



Gujarat National Law University

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Gandhinagar, Gujarat



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**7<sup>th</sup> Convocation | 2016**  
**Saturday, 27 February 2016**



# Welcome Address and Presentation of GNLU Annual Report 2015



**Professor (Dr.) Bimal N Patel**  
Director, Gujarat National Law University

Mr Justice AbhaySapre, Judge, Supreme Court of India and the Visitor / Nominee of the Chief Justice of India for this Convocation, Mr Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, MrPradeepsinhJadeja, Minister of Law and Justice, Government of Gujarat, Dr Thomas Mathew, GNLU Registrar, faculty, students, alumni, parents, guests

At the outset, I welcome and extend profound thanks, on behalf of all of us, to Mr K. K. Venugopal for kindly accepting our invitation to deliver the 7<sup>th</sup> Convocation Address.

**Year 2015** was truly a year of consolidation of GNLU achievements in teaching, research, extension, training and infrastructure programs and activities. With 930 LLB and LLM students, 17 PhD candidates, 60 teaching and research faculty, 60 administrative staff members; in terms of education programs – five specialisations, BA, BCom, BBA, BSc, BSW and four specialization at LLM level, inter-disciplinary PhD research, international and national publications; number of foreign and Indian participants and resource persons visited in just one year; variety of certificate and online diploma programs, total number of chairs and fellowships and gold medals, infrastructure spread across in 50 acres of land, 22 crore Rs annual budget, GNLU has become a *Vat Vriksha*. *Vat Vriksha* is thought of as perfectly symbolizing eternal life due to its seemingly unending expansion.

GNLU Vision and Medium-Term Plan 2014-19; award of notification to first three PhD scholars; initiation and augmentation of dedicated cadre of research associates; GNLU Litigation Assistance and Support Scheme (GLASS); Pro-Bono legal services; completion of GNLU campus development work and inauguration of the Aura; visit by the sitting Chief Justice of Bangladesh; and adoption and dedicated drive in Koba Village under the Swachh Bharat Mission were some of the main highlights of the Year.

Our 2015 plans and achievements enabled us to gain satisfaction as to how we have contributed to the national development, foster global competencies among students, inculcated a value system among students, promoted the use of technology and continued to strive for excellence.



Faculty and staff together deliberated and adopted Vision-Mission-Working Motto-Core Values and GNLU Medium-Term Plan till 2019. The University has put up a challenge before itself: To be rated among top 50 law institutions in the world in terms of law and inter-disciplinary teaching, research, training and extension reputation and performance by 2020 while achieving and sustaining the top position in India. With 125 existing faculty and staff, 930 students, visionary leadership of the members of the statutory bodies, support from the Government of Gujarat and India, academic partnership with the institutions of law-making, governance, bar and bench, economic and commerce houses and civil society, this mission is all set in motion. If anyone assesses our achievement in the last 10 years, this goal is certainly achievable.

2015 Convocation was graced by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat and presided over by Mr Justice T. S. Thakur, Chief Justice of India, then seniormost Judge of the Supreme Court of India and GNLU Visitor on 14 February 2015.

The University continued to offer five UG degree courses, four PG degree courses, PhD, online diploma and certificate courses based on Research-based Teaching University (RbTU) model. Our Research-based Teaching University model, now in its 5th year, ensured that we offer programs and options that aim towards national as well as local needs and global trends. Academic flexibility and rigor were maintained in all our programs in 2015. By ensuring timely consultations with foreign and national faculty, remaining aware about the upcoming research and extension activities, latest case-laws and research trends, identifying issues shaping a vision of a particular paper, we enriched our curriculum. Our multi-tier feedback system, which is deeply rooted in our overall academic governance system, is a source of inspiration to every

educational and non-educational institution. Most conducive research environment is created in terms of human resource assistance (research associates, student research associates, batch academic coordinator), dedicated cadre of research teachers at Assistant / Associate / Professor level; financial assistance and incentives; individual and collective faculty publications; faculty-student publication. GNLU is introducing MBA in Financial Management and Business Laws from 2016 academic year, a program for future business and legal leaders and strategists, as we all know that there are certain issues and challenges that can be resolved through legal actions only. I thank Professor Mamta Biswal, Dean of Academics, Professor Ranita Nagar, Dean of Research and Professor Viral Pandya, Dean of Extension and Training and their teams for their immense contribution, pro-active approach to our holistic approach to education.

