

## SYMBIOSIS LAW SCHOOL, PUNE

CARE | COURAGE | COMPETENCE | COLLABORATION
(Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)

Since 1977

## **ALUMNI NEXUS**

## ANNUAL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



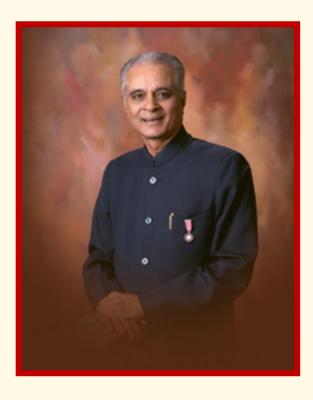
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**SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)** 

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#### FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, CHANCELLOR'S NOTE



Symbiosis, since its constitution, has been achieving the essence of the Upanishadic principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". The students of this institution hail from every corner of the world, who live together as one family. This Symbiosis family has now become a home to an extensive variety of intellectual and adroit students from varying backgrounds and culture, coming together from diverse parts of the world and living together as one family.

Symbiosis International (Deemed University) has bolstered the position of excellence in almost every sphere of education, not just in India, but across the world. Symbiosis Law School, Pune under its umbrella has created a niche for itself in the field of legal education, wherein the students are being offered the opportunity of a holistic development, in the form of quality education, coupled with an engagement with the human needs of the society.

The Annual Alumni Meet is an occasion for all the alumni who have witnessed and were a part of the journey of this institute, both from the very onset and along the way to come together and reconnect, reminisce and traverse the present with the past. Four decades ago, we commenced a journey with the dream of providing quality legal education. It is with great privilege today, that Symbiosis Law School, Pune has grown from strength to strength, and become one of the premier law schools in the country and the world.

This college has witnessed all of you, young zealous professionals grow to become unparalleled in your calling and respective fields of interest. It is for the young to learn from the veteran and the polished to relive the passion and thrill of starting anew.

We are euphoric to be a part of the victorious journey of all our alumni and immensely proud for keeping our flag soaring high in professional and public service field.

Keep up the great strides!

Prof. (Dr.) S.B. Mujumdar Founder and President, Symbiosis Society Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri Awardee

#### PRO CHANCELLOR'S NOTE



Symbiosis Law School, Pune, has always strived to maintain an amicable association with its students even after their graduation. We take immense pride in welcoming them as privileged members of the alumni community.

It is a matter of joy to see how beautifully our institution is intertwined with its alumni. Alumni through their quality contribution, achievements and accolades continue to exalt the reputation of the institution in society. We at Symbiosis Law School, Pune continue to nurture the vision of imparting good quality legal education to our students and create responsible and conscientious citizens.

I appreciate the efforts of the Symbiosis Law School, Pune team for the many interactive activities that have been worked on, avenues of alumni engagement and wish them good luck for all similar endeavours in the future. The alumni network of the college showcases the law school's astounding success in accomplishing the motto.

We take immense pride in the alumni of this institution who are the frontrunners in strengthening the mission of justice and excellence.

I wish you all the best!

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar Pro Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune Principal Director, Symbiosis Society

#### VICE CHANCELLOR'S NOTE



Symbiosis Law School, Pune has always given importance to research and pursuit of knowledge dissemination, which continues to be the lynchpin of its legacy. Every institute prospers due to the hard work and contribution of the Director, faculty, and staff. But an institution gains its stature for eminence mainly when their alumni win laurels for themselves and their alma mater. It is also because of its steadfast alumni that Symbiosis Law School, Pune continues to enjoy its voyage of excellence and has completed 42 magnificent years of being a beacon in the sphere of legal education and justice work.

We take pride that our alumni engage and participate extensively in institutional endeavours, thereby contributing to the overall growth and success of the University. Mere words cannot convey my admiration of the achievements of the Symbiosis family and I hope continued efforts will only bring more prestige to the University.

Dr. Rajani Gupte Vice Chancellor Symbiosis International (Deemed University)

#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**



Dear Alumni,

I hope you are doing well!

Another year has passed, swifter than one can imagine. We see a new batch of students turn into alumni, and we are filled with bittersweet emotions. As I read about the plethora of fields that the alumni of Symbiosis Law School, Pune have excelled in, I feel a sense of fulfillment and immense pride. You have truly manifested the principles of this law school, remained resilient and emerged successful.

As Symbiosis Law School, Pune celebrates its legacy of over four decades, in a manner grander than ever, I am reminded of the journey we have had. The journey you have been a part of, the journey responsible for the respect and recognition we enjoy today. While you may no longer be students here anymore, you will always remain an integral part of Symbiosis Law School, Pune and it is through our alumni meets that we strengthen and celebrate the bond between us.

As I write this, I am filled with gratitude for our ingenious alumni. For it is them, who have repeatedly helped us with placements, enrichment programmes and have remained a pillar of support. They have worked hard and achieved great laurels and made us feel like we are a part of their success. Truly, without them, Symbiosis Law School, Pune would be incomplete.

Let us pledge to strengthen this unbreakable bond, for this is the ultimate symbiotic relationship. Prosperity and Joy!

Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar,
Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune,
Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University)

#### INTERVIEW WITH MR. DEVIDAS BANERJI

#### **Information about yourself and your organisation:**

I work at Khaitan and Co., we would fall among the top two largest firms in India. We have nearly 600 lawyers, about 135 Partners, spread across four locations in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore. The firm was founded in Kolkata in 1911, and when the capital of India shifted from Kolkata to Delhi, we opened up another office in Delhi. With Mumbai being the commercial capital of the country, currently half our strength is based in Mumbai. In terms of work, we are a full-service law firm, dealing with all major practice areas, such as corporate, commercial, litigation, banking and finance, white collar, competition law, etc., covering all the spectrums of law.

## What message would you like to give to the current students at Symbiosis?

DEVIDAS BANERJI
PARTNER, KHAITAN & Co.
BATCH 2001

In my view, the characteristics of discipline and hard work are extremely important. In terms of the five years of one's law school, results are also in

important. In terms of the five years of one's law school, results are also important in the life of a law student as they play an integral role if you are planning to do a postgraduate course, or become an in-house counsel at a firm or a bank etc. International exposure also helps, whether it is an internship at a foreign firm or doing a postgraduate course abroad. Working in a multicultural environment really broadens your horizons, and makes you a well-rounded individual. For example, most of the work that we do at our firm involves cross boundary international interaction, working with foreign clients or cross boundary banking and investments.

