

GNLU CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES



Gujarat National Law University

GNLU



GCRCJS

4th

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING COMPETITION 2025

*The Whistleblower and Witness
Protection Act, 2025*

SUBMIT BY
24TH NOVEMBER 2025

PRIZE POOL

21K

ABOUT

Gujarat National Law University

Gujarat National Law University is a statutory university established by the Government of Gujarat under the Gujarat National Law University Act, 2003. The University is recognised by the Bar Council of India and the University Grants Commission. The University functions as a nodal agency to uplift legal education in the State of Gujarat. The University offers teaching, research and training programmes in law and inter-disciplinary fields such as Arts, Commerce, Science and Technology, Business Administration and Social Work at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It is the only National Law University offering integrated undergraduate law degrees in five areas- B.A. LL.B., B.S.W. LL.B., B.Com. LL.B, B.B.A. LL.B, and B.Sc. LL.B.; full-time LL.M., MBA in Financial Management and Business Laws and PhD in law and other disciplines as recommended by the UGC as well as diploma/certificate courses in various areas.

About LDC

The GNLU Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences is organising the fourth edition of its Legislative Drafting Competition. The competition provides a remarkable opportunity for individuals to learn the nuances of legislative drafting and hone their skills in that respect. The competition will help the participants to understand the intricacies of the process of drafting from identifying the issues to striking a standard balance between the ideal and the pragmatic aspects. Legislative drafting fosters students' capacity to observe the current legal issues & lacunas and offer solutions in that regard, as well as expand the horizons of their knowledge, analytical skills, and interpretation of the law. The competition welcomes students across all law schools to participate and help in the dissemination of ideas and experiences on the prescribed topic.

GCRCJS

The GNLU Centre for Research in Criminal Justice Sciences (GCRCJS) is a specialised Research Centre focused on advancing the study of criminal law through comprehensive research and academic discussions. Since its inception, GCRCJS has organised numerous significant events, including the 13th Asian Criminology Conference, 1st and 2nd GCRCJS International Conference on Crime & Technology, and multiple editions of our flagship Legislative Drafting Competition. GCRCJS actively facilitates the exchange of ideas through initiatives like the 'Crime and Justice: A Discourse Series,' the newsletter: 'The Crime and Justice Gazette,' and the blog: 'Crime & Justice Blog.' The Centre has hosted several prominent figures for webinars and guest lectures, including Hon'ble Mr Justice Aravind Kumar and Hon'ble Mr Justice Nilay V Anjaria, Sitting Judges at the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India; Hon'ble Mr Justice Alpesh Y Kogje, Hon'ble Ms Justice Gita Gopi and Hon'ble Ms Justice Sangeeta Vishen and Hon'ble Ms Justice Nisha Thakore, Sitting Judges at the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court; Shri Shekhar Naphade, Ms. Rebecca John, Senior Advocates at the Supreme Court of India and Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, Senior Advocate, Additional Solicitor General at the Supreme Court.

Theme

The Whistleblower and Witness Protection Act, 2025

The Whistleblower and Witness Protection Act, 2025 is essential to strengthen transparency, accountability, and the integrity of governance and justice in India. Whistleblowers play a vital role in exposing corruption, maladministration, and abuse of power, while witnesses are indispensable to the effective functioning of the criminal justice system. Yet both groups face serious risks, including harassment, intimidation, professional retaliation, and even threats to life. The absence of a uniform and comprehensive protection mechanism has left them vulnerable, resulting in underreporting of corruption, weakening of criminal trials, and erosion of public trust in institutions.

The Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 was passed by Parliament following directives from the Supreme Court in the wake of tragedies like the murder of engineer Satyendra Dubey. While a step forward, this scheme lacked the permanence and authority of a robust enforcement mechanism, leaving it vulnerable to administrative apathy and insufficient funding. This legacy of half-measures and non-implementation has left whistleblowers perilously exposed and reluctant to come forward.

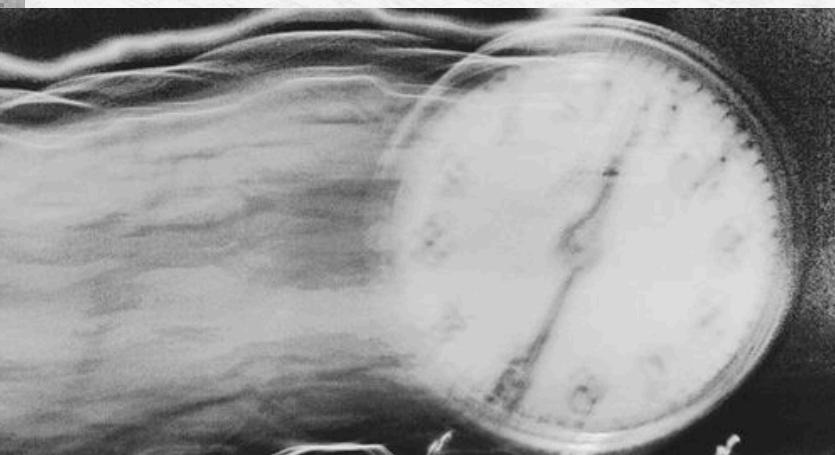
Witness protection, equally crucial, has evolved out of repeated recommendations from the Law Commission of India (154th, 178th, and 198th Reports), which highlighted the prevalence of intimidation, coercion, and hostility during trials. The Supreme Court, in cases such as *Zahira Habibullah Sheikh v. State of Gujarat* (Best Bakery case), stressed that fair trials cannot be ensured unless witnesses feel secure in deposing the truth. Despite interim measures like the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, these safeguards lack statutory force, adequate funding, and effective implementation, resulting in continued witness vulnerability. High-profile cases such as the Jessica Lal murder and the BMW hit-and-run exposed the collapse of trials when witnesses turned hostile, underlining the urgent need for a strong legislative framework.