**Student Enrolment and profile:** 930 students at UG and PG as well as 17 candidates pursuing PhD in law and inter-disciplinary fields constituted the core of our learning community. 208 students were enrolled for three online diploma programs namely intellectual property: law and management, internet law and policy and advanced entrepreneurship management and corporate law. GNLU continued to offer 7 supernumerary seats, 2 to Jammu and Kashmir and 5 to North Eastern states students ensuring equity and wide access to students from all parts of the nation. Our faculty student ratio is 1:22 which we would like to maintain a healthy level of 1:15, by having more research faculty. Student performance and learning outcomes were measured by their participation in internal and end-semester examination as well as semester end feedback system. 45% core-teachers possess qualification and we hope by end of 2016, 60% core-teachers are likely to have PhD qualification.

**GNLU has developed a very strong research culture** – although our efforts have been largely on the applied and empirical research, we wish to strike a balance between fundamental and theoretical as well as applied research. As of end 2015, GNLU undertook 25 small and big state and national research projects. GNLU faculty authored and edited 7 books, contributed 28 articles to various journals, contributed 6 chapters in various books, 26 papers presented at conferences and seminars, participated in 64 seminars / workshops / training programs including UGC conducted, were invited and participated as visiting faculty or resource person

in 47 programs / activities during the reporting period. Few prominent publications of the year were: criminology, Law of the Sea Jurisprudence, Sports and Legislature, Banking Law and Negotiable Instruments Act, International Contracts, Food Security: Cross Country Policies and Experiments, Political Science. 10 publications, from various publishing houses, Oxford, Nijhoff, EBC, LexisNexis, Routledge, are expected to appear in 2016. 17 external experts were invited as visiting faculty and resource persons. GNLU research associates have initiated a biweekly column and more than 200 such short-columns are written by them. In addition, GNLU students have initiated a research column in a daily newspaper, Daily News and Analysis (DNA) which enable them to bring their research views to the larger community. With two more chairs added to the University, GNLU has now chairs/fellowships offered by Microsoft India (IPR); Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (International Contracts), Khaitan& Co. (M&A); Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (IPR); Gujarat Maritime Board (Maritime Laws); Gujarat UrjaVikas Nigam Limited (Energy Laws); Satlaj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (Environmental Law); Cube Construction Engineering Limited (Real Estate Laws) and Department of Social Justice and Welfare (Manual Scavenging Laws) and tripartite Centre on Child Rights with the Department of Social Justice and Welfare, UNICEF and GNLU. Each of the Centres or Fellowships conducted teaching, research and training activities within the framework of agreement with the donor agency.



To gain the knowledge, deliberate on the existing knowledge and develop new frontiers and disseminate the same for the benefit of students, faculty and legal community at large, the University centres, faculty and the University as a whole organized and or hosted 47 training programs, certificate courses, workshops, guest and special lectures. These programs included well-developed annual plan for celebration of DrBabasahebAmbedkar 125th birth anniversary. Hon'ble Governor of Bihar Shri Ram NathKovid and Gujarat Shri O. P. Kohli, 2015 Jnanpith Awardee Shri Raghuv eerChaudhari, and eminent speakers from all over India have participated or are participating in this birth anniversary programs. Certificate and training programs for military, navy, armed forces and justice system, sports law and practice, labour and land acquisition legislations, training of law officers working with the Law Department of Gujarat, training for tribal students, social entrepreneurship, contracts, just to

name a few are enriching faculty and students with exchange of ideas, experiences and challenges. Our programs were enriched by 240 resource persons and nearly 1,600 participants from India and various corners of the Globe. Our extension and training department fulfils the goal of Knowledge Life Cycle. GNLU attempts to fully utilize benefits of memorandum of understanding signed with 17 international and national institutions. 5 student exchange and 6 faculty exchange took place during the reporting period with the universities in France, Germany, USA, Japan, the Netherlands and Mauritius. Dr Anjani Tomar Singh, Dr Richa Sharma, Mr Avinash Bhagi, deserve our deep appreciation.