#### What are the changes that you would like to see in the Indian Legal Education system?

I would say that it has evolved quite a bit from when I was a student. During my years, it was quite bookish, based on theoretical knowledge, but I think it should be coupled with practical experiences, and that change has come about effectively, that law students now do internships at various law firms and courts, during the period of their summer or winter breaks, which is quite helpful. This enables them to get a first-hand practical experience of the real-world scenario. These internships eventually allow the students to make up their mind about whether they wants to pursue a particular avenue or not, and give them a more grounded understanding of what exactly suits them. The concept of open book exams is also really great, as it doesn't matter how much you had studied the night before the exam, as long as you understand the principles, it is more on the application aspect of what you have read and comprehended. This grooms you on the aspect of applying the law, rather than simply learning about the legal principles. So, I think this approach would be quite useful in the Indian Legal System.

#### How would you describe your experience at Symbiosis Law School, Pune?

To be honest, I have been to the new campus only once, a few years back, for one of the campus recruitment initiatives. It is of course very different from the time I was at Symbiosis. I have very fond memories, and I've had a very memorable experience at Symbiosis. One of the advantages I think I had, during my time at the old campus at Symbiosis was that there were multiple departments, be it the MBA or the BBA programmes, students pursuing different degrees, as a part of the same campus. That was quite nice, and it provides you with a different kind of exposure and also enabled you to interact with students from diverse backgrounds. Now, it is more or less a strictly legal campus, which makes the interaction with people from different spectrums difficult.

I think during my time, I was among the first students to get admitted to Oxford and Cambridge, from Symbiosis. I remember I had applied to around six-seven places, including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol etc. and fortunately I was lucky enough to get admitted into all of the seven colleges, but at that point of time, the networking process was extremely difficult in terms of gathering the know-how about what the system was like, and the application procedures necessary for the same, and managing the same was a challenging task, probably because, no one had actually gone abroad, and I was among the first ones to go to study in England. Now, you have the available networking, in the form of International Cell or the Alumni Cell & Committee, set up within the college, to keep the research and everything including the application procedures up-to-date, there is a college mechanism to help you out. This makes it even more feasible.

#### Can you tell us about your professional journey and the hardships you faced?

After I completed my studies at Symbiosis Law School, Pune, I went to Cambridge directly, and my intention was to go to the United States of America thereafter. But at that point of time, I got a training contract from Clifford Chance Wong Pvt. Ltd., London, and I thought that I might as well get that experience, because at that point of time, there was a recession in Europe. Luckily, I was among the handful of candidates who got a training contract directly after pursuing Masters. So, I thought I'd take that opportunity, join for a couple of years and then I could pursue some other avenues, but I think one thing led to another, and I eventually decided to carry on. So, I spent another few years after my training contract at the firm, as a lawyer in London, specialising in finance, particularly financing of aircrafts or ships. And then, I thought that the Indian economy would open up, and I would move from the foreign firm, back to India, so with that in mind, I moved from Clifford Chance in London, to Clifford Chance in Singapore, around the beginning of 2007, and spent four-five years there. In Singapore, I was working like a general banking lawyer, mostly doing Indian transactions and acting for banks. So, it seemed like a bleak time, and the market would never open up, and there was never a good time. So, I took the plunge and moved back to India. And obviously, Khaitan was the first choice. I started the banking and finance practice at Khaitan. The first five to seven years that I was at Khaitan, were spent at Mumbai, building up the banking practice, which is quite established now. Since then, I've moved to Kolkata, and although I keep coming to Mumbai, my role is broader, in the sense that not only do I lead the banking finance practice, but I also look after the office administration and everything. Things were obviously challenging through the course of this journey, now of course things have changed and evolved. You have foreign law firms coming directly to the campus and recruiting from India there itself, but at that point of time, that avenue wasn't really there. Things were difficult in the past, you would be employed at a firm, and something would go wrong, and you would lose your job, and in the back of your mind, the apprehension would always be there. On the whole, it was a learning curve, which has helped me to become a much more well-round lawyer and individual, in terms of cross-border transactions, and cross cultural interactions which made me more seasoned as a person.

#### GLIMPSE OF THE ALUMNI MEET 2018 (08.04.2018)

Hon. Justice Sadhna Jadhav, Hon. Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Hon. Justice Sangitrao Patil, Sr. Adv. Anand Grover, Adv. Sampath Bulusu, Adv. Amit Singh Sethi were the Chief Guests for the Meet. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Director, SLS-P, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, commenced the programme with her speech with a special mention entailing the valuable role of alumni in bringing SLS-P to the 9<sup>th</sup> position out of 1400 Universities and 1<sup>st</sup> amongst Private Law Schools, nationwide. Prof. (Dr.) S.B. Mujumdar, Hon. Chancellor, SIU, in his opening remarks, expressed the occasion of meeting the alumni as not only honorable but also gratifying. The felicitated alumni were then invited on stage to deliver their nostalgic and inspiring words of wisdom. Hon. Justice Sangitrao Patil, recalled his college days in his speech and was really thankful for everything. Sr. Adv. Anand Grover in his inspiring speech entailed a list of do's and don'ts to be followed by a lawyer. Next SCAE Director, Dr. Neelesh Kumbhojkar urged the alumni to contribute towards the university through various intellectual and philanthropic means. His address was followed by the launch of Alumni Directory and Nexus by the dignitaries. Next in line was a soulful performance by the band members of the SLS-P, who undeniably captured the attention of the audience. Lastly the Alumni Convener, Adv. Sampath Bulusu in his warm speech recalled his decade-long reconnection with SLS-P and mentioned social media as an immense contributor in helping the alumni connect.



#### **GRAND EVENTS**

#### B.G. DESHMUKH MEMORIAL LECTURE



SLS-P and Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT), Pune Chapter, jointly organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Late Shri B.G. Deshmukh Memorial Lecture, 2018 on "Education – Oxygen for Development" on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018. This Annual Public Lecture Series has been instituted in the honour of Late Shri B. G. Deshmukh, IAS, Former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. The basic objective behind the launch of this Annual Public Lecture Series is to explore and enlighten the youth and public on the challenges in governance in India.

Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, SLS-P, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, initiated the lecture by giving the

audience an insight into the conception of the annual lecture series. She elaborated on the theme of the lecture, "Education – Oxygen for Development", as she termed, "True education is an avenue of rights and justice which touches upon lives." Mr. Ajit Nimbalkar, Member, PCGT, Pune Chapter gave an overview of PCGT's inception, aims and objectives and Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Hon'ble Chancellor, SIU, introduced the topic by stating, "Living beings require oxygen and education is required for development. Therefore, education is the oxygen for development."

