

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

May 9, 2024

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - INTERNS

The National Law University, Delhi ('University') through Project 39A is seeking to remotely engage, on a contractual basis, interns for managing the written communications with prisoners represented by Project 39A in Hindi, Telugu, Marathi, Punjabi, Kannada, and Gujarati. The contract will be for one year initially and can be extended on an annual basis at the discretion of the University.

ABOUT PROJECT 39A: Project 39A 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 communications relating to forensics, torture, legal aid, mental health and death penalty (for more information, visit www.project39a.com).

AREA OF WORK: The capital defence team at Project 39A provides pro bono legal representation to prisoners on death row. Regular communication with our clients is key to effective legal representation. We believe in the importance of keeping prisoners updated about their case progress and in the value of involving family members during the preparation of the case. We engage with our clients in a manner that aims to help make their life in prison more productive and offer them the dignity they deserve. For these reasons, Project 39A regularly exchanges letters with its clients in a language that they understand, along with sharing reading materials of their interest. This internship program is looking for interns proficient in at least one of the regional languages listed below under the 'Eligibility' section.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Study basic case materials and Project 39A's prior correspondence with assigned prisoners and their families. Under the supervision of Project 39A associates, regularly draft personalised letters to prisoners in their respective languages.
- B. Identify suitable reading material in the respective regional languages to send to assigned clients.
- C. Translate letters received from clients into English language.

D. Any other tasks that may be necessary to further the aims of Project 39A's communication program with prisoners or any other work.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must meet the following criteria:

A. Students of law, humanities, social sciences, social work, management or media enrolled in bachelor's or master's programs.

B. Reading and writing proficiency in **at least one** of the following regional languages, along with English:

- 1) Hindi
- 2) Telugu
- 3) Marathi
- 4) Punjabi
- 5) Kannada
- 6) Gujarati

DURATION & PLACE OF INTERNSHIP: Minimum 1 year period. The internship will be remote.

INTERNSHIP STIPEND: A stipend will be provided which may vary *subject to the number of letters that need to be drafted and responded to per person*. Payment will be released on a quarterly basis.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Interested persons must fill the online form available here in the link-<https://www.project39a.com/interns-letter-writing-may-2024> and upload three documents:

A. Resumé.

B. A statement of purpose of not more than 500 words explaining your interest in this internship. The statement should clearly state the candidate's proficiency in at least one of the regional languages mentioned in the eligibility criteria.

C. Translation of the Annexure-I, an excerpt from the *Deathworthy* 2021 report in at least one of the regional languages listed in the eligibility criteria i.e. Hindi, Telugu, Marathi, Punjabi, Kannada, or Gujarati.

APPLICATION TIMELINE: Last date to submit the application is **20th May 2024**. Shortlisted candidates will be intimated by 25th May, 2024 and further rounds of assessment and

interview may take place in the last week of May, 2024. Only applicants selected for interview rounds will be informed. Project 39A may conduct additional rounds of assessment if necessary.

NOTE:

- A. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted via email. If you do not hear from us within 3 weeks after the deadline, please assume that your application has not succeeded. Unfortunately, we cannot reply to individual queries about the status of applications.
- B. National Law University Delhi reserves the right not to fill these internship positions.
- C. National Law University Delhi is an equal opportunity employer and Project 39A works on behalf of all prisoners sentenced to death, regardless of the offence involved.
- D. National Law University Delhi reserves the right to conduct additional rounds of interviews or written tests.
- E. This internship programme is supported by grants received by Project 39A.

ANNEXURE - I

PADMANABHAN had a troubled childhood and lived in extreme poverty. He had an aggressive father who had substance use disorder, who would beat him at the drop of a hat. The abuse was not just directed towards him, it also meant witnessing his father beating his mother, without any regard to what he had in his hand, whether it was a scale or an iron rod. Padmanabhan recalled an incident where the violence and abuse had become so unbearable that his mother and his siblings decided to die by suicide. He said, "...once my father had beaten my mother and her hand broke. Because of these experiences, we decided to die. We bought some pills and consumed them." He holds his family environment responsible for not being able to continue his education after the 10th standard, even though he wanted to study further. He narrated that whenever he would open his books, he'd be verbally abused, which eventually discouraged him from studying. Scared and tired of his father's behaviour, Padmanabhan convinced his mother to leave home. He goes on to say that he did not have anyone to guide him, and started smoking and drinking from a relatively young age and started associating with people who had a negative influence on him.

RAMANAND spent his entire childhood in extreme poverty. He discontinued his studies to earn money and started working from the age of around 10 in a paddy field where his earnings were not sufficient to cover basic necessities. The paucity of money also affected the availability of food in the family. The only option that they had was either rationed rice or kappa (tapioca). The rice would very frequently be infested with worms and would have to be put in water to separate the worms from the grains. He states that the cost of a kilo of rice was Rs. 7 at that time and a labourer would not even earn that much as their daily wage. The impact of living in poverty was not just limited to his family's hand to mouth existence but also extended to the treatment that was meted out to him by his school teachers. He faced hostility from his teachers because he couldn't afford to be well dressed. He stated that punishment was severe for students like him even if they'd make the same mistake as their better off classmates. This discrimination based on his social status affected him emotionally and mentally.