GNLU students were awarded with achievements in various national and international moot, debates, sport, cultural and extra-curricular activities. We allocated more than 2 crore Rs for student-research and these activities, 10% of the budget. The University recognizes, with the help of our generous donors, outstanding academic and overall performance through 21 gold medals and Best Research Paper Awards every year. We aim to recognize best performance in each of the paper offered at the GNLU. Starting from this year, the University will recognize best student in each of the 5 streams at Under-Graduate and 4 specializations at LLM level. Such a carefully planned and executed teaching, research, training and overall personality development approach leads to good results in terms of their internship and placement.

GNLU continues to achieve 80% placement of registered students within one year of their graduation and 100% internship record for all registered students. They have joined top tier law firms, leading corporates, PSUs, judiciary, banks and opted for higher studies in reputed universities. Members of the bar and bench regularly lament that national law universities students simply opt for corporate and law firms. In fact, each of the Hon'ble Chief Justices or Judges from the Supreme Court in their capacity as the Visitor, have appealed and encouraged to graduates to join the Bar. We listen carefully and take meaningful actions. We introduced an innovative scheme GNLU Litigation Assistance and Support Scheme (GLASS) under which 5 needy-meritorious graduates are given monthly stipend of 7,500 Rs for one year to practice in various courts of India. We aim to ensure that any graduating student willing to serve the Bar are given some assistance. Going further, if they practice mainly at district or block level, we would like to raise the stipend amount. For female graduates, we will consider more



appropriate incentives. In other words, GNLU is aiming to ensure employment guarantee of choice for each and every graduate. Such type of initiatives need big financial help. We appeal dignitaries on the dias, off the dias, parents and everyone with big heart and deep pockets to help us in this cause. If a word of mouth is the best proven marketing and communication mean, then we more than 1000 gathered in the audience can make a big difference. We aim to raise 5 Crore Rs so that interest becomes an annual source of funding for this unique innovative project. Dr Nidhi Buch, Nisha Trivedi and Nimesh Dave, together with alumni and well-wishers continue to ensure best opportunities for our students.

GNLU Internal Committees – Academic Support Programme, Competitive Examination Guidance Committee, Debating Society, Moot Committee, initiated and added to overall achievements of GNLU students. GNLU Legal History Museum is gradually becoming reality. It has hosted two travelling exhibitions – Roerich Pact: History and Modernity and Africans in India: A Rediscovery and gained valuable donation for its library including 55 sculptures some belonging to the 11th century.

GNLU teams and students brought various laurels in 13 moot international and national moot competitions. This year began with a big achievement as GNLU Team, consisting of Amrita, Rohan, Anand, Shrangan and Chethana emerged as the national winner. Our alumni, Kelly Dhru, has been selected for the Fulbright Fellowship. While participation moot remained big interest, debate, negotiations and model UN participation are catching up in a big way. We are grateful to our alumni right from 2004 batch for judging these competitions, coaching the students, and helping in internship and recruitment and in a variety of ways which directly contribute to their overall personality and professional development.



**GNLU Legal Services Committee** carried out research under the Right to Education Act, organized free legal aid clinics, free legal awareness camps, consumer awareness and several

socio-legal awareness activities and programs. To help students to succeed in competitive exams, the University organized lectures, seminars, counselling sessions and language assistance activities. Our students Activities Committee consist of Art club, music club, photography club, theatre club, film club, dance club, gaming club, and literary-entertainment club and quiz club, and Digital Media Club. These clubs organize round-the-year activities and make the life at GNLU very Vibrant and culturally and socially enriching. We remain sensitive to gender-based needs and concerns as well as provision for equal opportunities, and accordingly our two committees did their best to meet these aims. Faculty Girish R, Asha Verma, Saurabh Anand, PratimaDube, Tania Sebastian and the teams deserve our deep appreciation.

GNLU budget for 2014-15 financial year was 21.69 crore INR with 37% allocation to academics, 3% to research, 5% to training and extension, 4% to library, 1.5% information technology, and 49% overhead, excluding capital grant used for library and information technology. In academics, 82% was allocated for teaching, 7% for research and 11% of training and extension programs.



