

November 13, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write in support of Rakhi Jain and her contribution to the Middle Eastern and South Asian Law Students Association (MESALSA) Cultural Night at Boston University School of Law on October 17, 2025. I serve as the 2025-2026 Co-President for MESALSA at BU Law, and I had the opportunity to see firsthand how Rakhi's work strengthened one of our most important annual community events.

BU Law has a long tradition of welcoming highly accomplished students from many backgrounds, and from our founding in 1872, we have opened our doors without regard to race, gender, or religion. Today our community life includes a wide network of student organizations and affinity groups that supports students culturally, academically, and professionally, and that helps them build connections within the school and in the broader legal community. MESALSA is a key part of that ecosystem. It seeks to build community and maintain Middle Eastern and South Asian cultural traditions while increasing awareness of those cultures throughout BU Law and the Boston legal community.

Cultural Night is MESALSA's signature event and one of the largest cultural programs on our calendar. It brings together students, faculty, staff, and guests for an evening of food, music, and activities that celebrate Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian cultures and encourages students to share and take pride in their heritages. Within that context, the presence of meaningful visual art is not decoration; it helps set the tone for how seriously we take culture, identity, and community at the law school.

For this year's Cultural Night, Rakhi provided a pop up exhibit of ten Pattachitra paintings in the BU Law Tower. Pattachitra is a traditional cloth based painting style from Odisha in eastern India, known for very detailed line work, rich color, and narrative scenes drawn from Hindu epics and temple traditions. Rakhi selected works that highlighted this heritage and arranged them so that guests would meet the paintings as they entered the foyer to the banquet hall and moved through the space.

The effect on the event was immediate. The exhibit transformed an institutional space into one that felt rooted in history and story. Students and guests lingered at the paintings, asked questions, and used them as a starting point for conversations about law, culture, and identity. MESALSA members reported strong feedback from attendees who appreciated seeing a traditional art form presented with such care and context rather than as a backdrop.

From an administrative standpoint, Rakhi was reliable, thoughtful, and easy to work with. She coordinated in advance with MESALSA's board members and BU Law staff about space, security, and timing. She arrived prepared, installed the exhibit efficiently, and ensured that the display was safe and respectful of the building and the event. Her approach combined professionalism with a genuine desire to honor both the artists in Odisha and the students at BU Law.

We are grateful for Rakhi's contribution to our Cultural Night and would gladly work with her again on future programs. I recommend her without reservation for opportunities that call for cultural programming, community engagement, or art centered educational events.

Sincerely,

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MESALSA Co-President (2025-2026)
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