



# 5<sup>th</sup>GNLU ANNUAL LEGAL SERVICES FORUM

**INCLUSIVE JUSTICE :** BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES

**29<sup>TH</sup> 31<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024,** GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, GANDHINAGAR

## **ABOUT GNLU**

Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar is premier a institution of legal education in India established under the **Gujarat National Law University** Act, 2003. With its exemplary faculty, staff, and committed students. University the endeavors to impart quality legal contextualizing education. it within the latest policy and practical developments in the fields of humanities, commerce, business administration, social work, science, and technology.

GNLU is the largest National Law University in India with regard to student, faculty, and academic discourse strength and the only Indian National Law University to offer integrated law degrees in five streams including B.S.W. L.LB, and LL.M., Ph.D. and diploma programs in a wide multitude of legal and interdisciplinary fields.

# **ABOUT LSC**

The GNLU Legal Services Committee has been established as the epicenter of legal aid and all allied activities. The Legal Services Committee (LSC) is set up under Section 4(k) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The committee rides on the principles of empowering society with legal awareness and legal aid.

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Over the years, the GNLU LSC has strived to recognize law as an instrument of social change. The Committee leads a wide range of activities from probono and legal aid clinics to piloting research projects and organizing sessions.

## ABOUT GALSF ~

The GNLU Annual Legal Services Forum (GALSF) is the annual flagship event of the GNLU Legal Services Committee. The premise of the Annual Legal Forum is to connect and establish a foundation and a consortium of all Legal Aid and Services Committees across the nation, address pertinent socio-legal issues, and facilitate discussion, cooperation, and contribution. We seek to give a platform to all exemplary voices, Law Universities, NGOs, and Legal Services Authorities throughout India in order to achieve the goal of providing affordable and accessible legal services to the underprivileged sections of society and bridging the gap that hinders the fulfilment of the aforementioned goal, by sharing their distinctive experiences.

## ABOUT 5TH GALSF -

The 5th edition of the GALSF will focus on the theme of "Inclusive Justice- Building Sustainable Societies". This year's forum is dedicated to addressing pressing issues in society by combining three vital components: a Mediation Competition, a Round Table Conference and the GNLU LSC Annual Grant Presentation.

The Mediation Competition is focused on family laws, property issues, labor laws, and consumer matters on the other hand, the Grant Presentation highlights the rights and conditions of domestic workers and street vendors through an empirical research and implementation program.

# THEMES

The 5th Annual Legal Services Forum and Mediation Competition revolves around the theme "*Inclusive Justice : Building Sustainable Societies.*" In the Indian context, this event strategically aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on domestic helpers and street vendors.

Under SDG No. 1, the Forum comprehensively addresses the rights and socio-economic conditions of domestic helpers and street vendors through empirical research and legal advocacy, aiming to assess and mitigate poverty within these vulnerable groups. Aligned with SDG No. 8, the Forum enhances participants' understanding of labor laws and mediation skills to create a conducive environment for decent work practices, ultimately empowering legal aid centers to advocate for workers' rights and compliance with labor standards.

The theme for the GNLU LSC Grant Presentation is "Formalizing the Informal: Ensuring Empowerment of Street Vendors" and "Defining Standards of Dignity: Reinforcing Fair Labor Practices in Domestic Employment" and the theme for the Round Table conference is "Harmonizing Legal Education and Access to Justice: Empowering Law Students for Effective Legal Aid".

## GNLU LSC LEGAL AID GRANT PRESENTATION

The GNLU Legal Services Funding Grant (henceforth 'Grant') shall be presented to the LSC/LAC which embodies efficient work ethics and promises to effect positive change in society through its activities. The grant hopes to recognize and encourage students to undertake socio-legal initiatives and aims to further their drive for social work. The winner of the GNLU Legal Services Grant will receive a total grant of INR 25,000 along with a trophy and a certificate of merit. The second awardee will receive a total grant of INR 15,000 along with a trophy and a certificate of merit.

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The theme for the GNLU LSC Grant Presentation is "Formalizing the Informal: Ensuring Empowerment of Street Vendors" and "Defining Standards of Dignity: Reinforcing Fair Labor Practices in Domestic Employment". The GNLU LSC Annual Grant Presentation is a cornerstone of the event, embodying its commitment to informed advocacy and evidence-based action. This empowers participants with the tools and knowledge needed to conduct comprehensive research and surveys focused on two vulnerable segments of society: domestic workers and street vendors.

## **GALSF MEDIATION COMPETITION**

The primary objective of the mediation competition is to offer participants a hands-on opportunity to tackle legal disputes in the realms of everyday issues the common man faces. Participating in this competition will cultivate a nuanced comprehension of complex legal domains. This practical experience will equip them with the confidence and efficacy needed to effectively address inquiries brought to legal aid centres. Ultimately, this component serves as a dynamic educational platform, fostering the development of wellrounded legal professionals capable of comprehending intricate legal matters and proficiently navigating and resolving disputes to enhance access to justice for those in need.

## THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

The 5th GALSF serves as a vital platform for LSCs and LACs from across India to convene and address challenges and opportunities within the legal aid landscape. The Round Table Conference, a pivotal part of GALSF, brings together Faculty Conveners of LSCs/LACs and experienced individuals in legal aid and community outreach.

This year's conference theme, "Harmonizing Legal Education and Access to Justice: Empowering Law Students for Effective Legal Aid" recognizes the essential role of academic institutions and law students in advancing access to justice. However, an increasingly pronounced challenge faced by university-level LSCs/LACs is aligning legal aid operations with the demanding academic requirements of law courses. The existing curriculum structure often poses obstacles to effective legal aid.

## **GALSF PAPER PRESENTATION REGISTRATION**

#### ELIGIBILITY

• Any College/University/Institution in India with an LSC/LAC which is functional is eligible to participate.

#### REPRESENTATION

• Each participating LSC/LAC is required to send 2 Presenting Members as representatives along with the Faculty Convenor for the presentation of Empirical Reports.

#### **REGISTRATION DETAILS**

- The Registration Details are as follows :
- 1. Registration Fees Rs. 3000/- Per Team
- 2. Accommodation Rs. 850/- (Per Person/Day)
- Please note that there are no Registration Fees for Faculty, only Accommodation Fees must be paid.
- Last Date for Registration: 31st January, 2024
- Last Date for Registration Fee Payment: 31st January, 2024
- Last Date of Submission of Report: 20th March, 2024

There shall be no refund of registration fees once the registration process is completed.

## **GALSF MEDIATION COMPETITION REGISTRATION**

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Any College/University/Institution in India can participate in the Mediation Competition.
- Each Participant must be a current Undergraduate Student (5year or 3-year Course) of their respective institution.

#### REPRESENTATION

- Each participating College/University/institution is allowed to send one team comprising of 3 Student Members only.
- All three members of the team must be from the same institution.

#### **REGISTRATION DETAILS**

- The Registration Details are as follows :
- 1. Registration Fees- ₹ 3000/Team
- 2. Accommodation- ₹ 850/- (Per Person/Day)

Last Date for Registration : 31st January, 2024 Last Date for Registration Fee Payment : 31st January, 2024

There shall be no refund of registration fees once the registration process is completed.



# **ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**Prof. (Dr.) S. Shanthakumar** Director, Gujarat National Law University



**Dr. Hardik H. Parikh** Faculty Convenor, GNLU Legal Services Committee



**Dr. Jagadeesh Chandra T.G** *Registrar, Gujarat National Law University* 



**Dr. Saurabh Anand** Faculty Member, GNLU Legal Service Committee

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