



DIRECTORATE OF **LEGAL EDUCATION** **(DLE)**

PAKISTAN BAR COUNCIL

BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORT (2024-2026)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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INTRODUCTION

Directorate of Legal Education – Pakistan

The quality of legal education plays a fundamental role in shaping the strength, integrity, and effectiveness of the justice system of any country. In Pakistan, concerns had gradually emerged over the years regarding the declining standards of legal education. A significant increase in the number of law colleges and academic programs had taken place without adequate regulatory oversight, resulting in uneven academic standards, insufficient faculty development, limited research culture, and inadequate institutional infrastructure. These challenges raised serious questions about the preparedness of graduates entering the legal profession and the overall quality of legal practice.

Recognizing the importance of addressing these systemic issues, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan, through its landmark judgment titled **Pakistan Bar Council vs. Federation of Pakistan reported as 2019 SCMR, 389** relating to legal education and the implementation of the Legal Education Rules, 2015, emphasized the urgent need for stronger regulatory oversight and institutional reforms. The Court underscored the responsibility of the Pakistan Bar Council, as the statutory regulator of the legal profession, to ensure that legal education institutions maintain appropriate academic standards and effectively prepare future members of the bar. The Supreme Court by virtue of its judgment directed the Federal Government and the Pakistan Bar Council to establish an autonomous Directorate of Legal Education.

In response to these directions and with the objective of strengthening the legal education framework in the country, the Pakistan Bar Council with financial and logistic assistance from the Ministry of Law & Justice established the Directorate of Legal Education (DLE) by enacting the Directorate of Legal Education Rules, 2023. The Directorate was created as a dedicated institutional mechanism to monitor, regulate, and support the development of legal education across Pakistan.

Working closely with universities, law colleges, and key stakeholders, including the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, the Directorate seeks to promote higher academic standards, encourage legal research, strengthen faculty development, and ensure compliance with the regulatory framework governing legal education. Through inspections, training initiatives, continuing legal education programs, and academic collaborations, the Directorate aims to contribute to the development of a more rigorous, modern, and professionally relevant system of legal education.

This progress report outlines the key initiatives, activities, and developments undertaken by the Directorate of Legal Education since its inception as part of its ongoing efforts to improve the quality and standards of legal education in Pakistan.

DIRECTOR'S Message

It is my pleasure to present the **Biennial Progress Report (2024–2026)** of the Directorate of Legal Education. Established under the Directorate of Legal Education Rules, 2023, pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Directorate represents an important step towards strengthening the quality, credibility, and future of legal education in the country.

Legal education forms the foundation upon which the legal profession and the administration of justice ultimately stand. The competence and integrity with which lawyers serve society are shaped by the institutions that educate and train them. The creation of the Directorate of Legal Education reflects a collective commitment of the Bar, the Judiciary, and the Government to addressing longstanding challenges in the legal education sector and to building a stronger and more accountable system of legal education in Pakistan.

Since its establishment, the Directorate has focused on implementing its mandate through initiatives aimed at improving standards and strengthening institutional oversight. These efforts include monitoring compliance with the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules, 2015, conducting inspections of institutions imparting legal education, supporting teacher training and continuing legal education initiatives, encouraging legal research, and engaging with universities and other stakeholders to promote higher academic standards and practical learning.

The progress reflected in this report has been made possible through the support and cooperation of many stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge the guidance of the Pakistan Bar Council, the support of the Legal Education Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council, the collaboration of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and the commitment shown by universities, law colleges, and members of the legal profession across the country.

Strengthening legal education is a continuing national endeavor. The Directorate remains committed to advancing reforms that promote academic excellence, professional integrity, and a modern and responsive system of legal education for Pakistan.



Barrister Usama Malik

Director

Directorate of Legal Education (DLE-PBC)

MAJOR REFORMS IN LEGAL EDUCATION

During the reporting period, the Directorate of Legal Education (DLE) undertook a series of reforms aimed at strengthening the academic quality, regulatory oversight, and professional relevance of legal education in Pakistan. These reforms were carried out in close collaboration with the Pakistan Bar Council, the Higher Education Commission, universities, and other key stakeholders, and were guided by the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan and the provisions of the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules, 2015.

The initiatives undertaken by the Directorate can broadly be understood under four key reform areas: curriculum modernization, strengthening academic standards, regulatory oversight of legal education institutions, and improving the professional training environment for law graduates.

