



Bryan Stevenson

- as a graduate lawyer in 1985, first started representing capital defendants and death row prisoners in the deep south of the US
- subsequently founded the Equal Justice Initiative , a non-profit law organization in Alabama which focuses on social justice and human rights in the context of criminal justice reform in the US
- led significant legislative reforms that removed death penalty and indefinite life sentences for juvenile offenders
- active campaigner who challenges bias against poor and minorities in the criminal justice system
- Desmond Tutu refers to him as 'America's Mandela'



***"the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice... the true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned."* – from Stevenson's book 'Just Mercy'**



Sunil Kumar Pokharel
Secretary General
Nepal Bar Association (NBA)

What drives you to choose your current job which is related to pro-bono and public interest ?

- ▣ Once I visited a remote village where I got shelter for one night at a man's house only because I knew a lawyer (KP Bhandari) who had provided Legal Aid in his opponent's case.
- ▣ This incident drive me to choose this job.

Ethical lawyer and social change

- ▣ Law and Ethics are fundamental character of civilized Society.
- ▣ Every man, by being a moral agent, a Judge of right and wrong, and an Advocate of what is right...This general character of moral agent, s/he cannot put off, by putting on any professional character...

Ethical...

- ▣ If s/he mixes up character as an Advocate with character as a moral agent...s/he acts immorally. S/he makes the moral rule subordinate to the professional rule, s/he sells to his client, not only his skill and learning, but himself. S/he makes it the Supreme Object of his life to be, not a good man, but a successful Lawyer.

Ethical...

Two school of thought

1. Legal service is profession or
2. Legal service is Business.

Famous lawyer?



How lawyers and legal practitioners might use ethic to encourage social changes and access to justice

- Ethical rules call upon lawyers to render services to those unable to pay.
- Such motivation encourages lawyers to their responsibility to society at large.
- An ethical lawyer encourages to change value of society.
- Such changed value promotes A2J

*Any
question*



THANK
YOU



Nelson Mandela

1918 - 2013

- Fought against apartheid in South Africa
- Had his own law firm which provided free and inexpensive legal representation to unrepresented blacks
- Ended up in prison for his anti-apartheid actions, where he continued the fight
- After his release, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with President de Klerk, for their work in dismantling apartheid
- Became the first democratically elected President of South Africa



4th Asia Pro Bono Conference and Legal Ethics Forum Session Presentation Plan Template

Name of Session: The social and ethical role of lawyers in access to justice and social change

Session Description/Aim:

This session will discuss the role lawyers can perform ethically and socially in areas of access to justice and social change.

Total Session Minutes: (75 min)

Facilitator:

Minh Nguyen, Gide Loyrette Novel A.A.R.P.I., thanhminh266@gmail.com

Co-Presenters:

1. Bruno Langhendries, Avocats Sans Frontières 'ASF', blanghendries@asf.be
2. Catriona Martin, DLA Piper, Catriona.Martin@dlapiper.com
3. Debrah Mercurio, Mawlamyine Justice Center/MLaw, mercurio.debrah@gmail.com
4. Sunil Pokharel, Nepal Bar Association, attorney.sunil@gmail.com

Session Plan:

Activity Step	Activity Description	Time (Min)	Presenters	Materials Needed/Remark
1	Introduce presenters	5	Bruno, Catriona, Debrah, Sunil, Minh	None
2	Q&As between facilitator and each presenter: - What drives you to choose your current job which is related to pro bono and	10	Bruno, Catriona, Debrah, Sunil, Minh	None

	public interest ?			
	<p>Run a short video showing an example of how a pro bono lawyer can impact the social change. Then ask the presenters and the participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you think a lawyer has a moral and professional responsibility will be an agent of social change ? (To answer YES or NO) <p>Facilitator will briefly explain the term "agent of social change" and then one of the presenters (Bruno) will provide short comments on</p>	10	Bruno, Catriona, Debrah, Sunil, Minh; participants	<p>Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQB3F17jjoY</p>

	impacts an ethical lawyer can make to create social changes.			
3	Presenters share their experience in handling difficulties in respect of legal ethic which they have to face when performing their jobs.	10	Debrah, Catriona, Minh	None
4	<p>Quick game: Show pictures of the four world-known lawyers/legal practitioners and ask the participants to guess their names and tell why he/she becomes the influential lawyer. Who makes a correct guess will receive a prize from the presenters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debrah : Nelson Mandela - Catriona: Bryan Stevenson - Sunil: Krishna Prasad Bhandari 	10	Bruno, Catriona, Debrah, Sunil, Minh; participants	Each presenter to prepare a picture of the most influential lawyer/legal practitioner you admire and a prize which should present the country you come from.

	ri - Bruno: Grassr oots lawyer			
5	Two presenters (<i>Bruno and Sunil</i>) present as to how lawyers and legal practitioners might use ethic to encourage social changes and access to justice.	10	Bruno, Sunil	Each presenter can prepare PowerPoint for supporting his/her presentation.
	Participants are asked to provide suggestions on how to promote legal ethics among legal community in the context of their countries (pick up one participant presenting for each country to provide the answer). The two presenters (<i>Debrah, Catriona</i>) will make final comments on the suggestions provided by the participants.	20	Catriona, Debrah, Minh; participants	None
Total Time:		75		