law University, Delhi under the auspices of Shri K.L. Arora Chair in Criminal Law is organizing a Dialogue on “Punishment and Sentencing in a Democratic Society” on 19th December 2015. This dialogue would elicit the views of a cross-section of the Indian society, including judges, Advocates, Legal academics, Politicians, Police, Correctional administrators, media and law students, on the above theme. This Dialogue envisages conducting a thread-bare examination and analysis of the involved themes, both in terms of their theoretical as well as practical dimensions. Though the dialogue would touch upon the diverse forms of punishment deployed by the Courts in the day to day administration of Criminal Justice, but special focus would obviously remain on Death Sentence, Life Imprisonments and also Probation sentencing. It is hoped that the outcomes of this dialogue would not only shed scientific light and enhance the real and symbolic uses to which different forms of punishment are subjected to, but would help the sentencing administrators Judges and correctional officials to make a rational choice about sentencing at the appropriate time.

Tentative Conference Sessions

Inaugural Session (10:00 to 11:00 A.M.)

Session I (11:30 to 1:30 P.M.) : Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Punishments.

Lunch

Session II (2:30 to 4:00 P.M.) : Death Sentence and Its Administration at the Appellate Court

Session III (4:15 to 6:00 P.M.) : Empirical Analysis of Administration of Death Sentence at the lower and the High Court level.

