

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	v
<i>Abbreviations</i>	viii
1. Recent Revival of the Doctrine of Public Trust	1
1.1. Overview of the Paper	1
1.2. The Three Recent Cases at a Glance	3
A. Vasudeva Nanayakkara v K N Choksy and 30 Others: the "LMSL" Case	3
B. Sugathpala Mendis & Others v C B Kumaratunge and Others: the "Water's Edge" Case	4
C. Vasudeva Nanayakkara v K N Choksy and Others: the "Sri Lanka Insurance" Case	5
2. Possible Origins of Public Trust Doctrine	7
2.1. The Concept of "Trust" in Equity and English Public Law	7
A. Public Trusts in English Public Law	7
B. Principle of Trust in the Exercise of Public Power in English Administrative Law	11
2.2. Public Trust Doctrine in Environmental Law: International and Comparative Jurisdictions	13
A. Origins of the Concept in Roman Law and its Adoption in English Law	13
B. Use of the Concept in the United States	15
C. Public Trust Doctrine in India	19
3. Judicial Development of Public Trust Doctrine in Sri Lanka	27
3.1. Basis of the Doctrine	27
3.2. A Doctrine that Limits Exercise of Discretionary Power	28
3.3. Trusteeship of Natural and National Resources	30
A. Trusteeship of Natural Resources	30
B. Trusteeship of National Resources	35

3.4. Public Trust: A Doctrine that Promotes the Rule of Law	37
3.5. Public Trust as Revived in the Trilogy of Cases	40
3.6. The Scope of the Doctrine	45
4. Making a Case for a Sri Lankan Version of the Doctrine of Public Trust	51
4.1. Public Trust Doctrine as a Re-articulation of Existing Principles of Public Law	51
A. A Re-wording of Existing Principles of Administrative Law	51
B. Public Trust Doctrine - A Component of the Right to Equality	52
4.2. The Sri Lankan Version of Public Trust Doctrine	53
A. Public Trust Doctrine as a Separate Ground of Review	53
B. Public Trust Doctrine as Empowering the Court and the Public Spirited Individual	55
4.3. Centrality of Judicial Discretion in the Public Trust Doctrine	56
A. PTD in Fundamental Rights Cases; the Supreme Court as the First and Final Court	57
B. "Who guards the guards?"	59
5. Proposals for Development of Public Trust Litigation In Sri Lanka	63
5.1. Questions of a Threshold and Constitutional Basis	63
5.2. Forum for Public Trust Litigation	65
5.3. Standing in Public Trust Litigation	65
5.4. Remedies and Follow up Mechanisms	66
6. Public Trust Doctrine; A Judicial Pilgrimage?	70
<i>References</i>	72