#### Law Day & Justice Y.V. Chandrachud Memorial Public Lecture 2018



Symbiosis Law School, Pune, celebrated Law Day on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018. 'Law Day' is celebrated to remember the most important goals of the legal profession: to advance equality and justice, encourage observation and enforcement of the law and to foster respect for law and an understanding of its essential place in the life of every citizen. In addition to Law Day, SLS-Pune conducted Justice Y.V. Chandrachud Memorial Public Lecture in the honour of Late Justice Y. V. Chandrachud. The Chief Guests for the event were: Adv. Ram Jethmalani, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Professor Emeritus, SIU; Adv. Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, Advocate General, Bombay High Court,

Maharashtra; Prof. Dr. S.B. Mujumdar, Hon'ble Chancellor, SIU; Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, *Fulbright Scholar*, Director, SLS-Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU and Dr. Bindu Ronald, Deputy Director, SLS-Pune.

#### **CONQUEST**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune (SLS-P), in association with Centre for Law and Policy Research, Bangalore successfully organised the Final Rounds for "ConQuest", the Western Regional Round of the National Quiz Competition on Indian Constitution, History and Politics on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for the third consecutive year. Sixty teams participated, out of which six teams qualified for the Final Rounds of the quiz. Mr. Raghav Chakravarty, Co-founder, Walnut Knowledge Solutions, Bangalore, was the Quizmaster for the Final Rounds. The Valedictory Ceremony was graced by the dignitaries comprising of Chief Guest Hon'ble Justice Mr. R.C. Chavan, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court, Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, *Fulbright Scholar*, Director, SLS-P, Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, Mr. Frank Hoffman, Regional Manager, South Asia, Frederich



Naumann Foundation, Mr. Vineeth Krishna, Lead Associate Editor-Constitutional and Civic Citizenship Report, CLPR and Dr. Bindu Ronald, Deputy Director (Academics), SLS-P. The second runners up position was bagged by the team from ILS Law College, Pune. The first runners up position was bagged by the team from GNLU, Gujarat and the winners were the team from SLS, Pune.

#### **GUEST LECTURE ON DEATH PENALTY LITIGATION**

Symbiosis Law School, Pune (SLS-P ) in association with the Alumni Committee and Cell organized a Guest Lecture cum Interactive Session on 'Death Penalty Litigation and the Relation Between Mental Health and Death Penalty' on  $25^{\rm th}$  January 2019.

The lecture was conducted for the first year students of 3 Year LLB as well as the third and fourth year students of BA/BBA LLB course and was delivered by **Ms. Maitreyi Misra** and **Mr. Himanshu Agarwal**, alumni of SLS-P. Ms. Misra is a founding member of Project 39A and graduated from Symbiosis Law School, Pune in 2010 and holds a Masters in Law from New York University. Mr. Agarwal is an associate at Project 39A at the National Law



University, Delhi and litigates cases of prisoners sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of India. Project 39A is engaged in providing pro bono legal assistance to prisoners sentenced to death across the country. They are involved in the cases of over 50 prisoners on death row from across 12 states.

#### NANI A. PALKIHVALA MEMORIAL INTER - COLLEGIATE ELOCUTION COMPETETION



Symbiosis Law School, Pune, in association with Nani A. Palkhivala Memorial Trust, Mumbai organized the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Nani A. Palkhivala Inter-Collegiate Elocution on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The programme was judged by the panel of judges comprising of Mr. S. S. Sohoni, IAS (Retd.), Shri R. V. Deshmukh, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Retd.), Mr. Rahul Kothari, Advocate and Co-Founder of Squarely Legal. 10 participants from different colleges of Pune city spoke on the following topics: 'Are Indian Courts interfering into the domain of the Executive? And if so, is it permissible under our Constitution?', 'Right to Equality versus Right to Practice Personal Religious Belief: The new tussle in the

field of Fundamental Rights?' and 'Protection of Women, Children and Weaker Sections of Society: Have our Laws Failed?' Hon'ble Justice R.V. Deshmukh, appreciated the performance of the participants and shared his wisdom & expertise with them. The first position was shared by Ms. Himanshi Jain of Balaji Law College, Pune and Mr. Roop Jain of Symbiosis Law School, Pune. The second position was awarded to Ms. Bhakti Mutha of D.E.S. Law College, Pune and Mr. Shubham Joshi of Y.C. Law College, Pune secured the third position. The winners were awarded certificates along with cash prizes worth Rs. 5000/-, Rs. 3000/- & Rs. 2000/- each respectively.

#### **TEACHERS' DAY**

The students of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, (SLS-P) celebrated the occasion of Teachers' Day on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The theme for the day was 'Retro to Metro'. The program commenced with a touching slam poetry recited by a student. The Welcome Address was delivered by the President of the Student Advisory Board, R. V. Srikara Prasad which perfectly captured the essence of Teachers' Day.

After the Director's stirring address, the program moved forth with the awards ceremony, wherein teachers were bestowed with different titles which encapsulated their unique characteristics and mannerisms. This was followed by a game of Tambola conducted for the amusement of the teaching staff. A final collection of awards was presented to the professors, after which a lively Karaoke session was conducted for the staff.



#### SYMBHAV: WINDS OF CHANGE

On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, the eleventh edition of Symbhav, Symbiosis Law School, Pune's Annual Cultural Fest was inaugurated at the hands of Air Marshal Vivek Rajhans, VSM, Commandant, MILIT, Khadakwasla. The theme for this cultural extravaganza was 'Winds of Change', enrapturing the wave of dynamic shift that has gripped the society in pursuit of a safer and sustainable future, with contingents from various colleges in and around Pune like the Christ University, Bangalore, NALSAR, Hyderabad and National Defense Academy, Pune participating for accolades in such events. Symbhav was host to several stalls from many NGOs, including, Maher and Reachout, supporting several noble causes such as child education and legal support to the poorer sections of the society from the proceeds they made during the fest. 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 saw prominent comedian Anubhav Singh Bassi. On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the crowd was treated to a soul stirring performance by a renowned artist, Prateek Kuhad, and on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the last day of the fest saw various concluding events and a fascinating performance by DJ Ola Ras.