GNLU Budget, Accounts, Finance and Audit Section ensured that yearly budget as well as capital budget for the campus are prepared, spent, accounted and audited by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India offices. Our Examination and Evaluation Section, in addition to conducting various internal and semester-end term examinations, played an important facilitating role for evaluation of various certificate programs conducted by the GNLU. Speaking about this 2010 LLB Batch, out of 158 students, 4 with Outstanding, 29 with Excellent, 48 with A+, 38 with A, 18 with B+, 15 with B and 5 have received C grade. For 2014 LLM batch, out of 42 students, 5 got A, 10 got B+, 14 got B and 7 got C+ score. Examination Section and Committee together with PhD Committee successfully conducted course work, public defense and issued notification to three successful PhD candidates. GNLU Library kept acquiring rare and regular, pricey and priceless law, allied discipline literature and now has a vast collection of more than 37,000 volumes of books, subscribes to 150 print journals besides providing access to





3000 electronic journals and digital databases. Students and visitors compliment the Library and its staff for their collections and services, as Library is the Heart of the University. The University ensures to have excellent ICT infrastructure. It ensures campus LAN, Wi-Fi, CCTV system administration as well as fully integrated RFID based identification system.

GNLU campus located in the Knowledge Corridor of Gandhinagar witnessed completion of its developmental work. Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat in the presence of Mr Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bangladesh and Shri PradeepsinhJadeja, Minister of Law and Justice of Gujarat inaugurated the AURA – GNLU Auditorium Building. With the completion achievement, GNLU has one of the finest state-of-art educational infrastructures in the nation spread over 50 acres of land generously donated with a capital grant of 180 crore Rs by the Government of Gujarat and nearly 10 crore Rs by the University Grants Commission of India. The dream to have a world class law university in Gujarat nurtured by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India (then Chief Minister of Gujarat) with its founding Chairman Late Shri KiritRaval, Late Shri Ashok Bhatt and brought into reality gradually by the first founding Director Professor V. S. Mani, the current Director since 2009 and hundreds and thousands of individuals from Gujarat, India and abroad, has been realized. The foundation stone was laid on Thursday, 9 February 2006 and the first brick was laid on Friday, 5 June 2009, now the campus has 82,700 m2 built area and landscaping in 15,000 m2 area with plantation of more than 6000 plants and trees in 5000 m2 area. You will see a thick green cover in a couple of years. We hope our Guru Bhavan which houses this Auditorium, moot hall, research centres and ShishyaBhavan which houses UG academic block together with guest houses and other amenities will become a must-visiting place for educational pilgrimage for one and all. I take this opportunity to thank the Government, the UGC, members of various campus development committees, Justice Kalpesh Jhaveri, Justice Pradeep Bhatt, Justice Bela Trivedi, Shri Kamal Trivedi, current and former Law Secretaries and their staff, the architects GPA, Mamta Shah, Chirag Patel, the construction agencies, Cube Construction Engineering Limited, Bhoomi Construction, Yashnand Construction, MrsRupal Patel, my wife, my former and current internal staff, Dr Dolly Jabbal, DrRishikesh Dave, Mr Hiren Pandit, MrDarshan Jani, MrManoj Patel, MrMayur Chauhan, MrHasmukh Bhatt, Mr Rajesh Dave, MrKuldeep Patel, Mr Amal Dhru and his team

of accountants, for presenting the nation with a world class education campus. It would be befitting for me to request everyone to give them a big round of applause. While we ensure to use each and every penny for a well-justified expense, the campus would need timely and quality funding for excellent maintenance. I am sure the Government of Gujarat, the University Grants Commission and other agencies will continue to consider this as a very valuable investment for the future of legal education and education at large.

GNLU has now in place very good sports infrastructure in terms of grounds, instrument, equipment, funding and we hope to augment our resources and talent in cooperation with the Swarnim Gujarat Sports University, Sports Authority of Gujarat and sports houses in general. The University also hosted hundreds of students from villages and cities alike who participated in Khel Mahakumbh. I thank Mr Sugnesh Chudsama for bringing sports culture at the GNLU. Well, if GNLU campus is neat and clean, well-managed, the credit goes to everyone from housekeepers to our students. We invite you to see the pictures of Clean Rooms kept by our students. Swachh Bharat Mission is very much part of our contribution to the society...around the corner, Koba Village thanks GNLU for ensuring daily cleaning of the village, community cleaning services undertaken by students and faculty at large. In fact, we have made community cleaning, a part of our service requirement, from the Director to Driver.

