

# APPRENTICESHIP OR INTERNSHIP-TRAINING FOR PROSPECTIVE LAWYERS-BUILDING COMPETENCIES & SKILLING LEGAL EDUCATION

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**Abstract**—*Fundamental change, from individual instructions by experienced practitioners to university based formal teaching did not happened overnight. It was a gradual transformation and drastic changes took place at world level in nineteenth century. Apprenticeship is not a new tool to prepare a ‘University graduate/college graduate’ of law for successful career at the Bar. Its age-old- existence is traced thus:*

*“Until about the middle of the nineteenth century, aspiring American Lawyers served an apprenticeship in an older lawyer’s office. There were few aspirants to the profession and each lawyer was limited in the number of apprentices he could train. Depending on the character and ability of the master the apprentice received more or less education and developed the necessary legal skills by hand copying of legal documents, serving process papers and reading the few text books primarily Blackstone and later the scholarly texts prepared by university professors.*

*This is the need of the hour and of the moment, because history would bear witness to the fact that the lawyers ,by and large majority, won India independence and that now it is time they conquer ‘good ‘for their own lot. To achieve that end, the post-Law graduates, desiring to do professional practice in courts and tribunals or before judicial authorities should require training followed by some examination, so that they may hop ‘from cramming studies of theoretical, from what is learnt of legal concepts of their law-classes for jump serially ‘to exercises of practical, and to what ought to know about the legal skills or disciplines, and to thoroughness of knowledge ‘so important at the portals of Bar. It is by dint of training in a senior’s office that a prospective lawyer can learn how to (a) behave with clientele,(b)grasp and marshal the facts and events of a case,(c) draft a plaint/complaint or written statement/reply,(d) watch serving-processes (e)assist in framing of legal issues involved in a criminal/civil case,(f) assess the value and relevancy of legal/private documents (f)examine/crossexamine a witness(s) (g) acquire the cult of reasoning and culture of expression,(h) treat the victory or defeat with the same peace of mind,(i) advice for future ascent on the ladder and so on. Less said about such a formative period, the better ‘The law commission of India, in its 184<sup>th</sup>Report, also made, for the revival of pre-enrolment training by way of apprenticeship -a recommendation for the following amendments in the Advocates Act, 1961, to ensure that sufficient practical training is imparted to candidates seeking to enroll at the Bar, by way of attachment to legal practitioners and also to prescribe for matters relating.*

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*In this way young lawyers may serve the need of economic development, social justice to the marginalized groups and certainly professionalism on the part of practitioners. This skilling and scaling of legal education and profession must be the mandatory focus of curriculum before coming to the legal field.*