#### **CELL REPORTS**

#### COMMUNITY LEGAL CARE & LITERACY CELL (CLCLC)



The Community Legal Care Centre conducted several prison advocacy programs. As a part of the Prison Advocacy Program, students visited Yerwada Central Jail and interviewed the inmates. Students from University of Gdansk, Poland visited the Legal Aid Clinic to understand its work and functioning. The students of 1<sup>st</sup> year 3 year LLB also visited Lok Adalat, the Pune District and Sessions Court. Further, SLS-P worked in collaboration with SCOPE (Symbiosis Community Outreach Program Execution), wherein student volunteers

assisted the doctors to conduct health check-up for 157 inmates at the Yerwada Central Jail. The Solar Panels at Yerwada Female Prison were also repaired. Students also volunteered to visit the National Lok Adalat where they were briefed by Mr. Sudhir Kale, Chairman of Permanent Lok Adalat and former Judge of District Court, Pune and Adv. Rishikesh Ganu, while students also observed court proceedings. Students also visited SOFOSH (Society of Friends of Sassoon Hospital), as a part of their internal assessment. During the visit, Ms. Sharmila, a senior administrator discussed various provisions of CARA guidelines issued under The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2017, along with the practical difficulties they are facing at the time of implementing these guidelines. Students got a chance to examine the various documents that are completed for the purposes of adoption for admission of children. Students also visited the PDLSA (Pune District Legal Services Authority) Office and observed the court proceedings of the Permanent Lok Adalat.

#### CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CELL



As a part of the training initiatives, the Career and Professional Development Cell conducted several guest lectures and pre-placement talks. Mr. Vikram Munje, President, Corporate & Group General Counsel at Kalyani Group conducted a guest lecture on general corporate laws, while extensively speaking about Bankruptcy and Insolvency, Due Diligence and Takeover Codes, in the Indian as well as International legal framework. Ms. Heather Wallick, Former Assistant Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at Harvard Law School, conducted an informative session for the

prospective applicants who wish to complete their higher studies abroad. She elaborately explained the application procedure and the usual shortlisting method followed by the admissions department of colleges like Harvard or Stanford.

Further, pre-placement talks were conducted by Ms. Jaisy Verghese wherein Ms. Varghese briefed the applicants about personal interviewing skills, usage of legal terminology, contract drafting and management. Mr. Rishi Kappal, CEO and Global Strategist of Edugild conducted a session for LLM students and explained the importance of confidence, motivation and body language. He discussed methods to enhance employability, competence mapping, public speaking and entrepreneurship skill building.

#### Internationalization

The International Cell hosted numerous International Guest faculty members, to conduct seminars and guest lectures on various fields of International Law. Dr. Henrico Radley, Senior Lecturer of Public and Procedural Law at Faculty of Law, University Of Johannesburg educated students on topics such as "Understanding the concept of religion within the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom", "The limits of transformative constitutionalism with reference to the doctrine of separation of powers" and "Introductory Principles to South African Constitutional Law & South African Administrative Law: The relevance of the principle of legality". Dr. Siobhan Mullally, Commissioner of Irish Human Rights Commission conducted seminars on "Council of Europe: Human Rights monitoring on Trafficking of Human Beings" and "Rights of Migrants and Refugees and European Court of Human Rights".



Furthermore, SLS-P signed bilateral partnership agreements for the implementation of Project EURASIA on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur is the Project Manager of SIU for the EURASIA Project. Dr. Daniela Irrera, Assistant Professor of International Relations and Global Civil Society & ERASMUS Coordinator at Department of Political and Social Science, University of Catania, along with Dr. Natasaza Styczynka, Assistant Professor at the Institute of European Studies, Dean's Proxy for Internationalization at the faculty of International and Political Studies, Jagiellonian University, conducted the EURASIA Project Team Meeting and Special Track EURASIA Panel Discussion on Common Challenges and Converging Perspectives: Rule of Law in Europe and Asia, after being a part of the Inauguration Ceremony of SYMROLIC 2018. Mr. Michael Horwitz, Assistant District Attorney of Israel delivered lectures on the "Nuremberg Trials/Eichmann Trials" and "Penology and Victimology-Comparative approaches of criminal justice systems".

International Cell also conducted a meeting with the delegation from University of Bristol, United Kingdom to discuss agendas of vital importance such as areas of mutual interest and complementarity, opportunities for studying abroad and Double Degrees, Student and Faculty Mobility, Joint Summer School and Annual Research Conference, 2019. Ms. Manasi Joshi from SCIE in collaboration with Professor Ken Oliphant, Head of the Bristol Law School, Mr. Dominic Freda, Faculty Manager for Social Sciences and Law and the delegation deliberated upon various initiatives such as Joint Summer Schools, Law Clinic Exchange, Virtual Mooting Activities, Semester Exchange and Faculty Exchange, to name a few.



# WOMEN PATHFINDERS



Inspiring Stories of Women in Law and their Journey

#### RICHA MOHANTY RAO

#### Information about yourself and your organisation.

I am a Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. I am a corporate lawyer with over ten years of experience. I am based in the Firm's New Delhi Office. I joined Amarchand & Mangaldas as a fresher in 2008 and have worked across its Delhi and Mumbai offices. I specialise in Indian employment and labour laws. I am also a member of the CII Special Taskforce for Industrial Relations- Northern Region.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

I have several fond memories of my time at Symbiosis Law School, Pune. While in college I was very active with co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. I participated in several intra-college and inter-college debates, moots, dance and drama competitions, business plan competitions etc. I tried my hand at everything that law school had to offer, I also participated in a number of cultural festivals including drama, dance and music competitions and was a member of the Human Rights Cell. When I look back, I cherish those experiences and memories the most. It taught me a lot about my own strengths



RICHA MOHANTY
PARTNER, EMPLOYMENT LAWS,
CYRIL AMARCHAND MANGALDAS
BATCH 2008

and weaknesses as well, and the importance of team work and leadership qualities. I had interned at a number of places- from criminal lawyers to corporate law firms, banks, corporates, SEBI and even with the JAG (Judge Advocate General) of the Indian Navy. The idea was to gauge and understand the role, expectations at each organisation; and accordingly figure out my interests and career goals. I was also a member of a fourteen-member contingent from law school to the University of Hannover, Germany for a period of two weeks in 2006. This proved to be extremely memorable.

#### Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

Thankfully, none. The organisation that I am a part of, is very progressive and is based on a talent first approach. Hence, gender is not of much significance, in fact, at CAM the ratio of female to male lawyers, is probably one of the highest in the industry (with over 50% of female lawyers at the firm). There have been multiple challenges during the course of my career, but none of them were out of gender bias. To begin with I think, nothing quite prepares you for the legal profession unless you officially join the bandwagon. It takes a while to bridge that gap since legal studies in India are by and large theoretical, rather than being practical. There is no gestation period in this industry, so you have to pretty much learn on the job. I have been very fortunate to never have faced any gender bias, of any kind while working at the organisation.

