

**DIRECTORATE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW, HYDERABAD**

One-Year Advanced Diploma in Media Laws (2021-2022)

Take Home – Supplementary Examination (December 2-5, 2022)

Paper 1.2. Media and the Law

Total Marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- a) Read the instructions for this 'Take Home Examination' carefully and adhere to the same.
- b) Please mention your Name, ID No., Subject Name and total number of pages on the Answer Sheet.
- c) Clearly indicate the question numbers while answering them.
- d) **This paper consists of four questions, each carrying 25 marks.**
- e) **Each answer should not exceed 800 words. Exceeding the word limit will be penalised.**
- f) Since this is a 'Take Home Examination', we expect your answers to have an analytical character rather than merely repeating facts or mechanically citing extracts from the reading material.
- g) Copying from any external source, whether in print or on the internet, or copying from other students is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism is considered as serious academic misconduct and will lead to marking down of answers or even the non-evaluation of answers if there is substantial copying.
- h) **All the candidates are required to submit only MS Word / PDF files containing typed answers.**

Q.1. What are the conventional legal remedies against the publication of material that harms the reputation of an individual? What are the key differences between the remedies available through civil suits and those available through the filing of criminal cases? In your opinion, which of these is more suitable when a working professional faces unsubstantiated personal attacks in the mainstream media such as newspapers, radio, television or online news portals?

(25 marks, 700-800 words)

Q.2. The problem of 'revenge porn' has thrown up difficult questions for the legal system. This phrase is used to describe situations where private sexual acts are recorded by one of the partners and the images or recordings are later published without the consent of the other partner, usually after the breaking down of an intimate relationship. An alarmingly high number of younger women often face such difficulties with former partners who often do this out of spite. This problem has become more of a menace with the growing user base of smartphones which have made it easier to record even the most private interactions, often without the knowledge of the affected persons. What are the appropriate legal remedies available to the victims in such cases? What steps would you propose for legislative reforms to address this growing social problem?

(25 marks, 700-800 words)

Q.3. Recent judicial orders have preferred to place restrictions on the playing of popular songs during the course of common social gatherings such as weddings, birthday parties and dance parties. The argument of copyright owners such as film producers and music production companies is that the unauthorised use of their content in such public gatherings substantially reduces the scope for their earnings through the sales and licensing arrangements. On the other hand, most users of such content would argue that it is impractical to have a licensing arrangement each time a popular song is played for the benefit of the attendees. In light of this situation, how would you appraise the obvious conflict between copyright protection and the public's right to access resources for entertainment? Has the Copyright Act, 1957 suitably addressed this issue?

(25 marks, 700-800 words)

Q.4. The Supreme Court of India has recently started the live web-streaming of proceedings before Constitution Benches. Some High Courts have also moved in this direction, especially owing to the shift towards a hybrid mode of functioning. This step has been taken in response to long-pending demands for the recording and publication of court proceedings for the benefit of the larger public. What are the presumptive advantages and disadvantages of publishing judicial proceedings as they happen? Does this have implications for the integrity of the judicial proceedings?

(25 marks, 700-800 words)
