

## **Workshop on Plain Language and SARAL (Simple Accessible Rational Actionable Laws)**

### **I. Description**

- Legal documents have been and continue to be riddled with legalese and remain largely incomprehensible to the public. Without being able to understand the laws that govern us, it is not possible to meaningfully understand our rights and duties.
- The aim of this workshop is to introduce students to the contemporary style of plain language – and the desirability of making our laws SARAL – Simple, Accessible, Rational and Actionable. The foundational idea of this course is to train students to use plain language – whether for drafting legal documents, pleadings, opinions or any other form of communication. It is also to dispel the notion that lawyers must write in a pedantic style characterised by verbosity and complexity.
- This is a certificate course that is independent in terms of its content but interlinked to other courses offered in a law school. Synthesising theory and praxis, students will be introduced to reading material on plain language and will participate in group activities.
- The pedagogical method will consist of open discussions based on assigned readings and live examples. The layout of the course involves reading secondary materials dealing with various aspects of legal drafting, followed by an analysis of comparative learnings and an identification of the various tools and techniques that can be used to achieve clearer communication in legal drafting.

### **II. Course Objectives**

- By the end of the course, students will have a robust understanding of how to draft in simple, accessible, rational, and actionable language.
- They will develop the ability to distinguish between unnecessary legal jargon and plain legal language and appreciate the need to aim for the latter.

### **III. Evaluation Methods**

- Class participation
- In-class activities
- Take-home assignments