#### Future plans and goals.

I hope and plan to strengthen my area of expertise further and build a team of able labour and employment law practitioners. I also aspire to teach legal subjects in law schools in the future (SLS-P and SLS-N will of course be on the top of my list).

#### **VIBHA MANE**



VIBHA MANE FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, LAW MATTERS BATCH 2016

#### Information about yourself and your organization:

I am an alumnus of SLS-P, 2016 batch. In my primary career years, I worked on land acquisition matters, electricity matters, civil and criminal suits. I have had the privilege of working with Advocate Deepa Chauhan (electricity laws expert) and Advocate Revati Mohite Dere (now Justice at Bombay High Court). But I soon realized that I was not a right fit for litigation. So, with my mentors' advice, I began applying for LLM. I got through the University of Glasgow. In this eighteen-month course, I got inclined towards academic field and even before my convocation, I had an offer from Rainmaker to join their training team. Subsequently, I worked with Jindal Global Law School, Sonepat and School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance at TISS, Mumbai. Currently, I am the Founder and Director of Law Matters LLP. We offer training programs on research methodology, effective legal writing skills, logic and law, art of legal reasoning, drafting skills and soft skills. We organize workshops and seminars on topics like prisoners of resume, how-where-when and why to apply for jobs, how to handle job interviews, things they expect you to know but do not teach on internships, practicing moot courts and much more. We also create bespoke modules, courses and syllabus for law schools. We are working in institutions in Pune, Mumbai, Satara, Delhi, and Bangalore. I guess, with time, our association

with law schools has grown from a 'start-up training organization' to a 'grooming partner' for law students.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School, Pune:

Those five years were very special. I made friends for life here at SLS. We had a great support system in our seniors who were always around to help. It was more like an established system that senior batches looked after their next batch. Each year was packed with guest lectures, seminars, moot court competitions, cultural activities and a lot more. We were at the heart of Pune city and this made it easy for students to adapt to the local culture and lifestyle. With many other schools and colleges around, a traditional place like Pune had a very cosmopolitan atmosphere. Yes, we did miss having a 'campus' and I can't help but envy the students at the Viman Nagar campus.

#### Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

No, I never experienced any gender bias or discrimination. More so because academia is a 'woman' dominated field! You see, in other legal streams, as the hierarchy goes up, the number of women unfortunately fall off. But when it comes to teaching, more women are attracted to it than men. In fact, many women pursue teaching even at later stages of their career.

#### Future plans and goals:

Law Matters is well established now. We have overcome that start up phase where I had to visit several law schools and convince them to give traditional law teaching a break. Our goal for coming years is to offer great quality content for bespoke modules to the law schools. We are also chalking out guidelines to assist law students to start law journals for their institutions. Going all digital is a goal that we as a team keep assessing. After much brainstorming, we are coming up with short courses that can be offered to the students directly at their law schools. We are also thrilled to have some chat sessions lined up under the name 'Give to Grow'. These sessions aim at bringing together law schools in a fun way. It will encourage faculty exchanges; success stories and further details will be out soon.

#### **GOURI PURI**

#### Information about yourself and your organisation:

I joined Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas in July 2011 and currently work as a Principal Associate with the tax practice group. Prior to Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, I worked as a tax associate with Lakshmikumaran and Sridharan. My core practice areas include international taxation, structuring of inbound and outbound investments, and mergers and acquisitions. I have published papers on subjects relating to tax policy and practice. My representative list of clients includes Walmart, Blackstone, Apollo Fund, Ireo, American Express, Kagome Ltd, Hutchison Telecommunications International Limited, Americorp Group, Arcelor Mittal, US Embassy, Stadler and HDFC Life.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School Pune:

Mooting for sure! Apart from that, organising events at college and doing Human Rights Cell's work, and Nani Palkhiwala. The Louis M. Brown Client Counselling Competition was extremely memorable as well. We had a very different life in Pune than the current batches, because we didn't live at the campus, which was a very liberating experience. You had to balance your



AMARCHAND MANGALDAS **BATCH 2009** 

freedom and the objective you were there with, which is basically to get a quality education. And of course, one of my closest friends is from Symbiosis. I wasn't a person who would hang out with a bunch of people all the time. I had very close, mixed set of friends, who stuck with me throughout the college. I remember Stetson, because I don't think I had worked harder for anything in my life then. I literally learnt how to draft well. Mooting is actually one thing that will prepare you for your real-life career. I took each moot personally and seriously. Even if we didn't win, I think in the long-run, it was an extremely enriching experience. I am staunch believer of knowing and appreciating one's roots as it is a part of one's becoming. Symbiosis Law School, Pune played a crucial role in shaping me and enhancing my experience while pursuing masters at Harvard.

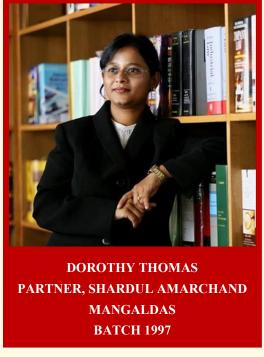
#### Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

No, I haven't. I am fortunate for the same. I am a working mother, and of course, women have to work a little harder in the sense, that you have to manage your family, you are raising a child alone, along with managing your career, and law is a demanding field. This cannot be done without the support of your family and people in your organisation, which is very essential. Amarchand is a very woman friendly place to work at, and I did not have to encounter any challenges or obstacles because of the fact that I am a woman.

#### **Future plans and goals:**

Right now, I am focusing on my career. Currently I am going to stick with a law firm, and I don't plan too much in advance, it is just focusing on what I am doing in the present. You need to take ownership of your career, you need to work hard. You need to understand your abilities and work according to them.

#### **DOROTHY THOMAS**



#### Information about yourself and your organisation:

I am a Partner at the Chennai office of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, and am ranked as one of the leading corporate lawyers in Tamil Nadu. My practice focuses on General Corporate, M&A and especially FDI into the State of Tamil Nadu. I hold an experience of over 21 years in India, UK and USA and have served as a lead consultant for several Fortune 500 companies based in North America and Europe.

