LAC

LEGAL AID CLINIC
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Established in 2010, Legal Aid Clinic (LAC) has marked its name not only as a hub of traditional Legal Studies, but has also earned recognition in provision of Corporate Advisory Services, Litigation and Research & Legal Consutancy. LAC supplements the market while offering expert opinions on Contract Writing, Legislative Drafting, Instrument Vetting, Pleading Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions. Specialized Legal Trainings, IP Registration Management, and Maritime & Admiralty Transactions. The Clinic has been a market captivation due to its Academic and Industry Linked Programs. In December 2018, initiative of LLM in International Trade and Maritime Laws, a flagship program offering expert and first hand quality knowledge from experts of Pakistan Navy and abroad, is one of its kind taught at Bahria University. To meet the competitive edge and academic standards, LAC has always engaged key industry experts by arranging special guest lectures and interactive sessions with PIPS, NAB, FPSC, Competition Commission of Pakistan, SECP, Parliament and Private Corporate Bodies for its students, faculty, Clients and Stakeholders.

CONSULTING SERVICES

LAC provides legal opinion and professional advice, research and training services to government departments, training academies and Bar Associations. Some of the core services rendered by the clinic are listed below:

- Writing Legal opinion for government departments and private clients.
- Offering professional support in deed writing, vetting and drafting of contracts, and drafting of pleadings including writs, appeals and revisions.
- Providing legal assistance in carrying out corporate mergers and acquisitions.
- Providing resource persons to training academies of judges, lawyers, prosecutors, investigators and civil servants.
- Holding conferences, workshops and seminars on new laws & complicated legal issues.
- Imparting Advocacy skills to budding lawyers by conducting training workshops on dural laws.
- Providing legal support in patent registration and IP rights protection.
- Vetting & drafting of proposed bills of parliament.
- Imparting legal skills on Maritime & Admiralty affairs.

IF WE DESIRE RESPECT FOR THE LAW,
WE MUST FIRST MAKE THE LAW RESPECTABLE.

- LOUIS D. BRANDEIS

RESEARCH & SERVICES PORTFOLIO

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

LAC is actively engaged with ICRC in conducting advance research and promoting awareness about multiple dimensions of International Humanitarian Law. The collaboration aims at encouraging individuals to develop an in-depth understanding of laws and methods of warfare. Benefits for the clients are that the resource persons deputed by the department can impart valuable skills for the application of International Humanitarian Law ranging from protection of the rights of wounded and sick on land and water to treatment of POWs. Advances in the field such as protection of war correspondents, prohibition against use of child soldiers and fixing responsibility for environmental damage provide opportunity for recommending fresh legislation and highlighting human rights abuses through newspaper articles and media discussions.

Corporate law

LAC provides services in vetting and drafting of contracts, and merger and acquisitions of corporate entities in Pakistan. It also provides expert advice to security and exchange commission of Pakistan (SECP) on various issues involving application of corporate law. In addition, our researchers and faculty consultants are actively engaged in advance research for the improvement of existing legal regime regulating corporate sector in Pakistan. Moreover, the center also provides professional services to clients in regard to patent registration, copy rights infringement, branding and trademark management. The department plans to launch a diploma course in IP rights protection in collaboration with the intellectual property organization of Pakistan.

Alternative Dispute Resolution - ADR

The legal fraternity of Pakistan has gradually realized the importance of ADR as an essential complement to the formal justice system. The ADR Act 2017 has institutionalized the role of mediators and arbitrators in resolution of the disputes. The clinic plans to establish Enhanced Legal Aid Cell to advice the litigants about choice of appropriate forum and to encourage them to resolve their matrimonial, family and business disputes through ADR rather than protracted and expansive formal justice system. The center has the capacity to sensitize the stakeholders through workshops, seminars and research work about the benefits of community driven ADR.

Maritime Law:

LAC has pioneered the LL.M program in International and Maritime Law in Pakistan. The purpose of the program is to train lawyers to plead cases concerning matters occurring off-shore by invoking the Admiralty jurisdiction of Sindh & Baluchistan High Courts. Maritime is a field of law where professional skills are extremely rare, however, the LAC has been able to embark upon this ambitious program owing to the interest and expertise of its mother institution i.e. Pakistan Navy. Maritime lawyers have to deal with a range of issues including resolution of disputes relating to carriage of goods by sea, insurance claims arising out of off-shore accidents, vetting and drafting of maritime trade agreements, and addressing concerns relating to maritime security. In this regard, LAC provides training to lawyers, judges and prosecutors through its exclusive team of marine law experts having a background in naval service. The Center has conducted a number of workshops, seminar and training programs to sensitize the stakeholders about the importance of maritime law in the specific context of CPEC. The objective is to build a corps of legal lawyer's expert in dealing with marine legal affairs to see through the successful completion of infrastructure projects of CPEC

Advocacy Skills

LAC has excellent team to provide practical training in Advocacy skills. This is one of the future plans of LAC to start a new course on Advocacy skills which will gradually be made compulsory for the students of final semester. It has been observed by the Bar councils across Pakistan that fresh law graduates have little or no training of Advocacy skills and whatever they learn in their academic course usually confines to bookish knowledge. LAC is fortunate to have the services of some accomplished lawyers at its disposal who are competent enough to be able to impart state of the art training in practical application of procedural laws. This includes drafting plaints, written statements, appeals, revisions, deed writing, contracts/ agreement writing, reading FIRs, police record, forensic reports, preparing defense, taking case notes, making briefs and last but not the least arguing cases in the capacity of an Advocate. For this purpose, LAC is planning to reach out to young lawyers through Bar Associations to convince them to undertake 3-7 days certificate courses in Advocacy skills so that the young lawyers are better equipped to deal with the challenges of a rewarding career. LAC is also planning to start a certification in forensic law with a view to train lawyers, judges and prosecutors to better appreciate the value of medical evidence, and to grasp fully the medical reports of injuries and cause of death.

