



**Parul<sup>®</sup>**  
**University**



**NATIONAL ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION ON  
LEGAL AID IN INDIA VIS A VIS  
LEGISLATIONS, GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIARY**

organised by

**Pro Bono Club, Parul Institute of Law**

In association with

**Technical Event Cell, Parul University**

Sponsored by

**Kamendu Joshi and Associates, Ahmedabad**

**Background**

More than 80% of the total Indian Population is eligible for legal aid but only 15 million (1.5 crore) of those eligible have availed it since the establishment of National Legal Services Authorities (NALSA) in 1995 under The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.<sup>1</sup> In the words of Justice U.U.Lalit, Executive Chairman of NALSA “Most of us who deserve or the potential beneficiaries of free legal aid are not even aware of their rights. Only 1% of the total criminal cases heard in the courts of law get legal aid from the offices of Legal Services Authorities across the country. Is it that the remaining 99% of the general public doesn’t want legal aid? There could be two reasons for not getting legal aid. One, most of them are not even aware that it is their constitutional right to be provided free legal aid. Second, they don’t perhaps have confidence in the setup of legal aid, which is more dangerous. If they don’t have confidence in the setup or in the machinery of legal aid, then we need to do self-introspection. Good quality aid must be ensured. Legal aid to the poor does not mean poor legal aid. There has to be better standard, better quality and better level of legal aid offered through legal services authorities.”<sup>2</sup> Despite the number of people availing legal aid, although meager; the judiciary contributing by giving directions through its judgments, essentially pushing the enforcement of Article 39A of the Indian Constitution; and the Government aggressively promoting free legal aid and legal services, concerns

<sup>1</sup><https://www.tatatrusters.org/Upload/pdf/legal-aid-background-january-2021.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/legal-aid-to-the-poor-does-not-mean-poor-legal-aid-justice-lalit/article37148448.ece>, October 24, 2021

still remain. The biggest being whether the available aid is effective and efficient. A robust legal aid system is an integral part of access to justice.

Pro Bono Club, Parul Institute of Law in association with Technical Event Cell, Parul University, Vadodara and sponsored by Kamendu Joshi and Associates bring to you this article writing competition to critically think, discuss and generate possible solutions for the concerns within India's legal aid system.

### **Guidelines of the Competition**

- ❖ The Competition is open for all the students studying in any discipline in the recognized Colleges/Departments of the Universities in India. No co-authorship is allowed.
- ❖ Participants are advised to focus on Legal Aid & Services system in India, critical analysis of present legislations, government policies and schemes, role of judiciary with regards to legal aid and services. Article must reflect some concrete suggestions/recommendations which can be implemented by concerned ministries and authorities.
- ❖ Essay should be original (not published earlier or extracted from other sources) in English, 6000 to 8000 words (New Times Roman, font size 12, 1.5 spacing) including footnotes. Title of the page should carry all details like name, affiliation, email id, mobile no. of the participants.
- ❖ Last Date of Registration **August 15, 2022**. Registration link - <https://forms.gle/wDhEwi1Xi6jaYYbB8>
- ❖ Essay to be submitted to email id **probonoclub@paruluniversity.ac.in** in word file only on or before **September 15, 2022, 10-00 pm**.
- ❖ Students should also send a scanned copy of a valid ID card along with the essay. The participants will be duly informed of other details or subsequent changes, if any. If there is any change in the e-mail address of the participants, it may be informed to the above address.

### **Awards & Certification**

E-Certificate, Cash prizes & Memento will be given to best three essays. Winner Rs. 5,000, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up Rs. 3,000 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up Rs. 2,000. In case of tie, essays will be sent for further expert evaluation. All contributors will be given an e-certificate of participation.

### **Outcome of the Competition**

All good quality essays will be compiled in form a book or as it may be deemed appropriate, subject to a sufficient number of good quality essays and the final compilation will be submitted to the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

All entries shall be deemed to be the property of the organizer and the organizer has complete discretion about publication of essay in any form. Essays will be judged by experts, faculties from diverse fields based on parameters like content, language, flow of presentation, critical & innovative thinking, recommendations and references.

Result of the competition will be declared by **September 30, 2022**

**Faculty Coordinator :-**

**Dr. Kalpeshkumar L Gupta**

Associate Professor of Law &

Faculty Coordinator, Technical Event Cell, Pro Bono Club,

Parul Institute of Law, Parul University, Vadodara

Mob. +91 99248 97691

E-mail :- kalpeshkumar.gupta90541@paruluniversity.ac.in

**Student Coordinators :-**

**Devesh Khandelwal**, Pro Bono Associate (Mob. +91 93513 29852)

**Sonalika Nigam**, Pro Bono Associate (Mob. +91 78285 36947)