

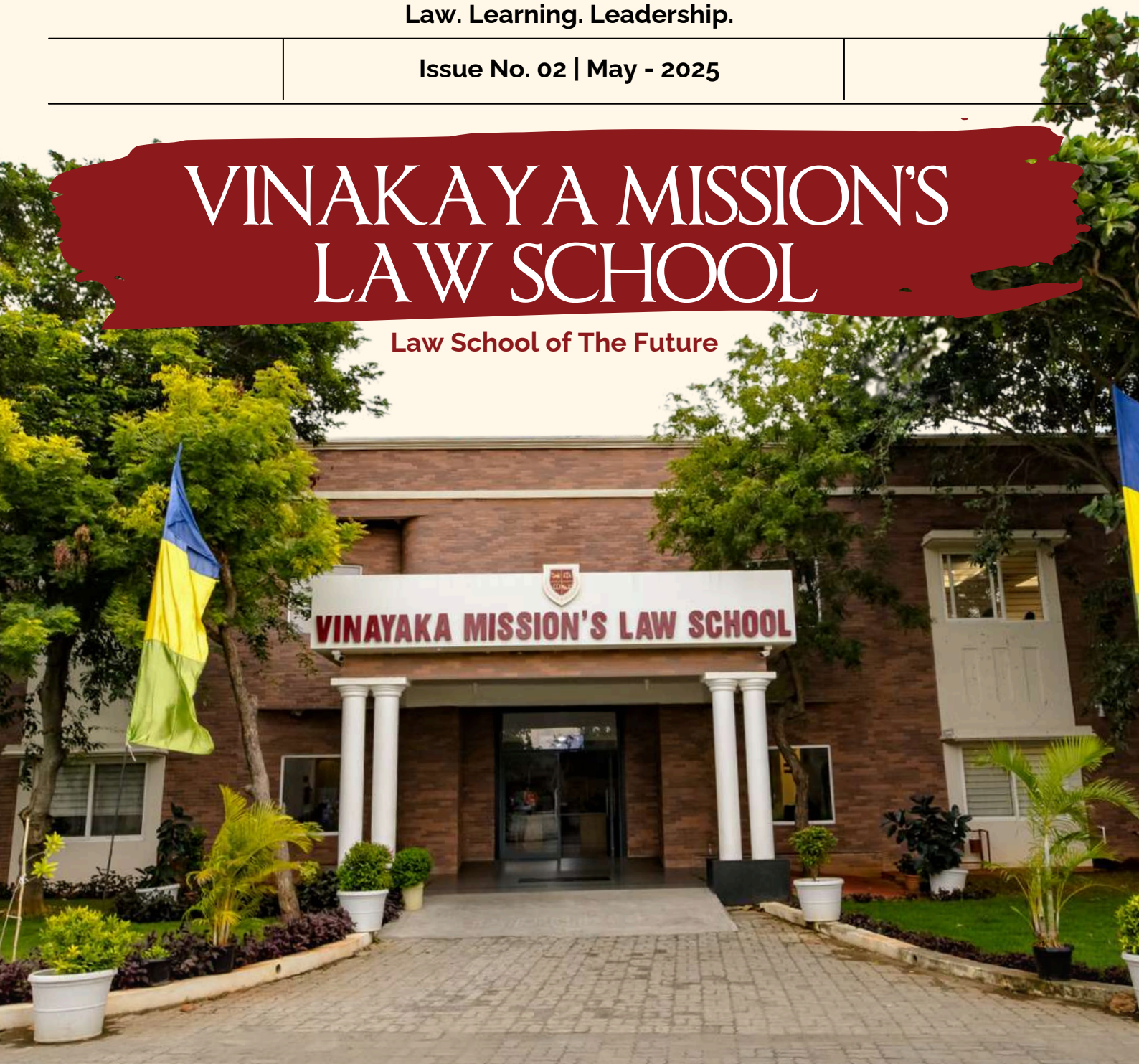
FUNDAMENTUM

Law. Learning. Leadership.

