

Press Report

Faculty Development Program cum Guest Lecture

on

“Seven Key Legal Skills for Success as a Lawyer and How to Master Them?”

Symbiosis Law School, Pune, a constituent of Symbiosis International (Deemed University), successfully hosted a Faculty Development Program cum Guest Lecture on “*Seven Key Legal Skills for Success as a Lawyer and How to Master Them?*” on 18th September 2025. The guest lecture witnessed the participation of more than 100 students, faculty members, and other participants from across the country.

The faculty development program cum Guest Lecture was graced by **Prof. (Dr.) Yarik Kryvoi**, LL.M (Harvard), Director of the Investment Treaty Forum and Senior Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL).

The inaugural session commenced with the welcome address by **Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur**, *Fulbright Scholar*, Director of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, and Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU. She talked about how one of the Symbiosis Law School alumni, Mr. Akash Baniyal, met Dr. Yarik at Harvard and encouraged him to visit SLS. She highlighted that our university is one of the universities that have developed skilled courses for the students. She focused on how, in India, we have both three-year and five-year law programs, similar to medical courses. She also mentioned that in SLS, there are skill-based courses taught by industry experts. The internal faculty is responsible for designing the curriculum, which is kept up to date with the current academic system.

The Chief Guest, **Prof. (Dr.) Yarik Kryvoi**, delivered the keynote address, recalling how he completed his law degrees from various countries (Belarus, Russia, Netherland, England, United States) to understand the international norms and aspects related to law. Currently he is working for BIICL, where he focuses on the comparative analysis of law across different countries. His talk on “Seven Key Legal Skills for Success as a Lawyer and How to Master Them?” highlighted these seven skills: Focusing on the factual nuances that matter; Spotting critical legal issues; Finding the relevant law; Applying the relevant law to the legal Issues considering the context; Identifying strengths and weaknesses of various positions; Generating client-centric solutions and Effectively presenting solutions. These seven steps help the young generation lawyers to understand the practical aspects of the profession and how they can master essential legal skills. He also highlighted the significant gap between traditional teaching and legal practising. He focused on the need for high-quality legal education and effective online education methods. He pointed out a major shortcoming in the current education system, where institutions primarily focus on domestic laws, with limited attention given to international law. In his book “*Educating Lawyers in the Digital Age: From Theory to Practice*”, he has talked about how education needs to be changed towards the digital age like use of AI, videos, picture integration etc. The book further discusses the theory of legal education, in which he references various scholarly works.

The Q&A session showed that the students were highly engaged in the lecture, as they asked for an in-depth review of the seven skills essential for mastering the practice of law. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, organizers and the Directors of the SLS campuses. The FDP and Guest Lecture succeeded in creating a meaningful understanding of how the faculty needs to include the AI and digital platform in teaching and how the seven skills can help the young generation lawyers and students to achieve great strength in the practical world.



Prof. (Dr.) Shashikala Gurpur, *Fulbright Scholar*, Director of Symbiosis Law School, Pune, and Dean, Faculty of Law, SIU, delivering the welcome address



Prof. (Dr.) Yarik Kryvoi discussing the topic “*Seven Key Legal Skills for Success as a Lawyer and How to Master Them?*”



Prof. (Dr.) Yarik Kryvoi during a Q&A session with the students



Prof. (Dr.) Yarik Kryvoi interacting with the SLS Pune faculty