

CRITIQUE | REFLECTION | TRANSFORMATION

From Critique to Praxis:

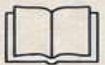
Building Reflective Capacity in Legal Education

BRIDGING CRITICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE THROUGH
REFLECTION, RESPONSIBILITY & REFORM.



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CRITICAL THINKING



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

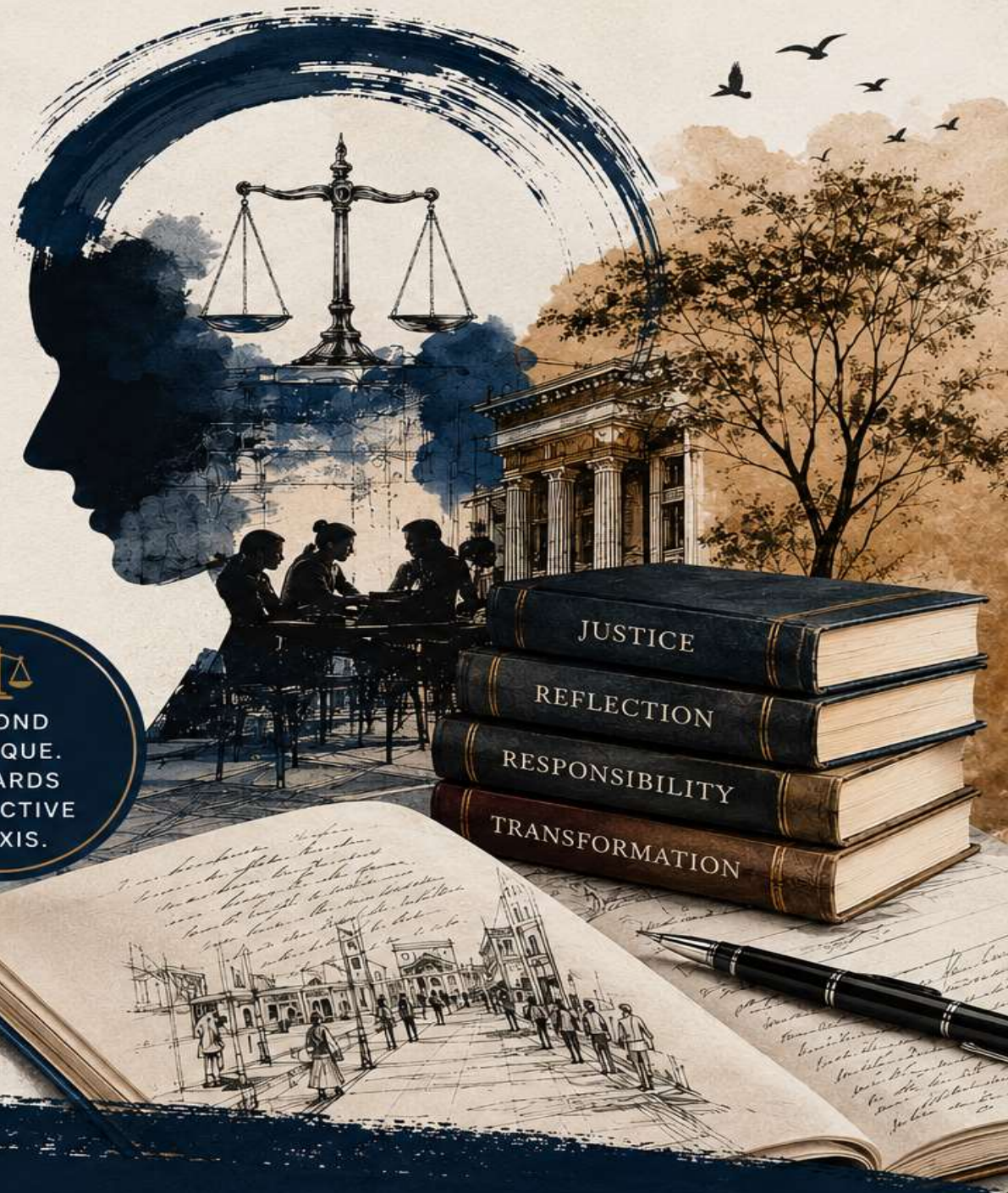


SOCIAL JUSTICE



PEOPLE-CENTRED JUSTICE

“The lawyer’s role is not only to interpret the world,
but to help transform it.”



