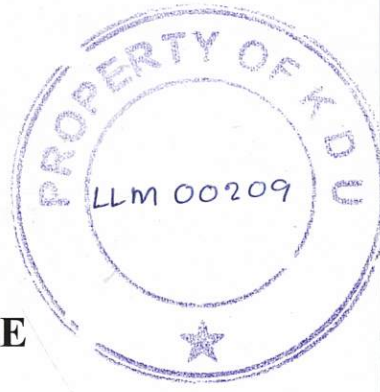


LLM 00209

**INNKEEPERS LIABILITY FOR THE GUEST'S  
PROPERTY IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IN  
SRI LANKA:  
A COMPARATIVE LEGAL ANALYSIS  
WITH UNITED KINGDOM AND USA OHIO STATE**

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*The Dissertation submitted to*

**GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENSE  
UNIVERSITY,  
SRI LANKA**

*In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree  
of*

**Master of Laws  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

## ABSTRACT

Tourism industry is considered as a significant contributor to Sri Lanka's GDP. To ensure sustainable growth in the industry which in turn maximize the economic benefits, the effective legal framework also plays major role. A sound legal framework helps and encourage the industry developments keeping the standards of care towards the guest who is the lifeblood of the tourism and hospitality industry.

The main objective of this dissertation is to examine the legal framework governing Innkeeper's liability on guest's property in the hospitality industry in Sri Lanka comparatively with United Kingdom and United States of America Ohio State. By findings of the analysis, recommendations can be used to enhance the standards of care for better governance of the liability. Legal framework includes mainly legislative enactment of Innkeeper's liability, contract law, law of torts, customary law and common law liabilities. Legal framework with regard to the Innkeepers liability towards guest's property brought into the hotel or Inn has been outlined with common law concepts which is the origin of the liability. Sri Lanka's approach has been traced back to colonial era influenced by a combination of common law, customary law, statutory enactments which primarily governed by the Innkeeper's Liability Ordinance. In this research work it will examine on the legal framework which governs the Innkeeper's liability on the guest's property in the hospitality industry in Sri Lanka to scrutinize the operation of the legislation and evaluate its efficacy and relevancy in modern hospitality practices.

Primary data of legislative enactments of Sri Lanka and United Kingdom and also USA Ohio State have been utilized for the comparative analysis which highlights the key similarities and differences between those jurisdictions. Primary sources of legislative enactments relating to the research topic in different jurisdictions and case law have been utilized in the research. Secondary sources of data have been utilized in the literature review to find out the research gap. It will provide a more comprehensive understanding on the area of research.

Mainly it is concentrated on identifying the weaknesses and loopholes in the current legal framework in Sri Lanka in order to determine better law reforms in the area of innkeeper's liability on the guest's property brought to the hotel. It will encourage and enhance the tourist arrivals when the law has been updated and fully framed while government and hoteliers launch many promoting campaigns. The hospitality and tourism industry is a fastest growing industry with influence of the technological advancements; but the relationship between the main characters of the Innkeeper and the Guest has to strengthen in line with the standards of reasonable care. This project aims to strengthen the legal framework in the area of innkeeper's liability on the guest's property which will indirectly reduce the strength of the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The updated liability will safeguard both the Innkeeper and the guest ensuring fair and effective management of innkeeper's liability in Sri Lanka.

*Key words : Innkeepers Liability, Guest's Property, Safe Keeping,  
Reasonable Care*