

REPORT ON AWARENESS LECTURE
"SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT, DIGITAL ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY OF LAW STUDENTS"

Organized by:

University Institute of Law (UIL)

Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, Jalandhar, Punjab

In compliance with:

Bar Council of India Circular No. BCI/D/4657/2026 & BCI/D/4659/2026 dated 17.07.2026

Date: 17 August 2026

Time: 11:30 A.M.

Venue: Room No. 103, Block VII, SBBSU

Resource Person:

Mr. Rishav Dogra

Assistant Professor, University Institute of Law, SBBSU

Convener:

Dr. Pooja Bali

Dean, University Institute of Law

Co-Conveners:

- Ms. Manjot Kaur
- Ms. Deeksha Kumari

Institutional Collaboration:

Grievance Committee and Internal Complaint Committee, SBBSU, Jalandhar

1. INTRODUCTION

The University Institute of Law, Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, Jalandhar, organized an awareness lecture titled **"Social Media Conduct, Digital Ethics and Professional Responsibility of Law Students"** on **17 August 2026** as part of its institutional compliance and sensitization initiatives pursuant to the Bar Council of India Circular No. **BCI/D/4657/2026 & BCI/D/4659/2026** dated **17 July 2026**.

The programme was designed to sensitize law students about the increasing importance of responsible digital behavior and the professional obligations that accompany their use of social media and other digital platforms. The BCI communication requires Centres of Legal Education

to take active and verifiable measures, including sensitization/orientation programmes, rather than treating circulation of the circular as sufficient compliance.

The programme was therefore undertaken as a **preventive, educative and professional-awareness initiative**, with particular emphasis on preparing students for the ethical responsibilities expected of members of the legal profession.

2. BACKGROUND AND COMPLIANCE CONTEXT

The Bar Council of India, through its communication dated **17.07.2026**, directed Centres of Legal Education to implement the prescribed standards concerning **social media conduct, digital ethics, Court decorum, confidentiality and professional responsibility**.

The directions cover law students and interns and require legal education institutions to undertake meaningful awareness and sensitization activities. The implementation framework also envisages institutional monitoring, maintenance of records and incorporation of the relevant standards into academic and internship-related practices.

The BCI's directions particularly address concerns arising from:

- irresponsible or misleading legal content on social media;
- inappropriate use of Court-related photographs, videos and proceedings;
- disclosure of confidential client or chamber information;
- misuse of professional identity;
- misleading or sensationalized legal information;
- inappropriate use of AI-generated or manipulated content;
- deep fakes, synthetic media and voice-cloned content; and
- Conduct which may adversely affect the dignity and reputation of the legal profession.

In this context, the awareness lecture was organized to ensure that students understood these obligations **before entering internships, court-based learning and other professional environments**.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The awareness lecture was conducted with the following objectives:

1. **To familiarize law students with the BCI directions** concerning social media conduct and digital ethics.
2. To promote **responsible, lawful and ethical use of social media** among students pursuing legal education.

3. To sensitize students regarding the importance of maintaining **professional dignity and decorum** while using digital platforms.
4. To create awareness about the need to protect **client confidentiality privileged information and institutional or chamber-related information**.
5. To caution students against uploading, sharing or circulating unauthorized photographs, videos or other material relating to **Courts, judicial proceedings, advocates, clients or internship institutions**.
6. To create awareness regarding the risks associated with **fake judgments, misleading legal information, manipulated media, deep fakes and AI-generated content**.
7. To encourage students to verify legal information before sharing it on social media platforms.
8. To familiarize students with the **professional responsibilities of future advocates** and the manner in which online conduct may affect their professional reputation.
9. To promote an institutional culture of **digital responsibility, professional restraint and ethical communication**.
10. To reinforce compliance with the directions of the Bar Council of India through a documented sensitization activity.

4. PROCEEDINGS OF THE AWARENESS LECTURE

The programme commenced with an introduction to the purpose of the awareness session and the significance of the BCI Circular dated 17.07.2026.

The Resource Person, **Mr. Rishav Dogra, Assistant Professor, University Institute of Law**, explained that social media has become an important medium of communication and legal awareness, but its use by law students carries additional responsibilities because they are prospective members of the legal profession.

The session focused on the principle that **professional responsibility does not end when a law student leaves the classroom**. Students were accordingly encouraged to exercise the same degree of caution, accuracy, confidentiality and respect for legal institutions in their online conduct as would be expected from them in professional settings.

The students were sensitized particularly about the need to exercise caution before posting or forwarding legal information and about the possible consequences of sharing unverified, misleading, defamatory or manipulated material.

5. MAJOR THEMES DISCUSSED

A. Responsible Use of Social Media

Students were advised to use social media responsibly and to avoid content that may bring disrepute to themselves, their institution, the legal profession or judicial institutions.

The distinction between **personal expression and professional responsibility** was discussed; particularly where a student's online identity is associated with legal education or future professional practice.

B. Court Decorum and Judicial Proceedings

The session highlighted the importance of respecting the dignity and sanctity of Courts and judicial proceedings. Students were advised against inappropriate recording, posting or sensationalizing of Court-related material.

The BCI's 2026 directions specifically address misuse of Court premises and judicial/live-streamed proceedings.