I have authored Op-Eds and Columns for leading publications in India and the US, some important publications include: "Legal aspects of Doing Business in India'; 'Software Technology Parks in India' "Legal Outsourcing" – Column, Business Line; "Indo – Singapore Tax Treaty" – Column, The Hindu; 'Entry Strategy options of doing business in India' – NASABA, Atlanta. I contributed a chapter on Entry Strategy options and Visa Regulations in a recently released book titled 'Corporate Counsel's Guide to Doing Business in India' published by Thomson West and also authored the Country Handbook for India for Thomson West publications, profiled by Business Line, Dinamani and Vikitan leading magazines in the state of Tamil Nadu as 'Leading Corporate Attorney'.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School, Pune:

I joined the five-year course in the year 1992. I vividly remember meeting Mr. Mujumdar and Mr. Kanakaraj who was my Principal. We had an instant connection as I was from Chennai and Mr. Kanakaraj hailed from the same state. I was naïve and had never stayed outside Chennai and Mr. Kanakaraj was pleased to offer me accommodation at the college hostel. My fondest memories of my childhood remain my days spent at Symbiosis, NCC canteen, College elections, Shiv Sagar, Vada Pav, Missal Pav, George Biryani, Srikhand and Poori, SB Road, Sinhagad fort, Shanivar Wada, Osho Ashram are memories that remain etched forever. In fact, whenever I have some leisure time, I make it a point to travel back to Pune. We had an extremely friendly and competitive batch and were also the first batch to introduce campus placements. Four of us were selected in campus recruitment which paved my way into corporate commercial law and has brought me to where I am now, all credit to the College, my Principal and the teachers, in particular, Raste Sir, Balasubramanian Sir, Mysoor Sir and Beena Ma'am, who were always encouraging, and helped us aspire higher. I also won several state level moot courts and travelled to several law schools including NLS Bangalore. I graduated as a State topper and gold medallist and I believe academics does lay the foundation to success. I always feel blessed that I was once a Symbiosis student.

#### Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

Interestingly not! After graduation, I was campus recruited into the then largest law firm – Singhania & Co. I worked in Bombay and then was immediately deputed to their London and New York offices, an exposure that gave me a great level of confidence. There was no gender bias at all. After 6 years, I was chosen to set up Kochhar Chennai and from being a start-up, the office grew to being the flagship office and the largest in Tamil Nadu, I headed Kochhar for over 10 years, and was also instrumental in setting up Kochhar USA. Thereafter, I was chosen to head Amarchand Mangaldas in Chennai, and have been with the firm for 7 years. There was no gender-based obstacles faced by me in any manner right from the beginning till date and perhaps I, am a good example of how there are no glass ceilings that need to be broken, ability, aspiration and confidence and leadership skills can scale up growth, be it man or woman.

#### **Future plans and goals:**

I will serve SAM for as long as I can and thereafter dwell into social work and perhaps education.

#### **MAITREYI MISRA**

#### Information about self and your organisation:

After I graduated from Symbiosis in 2010, I went for my LLM at NYU. After that, I worked with Mr. Anand Grover, who is now a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court, as his research assistant in his work as the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, and then joined I joined Project 39A at the National Law University, Delhi in September 2014, when we were still called the Centre on the Death Penalty. Initially, there were five of us (Dr. Anup Surendranath, Shreya Rastogi, Nishant Gokhale, Lubhyathi Rangarajan, my batch mate at Symbiosis, and I) who worked towards building an organisation to tackle issues implicated in the death penalty in India, through litigation, research, while also venturing into public engagement to make these typically legal issues more accessible. In a short period, we have gone from being an organisation of five to now around 50 across our three offices in Delhi, Pune and Nagpur. We did death penalty work for around four years, after which we transitioned into Project 39A, which is based on Article 39A on equal justice and equal opportunity to work on broader criminal justice system issues, because the problems in the administration of the death penalty are endemic to Indian criminal justice system. We are



currently involved in the legal representation of around 75% of the death penalty cases at the Supreme Court, and also work with the District Legal Services Authority in Pune and Nagpur to provide legal representation to undertrial prisoners, under our Fair Trial Fellowship initiative. Our research is focussed on mental health, forensics, torture and legal aid. Public engagement remains an important aspect of our work to generate informed discussions on issues of criminal justice among the public.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School, Pune:

Many! I was in the 2010 batch, we were still at the shared SB Road campus, we were sharing it with multiple other Symbiosis colleges, now of course, it has moved to the more expansive Viman Nagar Campus. I was able to find very good friends at Symbiosis and that support system has continued. Of course, I can't forget to mention doing Jessup, the amount of support we received, particularly from our peers, to break those barriers that no one had broken before, which was quite special to me.

#### Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

My work has allowed me to engage with different institutions, particularly, prisons. One of the most frustrating things that I encountered was a 'men-of-the-world' attitude of the mostly male prison administration. Their misguided patronising attitude was a massive barrier. Because I'm a woman they'd automatically assume I don't know anything and so reluctant in handing over documents and facilitating access, particularly to interview death row prisoners.

At both my places of employment, I have been very fortunate. Project 39A has an almost equal male-female which is fantastic because it allows very different experiences to interact with each other and inform our world views. Even when we started out, out of the five of us, three were women, and we've consciously maintained that policy. In field work and other aspects of work, of course there are gender barriers, and I think, you will always have gender barriers to overcome in terms of how you think of and conceptualize places of work, unless conscious efforts are made to rectify that. Unless we put people from groups which are being discriminated against at the forefront, the problem of discrimination will continue.

#### **Future plans and goals:**

My particular area of interest is mental health and criminal law and we are doing a lot of interesting and challenging work at Project 39A in on it, which is unprecedented, in terms of looking at intellectual disability, mental illness or the effect of death row on mental health, so it is very cutting-edge work. So, for me, it is a very exciting place to be in. Also, because I've been with Project 39A since the beginning motivates me to help it evolve as organisation, and I plan to continue doing what I currently do, but at a much larger scale.