1. CURRICULUM REFORM & MODERNIZATION OF LEGAL EDUCATION

1.1: Introduction of the Four-Year LLB Curriculum

One of the most significant milestones in the reform of legal education in Pakistan has been the introduction and implementation of the revised four-year LLB curriculum. The Directorate of Legal Education worked closely with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Pakistan Bar Council to design and introduce this curriculum as part of a broader effort to modernize and strengthen legal education across the country.



The revised curriculum reflects a conscious effort to ensure that legal education in Pakistan remains responsive to the evolving demands of the legal profession and the wider needs of society. In recent years, the practice of law has undergone considerable transformation due to technological change, environmental challenges, and the increasing need for efficient dispute resolution mechanisms. In order to prepare future lawyers to effectively navigate these developments, the Directorate recommended the inclusion of several **new mandatory subjects**, including **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**, **Environmental Law**, and **Cyber Law**.

The introduction of **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** is particularly significant in the context of Pakistan's justice system, where courts continue to face a heavy backlog of cases. By familiarizing law students with mediation, arbitration, and other non-litigation methods of resolving disputes, the curriculum encourages a culture of consensual dispute resolution and equips future lawyers with the tools necessary to promote faster and more effective justice.



Similarly, the inclusion of **Environmental Law** reflects the growing importance of environmental protection and sustainable development in contemporary legal systems. With increasing global attention on climate change, environmental governance, and resource management, it is essential for law graduates to understand the legal frameworks that regulate environmental protection and environmental accountability.

The addition of **Cyber Law** addresses another rapidly evolving area of legal practice. As societies become increasingly digital, legal systems must respond to complex issues involving data protection, cybercrime, electronic transactions, and digital privacy. By introducing cyber law into the core curriculum, the Directorate has ensured that future legal professionals are better equipped to address legal challenges arising from technological advancement and digital transformation.

In addition to revising the course content, the **semester system** has been introduced across universities and affiliated law colleges throughout Pakistan. The transition from the traditional annual examination system to a semester-based academic structure promotes continuous learning, regular assessment, and closer academic engagement between students and faculty members. This reform also aligns Pakistan's legal education framework more closely with internationally recognized academic standards and encourages a more dynamic, research-oriented, and interactive learning environment within law schools.

Together, these reforms represent an important step toward building a legal education system that is not only academically rigorous but also responsive to the realities of modern legal practice.

1.2: Pakistan Law Module for University of London External Programme



Recognizing the growing number of students in Pakistan who pursue external law degrees, particularly through the **University of London LLB programme**, the Directorate of Legal Education engaged with the University of London to ensure that these students acquire a meaningful understanding of Pakistan's domestic legal framework.

On the recommendation of the Directorate, the University of London introduced, for the first time in its history, a dedicated Pakistan Law Module for students enrolled in its external law programmes in Pakistan. The Directorate played an important role in assisting with the development of the curriculum outline for this module, ensuring that it reflects the key features of Pakistan's constitutional structure, legal institutions, and substantive legal framework.

This initiative addresses a longstanding gap in legal education for students enrolled in external programmes. While the University of London LLB programme provides a strong foundation in common law principles, students studying through the external programme often had limited exposure to the specific constitutional, statutory, and procedural laws applicable in Pakistan. The introduction of the Pakistan Law Module therefore ensures that these students develop a clearer understanding of Pakistan's legal system and its institutional structure.

The module is expected to significantly benefit students by enabling them to better connect their academic learning with the realities of legal practice in Pakistan. It also contributes to ensuring that graduates of external law programmes are better prepared to engage with the local legal profession, courts, and regulatory frameworks.

By facilitating the introduction of this module, the Directorate has helped strengthen the integration of external legal education programmes with Pakistan's domestic legal system, thereby enhancing the professional preparedness of students pursuing international law degrees while intending to practice law within Pakistan.



2. STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC STANDARDS & FACULTY DEVELOPMENT IN LAW INSTITUTIONS

2.1: Faculty Requirements and Academic Capacity

The quality of legal education ultimately depends on the strength and commitment of its faculty. Recognizing this, the Directorate has worked closely with the Legal Education Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council to ensure strict compliance with the mandatory faculty requirements under Rule 13A of the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules, 2015.

Universities and affiliated law colleges have been required to maintain the prescribed number of qualified and full-time law faculty members. This initiative aims to strengthen academic mentorship, improve classroom instruction, and ensure that students benefit from sustained academic engagement with experienced teachers. The Directorate's efforts in this regard represent an important step toward building a stronger academic culture within law schools across the country.

2.2: Faculty Requirements and Academic Capacity

Recognizing that the true strength of any system of legal education lies not only in its curriculum but also in the quality and effectiveness of those who teach it, the Directorate of Legal Education has placed significant emphasis on improving the pedagogical capacity of law faculty members across Pakistan. With this understanding, the Directorate undertook a focused initiative to support law teachers in strengthening their teaching practices and adapting to evolving educational methods.

