

**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, DELHI
PROJECT - 39A**

September 30, 2019

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – ASSOCIATE (MENTAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE)

The National Law University, Delhi ('University') is seeking to engage **one** Associate (Mental Health and Criminal Justice) to work with and further the aims of the Project 39A. The contract will be for a period of one year.

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. 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 litigation consultants 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.

About Mental Health and Criminal Justice: One of the hidden costs of an overburdened and under resourced criminal justice system is the unaddressed mental health concerns of the prisoners. While the law does provide for taking into consideration the mental health of the accused, in actuality, there is scant attention paid to it. Whether it be deficient mental health treatment and care options in prison, or the chasm between the limited understanding of mental health in criminal law and the realities of the intricate concepts within the umbrella of mental health multiple gaps need to be filled for effective and accurate integration of mental health within the Indian criminal justice system.

Role of the Associate (Mental Health and Criminal Justice): An interdisciplinary approach is required to make effective strides towards incorporating various facets of mental health and related issues into the criminal justice system. There is a need for lawyers and mental health professionals to work together to develop this field in India towards a fairer and more accurate integration between mental health and criminal justice. The Associate will work with advocates and social workers towards ensuring effective access to justice to prisoners sentenced to death. They will be the bridge between the defense team at P39A and experts we work with.

Responsibilities:

- A. Devise interview strategies and protocols for interviewing prisoners, their families and other relevant persons to collect information relevant to the psycho-social history of the prisoners.
- B. Review the information collected in various cases and engages with experts in order to obtain expert opinion about individual cases.

- C. Undertake field visits, if required, to conduct interviews with prisoners and their family.
- D. Strategise and work with other Associates to effectively transform and incorporate the information collected into the legal case of the prisoner before the judicial forum.
- E. Organise and undertake training workshops for building internal capacity on interviewing and documenting skills and theoretical knowledge on different aspects of mental health and criminal justice
- F. Assist with organising workshops and conferences for prison officials, judges, lawyers and others within the criminal justice system.
- G. Present the work of the Centre at various fora.
- H. Any other work that may be necessary to further the aims of the Centre.

Qualifications:

- A. Post-Graduate with a degree in forensic mental health, psychology, psychiatry or any allied disciplines.
- B. Relevant work undertaken in the field of forensic mental health would be preferred.
- C. Any previous field work involving an emphasis on field work, data collection and empirical research relating to mental health will be considered an advantage.
- D. Substantial proficiency in reading/ speaking Hindi will be necessary and proficiency in any other Indian language would be an advantage.

Compensation: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and will be Rs.50,000/- per month.

Application Process: Interested persons may send their resumé and a statement of purpose, explaining their interest in working on the issue of death penalty and the contribution that they see themselves making through this position. The statement of purpose must not exceed 750 words. Please send your resumé and statement of purpose to p39arecruitment@nludelhi.ac.in . The subject of the e-mail should be “Application for Associate (Mental Health and Criminal Justice)”.

Deadline: Applications must reach us no later than midnight of October 20, 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. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted via e-mail. If you do not hear from us within 4 weeks after the deadline, please assume that your application has not succeeded. Unfortunately, we cannot reply to individual queries about the status of applications.
3. P39A ensures access to legal representation for prisoners regardless of the offence.
4. National Law University, Delhi reserves the right to conduct interviews and not fill the position.
5. National Law University, Delhi is unable to cover the costs of attending interviews.
6. The position shall be paid under the grant received by P39A, National Law University, Delhi.