

**BLOGS**

## **#MyCLATStory- Sudarshana Basu from DSNLU shares her journey through Law School**

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**In this interview with CLATatalogue, Sudarshana from DSNLU shares her journey through law school and talks about her experience of working at a top-tier law firm of the nation focused on securities and financial regulatory practice.**



## **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

Hi, I am Sudarshana – a first-generation lawyer hailing from a small (yet commercially important) city named Rourkela in Odisha. I completed my undergraduate studies at DSNLU, Visakhapatnam. I presently work with Finsec Law Advisors, a top-tier law firm in Mumbai focused on securities and financial regulatory practice.

## **How did your CLAT journey begin?**

Growing up, I always had an aptitude for Mathematics and Computer Science. In fact, I had even signed up for engineering entrance tests. Sometime before my 12th board exams, I decided I wanted to pursue something different and around that time, a school senior had also taken CLAT. After speaking to her and a couple of other people, I decided to opt for law as a career and signed up for CLAT.

## **Can you tell us a bit about how you prepared for the CLAT?**

Since I knew nothing about CLAT or what the legal profession entailed at the time, I decided to prepare for a year after my 12th board. It took me a lot of time to grasp legal concepts, and I was particularly weak in General Knowledge, which is where my CLAT score took a beating. However, mock tests with CL-LST did help to a large extent. I used to travel to Bhubaneswar every weekend to attend sessions with LST and eventually, all the efforts paid off (or at least I hope)!

## **What motivated you to pursue law as a career?**

Like I mentioned, I leaned towards problem-solving techniques and had an analytical bent of mind. The legal profession requires you to grasp complex concepts and apply them to life-changing situations, while also allowing you to witness the immediate impact you have made. This appealed to me a lot. Coupled with the fact that this profession needs you to think on your feet and be well-prepared at the same time! I think all of this combined with the ability to have humane interactions made law a compelling choice.

## **Tell us a bit about your experience at law school. Were you always sure about your end goal?**



Being a first-generation lawyer, I was clueless when I entered law school and had no idea how to navigate through half a decade. Hence, it was mostly a trial-and-error approach. But I remember being extremely fascinated by the subjects taught and almost all extra curricular activities from my very first year. So, I took part in everything, from debates to moots to street-plays and even co-managing cricket teams at university leagues!

When it came to academia, since I was fascinated by most law subjects, I decided to explore as many of these areas as I could through internships and moot courts. I was perceived to be a very hardworking student, but I can assure you all I did was pay attention in class which led me to read many authors on the same subject.

I remember the year that my batch entered law school, we also joined the CLAT committee (now consortium) which seemed like a huge achievement for all of us back then.

All in all, it was a good, well-rounded experience which equipped me with life-skills I am forever grateful for.

## **What would you say sets apart your #CLATStory from others?**

I think everyone's journey is necessarily unique and there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach. Both my CLAT preparations and law school journey were difficult roller-coaster rides, but they reinforced my belief that I could adapt and excel in any given situation.

## **You're currently working as an associate at Finsec Law Advisors. Tell us a bit about your journey from being a law student to working in the domain of securities and financial laws.**

Throughout law school, my internship experiences have been extremely diverse, be it consumer litigation, human rights advocacy, competition law, tax, international trade or securities laws.

I knew I wanted to explore different practice areas before jumping into the profession. That was also why I decided not to pursue an LL.M. right away after my undergraduate program as I wanted to be certain of my area of specialization.

I remember in my second year, I had participated in a moot court competition loosely based on the Satyam case. Years after, when I interned with Finsec and the Capital Markets team of Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., I was further drawn to the practice area. I was recruited by Finsec after my second internship with the firm.

At Finsec, it has been a constant process of learning and unlearning about the profession and the subject. I have been fortunate to always have found great mentors at all my internships, and at Finsec, I found more than five of them! I have received tremendous guidance and support here, which helped me navigate this very technical field. I handle both contentious and non-contentious matters, and also contribute to policy reform projects.

I think once you like the subject, you will inevitably end up doing well in that practice area, at least out of intellectual curiosity.

## **Any advice you'd like to pass on to law school aspirants?**

Like I said, my journey involved a lot of unlearning, including some very popular myths. One of those myths was that if you spend a preparation year before CLAT, you will end up wasting a year. Another one was that you need to get admission at a top law school to land a decent career or that you need to have a set goal or practice area in mind from the beginning of your law school. Safe to say that I have debunked all of those!

The first and probably the most important step is to take a deep breath and take the plunge. Explore as much you can, because every experience would count towards something valuable years later.

**This interview is a part of our series #MyCLATStory where we interview law students and legal professionals.**

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