In pursuit of this objective, the Directorate partnered with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)—one of Pakistan's leading institutions of higher learning to organize specialized pedagogical training programmes for law faculty members from universities and affiliated law colleges across the country. These programmes were designed to provide law teachers with an opportunity to reflect on their teaching methods, engage with contemporary approaches to legal education, and develop practical tools for improving classroom instruction.

As part of this initiative, the Directorate has successfully conducted four pedagogical training programmes in collaboration with LUMS, each bringing together law faculty members from diverse academic institutions. These three-day intensive training sessions focused on a range of important areas, including modern teaching methodologies, interactive classroom techniques, case-based learning, curriculum delivery strategies, and methods for fostering deeper analytical engagement among law students.

Importantly, these programmes represent the **first organized effort at the national level** to provide structured pedagogical training specifically for law faculty members in Pakistan. The training programmes, which are held twice each year, have seen participation from a wide range of universities and law colleges representing different regions of Pakistan. Faculty members from institutions located in far-flung areas such as Turbat, Sukkur, Hazara, Mardan and Dera Ghazi Khan etc. have taken part in these sessions alongside participants from larger urban centers. This broad representation reflects the Directorate's commitment to ensuring that improvements in legal education are inclusive and accessible to institutions across the entire country, rather than being limited to a few major academic hubs.



2.3: Non-Practicing Allowance for Law Faculty

A strong and vibrant system of legal education requires the presence of committed full-time faculty members who are able to dedicate their time and energy to teaching, research, and academic mentorship. Recognizing this need, the Supreme Court of Pakistan directed that Non-Practicing Allowance (NPA) be provided to permanent law faculty members in order to encourage them to focus on academic work rather than engaging in full-time legal practice.

Despite this direction, the implementation of the Non-Practicing Allowance remained delayed for several years. Recognizing the importance of strengthening the professional standing of legal academia, the Directorate of Legal Education worked closely with the Higher Education Commission to develop a policy framework aimed at facilitating the payment of Non-Practicing Allowance to permanent law faculty members.

This initiative represents an important step toward recognizing the vital role that law teachers play in shaping the next generation of legal professionals. By supporting the implementation of NPA, the Directorate aims to encourage greater academic commitment among law faculty members and strengthen the overall academic culture within law schools across Pakistan.

2.4: Library and Research Facilities

A strong culture of research and intellectual inquiry is fundamental to the development of a vibrant and credible legal education system. Legal education is not limited to classroom instruction; it also requires students to engage deeply with legal texts, judicial decisions, scholarly commentary, and evolving areas of legal scholarship. Recognizing the central role of research in legal training, the Directorate of Legal Education has placed particular emphasis on ensuring compliance with Rule 8 of the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules, 2015, which requires institutions offering legal education to maintain adequate library and research facilities.

In this regard, universities and affiliated law colleges have been directed to ensure that students have access to essential legal texts, law reports, academic journals, reference materials, and digital research databases necessary for serious legal study. The Directorate has encouraged institutions to strengthen both their physical and digital library resources so that law students are able to engage with contemporary legal scholarship and remain informed about developments in national and international law.

By strengthening library infrastructure and improving access to research materials, the Directorate aims to foster a learning environment that encourages independent study, analytical thinking, and deeper engagement with legal ideas. In the long term, strengthening research facilities within law schools will contribute to building a more intellectually vibrant legal education system in Pakistan.



2.5: Attendance Compliance

Academic discipline and active participation in classroom learning are critical components of meaningful legal education. Legal training requires sustained engagement with course materials, regular interaction with faculty members, and participation in classroom discussions that develop analytical and advocacy skills. In order to ensure that students remain actively involved in their academic programmes, the Directorate has strictly enforced the requirement of a minimum of 75% attendance for LLB students.

The enforcement of this requirement reflects the understanding that regular classroom participation plays an important role in developing a student's ability to analyze legal problems, engage with different perspectives, and build the professional discipline expected of future members of the legal profession. Institutions that were found to be operating in violation of this requirement have been subject to regulatory fines and corrective measures to ensure compliance with the prescribed academic standards.

By reinforcing attendance requirements, the Directorate seeks to strengthen the culture of academic responsibility and engagement within law institutions. This measure has encouraged universities and affiliated law colleges to maintain greater oversight of student participation in academic activities and to ensure that legal education is delivered through a structured and disciplined learning environment.