**Internal Governance:** The Director, Registrar, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dean of Research, Dean of Extension and Training, Dean of Students' Welfare and External Relations, Assistant Registrar, 29 committees headed by faculty and administrative staff as appropriate plan, execute and monitor all programs of the University. While hiring new faculty and staff, we emphasis on knowledge, skills, abilities, vision, commitment, hard-work, sincerity, approach to knowledge life-cycle, academic and research leadership quality and multi-tasking attitude, ability to develop a particular innovative area of legal and inter-disciplinary field, gender empowerment and minority/weaker sections/persons with different ability community. All good skills are important in one's profession and personal life. Very few may be knowing but when I paid a visit to Mr Justice Sapre in connection with the Convocation, I found, to my true delight that



Sir was typing himself, furthermore, he knew stenography as well. Importance of these two skills in our profession are simply too invaluable. Friends, every good skill is important to learn.



### **What is our USP or marks of distinction? About 14.**

1. Vision-Mission, working motto and core values deliberated, adopted and committed for realisation by faculty and staff.
2. Only NLU to offer 5 specialisations at UG and PG level as well as inter-disciplinary PhD research;
3. Research-based Teaching and Research-based Administrative University model;
4. Specialisation in niche areas; cooperative v. competitive approach to all programs vis-à-vis other NLUs;
5. Academic Support Program;
6. Performance Management Appraisal System;
7. Alternative Academic Credit Program;
8. Pro bono legal service;
9. Foreign language program as curricular requirement;
10. Litigation Assistance and Support Scheme;
11. Recognition by prestigious international and national institutions and organisations by instituting chairs/fellowships; foreign professors program;
12. Incentives to participate in prestigious international internship programs;
13. World-class campus;
14. Community service by everyone



While offering the nation, a truly excellent education institution, we would like to see some broader picture, more academic and research partnership with the institutions of law-making, governance and judiciary; preparing students to learn issues and challenges arising in next 20-30 years; providing national and comparative input to law and policy-making programs of the government; tailor-made training programs for all professions requiring knowledge of law

and inter-disciplinary fields; motivating graduates to pursue teaching and research career in academic institutions; more multilateral research and training partnership; GNLU faculty as advisor/members/specialists in highest policy-making institutions of the nation and world at large; creation of huge corpus to take on mega-research projects and assistance to judiciary in reduction of backlog of cases, to name just a few.

**UGC recognizes GNLU as a model for access, equity, relevance and standards.** This recognition has been solidified with the **NAAC accrediting the GNLU with A Grade.** Friends, these recognition and assessments come with a sense of very high duties towards the humanity and I am sure my team is capable and committed to meet these duties towards the knowledge universe.

In closing, I once again take the opportunity to thank Shri K. Venugopal for kindly accepting our invitation to deliver the 7th Convocation Address. We express our deep appreciation to Mr Justice Abhay Sapre, senior member of the GNLU family, for his guidance and presiding over this Convocation as the nominee of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. We welcome Mr Justice Subhash Reddy



to the GNLU, as a senior member of the family as well as Chief Justice of Gujarat. We are thankful to Minister Shri Pradeepsinh Jadeja and the Law Department of Gujarat and through them to the whole Government of Gujarat for their invaluable cooperation and assistance in our journey. We are grateful to members of the Law-Making, Executive and Judiciary organs of the state of Gujarat and India for kindly gracing this Convocation. Faculty, staff and students, we all thank corporates, law firms, banks, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, government departments, judiciary of various states and tribunals, non-governmental organisations, think-tanks, for enabling our students to undertake internship and placements. We place on our record deep gratitude to our donors of gold medals and endowment agencies for establishing chairs and fellowships which places us ahead in terms of research and training. I am deeply grateful to Dr Thomas Mathew, Dr Joshua Aston and Mr Sushil Goswami, Registrar, Dean of Students' Welfare and Assistant Registrar respectively and our office staff, Malav Buch, Vijay Vaghela, Rajesh Parmar, Bharat Chawda, Rakesh Solanki,

Suresh Vaghela, for their hard-work, sincerity and commitment in contributing to the building of fine temple of legal education.

