



MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

1416 Sadashiv Peth, Pune 411030 Regd No 1319/2022 dt 24/08/2022

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Medico Legal Society of INDIA : Illustrious Three Years

Medico Legal Society of India is an association of doctors and lawyers, office bearers of which are legally qualified doctors.

Dr. Rajeev Joshi, took his inspiration from the medicolegal cell of IMA Pune and attained a formal law degree at age of 60 years. He found that in spite of increasing incidents of violence against doctors and healthcare professionals across the country, the legal provisions to protect doctors were inadequate, as most of the offenses against doctors were bailable and non-cognizable. He studied the provisions of 19 special acts for protection of doctors from 19 states and found that some provisions were present in some states and some in other states.

An incident of setting an ambulance ablaze by relatives of a patient ignited the idea of filing a public interest litigation for protection of healthcare professionals in Maharashtra, requesting the High Court to issue guidelines on the lines of violence related to movie Padmavat. The decision to file this PIL was supported by Late Dr. M. C. Gupta who helped in improving the draft, Dr. G. S. Jaiya who gave valuable inputs and Dr. Jayant Navarange who gave supporting affidavits. Since the Indian Medical Association, Pune decided to stay away from such a petition, school friends of Dr. Rajeev Joshi decided to support him morally and financially. Adv. Nitin Deshpande, his bench mate in school, agreed to file the PIL pro bono. A Public Interest Litigation (ST) 2332/2020 - *Dr Rajeev Digambar Joshi vs State of Maharashtra* was filed in Bombay High Court on 15 Sept 2020 which was appreciated by the Chief Justice.

The seed for formation of an association was sown, when many likeminded doctors offered help and contributed expenses and professional fees for the lawyer. Other associations of doctors like AMC, API, GPA filed intervention applications to increase pressure on the state government.



These associations became part of the committee formed by the State Government to prepare a draft of an Act for prevention of violence against healthcare professionals and institutions. The State Government conceded that out of 1318 accused from 618 attacks on doctors from 2015 to 2020, only 4 were convicted. On 13th July 2021, the Advocate General of Maharashtra promised the Bombay High Court that the State of Maharashtra will either amend the 2010 Act or replace it with a new Act.

Online meetings were conducted every alternate week to discuss the possibility of formation of Medicos Legal Aid Association and many individuals came forward to support the need for a body which would be able to defend doctors and problems faced by them in their day-to-day practice. A training program was envisaged for increasing awareness among the medical fraternity regarding medico-legal issues.

3 members from Pune, 3 from Maharashtra outside Pune and 3 from India outside Maharashtra agreed to become first office bearers of the association name of which was agreed upon to be Medico Legal Society of INDIA. Dr. Rajeev Joshi himself argued before the Registrar of Societies who initially opposed “INDIA” in the name. Finally, ROS agreed to grant “INDIA” of “Medico Legal Society of INDIA” (MLSI) which was officially registered on 24th August 2022.(3 years ago)

MLSI contributed significantly along with other medical organizations to oppose The National Medical Commission (NMC) Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2023, which resulted in these regulations being repealed by the government.

A breakthrough for the association’s efforts was seen in the form of amendment in the Kerala Act for Prevention of violence against healthcare professionals and institutions 2023 after MLSI impleaded in Kerala Private Hospitals vs State of Kerala in Kerala High Court.

