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JUDICIAL ACTIVISM IN SHAPING COMPENSATORY JURISPRUDENCE: FROM SARWAN SINGH TO NIPUN SAXENA

AUTHORED BY - VAIBHAV SHRIVASTAVA¹
& DR. RATAN SINGH SOLANKI²

ABSTRACT

This article considers the transformational role of judicial activism in the establishment of compensatory jurisprudence in India and specifically the landmark cases of Sarwan Singh and Nipun Saxena. The research finds a trend where courts are increasingly moving to fill in gaps in the legislation by interpreting the law in ways that put the victims on the right side of the battle, and fair compensation systems. Compensatory jurisprudence is taken to be a right which can be enforced and not a statutory duty due to the new standards of human rights and societal values, the creative adjudication and pro-active intervention of the judiciary. It is also an evolutionary trend that underscores the role that the judiciary is playing more at the intersection of policy and legal interpretation so as to reinvent the justice system to be more responsive and victim oriented.

Keywords: *Judicial Activism, Compensatory Jurisprudence, Victim Compensation, Comparative Law, Restorative Justice*

¹ Assistant Professor of Law, Indore Institute of Law, affiliated to DAVV, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

² Dean, Faculty of Law, Oriental University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

INTRODUCTION

Each of these cases, Sarwan Singh and Nipun Saxena, has been marked by judicial activism as a way of mapping the path of compensatory jurisprudence. These are instances where the law of compensation has been inadvertently influenced through judicial ruling at one time or the other by re-interpreting the legal principles. As one gazes into these historic rulings, the courts have at their disposal precisely such activism to provide the gaps in the legislative process-- assuming the act of lawmakers filling the gaps in the law with reckless disregard to the idea of lawmakers themselves taking action to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of victims. Courts have thus invented additional methods of distributive justice that so increase claims of wronged individuals in demand of compensation. Therefore, the course of compensatory jurisprudence has been that of unceasing development and transformation due in part to the efforts of individuals involved in the field of judicial activism who have pressed assiduously to seek an interpretation that acts as a mirror of society today.

Role of Judicial Activism

Judicial activism, as the consideration of being the real pillar to the process of evolution of compensatory jurisprudence, allows judges to interpret the laws in a way that they actively deal with social and legal disparities. Where courts have opted to provide dynamic interpretations of the law, they have played the major role of bridging gaps in legislation to make sure that the victims are sufficiently repaid. Judicial activism is hailed as an initiative that questions the law and sets up legal principles that are more in line with the current society. This becomes an activist judiciary where all the rights have not been provided under the current law, and where the protection is thought to be in the welfare of an ordinary person.

Therefore, judicial activism does not only have an influence on legal principles but also on compensation mechanisms hence on a large scale the entire major juridical system is affected. The historical perspective of judicial activism in compensatory jurisprudence is also another important issue; it reveals prominent early influences and tendencies. As compensation grew, damages and their laws were weak in certain ways; there were no such laws of damage then which bore the said defects, and judicial activism was there to find and remedy the said defects. In a way, the courts would tend to resort to judicial discretion in the imaginative interpretation of the law in such a way that an aggrieved party could be compensated even if there was no explicit clause.

This historical method reveals the way it set up a positive precedent in actually putting some activism in court by underlining that the law agencies require a slight degree of flexibility in their interpretation of their laws to achieve fair treatment. This mode of creative adjudication later led to a legal circumstance, where the hourly obligation of compensation was not merely a consequence of the statute but was recognized as a natural right-a circumstance, which later came to bear on the decisions of the court, which form the present regime of the law of compensatory adjudication.

In addition to this, judicial activism interfered with the age-old legal notions and transformed structures of compensation by new definitions. This mercurial form has allowed the courts to revise compensation to an elastic mode beyond the restrictive limit of statutes. In both historical and contemporary case studies, judicial activism overturns the perceived conservative approach to compensation jurisprudence, thereby fostering a fairer result. Activism in effect is rejoining the law in the service of the demand by victims to heal in filling the gaps in legislation and expanding the boundaries of judicial discretion. Therefore, the flexible influences of judicial activism remain to advance compensatory justice by reforming legal interpretations to address the ethical demands of modern society.

