

ILS CRIMINAL LAW CELL

Introduction: The ILS Criminal Law Cell was established in the year 2015-16 to research and study contemporary issues and challenges in Criminal Law. The Centre conducts sessions on various aspects of criminal law with respect to the latest developments in order to give a perspective and understanding of the field to the students. The Cell also serves as a platform for insightful discussions and research pertaining to criminal law. The Criminal Law Cell intends to impart extensive knowledge and invoke the interest of students into the field of criminal law by providing them with a more pragmatic outlook on the same, which is beyond the scope of what is covered in regular lectures.

Faculty Coordinators: Dr. Nitish Nawsagaray and Ms. Isha Saxena

Student Coordinators: Chirayu Rushiya, Shaunak Parulekar (both V BA LLB)

Details of activities conducted:

SEMINARS

- **Student Seminar I**

Topic: Sentencing Policy in India: A Critical Analysis

Presenter: Varadraj Patil and Sonakshi Ganwani (both III BA LLB)

Date: September 30, 2023

No. of Participants: 65

Mode: Online

Report: The session attempted to highlight the important issues concerning sentencing policy in India in the light of judicial pronouncements and the shortcomings in the existing Legal Provisions as provided for under the CrPC and IPC. The session also dealt with the types of theories of punishment and the system that India follows. The problems of the lack of a sentencing policy were explained in detail with the relevant judicial precedents. The session concluded with a Q&A session and a brief discussion with the audience on the need for an implementation of a sentencing policy in India.

- **Student Seminar II**

Activity: Mock trial, titled "How to get away with Murder: Ways to Strategize and Argue"

Date: October 28, 2023

No. of participants: 32 Students (8 teams)

Volunteers: 6 witnesses

Report: The Criminal Law Cell in association with the Trial Advocacy Competition's Organizing Committee conducted a mock trial activity on October 28, 2023, simulating a criminal court case. The purpose of this event was to provide participants with a practical understanding of the criminal justice system, courtroom procedures, and the roles of various stakeholders in a trial. This report outlines the key aspects of the mock trial.

Case : A fictitious criminal case, Murder of Raj Birla, was chosen for the mock trial. The case involved murder of a friend by another friend while on a trip. Participants were divided into two teams: the prosecution and the defense. They were provided with relevant case materials, including witness statements. The participants were given adequate time to prepare their cases, and strategize their trial approach.

Key Elements: The mock trial took place in a courtroom setting, with the following key elements:

Witness Testimonies: Witnesses were called to the stand, and participants conducted Chief and Cross-examinations, showcasing their examination skills.

Closing Arguments: The trial concluded with closing arguments, summing up the main points.

Feedback Session: A mock bench, consisting of 5th Year students from the OC as judges adjudged the performance of participants and gave them feedback.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from a number of students, the spots at the mock trial were allocated on a first come first serve basis.

- **Student Seminar III**

Topic: Electronic Evidence: Admissible or Not

Presenter: Chandrama Raje and Devansh Bhatt (IV BALLB)

Date: November 10, 2023

Number of Participants: 25

Mode: Online

Report: The session on the admissibility of electronic evidence provided a comprehensive overview of various types of evidence, including oral, circumstantial, and documentary evidence,

with a specific focus on electronic evidence. The discussion delved into the definition of electronic evidence, emphasizing its relevance and importance in contemporary legal proceedings. Notably, the session extensively covered Section 65B of the Criminal Procedure Code, offering a detailed explanation of its provisions concerning the admissibility of electronic records. Additionally, participants gained insights into primary and secondary evidence in the context of electronic data. The session further enriched the understanding of the subject by incorporating landmark case laws that have shaped the legal landscape surrounding electronic evidence.

ACTIVITY: TURNCOAT COMPETITION

No. of Participants: 25

Adjudicators: 5

Date: March 1-2, 2024

Report: The turncoat competition, held on March 1, 2024 at ILS Law College Campus, witnessed enthusiastic participation from 25 students who showcased their speaking skills with 5 adjudicators, the event aimed to foster critical thinking and eloquence among the participants. Out of which one winner was chosen from each courtroom, and additionally a group discussion was held on March 2, 2024, bringing together the winners for an intellectual exchange of ideas and opinions.

Event Highlights:

The competition commenced with a briefing session where rules and regulations were outlined to the participants. Over the course of the event, participants engaged in thought provoking speaking, seamlessly switching sides to argue both for and against motion. The adjudicators, composed of faculty and non-faculty members who meticulously evaluated each participant based on criteria provided.

Key Elements:

Adaptability: Participants showed they could quickly come up with good arguments, no matter which side they were on.

Persuasion: Students got better at convincing others with their strong arguments, trying to win over both the audience and the judges.

Critical Thinking: Debating different topics helped students to think deeply and logically about issues.

Winner: Harshita Tandon (I BA LLB)

Runner-Up: Palak Surti (I LLB)

ACTIVITY: 3rd ILS INTRA-COLLEGE BAIL AND REMAND COMPETITION

Venue: ILS Law College, Pune.

Participants: 16 Teams (32 participants)

Court Rooms: 2

Date: April 16 & 19, 2024.

Judges of Preliminary rounds: Adv. Tejas Chavan, Adv. Advait Bonde, Adv Anjali Naik, Adv. Vedika Shah.

Judge of Final Round: Adv Rhishikesh Ganu

Report: The 3rd ILS Intra-College Bail and Remand Application & Argumentation Competition, 2024 was organized at ILS Law College for V BA LLB and III LLB students, commencing on April 13, 2024. The competition aimed to provide participants with practical exposure to the intricacies of bail and remand procedures in legal practice.

April 13, 2024 - Competition Commencement: The competition officially began, marking the commencement of an engaging journey into the realms of bail and remand processes. Participants were provided with FIRs, initiating the preliminary stages of the competition. This phase allowed participants to analyze the given scenarios and prepare their arguments.

April 16, 2024 - First Round: Teams presented their arguments based on distributed FIRs. This phase allowed participants to showcase their analytical skills and legal reasoning. Following thorough deliberations, two teams were selected as finalists, distinguishing themselves with compelling arguments and strategic prowess where two teams were finalized for the final round.

April 19, 2024 - Final Round and Prize Distribution: After meticulous preparation and rigorous rounds, the competition culminated in the final showdown and the prizes were distributed to the winners and runners up teams.

The Bail and Remand Competition at ILS Law College served as a testament to the institution's commitment to fostering practical legal skills among its students. The event not only provided a platform for academic enrichment but also facilitated the development of critical thinking,

communication, and advocacy skills essential for success in the legal profession. Overall, the competition was a resounding success, leaving participants enriched with practical insights and experiences that will undoubtedly shape their future careers in law.

Winners:

Winner: Anish Kikle and Dattaram Bile (Both V BA LL.B.)

Runner-Up: Aditya Shete and Keyur Jaju (Both V BA LL.B.)