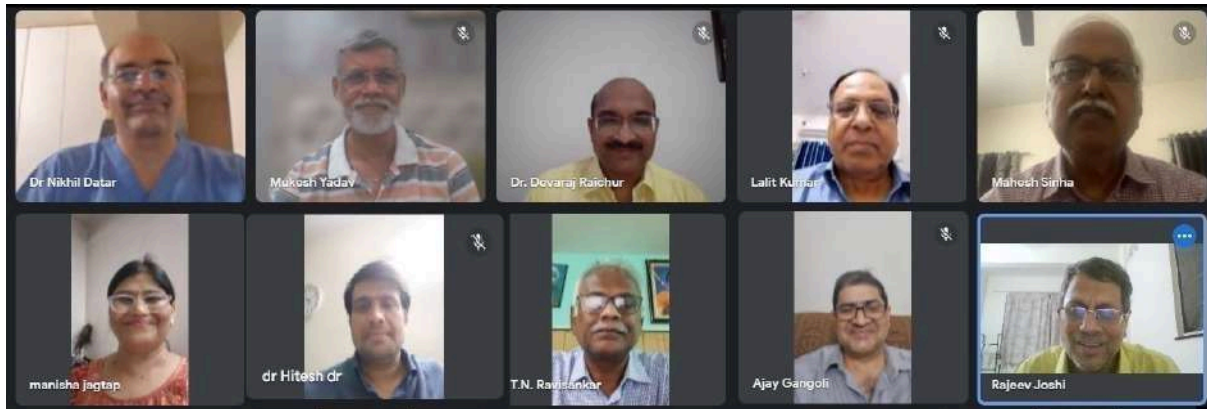


Kerala Act has most of the clauses which were framed by the committee formed by the State of Maharashtra under supervision of Bombay High Court in 2021. State of Karnataka also amended its act in 2024 in which it considered the Karnataka law commission report in addition to Kerala 2023 Act so that it became the strongest Act in the country. Unfortunately, four years have passed after the PIL, and we are still waiting for better protection for doctors in Maharashtra, which at present has the weakest Act in the country.

To address and improve legal awareness among the medical fraternity, MLSI started a Certificate Course in Law and Medical Profession (LAMP) in collaboration with Sinhgad Law College, Pune on 21st January 2023. Luminaries in legal and medicolegal subjects collaborated with MLSI for conducting this program. Subsequently the program got accreditation from Maharashtra Medical Council. Sixth program was conducted with Vishwamarka University Law college and 7th was conducted in collaboration with Ismailsaheb Mulla Law college Satara. The 8th edition is being organized in collaboration with Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai. The popularity of these programs has made MLSI a self-sustaining association. An online, self-paced, video-based program which will help doctors who cannot participate in LAMP because of duties on Saturdays is also being formulated. This will help the doctors to learn medico legal issues as and when they have time

Communication is a highly valued skill in healthcare delivery. A course on various aspects of communication which would help to improve doctor patient relationship and patient safety were highlighted during the program. There was an excellent response which is an indicator of the quality of the training programs conducted by MLSI.

As making profits is not a goal of this association, various discounts and schemes are available. Members get 50% concession for all programs conducted by MLSI. Concession is also given to students. MLSI is committed to its responsibility to help doctors resolve legal issues faced by them in their day-to-day practice. The association is undertaking the most challenging task of taking matters to court and defending doctors so that they can continue to practice without fear.



Advisories, guidelines, SOPs issued by MLSI:

MLSI issued an advisory for giving medical certificates for cause of death in medico-legal cases. The government suggested doctors should issue MCCD in case of MLC when diagnosis is known. However, since the decision to conduct a postmortem is to be taken by police, MLSI advised doctors, to ask relatives; to apply to the police, to give NOC to issue MCCD. This will help to reduce work on forensic departments, reduce work on police for procedure to conduct PM and reduce anxious moments for relatives while reducing legal liability on doctors.

MLSI also prepared draft guidelines for RMPs who are approached by parents of minor girls who become pregnant after consensual sex. The parents do not want to disclose the identity of their daughter though the POCSO Act mandates that doctors should report to the police. However, the MTP Act states that confidentiality of identity is the responsibility of doctors creating conflicting situations in such cases. Despite these guidelines by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, police insist on disclosing the name of the minor under the POCSO Act. MLSI had a meeting with the government, and the government has informed the High Court to consider suggestions of MLSI.

