

One may well ask: "How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?" The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal, but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that "an unjust law is no law at all."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Letter from a Birmingham Jail", 1963

An Introduction to The Society for Critical Legal Studies (SCLS)

Aims and Objectives of SCLS: The Society for Critical Legal Studies (SCLS) is an autonomous Study Circle of the students of the Department of Law, University of Chittagong. The Circle started its journey in December 2016. SCLS is a student driven study circle that aims at fostering both formal and informal intellectual engagement among the students of law on different academic and non-academic legal issues and currents of thought. Society for Critical Legal Studies (SCLS) aims to develop interpersonal skills by different brain storming programs. Its goal is to enable the students to expose their inner qualities in a skillful way. Powered by the learners' motivation towards intellectual engagements on issues of legal interest, SCLS seeks to avail every in-or-out-of-the-class opportunities that may contribute towards excellence in legal learning and thinking.

Organizational Shape of SCLS: With Professor Nirmal Kumar Saha, Associate Professor, Department of Law, CU as the moderator of the study circle, the Executive Committee of the Circle comprises of thirteen democratically elected representatives of different batches and years of study. The Executive Committee being the supreme decision-making body reserves right to have an exclusive say in the overall administration of the study circle. The Circle has some designated spokes persons in other public and private universities around the country.

Membership of SCLS: Membership of the circle is open to the students of law in general. However, as a matter of policy, final decision on any membership is a matter of considered judgment on the part of Executive Committee and Moderator. SCLS looks forward to students who have demonstrated capability of research, presentation and activism. Programs of the Circle, of course, remain open for all interested in learning, talking, thinking and researching law.

Ongoing Activities: SCLS Activities so far include regular Monthly Seminars, Public Lectures, Two Month Long Spoken English Programs, Legal Essay Competition, Publication Blog, Student Edited Journal, Mooting, Debating, Law Olympiad, Simulated Tribunal, Community Research etc. A detailed description of the programs conducted so far are attached separately. Success stories from our individual circle members are also presented separately.

Future Plans: Future plans of SCLS include:

1. Creating a borderless network of intellectual engagements among law students and legal academics across the region by initiating a culture of regular seminars, workshops and online seminars facilitated by scholars of law across the world.
2. Arranging Moot Competitions and Practice Sessions which will help the students to acquire practical knowledge. Arranging public speaking, article writing, book review, research paper writing workshops and competitions;
3. Undertaking empirical research projects on different issues of socio-legal interest and facilitated regular community visits by the law students;
4. Facilitating the participation of Bangladeshi law students in various native and foreign mooting, debating, research, public speaking competitions;
5. Creating a network of law students among different universities, etc.