

10.1 Course – I, Law of Evidence

Objectives:

The law of Evidence has its own significance amongst Procedural Laws. The knowledge of law of Evidence is indispensable for a lawyer. The course is designed to acquaint the students with the rules of evidence in relation to relevancy of facts and proof. In addition they are introduced to law relating to production of evidence. The course teacher shall familiarize the students with appreciation of evidence and use innovative techniques like simulation exercises wherever necessary.

Course Outcomes:

Students who has taken admission for this course will be able to:

1. Analyse and define the concept and general nature of evidence, and illustrate the different types of evidence and court procedures relating to evidence.
2. Analyse the rule relating to relevance of evidence and admissibility of evidence before the court.
3. Evaluate the rules relating to dying declaration and admissibility of dying declaration
4. Determine and analyse the standard of proof and burden of proof in civil and criminal cases, and specify types of presumptions.
5. Analyse and evaluate the rules governing examination in chief, cross examination and re-examination, and establish the procedures in the conduct of a civil or criminal trial
6. Determine the rules relating to competence and compellability of witnesses in relation to case study material.

Contents:

UNIT-I

Introduction: Distinction between substantive and procedural law- Conceptions of evidence in classical Hindu and Islamic Jurisprudence- Evidence in customary law systems (Non-state law)- Introduction to the British 'Principles of Evidence'- Legislations dealing with evidence (other than Indian Evidence Act) with special reference to CPC, Cr.P.C., Bankers Book Evidence Act, Commercial Document Evidence Act, Fiscal and revenue Laws- Salient features of the Indian Evidence Act, 1861, Applicability of the Indian Evidence Act. Central Conceptions in Law of Evidence – Facts - Facts in issue and relevant facts- Evidence- Circumstantial and direct evidence- Presumptions, proved, disproved, not proved- Witness- Appreciation of evidence. Relevancy of Facts- Facts connected with facts in issue-Doctrine of *Res gestae*; Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Evidence Act- Evidence of Common Intention-Section 10, Relevancy or otherwise irrelevant facts- Facts to prove right or custom (Section 13)-Facts concerning state of mind/state

of body or bodily feelings (Sections 14 and 15) - Relevancy and admissibility of admissions, privileged admissions- evidentiary value of admissions (Sections 17 to 23).

UNIT-II

Relevancy and admissibility of confessions- Admissibility of information received from an accused person in custody- Confession of co-accused (Sections 24 to 30) - Admitted facts need not be proved (Section 58); Dying declaration- Justification for relevance- Judicial standards for appreciation of evidentiary value-Section 32 (1) with reference to English Law -Other statements by persons who cannot be called as witnesses- (Sections 32(2) to (8), 33)- Statement under special, circumstances (Sections 34 to 39); Relevance of judgments- General principles – Fraud and collusion (Sections 40 to Sec. 44); Expert testimony: General principles (Sections 45-50) - Who is an expert- Types of expert evidence – Problems of judicial defence to expert testimony.

UNIT-III

Character evidence- Meaning – Evidence in Civil Criminal cases; English Law (Sections 52-55)- Oral and documentary Evidence -Introduction on Proof of facts- General principles concerning oral; Evidence (Sections 59-60)- General principles concerning documentary; Evidence (Sections 61-90)- General principles regarding exclusion by evidence (Sections 91-100).

UNIT-IV

Burden of Proof- The general conception of *onus probandi* (Section 101)- General and special exception to *onus probandi* (Sections 102-106)- The justification of presumption and burden of proof (Sections 107 to 114) with special reference to presumption to legitimacy of child and presumption as to dowry death- Doctrine of judicial notice and presumptions.

Estoppel: Scope of Estoppel - Introduction as to its rationale (Section 115)- Estoppel distinguished from *Res judicata* - Waiver and Presumption- Kinds of Estoppel- Equitable and Promissory Estoppel- Tenancy Estoppel (Section 116).

UNIT-V

Witness, Examination and Cross Examination:

Competence to testify (Sections 118 to 120)-Privileged communications (Sections 121 to 128)- General principles of examination and cross examination (Sections 135 to 166)- Leading questions (Sections 141- 145)- Approver's testimony (Section 133)- Hostile witnesses (Section 154)- Compulsion to answer questions (Sections 147, 153)- Questions of corroboration(Sections 156-157)- Improper admission of evidence.

Prescribed Book:

Ratanlal and Dhirajlal - Law of Evidence.

Reference Books:

Best - Law of Evidence. Sarkar - Law of Evidence.

M. Rama Jois - Legal and Constitutional History of India.

Batuklal - Law of Evidence.