



National Law University Odisha



CONSTITUTIONAL LAW SOCIETY

is organising

3RD NLUO-CLS ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION





Overview

About the Institution

National Law University Odisha, Cuttack was established by Act 4 of 2008 by the Odisha State Legislature keeping in mind an enunciated vision of advancement of learning, teaching, research, diffusion of knowledge in the field of law and catering to the needs of society by developing the professional skills of those intending to take up the professions of Advocacy, Judicial Services, Legal services, and so on. National Law University, Odisha is committed to providing an atmosphere in which academic excellence is the foremost priority for students. Along the lines of this vision, NLUO has significantly catered to the needs of the research in various legal fields by paving way for various dedicated research centres and societies. Such endeavours enable students to pursue individual interests and take part in various literary and recreational activities throughout the academic year.

The Constitutional Law Society is one of such initiatives of NLUO which aims at promoting study, research, and informed deliberation in the field of Constitutional Laws, and its allied subjects with a policy and application-oriented purpose.



Event Details

The 3rd NLUO-CLS Essay Writing Competition invites participation from all students of law in the form of essays containing deliberations over various topics of contemporary relevance.

Mode

The competition shall be conducted in **Online** mode.

Eligibility

- Students pursuing Five-Year/Three-Year LLB Discipline
- Students pursuing One-Year/Two-Year LLM Discipline
- Students pursuing any other undergraduate or postgraduate law degree from any recognized university

Theme for the Essays

The theme for the event has been underlined below. Participants are encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of the same through short and succinct essays according to the submission guidelines. However, the participants shall note that the given sub-themes are completely indicative and *not* mandatory. Participants are free to write on any other topic falling within the ambit of the main theme.



Essay Theme

Constitutional Rights: Citizenship Assurances and the Rights Beyond

Citizenship is the legal status of membership to a state. This legal status carries with it rights and responsibilities. One's membership to a certain state determines the kind of life they would enjoy, including their political life and rights. The notion of citizenship has elevated people from subjects of the state to empowered participants of the polity. While some constitutions provide certain rights universally- to both citizens and so-called aliens, many other rights are exclusively reserved for citizens. However, disenfranchisement and apartheid are also often used as instruments of discrimination even amongst citizens. The question of rights of individuals are complicated further by the concept of international human rights, ongoing ethnic cleansing in various parts of the world and, the global refugee crisis.



Sub-Themes

- a. Legal Citizenship v. Lived Belongingness
- b. Digital Citizenship and Data Privacy
- c. Birthright Privilege and Statelessness
- d. Electoral Roll Revision: An exercise in exclusion?
- e. OCI & POI Status and the National Sports Policy 2025
- f. Non-refoulment v. Deportation
- g. Basic Needs Approach: The Reach of Welfare Schemes
- h. Sovereign v Due Process: The Expulsion of Immigrants
- i. Public Security and the Deprivation of Liberties
- j. Ethnic Cleaning: Within and Beyond borders



Competition Guidelines

General

- Submissions shall be made in **.doc/.docx** format (Word 2007 or 2010 or 2013).
- All submissions are to be made via google form provided. (Note: write your name and co-author's name as the filename. Example: John Davidson.docx or John Davidson, Jay David.docx)
- The google form that will be used for submission will ask for the following information. Please ensure that the same contact details are used for submission and within the submitted manuscript: Name, Email, Contact Number(s).
- **No indication to the Author (s) identity should exist within the submitted manuscript. Such a breach will lead to outright rejection of the submission.**
- Manuscript word limit: 1500-2500 (excluding endnotes and abstract)
- Abstract of 50-100 words (not inclusive within the total word count) must be at the top of the manuscript.
- Any uniform method of end-noting may be used.
- Submission date: on or before **15th November, 2025** ~~10th November, 2025.~~
- Your essay should be error-free: grammar, spelling, punctuation etc.
– your paper must be original and plagiarism free. **Use of AI is strictly prohibited.**



Competition Guidelines

Formatting

- Font style: **Times New Roman**
- Size: 12
- Line spacing: 1.5
- All text should be **justified**.