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VINAKAYA MISSION'S LAW SCHOOL

Law School of The Future



Vinayaka Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Salai (Old Mahabalipuram Road), Paiyanoor, Chennai- 603104, Tamil Nadu, India

Ph: +91 73582 01234 | Email: admissions@vmls.edu.in

Monthly Newsletter

VMLS
MAY - 2025 ♦



Here is this month's lowdown

May month at Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) was marked by events that blended legal awareness with public engagement. The highlight was the "Sattam Pesavom" grand finale on May 15th, where 36 non-law students showcased their oratory skills, promoting civic consciousness and youth participation across Tamil Nadu.

Academic enrichment continued through expert-led sessions. On May 7th, Senior Advocate Ms. Rajdipa Behura delivered a lecture on enforcing foreign arbitration awards, shedding light on practical challenges, recent treaties, and emerging trends in international dispute resolution.

Her focus on the India-UAE Bilateral Investment Treaty (2024) brought real-world relevance to complex legal doctrines, giving students an enriched understanding of international commercial disputes and cross-border arbitration.

On May 21st, Mr. Veeraraghavan Inbavijayan discussed the evolving role of global arbitral institutions. His insights into digital arbitration tools, ethics, and innovations like blockchain introduced students to the future landscape of international arbitration.

VMLS also welcomed aspiring legal minds during Open Day 2025 on May 17th. With engaging talks by leadership, alumni, and faculty, the event showcased our inclusive academic vision and inspired students exploring a future in law.

This edition features two articles on Clinical Legal Education—one on its relevance in financial frauds and white-collar crime, and another on its role in serving marginalized communities—highlighting VMLS's commitment to practice-based, socially conscious legal training.

Warm regards,
Editorial Team – Fundamentum

In this newsletter you can expect:

VMLS Open Day – 2025

"Sattam Pesavom" – State-Level Legal Oratory Competition Finale

Guest Lecture on "Challenges in Enforcing Foreign Awards in India"

Guest Lecture on "Evolving Role of Arbitral Institutions in International Arbitration"

Article: Clinical Education in Financial Frauds and White Collar Crimes

Article: Clinical Legal Education and Justice for the Marginalized

Vinayaka Mission's Law School Hosts Successful Open Day - 2025



May 17, 2025 | VMLS Campus, Chennai

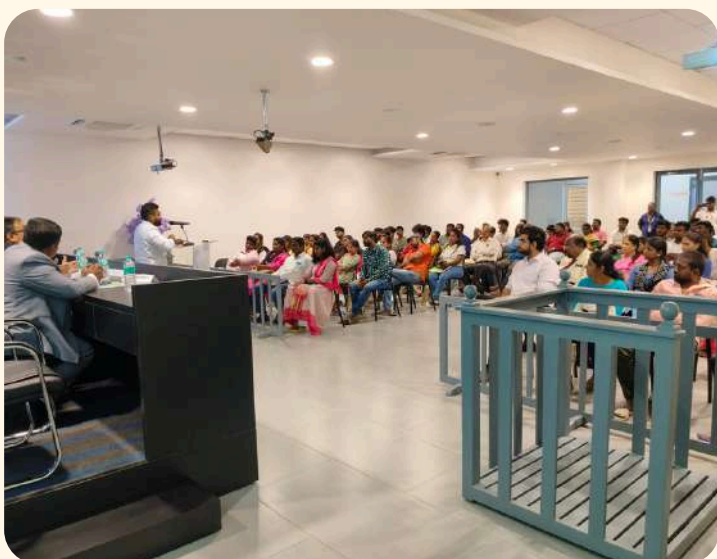
Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS), under the esteemed Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, successfully hosted its Open Day for the 2025 admission cycle on May 17, 2025, at the scenic Paiyanoor campus. The event showcased the school's academic vision, vibrant student life, and world-class infrastructure to over 100 enthusiastic students and parents.

Led by the dynamic leadership of Chancellor Dr. A.S. Ganesan, Vice President Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, and Chief Strategy Officer Mr. J. Suresh Samuel, the event reflected VMLS's dedication to shaping future-ready legal professionals. Alumni and current students actively participated, offering real-world insights into the academic experience and professional opportunities at VMLS.