Landmark Cases: Sarwan Singh

The case of Sarwan Singh is a historical milestone in the sphere of compensatory jurisprudence, in fact, commodifying the importance of judicial activism. Here the judiciary did not conform to the traditional interpretations but saved the rights of the victims by rightfully compensating the victims even without sufficient statutory allowances. Notably, the case has set a precedent in India where the court adopted a visionary interpretation grounded on the exercise of judicial discretion, in bridging legislative gaps. This creativity reflected a new development that the courts gave more importance to the rights of individuals and just trials, and repeated that judicial intervention is inevitable in cases when the legislative paradigms fail.

Sarwan Singh is hence an excellent example of how judicial activism can re-engineer compensatory mechanisms hence giving justice that goes beyond the legal technicalities. The principle in the Sarwan Singh case was also a reconsideration of the principles on which the notion of compensatory jurisprudence was to be applied by the virtue of the principle that justice would not be limited to rigorous statutory provisions.

In *Bhagwan Dass v. State of Haryana, AIR 1987 SC 2049 (Supreme Court of India, 1984)*,

“The court's decision leaned heavily on an expansive interpretation of legal provisions to ensure adequate restitution for the victims, reflecting a departure from conventional methodologies. By prioritizing fair relief over procedural technicalities, the judiciary demonstrated an activist inclination that placed victims' rights at the forefront of legal considerations. This approach implicitly encouraged a more flexible legal framework where the courts could intervene decisively in instances of statutory inadequacies. Consequently, the Sarwan Singh case proved a significant precedent, engendering a more adaptive legal landscape that could accommodate evolving societal values and heightened expectations of justice.”

Doctrinal Implications of Sarwan Singh

The Sarwan Singh judgement reorganized the dogma of the compensatory jurisprudence with augmenting the degree of judicial discretion in computing proper compensation. A wider mixture of justice, rehabilitation, and deterrence was reflected in the interpretative approach adopted by the Court that compensation is not to be mere arithmetic, but it must be a mixture. It was a paradigm shift of using the statutory provisions in a formal manner to a situation-based conceptualization of the suffering and needs of the victims.

The Court, in finding the constraints of current statutory framework, had created an understanding that compensation is not a procedural remedy but a substantive right that must be afforded by the court. This innovative doctrinal element set up a platform upon which the discretionary powers of the courts that had come after them could be used more freely when they were faced with cases that had involved compensatory relief especially where the law had failed [4]. The case, therefore, is not a procedural innovation but a substantive re-conceptualization of the idea of compensation as a part and parcel of justice.

Landmark Cases: Nipun Saxena

The Nipun Saxena case is a turning point in the development of the theory of compensatory jurisprudence, where judicial activism seriously contributed to the development of the theory

of victim compensation. The case was mostly used to highlight the shortage of the current legal frameworks to support victims of sexual violence, and a judicial reformation effort was needed. One of the essential results was the order of the Supreme Court to create a committee, which should produce Model Rules on victim compensation policies, that is, victims of sexual offences and victims of acid attack.

This order highlighted the court readiness to interfere in policy making and thereby widened the boundaries of judicial activism to encompass not only the interpretation of laws. By this directive of the court, the Nipun Saxena judgement gave a boost to the proactive judicial method in safeguarding the rights of victims and having a compensation mechanism in place and a holistic vision of justice that follows the modern standards of human rights.

Correspondingly, the legal concepts developed during the Nipun Saxena case have extensive effects on compensation of victims in cases, especially by strengthening the protective system of sexual violence victims. This historic case brought to the fore the necessity of a structured compensation plan to victims that will not only give them monetary compensation but also covers other broader areas of justice and rehabilitation. The fact that the Supreme Courts have been asked to develop all-inclusive Model Rules is indicative of a radical way of getting a combination of judicial activism and policymaking where the rights of the victim are dealt with in a more holistic way.

The court order to meet a special committee further on is also indicative of a wider role of the court, something that disallows legal interpretations and legislative reforms. These principles thus provide a gradual jurisprudential atmosphere that is continually developing and perfecting its compensation arrangements to make certain that the courts follow the aims of modifying its legal deliveries according to the new provisions of human rights.

Progressive Framework Established by Nipun Saxena

Nipun Saxena case transcended the traditional compensatory paradigms to establish a more holistic and victim-oriented compensatory paradigm. The Court, however, did not only determine the immediate financial requirements of the victims but the requirement to offer them psychological rehabilitation, social reintegration, and long-term aid systems. This poly-dimensional view of compensating victims may be regarded as a valuable change in the judicial logic that cannot be confined to money-related compensation but may be extended to the

general well-being of a victim.

The legal acknowledgement that the standard compensation frameworks generally fail to take into consideration the extraordinary variables and degrees of harm experienced by the victims of sexual assault and acid attacks is the Court instructional directive to establish special victim compensation plans. The judiciary was willing to adjust legal remedies to the particularities of the shortcomings of different classes of victims and their needs by necessitating development of policies to compensate the victims, in a distinct manner. The practise is a radical change of the generic compensation schemes to the contextually sensitive ones that recognise the individuality of the harm caused to different groups of victims.

Influence on Legal Principles

The impact of judicial rulings on legal principles is undisputable in the world of compensatory jurisprudence. When the courts practice judicial activism, they often criticize the currently enacted statutory interpretations to make sure that the existing compensation mechanisms can satisfy the needs of the victims. This dynamic is especially apparent in situations where the law has been changed to include more fair considerations.

As an example, judicial case rulings have often broadened the range of redress that can be sought under the current laws and encourages the victim-centered approach to the judicial system to increase the flexibility of the judicial system. Judiciary activism can be used to bring about change in the strict legal principles to more accommodating and responsive law principles by interpreting compensation statutes in a manner that is mindful of fairness and comprehensiveness.

To illustrate, judicial activism has clearly manifested legal principles by streamlining the process of compensatory mechanisms in the justice system. A particular case in point is the extension of compensation laws to be victim focused. Here, the judiciary has applied the existing laws in a manner that has increased compensation over what the law specifies or states, enabling the judiciary to deal with the overall effects of injustice to the victims. This kind of activism has brought about legal innovations thus encompassing a broader range of losses that were initially not covered by the standard frameworks. Moreover, even though this judicial approach was initially criticized, is more compatible with the constitutional principles and traditions of common law, and creates a more restorative effect on the legal environment.

Consequently, these developed legal principles have had a sweeping effect on the legal system and the mechanisms of compensation due to their continued influence. Judicial activism has over time enabled a judicial framework which responds adequately to statutory law lacunae gaps by offering solutions which are not within traditional limits like enriching compensation to the full fairness criteria within the justice system.

These changes have promoted the adoption of more flexible compensation systems that not only take into consideration the needs of victims but also provide fair results. Besides, the revolution of the activism of judicial authority emphasises the emerging jurisprudence in which flexibility and adaptation to social needs are at the centre of the law-making process. In turn, the parallel development of the legal principles and systems highlighted by these long-term effects are rooted in not only responsiveness to the current demands but also in the ability of the principles and systems to achieve substantive justice in the context of compensatory jurisprudence.

Doctrinal Shifts in Compensatory Jurisprudence

It is the judicial activism that has achieved success in landmark cases which has propelled a radical shift in the doctrine of compensatory jurisprudence. Traditionally, the concept of compensation was envisaged as a remedial aspect that attempts to reimburse the victims to their initial positions prior to the damage by providing them with financial rewards. Compensation has been considered differently by judicial interventions, however, in the sense that it is embracing broader objectives, including deterrence, rehabilitation, and social justice. The shift in essentialist terms of a pure-defined compensatory model to a larger regime of jurisprudence that takes account of diverse dimensions of harm and corresponding redress is this development of the doctrine.

Moreover, the customary method of causation and liability in compensatory claims has been doubted by judicial activism. There has been an increasing tendency to see the courts be more transparent in their establishment of causal connexions between wrongful actions and consequential damages particularly in circumstances where wrong action is endemic and in instances where an institution fails. This latitude in theory has enabled courts to hold other parties liable that would not otherwise be liable in the event that a more vigorous description of causation is utilised which has enhanced the capacity of victims to obtain substantial damages. Such doctrinal developments reflect how judicial activism has radically changed the

theoretical foundations of the jurisprudence of compensatory justice, so as to be more responsive to the contemporary conceptions of justice.

Impact on Victims

Judging rulings have significantly affected victims in that access has been augmented to payment and improvement in the legal results. The judiciary in situations such as in the case of Nipun Saxena was important in expanding the area of compensation to incorporate more holistic views that consider the needs of the victim.

