

## **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 organizing different brainstorming programs. Its goal is to create a platform to enable the students to expose their inner qualities skillfully. 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 the excellence in legal learning and thinking.

**Organizational Shape of SCLS:** With Professor Dr Abdullah Al Faruque, Department of Law, CU as the Chief Adviser, Professor Nirmal Kumar Saha, Department of Law, CU as the Moderator, and Mr. M. Jashim Ali Chowdhury, Assistant Professor of the same institution as the Ambassador of SCLS, the Executive Committee of the Circle comprises of thirteen democratically elected representatives of different batches and years of study. The Advisory Panel of the organization includes Professor Dr Rakiba Nabi, Associate Professor Asma Bint Shafiq and Associate Professor Dr Zaker Ahmad of the Department of Law, University of Chittagong. The Executive Committee being the supreme decision-making body reserves the rights to have an exclusive saying in the overall administration of the study circle. A bunch of seniors always stay in touch with the circle as mentors for assistance and cooperation. The Circle has some designated spokespersons 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, the final decision on any member is a matter of considered judgment on the part of the Executive Committee and Moderator. SCLS looks forward to students who have demonstrated the capability of research, presentation, and activism. However, 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 and Webinars, Public Lectures, Student Edited Journal, Law Olympiad, Two-Month Long Spoken English Programs, Legal Essay Competition, Publication Blog, Mooting, Debating, Simulated Tribunal, Community Research, etc. Recently SCLS launched online symposiums and paper presentations. A detailed description of the programs, conducted within the duration of this issue, is attached separately. Successful stories from our members are also presented separately.

Apart from these activities, there are three distinct Wings, facilitating in the advance of its aims and missions. These wings are Research wing, Debate wing, and Moot wing,

individually which task is to work for the betterment of its members in the respective field and to organize sessions and programs respectively.

**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 facilitating regular community visits by the law students;
4. Publishing ‘SCLS Law Review’, the student edited journal in every four months; three issues in each year and publishing articles in SCLS Blog in regular basis;
5. Facilitating the participation of Bangladeshi law students in various native and foreign mooting, debating, research, public speaking competitions;
6. Creating a network of law students among different universities, etc.