Dean Dr. Ananth Padmanabhan delivered a compelling address, highlighting the school's innovative legal programs and its commitment to interdisciplinary & socially conscious legal education. His speech set a strong tone for the day's proceedings, offering clarity and inspiration to aspiring students.

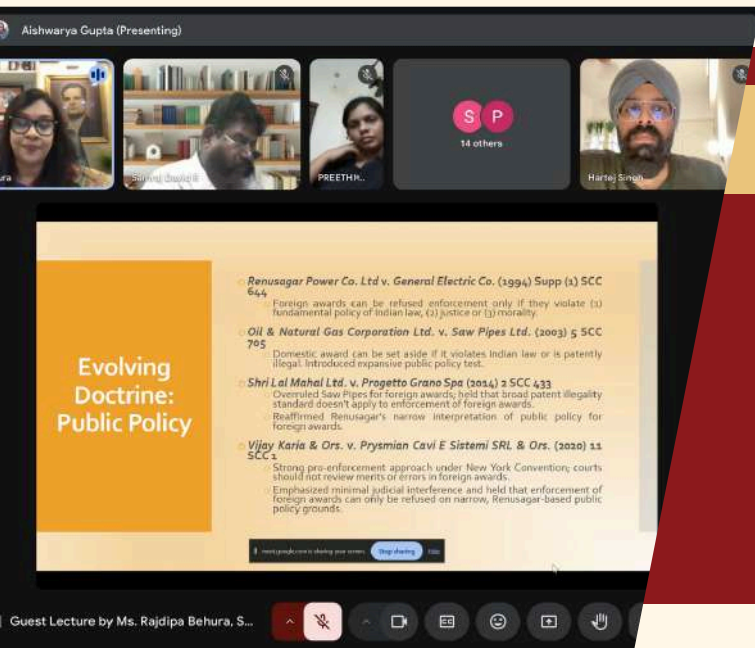
The event also featured thought-provoking talks by Dr. A. Francis Julian, Senior Advocate and Chairperson – VMLS Mentoring Committee, and Advocate Muneeswaran from the Chengalpattu Bar Association. Their insights into legal careers and professional ethics left a lasting impact, reinforcing VMLS's mission to empower the next generation of legal leaders.



"Sattam Pesavom" – A State-Level Legal Oratory Competition for Non-Law College Students

May 25, 2025 | VMLS campus

Vinayaka Mission's Law School, in collaboration with News 7, hosted the Grand Finale of "Sattam Pesavom" on May 15, 2025—a statewide legal oratory competition for non-law students. After zonal rounds across Tamil Nadu, 36 finalists showcased their skills in Tamil and English. Judged by esteemed legal and media professionals, winners received ₹36,000 in cash prizes, Fastrack watches, and bicycles sponsored by Just Buy Cycles. The initiative promoted legal awareness and civic engagement among youth across 38 districts.



Guest Lecture on the Challenges in Enforcing Foreign Awards in India

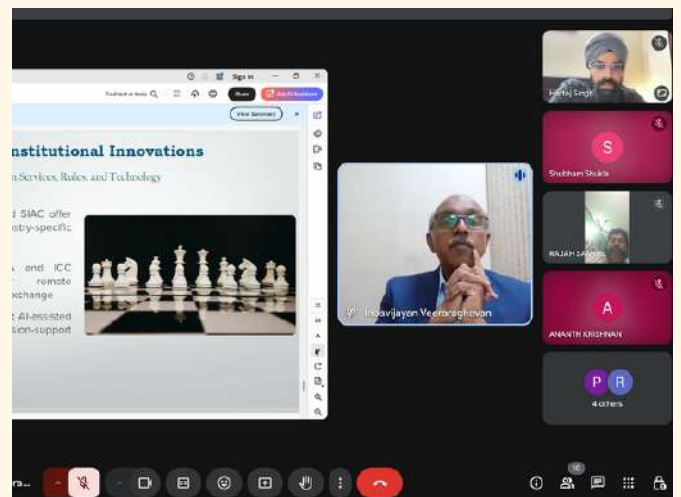
May 07, 2025 | Virtual

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) hosted a guest lecture on "Challenges in Enforcing Foreign Awards in India" by Senior Advocate Ms. Rajdipa Behura. Addressing postgraduate students, she explored key provisions of the Arbitration & Conciliation Act and landmark judgments. Highlighting procedural hurdles and reform needs, she offered practical insights on enforcement trends, including the impact of the India-UAE Bilateral Investment Treaty (2024) and pro-enforcement shifts.

