



Dharmashastra National Law University,
Jabalpur, M.P.



Centre For Studies in Legal Theory

Presents

Call for Articles for the September Issue of Nyayarth, CSLT Newsletter

Theme

**The Afterlife of Law: What Survives
When a Legal Rule Changes?**



About DNLU

Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur (M.P.) was established in the year 2018, by Madhya Pradesh Dharmashastra National Law University Act, 24 of 2018, with the object of advancing the cause of legal education and achieving excellence as a university for imparting value-based legal education to undergraduate as well as postgraduate students. DNLU is dedicated to providing high-quality legal education that prepares students to excel in the field of law and contribute to the legal profession and society at large. The university places a strong emphasis on research and scholarship. It actively supports faculty and student research initiatives, organizes seminars, conferences, and workshops, and encourages publications in reputed legal journals. DNLU also fosters an environment conducive to mootings and legal competitions, helping students develop practical legal skills and advocacy abilities. The motto of the University is 'Satyam Vada Dharmam Char' which has been enshrined in Verse eleven of the Shikhsavalli Section of the Taittiriya Upanishad. It literally means "speak the truth and conduct in accordance with dharma. At the end of the course, in the Dikshant Samaroh, the Guru shows the further path to his pupils and asks them to follow the path of truth and stick to the dharma. Dharma means rules of conduct which does not do injustice to anyone and protest injustice done to others. Our conduct must be an example for others.

About CSLT

The Centre for Studies in Legal Theory (CSLT) is a specialized academic center established at Dharmashastra National Law University (DNLU), Jabalpur. Founded to nurture a deep theoretical engagement with jurisprudence, CSLT serves as a vibrant platform for critical inquiry, scholarship, and conceptual research at the intersection of law, philosophy, and society.

The Centre was conceived to address a critical need in modern legal education: moving beyond the mechanical application of statutes to examine the foundational principles, socio-political underpinnings, and moral frameworks that shape the law. By fostering rigorous dialogue among students, academicians, and jurists, CSLT encourages a reflective approach to legal studies, one that interrogates not just what the law is, but why it exists, how it evolves, and whom it serves. Whether examining historical legal shifts, constitutional morality, or emerging socio-legal paradigms, CSLT remains dedicated to bridging abstract jurisprudence with contemporary legal realities.

Submission Guidelines

- Submissions should range between 1,000 and 1,200 words, though flexibility may be allowed at the discretion of the Editorial Board.
- The manuscript must be formatted in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5 line spacing and normal margins.
- All references should be provided as hyperlinks; where hyperlinks are unavailable, endnotes following the Bluebook 21st edition must be used, as footnoting is not permitted.
- Co-authorship is allowed for up to two authors, and submissions must be made in .doc or .docx format.
- All entries must be original and unpublished, with a similarity index not exceeding 10%, verified through Turnitin.
- Authors bear full responsibility for the accuracy of facts, arguments, and opinions expressed in their work.
- The copyright of all published blogs will vest with the Centre for Studies in Legal Theory.
- Please mail us your article at cslt@mpdnlu.ac.in
- The article submission deadline is **25th October, 2026**.

Review Process

Each submission undergoes a three-stage review process:

- **Plagiarism & AI Check:** Ensuring originality and authenticity of the work.
- **Clarity Review:** Evaluating the language, coherence, and logical flow of arguments.
- **Substantive Review:** Assessing the legal and economic accuracy, analytical depth, and relevance of the piece.

Only manuscripts meeting all three standards will be accepted for publication. The CSLT Editorial Board retains complete and final discretion over the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts and will not entertain requests for advance opinions on abstracts, outlines, or topic proposals. Given the high volume of submissions, the Editors may not be able to provide individual feedback on rejected manuscripts

Themes & Sub-Themes

Main Theme: The Afterlife of Law: What Survives When a Legal Rule Changes?

Sub Themes:

1. Normative Residue and Desuetude

- Repealed or struck down laws often keep shaping judicial reasoning, interpretation and institutional habits. Calabresi's work on obsolete statutes explains how laws survive on paper but go unenforced, and how norms lose formal authority yet remain obeyed.

2. Temporal Jurisprudence and Transitional Justice

- Legal change forces a balance between finality and normative correction, as in prospective and retrospective overruling. Teitel's work on transitional justice frames how saving clauses and constitutional transformations treat earlier legal orders.

3. Institutional Memory and Executive Habit

- Bureaucratic practices, policing protocols and executive forms often outlive the provisions that created them. Bourdieu's habitus and Pound's "law in books" versus "law in action" explain why precedent keeps overruled doctrines alive under new terminology.

4. Theoretical Paradigms of Legal Change

- Revolutionary and systemic change raises the question of what survives a break in legal order. Schmitt and Sieyès on constituent power, and Anghie on colonialism and international law, explain why colonial legal frameworks persist after formal decolonisation.

5. Repeal, Validity and the Existence of Legal Norms

- A repealed or struck down rule may cease to exist, or something of it may remain. Kelsen's theory of validity and Hart's rule of change help frame this, along with the differences between "repealed", "read down" and "void ab initio".

6. Law and Morality After Legal Change

- A rule that was valid but is now seen as deeply unjust raises the question of whether it was ever truly "law". Radbruch's formula and the Hart-Fuller debate address this, as well as whether a rule's underlying principles survive its removal.

Themes & Sub-Themes

7. Rights, Duties and Powers After the Rule Changes

- Rights, duties and powers created under a rule that no longer exists do not simply vanish. This covers vested rights, saving clauses and whether a right can outlive the rule that created it.

8. The Persistence of Legal Fictions and Outdated Concepts

- Legal fictions, outdated concepts and doctrines often keep operating after their purpose has faded. Authors may explore how law carries old ideas forward and what it costs to do so.

9. Obedience, Custom and Living Law Beyond Formal Authority

- Obedience, custom and practice often continue after a rule has formally gone. Hart's internal point of view and Ehrlich's "living law" offer competing explanations of where legal authority really lies

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