

**RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB**

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CELL (ADRC)**



**AND**

**PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY, USA**

**STRAUS INSTITUTE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION**



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**THE RATAN K. SINGH ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION ON  
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION**

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## THEME OF THE ESSAY COMPETITION

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### CHALLENGES FACING INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION AND THEIR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

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#### SUB-THEMES

Increasing Diversity in International Arbitration

Role of Technological Innovation in International Arbitration

Improving efficiency of International Arbitration

Bringing consistency and certainty in the international arbitration jurisprudence

Erosion of principle of party autonomy in international arbitration

Abuse of Process in International Arbitration

Enforceability of Awards in International Arbitration

Third Party Funding in International Arbitration

Impartiality and Independence of Arbitrators in International Arbitration

**Please Note:** The above mentioned list of sub-themes is merely illustrative and not exhaustive and hence, any other submission pertinent to the main theme shall be accorded due consideration.

## **ABOUT RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAW, PUNJAB**

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL), Punjab, was established by the State Legislature of Punjab by passing the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law Punjab Act, (Punjab Act No. 12 of 2006). The Act incorporated a University of Law of national stature in Punjab, thereby fulfilling the need for a Center of Excellence in legal Education in the modern era of globalization and liberalization. RGNUL is the first National Law University to be accredited with Grade “A” by National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore. In 2018, the University Grants Commission has granted Autonomous Status for RGNUL for being an Institute of Higher Education with Excellence.

## **ABOUT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CELL (ADRC)**

Alternative Dispute Resolution Cell (ADRC) has been established to promote students’ interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) constituting dispute resolution methods like Arbitration, Negotiation, Mediation and Conciliation. These dispute resolution methods though more economical and faster are not yet very popular among common Indian masses. ADRC endeavors to promote and develop ADR as a vehicle of socio-economic and political justice. The ultimate objective of the Cell is to strengthen ADR mechanism in the country by emerging as a platform for students to further their interests in the field.

## **ABOUT STRAUS INSTITUTE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION, PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY, USA**

The Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, USA is one of the world's leading educational programs in the field of dispute resolution. Repeatedly recognized as the foremost academic center of its kind, the Institute brings together an unparalleled full-time teaching and research faculty with scholars and practitioners from throughout the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Asia and Europe. Its broad and deep curricular offerings serve emerging lawyers as well as experienced mid-career professionals, business persons, and religious and community leaders. In the over twenty-nine years since its founding, the Straus Institute has established itself as a standard of excellence in preparing effective negotiators, peacemakers and problem solvers and a driving force for improving the culture of conflict in America.

## **ABOUT MR. RATAN K. SINGH**

Mr. Ratan K. Singh is an advocate practicing before the Supreme Court of India, New Delhi and a renowned Arbitrator. He is Fellow of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb), UK and Fellow of Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators apart from being Fellow of Asian Institute of Alternate Dispute Resolution. Mr. Singh regularly sits as an arbitrator and has chaired or participated as tribunal member or counsel in many domestic and international arbitrations, ad-hoc as well as under the rules of International Chambers of Commerce, Paris (ICC), UNCITRAL, Singapore International Arbitration Center (SIAC), Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA), Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), etc., relating to power plants, steel plants, roads, buildings, hotels, power transmission, joint ventures etc. He is the founder Chairman of India branch of Society of Construction Law (SCL), UK. He is also Director of India Branch of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) UK. Mr. Singh is accredited tutor of CI Arb, UK and is visiting faculty of Indian Society of International Law (ISIL). New Delhi

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. The essays must be submitted in English language only and must be in Microsoft Word format (.doc/.docx). Essays in any other format/language will not be accepted.
2. The essays should be the original work of the author. Any kind of plagiarism will lead to disqualification. The essays published elsewhere or selected/submitted for publication elsewhere shall also be disqualified. Further, the author will be solely responsible for any claim, suit or damages based on copyright infringement, unauthorized use or plagiarism. The University will not be liable for any such claim.
3. Any form of identification such as the name of the author, institute of the author etc. in the essay will lead to disqualification.
4. Only one entry per person is allowed.
5. Co-authorship is not permitted.
6. Every essay must include an Abstract, not exceeding 250 words.
7. The word limit for the essay is 2000 – 3000 words, including appendices, footnotes, references, tables, etc.
8. The essays should be typed in Times New Roman, Font Size-12, LineSpacing-1.5, and Justified.
9. The footnotes must be typed in Times New Roman, Font Size-10 and Line Spacing-1.
10. The margins should be 1” or 2.54 cm on all sides.
11. Every citation must follow the Harvard Bluebook, 20th Edition.
12. By participating in this competition, participants agree to assign exclusive copyright in the work to RGNUL and its affiliates. RGNUL shall be entitled to, without limitation, publish the essay (or part(s) thereof) in any manner it sees fit (with due acknowledgement to the author) and edit the entries for publication without permission from or further notice to the participant.

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

1. The essays must be sent by email to **adrc@rgnul.ac.in** with the subject “Submission for The Ratan K. Singh Essay Writing Competition on International Arbitration”.
2. The deadline for submission is **11:59 pm, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019** (Indian Standard Time). The deadline may be extended at the discretion of the ADRC. Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstances whatsoever.
3. Students and Research Scholars pursuing Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctoral degree from any recognized university can participate in the competition.
4. There is **no registration fee** for the competition.
5. The participants are required to send the following details in a separate cover sheet containing the following information:
  - Sub-Theme Chosen:
  - Title of the Essay:
  - Name of the Author:
  - College/ Institute/ University of Author:
  - Programme Enrolled & Year of Study of Author:
  - Total word count (including appendices, footnotes, references, tables, etc.):
  - E-mail address & Contact No. of Author along with the Full Postal Address:
6. The essay and cover sheet must be submitted as separate documents in the same e-mail. The essay will be assigned a unique identification number, and the cover sheet will be removed before submission to the judging panel.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Competition entries will be judged on the following criteria (in no particular order) anonymously:

- i. Originality;
- ii. critical analysis;
- iii. clarity;
- iv. pragmatism;
- v. persuasiveness; and
- vi. succinctness.

## PRIZES

1. The following cash prizes shall be awarded to the winners:

- **FIRST PRIZE:**           INR 25,000
- **SECOND PRIZE:**       INR 15,000
- **THIRD PRIZE:**         INR 10,000

2. The name of the winners will be displayed on the RGNUL Website. Separate intimation will also be sent to all the winners along with a Letter of Appreciation.

3. The award of all or any of the prizes lies solely within the discretion of the judging panel, including the right to refuse to award any prize if the panel concludes that no essay of sufficiently high academic quality has been submitted.

## PUBLICATION-

1. In addition to the top three winners, 9 selected essays will be published in the form of an edited book with an ISBN Number.

2. RGNUL reserves the right to amend, modify, change or repeal any of the essays at any point of time without notice (If the essay is selected for publication).

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