Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to Legal Education  
Annual Conference: Law & Storytelling  
December 7 & 8, 2018, New Delhi

The poet Muriel Rukeyser once said: “The Universe is made of stories, not atoms.” Indeed, stories lie at the very core of our existence. They give meaning to our lives, enrich our cultures and help us make sense of a world that is both complex and uncertain.

Stories play a particularly important role in the law and its development. For the best lawyers are those that tell the best stories; extracting the essence of a client’s case and translating it to a compelling narrative before a judge/jury. Similarly, the best teachers are those that spin technical legal propositions into interesting stories (reverse–engineering a case to show the various human elements that accounted for the ultimate decision that resulted, including the predisposition of a judge). And the best judges are those that can tell the truthful stories from the spins.

As such, story–telling lies at the heart of legal culture. It is with this in mind that we conceptualised this conference. We hope to bring together story tellers from different dimensions of life, including authors, script writers, healers, lawyers etc.

There’s another reason we’re doing this. We aim to make CHAMPS out of our IDIA scholars: lawyers who are Creative, Holistic, Altruistic and Maverick Problem Solvers. They cannot be any of the above without being effective story tellers (and listeners).

More importantly, diversity and inclusion lie at the very core of IDIA. In a world inhabited by those with different world views, it is stories that help us arrive at our own version of the truth and encourage a more pluralistic/diverse discourse. We “exclude” because we do not bother to hear the story of the “other”.

All in all, we promise to offer you a fun day of story–telling. A tall tale of sorts! So do come and join us.
The Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access to Legal Education project is a nation-wide movement to empower underprivileged communities by creating top quality lawyers from within. Founded by legal academic, Dr. Shamnad Basheer, it runs on the backbone of more than 500 passionate student volunteers spread across India. IDIA identifies underprivileged students with an aptitude for law and trains them for law entrance exams over a 1-2 year period. In 7 years, more than 120 students trained by IDIA have gained admission to leading law schools. IDIA not only enables access to legal education, it also fosters diversity at the leading law schools and enriches the very process of legal education.

Please RSVP to info@idialaw.com if you're interested in attending.

To cover our costs and raise money for our scholars, we are charging INR 3000/- for this event. Payment options available at https://idialaw.com/support-idia

Payment optional for existing IDIA donors/partner institutions. Patrons can contribute more to support the legal education of underprivileged scholars at IDIA.
1. Registration (9.30 am onwards)

2. Welcome (10 – 10.10 am)
Prof MP Singh (IDIA Trustee and Former Vice Chancellor, NUJS)
Prof Manoj Kumar Sinha (Director, ILI and Chief Partner, IDIA Conference)
Abhimanyu Bhandari (Chief Patron of IDIA Conference)

3. Introduction to IDIA and Conference theme: Prof Shamnad Basheer
The Idea Behind IDIA’s Story: Donaghue vs Stevenson and the “Case Plus” Method (10.10 -10.40 am)

4. Keynote address: Justice DY Chandrachud, Supreme Court of India
The ‘Narrative’ of Justice: (10.40 to 11.20 am [including Q/A])

5. IDIA Stories from Scholars: 11.20-12.30

6. Tea Break: 12.30-12.45

7. Second Keynote Address: Javed Akhtar, Chairman IPRS and Lyricist/Script Writer
“How to tell a Tale” (12.45 to 1.30 pm)

8. Lunch: 1.30 pm onwards

9. Panel 1: Storytelling in the Law (2.30 – 4.00 pm)
Justice Srikrishna, Former Supreme Court Judge
Justice Gita Mittal, Chief Justice, J&K High Court
Amarjit Singh Chandok, Senior Advocate & Former Additional Solicitor General of India
Rajiv Luthra, Managing Partner, L &L
Shyam Diwan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court

10. Tea Break: 4.00 to 4.15 pm

11. Panel 2: Storytelling & Justice (4.15 – 5.45 pm)
Prof Moolchand Sharma, Former Dean of DU law faculty
Carl Malamud, Founder, Public Resource
Maja Daruwala, Exe Director, CHRI (TBC)
Prof Nandini Sundar, Delhi School of Economics
Simi Srivastava, Founder Director, Kathashala

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