I thank my faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, service-providers for their continuous support and collective efforts. I also take this opportunity to offer our apology to one and all for any shortcomings in our functioning in the last year.

Finally, I wish all the best to my 2010 Under-Graduate Batch, 2014 LLM Batch, first recipients of PhD awards and pray for their health, wealth and happiness. My wife, Rupal and our two sons, Pruthvi-Gerben and Nand join me in offering their prayers to almighty God for a successful personal and professional life of all graduating students.

Thank you.

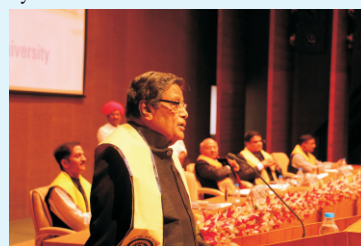


# Address of the Chief Guest 'The Changing Face of Legal Education and of the Practice of Law'

**Shri K K Venugopal**  
**Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India**

Let me first of all state as to how honoured I am for being asked to deliver this convocation address. It is indeed an experience to stand before all of you, young men and women, bright eyed with anticipation for launching yourself into the wide world of law.

When I look back 65 years, to 1951, when I had joined my law college in Belgaum, I can tell you, that what we had back then and what you have now are worlds apart. Our college was a house on a road with a small library and with a one-way transfer of knowledge through lectures. We had no Internet, no laptops, no moot courts, no seminars, no internship experiences and no case study methods. I do not know, if any of you have seen what we called dukkies or nut-shells like the Jhabwala or Popular series, which reduced classical text books into sixty pages. If you were able to master these dukkies, you would pass with flying colours.

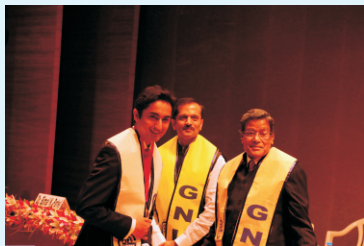


Today you have subjects, which we had not heard of back then. Our country has now advanced economically and industrially. Subjects like International Arbitration law, International Trade law, Intellectual Property, Mergers and Acquisitions, Competition Law and so on are being taught as part of the curriculum. In contrast, we were taught Roman Law. In other words, I feel quite envious when I find the massive libraries that you have, the laptops, the Wi-fi and the Internet and students sitting on the grass in lawns and downloading the material from the vast databases with the greatest of ease. The world has changed and along with that, the study of law.

My journey to being a senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India has been a long one, of 62 years. But I had advantages. As Isaac Newton famously said, "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." My father was a giant, though he never felt that he was a giant. He was truly a humble person. All of you must have studied the first big

Constitutional case argued in 1951 in the Supreme Court of India – A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras 1950 SCR 88. My father had argued A.K. Gopalan's case, with no SCC online available and with merely the Constitution in one hand. In truth, I feel that I am what I am today, because of my father's guidance.

I should say that, in the early years, his efforts to make me a good lawyer failed miserably. When he stood up to argue Constitutional cases in the High Court of Madras, he would ask me to sit by his side so that I too could learn the art of advocacy. The moment he began concentrating on the judge, I would slip away to join my friends for lunch, to have Chicken Stroganoff in a newly opened restaurant.



It was only when a brief was marked to me to study the case and instruct my father, that I really realized the need to concentrate on the practice of law. I had to burn the midnight oil and take the help of my father's juniors so that I could face the client with confidence over the next day.

In those days, on passing out of college, a lawyer was not really equipped to stand up and argue a case before a court. It is only after a period of years, that he would be able to stand on his feet and address the Court, and for this purpose, he had to have a father, an uncle or a close relative, who would ensure that he was given briefs and opportunities to address the Court. Very slowly, a metamorphosis would take place over a period of ten or fifteen years, when he would become a senior of substance.

Today, I am surprised and delighted to see young lawyers stand up in court immediately after they graduate, even in the Supreme Court of India, to address the Court with clarity and with confidence. And what is more surprising is, that there are practically the same number of young women lawyers as men who are coming up in the profession, while during the early fifties, the number of women lawyers were few.

Law firms were unknown in most parts of India except in the big cities, and these were also very few in number. India, today, is a powerhouse of economic and industrial development.