Despite scattered legal provisions, the absence of a unified, enforceable act leaves both whistleblowers and witnesses exposed to threats that directly impede the pursuit of truth, justice, and public integrity. India's democratic institutions depend on individuals who report crimes and testify without fear; compromised safety leads to miscarriages of justice, collapse of public trust, and pervasiveness of corruption. As organized crime, terrorism, and complex financial offenses become more frequent, the risks for informants and testifiers have multiplied, calling for structured mechanisms that protect their identity, physical safety, and professional standing.

A dedicated Whistleblower and Witness Protection Act, 2025 should establish enforceable procedures for confidential reporting, secure investigation, and physical or institutional protection against retaliation, while mandating robust oversight, clear penalties for breaches, integration with justice delivery, and alignment with global best practices. Such an act would ensure that individuals can safely expose wrongdoing and testify without fear—thus upholding transparency, accountability, and public trust in democracy.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- There is **no registration fee**.
- The mode of the competition is online.
- The competition will be conducted in English.
- The name of the legislative draft given is suggestive. The title of the draft can be different but the theme shall remain the same.
- The Legislative draft document submission restricts any form of identification mark of the participants.
- The file must be submitted in both **.doc or .docx** and **.pdf** formats.
- Submission made by the participants is to be titled **‘SUBMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING COMPETITION (First Name_Last Name)’**, through the provided Google form.
- 80% similarity of two or more drafts will lead to disqualification of the participants from the competition.
- The use of AI should not exceed **20%** of the submission, and the plagiarism should not exceed **15%**.
- No submissions from the participants will be entertained after the due date.
- After the conclusion of the competition, the Organiser holds every right on the draft submitted.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

24th November 2025



ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION

The competition is open to all students pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate studies from a recognised Law College/University. The participant can submit individually or in a team of **not more than 2 members**.



PRIZES

Each participant will receive a **Certificate of Participation**, and the top ten drafts will receive a **Certificate of Merit**.

WINNER
9,000 INR

1ST RUNNER UP
7,000 INR

2ND RUNNER UP
5,000 INR



FORMAT OF THE DRAFT LEGISLATION

The Draft of the Legislation should be in the following format (as and wherever applicable):

The Long Title

The Preamble

The Enacting Clause

The Short Title

Extent and Commencement Clause

Definitions

The Operative Section

Procedural Provisions

Exceptions and Exemptions Clause

Offenses

Penalties

Provisions regarding Delegated Legislation

Repealing and Saving Clause (if any)

Miscellaneous Provisions

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- **Formatting**

The text must be in **Times New Roman** font with a size of **12**. Line spacing should be set to **1.5**, and **no paragraph spacing** is allowed. Margins must be **one inch** on all sides, and the text alignment should be **justified**.

- **Footnotes**

Footnotes should be in **Times New Roman font**, size **10**, with **single-line spacing**.

- **Page Numbers and Page Limit**

Page numbers must be placed at the **top right**-hand corner of each page. The draft must not exceed **25 pages**, excluding the cover page.

- **Cover Page Requirements**

The cover page should include the **long title** of the bill along with the **name** of the author(s) and their designation.

- **Originality and Organizer's Authority**

The content of the legislation must be original and should not exceed a **15%** plagiarism limit. For every percentage above the limit, there will be a deduction of **1 mark**. Severe plagiarism may result in disqualification. The decision of the organisers shall be final.

BREAKDOWN OF A SECTION

SECTION 1. ("SECTION" for 1st section and "§" for subsequent sections, followed by Arabic numeral)

(a) (Subsection) (lower-case letter)

(1) (Paragraph) (Arabic numeral)

(A) (Subparagraph) (upper-case letter)

(i) (Clause) (lower-case Roman numeral)

(I) (Subclause) (upper-case Roman numeral)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission of the file is to be made in both **.doc** or **.docx** and **.pdf** formats using the link given below. Please ensure that the information you enter in the form is accurate because the same information will be used for the issuance of the certificates.

SUBMIT HERE

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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