

National Law University

Project 39A

Draft Call

Date: May 17, 2019

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – LITIGATION HEAD

Position: The National Law University, Delhi ('University') through Project 39A is seeking to engage, on a contractual basis, one position of Litigation Head at its campus in Dwarka, New Delhi to head the litigation initiative of Project 39A. The contract will be for one year initially and can be extended by another year at the discretion of the University. The Associate will be responsible for working on cases being handled by the Project of prisoners sentenced to death.

About Project 39A:

Project 39A (hereinafter 'P39A') draws inspiration from Article 39-A in the Indian Constitution on equal justice and signals the broadening of our work on the criminal justice system in India. We undertake litigation, research and outreach relating to forensics, torture, legal aid, forensic psychiatry and death penalty (for more information on P39A, visit www.project39a.com).

About the litigation initiative:

P39A provides pro bono legal assistance to several prisoners sentenced to death across the country. The Project also represents prisoners who are challenging the rejection of their mercy petitions by the Governor or the President. Additionally, the Project is involved in strategic litigation aimed at challenging procedural and substantive aspects of the criminal justice system for the realization of constitutional rights of prisoners sentenced to death. Currently, the Project has a team of seven litigators and one mitigation investigator. Litigation associates of the Project brief eminent senior advocates or experienced criminal defense advocates in the Supreme Court and High Courts. Since 2015, the Project has been involved in several Criminal Appeals, Review Petitions and Writ Petitions before various judicial fora.

Responsibilities:

- A. Devise legal strategy and arguments for cases handled by the Project and carry out related research.
- B. Draft criminal appeals, review petitions, writ petitions, applications, rejoinders and other legal documents.
- C. Brief and assist advocates on record and senior counsels.
- D. Visit prisons across India to conduct detailed interviews with prisoners sentenced to death, their families and trial/appellate court lawyers as part of developing legal strategy in particular cases.
- E. Regularly communicate with prison authorities to obtain case specific information and documents.

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- F. Obtain case records from prisons, previous lawyers, family members or courts.
- G. Present the work of the Project at appropriate fora.
- H. Organise training workshops and conferences.
- I. Supervise, mentor and coordinate the work of other litigation associates and mitigation investigators working at the Project.
- J. Oversee the overall administration of the litigation initiative.
- K. Devise strategic litigation around important issues in the criminal justice system including those which may arise in the the litigation work at the trial stages undertaken by the Fair Trial Fellowship.
- L. Any other work that may be necessary to further the aims of the Project.

Qualifications:

- A. Graduate with an LLB degree.
- B. Enrolment with any State Bar Council.
- C. Full-time litigation experience of at least five years is mandatory and those with more than 10 years of experience will be given preference.
- D. Ability to read/ write/ speak regional Indian languages will be an advantage but is not mandatory.

Compensation: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will be within the range of Rs.80,000 - 85,000/- per month.

Application Process: Interested persons may send their resumé and a statement of purpose, explaining their interest in working on issues of death penalty and the contribution that they see themselves making. The statement of purpose must not exceed 500 words. Please send your resumé and statement of purpose to p39arecruitment@nludelhi.ac.in. The subject of the e-mail should be "Application for Litigation Head.

Deadline: Applications must reach us no later than midnight of 2nd June 2019 after which the applications will not be accepted. Only shortlisted candidates will be informed via email.

Note:

1. National Law University, Delhi is an equal opportunity employer.
2. P39A ensures access to legal representation for prisoners regardless of the offence.
3. National Law University, Delhi reserves the right to conduct interviews and not fill the position.
4. National Law University, Delhi is unable to cover the costs of attending interviews.
5. The position shall be paid under the grants received by P39A, National Law University, Delhi.