Limitations and exceptions are woven into the fabric of intellectual property law not only as specific exceptional doctrines ("fair use" or "fair dealing," "specific exemptions," etc.), but also as structural restrictions on the scope of rights, such as provisions for compulsory licensing of patents for needed medicines. Despite their importance in countering expansive trends in intellectual property, limitations and exceptions are under threat, especially from efforts to recast international law as a constraint on the exercise of flexibilities in domestic legislation. Hues and cries for access to knowledge and access to medicine from the four corners of the world was a real eye opener for me towards this research. It was the complexity of the issues involved that attracted my attention while selecting this topic for my doctoral thesis. The timely interventions of my supervising guide Prof. Dr. N. S. Gopalakrishnan helped me a lot to correctly focus upon the intricacies involved in this area.

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