

Webinar on Social aspect of ethics for lawyers

Date: 3rd October 2020

Time: 11:00 AM.

Topic: Social aspect of ethics for lawyers

Platform: Microsoft Teams.

Organizer: Student Council of Law.

Moderator: Pratima Barde.

Hon'ble speakers:

- Justice (retd.) Manju Goel, Former Judge Delhi High Court; and
- Mr. R. Venkatramani (Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court of India).

The Student council of law, NMIMS Navi Mumbai successfully organised a webinar on "Social aspect of ethics" on 3rd Oct 2020. The webinar was attended by approximately 90 students from NMIMS, Navi School of law.

An introductory note was delivered by Ms. Pratima Barde a 3rd Year student from BBA., LLB, Dr. Alok Misra was invited to give the welcome speech, he briefly introduced the eminent speakers Justice Manju Goel and Mr. R. Venkatramani, he during his welcome speech requested the speakers to provide their point of view on the viability of an Advocate, counsel or an adviser should consider the arguments from both the sides and consider benefit of other party as well to resolve the matter quickly and amicably.

The moderator introduced the speakers of the session Justice Manju Goel and Mr. R. Venkatramani. After a brief introduction, the first speaker of the session Justice Manju Goel was invited to give her insights on the social aspect of professional ethics.

Justice Manju Goel started by explaining ethics, she stated that the framework for good conduct, ethics are always present irrespective of being codified, contempt of court act is an example of codified rules of ethics. She further enunciated that she will be focusing on professional ethics that are bound to be followed even when certain things don't remain codified, so as to maintain a certain degree of professionalism. Three reasons stated by the speaker to deliberate on Ethics were (i)Public scrutiny (ii) Proper conduct – personal gain from improper conduct is contrary to professional ethics (iii) organize, learning and

professional service in light of ethics. Further it was stated that there is a duty towards the opposite party advocate also. A lawyer's role to resolve dispute, when introduced to a matter he should focus on the solution, this point was further substantiated by an example. The importance of Mediation in 21st century was highlighted. Justice Goel concluded her talk by stating that importance of ethics should be incorporated in legal education and a framework for the same should be developed and success can't be devoid of ethics.

Dr. R. Venkatramani, was invited by the Moderator. He began by quoting Adam Smith and Anthony C. and further stated there are always a set of principles in a country that govern ethics and morality, the law cannot be neutral but the conduct should be fair, the family law for example changes as a society, there always remain problems between parties this problem stems out of some inequality in the society and such inequality should be mitigated via the law formulated to cater the society. The constitution also enumerates a set of principles that need to be followed, 'thou shall be an honest' is the principle a lawyer should follow and focus on. The lawyer should be expected to uphold the constitutional value. R. Venkatramani urged that the reason behind the decline of ethics from the legal profession needs to be unveiled that will enable us to curb the fundamental challenge resulting from such decline. Education can play a great role in imparting ethical principles among the budding lawyers. Lawyers are social engineering and their successes shouldn't be measured from the yardstick of their bank balance. The lawyers should aim to become grand mediators and how cases are not seen devoid of social aspect and only from the lenses of private aspect. The virtues of mediator, conciliator should be integrated in a lawyer. Mr. R. Venkatramani concluded by stating that something radically different needs to be done, as long as one remains in the legal profession a certain degree of responsibility needs to be maintained in professional and private life, institutional reforms are apparent and the lawyer needs to maintain a balance to remain ethical in actions and in thought.

The session was further concluded by Dr. Saurabh Chaturvedi, Asc. Dean of NMIMS, School of law, who extended the Vote of Thanks and appreciation on behalf of the school of law to the dignitaries and ended the session on the same note.