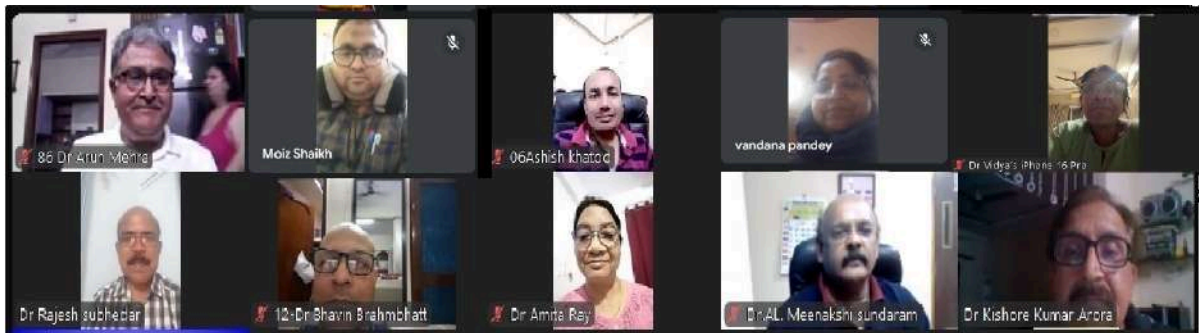
MLSI has established standard operating procedure for giving expert opinions for doctors if there is a possibility of a medico-legal litigation being filed against them, or already under consideration of Judiciary. Several doctors have availed this facility and were benefitted. Sometimes when the district medical board opinion went against the doctor, MLSI expert opinion helped to reverse the decision by the State medical board.

MLSI had filed an intervention application in criminal miscellaneous application in Kerala High Court, when the Court appointed amicus curiae for assistance in drafting guidelines for processing of expert opinion in cases of medical negligence. Suggestions given by MLSI have been incorporated in the guidelines issued by the Kerala High Court demonstrating how collective efforts of members across the country help to get desirable outcomes in judicial proceedings.



The association has filed several intervention applications / writ petitions in the Supreme Court of India, Bombay High Court and Kerala High Court. MLSI efforts have consistently raised issues of importance to practicing doctors, interns and PG students. MLSI understands that persistence is the only way to get doctor's voices heard in front of an increasingly biased and snail paced judiciary.

Case No.	Petitioner	Respondent	Regarding	In brief
Supreme Court of India				
0794 / 2023	Kishan Chand Jain	NMC	Generic Medicines	Synopsis
0730 / 2022	Abhishek Yadav	AMC	Interns payment	Synopsis
1141 / 2023	Rahil Choudhary	NMC	Live Demo of Surg	Synopsis
2646/2009	Bar Association	D K Gandhi	CPA	Synopsis
0373 / 2022	Sunit Kumar Upadhy	UOI and others	Suicide of Archana Sharma	Synopsis
WP 648/2020	Veterans' forum for transparency	UOI	Hospital rates 214/2024	Synopsis
SMW(CRL) 2/2024	Supreme Court on its own motion	UOI	Violence in R G Kar hospital	Synopsis
Review petition in 2646/2009 bar association vs D K Gandhi above is pending				DIS-MISSED
Kerala High Court				
11820/2021	KPHA	State of Kerala	Violence against doctors	Act Changed
Karnataka High Court (Karnataka law commission report)				
WP797 / 2024	MLSI	State of Karnataka	Shortage of workforce	Act Changed
Bombay High Court				
3002/2025	Dr Nikhil Datar	State of Maha	IA regarding POCSO-MTP	Synopsis
2374 / 2023	Rajeev Digambar Joshi 2332/2020	State of Maharashtra	Violence against doctors & hospitals	PARA 4
35/2024	MLSI	UOI	ICU Guidelines	Synopsis
SMPIL1 / 2023	MLSI	Govt of Maharashtra	Deaths in Nanded / Thane	Advised to file PIL



Orders in which MLSI is mentioned by various courts

1. **Kerala Private Hospitals Association vs State of Kerala**
[19-01-2023](#)
[08-03-2023](#)
[11-05-2023](#)
[09-06-2023](#)
2. **Bombay High Court suo motu PIL regarding deaths in Ahilya-nagar**
[01-02-2024](#)
3. **Bombay High Court on PIL filed by MLSI regarding ICU guidelines**
[12-03-2024](#)
4. **Bombay High Court on POC SO MTP conflict**
[28-04-2025](#)
[04-08-2025](#)
5. **Kerala High Court guidelines for Expert Committee report**
[04-08-2025](#)
6. **SMPIL 2 / 2024 in Alleged Rape and Murder Case in RGKar medical college**
 includes in supreme court
[08-05-2025](#) : Affidavit of Union of India includes suggestions made by Medico-legal Society of India
7. **WP 1141/2023 Rahil Choudhary vs Union of India**
[National Medical Commission guidelines](#) includes several suggestions made by MLSI through the Intervention application