3. REGULATORY OVERSIGHT OF LEGAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

3.1: Enforcement of the Ban on the Three-Year LL.B Programme

The reform of legal education in Pakistan has been closely guided by the directions of the **Supreme Court of Pakistan**, which has repeatedly emphasized the need to improve academic standards and ensure greater institutional accountability within law schools. In its landmark judgment reported as **2019 SCMR 389**, the Supreme Court directed the discontinuation of the **three-year LLB programme**, recognizing that a more comprehensive and academically rigorous programme was necessary to prepare future lawyers for the complexities of modern legal practice.

The Court's decision formed part of a broader effort to strengthen the foundations of legal education in Pakistan and to align the academic training of law students with internationally recognized standards. The introduction of the **four-year LL.B programme** was intended to provide students with a deeper and more structured engagement with legal principles, legal reasoning, and professional skills.

Despite the clarity of the Court's directions, several universities continued to offer three-year LLB classes in violation of the judgment. Such practices undermined the broader reform effort and risked creating inconsistencies in the academic preparation of law graduates. Recognizing the importance of uniform compliance with the Supreme Court's directives, the Directorate of Legal Education undertook a series of measures aimed at ensuring the complete discontinuation of the three-year LLB programme across Pakistan.

3.2: Ban on Evening LLB Classes

Another important reform undertaken during the reporting period relates to the prohibition of evening LLB programmes. In accordance with the provisions of the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules, 2015, and the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Directorate ensured the complete ban on evening LLB classes across universities and affiliated law colleges.

The rationale behind this measure lies in the recognition that legal education requires a structured academic environment supported by adequate faculty supervision, regular classroom engagement, and meaningful interaction between students and teachers. Evening programmes had often been associated with limited faculty availability, reduced academic supervision, and compromised learning environments, which in turn affected the overall quality of legal education being delivered.

By enforcing the prohibition of evening LLB programmes, the Directorate sought to ensure that legal education is delivered through properly structured daytime academic programmes where students can fully benefit from classroom discussions, academic mentoring, and engagement with faculty members.

3.3: Infrastructure Compliance and Institutional Standards

The credibility of legal education depends not only on the strength of its curriculum and faculty, but also on the institutional environment in which learning takes place. Recognizing the importance of proper academic infrastructure, the Directorate of Legal Education worked closely with the Legal Education Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council to ensure strict adherence to the infrastructure requirements

prescribed under the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules, 2015. Universities and affiliated law colleges offering LLB programmes have been required to maintain adequate classrooms, properly equipped libraries, faculty offices, and other essential academic facilities necessary for delivering quality legal education. These requirements are designed to ensure that students are provided with a professional academic environment that supports serious study, legal research, and meaningful engagement with faculty members.

The Directorate has emphasized that institutions offering legal education must meet these minimum academic standards not merely as a regulatory formality, but as a fundamental requirement for maintaining the integrity of the legal profession. By ensuring compliance with infrastructure requirements, the Directorate seeks to promote a culture of institutional responsibility and academic seriousness within law schools across Pakistan.

3.4: Institutional Inspections

In order to ensure that legal education institutions continue to meet the regulatory standards prescribed under the legal education framework, the Directorate conducts regular inspection visits to universities and law colleges across Pakistan in line with rule 8 of the Directorate of Legal Education Rules, 2023. These inspections form an essential part of the Directorate's regulatory oversight and serve as a practical mechanism for monitoring compliance with the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules.

Through these inspection visits, the Directorate evaluates a range of institutional factors, including faculty strength, infrastructure facilities, library resources, classroom arrangements, student records, and compliance with academic requirements. These visits also provide an opportunity for direct engagement with university administrators and faculty members, enabling the Directorate to better understand the challenges faced by institutions and provide guidance on improving compliance with regulatory standards. Institutional inspections therefore serve not only as a mechanism of oversight but also as a tool for strengthening institutional capacity and encouraging continuous improvement within law schools. By identifying deficiencies and working with institutions to address them, the Directorate seeks to ensure that universities and affiliated law colleges maintain the academic standards necessary for delivering meaningful and credible legal education.



3.5: Regulation of External Law Programmes

With the growing number of institutions offering external law degree programmes, it has become increasingly important to ensure that such programmes operate within the regulatory framework governing legal education in Pakistan in line with chapter VII of the Legal Education Rules, 2015. In this regard, the Directorate of Legal Education assisted the Legal Education Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council in strengthening oversight of institutions offering external law programmes.

As part of these efforts, institutions offering external law degrees have been required to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Pakistan Bar Council before launching their programmes. This requirement ensures that such institutions meet the minimum academic and regulatory standards prescribed under the legal education framework.