#### VASUKI SUNKAVALLI



#### **Information about yourself and your organisation:**

The name of my company is Rainmaker. We started it with a small team, a few years ago, in the hope that we would be able to create ethical places to work, and our very first initiative in that direction was to create an online training module for sexual harassment at the workplace. Thus, what we intend to do is build compliance modules, directed towards corporates, to make sure that they are compliant towards all the applicable laws. We have one product out now, it is technology based, which has all online training content. It is very different from what is in the market right now. All the products that we build, or intend to build at Rainmaker, are all legal products. Antony, my partner, is also a lawyer, who is a few years my senior, who graduated from NLS Bangalore. We both met at a time that both of us wanted to start a business connected to law, but not necessarily be practising lawyers. Personally, whenever I have some free time, I dabble in theatre because I feel that a bit of me is very creatively inclined, and it is an avenue that I would like to pursue and explore. Apart from the professional aspects, as an individual, I enjoy doing a lot of other things like skiing, scuba diving. I also like travelling to new countries, I am a bit of an explorer.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School, Pune:

My fondest memories at Symbiosis would be the friends that I made there. I've built some life-long relationships and the fact that I got to spend five years in Pune, and with these people with me, obviously strengthened our bonds. The friendships and the bonds that I built there, still remain to be some of the cherished relationships of my life.

#### Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

Yes, I have encountered gender specific challenges. Predominantly one being, I felt a little discriminated against because of appearance. Now whether good or bad, I just find that even if you are moderately polished looking, you have to try twice as hard to prove half as much. So, that was something that I was constantly irritated by, and so if you are not well dressed, you are not interested in your job; if you are too well dressed, you are again not interested in your job, because you are only worried about your appearance. So, this was something that I was constantly faced with. I find that the importance that is laid on appearance, and mind you, only when it comes to women, is a problem that I think a lot of women deal with. Men don't generally have to deal with this, but I fail to understand why so much importance is given to a woman's appearance and how they are dressed. When I used to work in New York, it was advised that we wear heels, I find that absolutely ridiculous! Maybe it has changed now, but ten years ago, that was the case, and I think that it is unnecessary to give importance to petty things.

#### **Future plans and goals:**

I am not really someone who sets five-year plans, or has any set future goals in life, because I firmly believe that you never know what life is going to throw at you. The only thing that I have planned to do, is to keep an open mind, to pray that I recognize an opportunity when it arises, and that I have the courage and determination to cease that opportunity. I plan on keeping an open mind, in the sense that, it doesn't necessarily have to be in my particular field, tomorrow life may throw an opportunity that you never thought was even possible, but the fact that you would recognize it and cease it is more important because a set path is always not very exciting, as far as I am concerned. I like exploring new things and doing new things. A lot of people may not agree with that, they like to excel in a particular field, and fair enough, that's a different way of thinking. It's just that when I'm old, I want to have more than one story to tell.

#### EKAKSHARA MAHAJAN

#### **Information about Self and your Organisation:**

I'm a 2017 Graduate of Symbiosis Law School. In my final year, I had the opportunity of representing SLS with a stellar team, at the Prof. N.R. Madhava Moot Court Competition and was awarded with the title of *Best Indian Female Law Student* along with a Fellowship to Penn State Law, Pennsylvania State University. While at Penn State, I specialised in Antitrust, Bankruptcy, Energy Law & Policy and Constitutional Law and attained certification as a trained Mediator. I passed the New York State Bar Examination in October 2018 and am currently litigating at the Punjab & Haryana High Court.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School, Pune:

Five years account for countless memories! Organizing seminars, the annual Symbhav fervour, gruelling preparations for Moot Court Competitions, it is overwhelming just trying to condense the experiences and rank some as my fondest memories. Driving around the city, organizing the Fashion Show, last minute attempts at meeting the attendance cut-off, there are honestly just one too many memories. It'll be safe to say, they were surreal five years.



EKAKSHARA MAHAJAN ADVOCATE, HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA BATCH 2017

## Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

I don't think that I've faced any specific challenges or obstacles by virtue of being a woman in this profession yet but gender disparities definitely remain widespread with the numbers skewed towards men. I can't comment on the unconscious bias which some might harbour against women, especially since it's no hidden fact that we reside in a relatively patriarchal society, but I find it equally admirable when members of the Bar extend their appreciation for work well-done. I also find solace in the fact that the profession warrants progression based on merit and hard work is lauded. This definitely doesn't eclipse the fact that parity between men and women is still a distant cry but I hope it works as a stimulant and encourages equal participation and opportunities for men and women alike.

#### **Future plans and goals:**

My inclination towards the field of law was primarily to be able to effect some change, any change in the system and make the elusive notion of 'justice' accessible to the majority. Endeavouring to encourage legal-inclusiveness, I try and reach out to people who are in need of redressal mechanisms but are usually unable to afford legal aid. I'm hoping to strive for the same and help set-up legal aid organizations which would uniquely position themselves to help people in their communities. Additionally, I have also remained in touch with legal academia and have had the chance of teaching the subjects I gained specialisation in. Teaching is an immensely satisfying profession and I wish it receives the requisite leverage as a potential career choice for young graduates.

#### **ADITI OJHA**



ADITI OJHA LEGAL COUNSEL, NETWORK 18 ME-DIA & INVESTMENTS LIMITED BATCH 2009

#### Information about yourself and your organisation:

I am a 2009 graduate from Symbiosis Law School, Pune. Post my graduation, I worked for Luthra & Luthra Law Offices (Delhi) for a period of 4 years and then with NDTV (which owns news channels NDTV 24X7, NDTV India and NDTV Profit) for 3 years. In December 2018, I joined Network18 Media and Investments Limited (a media organization owned by Reliance Industries Limited). I am currently working as a Legal Counsel here and taking charge of all the litigation matters, along with agreements, notices etc.

#### Your fondest memories at Symbiosis Law School, Pune:

There is not just one particular memory. Every day, we were up to something or the other. The afternoon sessions in the canteen, both inside the campus and at NCC, were fun. I was always the kind of student who would never concentrate during lectures and would always be up to some mischief. But after lectures, I would hide myself in the library and prepare notes. Even that was fun! It was an extremely memorable experience and the bonds that I have created here are something that I will cherish forever. Purely on an academic front, I loved

attending lectures of Prof. Rawandle, who taught us Law of Contracts and Torts and Prof. Deshmukh who taught us Constitutional Law.

#### Have you encountered any gender specific challenges or obstacles in your career?

No, not at all! I am privileged to be working in an atmosphere conducive to women. Of course, like everyone else, my journey to where I am today, was not free from any obstacle or challenge. Fortunately, it wasn't because of the fact that I am a woman, and I am grateful for that.

#### Future plans and goals:

I live a day as it comes. I am not the type who would spoil the present thinking or planning or day-dreaming about the future. I believe that if I am able to justify my present actions on things to my inner self, the future would automatically be moulded in the manner I want.

#### **HALL OF FAME 2018-2019**











ADITI MANCHANDA

ANIMESH PARASHAR

ASHRAYA RAO

BARSHA MITRA

HIMA LAWRENCE

#### **BAR & BENCH**

Hima Lawrence, 2002-2007, Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India in March 2018.

