

CURRICULUM VITAE

S M Masum Billah (PhD, Wellington)

Professor and Dean of Law,

Jagannath University

Jan 2023

EDUCATION _____

2013 - 2018

Victoria University of Wellington, PhD

Thesis: “The Politics of Land Law: Poverty and Land Legislation in Bangladesh”

Supervisors: Professor Richard Boast *OMNZ, QC*

Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

Professor Tony Angelo *QC*

2003 - 2004

Rajshahi University (Bangladesh), LLM

First Class First Position

Major: Law

Subjects: Human Rights, Intellectual Property Law, Law of the Sea, Law of International Organizations.

1998 - 2002

Rajshahi University (Bangladesh), LLB (Hons)

First Class First Position

Major: Law

Subjects: Civil Law, Criminal Law, Property Law, Legal Theory
Family Law, Business Law, International Law

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT _____

Dr Billah CV

15 June 2022-Present Professor of Law, Jagannath University
June 2018 - Associate Professor of Law, Jagannath University, Dhaka
14 June 2022

October 2009 - Assistant Professor of Law, Jagannath University, Dhaka
May 2018
(2013-2018 study leave)

Jan 2007 – Sep 2009 Senior Lecturer of Law, Northern University Bangladesh

May 2004 –Dec 2006 Lecturer of Law, Stamford University Bangladesh

ADJUNCT/VISITING FACULTY: BUP, BUBT, DAFFODIL, DHAKA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

HONORS AND AWARDS _____

2022 Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar (July to Dec 2022)
Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law

2019 Visiting Fellowship (1 June to 5th July 2019)
Awarded by South African Research Chair in Property Law (SARCPL) at the
University of Stellenbosch, South Africa to conduct research on constitutional
property and make presentations at seminars.

2015 Faculty Research Grant (Victoria University of Wellington)

Awarded for presenting paper at World Bank Conference and conducting away research for PhD chapter.

- 2014 Bruce Kercher Scholarship (ANZLHS)
Awarded by Australia New Zealand Legal History Society to attend a conference at the University of New England Australia.
- 2013 Doctoral Scholarship (Victoria University of Wellington)
Awarded by the Victoria University of Wellington to pursue PhD Study.
- 2003 Agrani Bank Gold Medal and Vice-Chancellor Award
Awarded by Rajshahi University for faculty distinctions.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICES _____

Reviewer/Examiner/Member

Jagannath University Journal of Law
ELCOP Yearbook of Human Rights
LLM Thesis: University of Tasmania
Jagannath University Law Journal
BiLDBD Journal
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Research/Professional Organization Member

Asian Legal History Association
Australia New Zealand Law and History Society (ANZLHS)
Bangladesh Bar Council
Director, Human Rights Summer School (HRSS), ELCOP
Resident Instructor and Teaching Faculty, HRSS

Supervision/Consultancy

MPhil: Supervising 3 students at Jagannath University

PhD: Supervising Nurunnahar Majumder's thesis "Political Empowerment of Women".

CLR Project: "In the Shadow of Death: The *Tantees* of Bangladesh" (ELCOP, 2012).

Research Grant, Jagannath University, "Constitutional Property: Guarantee or Limitation" (2019—continue).

Course Director, "HWPL-ELCOP Short Course on Peace, Human Rights and International Law (Nov 2020-April 2021).

Nagorik Uddyog and Bangladesh Law Commission, Anti-Discrimination Bill.

Professional Experience

Teaching 18+ Years [Stamford, NUB, Jagannath and other Private Universities]

Human Rights Works 1. Developed 10+ Human Rights Training Manuals for Residential Human Rights Summer School

2. Facilitated Human Rights Sessions as a resource person in Human Summer Schools and edited the Human Rights Education Training Materials for ELCOP where the NHRC, UNDP, UNHCR, IMO, Winrok were partners
3. Conducted Sessions in Human Rights Training for the Police run by UNDP
4. Drafted Non-Discrimination Legislation Bills prepared by Nagorik Uddyog and Law Commission and participated by BLAST and Civil Society Organizations, Also prepared the Bangladesh Shadow report to be submitted to International Treaty Body like the HRC
5. Wrote a Chapter in the Human Rights Publication mandated by Manusher Jonno Foundation and ASK
6. Conducted Research and lead the Research Teams in Community Law Reform Programs Conducted by ELCOP
7. Attended different UPR Meetings of the NHRC and actively contributed to Making Bangladesh Report
8. Actively Worked with the NHRC in translating the NHRC Annual Report 2012 submitted to the President, Drafted the Booklet for the NHRC arguing the Trial of the 1971 Crimes
9. Conducted Sessions and Developed Reading materials for the capacity building programs for the law enforcement members on the Refugee Rights in Cox'sbazar and Dhaka

10. Reviewed and Commented on the Rape Law Reform Bill by Rights Bodies including the UNDP, UNFPA and Naripokkho

11. Conducted Comparative Research, Reviewed Papers and Wrote the Bangladesh Chapter on Minority Reports for the South Asian Collectives (SAC)

12. Developed Law School Jaggannath University OBE Law Curriculum with a Primary focus on Human Rights

PUBLICATIONS

Book/s

S M Masum Billah *The Politics of Land Law: Poverty and Land Legislation in Bangladesh with an Introduction by Richard Boast* (University Press Limited, Dhaka, 2021).

