

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA



सत्ये स्थितो धर्मः

Constitutional Law Society



presents

2nd
NLUO-CLS

Essay Writing Competition



Overview

About the Institution

National Law University Odisha, Cuttack was established by Act 4 of 2008 by the Odisha State Legislature keeping in mind an enunciated vision of advancement of learning, teaching, research, diffusion of knowledge in the field of law and catering to the needs of society by developing the professional skills of those intending to take up the professions of Advocacy, Judicial Services, Legal services, and so on. National Law University, Odisha is committed to providing an atmosphere in which academic excellence is the foremost priority for students. Along the lines of this vision, NLUO has significantly catered to the needs of the research in various legal fields by paving way for various dedicated research centres and societies. Such endeavours enable students to pursue individual interests and take part in various literary and recreational activities throughout the academic year.

The Constitutional Law Society is one of such initiatives of NLUO which aims at promoting study, research, and informed deliberation in the field of Constitutional Laws, and its allied subjects with a policy and application-oriented purpose.



Overview

About the Constitutional Law Society

The Constitutional Law Society of National Law University Odisha was established in 2018 with a vision to provide a platform for public discourse and deliberation vis-à-vis Constitutional Law. Constitutional Law Society NLUO seeks to supplement an accessible forum for intellectual discourse and shape the discussion of the most important and relevant issues of constitutional law through meticulous scholarship, public lectures and seminars, and research through independent projects, conferences, and co-operation with other institutions and individuals engaged in constitutional study.

The Constitutional Law Society, National Law University Odisha endeavours through the course of its activities to foster awareness about the subject and its importance. The purpose behind the establishment of the Society is to generate debate and dialogue on various nuances of the subject of Constitutional Law. The activities undertaken by the committee shall be aimed at enabling the students to have a holistic understanding of constitutional principles and constitutional jurisprudence.



Event Timeline

01
August
2024

Call for submissions

31
August
2024

Last date for registration

10
September
2024

Last date for submission

10
October
2024

Declaration of results



Event Details

The 2nd NLUO - CLS Essay Writing Competition invites participation from all students of law in the form of essays containing deliberations over various topics of contemporary relevance.

Mode

The competition shall be conducted in **Online** mode.

Eligibility

- Students pursuing Five-Year/Three-Year LLB Discipline
- Students pursuing One-Year/Two-Year LLM Discipline
- Students pursuing any other undergraduate or postgraduate law degree from any recognized university

Themes for the Essays

The themes for the event have been underlined below. Participants are thus, encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of any one theme that they choose through short and succinct essays according to the submission guidelines. However, the participants shall note that the given sub-themes are completely indicative and *not* mandatory. Participants are free to write on any other topic falling within the ambit of the main theme.



Essay Themes

1

India's Fiscal Federalism: Challenges and the Path forward

Fiscal Federalism refers to that aspect of federalism wherein fiscal responsibilities and revenue sources are divided between the state and central governments. Since the beginning of the current year, our country has witnessed protests by some states either for demand for special status category or over financial devolution schemes. The participants may engage with one of the following contemporary issues around India's Fiscal Federalism:

- Expanding the Constitutional and Judicial Scope over Borrowing Limits of the State
- The Unresolved Conundrum of the Power Granted to the GST Council in light of recent protests by Southern States
- The Debate Over Special Category Status in Indian Federalism (with states like Bihar coming forth with such demands)



Essay Themes

2

Essence of Constitutional Scholarship in Good Governance

The Constitution of India lays the very foundation of its governance. In protecting the rights of the polity, enabling powers of the State across various frontiers, and spelling out the political code, our Constitution forms the fundamental framework of the Republic's democracy. Owing to this foundational eminence, evolutions in the Constitution, also shape and mould the structure of India's governance. Hence, advancements in Constitutional scholarship are imperative to achieve good governance. The aim is to trace and identify lapses, drawing upon the lessons offered by the experiences of our Republic and foreign jurisdictions, and advancing novel ideas in the field of Constitutionalism

- Expression, information, and transparency in the electoral process
- Role of the Election Commission in Indian democracy: Experiences from the General Elections
- Questioning the Sovereign Seal: U. S. Supreme Court's ruling on Presidential immunity
- The Limits of Dissent: Kenyan Assembly Demonstration Bill and Lessons for India



Essay Themes

3

Privatizing the Judicial System in conjunction with Eliminating Corruption

Privatizing the judicial system would be a significant decision, carrying both positive and negative implications. On the positive side, it could address critical issues within the judiciary, leading to increased efficiency, reduced case backlogs, and more timely resolutions. This could foster innovation and improved services through competition. When combined with efforts to eliminate corruption, it might result in a more impartial and fair judicial process, enhancing public trust and confidence. However, privatization could also create disparities in access to justice, favoring those with greater financial resources and marginalizing the less affluent. Additionally, profit motives could overshadow the pursuit of justice, and if corruption remains unaddressed, it could further entrench biases and undermine the integrity of the judicial system. Participants may engage with the theme along the lines of the following sub-themes:

- Balancing Efficiency and Equity in a Privatized Judicial System
- The Role of Technology and Innovation in a Privatized Judiciary
- Preventing Corruption in a Privatized Judicial System
- Comparative Analysis of Privatized Judicial Systems Globally



Essay Themes

4

Judicial Activism v. Judicial Legislation

Separation of powers is one of the cornerstones of constitutionalism. Judicial activism is a philosophy that supports the importance of using discretion beyond applicable codified law in judicial decision-making, keeping in mind the broader societal implications of a judgment. The application of this philosophy in India has led to the creation of extremely important developments such as the notion of the social action litigation as well as given birth to various statutes which were created on the basis of judicial directives. On the other hand, judicial legislation is used to describe an overstepping by the judiciary of its role wherein it makes law rather than just interpreting and applying it. The Supreme Court of India has been called upon to adjudicate on several constitutional matters. The controversy over how bills may be classified as money bills passed under Article 110, whether the promise and grant of freebies is a corrupt practice under RPA, and whether a liberal interpretation of SMA to grant queer individuals the right to marriage is possible to invite the SC to deliver judgments that could potentially lead to alteration in the current position of law regarding these issues. It remains to be seen whether the apex court would choose the path of creating precedents or restrain itself and leave it unto the hands of the legislature.



Essay Themes

The participants are encouraged to engage with the following sub-themes under this theme:

- Article 110 and the classification of bills as money bills
- Election Freebies: The conduct in election and limits to election campaign
- Marriage Equality and a liberal interpretation of the Special Marriage Act



Competition Guidelines

General

- Submissions shall be made in **.doc/.docx** format (Word 2007 or 2010 or 2013)
- All submissions are to be made via a google form.
- The name of the file should be the same title of the essay. **No indication to the Author (s) identity should exist within the submitted manuscript. Such a breach will lead to outright rejection of the submission.**
- Manuscript word limit: **1500-2500** (excluding endnotes and abstract)
- Abstract of 50 words (not inclusive within the total word count) must be at the top of the manuscript.
- Referencing must be through hyperlinks. Endnotes to be used only when hyperlinks are not available.
- Submission date: on or before **10 September 2024**.
- Your essay should be error-free: grammar, spelling, punctuation etc. – your paper must be original and plagiarism free. **Use of AI is strictly prohibited.**

Formatting

- Font style: **Times New Roman**
- Size: **12**
- Line spacing: **1.5**
- All text should be **justified**



Competition Guidelines

Process of Registration

- Registration to be done via [this form](#) by the **31st of August, 2024**.
- Registration fee (non-refundable) is as follows for all participants:
 - a. **Single Authorship: ₹200**
 - b. **Co-Authorship: ₹300**
- All participants are requested to pay the registration fee in the following way:
 1. Click on the URL - <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm>
 2. Click on Educational Institutes on the SBI Collect Home Page .
 3. In the search bar, type “NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA” and select the same from the drop-down menu.
 4. Select Payment Category “Registration for Seminar and Events”. Furnish required details and make payment.
 5. Download the SBI Collect Receipt.
- After payment, kindly fill this [google form](#) and register for the event.

Process of Submission

- Submission must be done via [this form](#) by the **10th of September, 2024**.
- Please ensure that details provided in the registration form is same as in the submission form.



Competition Guidelines

Process of Evaluation

- All the essays will go through a double-blind peer-review process
- The review shall be in two stages:
 1. Technical Review: The article shall be checked for plagiarism and AI-usage along with language and grammar.
 2. Content Review: Review on whether it fulfills criteria of contemporariness, relevance, novelty.
- It is recommended that authors visit the [CLS-NLUO Blog](#) to get a better understanding on the type of submissions that are approved by the Editorial Board.

Manuscripts not in conformity with these guidelines may be rejected at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to send the manuscripts back to the authors for any modification(s) at any stage, in the event of non-conformity with any of the submission guidelines.

The Editorial Board may, in its absolute discretion, waive any of the above rules or amend the process. In case of any dispute or ambiguity, the decision of the Editorial Board shall be final and binding.



Awards

Winners

₹5,000 Cash Prize + Publication in CLS Blog (After Incorporating Reviewer Comments) + Certificate

Runners Up

₹3,000 Cash Prize + Publication in CLS Blog (After Incorporating Reviewer Comments) + Certificate

Second Runners Up

₹1,500 Cash Prize + Publication in CLS Blog (After Incorporating Reviewer Comments) + Certificate

Participants

A Certificate of Participation shall be awarded to all the participants



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