



NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR

NATIONAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

**ON
LEGAL THEORY**

Theme: *“Do we have an obligation to obey law?”*

Organised By

Centre for Legal Theory

National Law University, Jodhpur



NLU, JODHPUR: AN INTRODUCTION

National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ) is one of India's leading Law Schools situated at the vibrant and colourful city of Jodhpur, Rajasthan. NLUJ has constantly been ranked as one of the top law schools in India. Since its establishment in 1999, NLUJ has endeavoured to produce exceptional lawyers and legal scholars aimed at pushing and challenging the existing boundaries of knowledge. Students passing out from NLUJ work in top law firms in India and abroad, some practice in courts and while some have entered the field of legal academics. NLUJ students have also pursued further studies on prestigious scholarships at leading Universities in the world including Harvard, Yale, Oxford, LSE and King's.

The University has developed a holistic approach towards understanding law and justice from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The University offers unique five year integrated undergraduate programs i.e. B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.); B.A. LL.B. (Hons.); B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons.) to generate especially skilled global legal professionals. The University also has a one year LL.M. program in various laws and also offers LL.D., and Ph.D. programs.

The current Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Poonam Saxena is a renowned jurist and has authored various authoritative texts on the subject of Property Law and Family Law. NLUJ is committed to the advancement of knowledge and learning and is striving to become a centre for excellence in legal studies.

ABOUT NLUJ'S CENTRE FOR LEGAL THEORY

The Centre for Legal Theory (CLT) was established under the auspices of National Law University, Jodhpur, in May 2015. In furtherance of its academic pursuits, the Centre for Legal Theory shall also be publishing the Indian Journal of Legal Theory (IJLT). The journal is an effort by CLT to encourage debate and analysis among practicing professionals and academicians in this largely ignored area of law, especially in India. This would be one of the first such initiatives in India that focus on the subject matter of legal theory. The CLT hopes that this, in turn, will enhance the understanding as well as build curiosity towards the study of and research in legal theory.

The CLT is headed by the Executive Director, Mr. Shyam Krishan Kaushik (Associate Professor) and has Ms. Aakanksha Kumar (Assistant Professor) as the Faculty Advisor. The Editorial Board comprises of 14 student members from Years II to V at the University. CLT also has several prominent academicians from the field of Jurisprudence and Legal Theory on its Advisory Board, including Prof. Matthew Kramer, Prof. Nigel Simmonds, Prof. John



Tasioulas, Prof. Stanley L Paulson, Prof. Scott Shapiro, Prof. Michael Moore, Prof. Schott Hershovitz and Prof. Brian Leiter. The first issue of the journal shall be released in March 2016.

ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION:CONCEPT NOTE

Socrates obeyed what he believed was an unjust verdict, as detailed in the Crito. Thus, his death poses a question that has since then, remained a central problem sought to be addressed by teachers and students of legal theory alike - the dilemma of the existence of one's obligation to obey law. The question came to be explored and answered differently thereafter by those classified as the "natural law" thinkers - with distinct justifications. St. Thomas Aquinas thus distinguished between laws that mandated obedience and laws that were to never be obeyed. The positivists later proffered their own answers and interpretations based in their understanding of the difference between the moral and legal content of laws. In more recent history, Martin Luther King, Jr. disobeyed what he regarded as an unjust application of the law, with the belief that the same was necessary to trigger reform. This scenario too presents before us the same question - Why should one obey the law? Do we have an obligation to obey the law? What are the justifications of our conviction in having or not having any obligation?

This competition invites entries from law students, on this debate and their interpretations and theoretical justifications for positions that they take and advocate for, in answer to the question.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

- ❖ There is no registration fee for the competition.
- ❖ The competition is only open for students enrolled in a 5 year integrated undergraduate law degree programme or a 3 year LL.B. degree programme, recognised by the Bar Council of India.
- ❖ To participate in the competition, interested students shall submit a soft copy of their completed essay on or before February 20, 2016, 2355hrs at nluj.cltessay@gmail.com.
- ❖ Late submissions shall not be accepted.
- ❖ No hard copy submissions are required.
- ❖ No part of the essay should contain any form of identification of the participant, and any such information if found would lead to disqualification.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- ❖ The essay must be submitted in MS Word format **only**.
- ❖ The essay must contain an Abstract, not exceeding the limit of 250 words, wherein the keywords are mentioned and the tentative conclusions are set out.
- ❖ The essays must not exceed a total of 5000 words (excluding footnotes).
- ❖ The essay must be sent along with **a separate document (as a separate MS Word document)** containing the following information about the author:
 - Full Name
 - Current year of study
 - Name and Full Address of Law School/University
 - Phone Number of University
 - Phone Number of Author
 - E-mail id of Author
- ❖ All submissions must be original and *bona fide* work of the participants.
- ❖ The contestants by entering in the competition agree to indemnify the organisers from and against all claims, suits and damages based on any claim of copyright infringement or plagiarism or unauthorised use.
- ❖ All entries shall be considered to be the property of NLUJ for, which NLUJ also reserves the right of publication of the same in any book, journal, or in any other manner as it may deem appropriate, without providing any royalty or compensation.
- ❖ The essay should not be submitted for any other competition and/ or for any other purposes. Any further publication after declaration of results, shall only be pursued after express permission has been sought from the organisers.
- ❖ Font type should be **Times New Roman** and Font Size should be **12 pt.** for the text and **10pt.** for the footnotes.
- ❖ Line spacing should be **1.5** for the main text and **1.0** for the footnotes.

Footnotes must follow *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (Harvard, 19th Edition) throughout.



ESSAY JUDGEMENT

- ❖ The essay shall be judged by a panel of two experts, via a blind review mechanism.
- ❖ The decision of the panel with regards to evaluation of the essay shall be final.
- ❖ The essay shall be marked on the following criteria:

Criterion	Marks
Originality of Idea in Content	20
Quality of Research	25
Argumentation	35
Use of Authorities and Conformity with Citation Style	10
Overall Presentation	10
Total	100

- ❖ In case of exceeded word limit there will be a penalty of 2 marks [-2]. The scheme that shall be followed will be thus:
 - For the first 50 words : -2
 - For the next 50 words: - 4
 - For the following 50 words: - 6

[...and so on and so forth]

IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ Submission Deadline- February 20, 2016
- ❖ Declaration of Result- Launch of the Indian Journal of Legal Theory (March end, 2016)

PRIZES

The top three essays shall be conferred with 'Merit Certificates', 'Cash Prizes', and 'an opportunity of publication in the next IJLT Issue'. All the participants will be awarded 'Certificate of Participation'. The details of prizes are mentioned herein below:

1.	FIRST PRIZE	Rs. 5000/- , opportunity of publication in the next IJLT Issue and Certificate of Merit.
2.	SECOND PRIZE	Rs. 3000/- , opportunity of publication in the next IJLT Issue and Certificate of Merit.
3.	THIRD PRIZE	Rs. 2000/- , opportunity of publication in the next IJLT Issue and Certificate of Merit.



Organising Committee

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Ms. Aakanksha Kumar, Faculty Advisor, CLT

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