The fallout of this is that with foreign investment, joint ventures and industries from abroad taking root in India, the need for specialist lawyers has become great.

And this brings me to the national law schools in India. The first one was started in Bangalore in 1986, i.e. the National Law School of India University, and today there are 17 similar institutions. Recently, an academy for continuing legal education has been started in Kochi, and I have no doubt that similar to the national law schools and national judicial academies which have been started in practically every State, one would have academies for continuing legal education also in different parts of the country.

When you look at the status of lawyers today and compare them to those of the past, you find that a vast section of them are extremely affluent, including the partners and associates working in law firms. If you come to the Supreme Court of India on a working day, you would find in the car parks, a veritable choice of expensive cars and SUVs. But take it from me, that there is a vast population of lawyers practicing in what we call the moffusil or the subordinate courts who find it difficult to make ends meet.

In the past, law courses were not in demand. Medicine and engineering were the preferred courses. It was only those who failed in getting admission to these institutions who would then opt for law. But, just look at the transformation, which has taken place today. The seats in the national law universities are as much in demand as medicine and law. The students prepare intensely for being selected by the top law schools. For giving the applicants the law school of their choice, based on merit, the CLAT or Common Law Admission Test has been devised. This would unequivocally establish that the study of law has attained an equal status and desirability along with medicine and the sciences. All of you, young men and women, can rest assured that graduating from GNLU, you would be in demand, as GNLU is known for the excellence of its legal education. But remember this, that nobody is born a good lawyer. A lawyer is made through sweat and hard work. His success is not in winning cases; his success is in doing his best for his client with integrity and by maintaining the highest standards of the profession.

I am reminded of a quote from none other than that great lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, who said,



“If you wish to be a lawyer, attach no consequence to the place you are in, or the person you are with; but get books, sit down anywhere, and go to reading for yourself. That will make a lawyer of you quicker than any other way.”

For the greater part of my life, I believe that this is what I have done or at least have tried to do.

I have painted a rosy picture for today's young graduates. But one has to remember, and always keep this in mind, that the profession that you are joining has always been termed as an honorable profession or a noble profession. The lawyer was expected to maintain the highest among ideals. The fact that it was an honorable profession meant that it could not be equated to trade or to business, but unfortunately, and this is a matter of great regret, the profession world-wide has now descended to the level of “a savagely competitive business”. This is what The Economist has said, in an article published in London, and it has described how a lawyer in Japan who wants office space, is straight away turned down because no landlord would trust him. Unfortunately, this is the same position in Delhi. A lawyer cannot get residential or office accommodation, once the landlord comes to know that the person is a lawyer. I do not know how far this is true, but I am told that banks are reluctant to give loans or credit cards to lawyers. If so, this is indeed sad.

Take the newspaper on any day and you would find that a group of lawyers in a particular court are on strike. Recently, you would have heard of the most shocking news of lawyers beating up the media persons in Delhi. The police openly declared that they are afraid of arresting any lawyer, however heinous his crime, because the whole brotherhood would retaliate by going on strike and paralyzing normal life. In one of the High Courts, the lawyers formed different associations on the basis of caste, and when they found that a member of their caste had not been recommended for elevation to the High Court, they took a procession during Court hours through the corridors of the court, shouting slogans and disturbing the normal working of the courts. In two of the High Courts, a judge sitting in court had to run into his chambers, for the fear of being assaulted. As a result, I am afraid that it will be difficult for the rubric, 'an honorable profession' or a 'noble profession' to be claimed by the fraternity.

You are the young ones who according to me have a bright future. You carry on your shoulders a great responsibility. A law university of excellence has taken you under its wings for teaching you, training you and launching you into the legal world. You have to give something in return. There is a solemn duty cast on your shoulders to be socially responsible and to depart from the label which has been affixed to the wrongdoers in the profession by undertaking pro- bono work. We have a large number of lawyers who file what you would know is termed as, public interest litigation, by taking up the causes of that section of the population which is unable to have access to the courts on account of poverty, illiteracy or ignorance.



We are a developing country, and there is a vast section of the population numbering about 300 million, who live below the poverty line and with children who go to bed without a meal. Professor Carman refers to his book in these words:-

“This book is about a crisis in the American legal profession. Its message is that the profession now stands in the danger of losing its soul. The crisis is in essence, a crisis of morality.”



