

SBA – An overview

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“We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, others judge us by what we have done.”

— LONG FELLOW

Despite being in its incipient stages the Student Bar Association launched itself with zest and commitment towards its quest for excellence. The SBA provides various fora for the students to cultivate and improve their talents. Through its numerous societies and committees, weekly programmes such as debates, moot court competitions, quizzes, Just-a-Minute, cultural events and sports events are organised. However, besides these activities the SBA organised a number of symposia, arranged for guest speakers and even undertook an educational excursion to Goa.

The first major event for the Association was a symposium on “The legal profession at the turn of the Century” held on September 10, 1988. A distinguished set of

panelists, viz., Dr. N. R. Madhava Menon, Mr. V. R. Reddy, Mr. A. N. Jayaram, Mr. R. Narasimha Murthy, Mr. Rajendra Singh and Mr. Ram Jethmalani addressed the gathering of students, guests and press. Miss M. G. Poojitha was the student speaker at the symposium. The symposium threw light on some of the problems young lawyers face when they enter the profession and, more importantly, some anomalies which are prevalent at all levels of the legal profession.

On September 3rd 1988 the SBA was honoured to have the presence of Mr. N. D. V. Bhat, Law Secretary, Karnataka. Mr. Bhat, an advocate and former Judge with nearly thirty years of experience, gave sound advice on the practical aspects of the legal practice and stressed on the values of the ideal lawyers.

In the beginning of the Second Trimester from November 4-9, the SBA arranged an excursion to Goa.

On November 26th, the Association celebrated Law Day with a symposium on "Four decades of India's Constitution—from Freedom to where?" The student perspective of Law Day was presented by Miss Reena Patel and Mr. G. Natraj. Other panelists were Hon'ble Smt. Margaret Alva, Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer and Mr. K. K. Venugopal. It was stressed that if the constitution was something to be more than a paper document, the judiciary must breathe meaning and force into it by doing away with endemic delays which plague the system and the disease of 'appellaticitis', and must adopt a process of interpretative humanism rather than its traditional erudition and professional importability and strict adherence to cold neutrality and sphinx-like aloofness.

Mr. V. Siddhartachary, I.F.S. (Retd.) a distinguished diplomat visited the campus on November and spoke on "Law and the Peoples" while criticizing the non-applicability of many Indian Laws due to the social nearsightedness. He educated his audience on the legal systems in China, Germany and England.

The SBA observed Human Rights Day on December 10th with a small scale symposium. The guest speaker for the occasion,

Mrs. Corinne Kumar D'Souza, presented a critique on Human Rights as enshrined in the U.N. Declaration. She also discussed aspects of the Kaiga Nuclear Plant, a project she is actively agitating against. Mr. Pradeep S. Gill and Miss Minakshi Raghavan spoke on the conditions of pavement dwellers and child labourers respectively. Prof. R. Muralidharan discussed 'Human Rights in the Perspective of International Law'.

The SBA has ambitious plans for the future. Presently it is planning a five day long programme in the third week of January to celebrate "University week". The programme includes cultural items, an inter collegiate debate and quiz, the release of the Student Advocate Magazine, the annual prize distribution and a national debate on 'Democratic Decentralisation' which will be inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India.

As we look ahead into the future to bring forth the change there are moments when one has to stop; look back and take stocks of the achievements and lapses; of deeds done and undone; of success and frustration; occasions to smile and cry out in anguish. That in brief is the experience of the Student Bar Association.