MLSI would like to place on record appreciation for Dr. Pratibha Kane, senior consultant anaesthesiologist from Pune, for invaluable inputs in all the cases filed by the association in various courts. Her contributions have been instrumental for structuring and formalizing the substantive content of the petition, rendering it more appropriate for judicial consideration.



Dr. Sanjay Gupte



Dr. Mukesh Yadav



Dr. Jayant Navarange



Dr. Ashish Khatod



Dr. Nitin Dhande



Dr. Surendra Saxena



Dr. Rajeev Joshi

MANAGING COMMITTEE OF MLSI (Legally qualified Medical Professionals)

At the time of formation of MLSI, Dr. Sanjay Gupte, Consultant obstetrician from Pune agreed to be President, and Dr. Mukesh Yadav, Professor of Forensic Medicine from Lucknow agreed to be President Elect. Dr. Jayant Navarange, Pediatrician from Pune took responsibility as treasurer. Dr. Ashish Khatod, LLM in criminal law from Malegaon was nominated as joint secretary. Dr. Nitin Dhande from Jalgaon was nominated as executive trustee and Dr. Surendra Saxena, General Surgeon from Bhopal was vice president. Dr. Rajeev Joshi, Pediatrician from Pune and founder member was nominated on the managing committee till the next President is elected.

Dr. Sangeeta Pikale, gynecologist from Mumbai agreed to be joint treasurer and Dr. Jayanta Das, vascular surgeon from Kolkata was nominated as Secretary of the association. After they resigned, Dr. Khatod was elevated as Secretary and Dr. Devaraj Raichur, paediatrician from Hubli and Dr. Mahesh Sinha, intensivist from Raipur were nominated as Joint secretary and Joint treasurer.

After the first term of office bearers was over, election was conducted and following members joined the managing committee in place of Dr. Saxena, Dr. Sinha and Dr. Raichur. Dr. Rishabh Rana, Associate Professor of preventive medicine from Dhanbad, Jharkhand as Joint Secretary, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Dube, Physician from Varanasi as Joint Treasurer and Dr. Suresh Vasishtha, Endoscopic surgeon from Noida as Vice President.



Dr. Sangeeta Pikale



Dr. Jayanta Das



Dr. Devaraj Raichur



Dr. Mahesh Sinha



Dr. Rishabh Rana



Dr. Rajeev K. Dube



Dr. Suresh Vasishtha

**Become
Member
of MLSI**

***We welcome the new committee which
assumes office from 24th Aug 2025***

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the MLSI
newsletter**

Collaborating institutions which helped in success of Certificate Program in Law and Medical Profession (LAMP)



Sinhgad Institute

Sinhgad Law College, Pune
Ambegaon BK, Pune Maharashtra, 411041

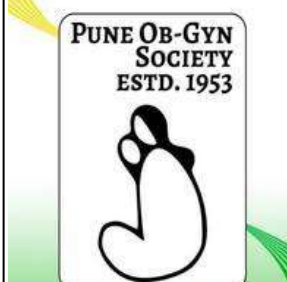
"Holistic development of students and teachers is what we believe in and work for. We strive to achieve this by imbibing an unique value system, transparent work culture, excellent academic and physical environment conducive to learning, creativity & technology transfer. Our mandate is to generate, preserve and share knowledge for developing a vibrant society."



THE ASSOCIATION
OF MAHARASHTRA
OBSTETRIC &
GYNAECOLOGICAL
SOCIETIES



MAHARASHTRA COLLEGE OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS



PUNE OB-GYN
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ESTD. 1953



VISHWAKARMA
UNIVERSITY
Maximising Human Potential



Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's



Ismailsaheb Mulla Law College, Satara



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