

Report on Session on “Doing Legal Research” by Adv. Rebecca Todd

On 5th August 2023, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, organized a session on “Doing Legal Research,” which was conducted by the esteemed legal expert, Adv. Rebecca Todd. The session, held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, provided valuable insights into the essential skills and methodologies required for effective legal research. The session was attended by over 70 students from various years, all of whom benefitted from Adv. Todd’s practical approach and expertise.

Adv. Todd began the session by introducing the fundamentals of legal research, emphasizing its importance in the legal profession. She outlined how legal research is central not only to academic work but also to practical legal practice, enabling professionals to stay informed about the evolving legal landscape. Adv. Todd stressed the need for thorough, well-structured research, highlighting the significance of understanding both primary and secondary legal sources, including statutes, case law, legal commentaries, and journal articles.

A key point of discussion was the methodology of legal research. Adv. Todd explained the step-by-step process involved, from selecting a research topic to conducting a detailed literature review. She emphasized the importance of refining a research question, ensuring clarity and specificity to guide the research process effectively. The session also covered various research tools and resources, including online databases like LexisNexis and Westlaw, and the importance of critical analysis in evaluating sources.

Additionally, Adv. Todd highlighted the importance of citation and referencing, stressing the need for accuracy in attributing sources to avoid plagiarism. She provided practical tips on how students could enhance their research techniques, manage sources, and organize their findings.

The session concluded with a Q&A segment, where students actively engaged with Adv. Todd, seeking clarification on specific research challenges. Overall, the session was an enriching experience, helping students gain a deeper understanding of how to approach legal research with precision and professionalism.