

June 7, 2007

## ALTERNATE STRATEGY NOTE 2007

---

*LST's guidance for those who gave the exams this year but were unsuccessful in obtaining admission.*

Our dear LSTians,

The exam season is almost over and most of the results are out. While many of you have cause to rejoice, the few seats available mean that a significant number would be without a seat at *one of the top colleges*. We, at LST, want to see each one of you secure and satisfied and have prepared this note with that in mind. So if you don't have a satisfactory admission in hand, then you need to read this note very carefully.

Before we consider strategies, let's first clarify what we categorise as top colleges. If you find that you have an option within the following list then this Alternate Strategy Note is NOT for you. It's only relevant if you DON'T have an option within the list. The list, in a non-ranking order, is as follows:

*NLSIU Bangalore  
NALSAR Hyderabad  
NUJS Kolkata  
NLU Jodhpur  
NLIU Bhopal  
GNLU Gandhinagar  
ILS Pune  
Amity Law School (IP-University affiliate)  
Symbiosis Pune  
HNLU Raipur  
Christ College of Law  
GLC Mumbai  
NUALS Cochin  
Army Institute of Law*

### *1. What about the new national law universities?*

Besides the above mentioned National Law Universities, there are three others – CNLU Patna, RGNUL Patiala and RMNLU Lucknow. These are currently in their infancy and no recommendation can be made as yet. So, what happens if you don't get admission in any of the listed colleges but get admission at one of these three? In our opinion – if you are a local

of the city / state where these colleges are, then take admission. However, if you are not a local, then be prepared to retake the examinations next year. One middle path is to take admission at these new NLUs and then retake the examinations but the problem is that the first year challenges of an out-of-towner often come in the way of suitable preparation for the examinations.

*2. Are there any other colleges offering decent 5 yr law degrees?*

Apart from the colleges mentioned in the list there are a few other colleges that have a strong *regional* reputation – Ambedkar in Chennai, Kerala Law Academy, School of Excellence Chennai, Faculty of Law, BHU, University Law College, Bangalore, Bangalore Institute of Legal Studies, and University of Law, IP are the most prominent. However, please note: If you are (a) not based in the cities where these colleges are (b) don't have any lawyers in the family or (c) want to keep open options other than practicing in courts, then these colleges are not a good fit for you. Colleges in cities like Delhi, Bombay and Bangalore have an advantage over the rest because of the location and that's why an average college in these cities is advised over average colleges in other cities.

*3. What about studying law abroad?*

The only viable option is the UK since the US offers law only after the undergrad studies. In the UK law can be done immediately after school or after graduation. Visit [www.lawentrance.com](http://www.lawentrance.com) for information on 'Studying Law in the UK'. Read carefully the sections devoted to recognition of degrees and all the other information contained in that section of the site. Some of the good colleges are Kensington College and Northumbria.

*4. I can't go abroad! What about me?*

You have two options:

- (a) Take admission at a local college and prepare again for the law school exams – you will have one solid year with you and there is no reason why you should not find success.
- (b) Get into the best BA / B.Com / B.Sc college you can and either do (a) above (i.e. give exams again) or complete the degree and apply for the good 3 yr options like Delhi

Faculty of Law. It's advisable that you try again for the national law schools in any event.

While planning to appear for the law schools next year do remember that they have an age stipulation- check this age stipulation by looking at the past years notification / brochure and make sure you are not affected.

*5. Why shouldn't I join some other college not mentioned in this Strategy Note?*

We have mentioned that the colleges in the first para are good options. We have then also written that if you have lawyers in the family or are only looking to practice in the courts then some other colleges are available i.e. the ones mentioned under point 2. Some of the other decent local universities that can be clubbed with those mentioned under point 2 are:

1. Calcutta Univ, Kolkata
2. Lucknow Univ, Lucknow
3. Allahabad Univ, Allahabad
4. Punjab University Chandigarh
5. Salgaonkar College of Law, Goa
6. Pendakanty Law College, Hyderabad
7. Faculty of Law, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi
8. Kurukshetra University

You may not get the same level of education as the top 2-3 tier colleges but you will get enough for your purpose.

If you don't fall into the above category i.e. with law in the family or meaning only to practice in the local court, then you should give the exams again. For the year ahead, you can join the local law univ but we recommend a good graduation college to provide for the situation where you don't get in next year and have to continue (with good options) and apply for the 3 yr course.

*6. If I get through the good colleges next year or the year after that will there be a stigma attached to me?*

Not at all. Some of the law schools best students have been those who got through on their 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> tries. Law school has meant more to them because they have had to work longer for it. That hunger has seen them excel at law school. Recruiters are least bothered and can even get positive vibes i.e. they could end up seeing you as more committed.

*7. Thanks for the options but I'm still feeling a bit low about not getting in...*

Every year hundreds of LSTians face the same dilemma that you are facing. There are just not enough seats for the talented students who walk through our doors. However, the certainty of some being disappointed is overwhelmed with another greater certainty – *those who believe more strongly end up going the longer distance*. We have known so many who had to wait longer for their opportunities but when they came – they knew exactly what to make of them.

Finally, LST will always be there for you. Reach out if you need any strength, guidance and support.

God bless all of you!

Love and best wishes,

**The LST Team**

For advice / guidance please write personally to either:

- Sachin Malhan: [sachin@lawentrance.com](mailto:sachin@lawentrance.com)
- or
- Senthil Kumar: [senthil@lawentrance.com](mailto:senthil@lawentrance.com)

*[Please write to only one of the two or else there is the likelihood of repetitive responses]*