----- *Vab o Ovab* (In Bangla, trans: The Art and Inert of Law) (Palal, Dhaka, 2019).

----- (co-edited with Prof Mizanur Rahman and Barrister Tapas Kanti Baul) *Human Rights and Rebellious Lawyering* (ELCOP Yearbook of Human Rights, Dhaka, 2019).

Book Chapters/Contribution in Research Publications

S M Masum Billah “Bangladesh: Public Law, Religious Freedom and Regulating Religious Sentiment” in Liann Thio and Jaclyn L Neo (eds) *Religious Offences in Common Law Asia: Colonial Legacies, Constitutional Rights and Contemporary Practice* (Hart Publishing, London, 2020) Pp 215-243.

-----, “Property, Poverty and Constitution” (ELCOP Yearbook of Human Rights, Dhaka, 2019).

Masum Billah, “Constitutional Property Clause: A Comment on the Bangladeshi, New Zealand and the Polish Approach” in Dariusz ZDziech (ed) *OCEANIA: An Important Part of the Pacific* (Jagiellonian University Press, 2018) Pp 163-169.

Shakhawat Hossain Shamim and SM Masum Billah “Judges in Social Media: What Implications for the Judicial System” in Mizanur Rahman, Rahmat Ullah, Rumana Islam (eds) *Human Rights and Digital Age* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2018).

S M Masum Billah "Can there be Constitutions for Women Too" in Mizanur Rahman & Rahmat Ullah (eds) *Human Rights and Religion* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2017).

----- "How Eminent is Eminent Domain: A Critique of Bangladeshi Acquisition Law" in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Human Rights and Displacement* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2016).

----- "Can Secularism and State Religion go Together" in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Human Rights and Religion* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2014).

-----"Human Rights Education in Bangladesh: A Pro-Poor Approach" in Kamran Hashemi and Linda Briskman (eds) *NAM Yearbook on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity* (NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, Tehran, 2013).

----- "Dalit Egalite" in Mizanur Rahman and Md Rahmat Ullah (eds) *Human Rights and Critically Disadvantaged People* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2012).

----- "Sovereign Rights Concept under UNCLOS III Revisited" in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Human Rights and Sovereignty over Natural Resources* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2010).

----- (co-author Mizanur Rahman) "War Crimes and Genocide 71: Bringing the Perpetrators to Justice" in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Post-conflict Justice, Peace and Human Rights* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2009).

S M Masum Billah "Political Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh: Constitutional and Human Rights Issues" in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Human Rights and Development* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2008).

-----"In Quest of Democracy: Anti-Corruption Drive, Rule of Law, Due Process of Law Interface" in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Human Rights and Corruption* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2007).

----- "Juddhporadh, Shanti O Manobotar Biruddhe Oporadher Bichare Bangladesh Rashter Jobabdihita" in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Juddhaporadhider Bichar: Ekti Aini Onushondhan* (Palal, Dhaka, 2007).

-----“Right to Privacy: Philosophical Prelude, Development and Challenges” (7th Human Rights Summer School Publication, Dhaka, 2006).

-----“Non-state Actors Being the Prism: Need for Judicial Activism in Bangladesh to Nurture Human Rights” in Mizanur Rahman (ed) *Human Rights and Non-State Actors* (ELCOP, Dhaka, 2005).

Journal Articles

S M Masum Billah, “Bangladesh’s Genesis: Re-reading the Proclamation of Independence at It’s 50” (2022) 20 (1) *Bangladesh Journal of Law* 1. Pp 1-20.

S M Masum Billah “The Relevance of Human Rights Idea in Understanding the UNCLOS III” (2022) *Jagannath University Law Journal* (Vol 3, 2014-2021).

S M Masum Billah, “Judicial Independence and the *Masdar Hossain* Legacy” (2021) 19 (1) *Bangladesh Journal of Law* 13-32.

S M Masum Billah “Testing Constitutional Metaphors: Some Insights from Bangladesh” (2020) 8 *Jahangirnagar University Law Journal* 1.

----- “Law of the Sea and Human Rights: A Connection Reexamined” (2021) 8 *Maritime Safety and Security Law Journal* (forthcoming).

----- “Land Law Reform and Poverty: Bangladesh’s Sharecropping Law Revisited” (2017) 6(1) *International Journal of Legal Studies and Research* 55.