By enforcing this mechanism, the Directorate together with the Legal Education Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council has helped ensure that students enrolling in external law programmes are able to pursue their studies through institutions that operate under proper regulatory supervision, thereby protecting students from unregulated or substandard academic arrangements.



3.6: Action Against Ghost Law Colleges (BZU)

One of the most significant regulatory interventions undertaken during the reporting period involved addressing the issue of **ghost law colleges affiliated with Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU)**. The existence of such institutions posed a serious challenge to the credibility and integrity of legal education in Pakistan, as these colleges often operated without the necessary academic infrastructure, faculty, or regulatory compliance required under the Pakistan Bar Council Legal Education Rules.

Recognizing the seriousness of the issue, the Directorate of Legal Education initiated a series of detailed inquiries and verification exercises in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the Legal Education Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). These investigations involved careful scrutiny of institutional records, inspection of affiliated colleges, and verification of whether the institutions were meeting the prescribed academic and infrastructural requirements for offering LLB programmes.

As a result of these efforts, several ghost law colleges affiliated with Bahauddin Zakariya University were identified and subsequently eliminated from the legal education system. This decisive action helped address a longstanding concern regarding the proliferation of institutions operating without adequate academic oversight or institutional capacity.

The removal of these ghost institutions represents an important step toward protecting students from enrolling in fraudulent or substandard academic programmes, while also reinforcing the regulatory framework governing legal education in Pakistan. By ensuring that only properly established and compliant institutions are permitted to offer law programmes, the Directorate has contributed to strengthening the credibility of legal education and safeguarding the standards expected of institutions responsible for training future members of the legal profession.

4. STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS FOR LAW GRADUATES

4.1: Registration of Law Students

Ensuring transparency and accountability within the legal profession begins with maintaining accurate and reliable records of students entering the legal education system. Recognizing the importance of this first step in the professional journey of future lawyers, the Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the Legal Education Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council, has taken significant steps to ensure that all students seeking admission to LLB programmes across Pakistan are formally registered with the Pakistan Bar Council in compliance with rule 4(iii) of Legal Education Rules, 2015.

This registration process allows the regulatory authorities to maintain oversight over the number of students entering law programmes and ensures that only those who have pursued their legal education through recognized institutions are able to proceed toward enrollment in the legal profession. By introducing a more structured registration system, the Directorate aims to strengthen transparency within legal education and protect the integrity of the process through which individuals enter the legal profession.

In addition, efforts are underway to establish a centralized digital database of law students enrolled across universities and affiliated law colleges in Pakistan. This digital record system will allow the Pakistan Bar Council and Provincial Bar Councils to maintain accurate and verifiable information regarding law students throughout their academic journey. The development of such a database is expected to play a crucial role in addressing the longstanding problem of fake or unverified legal credentials, thereby strengthening public confidence in the legal profession and ensuring that only properly trained graduates are able to enter legal practice.

4.2: Improvement of the Law-GAT Mechanism

The Law Graduate Assessment Test (Law-GAT), conducted by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), is a mandatory requirement for enrollment as an advocate, as directed by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The purpose of this examination is to ensure that law graduates possess the minimum level of legal knowledge and analytical ability required to enter the legal profession.

Over time, however, concerns were raised regarding certain aspects of the examination process, including errors in test questions and issues related to the evaluation mechanism. Recognizing the importance of maintaining public trust in this examination system, the Directorate of Legal Education worked closely with the Higher Education Commission to address these concerns.

Through this collaboration, efforts were made to introduce a more robust review and correction mechanism aimed at identifying and resolving errors in examination papers and improving the overall reliability of the assessment process. These measures were intended to ensure that the Law-GAT examination remains fair, transparent, and credible, while continuing to serve its purpose of maintaining professional standards for entry into the legal profession.



4.3: Promotion of Law Clinics and Practical Legal Training

Legal education must go beyond theoretical instruction and provide students with opportunities to develop practical skills and professional judgment. Recognizing this important aspect of legal training, the Directorate has actively encouraged universities and law institutes to establish law clinics and practical training programmes as part of their academic framework.

Law clinics provide students with valuable opportunities to engage with real-world legal issues, often under the guidance of experienced faculty members and legal practitioners. Through these initiatives, students are able to develop essential professional skills such as legal research, client interaction, problem-solving, and advocacy.

The promotion of clinical legal education reflects the Directorate's broader commitment to ensuring that law graduates are not only academically knowledgeable but also professionally prepared to navigate the practical realities of legal practice. By encouraging institutions to adopt clinical training models, the Directorate aims to strengthen the bridge between legal education and the practice of law, thereby contributing to the development of a more capable and responsible legal profession in Pakistan.



