“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has a cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us”

Albert Schweitzer

First of all, with immense servility, I would like to offer my heartiest salutation to the Almighty who have bestowed me with good health, enough strength and courage, zeal and the light, He has kindled in me which has led the path to complete this arduous and challenging task.

Words of course are hard to come by especially when you need them the most. Today, I feel helpless to find suitable words to express my deepest gratitude to my esteemed and learned supervisors Prof. Sangita Bhalla (Director of University Institute of Legal Studies) and Dr. Jasmeet Kaur Egan (Assistant Professor, UILS), Panjab University, Chandigarh for their ever-inspiring, encouraging and invaluable guidance, which made the culmination of this research possible. I am fortunate enough to have Prof. Sangita Bhalla as my supervisor whose invaluable tutelage, rare foresight and wise counsel at every step of my work and above all her most humanitarian behaviour has enabled me to complete this work without obstruction. To be supervised by her has been an enriching and exciting experience for making me a confident and expressive student. Despite her various academic engagements, she spared her precious time and took great pains in discussing even the minutest details of this work. She made available to me ample relevant study material on this topic for the improvement, and expeditious completion of this research work. I am sincerely obliged to my co-guide Dr. Jasmeet Kaur Egan for taking earnest interest in this work and for consistently giving me, her critical, concrete and constructive suggestions. Her expertise and detailed attention to every single word and every concept have contributed greatly to improve the quality of this manuscript. This dissertation is the result of their valuable guidance and constant supervision and for this I would ever remain grateful to them. I owe them a sincere debt of gratitude never repayable in any form.

I would like to record my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. (Mrs.) Ranbir Kaur, Prof. and Head, Department of Laws and other esteemed teachers of the law department, Panjab University, Chandigarh for suggesting valuable information from their respective
fields of knowledge. I also wish to thank the non-teaching staff of the Department of Law for their kind and helpful dealing and special thanks to Mrs. Neelu Soni for her cooperation.

On this momentous occasion, I extend my deepest gratitude to my whole family for their help and effervescent manner of motivation, which inculcated in me a never say die spirit, throughout the period of my research work. It is very difficult for me to acknowledge in words the, constant inspiration, unending encouragement, emotional support, affection and patience of my loving husband Mr. Vishal Dhand, who has always been so tolerant and understanding and stood by me in all tense moments and extended me the much needed moral support. In fact, after my post-graduation in law, I owe all my achievements and successes in academics to the constant inspiration of my husband. I will fail in my duty, if I forget to acknowledge the encouragement, co-operation and invaluable blessings of my revered Mother-in-law, Mrs. Sushma Dhand and Father-in-law Mr. Ashok Dhand and my Father Mr. Naresh Dhir who guided me at every step of my life to achieve success. Without their encouragement, unconditional support and cooperation, it would not have been possible for me to put this dream of mine into reality.

I owe a lot to my dearest brother Nikhil Dhir, for extending his valuable co-operation in my research work. He also undertook the ordeal of reading, editing and converting proofs from time to time. He worked with dedication for long hours, for the production of my thesis. I wish to put on record my thanks to my Aunt, Mrs Anita Bector, for boosting my efforts towards the accomplishment of the dissertation work.

I am thankful to my kids, Kashvi Dhand and Asmi Dhand who bore with me even when I was extremely busy and unable to pay my time and attention, due to them.

Transcending all this, I wish to put on record my thanks to the staff of the library of G.H.G. Institute of Law for Women, Sidhwan Khurd for the co-operation and help. I am also thankful to my friends and colleagues for their unconditional support, concern and constant inspiration which has made it possible to fulfill this task and mere thanks would never suffice it.

Dated:

Place:

(Shweta Dhir)