

PRASHANT IYENGAR

EDUCATION

2000–2005 NALSAR, University of Law Hyderabad, India

Bachelor's degree in Law (BA.,BL(Hons.)) from the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), University of Law, Hyderabad.

- Cumulative Grade Point Average of 6.20/8 over 50 courses in 5 years.
- Opted for seminar courses in Judicial Process and Advanced Intellectual Property Law in the final year.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2006–2007 Open Society Institute Hyderabad/Budapest
International Policy Fellow

- Recipient of the prestigious International Policy Fellowship in March 2006 for research under the theme of 'Information Policy'. (Research Proposal accessible online at <http://www.policy.hu/iyengar/rp.htm>)
- Currently enquiring into the conditions of student research in law schools in India (policy paper forthcoming) in fulfillment of fellowship objectives.

2005–2006 Amarchand Mangaldas New Delhi
Associate

- Exposed to an assortment of issues in Indian corporate law.
- Involved in the setting up of the Information Technology Practice of the firm – the first of its kind in the country.
- Worked intensively on a project to draft an enabling legislation facilitating the digitization of land records in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

INTERNSHIPS

Winter 2003 Prof. Amita Dhanda Hyderabad
Research Assistant

- Research Internship for 6 weeks with Professor Amita Dhanda, NALSAR University of Law. Assisted research on Disability rights and Poverty Law amongst other issues.

Winter 2002 Mr. Dileep Kumar Jaiswal Hyderabad
Paralegal

- Interned for 4 weeks with Mr. Dileep Kumar Jaiswal, a senior advocate with a practice in both the Sessions Court at Hyderabad and the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Winter 2001 Socio-Legal Information Center Kutch, Gujarat
Volunteer/Intern

- Interned for 8 weeks with the Socio-Legal Information Center (SLIC), an NGO based in New Delhi.
- Offered legal aid to victims of a devastating earthquake in the Kutch region of the state of Gujarat in January 2001. The work involved regular field-trips to remote villages in the *talukas* of Bhachau, Anjar and Bhuj, as well as journeys to the local bureaucratic offices to follow up on compensation disbursements.

Summer 2001 M.Venkatarangayya Foundation Hyderabad
Volunteer/Intern

- Interned for 4 weeks with the M.Venkatarangayya Foundation – an organisation run by Magsasay Awardee Mrs. Shanta Sinha.
- Was exposed to the challenges of educating impoverished children in rural India.
- Witnessed first-hand, the organisation's imaginative solution which combined modern pedagogical methodologies with grassroots mobilization and advocacy.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES/ENTERPRISES

Wiki website.

Started a free wiki site on Indian legal research in October 2004 during my final year of undergraduate studies. (<http://www.nalsartech.org/tikiwiki>). Persuaded colleagues and juniors at university to contribute their unpublished research papers in an attempt to create a free repository of Indian Law.

Daily Legal News Wire

Began dispatching a Daily Legal Newsletter by email in November 2004. Compile law-related news items and editorials from 6 prominent Indian dailies into an exhaustive newsletter which is then sent out to subscribers for free everyday. (<http://www.openarchive.in/>)

OpenJudis

Launched a free database/search engine of Indian judgments in December 2006. Currently the database serves 22,070 judgments of the Indian Supreme Court (from 1950 onwards), with immediate plans to extend the service to cover various High Court judgments from 2000 onwards. Plan to launch a free desktop version of this database shortly, making it the first initiative on such a scale in India. (<http://judis.openarchive.in>)

PAPERS/CONFERENCES

Education Policy

Critical Legal Studies Conference, Hyderabad September 2006
Presented a paper titled “Unmeritorious but not Undeserving: An Incredulous look at Entrance Examinations” at the recently concluded Critical Legal Conference at NALSAR, Hyderabad.

Judicial Process

Judicial Process Seminar December 2004
Authored a paper titled “Stare decisis and the History of Common Law in India” in fulfilment of the requirements of an undergraduate seminar course on Judicial Process.

Intellectual Property Law

ALF/Sarai Fellowship July 2004
Recipient of a student fellowship from Sarai, New Delhi and the Alternative Law Forum (ALF), Bangalore. Wrote an unpublished paper outlining the concept of Authorship and Creation which foregrounds interviews with select Indian authors against literary theory. The paper was presented at an ALF/Sarai workshop in July 2004.

Environmental Law:

Environmental Law September 2003
Authored a paper on the Law relating to River Pollution in India in fulfillment of undergraduate course requirements. It offers a description of the threat posed to rivers by conventional sources of pollution along with an assessment and evaluation of the judicial and regulatory devices in place to combat it. Argues, based on the American experience, that effective combat of non-point source pollution must necessarily involve regulation of land use, a capacity which schemes controlled by the Centre may inherently lack

ACADEMIC HONOURS

2000

Scored 99% in Economics in my ISC, school leaving examination which was the highest in the country ever.

OTHER INTERESTS

Reading, Writing, Programming, Photography, Travelling

OTHER ACTIVITIES/AFFILIATIONS

2005

Co-founded an inter-disciplinary research forum called the Technology and Law Forum (TLF), NALSAR in my final undergraduate year. The TLF was constituted to conduct research on 5 core areas, viz. Media and Telecom Law, Intellectual Property Rights, Biotechnology, IT and Cyber Law and Electronic Governance.

July 2003 - July 2004

Elected to the post of Vice-President of the Student Bar Council of NALSAR, the chief student-governing body of the University. Responsibilities included overseeing and organizing all on-campus student activities.