5. STRATEGIC INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing that the development of a strong and modern legal education system requires collaboration with key regulatory and professional institutions, the Directorate of Legal Education has actively pursued strategic partnerships with national organizations working in specialized areas of law and professional training.

5.1: Memorandum of Understanding with the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP)

The Directorate of Legal Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to promote specialized training opportunities for lawyers and law students in areas related to corporate, banking, insurance, and company law.

Through this collaboration, the Directorate aims to facilitate professional training programmes, workshops, and continuing legal education initiatives that will enhance the understanding of lawyers and law students in complex areas of commercial regulation. This partnership is expected to strengthen the capacity of legal professionals working in fields such as corporate governance, financial regulation, and commercial law, thereby contributing to the development of a more competent and specialized legal workforce.



5.2: Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and the Ministry of Law and Justice

The Directorate of Legal Education also entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and the Ministry of Law and Justice, aimed at promoting and strengthening the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation ecosystem in Pakistan.

This collaboration seeks to advance the use of mediation and other ADR mechanisms as effective tools for resolving disputes outside the traditional court system. By working together with academic institutions and government stakeholders, the initiative aims to support the development of training programmes, research initiatives, and professional capacity-building activities related to ADR and mediation.

Through this partnership, the Directorate aims to encourage greater awareness and understanding of ADR among lawyers, law students, faculty members, and other stakeholders within the justice sector. The collaboration also seeks to contribute to the broader national effort to promote efficient, accessible, and cost-effective dispute resolution mechanisms, which can play an important role in reducing the burden on courts and improving access to justice.



5.3: Memorandum of Understanding with the Legal Aid Society (LAS)

The Directorate also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Legal Aid Society (LAS) to promote the development and institutionalization of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation training programmes for lawyers and law faculty members.

This collaboration aims to support the growing recognition of mediation and ADR as effective tools for resolving disputes outside traditional court processes. Through joint training programmes, workshops, and capac-

ity-building initiatives, the partnership seeks to equip legal professionals and educators with the skills necessary to promote constructive, efficient, and accessible dispute resolution mechanisms within Pakistan's legal system.



5.4: Memorandum of Understanding with the Higher Education Commission (HEC)

In order to strengthen coordination between regulatory and academic bodies, the Directorate of Legal Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Higher Education Commission (HEC). This partnership aims to enhance collaboration between the two institutions on matters relating to legal education policy, curriculum development, faculty training, and the promotion of high academic standards within law schools across Pakistan.

The MOU provides an important institutional framework through which the Pakistan Bar Council and the Higher Education Commission can work more closely together in addressing the challenges faced by the legal education sector. By bringing together the regulatory oversight of the Pakistan Bar Council and the academic expertise of the Higher Education Commission, the partnership seeks to promote a more coordinated and coherent approach to the development of legal education in the country.

Through this collaboration, both institutions aim to facilitate meaningful reforms within legal education, encourage innovation in teaching and research, and support initiatives that strengthen the overall quality of law schools. The partnership also reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that universities and law colleges operate in accordance with the regulatory standards prescribed under the legal education framework, while continuing to evolve in response to the changing needs of the legal profession and society.



5.5: Memorandum of Understanding with the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP)

The Directorate also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) to promote awareness and understanding of competition law and regulatory frameworks among lawyers and law students.

Under this partnership, the Directorate and the CCP aim to organize training programmes, seminars, and continuing legal education (CLE) initiatives focused on competition law and market regulation. This initiative is intended to encourage greater engagement with competition law among legal practitioners and to strengthen the capacity of lawyers to deal with complex issues relating to market regulation, anti-competitive practices, and consumer protection.

Through these institutional partnerships, the Directorate of Legal Education continues to expand opportunities for specialized legal training, professional development, and academic collaboration, thereby contributing to the broader objective of strengthening legal education and the legal profession in Pakistan.



6. TRAININGS

6.1: Law Bridge Workshop for Supreme Court Reporters

The Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Reporters Association, organized the “Law Bridge” Workshop for Supreme Court reporters with



the objective of promoting ethical, accurate, and professional coverage of judicial proceedings. The workshop served as an important initiative to strengthen the capacity of journalists reporting on matters relating to the Supreme Court and High Courts of Pakistan, while fostering greater understanding of the judicial process and legal system.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faez Isa, as the Chief Guest. In his address, the Hon'ble Chief Justice highlighted the importance of responsible legal journalism and emphasized the media's role in enhancing public confidence in judicial institutions through fair, balanced, and informed reporting. The event brought together members of the judiciary, legal experts, senior journalists, and court reporters from across the country, creating a constructive platform for dialogue and professional engagement.