Guest Lecture on "Evolving Role of Arbitral Institutions in International Arbitration"

May 21, 2025 | Virtual

Vinayaka Mission's Law School (VMLS) hosted a guest lecture on "Evolving Role of Arbitral Institutions in International Arbitration" on May 21, 2025, by Mr. Veeraraghavan Inbavijayan, International Arbitrator and Managing Partner at Kove Global LLP. He traced the transformation of arbitral institutions like ICC, LCIA, and SIAC into key global influencers. Topics included digital tools, emergency procedures, ethics, and trends like green arbitration and blockchain. The session provided students with practice-oriented insights into modern international dispute resolution.



Clinical Education In Financial Frauds And White Collar Crimes

Author: Sowmiya Narayan, Assistant Professor of Law



The Area of Financial and white collar crimes is a very niche one and primarily the name and fascination with respect to scams and financial scandals directly attracts the students who choose this subject only due to curiosity. However, the real issue is that the students are not aware that this is a field that is rapidly growing both in terms of law firm practice as well as litigation.

However, at the same time, it is imperative to understand that Financial frauds and white collar crimes is an area of law which needs wider exposure in a practice, apart from merely being theoretical. As it is the case with other law subjects, there is a quintessential need to understand and interpret the law, particularly white collar crimes as there is a lot of difference between practice and theory.

But there are unique challenges when it comes to applying theory to practice. Clinical legal education is very pertinent when it comes to mastering white collar crimes and making a successful career out of it. For example, when it comes to understanding a subject such as money laundering, there is a huge difference between theory and practice, as it takes experience and extensive knowledge to apply principles of money laundering to defend a client or prove a case of tainted money. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that students have to delve into more practical experience. However, despite of efforts laid in by institutions across the Country, there are practical challenges which is faced by different institutions for different reasons.

Clinical legal education can be successfully implemented only through regular court visits and working with an advocate who is highly specialized in the field. One of the main hurdles when it comes to channelizing clinical legal education as far as white collar crimes are concerned is mainly with regards to the limited availability of lawyers and fewer opportunities available for law students who intend to work in such a niche field.

The major issue with white collar crime litigation or corporate law firm is that the opportunities are only available in metropolitan cities and a lot of students who come from underprivileged backgrounds or from smaller towns will not get equal opportunities. All tribunals or law firms are located in major cities and accessibility becomes a major challenge.

Additionally, the major problem is that Clinical legal education is very important for a subject like white collar crimes from a moral perspective. White collar crimes is an area where morality and ethics play a very major role. Even though professional ethics are followed to the letter, sometimes there is an enduring need to make sure that core principles of justice are not negated or followed when taking up cases. Here, mentoring plays a fine role in ensuring that there is not transgression of ethics by young lawyers.

My personal experience has clearly made me realize that mentoring a young lawyer is akin to a sculptor sculpting a sculpture. The way the sculptor molds it will only decide how fine the sculpture is. If a lawyer who is a fresh graduate is not led in the right way by his mentor, he cannot become a good lawyer, particularly a moral person.

In Conclusion, Clinical Legal education is the new order of the day. However, demographic and accessibility challenges

have to be countered by Institutions and Bar councils across the country and newer, effective plans have to be drafted by those in decision making levels to ensure that access is opened up through various mediums. Online internships have slowly begun to emerge. It would benefit the students a lot if more lawyers come forward and offer such online internships.

VMLS has been offering tremendous support in enhancing legal education by giving unconditional assistance to faculty and students alike, by bringing in leading industrial experts from various courts, Tribunals as well as High courts and the Supreme court.