Transnational & Environmental law

LAC is in a position to provide expert advice and legal opinion to the foreign office on the application of international law. Keeping in view the ever growing state cooperation in crime prevention matters, LAC intends to assist the foreign office in drafting treaties and MOUs on extradition and mutual legal assistance. LAC can also provide assistance to ministry of environment and climate change to deal with cases of environment involving foreign element, and to draft effective laws based on time tested principles of environmental protection. It can also impart training in these areas, and conduct awareness workshops to sensitize the stake holders.

KEY RESEARCHERS

Ms. Malieka Farah Deeba

Malieka Farah Deeba Malik, HoD Law and LAC is LLM in International Economic Law from the University of Warwick, UK. She has over 16 years' worth of knowledge and professional experience. She demonstrate exceptional professional capabilities as legal expert in the areas of corporate and commercial laws, structuring commercial transactions, legal research, dispute resolution, Intellectual Property Laws,. Her professional career is a mix bag of diverse legal experience, initially as corporate commercial lawyer then an ardent litigator, as astute in-house counsel, a full-scale law teacher and finally as HoD Law. Having embarked her legal career after a rigorous legal training in a leading law firm, she worked with different corporate concerns and immediately rose to prominence as Company Counsel where scope of her work was not only to provide input on all legal matters but also to advise on strategic and policy matters. Her input and advice earned the company some all-time best deals. She have had a leading role in developing a nascent law department into one of the most established and successful law department in Pakistan.

Dr. Usman Hameed

Dr. Usman Hameed is currently working as Senior Assistant Professor at Law Dept. BUIC. He has completed his PhD in Law at University of Glasgow, UK. He also holds an LL.M from University of Sheffield UK. Prior to this, he worked as Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Director Punjab Judicial Academy and Principal University Law College Sargodha. In all, he has over 17 years of aggregate experience in judicial service and legal profession. He takes interest in Public International Law, International Criminal Law, Law of Evidence, and Alternate Dispute Resolution. He was appointed as Advisor to PPSC for selection of SIs. During his stay in Glasgow, he was invited to present conference papers at University of Edinburgh, King's College London, Holy Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, University of Helsinki, Finland, University of Hull, University of Glasgow, and University of Dundee, UK. His work has been published Journal of Law & Policy, International Journal of Humanities & Social Science, US-China Law Review & Pakistan Law Review. Topics of publications include Forfeiture and Asset freezing, Due Process Rights of the Insane Accused, Skype Testimony & E-Court Protocols and Specific Intent Requirement to constitute the crime of Genocide.

Ms. Ammara Amir

Miss Amara Amir is currently working as a lecturer law in the Law Department of Bahria University Islamabad Campus. She recently completed her LLM in Corporate Law from International Islamic University Islamabad and holds a specialized degree in Intellectual Property laws, Trademarks, branding and infringements in particular. Her research highlights the Legal status of Trademark Counterfeiting in the statutory and penal culture of Pakistan. She had the opportunity to complete her research with the assistance and support of Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan. During her LLM she assisted Professor Dr Farkhanda Zia, the now Vice President of IIUI, in a Human Right law research project. Prior to joining Bahria she has been working as a Law demonstrator at IIUI for three consecutive years. She has also attended a certified course of Property Rights organized by UNHABITAT. During her professional stay at IIUI she got a chance to polish her academic and technical skills in IP. Owing to her academic and teaching experience she has a keen interest in Corporate Intellectual Property

Dr. Nadia Khadam

Dr. Nadia Khadam is Senior Assistant Professor at BUIC. She is heading a research group on law and policy. She holds a Doctorate in Criminal Law, Policy and Procedure from Hanyang University, South Korea. Her research expertise includes cybercrime laws, criminal law, cyber security policies, consumer protection laws and other transnational issues including internet governance and e-commerce. She had participated at different international forums as cyber security and cybercrime law expert including Middle East and Adjoining Countries School of Internet Governance 2017, Asia Pacific School of Internet Governance 2018. She is also part of executive committee for Pakistan School of Internet Governance held every year and Pakistan internet governance forum 2019. She always emphasize on legal research with impact on society and legal regime of Pakistan. She is also a reviewer of HEC Recognized journals. Previously she received Gold Medal in LLB. She is enrolled as Advocate High Court.

Dr. Tauseef Iqbal

Dr. Tauseef Iqbal is Senior Assistant Professor in Law Department at Bahria University Islamabad. He has profound experience of corporate law and corporate governance.
He holds PhD from France in comparative corporate law and corporate governance. He possesses more than eight years of research and professional experience in the field of law. HE served as civil judge in KPK. He is on the expert penal of Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. Besides corporate law, his areas of expertise include corporate governance, anti-money laundering, comparative law and constitutional law. He has been frequent to conference and seminars, and conducted a training on Legal Research through Digital Resources.

Ms. Saira Bashir Dar

Ms. Saira Bashir Dar is currently working as Lecturer at Law Department Bahria University, Islamabad. She did her LL.M in Corporate Law at International Islamic University Islamabad and did her graduation in Law at University Law College, University of the Punjab, Lahore. She worked as permanent as well as visiting faculty at different law institutions. She remained Principal at The Best Law College, Rawalpindi and at Muslim Law College Rawalpindi. She worked as an advocate High Court at District Courts Rawalpindi. In all, she has over 11 years of aggregate experience in legal profession. She takes interest in Corporate Law, Consumer Protection and family Laws.