The training program comprised a series of panel discussions and interactive sessions focusing on ethical and professional standards in court reporting, accurate interpretation of judicial proceedings, reporting of sub judice matters, and the evolving challenges faced by legal journalists. Distinguished judges, senior advocates, academics, and experienced media professionals participated as resource persons and shared practical insights aimed at improving the professional competence of Supreme Court and High Court reporters.

6.2: E-Course for Young Lawyers

Under the directions of the **Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan**, the Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the **Federal Judicial Academy**, launched a **self-paced e-course for newly graduated and enrolled lawyers**. The initiative represents an important step towards strengthening the transition from academic legal education to professional practice.

The course provides newly enrolled members of the legal profession with structured access to practical and professional learning resources, enabling them to develop essential knowledge and skills at their own pace. The initiative reflects the Directorate's commitment to leveraging technology and digital learning to make professional legal education more accessible, continuous and responsive to the needs of young lawyers across Pakistan.

The collaboration between the Directorate of Legal Education and the Federal Judicial Academy also brings together the expertise of the country's principal institutions responsible for legal education and judicial training, creating a stronger institutional foundation for the professional development of the next generation of lawyers.



6.3: Three-Day Training Program on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for Law Faculty Members

The Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society, organized a three-day training program on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for law faculty members from various universities across

Pakistan. The initiative aimed to enhance the capacity of legal educators and promote the integration of ADR concepts and practices within legal education and academic instruction.

The training sessions were conducted by experienced ADR practitioners, legal experts, and academics, focusing on mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and conciliation, along with the evolving role of ADR in strengthening access to justice and reducing the burden on courts. Interactive discussions, case studies, and practical exercises enabled participants to gain practical insights into modern dispute resolution mechanisms and international best practices.

The program provided an important platform for professional engagement and exchange of ideas among legal educators and practitioners. It contributed to improving the instructional capacity of law faculty members and reflected the Directorate of Legal Education's continued commitment to promoting contemporary legal education, professional development, and awareness of effective dispute resolution mechanisms in Pakistan.



6.4: One-Week ADR Certification Program for Law Students

The Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society, organized a one-week certification program on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for law students from various universities across Pakistan. The program was designed to introduce students to modern dispute resolution mechanisms and to enhance their understanding of the practical application of ADR within the legal system.

The certification program included interactive sessions on mediation, arbitration, negotiation, and conciliation, conducted by experienced legal practitioners, ADR experts, and academics. Through workshops, simulations, and case studies, participants were provided with practical exposure to dispute resolution techniques and the role of ADR in promoting efficient and accessible justice. The closing ceremony was attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb, along with Director (DLE) Usama Malik and CEO of the Legal Aid Society, Haya Zahid.



6.5: Training Program on Competition Laws for Law Students

The Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the Competition Commission of Pakistan and the School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University, organized a specialized training program on Competition Laws for law students. The initiative aimed to enhance students' understanding of competition law and policy, while promoting awareness of fair market practices and the regulatory framework governing competition in Pakistan.

The training sessions were conducted by experts from the Competition Commission of Pakistan, legal practitioners, and academics, who delivered lectures and interactive discussions on key areas including anti-competitive practices, abuse of dominant position, mergers and acquisitions, consumer protection, and the role of competition law in ensuring economic efficiency and market transparency. Participants were also introduced to comparative international practices and recent developments in competition law jurisprudence.

The program provided law students with valuable academic and practical exposure to an increasingly significant area of legal practice and public policy. Through active participation and engagement with subject experts, students developed a deeper understanding of the importance of competition regulation in promoting economic growth and protecting consumer interests.



6.6: Training Program on Competition Laws for Lawyers

As part of its commitment towards promoting continued legal education for lawyers, the Directorate, in collaboration with the Islamabad High Court Bar Association and the Competition Commission of Pakistan, organized a specialized training program on Competition Laws for members of the legal fraternity practicing in Islamabad. The initiative was undertaken to strengthen professional understanding of competition law and to equip lawyers with contemporary knowledge of the legal and regulatory principles governing fair competition, consumer welfare, and market integrity in Pakistan.

The program brought together legal practitioners, regulatory experts, and academics for meaningful engagement on the evolving landscape of competition law and its growing significance in modern legal practice. Expert-led sessions focused on anti-competitive conduct, abuse of dominant position, merger regulation, enforcement mechanisms, and recent developments in competition law jurisprudence. Through interactive discussions and practical case studies, participants were encouraged to critically examine the role of legal professionals in promoting transparency, accountability, and fair commercial practices within the broader framework of economic justice. The training served as an important forum for professional learning, collaboration, and exchange of ideas between the bar, regulatory institutions, and academia.



