ABOUT THE CHAIR ON CONSUMER LAW AND PRACTICE

In the Indian history for the first time the Chair on Consumer Law and Practice (CLAP) has been 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 and administering as Chair Professor since the date of establishment. His contribution to the field of Consumer Law has got him the recognition at National level and he has been conferred with the “Legal Education Innovation Award-2013”. He has been unanimously selected as member of the Executive Committee of prestigious “International Association on Consumer Law”. He has been nominated as a member of Central Consumer Protection Council of 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 US, Australia, South Africa, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Dubai for studying Consumer Protection. Prof. Patil is also heading the Legal Service Clinic at National Law School of India University, recently Legal Service Clinic won a International Mac Janner 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.

The Chair on Consumer Law and Practice is acting as a “Think Thank” 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 to the students in law at NLSIU. The Chair has been publishing a bi-annual Newsletter viz., ‘March on Consumer Law and Practice’ containing a brief report on the activities of the Chair, Legal developments in the field of Consumer Affairs, summary of leading judicial decisions of the Supreme Court, High Courts as well as the National Commission and State Commissions. The newsletter is also published in the electronic format and is uploaded on the website (http://clap.nls.ac.in) periodically to facilitate access to this information free of cost. The Chair is also performing the functions such as providing expert inputs for formulating of policy/programs/schemes of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, identifying and disseminating best practices in the field of Consumer Protection Laws and Practice; publishing books, monographs, pamphlets, research studies to fill up existing knowledge gap. Periodically the chair has been organizing seminars/workshops/conferences, short term training programs for the law teachers, NGOs and other stake holders of the society on consumer related issues at National/Regional levels. The Chair has published a book titled “25 years of Consumer Protection Act- Challenges and the Way Forward” and “Misleading Advertisements and Unfair Trade Practice in India: A Critical Case Analysis”.

The Chair has started a one year course on ‘Post Graduate Diploma in Consumer Law & Practice’ (PGDCLP) through Distance Education mode. The PGDCLP course is aimed at sensitizing people about the Consumer Rights. This course provides opportunity for candidates to receive advanced instructions in the relationship and interplay between existing consumers’ relating to legislation and changing scenario. The diploma is specially designed to meet the needs of those whose education has been in the field other than law and who would like to supplement their database with in-depth knowledge of consumer laws.

The activity of the Consumer Chair has been recognized at the International level by conferring the membership of prestigious Consumer International (C1) 2013 to strive at higher goals at the International level.

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ARTICLES

Reflections on Hans Micklitz’ Plea For a ‘Movable System’
(of Consumer Law): Something to Learn from the Experiences
of Indian Consumer Law
Prof. Dr. H.C. Norbert Reich ................................................................. 01

Tourist-Consumer Protection in Macau SAR of China as a
World Tourism Destination
Prof. Dan Wei ...................................................................................... 32

Europeanization of the Polish Law: Consideration Associated with
the Adoption of the Directive on ADR in Consumer Disputes
Dr. Ewelina Cała-Wacinkiewicz &
Dr. Daniel Wacinkiewicz ..................................................................... 47

Protection of Consumers in Cross-border Electronic Commerce
Prof. Dr. Ashok R. Patil & Ms. Pratima Narayan ................................. 59

GM Crops: Do We Have a Choice
Ms. Sanyukta Biswas & Mr. Vasu Jain ............................................... 80

Consumer Rights & Consumer Protection:
A Case Study on Mobile Phones Signals
Ms. Varnika Chawla & Mr. Vishwajeet Singh ...................................... 93