IS NOT CRITIQUE. IT IS THE GAP.

We teach students
to question the law,
but often forget to
prepare them to
practice it
responsibly.

A person stands on the edge of a dark, jagged cliff. The cliff face is inscribed with the words 'REAL LIVES', 'REAL PEOPLE', and 'REAL HARMS' in white, all-caps text. A large gap separates this cliff from another one on the right. The second cliff face is inscribed with 'DOCTRINE', 'DISCOURSE', 'DEBATE', and 'DEGREE' in white, all-caps text. The background is a cloudy sky.

REAL
LIVES
REAL
PEOPLE
REAL
HARMS

DOCTRINE
DISCOURSE
DEBATE
DEGREE

THE GAP WE SEEK TO BRIDGE

CRITICAL LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP

Questions power,
exposes structures,
challenges norms.

PROFESSIONAL FORMATION

Skills, doctrine,
procedures,
professional roles.



REFLECTIVE PEDAGOGY

The bridge that connects
critique with responsible
legal practice.

WHY REFLECTION MATTERS

- ✓ Law is never neutral.
- ✓ Context shapes every case.
- ✓ Power influences every interaction.
- ✓ Unchecked assumptions can cause harm.
- ✓ Reflection cultivates humility, empathy & responsibility.



PEDAGOGICAL FRAMEWORK

A reflective learning cycle that transforms classroom knowledge into lived understanding.



CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION

Clinics place students in real communities, real problems & real consequences.

They learn law through doing—and reflection gives that doing meaning.



EXPERIENTIAL CLINICS IN ACTION



BAIL REFORM

Understanding how liberty is shaped by law, discretion & inequality.



CUSTODIAL JUSTICE

Engaging with prisons, police practices & the human cost of punishment.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Supporting survivors, questioning systems, promoting dignity.

WHAT GUIDED REFLECTION HELPS STUDENTS DO



Examine their positionality & privilege



Interrogate assumptions about law & justice



Understand the social consequences of legal interventions



Develop ethical judgment in complex situations



Strengthen empathy, listening & accountability



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: COMMUNITY-BASED LAWYERING

Partnerships with communities ensure that learning is collaborative, respectful & grounded in real needs.

Students learn with communities, not just about them.



JUDICIAL TRAINING AND REFLECTION

Judges too benefit from reflective spaces—case roundtables, ethics dialogues & experiential exposure that deepen sensitivity & improve decision-making.



INSTITUTIONALISING REFLECTION

To sustain reflective pedagogy, law schools must embed it in their culture, not treat it as an exception.



Curriculum Design



Faculty Development



Assessment Reform



Reflective Spaces

KEY CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Value reflexivity
as scholarship



Create time & space
for reflection



Build long-term
community partnerships



Recognise & reward
reflective teaching



Ensure diversity,
inclusion & access

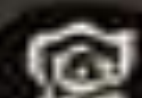
CHALLENGES WE MUST CONFRONT



Heavy caseloads &
institutional pressures



Tokenism without
deep commitment



Emotional labour
in difficult fieldwork



Measuring reflection
is complex



Resistance to change

**CHANGE
IS
UNCOMFORTABLE
BUT
NECESSARY**

FROM CRITIQUE TO REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

When reflection is nurtured,
critique becomes more than
analysis—it becomes action.

Law students evolve into
professionals who are
ethical, empathetic &
committed to reform-
oriented, people-centred
justice.

Reflect. Engage. Act.
Transform.



THE END GOAL

Not just better lawyers.
Better human beings.
Better institutions.
Better justice.

LAW
CAN BE A
FORCE FOR
GOOD.

