

ABOUT THE CHAIR ON CONSUMER LAW AND PRACTICE

In the Indian history for the first time the Chair on Consumer Law and Practice (CLAP) was established in August 2008, by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru to promote research, teaching and training in Consumer Law and Practice.

Prof.(Dr.) Ashok R. Patil is heading as Chair Professor since the date of establishment. His contribution to the field of Consumer Law has got him the recognition at the National level and he was conferred with the Legal Education Innovation Award-2013 by the Jury appointed by Prof. Madhav Menon Institute for Legal Advocacy and Training (MILAT) and Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF). He is a Board member of the prestigious International Association on Consumer Law (IACL). He has been nominated as a member of Central Consumer Protection Council Government of India from 2015-2017. Prof. Patil is also one of the members of Inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee on the issue of misleading advertisement which was constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India. He has visited Singapore, United States, Australia, South Africa, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Dubai, France, Switzerland and Netherland for studying and presenting papers on Consumer Protection Issues. Prof. Patil is also heading the Legal Service Clinic at National Law School of India University & recently under his leadership Legal Service Clinic won International Mac Jannet second prize for active help to the under privileged sections of the society by organizing legal literacy camps, training, filing public interest litigations, drafting amendments and publications. This year the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, sanctioned One crore rupees for setting up an 'Online Consumer Mediation Centre' at the NLSIU.

The Chair on Consumer Law and Practice is acting as a "Think Tank" for the Research and Policy related issues on Consumer Law and Practice. The Chair has also developed curriculum on Consumer Welfare Laws as a distinct subject of study both at Under Graduate & Post Graduate levels and is imparting it to the students in law at NLSIU. The Chair has been publishing a Bi-annual Newsletter viz., 'March on Consumer Law and Practice'. The newsletter is also published in the electronic format and is been uploaded on the website (<http://clap.nls.ac.in>) periodically to facilitate access to information free of cost. The Chair is also publishing annually "International Journal of Consumer Law and Practice" since 2013. The Chair is also performing the functions such as providing expert inputs for formulating of policy/programs/schemes to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India & State Governments in identifying and disseminating best practices in the field of Consumer Protection Laws and Practice; publishing books, monographs, pamphlets, research studies and conducts conferences to fill up existing knowledge gap. The Chair has published books titled "25 years of Consumer Protection Act- Challenges and the Way Forward", "Misleading Advertisements and Unfair Trade Practice in India: A Critical Case Analysis" and "Consumer Protection in Malls and Multiplexes: With Specific Reference to Price Fixation of Products An Empirical Study."

The Chair has started a one year 'Post Graduate Diploma in Consumer Law & Practice' (PGDCLP) course through Distance Education mode. The PGDCLP course is aimed at sensitizing people about the Consumer Rights. The syllabus was designed in consultation with Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India to encourage the non-judicial members to do the PGDCLP at the NLSIU, Bengaluru, for improving the functioning of the Consumer Courts.

The activity of the Consumer Chair has been recognized at the International level by conferring the membership of prestigious 'Consumer International' (CI) 2013 to strive at higher goals at the International level.



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