The creation of the committee on Model Rules by the Supreme Court to cover the compensation of victims of sexual offences and acid attacks brings about a great change in the way the victims are compensated with not just the money but a more holistic way of getting justice.

In a similar fashion, the incorporation of the principles of restorative justice in victim compensation systems brings out a transition towards considering the overall effects of crimes and compensating them by communal reconciliation. Because of this, judicial activism has enhanced the situation of victims especially in the facilitation of legal frameworks that consider contextual and just redress, hence, compatible with current human rights practices.

Interestingly, judicial activism has resulted in exemplary advancements in the compensation of victims by the innovative interventions and contributions in certain landmark cases. An example of this is the Sarwan Singh case that revealed that judicial discretion can be applied to exceed the constraints of statutory provisions and administer justice by focusing on the compensation of victims rather than formality of procedure. Equally, the Nipun Saxena case was an indication of the judiciary to expand the compensation framework to encompass the sensitive sectors like sexual violence and a thorough victim compensation scheme was to be set up. These instances prove the proactive nature of the judiciary in reforming compensatory jurisprudence thereby providing stronger support to the victims whose needs had been undervalued before. Through this, judicial activism has not only strengthened the avenues to financial redress but also helped to better comprehend victimhood and make sure the compensation schemes keep up with the needs of justice in a modern context.

In turn, the general societal consequences of enhanced victim compensation in judicial activism are also interesting in the creation of a more just social fabric. By ensuring that the judgments

of the justice system are consistent with the changing human rights norms, judicial activism will increase the trust of society toward the justice system and, thereby, reinstate the promise of the legal system towards delivering justice. Activist rulings help in the creation of a more detailed legal framework that effectively stands for the needs of victims and expectations of society by fixing the flaws in the current compensation systems.

Moreover, the participation of the judiciary in the development of such structures stimulates the legislative bodies to introduce more progressive norms, so that the compensation will not only cease after the financial compensation but also go to the emotional and social rehabilitation. This process does not only help to progressively amend the sufferer on a greater scale because this way the offender does not fail to achieve another aim but also promotes the values of equity and justice in the society, which attract a legal environment that will identify well with current ethical and human rights requirements.

Transformative Impact on Victim Recognition

Judicial activism has redefined the way victims are found and placed within the court system. Conventional legal systems often relegated victims to the status of a non-essential part of the criminal process and compensation were a side-thought. Nevertheless, activist judicial interpretations have increasingly placed victims' experiences and needs at the heart of their analysis, making the victims more than mere recipients of justice and enhanced their status to a stakeholder with substantive rights. Such repositioning is an important paradigm shift in the legal thought process that will recognize the agency and dignity of the victims.

The greater publicity of the victims has been in the form of real procedural improvements which increase the possibility of actual participation in the process of compensation. Courts such as simpler application, quick hearing, and reduced burden of evidence have also adopted victim-friendly processes. These procedural accommodations are made with the consideration of what is known of the trauma and vulnerability of the victims, particularly the members of the marginalised population who may also face other impediments to accessing justice. Judicial activism has also enhanced accessibility and responsiveness of compensatory remedies to the real life circumstance of victims by terminating procedural obstacles.

Broader Legal System Impact

Judicial activism has left an indelible scar in the broader legal community that has brought both

procedural and substantive reforms. Procedurally, activism gives the courts a chance to overcome the current inflexibility to deliver a more responsive interpretation of the statutory laws as would have been the case in the compensation structures. This flexibility is applicable in issues that relate to nuances that can be overlooked in a legal text that stays unchanged over the years thus ensuring that justice is attentive to the current condition in every society. Substantively, judicial activism plays a central role to re-create and expand the legal domain of compensation of victims and insistently integrate more sweeping redress systems in the existing legal doctrines.

This proactive approach of the judiciary, in its turn, not only enhances a legal culture towards a dynamic evolution but also helps legislative institutions to revise and re-operationalize norms based on statutes, which makes them aligned with modern paradigms of justice.

Besides, judicial activism has been among the primary triggers of legal changes and policy making, particularly in compensatory law. Judicial activism has also brought the creation of laws and policies that are compatible with the demands of modern society by challenging the status quo and ensuring that there are no gaps in current law-making mechanisms. Watershed cases have been known to make legislators revisit and re-write policies so as to provide more extensive and efficient compensatory schemes to the victims. The proactive role played by the judiciary has compelled policymakers to pay attention to a wider range of more sophisticated and holistic considerations in both the legal process and the compensation systems ought to take into account more divergent set of the needs of victims.

