

### **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...

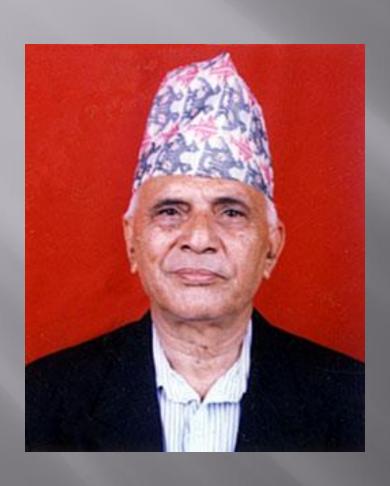
■ If s/he mixes up character as an Advocate with character as a moral agent...s/he acts immorally. S/he makes the moral rule subordinate to the professional rule, s/he sells to his client, not only his skill and learning, but himself. S/he makes it the Supreme Object of his life to be, not a good man,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

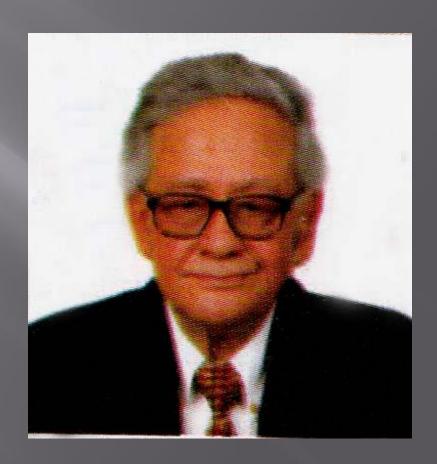
### **Ethical...**

Two school of thought

- 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 antiapartheid 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



### 4<sup>th</sup> 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 probono and	10	Bruno, Catriona, Debrah, Sunil, Minh	None

public			
interest ?			
f			
Run a short	10	Bruno,	Video:
video showing an example of		Catriona, Debrah,	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQB3F17jjo Y
how a pro		Sunil, Minh;	_
bono lawyer		participants	
can impact the social change.			
Then ask the			
presenters and the			
participants:			
- Do you			
think a			
lawyer has a			
moral			
and professi			
onal			
respon			
sibility will be			
an			
agent of			
social			
change ? ( <i>To</i>			
answer			
YES or NO)			
Facilitator will briefly explain			
the term			
"agent of			
social change" and then one			
of the			
presenters ( <i>Bruno</i> ) will			
provide short			
comments on			

	Τ.			
	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	10	Debrah, Catriona, Minh	None
	their jobs.			
4	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.  - Debrah :     Nelson     Mandel     a     - Catrion     a:     Bryan     Steven     son     - Sunil:     Krishna     Prasad     Bhanda	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.

	<b>:</b>			
	ri - Bruno: Grassr			
	oots lawyer			
5	Two presenters (Bruno and Sunil) 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 (Debrah, Catriona) will make final comments on the suggestions provided by the participants.	20	Catriona, Debrah, Minh; participants	None
Total		75		
Time:				