6.7: Internationally Accredited Mediation Training Course for Lawyers

As part of its continued commitment to promoting mediation and strengthening alternative dispute resolution within the legal system, the Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the Islamabad High Court Bar Association and the Institute of Business Administration, organized a five-day internationally accredited mediation training course for lawyers. The program was designed to enhance the professional capacity of legal practitioners by providing internationally recognized training in mediation and modern dispute resolution practices.

The course brought together lawyers from diverse fields of practice and offered practical, skills-based training through expert-led sessions, simulations, role plays, and interactive exercises. Participants received instruction in mediation procedures, negotiation techniques, conflict management, communication skills, and ethical standards in mediation practice. The training underscored the growing importance of mediation as an efficient, cost-effective, and collaborative mechanism for resolving disputes, while also encouraging a culture of dialogue and consensual settlement within the legal profession.

The closing ceremony was attended by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb and Director (DLE) Usama Malik. The initiative reflected the Directorate's broader vision of fostering a more skilled, progressive, and responsive legal community equipped to meet the evolving needs of the justice sector in Pakistan.



7. CONFERENCES

7.1: International Conference on Women Empowerment in Pakistan

The Directorate of Legal Education, in collaboration with the Bahauddin Zakariya University and the Higher Education Commission, organized a two-day international conference on Women Empowerment in Pakistan. The conference served as an important platform for dialogue and reflection on the collective responsibility of institutions, academia, and society in promoting the rights, dignity, and meaningful participation of women in

all spheres of national life. It brought together academics, legal experts, policymakers, civil society representatives, and students to exchange ideas and explore pathways towards a more inclusive and equitable society. Through panel discussions, research presentations, and interactive sessions, participants engaged in thoughtful discussions on access to justice, gender equality, education, economic inclusion, legal reforms, and institutional support for women's advancement. National and international speakers shared experiences and perspectives highlighting the importance of empowering women not only as a matter of legal and constitutional rights, but also as a foundation for social progress, sustainable development, and stronger communities. The conference encouraged constructive dialogue aimed at fostering awareness, collaboration, and meaningful reform.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Acting President of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, whose presence reflected the significance of the initiative at the national level.



7.2: Two-Day International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Pakistan

The Directorate of Legal Education, in partnership with the Bahauddin Zakariya University and the Higher Education Commission, convened a two-day international conference on Artificial Intelligence in Pakistan to examine the transformative impact of emerging technologies on law, governance, education, and public policy. The conference brought together a diverse group of scholars, legal professionals, researchers, technology experts, and students to foster informed dialogue on the opportunities and challenges presented by rapid technological advancement. The proceedings included keynote addresses, thematic panel discussions, and academic presentations addressing issues such as regulation of artificial intelligence, ethical and legal dimensions of automated decision-making, cybersecurity, digital rights, innovation in legal education, and the future of technology-driven governance. Participants engaged in constructive discussions on the importance of developing legal and institutional frameworks capable of responding to the evolving realities of artificial intelligence while safeguarding fundamental rights and public interest.



7.3: 1st National Conference on Legal Education & Practice

The Directorate, in collaboration with the Research Society of International Law and The Asia Foundation, organized the 1st National Conference on Legal Education and Practice, bringing together leaders of the legal profession, legal academics, policymakers, and institutional stakeholders from across Pakistan. The conference served as an important national forum for meaningful dialogue on the future of legal education, professional training, and the evolving needs of the justice sector. By convening representatives of Bar Councils, universities, and professional institutions under one roof, the initiative encouraged collective reflection on strengthening the quality, accessibility, and practical relevance of legal education in Pakistan.

The conference was attended by Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Bar Council, Pir Masood Chishti, Chairman Executive Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council, Munir A. Malik, along with Members Pakistan Bar Council Amir Saeed Rawn, Rehman Ullah Khan, and Naveed Akhtar. Their participation reflected a shared commitment within the legal community to promote institutional collaboration, improve professional standards, and bridge the gap between legal education and legal practice.

An important feature of the conference was the participation of public institutions and organizations that showcased innovative legal technology initiatives and digital tools aimed at improving access to justice and modernizing legal services, including the Ministry of Law and Justice. The event was graced by Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister of State for Law & Justice and Raja Naeem Akbar, Federal Secretary Ministry of Law & Justice who delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Ministry's ongoing initiatives to promote legal technology and digital innovation within Pakistan's justice sector.

