



O.P. Jindal Global University
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Jindal Global Law School
India's First Global Law School

CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES

in collaboration with

THE CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE LEGAL STUDIES

Cordially invites you to a Distinguished Public Lecture

on

"Post Independence Constitutional Developments in Sri Lanka and Future Options"

by

Justice Mohan Pieris

President's Counsel;

Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Former Attorney General of Sri Lanka

Programme

Welcoming Remarks

12:00 pm – 12:10 pm

Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) and Dean, Jindal Global Law School (JGLS)

Distinguished Public Lecture

12:10 pm – 1:00 pm

Justice Mohan Pieris, President's Counsel; Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Former Attorney General of Sri Lanka

1:00 pm – 1:20 pm

Discussion

Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks

1:20 pm – 1:30 pm

Professor Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik, Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Post Graduate Legal Studies; Executive Director, Centre for South Asian Legal Studies, JGLS

Date: Monday, 25 April 2016

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch will be served

Venue: T1, Conference Room, 1st Floor

O.P. Jindal Global University

Sonapat-131001, Haryana, India

RSVP: Ms. Anitha Shibu, Assistant Manager, CPGLS, JGLS, JGU, +91 8396907246, ashibu@jgu.edu.in



Justice Mohan Pieris

President's Counsel;

Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Former Attorney General of Sri Lanka

Justice Mohan Pieris, President's Counsel, in the past held prestigious positions in Sri Lanka. He served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka; Attorney General of Sri Lanka and as Senior Legal Advisor to the Cabinet of Ministers. As the Chief Justice, Mr. Pieris embarked on a program on Judicial Reforms with a view to enhancing the quality of justice and the attendant procedures by the introduction of electronic filing of cases, Case Management Systems, Practice Directions and training of Judges in the techniques of Mediation. He also concurrently put in place a new action plan to revolutionize legal education with a view to meeting contemporary requirements of the Nation having regard to the universal best practices. Mr. Pieris was also the Chairman of the Council of Legal Education from 2013 to 2015 by virtue of his office as Chief Justice and was responsible for the extensive reforms to legal education. He has been an Honorary Visiting Professor of Law/Visiting Lecturer to number of Indian Law Schools namely the National Law Universities of Delhi, Odisha, Bangalore, Patiala, Assam and the Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

During his tenure as Attorney-General, Mr. Pieris appeared as Senior Counsel along with Mr. Ali Malek, Queen's Counsel, Prof. James Crawford of the University of Cambridge in 3 separate and substantial matters, wherein the Republic of Sri Lanka was sued in respect of 3 transactions concerning derivatives (Hedging) in the Petroleum Industry by 3 leading international Banks: Standard Chartered Bank which originated action in the High Court of England to recover a sum of US\$ 180 million; Citibank which referred the matter to arbitration in terms of the rules of the London Centre for International Arbitration (LCIA). This arbitration was held in Maxwell Chambers at Singapore; Deutsche Bank which referred the matter to arbitration in terms of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). This arbitration was conducted again at Singapore. These 3 cases which exposed the Republic to substantial financial liability were defended successfully. Mr. Pieris has been a member of the Sri Lanka delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Council and on many occasions as leader of the delegation has played a central role in matters concerning Human Rights and the treatment of Non-State Actors detained consequent to the conflict that ended on 18 May 2009 in the conflict in the North & East of Sri Lanka. He was Sri Lanka's delegate to the program at the 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Convention at the International Civil Aviation Organization, Montreal, Canada; he was delegate to several programs conducted by the Hague Conference connected with its several Conventions and was a delegate to several conferences and programs conducted by UN Environmental Program and a member of the Drafting Committee of the RIO plus 20 Declaration.

As an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Mr. Pieris has practiced as Counsel in the Original and Appellate Courts in the areas of Administrative Law, Commercial Law and arbitration, Land Law, Fundamental Rights, Industrial Law and Criminal Law. Since 1978, Mr. Pieris is Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales. Mr. Mohan Pieris also led the Sri Lanka delegations to the European Economic Commission in negotiating the restoration of the General System Preference (GSP Plus) Treaty Agreements between Sri Lanka and the European Community. Mr. Pieris was also a member of the delegation that made representation to the Secretary General to the United Nations – Ban-Ki-Moon and the Committee appointed by him to make recommendations with regard to the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka's post conflict. He was actively involved in the structuring of the reconciliation process post conflict and the introduction of restorative justice mechanisms and the rehabilitation of security detainees and has been in the forefront of the promotion and protection of human rights. Mr. Pieris is involved with the Institution for the Development in Commercial Law and Practice (1996), The Sri Lanka National Arbitration Centre (1985), UNCITRAL and the ICC regimes.

Mr. Pieris was the Advisor to the Cabinet of Ministers on numerous matters inclusive of Human Rights and the National Action Plan on Human Rights. In his capacity as Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Pieris dealt with inter alia the Legal Aspects of the Detention of Non-State Actors, the Emergency Regulations, the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Prosecution of Serious Crimes under these laws. As the Consultant to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, he is associated in the drafting and implementation of the Corporate Governance Regime for Banks and the promotion of such rules and the implementation of other regulatory mechanisms such as the Money Laundering Laws and the matters concerning Financial Transaction Reporting Act. Mr. Pieris has also been associated with environmental issues inclusive of Climate Change. He is associated with the United Nations Environmental Program in the promotion of the Environmental Rule of Law in the Asian Region and has actively participated in many international conferences inclusive of presiding over the Conference on the "3rd South Asia Chief Justices' Roundtable on Environmental Justice" and the conference of the NGT, India.