Note:

Manuscripts not in conformity with these guidelines may be rejected at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board reserves the right to send the manuscripts back to the authors for any modification(s) at any stage, in the event of non-conformity with any of the submission guidelines. The Editorial Board may, in its absolute discretion, waive any of the above rules or amend the process. In case of any dispute or ambiguity, the decision of the Editorial Board shall be final and binding.



Process of Evaluation

- All the essays will go through a double-blind peer-review process
- The review shall be in two stages:
- Technical Review: The article shall be checked for plagiarism and AI-usage along with language and grammar.
- Content Review: Review on whether it fulfills criteria of contemporariness, relevance, novelty.
- It is recommended that authors visit the [CLS-NLUO Blog](#) to get a better understanding on the type of submissions that are approved by the Editorial Board.

Manuscripts not in conformity with these guidelines may be rejected at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board reserves the right to send the manuscripts back to the authors for any modification(s) at any stage, in the event of non-conformity with any of the submission guidelines.

The Editorial Board may, in its absolute discretion, waive any of the above rules or amend the process. In case of any dispute or ambiguity, the decision of the Editorial Board shall be final and binding.



Manuscript Evaluation Criteria

1. Grammar and Language

- The language of the manuscript must be crisp and concise. A direct statement or argument would be preferred over an indirect one and minimum usage of passive voice is recommended. Author(s) must be familiar with the usage of a term used in the manuscript. The author(s) may be marked down for unnecessary repetition, long-winded sentences and irrelevant rhetoric.

2. Structure and Logical Coherence

- The manuscript must be logically sound and appropriate for the objective it seeks to achieve. Author(s) may be marked down for arguments based on incorrect premises or presumptions, the lack of a clear structure or the lack of a proper logical flow.

3. Contribution to Existing Literature

- If the topic of the manuscript is one which has been written about extensively in the past, the author(s) must consider what the contribution of the manuscript to the discussion is. Merely quoting and/or summarising precedents would be inadequate. On the other hand, writing in a more innovative manner and providing a novel explanation/interpretation of a concept would be appreciated.



Manuscript Evaluation Criteria

4. Contemporary Relevance

Manuscripts are expected to include recent developments on the topic. A manuscript is considered to possess contemporary relevance when it deals with trending societal issues and legal issues that have not been given the attention they deserve. The topic may also be one that has faded from public memory but has reemerged for some reason. The relevance of the particular topic should be highlighted by the author(s) in the introduction.

5. Referencing and Research

The manuscript must reflect substantial and not just superficial research. The author needs to be aware of what citation is required in the circumstances, when to cite (and when not to cite) and the relevance of that citation.



Process of Registration

- Registration to be done via this form by the 12th of November, 2025 ~~31st of October, 2025~~.
- Registration fee (non-refundable) is as follows for the participants:

NLUO Students:

- a. Single Authorship: ₹150
- b. Co-Authorship: ₹250

Non- NLUO Students

- a. Single Authorship: ₹200
- b. Co-Authorship: ₹300

- All participants are requested to pay the registration fee in the following way:
- Click on the URL- <https://www.onlinesbi.sbi/sbicollect/icollecthome.htm>
- Click on Educational Institutes on the SBI Collect Home Page .
- In the search bar, type “NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA” and select the same from the drop-down menu.
- Select Payment Category “Registration for Seminar and Events”.
Furnish required details and make payment.
- Download the SBI Collect Receipt.
- After payment, kindly fill this google form and register for the event.



Process of Submission

- Submission must be done via [this form](#) by the 15th November, 2025 ~~10th November, 2025~~.
- Please ensure that details provided in the registration form is same as in the submission form.



Prizes

Winners

₹5,000 Cash Prize + Publication in CLS Blog (After Incorporating Reviewer Comments) + Certificate

Runners-Up

₹3,000 Cash Prize + Publication in CLS Blog (After Incorporating Reviewer Comments) + Certificate

Second Runners-Up

₹1,500 Cash Prize + Publication in CLS Blog (After Incorporating Reviewer Comments) + Certificate

Participants

A Certificate of Participation shall be awarded to all the participants



Constitutional Law Society

Contact

Email ID: editorial.cls@nluo.ac.in

Phone: +91 85828 02714

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