

Event Report

The Litigation Committee of School of Law, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) seeks to promote litigation as an integral part of law and as a career for every aspiring law student. The Committee is devoted to identifying and providing resources and support to students who are aspiring to be litigating lawyers. Tribunals form an integral part of the judicial system in India and the functioning of tribunals impacts every litigating lawyer. In furtherance of the same, the committee organized a Guest Lecture on the topic '**The Compelling Need for Tribunal Reforms in the Indian Judicial System**' to provide students an insight into the nuances of the functioning of tribunals in India. The lecture was organised on 19th September 2018 at Room 911, Central Block from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM. The event was open to all students of School of Law and students were required to register for the same through a google form. The committee received an overwhelming response from the student body and the event was attended by 174 students.

The Guest Speakers for the event were Hon'ble Mr. Justice B S Patil, Former Judge, High Court of Karnataka and Professor K Shivaprasad, Professor of Law, Vivekananda College of Law, Bangalore and Vice President of KSLU Teachers Association. The event was formally commenced by a ceremonious lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries and the faculty coordinators of the Litigation Committee. This was followed by a welcome address that was delivered by the Committee Convenor, Nikhil Chandra R, wherein the speakers for the afternoon were introduced to the audience and were presented with a bouquet of flowers. The welcome address was followed by a reading of the concept note for the Guest Lecture by the faculty coordinator of the Committee, Professor George K Jose. Professor George briefed the audience about the objective behind the topic of the lecture, the case laws that were going to be deliberated upon and the issues that the speakers were going to address.



The Chief Guest for the afternoon, Hon'ble Mr. Justice B S Patil, then proceeded to address the gathering. Justice Patil began by tracing the history of establishment of tribunals in India and enlightened the audience about the existence of tribunals even before the Constitution came into force. He then stressed upon the need for having tribunals that deal with cases on specific areas of law which in fact reduce the burden on regular courts. However, his lordship was of the firm opinion that there does not exist a need for establishing new tribunals. He referred to various judgments of the Supreme Court that deal with the functioning of tribunals and narrated instances from his own experience of having dealt with appeals from tribunals. Justice Patil

also spoke at length about the recent report of the Law Commission of India on the need for reforms in Tribunals. He concluded by saying that the government of the day needed to ensure that existing tribunals function in an efficient manner and are presided over by competent judges



The Guest of Honour, Professor K Shivaprasad, brought an academic perspective to the Guest Lecture. He was critical of the present-day functioning of tribunals and stressed on the need for having judges of high professional competence at the helm of quasi-judicial bodies. Professor Shivaprasad presented various statistics regarding the high rate of pendency of cases despite the existence of tribunals and established that tribunals have contributed to the increase in pendency of cases thereby rendering the object of their establishment futile. He also referred to various judgments of High Courts and the Supreme Court and claimed that since quasi-judicial bodies are not bound by the ordinary rules of procedure, there is a serious need for reforming the system in order to ensure better delivery of justice to the common man.

The speakers then proceeded to have a short question- answer session with the audience which was met with much enthusiasm. Members of the audience raised several thought provoking and important questions, which were answered by the Speakers with much delight. The event was formally concluded with the vote of thanks which was rendered by the Committee Convenor, C K Anisha and the dignitaries were presented with a token of appreciation by Ms. Usha Prakash, faculty coordinator of the Litigation Committee.

