I have always cherished as a special feeling to gratefully acknowledge those who have generously supported me.

For the simple reason that a research is never done, I am reluctant to declare that dissertation done. Despite drawbacks, I present this dissertation with deepest gratitude to my esteemed guide Prof. V.K. Bansal, Formerly Chairman of the Department of Laws and Dean University Instructions, Panjab University, Chandigarh and now Professor Emeritus, who laid strong foundation for this manuscript and helped me to bring this project to fruition. I am indebted to him for his excellent spirit, unfailing help, inspiring guidance, constructive criticism and untiring willingness throughout the entire course of work without which it would not have been possible to bring this dissertation into its present form. Despite his ever-increasing academic responsibilities and engagements, he gave sufficient time to me, not only for the present study but in other respects also. I feel really privileged to have the opportunity of working under such a noble and prudent adviser.

I express my special thanks to Prof Shashi K. Sharma, Chairman, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh for providing me all necessary facilities and moral support to carry out this project. I extend my sincere thanks to all other faculty members of Department of Laws who helped me and guided me whenever I approached them.

I am greatly thankful to Prof G.I.S Sandhu, Department of Laws, Punjabi University, Patiala for his valuable suggestions, guidance and encouragement. I wish to express my special thanks to Dr. Anjana Kakar, Principal, Army Institute of Law, Mohali and all other faculty of AIL for encouraging me for the completion of the work.

My deep sense of appreciation is due to my family members, for their love, affection, silent sacrifices and encouragement which enabled me to keep going throughout my entire academic life. To them I owe more than I can express.
It would be a remiss, if I do not appreciate the friendly nature and helping attitude of my husband, Vikrant Sharma, without whose constant support and encouragement throughout my research work, the present study could not have been possible. My special thanks to my loving daughter, Vrinda for sparing me during that time when she needed me the most.

I have also immensely benefited from the inspiring and cheerful good wishes beside constructive support from my friends. Their helpful comments made my thinking more incisive and occasionally more precise. I also extend heartfelt thanks to my friends Amita Verma, Nishu, and Rajinder for their timely help and support, whenever and wherever needed. My ardent gratitude to all of my cherished and treasured friends for making the time memorable, with lots of sweet reminiscences to look back at.

I would be failing in my duty if I don’t thank the “Library staff” of Department of Laws, Panjab University, Army Institute of Law, Indian Law Institute, Delhi for the affectionate encouragement, cooperation and help.

I express my deepest sense of gratitude to the Almighty, whose abundant grace and mercy has enabled me to do this project.

(Hon’ble Judge)
(Mamta Mahajan)
21/09/07