----- “Fairness in the War Trial: What to Buy from the International Practice of Alibi” (2016) 2 *Bangladesh Journal of Dalit and Minority* 10.

-----“Rethinking Secularism under Bangladesh Constitution” (2014) 1 (1) *Jagannath University Law Journal* 40.

----- “Lawless Laws: Land Law and Empowerment of the People” (2013) 13 *Rajshahi University Law Journal* 30.

Professor Dr Mizanur Rahman and S M Masum Billah “Prosecuting War Crimes in Domestic Level: The Case of Bangladesh (2010) 1 *Northern University Journal of Law* 15.

----- “Making Constitutionalism Smooth: Is Advisory Jurisdiction a Catalyst” (2008) 19 (1) *Dhaka University Journal of Law* 131.

S M Masum Billah and Khaleda Parven “Proclamation of Independence: The Unsung Document on the Way of Constitutionalism in Bangladesh” (2005) 5 (3) *Bangladesh Journal of National and Foreign Affairs* 70.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS _____

“The Future of ICC’s Effect Jurisdiction: The Rohingya Crisis in Perspective” paper presented at International Symposium on ICL and IHL, CUPL, Beijing, China, 25-26 March 2019.

"Dealing with Offences Relating to Religion in a Secular Bangladesh" paper presented at the Religious Penal Clause Conference, National University Singapore, 5-6 Dec 2018.

"Property Rights: 'To be or Not to Be' in the Constitution" paper presented at the 7th Asian Constitutional Law Forum, Thammasat University, Bangkok, 8-9 Dec 2017.

“The Colonial Land Politics in Bengal” paper presented at the 21st NZASIA Conference, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, 29 Nov 2015-1 December 2015.

“The Bangladeshi Sharecroppers: A Call for Legal Reforms” paper presented at the 16th World Bank Conference, Washington DC, 23-27 March 2015.

“Land Law in Colonial Bengal: A Historical Overview” paper presented in the 33rd ANZLHS Conference, University of New England, Australia, 10-13 December 2014.

“Sovereign Rights under UNCLOS III: Bane or Boon—Some Human Rights Considerations” paper presented at the international conference on “Re-thinking International Law and Justice” jointly organized by Istanbul Kultur University, Turkey and Griffith Law School, Australia, Istanbul Turkey, 24-25 September 2012.

“Pros and Cons of Problem-Based Learning as a Method of Engaging First Year Law Students” paper presented at School of Law, BRAC University at a Seminar on "Reviewing Aspects of Legal Education", Dhaka, 2012.

“Constitutionalism and Martial Law in Bangladesh: 5th Amendment Case Revisited” paper presented at the 4th Asian Constitutional Law Conference held at the School of Law, Hong Kong University, 16-17 Dec 2011.

“Legal Empowerment of the Poor” concept paper presented at the Regional Conference on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, MARG, New Delhi, 24-25 February, 2011.

“Children’s Right at War” paper presented at the Summer School, Mofid University Iran, 12 to 17 July, 2010.

“Right to Life and Medical Negligence” paper presented at the 1st International Conference on Bio-ethics, BBS, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 16 March 2010.

“Legal Awareness and Enforcement of Human Rights” paper presented at the conference on Legal Awareness (Bangladesh Society of Enforcement of Human Rights, on Dhaka, 18 February 2010).

“War Crimes and Genocide 71: Bringing the Perpetrators to Justice” paper presented at the 2nd International Conference on Genocide, Truth and Justice along with Dr. Mizanur Rahman as Co-presenter, Dhaka, CIRDAF, Liberation War Museum, 30-31 July 2009.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2018 Professor Tony Angelo QC
(Editing Seychelles Law Reports, 2016-2017).

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION INTERESTS_____

Teaching Interests: Comparative Constitutionalism, Property Law, Legal Theory, Legal History and Legal System, Jurisprudence, Law of Torts.

Supervision: Land Law and Poverty, Constitutional Law, Human Rights

OTHER SKILLS

Anchoring/Public Speaking

Columnist

TV Talk-show

Recitation

REFERENCES _____

Professor Tony Angelo QC

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Professor Richard Boast OMNZ, QC

School of Law, Victoria University of Wellington,

Email: richard.boast@vuw.ac.nz, Phone: +644 4636312.

Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

School of History, Victoria University of Wellington,

Email: sekhar.bandyopadhyay@vuw.ac.nz, Phone: +644 463 6772.

Professor Dr Mizanur Rahman,

Director, Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs

Department of Law, Dhaka University-1000

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CONTACT and Useful Links:

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Jagannath University

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Profile page: <https://jnu.ac.bd/profile/portal/web/512>.

Linkedin Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/billah-masum-020475b3/>

SSRN Profile: <https://hq.ssrn.com/Participant.cfm?rectype=edit&partid=4167815&perinf=y>

Google Scholar Page: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=6rOmZOEAAA&hl=en>

Researchgate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/S-M-Masum-Billah>