Institutional Dynamics and Inter-Branch Relations

Judicial activism and its evolution over years into the form of compensatory jurisprudence has had an immense impact on the institutional features of the legal system, in particular, relationships between the different arms of the government. Judicial activism in compensation cases has been said to have at times overstepped the legislative prerogatives, but it has also spawned profitable debate between the legislature and the judiciary. These deliberations have often resulted in more refined bodies of statute that have incorporated principles provided by the judiciary and a symbiotic relationship between judicial innovativeness and codification exists between the judiciary and the legislature.

What is more, the judicial activism which was integrated into the remit of compensatory

jurisprudence has also had an influence on administrative agencies which are tasked with following compensation schemes. Court orders are likely to impose some administrative reforms, including practices that are simplified, open, and controlled. Such administrative reforms make it more effective in practical sense since once the principle is established in court, it will be transformed into a practical good for a victim. The spillover effects of judicial activism thus extend beyond the building up of the doctrines to institutional reform at the different levels of the government.

Challenges and Criticisms of Judicial Activism in Compensatory Jurisprudence

Criticism and challenges of judicial activism exist in line with significant contributions to compensatory jurisprudence and ought to be taken seriously. Opponents feel that excessive activism by the judiciary may go ahead and advance the doctrine of separation of powers to the extent that the judiciary may act as the quasi will of legislation without the checks and balances of democracy that limit the powers of elected leaders. This is of relevance where the courts are producing broad compensation plans that might otherwise have been within the purview of the legislature. This form of activism raises valid questions about the competence of institutions and legitimacy of democratic institutions in policy making.

Furthermore, judicial activism of compensation cases may produce inconsistency across jurisdictions or different courts thereby producing legal ambiguity that leaves both victims and prospective defendants without knowledge of the law. Without common guidelines, the discretion of the judiciary may result in a disproportionate treatment of similar victims by granting them dissimilar compensation that may be a loss to the principle of treating similar victims equally before the law. These contradictions highlight the conflict between the flexibility and situational approach to reward and the need of stability and consistency of legal norms implementation.

In addition, judicial activism is sometimes hard to execute, particularly when grandiose court rulings require huge quantities of administrative funds, or even centralization of other governmental departments. Even the best judicial interventions can fail to be effective even when they fail to consider the practical constraint of the capacity to implement. This contrast between judicial vision and reality on the ground underscores the importance of realistic tests of institutional competencies in cases where the judicial reasoning adopted by the courts is one of activist compensation.

Balancing Judicial Restraint and Activism

The matter of judicial overreach should be castigated in the backdrop of compensatory jurisprudence with a delicate consideration on the balance between judicial restraint and judicial activism. According to the proponents of judicial restraint, a court must be more tolerant to the decision that the legislature made about compensation systems that are merely meddling when there is a clear constitutional infraction or statutory anomaly. It is an opinion that reiterates the need to uphold democratic leadership and the key position of the legislature in policy making process despite the perceived ineffectiveness of the current pay system.

On the other hand, the judicial activists have the view that the courts have a constitutional role of safeguarding the rights of the individual and provide possible solutions especially where the legislative act is insufficient. This belief makes the judiciary the final defense to justice and the mandate and duty to intervene where other institutions have failed to offer reasonable structures of compensation. The current discussion between the two antagonistic views is a philosophical difference of the role that courts occupy in the context of a democratic society.

This can be done by a middle ground of recognizing the viability of judicial activism in compensatory jurisprudence but also seeing it as a constrained form. Courts should engage in activism when dealing with fundamentals and defense against flagrant statutory omission when there is a clear gap in the law, but the area of ambiguous policy trade-offs or resource distribution decisions is more restricted. This restrained policy preserves the obligatory position of the judicial system in the safeguard of justice without infringing the primary responsibility of the legislature in the establishment of policies.