Clinical Legal Education: an answer to marginalised people's call for justice?

Author: Edhaya Chandran, Assistant Professor-Political Science



Clinical legal education is one of the most important innovations introduced in legal education since the introduction of Langdell's case law method in law schools. In a country such as India, which contributes approximately 17.78% to the global population, access to justice is a serious problem that state and private apparatuses are scampering about to find solutions. In a population of about 1.5 billion people, 234 million live in poverty, making India one of the largest contributors to the global poverty index. Above this constructed is the Indian judiciary system, with its own set of challenges, including complicated clerical procedures and red tape. With about a quarter of the population being illiterate, Legal aid becomes an important bridge that connects the underprivileged to the justice delivery system. Clinical legal education pits students in the real world, where students come face to face with stark inequalities in access to justice. They incorporate the central tenet of serving the legal needs of local communities and serve as lower-cost means for rendering legal aid services which would otherwise remain unmet. Legal aid clinics place students in a position where the comforts of classrooms or the artificiality of stimulated moot courts are absent. It trains students to assist low-income individuals and communities.

Clinical legal education helps to ingrain in students an attitude of service. It encourages pro bono work, which has become more rarer in the legal profession. It instills in them the necessary legal skills and the moral strength to stand with the common citizen who had the misfortune of being poor. Apart from the class struggles, India is a society that is deeply divided along the caste and religious lines, a reality that is rarely reflected in a classroom setting. With more interaction with common people, a law student prepare themselves for a journey of justice with several sociological obstacles.

When it comes to the caste system, people at the lower rung, especially the Dalits often suffer with access to justice. Though, there are several legal provisions available to protect them from atrocities, they often lack the monetary and the technical resources to use these provisions properly. This is where the student force in legal education will come into support a system that is crumbling under the burden of overflowing cases, inadequate infrastructure, and issues with transparency. For example, A total of 222,974 cases of atrocities against SCs have been pending since 2020. Out of this large number, just 10,223 (4.58%) were disposed of by the courts in 2021. For cases of atrocities against STs, 35,415 cases have been pending since 2020. Out of them, only 1,961 (5.5%) were disposed of in 2021.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who was a crusader for the cause of dalit emancipation himself gives the ideal archetype of a lawyer. A lawyer is the one, in the imagination of the marginalized communities, is a tireless revolutionary, whose erudite mind, powerful writing, and an ever growing hunger for knowledge had brought in several legislations that protect the marginalised and raise their living standards. A law student, should carry, along with other things, a thinking mind and a heart that beats for the welfare of the people. Clinical legal education emphasises the philosophy of public welfare. It could help create a community of lawyers who would fight for the injustices that are met out to the most powerless people of the society.

In a society defined by acute socio-economic and structural inequalities, clinical legal education emerges not just as a tool for teaching, but as a vehicle for social justice. By closing in the gap between theory and social realities, it empowers future lawyers to become empathetic, socially responsible professionals. Vinayaka Mission's Law School in order to realise this idea of socially conscious lawyers offers, to its 3 year and 5 year law students clinical legal education. More than just training students in the technicalities of the law, we try to cultivate in them a sense of duty towards the most marginalised communities—those whose cries for justice often go unheard in the formal corridors of power. In answering these cries, clinical legal education not only strengthens India's justice delivery system but also lays the foundation for a more equitable and inclusive society.

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VMLS is imparting education to the marginalized students. The institution provides support to their students who can serve at the grassroot level and protect the national interest.

Honorable Justice (Retd.) Dr. B.S. Chauhan,

I'm delighted that the Vinayaka Mission's Law School has placed special emphasis on inclusive education, which is much needed in times of deprived opportunities. This will open a new window for a large number of young Indians.

Honorable Justice (Retd.) S. Muralidhar

Guided by the finest legal minds in the country, VMLS is delivering world-class education to the rural regions of Tamil Nadu, sparking a transformative movement.

Honorable Justice (Retd.) Fakkir Mohamed Ibrahim Kalifulla

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VMLS
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admissions@vmls.edu.in



+91 73582 01234



www.vmls.edu.in