



Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud  
Chief Justice of India

## Message

**From the desk of Hon'ble Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud  
Chief Justice of India**

Dear students

Congratulations on your admission into the prestigious West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata! I hope you are filled with excitement and curiosity as you embark on your journey into the legal profession. This is a journey which may be difficult at times, but you will never be subject to a moment's boredom. The law is vastly interesting and the tools used in the practice of law even more so.

Foremost in this repertoire is the tool of reasoning. By adopting the Constitution and thereby choosing the rule of law, we have opted to enter into a dialogue with one another when a dispute arises. We have collectively decided to rely on our intellect to resolve disputes. Naturally, the corollary to this is that our society has rejected brute force as a mechanism to differentiate between right and wrong or decide what the characteristics of our society ought to be. This is a rather recent development in the long history of the evolution of humanity and it is the duty of each one of us to strive to fortify this system based on reason and the rule of law. You, like every citizen, must guard the hard-won principles of democracy.

A law student (and a lawyer) must possess many qualities but some are indispensable:

### **1. Integrity**

Do not give in to the temptation to be successful at any cost. Be unwavering in your commitment to honesty and the principles by which you have decided to live your life. When you return home at the end of a day of work, you will be satisfied with the person you are and that is worth more than anything money can buy.



Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud  
Chief Justice of India

**2. Hard work**

Never underestimate the value of working hard. You may face lawyers who are smarter than you or more experienced than you are, but you can best them by working hard.

**3. Never say die**

To borrow the words of Forrest Gump, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." It is likely that you will face and feel like you have had more than your fair share of disappointments, but do not be disheartened. Soldier on.

**4. Treat everyone with respect**

Treat everyone with kindness and respect, regardless of who they are and what they can do for you. Let not money, hierarchy or power define your behaviour towards other living beings. These is a virtue in and of itself.

**5. Define "success" for yourself**

Define success on your terms, both in law school and in life. It is surprisingly easy to get caught up in others' definitions of success and failure. Resist the message that there is a singular idea of success and forge your own path to the life that you truly desire.

I wish you the best for your time at WBNUJS, Kolkata. I am certain that your years there will be filled with learning and fulfilment and many moments of laughter and friendship along the path you have chosen.

*Dhananjaya Chandrachud*

**[Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud]**