#### **LAW FIRM**

- Kush Sharma, 2002-2007, acting as the Managing Partner at KSA Law Offices LLP, New Delhi, in December 2018.
- Michael Ronald, 2005-2010, appointed as the Senior Associate, Legal Recruitment at Vahura, in July 2018.
- Venamra Mahaseth, 2010-2015, appointed as the Managing Partner at Landing Law Offices LLP, in May 2018.
- Pranay Agrawala, 2003-2009, appointed as the Partner at Pranay Anand Das & Khanna, in January 2019.
- Saurabh Raj Sinha, 2004-2009, appointed as the Senior Legal Manager at Tata Capital, in February 2018.
- Debasmita Gupta, 1999-2004, appointed as the Assistant Vice President Group Legal & Corporate Affairs at Landmark Group, in September 2018.
- Nipun Sawhney, 2007-2012, promoted to the post of Senior Associate at AZB & Partners, in April 2018.
- Aretha D'Souza, 1996-2002, appointed as the Senior Corporate Counsel/ Corporate and Transactional Attorney, at Microchip Technology Inc., in November 2018.
- Apar Raje, LL.M. 2016-17, is the Managing Partner at Raje Davre & Associates since June 2018.
- Chirag Naik, 2012-2017, appointed as a Senior Associate at MZM Legal in December 2018.
- Arush Upmanyu, 2009-2014, promoted to the post of Senior Associate at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., in April 2018.
- Shreyas Rathore, 2004-2009, appointed as an Attorney at the New Development Bank, Shanghai City, China, in November 2018.
- Shreya Desai, 2003-2008, is the Co-Founder of Samvitti Legal, January 2019.
- Aditi Manchanda, 2002-2007, appointed as a Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, in September 2018.
- Richa Mohanty Rao, 2003-2008, appointed as a Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, in September 2018.
- Sugandha Asthana, 2002-2007, appointed as a Partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas, in December 2018.
- Ashraya Rao, 2005-2010, and Aditya Patni, 2002-2007, appointed as Partner at Khaitan & Co., in November 2018.
- Pooja Chatterjee, 2003-2008, and Pooja Sable, 2008-2013, appointed as a Senior Associate at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas in May 2018.

#### **ALUMNI NEXUS 2019 (9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION)**











MICHAEL RONALD

NUPUR MUKHERJEE

POOJA CHATERJEE

SHASHANK JAIN

KRISHNA KUMAR

- Anindya Basarkod, 2006-2011, appointed as Senior Associate at Khaitan & Co., in August 2018.
- Rishi Anand, 2002-2007, appointed as a Partner at DSK Legal in January 2019.
- Abir Mukherjee, 2007-2012, appointed as the Senior Legal Manager at PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd., in August 2018.
- Geetan Ghumman, 2007-2012, appointed as GLDP Associate, Global Fixed Income, CIBC Asset Management, Toronto, Canada, in February 2019.
- Abhishek Singh Rathore, 2008-2013, appointed as the Legal Lead at Vodafone Idea Limited in October 2018.
- Shashank Jain, 2002-2007, appointed as the Head of Legal, Vistara TATA SIA Airlines Ltd. in June 2018.
- Nupur Mukherjee Dev, 2002-2007, appointed as the HOD Legal (Eastern Division), of Godrej Properties Limited in January 2019.
- Animesh Parashar, 2004-2009, appointed as the Deputy Manager at Usha Martin Limited in April 2018.
- Sri Krishna Kumar, 2007-2012, appointed as the Managing Partner at Abhyudaya & Co., in February 2018.
- Shilpa Sachdeva Bhullar, 2001-2006, appointed as the Lead Counsel Corporate at Rivigo, in January 2019.
- Shivam Bhardwaj, 2007-2012, appointed as the Deputy Manager Legal at the Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd., in July 2018.
- Kumar Satyakam, 2004-2009, appointed as the Category Lead, IT Procurement, at Rogers Communications, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in October 2018.
- Ritika Sharan, 2002-2007, appointed as the Learning and Development Associate Manager at The Kraft Heinz Company, Singapore in November 2018.
- Priyanka Arora, 2012-2017, appointed as the Legal Manager, ICICI Bank, in June 2018.

#### **OTHERS**

 Barsha Mitra, LLM 2017-18, appointed as Assistant Professor at Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil College of Law, in October 2018.

#### **THANK YOU**

Dearest Alumni,

You have always played a crucial role in the growth of this Institution. The management, staff, and students of Symbiosis Law School, Pune thank you for your support and we look forward to a continued association. We would especially like to thank the following alumni for their invaluable assistance in moots, funding, advisory, placement and we would like to extend our gratitude to, **Adv. Sampath Bulusu**, our Alumni Convener.

Aayush Sharma	Jayant Raghuram	Ridhish Rajvanshi
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Gaurave Bhargava	Rahul Miranda	Varuna Agrawal
Harshada Wadkar	Rahul Risbud	Varuna Banrale
Himanshu Agarwal	Rajas Pingle	Yuvraj Kadare

In loving memory of **Prof. Asawari Abhyankar** (Years of service, 2004-19)



With a smile radiating sunshine,
a resolute countenance braving the world,
our beloved Asawari Ma'am lives in the
hearts of the students and colleagues
whose lives she touched,
all of whom were privileged to have come under
her eternal shade of benevolence.

We, the populace of Symbiosis Law School, Pune and Symbiosis International (Deemed University), mourn our loss, yet find solace in our belief that our loved ones never leave us,

**ALUMNI NEXUS 2019 (9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION)** 

In loving memory of Mr. Nithin Patil (Batch of 2015)



NITHIN PATIL AWARD FOR OVERALL MOOT
ACHIEVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO MOOTING,
WAS AWARDED TO MR. SAURAV AGARWALA,
VTH YEAR, B.B.A. L.L.B. (HONS.)

In loving memory of Mr. Satish Madhukarrao Godsay (Batch of 1989)

There are no goodbyes for us.

Wherever you are, you will always be in our heart.

-Anonymous



Do Keep us Updated with all your Milestones at:

alumni@symlaw.ac.in

We request you to pay a visit to the newly revamped Alumni Portal made in collaboration with SRV Media

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#### LEFT TO RIGHT:

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ROW 3: SUSHRUT GARG, AKUL KHANDELWAL, KARMANYA PANDEY, SHIVANGI JUNEJA, ANCHIT NAYYAR.