C. Confidentiality and Privacy

Students were sensitized regarding the importance of protecting:

- client information;
- case-related documents;
- chamber information;
- internship-related material;
- personal information of litigants; and
- Other confidential information encountered during legal training.

Students were advised that information obtained during an internship or professional interaction should not automatically become material for social-media posting.

D. Legal Misinformation and Unverified Content

The lecture emphasized that law students should not circulate:

- fake or fabricated judgments;
- incorrect interpretations of law;
- misleading legal claims;
- sensational legal posts; or
- Unverified information concerning Courts and judicial decisions.

Students were encouraged to verify information from reliable legal sources before sharing it.

E. Artificial Intelligence and Deep fakes

A significant part of the discussion concerned the emerging risks associated with **AI-generated content, deep fakes, voice cloning and other manipulated or synthetic media**.

Students were advised to use AI tools responsibly and to ensure that technology is not used to fabricate judicial proceedings, judgments, statements, identities or other material capable of misleading the public. The BCI's July 2026 framework specifically addresses AI-generated, deep fake and manipulated content.

F. Professional Identity and Future Legal Practice

The students were made aware that their conduct as law students contributes to the development of their professional identity.

The session therefore encouraged:

Accuracy, restraint, confidentiality, respect for Courts and responsible digital communication.

6. INTERACTIVE COMPONENT

The lecture was conducted in an interactive manner, allowing students to raise questions and discuss practical situations involving social media use.

Students were encouraged to consider hypothetical situations such as:

- whether a photograph taken during an internship can be uploaded on social media;
- whether Court proceedings can be recorded or shared;
- whether client-related information can be posted after removing the client's name;
- whether AI-generated legal content can be circulated without verification;
- whether a student should forward an apparently genuine but unverified judgment; and
- What precautions should be taken while creating legal-awareness content?

The discussion helped students understand that **digital ethics is not merely a technical issue but an extension of professional ethics into the online environment.**

7. KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the lecture, students were expected to:

1. Understand the significance of the BCI Circular No. BCI/D/4659/2026 dated 17.07.2026 and Circular No. BCI/D/4657/2026 dated 17.07.2026
2. Recognize the relationship between social media behavior and professional responsibility.
3. Exercise greater caution before posting, forwarding or sharing legal content.
4. Respect Court decorum and judicial institutions.

5. Protect confidential client and internship-related information.
6. Avoid misleading, fabricated or sensational legal content.
7. Recognize the ethical risks associated with AI-generated and manipulated media.
8. Understand that responsible digital behavior is an important part of professional legal education.
9. Adopt a more cautious and accountable approach towards social-media communication.
10. Carry these principles into future internships, court visits and professional practice.

8. INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE MEASURES

The awareness lecture constituted an important **documented sensitization measure** undertaken by the University Institute of Law towards implementation of the BCI directions.

The following records may be maintained as supporting evidence of compliance:

Sr. No.	Compliance/Record	Status
1.	BCI Circular circulated for institutional awareness	Implemented
2.	Awareness/Sensitization Lecture conducted	Implemented
3.	Lecture on Social Media Conduct and Digital Ethics	Conducted on 17.08.2026
4.	Students sensitised regarding professional responsibility	Implemented
5.	Awareness regarding Court decorum and confidentiality	Implemented
6.	Awareness regarding AI/deepfake/manipulated content	Implemented
7.	Programme brochure/poster prepared	Available
8.	Programme report maintained	Prepared
9.	Photographic/documentary evidence	Annexed
10.	Attendance record of participating students	To be annexed

The BCI directions contemplate maintenance of proper records of sensitization /orientation sessions and other implementation measures for production when required.

9. CONCLUSION

The awareness lecture on “**Social Media Conduct, Digital Ethics and Professional Responsibility of Law Students**” was a meaningful institutional initiative undertaken by the

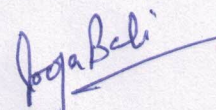
University Institute of Law, Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, Jalandhar, in the context of the Bar Council of India's directions dated 17.07.2026.

The programme provided students with practical guidance concerning responsible social-media use, professional dignity, Court decorum, confidentiality, legal misinformation and the ethical use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

The initiative reinforced the University's commitment to ensuring that legal education extends beyond academic knowledge and also develops **professional discipline, ethical awareness, digital responsibility and respect for the justice system.**

The programme may accordingly be recorded as an **awareness and sensitization activity undertaken towards compliance with BCI Circular No. BCI/D/4657/2026 & BCI/D/4659/2026 dated 17.07.2026.**

"In compliance with Bar Council of India Circular No. BCI/D/4657 /2026 & BCI/D/4659/2026 dated 17.07.2026, the University Institute of Law, Sant Baba Bhag Singh University, organized an awareness lecture on 'Social Media Conduct, Digital Ethics and Professional Responsibility of Law Students' on 17.08.2026 at Room No. 103, Block VII. The session sensitized law students regarding responsible social-media use, Court decorum, confidentiality, professional responsibility, legal misinformation and ethical use of AI-generated and manipulated digital content. The programme was conducted as an institutional awareness and preventive measure, and documentary records including the programme brochure, attendance and photographs are maintained for compliance purposes."


Convener

FEW GLIMPSE OF Social Media Conduct, digital ethics and professional responsibility of law students organised on 17-8-2026



