



PRO BONO CLUB

probonoclub@nluo.ac.in

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Community Care Legal Assistance (CCLA) Program – Visit to Balmikinagar (Munda Sahi) and Brajabeharipur

Date: 15th August 2024

Event head (faculty in charge): Ms Suryasmita Parida and Mr. M Vijay Bhaskar

The Pro Bono Club of NLUO inaugurated its *Community Care Legal Assistance (CCLA)* program with a visit to Balmikinagar (Munda Sahi) and Brajabeharipur as a part of outside campus reach programme. This initiative aimed to enhance legal literacy and extend grassroots legal support to marginalized communities. The team comprising faculty members, Pro Bono Associates, and Co-opts, which about a team of 12 members conducted interactive awareness sessions focusing on fundamental legal rights, access to justice mechanisms, and government welfare schemes. Through active engagement, the Club emphasized the importance of legal empowerment as a means of fostering social justice. The initiative marked the beginning of the Club's year-long commitment to community-oriented legal outreach.

2. Visit under CCLA Initiative – Kutumb Adopted Village (Baba Tilka Nagar)

Date: 29th August 2024

Event head (faculty in charge): Ms Suryasmita Parida and Mr. M Vijay Bhaskar

Continuing its outside campus community engagement efforts, the Pro Bono Club undertook its third visit to the Kutumb adopted village, Baba Tilka Nagar, under the *CCLA program*. This visit primarily focused on introducing and demonstrating the Nyaya Bandhu App, a government-backed initiative connecting individuals in need with free legal aid providers. The Club members provided: A detailed explanation of the purpose and features of the app, Step-by-step guidance on downloading, registering, and setting up user profiles, Instructions on how to seek legal assistance through the platform. These former steps were guided by the coordinators of the club and about 12 members along with co-opts participated in this initiative. The session empowered community members with a practical tool for accessing legal help and encouraged



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self-reliance in addressing legal challenges. The interactive approach ensured that participants could easily navigate the app and understood its benefits in real-life situations.

3. Legal Awareness Session for NLUO Support Staff (Collaboration with IDIA Odisha Chapter & Centre for Mediation and Negotiation)

Date: 29th September 2024

Event head (faculty in charge): Ms Suryasmita Parida and Mr. M Vijay Bhaskar

The Pro Bono Club, in collaboration with the IDIA Odisha Chapter and the Centre for Mediation and Negotiation, NLUO, which are two meritorious centres in the campus of NLUO, organized a legal awareness and empowerment session targeting the '*mausis*' (*support staff*) and *campus guards* of NLUO. The session focused on educating these essential members of the university community about their basic legal rights, workplace protections, and avenues for free legal assistance via the Nyaya Bandhu App. Participants were guided through the app's registration process, and informational pamphlets were distributed to reinforce the learning. The team also gathered data on common legal issues faced by the attendees to design future interventions. This outreach not only promoted legal literacy but also strengthened the sense of inclusion and empowerment among the university's support community.

4. Pro Bono Club Stall at the 3rd Flower Show, NLU Odisha

Date: 26th–27th January 2025

Event head (faculty in charge): Ms Suryasmita Parida and Mr. M Vijay Bhaskar

As part of the 3rd Flower Show of NLUO organised in campus by the university, the Pro Bono Club was allotted a dedicated stall to display its ongoing and upcoming initiatives. The exhibition highlighted the Club's extensive efforts in promoting legal awareness and providing legal aid to underprivileged sections of society. All the members were actively engaged during this in campus event to create utmost awareness. Visitors were briefed on the Nyaya Bandhu Scheme and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, emphasizing their role in ensuring access to justice. The interaction with guests fostered meaningful dialogue on pro bono advocacy, and the Club effectively used this platform to spread awareness about its future campaigns and encourage broader participation in its legal aid efforts.



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5. 1st Edition of “Nyayakarta” Organized by Pro Bono Club, NLU Odisha

Date: 19th October 2025

Event head (faculty in charge): Ms Suryasmita Parida and Mr. M Vijay Bhaskar

The Pro Bono Club of National Law University, Odisha successfully organized the 1st Edition of “Nyayakarta” through an online platform. Conceptualized as a unique legal event, *Nyayakarta* aimed to challenge and refine the legal acumen of aspiring lawyers while providing them with a platform to demonstrate their analytical and advocacy skills. The event featured two intellectually stimulating competitions — the PIL Drafting Competition and the Devil’s Advocate Competition — designed to test participants’ abilities in legal reasoning, drafting precision, and persuasive argumentation. With over 25 participants in total, *Nyayakarta* witnessed 12 participants in the PIL Drafting Competition and 13 participants in the Devil’s Advocate Competition, each showcasing remarkable knowledge and commitment to the field of law. Students from esteemed institutions such as Symbiosis Law School, Noida, National Law University, Nagpur, KIIT School of Law, Government Law College, Mumbai, and the University of Lucknow actively participated, making the event a vibrant confluence of intellect and legal talent.

In the PIL Drafting Competition: Participants were given a proposition integrating aspects of Competition Law and Constitutional Law, focusing on issues of public health and welfare. They were required to draft a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking appropriate judicial remedies. The event was adjudicated by Ms. Satabdi Samantaray, Advocate at the High Court of Orissa, who evaluated submissions for originality, structure, and legal reasoning.

In Devil’s Advocate Competition: This segment tested participants’ ability to argue against established judicial precedents through three rounds — Preliminary, Semi-final, and Final.

“Nyayakarta” successfully combined learning with competition, promoting legal reasoning, courtroom etiquette, and policy sensitivity among participants.

Through these multifaceted outreach programs and academic initiatives, the Pro Bono Club, NLU Odisha



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has consistently upheld its mission of advancing access to justice and fostering a culture of social responsibility among law students. From community visits to campus awareness drives and competitive legal events, the Club has effectively bridged the gap between legal education and social impact, reinforcing the essence of pro bono service in legal practice.

