

To,  
Mr. Gopal Subramaniam,  
Solicitor General of India &  
Chairman, Bar Council of India

August 26, 2010

**Sub: Suggestions regarding rankings for law schools in India**

Respected Sir,

Greetings from India Law Journal! India Law Journal is a global law journal available at [www.indialawjournal.com](http://www.indialawjournal.com) which is dedicated to create a forum for the views of legal luminaries and lawyers on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters and also igniting the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law.

We have to written to you regarding ranking law schools in India for the LL.B course which have always been the harbingers of controversy. Since the last two months, India Law Journal has been working on a methodology which has been mentioned below to rank law schools in India which can probably be fairly accepted by everyone involved with the legal industry.

1. There should be separate ranking lists for both the five year and three year law courses.

2. A list of law schools for both the five year and three year courses should be compiled which should include schools all over the country which have got affiliation with the Bar Council of India.
3. The following could be some of the parameters which could be considered to rank these law schools:
  - Every law school should maintain a record of every passing out batch of their respective students in terms their employment in firms, offices of counsels, corporations, and offices of judges of the Supreme Court or state High Courts etc.
  - Industry Reputation- a survey should be undertaken amongst all the employers of the students who have passed out of the eligible law schools regarding the reputation of that particular law school in the legal market.
  - Reputation among foreign law schools- In this era of globalization, several students do go abroad to pursue higher studies such as LLMs' or even Phd's. Using the list maintained by the law school which shall keep a track of the alumni of that particular law school, a survey can be conducted in the concerned foreign law school to get a reputation of that particular Indian law school among foreign law schools.
  - Recruitment statistics- It is essential while ranking law schools to look into the recruitment statistics not only in terms of the number of placements that the law school gets but also quality placements. The percentage should be calculated on the number of students who opt for placements. Now, one way of determining quality placements can be by calculating the money spent by a student on his fees for the entire five or three year period depending on the course that he is pursuing, and then seeing if his first year's salary will either be equal to or exceed the money spent by him on his fees.

- Quality of faculty- This can be determined by sending questionnaires to all the eligible law schools in order to get it filled by their faculty members. This questionnaire could include questions such as papers presented at both national and international conferences especially those which are organized by recognised bodies, publications in both national and international journals, past teaching experience and record, books if any authored/co-authored and if they are members of any government appointed committee either at the central or state level for undertaking research work related to enactments or amendments of laws etc. Accordingly, a benchmark can be set to grade a particular faculty and then a net total can determine the quality of the all the faculty members put together of that particular law school.
- Quality of the entrance procedure- This is another important parameter to judge a particular law schools because several law schools may not have a very stringent entrance process which may be either in terms of having paid seats or having an entrance exam which is not suitable for actually testing the aptitude of the students who enroll for the examination. Since several national law schools are part of the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), they should be ranked equally in this category.
- Library resources- In order to determine if a particular law schools has a quality library, questionnaires can be sent to all eligible law schools which their respective faculty members and students can fill. This can include questions such as if the users if the library are satisfied with the available library resources including access to online databases, if the library has books pertaining to at least the basic laws such as Constitution, Criminal, Civil, Company, Tax etc. and also if follow up actions have been undertaken by libraries when requested by students or faculty members to purchase if it is

felt that those books would facilitate research for majority of the users.

- Infrastructure- This includes amenities offered by the law schools such as internet facilities i.e. if the bandwidth and speed is good and if both the residential hostels and the academic block have internet, hygiene maintained in the campus especially around the mess areas, availability of moot court halls, auditoriums with adequate seating capacities for conferences and lectures by visiting faculties and lawyers, transport facilities offered to students and faculty members for courts visits or other essential visits for academic purposes etc. This can be determined by inspections by the authorities who would conduct these rankings.
  - Having different categories for judging law schools and determining if they meet the required criteria such as placing law schools in two categories depending on their establishment i.e. whether the college is up to five years old in case of a law school offering a five year course or three years in case of a law school offering a three year course.
4. After marking the law schools individually in the above mentioned categories, a net total may be done to draw a final ranking list. Each category may be on 10 marks with the total being on 100 marks.

At present, India does not have any ranking list which is published by any recognised government body which prospective candidates can refer to before they actually apply to a particular law school. We wanted to inquire if it would be possible for the Bar Council of India to come out with a system of ranking law schools annually to avoid confusion which is created due to ranking lists being released by different private sources thereby leading misleading a

prospective candidate on information regarding a particular law school. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

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