It is therefore of utmost importance that all of us maintain the highest degree of ethics and morality and it is then alone that your fellow men will judge you not by the wealth that you have acquired or the number of expensive cars that you own, but by standards of integrity that you maintain and the good that you do. Let me say that, I would not exchange the life of a lawyer for any other alternative profession because this is a rewarding profession indeed because of its intellectual challenges.

I would end by saying that each one of you is lucky, for having been welcomed into the arms of this institution, which from the vast number of journals published by the institution and the excellence of its teaching, is clearly an outstanding law school, of which all of you can well be proud of.

## GOLD MEDALS FOR POST GRADUATES (LL.M) 2014-15 BATCH

No.	Gold Medal	Subject	Name of Student
1	Nani A. Palkhivala	Top LL.M (Final) Student	Ms. Vidhi Agarwal
2	Mr Justice R B Mehta	Best Outstanding LL.M student	Ms. Shruti Rastogi
3	H K Acharya & Company	Intellectual Property Law (PG)	Ms. Shruti Rastogi
4	Gujarat National Law University	Constitutional and Administrative Law	Ms. Vidhiagarwal
5	Gujarat National Law University	Corporate and Business Law	Ms. Tanvi Tak

## GOLD MEDALS FOR UNDER GRADUATES (LL.B) 2010-2015 BATCH

No.	Gold Medal	Subject	Name of Student
1	Gujarat National Law University	B.A.LL.B (Hons.)	Mr. Udit Vyas
2	Gujarat National Law University	B.Com.LL.B (Hons.)	Mr. Varun Chauhan
3	Gujarat National Law University	B.Sc.LL.B (Hons.)	Ms. Snigdha Roy
4	Late Mr. Justice P D Desai	Law of Torts	Mr. Gaurang Pateriya
5	Aditya Books Pvt. Ltd.	Best student in any discipline on annual basis	Mr. Varun Chauhan
6	Late Mr. M K Nambyar	Constitutional Law (Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Constitutional III)	Mr. Abhik Kunduri
7	Late Mr. A P Ganguli	Best student for overall performance in 5 year course	Mr. Varun Chauhan
8	Late Mr. Justice V B Raju	Criminal Law (Criminal Law I & Criminal Law II)	Mr. Abhik Kunduri
9	Late Mr. Jyantilal H Parekh	Media Law	Mr. Param Pandya
10	Mr. Gopinath M Amin	Human rights & International Humanitarian Law	Mr. Param Pandya
11	Late Mr. Praful V Nanavaty	Insurance Law	Mr. Munjal Bhatt
12	Late Mr. Justice S B Mazumdar	Civil Procedure (Civil Procedure I & Civil Procedure II)	Mr. Varun Chauhan
13	Mr. Y J Trivedi	Intellectual Property Law	Ms. Shreya Dave
14	Late Mr. Milon Kumar Banerji	Alternative Dispute resolution (Arbitration)	Mr. Udit Vyas
15	Judicial System Family Sharad B Vakil	Constitutional Judicial System (Constitution II)	Mr. Varun Chauhan
16	Mr Divyakant Nanavaty	Criminal Law (Criminal Law III, Law of Evidence)	Ms. Avantika
17	Late Advocate Sanat P Mehta	Direct Taxation (Law of Taxation I)	Mr. Shantanu Parashar
18	Corporation Bank	Commercial Law (Contract I, Contract II, Corporate Law I, Corporate Law II & Banking law)	Mr. Varun Chauhan
19	Late Dr. Mrunalini Devi Puar	Food Security & Agro Economy Law	Mr. Udit Vyas

1st Convocation  
28th March 2010



2nd Convocation  
16th January 2011



3rd Convocation  
21st January 2012



4th Convocation  
19th January 2013



5th Convocation  
16th February 2014



6th Convocation  
14th February 2015



7th Convocation  
27th February 2016



**Gujarat National Law University**

Attalika Avenue, Knowledge Corridor, Koba, Gandhinagar – 382007 (Guj), India

Website: [www.gnlu.ac.in](http://www.gnlu.ac.in) E-mail: [contact@gnlu.ac.in](mailto:contact@gnlu.ac.in)

Phone No. : +91-79-23276611/23276612