

Legal Systems: Structure, Function and Reform



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Preface

The legal system forms the backbone of every civilized society. It regulates human conduct, safeguards rights and liberties, resolves disputes, and maintains social order through established laws and institutions. In an era of rapid globalization, technological advancement, and evolving social values, understanding the structure, functions, and reforms of legal systems has become more important than ever.

This book, *Legal Systems: Structure, Function and Reform*, has been written with the objective of providing readers with a clear, comprehensive, and analytical understanding of the legal framework and its practical significance in contemporary society. The book explores the historical development of legal systems, the role of judiciary and legal institutions, principles of justice, judicial reforms, constitutional governance, and the challenges faced by Indian legal system.

Special emphasis has been placed on presenting concepts in a simple and systematic manner so that students, researchers, legal professionals, and general readers can easily understand complex legal principles. Real-world perspectives and contemporary reforms have also been incorporated to bridge the gap between theoretical understanding and practical application.

The authors sincerely hope that this book will contribute to academic learning and encourage readers to critically analyse the functioning and reformative needs of legal systems across the world. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and relevance; however, constructive suggestions from readers for future improvement will always be welcomed.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who directly or indirectly supported the completion of this work. It is our sincere hope that this book serves as a valuable resource for legal education and promotes awareness regarding justice, law and institutional accountability.

Acknowledgement

The successful completion of this book, Legal Systems: Structure, Function and Reform, would not have been possible without the guidance, encouragement, and support of many individuals and institutions.

We express our sincere gratitude to all our parents, mentors, and academic guides whose valuable knowledge and inspiration motivated us throughout the preparation of this manuscript. Their intellectual guidance and constant encouragement greatly contributed to the development of this work.

We are deeply thankful to our family members and friends for their continuous support, patience, and motivation during the course of writing and compiling this book. Their encouragement provided us with the strength and determination required to complete this project successfully.

We also extend our appreciation to scholars, researchers, authors, and legal experts whose published works and research contributions served as important references in understanding various dimensions of legal systems and judicial reforms.

Special thanks are due to everyone associated with the publication and editing process for their cooperation and assistance in bringing this book into its final form.

Above all, we express our gratitude to all readers and students who inspire continuous learning and academic contribution in the field of law and legal studies.

**Adv. Manushri
Ms. Akansha**

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Table of Abbreviations

Abr.	Full form
AAA	American Arbitration Association
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AFT	Armed Forces Tribunal
Art.	Article
BITs	Bilateral Investment Treaties
BNS	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
BNSS	Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023
BBPS	Bharat Bill Payment System
BSA	Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023
CAG	Comptroller and Auditor General (of India)
CAT	Central Administrative Tribunal
CBI	Central Bureau of Investigation
CCI	Competition Commission of India, Child Care Institution
CCPA	Central Consumer Protection Authority
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CERC	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission
CPC	Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CrPC	Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CVC	Central Vigilance Commission
DBT	Direct Benefit Transfer
DGFT	Directorate General of Foreign Trade
DLSAs	District Legal Services Authorities
DPDPA	Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ED	Enforcement Directorate
ESG	Environmental, Social and Governance
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIR	First Information Report
FPTP	First-Past-the-Post
FSSAI	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FTAs	Free Trade Agreements
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GeM	Government e-Marketplace

GST	Goods and Services Tax
GSTN	Goods and Services Tax Network
IBBI	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
IBC	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
ICA	International Court of Arbitration
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICIS	Integrated Case Information System
ISID	International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMPS	Immediate Payment Service
IRDAI	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
ITAT	Income Tax Appellate Tribunal
LCIA	London Court of International Arbitration
NACH	National Automated Clearing House
NALSA	National Legal Services Authority
NCLAT	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal
NCLT	National Company Law Tribunal
NCM	National Commission for Minorities

NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NCSC	National Commission for Scheduled Castes
NCST	National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
NCW	National Commission for Women
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGT	National Green Tribunal
NHAI	National Highways Authority of India
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NJAC	National Judicial Appointments Commission
NJDG	National Judicial Data Grid
NMC	National Medical Commission
NPCI	National Payments Corporation of India
ODR	Online Dispute Resolution
PAC	Public Accounts Committee
PFRDA	Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
PR	Proportional Representation
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
RERA	Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016
RTI	Right to Information

SAT	Securities Appellate Tribunal
SEBI	Securities and Exchange Board of India
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIAC	Singapore International Arbitration Centre
SLSAs	State Legal Services Authorities
SLP	Special Leave Petition
SUPACE	Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Court Efficiency
TDSAT	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal
TRAI	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UGC	University Grants Commission
UIDAI	Unique Identification Authority of India
UMANG	Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UPI	Unified Payments Interface

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Adv. Manushri, B.A.LLB, LLM, She is legal professional and research scholar with specialization in cyber law such as data protection law, cybercrime governance and technology law. She holds master's degree in cyber law and cybercrime investigation from the National forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar (Gujarat). She has worked with State and National forensic laboratories as well government institutions such as RLSA and FICCI. She has expertise in Data protection law, cyber GRC (Governance Risk Compliance), Trademark laws and evolving Technological regulations. She aims to bridge gap between law, technology and enforcement in technologically evolving society.



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ABOUT THE BOOK

Legal Systems: Structure, Function and Reform is a comprehensive academic work that explores the foundations, functioning, and transformation of legal systems in contemporary society. The book is designed to provide readers with a clear understanding of how laws are created, interpreted, implemented, and reformed to maintain justice and social order.

The book examines the evolution of legal systems, major legal traditions, constitutional principles, judicial institutions, and the role of law in governance and society. It also discusses important themes such as rule of law, legal rights and duties, judicial processes, legal administration, and contemporary judicial reforms.

Written in a simple and systematic manner, this book aims to bridge the gap between theoretical legal concepts and practical legal realities. It highlights the growing importance of transparency, accountability, access to justice, and modernization within legal institutions in response to changing social, political, and technological environments.

The content has been carefully structured to benefit students of law, political science, public administration, and social sciences, as well as researchers, educators, competitive examination aspirants, and readers interested in understanding legal systems and reforms. Contemporary examples and analytical discussions have been included to encourage critical thinking and deeper understanding of legal structures and institutional challenges.

This book serves as an informative guide for academic learning and a valuable reference for anyone seeking insight into the structure, functions, and reformative dimensions of modern legal systems.



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