

March 19, 2021

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

'PROJECT 39A DEATH PENALTY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP'

Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi believes in the importance of meaningful exposure of students to the complexities and nuances of the criminal justice system in India. We are offering a 12-month fellowship to law students to work on issues related to the death penalty and contribute to Project 39A's research and *pro bono* legal representation endeavours.

About Project 39A: Project 39A is a criminal justice litigation and research centre housed in the National Law University, Delhi. It 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 *pro bono* legal representation, research and outreach relating to forensics, torture, legal aid, forensic psychiatry and death penalty (for more information visit www.project39a.com).

About the Death Penalty Research Fellowship: Fellows will be required to work on either/ both of the following assignments. Project 39A reserves the right to change the assignments allotted after the commencement of the Fellowship.

- a) Publication of an edited volume on the death penalty in India to be published by the Cambridge University Press (CUP) in July 2022. The chapters in the edited volume will be authored by experts on various aspects of the death penalty in India. Fellows will render research assistance towards this exercise and will also be required to conduct administrative tasks, as may be required.
- b) Research projects on aspects relevant to the administration of the death penalty in India. Fellows will be required to assist with archival, doctrinal, comparative, and field research (if circumstances permit) along with assistance in conducting allied administrative tasks.

At the time of submitting applications, applicants must indicate their preference (or lack thereof) between the two categories. In situations where field work becomes viable and is undertaken, all associated costs will be borne by Project 39A.

Number of Fellowships and Duration: 10 Fellowships are on offer for 12 months each.

Eligibility: Students who will be in their III/ IV/ V-year of a 5-year LL.B. programme during the academic year 2021-22 or will be in their II/ III-year of a 3 year LL.B. programme during the academic year 2021-22 are eligible to apply.



PROJECT 39A
EQUAL JUSTICE
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, PROJECT 39A
SECTOR 14, DWARKA -110078**

Stipend: Fellows will be offered a stipend of Rs. 35,000 for the duration of the Fellowship (12 months) on the successful completion of the Fellowship. Project 39A reserves the right to not fill all available positions for the Fellowship.

Application Process: Applicants must fill the online form available here (accessible on <https://www.project39a.com/the-death-penalty-research-fellowship>) and upload three documents-

1. *Curriculum Vitae*,
2. *Statement of Purpose* of not more than 500 words explaining their interest in this Fellowship, and
3. *Writing Sample* of not more than 1000 words commenting on the issue of inherent arbitrariness in the administration of the death penalty in India in Justice PN Bhagwati's dissenting opinion in *Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab*, (1982) 3 SCC 24. Please focus on the sections in which Bhagwati J. discusses how the capital sentencing framework in India is violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

Applicants must indicate their preferred activity in the application form. Please select one of the options among 'Option A- Edited volume on the Death Penalty,' 'Option B- Research on the Death Penalty,' or 'Option C- Both' in the application form.

Only complete applications submitted in consonance with the aforementioned process will be considered. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a virtual interview and Project 39A reserves the right to conduct further rounds of assessment.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted by 11.59 pm, 4th April 2021. Applicants shortlisted for interviews will be informed within 10 days after the deadline. If you do not hear from us within 10 days, please assume that your application has not been successful. Unfortunately, we cannot respond to individual queries on the status of applications.