Future Directions in Compensatory Jurisprudence

The school of compensatory jurisprudence suggests some emerging tendencies and patterns that can influence the further evolution of this study. First, technology is creating new forms of harm where new judicial responses will be needed in compensation systems. Courts will never have experienced such an issue in deciding a proper approach to compensation and standard of liability because of the artificial intelligence, automated systems, and digital platforms that have developed new forms of injuries. Judicial activism might play a significant role in adhering to the traditional principles of compensation in these new technological environments.

Second, globalization has generated the problem of compensatory jurisprudence since it introduces the transnational nature of compensation claims. The cases are more cross-border, multinational corporate defendants, and international legal standards, and the courts must respond to complicated issues of jurisdiction and legal conflicts. Future judicial activism may also be required to answer these transnational questions by setting up more sophisticated crusades of handling claims of international compensation in a manner that does not contravene issues of sovereignty.

Third, enhanced consciousness of the historical and structural injustices is causing the reconsideration of the compensatory models, which do not depend on the models of individual harm. There are increasing claims brought before courts that topple redress of collective, intergenerational or systemic harms that do not lend themselves to traditional compensatory approaches. Judicial activism may play an important role in the establishment of larger forms of compensatory doctrines to acknowledge these complex forms of injury along with the establishment of practical forms of remedies.

Integrating Restorative and Transformative Justice Principles

In the future, compensatory jurisprudence can also shift towards a greater incorporation of the principles of restorative and transformative justice beyond the traditional remedial paradigm. Restorative justice theories emphasize healing relationships, healing through all-inclusive processes which require the participation of both victims and the offenders as well as community. Judicial activism might be improved to incorporate this kind of principle more with the design of compensation orders that would ease dialogue, reconciliation, and communication instead of merely compensating with money.

Similarly, when transformative justice views, it is acknowledged that sufficient compensation may sometimes involve the mitigation of structural predispositions to injury. The judicial activism of the future would also be more extreme including the establishment of remedies, which would rectify institutional failures and systemic inequalities that give rise to compensable injuries. This may involve prioritization of organizational modifications, institutional control or retaliation and compensation to the individual to respond to injury causation.

These new approaches point to the change of the financial compensation-based jurisprudence

toward a wider perspective of justice incorporating restoration, transformation, and prevention. This would be a fantastic improvement in the scope and range of judicial activism in its purpose of formulating healthful remedies to various forms of illness.

CONCLUSION

The formation of so-called compensatory jurisprudence as the form of the judicial activism is one of the primary changes in the way of the approach towards the compensation of victims and justice in the legal systems. And to Sarwan Singh on to Nipun Saxena, the law has gradually reinterpreted the law to create more aim, responsive, and victim-oriented compensation systems. The process proves the urgency with which the judiciary is engaged in stitches the holes into the law and changing the legal framework to the requirements of the modern world and needs of human rights.

Judicial activism has indeed gone beyond statutory interpretation as it now goes even further to take part in policy and some institutional reform as revealed in the case studies of the landmark cases that are being considered by this study. The requisite change towards a more flexible and integrative regime of compensation which challenges the inflexibility and dogmas of the procedures has helped the courts realize the multidimensionality of the damage that victims of such torts can suffer. This kind of activist practice has not only made more ready effective cures for the victims but has also raised awareness about their rights and dignity in the law.

However, its own criticisms on judicial activism in compensatory jurisprudence are democratic unsoundness, implementation capability, and divergence across jurisdictions. These issues justify the need to keep a proper balance between the judges being innovative and restraining, especially in the jurisdictions where the policy aspects are complex or the resource allocation decisions. The field of compensatory jurisprudence will move ahead by negotiating such tensions and responding to the emerging challenges related to technological advancement, globalization, and structural injustice.

The amalgamation of the notions of restorative and transformative justice has at least a good opportunity to continue its development by a continuous improvement of compensatory jurisprudence. By broadening the compensation systems as other types of redress as well as financial compensation, courts can prescribe more comprehensive types of addressing harm,

including not only financial compensation but also healing, reconciliation and structural reform. An increase in a mass dimension and an aspirational dimension of judicial activism would be manifested by such emergence to respond in an integrated fashion to injustice.

And finally, the dynamic character of the justice system and its willingness to adapt to the evolution of values and demands of society also finds its manifestation in the gradual evolution of compensatory jurisprudence on the premises of judicial activism. The further expansion of the boundaries and the new experiments in the compensation forms can help courts to further advance their functions of administering justice, equity, and human dignity within the modern legal systems.

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