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## **Restructuring the Legal Education System and its Challenges: An Indian Perspective**

**by Dr Joshua N. Aston**, Gujarat National Law University

Chaired by Associate Professor Gary F. Bell, Faculty of Law, NUS

**20 November 2017, Monday, 1.00pm – 2.30pm**  
Lee Sheridan Conference Room, Level 1, Eu Tong Sen Building  
NUS (Bukit Timah Campus)

### **ABSTRACT**

The Bar Council of India and the Indian universities mainly regulate the system of formal legal education for producing lawyers in India. The challenges facing legal education in India have frequently been discussed. In this context, the 14th Report (1958) and the 184th Report (2002) of the Law Commission of India and the National Knowledge Commission's Report of 2007 are notable, as are several High Court and Supreme Court Judgments, as well as the various seminars and conferences on the subject held throughout the country.

Legal education in India has its roots in ancient India, based on the concept of 'Dharma'. However, the current system of legal education was brought to the country by the British after the introduction of British rule.

Recent years have seen a mushrooming of ill-equipped law colleges, housed in tiny rooms with skeleton libraries, and lacking well trained staff. It is not surprising that in a number of these institutions, there is hardly any pretence of actual teaching. The obvious result will be a plethora of inadequately-trained lawyers, who will be unaware of the basic elements of law, and who will remain a permanent liability to society.

The emergence of National Law Universities in India, and the introduction of the five-year integrated law programme in the 1980s, was certainly significant. However the long-term success of the programme, and the quality of the students which it produces, has yet to be assessed.

This seminar will focus on the need for reforms, as well as challenges faced in reforming legal education. The speaker will also make recommendations for developing and improving the Indian system, thus bringing it to a global level.

### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**



**Dr. Joshua N. Aston** is an Assistant Professor of Law at Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India. He is also an Officer on Special Duty to the Vice Chancellor of the University. His areas of interest are International Criminal Law, International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law and Law of Contracts. He has more than six years experience in teaching and research.

In the past, he has served as Deputy Director and Assistant Professor of Law at Symbiosis Law School Pune. Dr. Aston holds a PhD in Law from Symbiosis International University, Pune. He also completed his Master in Laws in International Criminal Law from the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK, and his Legal Secretarial Diploma from Souters Legal Training Centre, London.

He has received several awards and achievements in his career, which include the Israeli Government Scholarship, Chancellors International Scholarship from University of Sussex, and the DAAD Scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Program.

He has presented papers at various international and national conferences and seminars. He participated in the Asia-Pacific Law Deans Forum, organized by the International Association of Law Schools and the Chinese University of Hong Kong at Sha Tin, Hong Kong in 2016, and the 14th ASLI Conference, which was organized by ASLI and the College of Law, University of Philippines, held in Manila in 2017.

He has a wide range of publications, including books, articles and research papers. His book entitled 'Trafficking of Women and Children: Article 7 of the Rome Statute' was recently published by Oxford University Press. His books entitled 'Internships for Law Students', 'Higher Education in Law' and 'Multiple Choice Questions on Indian Contract Law' are in the process of being published by the Eastern Book Company, New Delhi.

He is a member of various academic committees and bodies at the University, as well as other Universities and Institutes where he actively participates and advises on various academic and legal issues. He is Trustee and Member of the Governing Council, BPHE Society's Ahmednagar College, Center for Studies in Rural Development, Institute of Social Work and Research and Institute of Management Studies, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. He is also a Member of the Board of Studies, Faculty of Liberal Studies, Indian Institute of Advanced Research, UIAR, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

### **REGISTRATION**

There is no registration fee for this seminar but seats are limited.  
The selected light lunch will be provided upon registration.  
Closing Date: **13 November 2017, Monday**

For enquiries, please contact Chris Chan at [asli@nus.edu.sg](mailto:asli@nus.edu.sg)

To register, go to

<https://goo.gl/Q7AzK9>

or scan the QR Code:

