

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

## Empowering youth through excellence: yearly achievements

















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# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER TRUSTEE



As we delve into the pages of our inaugural annual report for the LAW Foundation, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the journey we've embarked upon. Our vision to enrich the lives of law students in Jammu and Kashmir has not only materialized but has flourished beyond our wildest dreams.

Reflecting on the past couple of years, it's evident that our collective efforts, fueled by passion and dedication, have propelled us forward. The milestones we've achieved and the impact we've made stand as a testament to the unwavering commitment of our team and supporters.

As we transition into our third year, I am thrilled to announce that our focus extends beyond academic support. In addition to our core mission, we are now actively engaged in fostering skill development and promoting mental health awareness. These endeavors align seamlessly with our overarching goal of empowering individuals to thrive in both their academic and personal pursuits.

Looking ahead, I am filled with anticipation for the opportunities and challenges that await us. With your continued support and enthusiasm, I am confident that we will continue to break barriers and create meaningful change in the lives of those we serve.

To our steadfast supporters, the legal community, and our beneficiaries, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your belief in our vision and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in shaping the success of the LAW Foundation.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey, and here's to many more years of impact and growth.

Warmest Regards,

Talla Jalani

Talha Salaria





# MISSION

# Nurturing disadvantaged students in conflict zones to become world class lawyers.

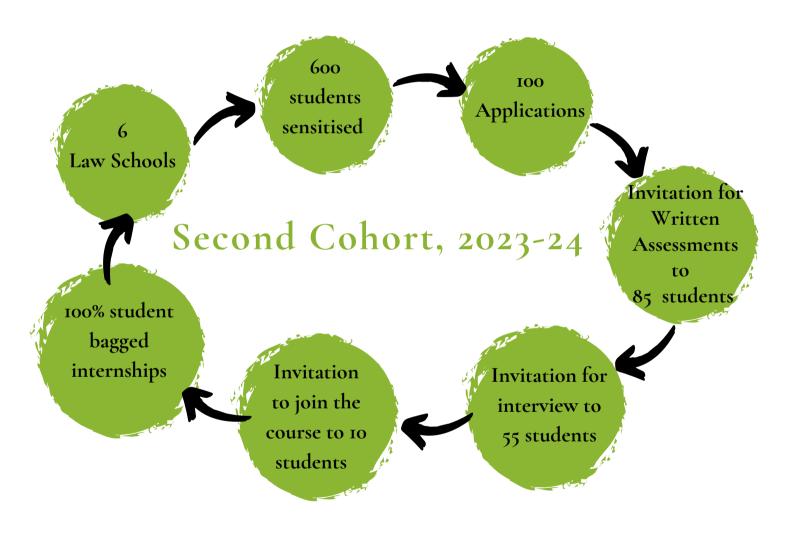
**Problem Statement:** Youth in conflict zones suffer overwhelming and peculiar challenges. Some of these challenges include a lack of infrastructure and networking opportunities; a lack of exposure; robust private sector opportunities; and high levels of mental health-related issues such as trauma, depression, stress, and anxiety.

*Our Solution:* At LAW Foundation, the youth participate in a program focusing on technical learning, career guidance, soft skills training, and mental health support. Students are provided access to internships after considering the institutions where they will strive. A successful internship significantly increases their chances of getting a job.





# THE PREMISE



## The Cohort of 2023-24





# THE PREMISE

## Narrow entry gate || Deeper Impact

We are developing a center of excellence for leadership. We choose only on the basis of merit and follow a stringent process which includes written assessment and personal interviews.





# GLIMPSES OF LAST YEAR



Sensitisation Program at Kashmir University



Sensitisation Program at Kashmir Law College



Sensitisation Program at Central University Kashmir



Online Assessment



The Cohort of 2023-24



#### CLASSES PERSUANT TO COMMENCEMENT OF FELLOWSHIP



Bhavana Chakragiri, Faculty



Bhavin Patel, Faculty



Classes held at the Center





LAUNCH OF MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



MENTOR Spotlight

## PRASHANTH SABESHAN

Prashanth Sabeshan, an alumnus of NLSIU, Bangalore and Partner at Dentons Link Legal, has nearly 25 years of experience with Indian and global law firms including Amarchand & Mangaldas, Herbert Smith Freehills and AZB & Partners





#### **FUN TIMES**



Hiking Trip with Students



Tea Break



Group Discussion



Celebrating Birthdays



Lunch Treat



Photoshoot





## INCREASING AWARENESS WITH SESSIONS ON "CAREER OPTIONS IN LAW"



Central University



Delhi Public School



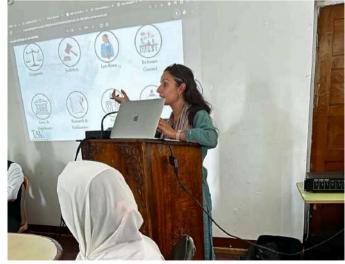
KCEF,Pulawama



KCEF,Pulawama



Delhi Public School



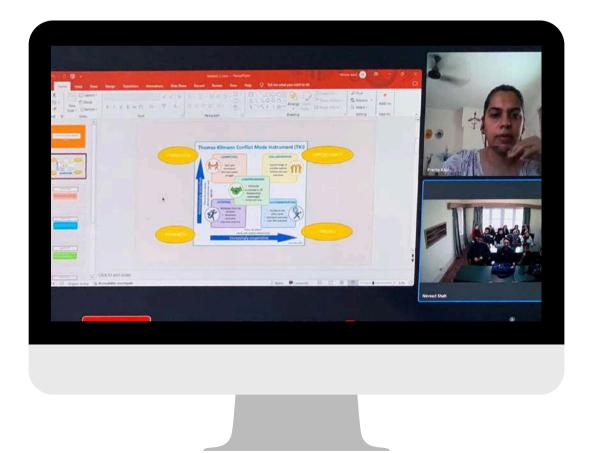
KCEF,Pulawama



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#### INTRODUCTION OF LINGUISTIC PROFICIENCY CLASSES

We introduced Prerana as one of our regular faculty, to impart advanced English comprehension, writing and speaking skills to the students. The use of clear, simple and succinct language is greatly valued in all spheres of life. As lawyers, client care is fundamental and possessing excellent communication skills goes a long way in communicating ideas and advice to clients, in making arguments and drafting documentation.







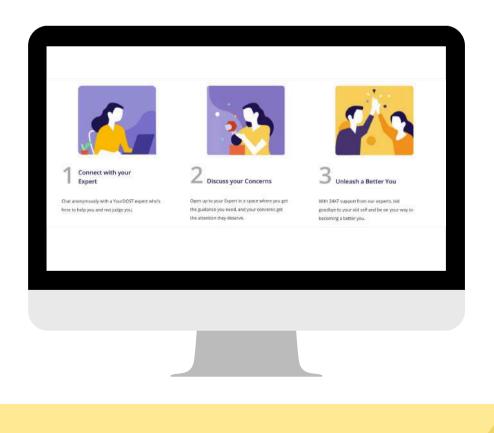
#### INTRODUCTION OF 24\*7 HELPLINE FOR OUR STUDENTS

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new initiative: the 24<sup>\*</sup>7 Helpline for Mental Health Support, exclusively dedicated to our students' well-being. In recognition of the challenges and pressures that students often face, we believe it is imperative to provide accessible and reliable support services at all times.

This helpline is a safe space where students can seek guidance, express concerns, and receive confidential support from trained professionals, on an anonymous basis. Whether it's coping with academic stress, navigating personal challenges, or simply needing someone to talk to, our helpline is here to listen and offer assistance round the clock.

At LAW Foundation, we prioritize the mental health and overall well-being of our students. We understand that seeking help can be daunting, which is why we've ensured that this helpline offers a judgment-free and supportive environment for all students in need.

We encourage every student to take advantage of this invaluable resource and reach out whenever they feel overwhelmed or in distress. Together, let's prioritize mental health and foster a caring and supportive community within our campus.





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#### INTRODUCTION OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

At the LAW Foundation, we are committed to fostering empowerment through skill development. Our comprehensive programs are designed to equip individuals with the tools they need to succeed in today's competitive world. Through hands-on training, personalized guidance, and access to industry expertise, we empower our participants to unlock their full potential and pursue fulfilling career opportunities.

Our competency workshops consisted of :

- Know Yourself: Self-awareness/ Self-belief/ Life vision
- **Prepare Yourself:** Business communication (Verbal/Written)/ Problem Solving/Business ethics. / Tech tools/Time management / Elevator pitch.
- Prove Yourself: Resume and interviewing skills/ Networking

Learning	Participants should learn techniques to be self-aware professional, communicate effectively, create impactfur resumes, and perfect interviewing skills
Behaviour	Participants should apply learning by showing an improvement in their skills, mind-set and behaviour
Results	Law Foundation JK should feel an impact in the institution and student performance, placement rates and a better overall performance over time



## A SUCCESSFUL CONVOCATION DAY WHERE OUR CHIEF GUEST HONOURABLE JUSTICE (RETD) SANJAY KISHAN KAUL FACILITATED OUR STUDENTS







#### 100 % INTERNSHIPS SECURED



Asif Muzaffar Mahindra & Mahindra, Mumbai



Osheeba Bashir L&S, Delhi



Bazilla Miraj Mahindra & Mahindra, Mumbai



Ibtisam Gani BTG Legal Delhi



Bashash Mehmood Mahindra & Mahindra, Mumbai



Simrah Khan Diageo, Bangalore



Mehvish Iqbal Mahindra & Mahindra, Mumbai



Kamran Bhat Integreon, Delhi



Syed Yussra PLR Chambers, Delhi



Yesrub Shabir Trilegal, Delhi



# **STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES**

#### **TESTIMONIALS OF STUDENTS**

During the course of this internship my most important accomplishment is that I have gained a lot of self confidence, consistency and self-belief.

- SYED YUSSRA





"This fellowship helped me tremendously to achieve that confidence that many people lack even after few years of work experience. With CareerLab we learned about the journey's of many top lawyers of India, their stories and how they achieved all the milestones in their lives. We can use such experience to make our professional life more enriching for us. **-KAMRAN BHAT** 

This fellowship has been very important to me. During the fellowship, I learned that law is not only what is written in books but much more than that. The practical skills like drafting of contracts, negotiations etc that were taught during the classes are never taught in law schools. In law school we only see theory and no practical application. Before the fellowship, I could only think that litigation is the only choice but now I realise how many career options are there in law.



-IBTISAM GANI



"If I look back at the person who I was before joining this Fellowship and who I am right now, I think there is a 180 degree shift in me. Before this, I wasn't confident enough, I did not know how to research and basically lacked the basic skills a law student must have. Now I know how to research, how to draft agreements, how to manage my time, how to use softwares like MS Office and a lot of things that you need to have a good shot at getting jobs in the legal field.



#### -BASHASH MAHMOOD



By being the part of this Fellowship I was able to get an internship at the legal department of Mahindra & Mahindra. (a leading company in the Indian automobile industry). Apart from this, it facilitated my comprehension of the basic facets of corporate and commercial laws.

#### -ASIF MUZAFFAR SHAH

"Initially I just knew that it was something new. I had not had many opportunities to avail of, when I heard about the LAW Foundation, so I just wanted to give it a try since I already had so many missed opportunities in my regret list. I was always interests in the corporate field. So, LAW Foundation was a stepping stone for me to achieve the prerequisite qualities for the corporate world. I had zero knowledge of the agreement drafting, though I had read about the same during my degree. LAW Foundation gave me a practical aspect to my law degree which was much needed.



-YESRUB SHABIR





#### PARENT REFLECTIONS

I express my gratitude to the LAW Foundation and Ms. Talha Salaria for this opportunity. It has empowered my son in development of both his personal and professional growth. His internship with Mahindra & Mahindra in Mumbai was also a pivotal moment as I have observed some positive changes in his attitude towards his career. The LAW Foundation's commitment to nurturing talent is commendable. Thank you for believing in Bashash's potential.



Mahmood Ahmad Wani Father of our student Bashash Mehmood



**Shabeer Ahmad Zahri** Father of our student Yesrub Zahri

LAW Foundation has had a profoundly positive impact on my daughter's educational and professional development. The support and guidance provided by the experts from the corporate industry is invaluable, especially for students who may lack direction. It was encouraging to listen to the Chief Guest's speech at the convocation which emphasized the importance of a well-rounded education in the legal profession. To all parents I would like to say that your openness to change and support for choices of children speaks volumes about your dedication as parents and you should believe in the choices of your children.

The convocation was a heart warming festive affair where the students of Cohort 2 were celebrated. The presence of Justice Sanjay Kishan Koul made the event one of its kind. The whole course was a life changer for my daughter. She transformed from an ordinary person to a competent lawyer.

> **Shaheena Bashir** Mother of our student, Osheeba Bashir



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Watching my son blossom from a shy individual to a confident, outspoken person through his participation in the LAW Foundation program fills my heart with pride. Seeing him receive recognition for his hard work and dedication at the certificate distribution convocation is a testament to his growth and the transformative power of education and mentorship.





**Muzaffar Ahmad Shah** Father of our student Asif Muzaffar Shah

**Farooq Ahmad Bhat** Father of our student, Kamran Farooq Bhat

The Law Foundation course, run by Miss Talha Salaria, is a courteous act of giving back to the community. It is aimed to create opportunities for ambitious young law students in our state. Rather than focusing only on the technical aspects, I would emphasize the fact that she was training the students for the real world, where professionalism in terms of delivery, management, contribution, and transparency is highly valued. Miss Salaria has been successful in inculcating these values in their mindsets. After completing this course, I have noticed an improved sense of seriousness in my son's approach to his career. I thank Miss Salaria for what she is doing for the students of our state. I consider it as "Ijtemai Khidmat".

"This course was an overall development process for my ward and the recognition of their hardwork through the convocation ceremony makes them feel seen, appreciated and dream even bigger"

> **Syed Mukhtar Ahmad** Father of our student, Syed Yussra





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#### **INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**

- Mehvish did all the assignments with dedication. She was sincere in her work.
- **Syed Yussra** was diligent with all the work and completed all the research and drafting tasks assigned to her punctually.
- Kamran was a sincere and very focused intern. He already had a knowledge of basics of contracts and was able to apply that knowledge in the contracts that were provided to him. He ensured to deliver the work on time and was asking questions when there was any doubt which we always welcome and appreciate. Overall, he was a good resource to work with and I wish him all the luck and success!
- **Ibtisam** demonstrated a strong work ethic and completed her assignments with sincerity.She attended the office and diligently delivered the work she was assigned to.We believe with her consistency in learning, she can be a good legal resource for an organisation She delivered her end-of-internship presentation with confidence. She also delivered a few well-drafted notes. We wish her the very best in her endeavours.



# **CELEBRATING SUCCESS!**

# JOBS SECURED

Ms. Syed Umi Fatima from our inaugural cohort has secured an associate position at Jerome Merchant + Partners in Mumbai. She is poised to embark on a journey of growth and learning in the dynamic field of law.



**Ms. Urba Farash** from our inaugural cohort, is now proudly employed as a Legal Analyst at prestigious Microland, Bangalore, a [multi billion dollar company that provides software infrastructure services.



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# LAW FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

#### NEW ADVISORS ON OUR ADVISORY BOARD



Anuja is a professional investor philanthropic working with funders and entrepreneurs in education & employability over the last twenty years to increase the scale and impact of social enterprise through a combination of private sector-style funding, policy & advocacy support, and developing an ecosystem of entrepreneurs.

> **Anuja Master Bose** Philanthropy Strategy Advisor, Bangalore

Professor Krishnan, a revered academic and prolific author, excels in strategy, innovation, and education, recognized among Thinkers50 India's influential thinkers in management. With a rich entrepreneurial background, he's co-founded and led startups, boasting alma maters such as IIT Kanpur, Stanford University, and IIM Ahmedabad.

**Rishikesha T. Krishnan** Director, IIM Bangalore





Sashi Rajamani is currently a Social Venture Investor and advisor to nonprofit organisations. She has more than fifteen years experience in the ventures space of social building and management across venture investing, capability impact

**Sashi Rajamani** SVP Chairperson, Bengaluru Chapter



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#### **OUR FIRST ADVISOR**



**Jyoti Sagar** Founder & Chairman Emeritus, JSA

Mr. Sagar, a stalwart in the legal community, is the Founder & Chairman Emeritus of JSA, a leading law firm in India. He serves them as a guide and mentor. He co-founded and is the Managing Partner of K&S Partners, a firm that specialises in IP laws. Mr. Sagar serves as a senior honorary member of various industry bodies. He is the Associate President of the Society of Indian Law Firms and a member of the executive committee of the Bar Association of India. He is also on the board of governors of The Scindia School, Gwalior. One role very close to his heart is being the Trustee of Genesis Foundation, which provides assistance to orphaned and underprivileged children in the areas of healthcare and education.





#### **OUR TRUSTEES**



Bharati Jacob, Founder-Partner of Seedfund in Bangalore, boasts 24+ years of venture investing, marketing, and financial services expertise. She kickstarted her investing journey with Infinity Venture Fund in 2000, leading investments in notable firms like EduSports and Vaatsalya. Formerly heading Lazard's South India investment bank, Bharati holds degrees from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, XLRI, and University of Delhi.

**Bharati Jacob** Co Founder, Seedfund

Talha, Founder Trustee of the LAW Foundation, hails from Kashmir. With over 20 years of corporate law experience, she's an independent director at JM Financial Products Limited and actively engages with the International Bar Association. Talha's journey includes leadership roles at ITech Law Association and spearheading Lawyers At Work, a pioneering women-led law firm. Graduating from National Law School India University, her commitment extends to philanthropy through partnerships with Social Venture Partners.



**Talha Salaria** Founder, Lawyers At Work



**Probir Roy Chowdhury** Equity Partner, JSA



Probir, Equity Partner at JSA, India's premier law firm, brings expertise since 2004 in Corporate Commercial, Venture/Private Equity, and IT/FinTech. Notable for his work on payment systems like UPI, he's recognized as a Next Generation Lawyer for TMT by Legal 500 and ranked by RSG ratings.



#### **OUR FACULTY**

With a wealth of experience in law, tech, and education, Bhavin's co-founding ventures like LST and Rainmaker reflect his expertise. His teaching background at esteemed institutions suggests he could excel as a mentor or educator in privacy laws and startup scaling.

#### **Bhavin Patel**





Bhavana, a seasoned company secretary and lawyer, specializes in regulatory compliance concerning company and foreign exchange laws. As the founder of B.C. and Associates, she's a rank holder member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, formerly teaching and speaking at the Bangalore Chapter of ICSI, with prior affiliations at Servitus Corporate Services Private Limited and Definedcrowd Technologies India Private Limited.

#### Bhavana Chakragiri





#### **OUR PARTNERS**

# Probono Vanuza









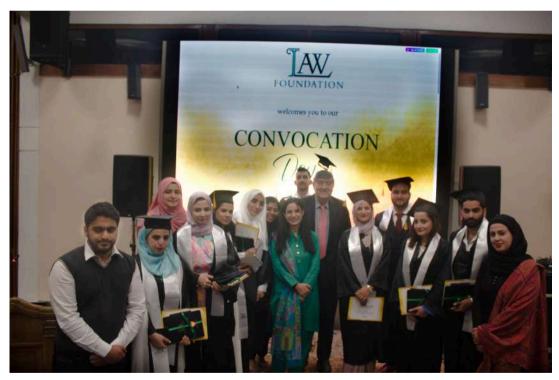
# IN THE NEWS

# NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

# BariBench

# <u>Laws students felicitated at LAW Foundation event attended</u> <u>by retired Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul</u>

The LAW Foundation is a non-profitable organisation that offers fellowship and training opportunities for law students.



Former Supreme Court judge, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul recently presided over as the Chief Guest for a convocation event held at SKICC, Srinagar by the Lawyers At Work (LAW) Foundation to commemorate the completion of training and internships of students at multinational companies and law firms in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Click here to read the full article: <u>https://www.barandbench.com/news/laws-students-law-foundation-convocation-retired-justice-sanjay-kishan-kaul</u>





### LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE

# Rising<mark>Kashmir</mark>













# THE BETTER KASHMIR













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# GRATITUDE

#### A heartfelt thank you to all our stakeholders who supported us

On behalf of the entire team at the LAW Foundation, we are writing to express our profound gratitude for your generous support towards the LAW Foundation's mission. Your contributions are invaluable in enabling us to continue providing essential training and opportunities to disadvantaged students living in conflict-affected areas. Your commitment to our cause serves as a beacon of hope for these students, many of whom have faced unimaginable challenges due to the circumstances of conflict. Through your support, we are able to equip them with the tools, skills, and resources necessary to break the cycle of disadvantage and realize their full potential.

Beyond the immediate impact on individual students, your generosity also plays a crucial role in fostering empowerment and hope within communities deeply affected by conflict. By investing in education and skill-building initiatives, we aim not only to transform lives but also to contribute to the long-term stability and prosperity of these regions.

We want to assure you that your contribution will leave a lasting impact on the lives of countless students, empowering them to build brighter futures for themselves and their communities. Your belief in our mission serves as a constant inspiration for us to redouble our efforts and continue striving for positive change in the world.

Once again, we extend our sincerest gratitude for your kindness, generosity, and unwavering support. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most.

With deepest appreciation, Team LAW Foundation









# MORE ABOUT US



Phone +**91 99068 48485** 



LinkedIn /Law Foundation



Email contact@lawfoundationjk.org



Office Address Srinagar and Bengaluru



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