Tort Law

Overview

‘Law of Torts’ sets out the law of private rights and remedies which are not covered by statutes. Students need to be well acquainted with this branch of law governing actions for damages for injuries to certain kinds of rights, like the right to personal security, property and reputation. This branch of common law has large potential to expand and apply its principles in contemporary areas like Human Rights, Environmental Rights, and Intellectual Property Rights. Hence, a student of Law needs to have good knowledge about Law of Torts.

Course Objective

This course deals with selected aspects of the Law of Torts in the light of judicial pronouncements and relevant legislations, addressing four possible purposes which may be served by the imposition of tort liability: i) Compensation, ii) Deterrence, iii) Justice, iv) Setting Standards. This course examines introduction to the Law of Torts, standing of a person in tort, justifications of tort, discharge of torts, vicarious liability, strict liability, and remedies. Further, it also deals with the Indian context of the Motor Vehicles Act, Consumer Protection Act and Mass torts.

Teaching Methodology

The methodology of teaching will initially be a lecture method as most of the students will be exposed to the world of Tort Law for the very first time in their academic careers. The lecture method will be substantially corroborated by participative activities such as students being asked to argue cases based on Conflicting points (Moot Court), or to draft a legal opinion about applicability of some legal provision to a factual situation (Opinion Writing) and discussing articles or theme papers on various doctrines /cases to initiate a critical analysis of the view expressed therein (Critical Comment). Students will also be shown selected documentaries to increase their understanding on the subject.