



LEGAL AID WATCH

About Legal Aid Watch:

Legal Aid Watch is an initiative driven by students of Legal Services Clinic, National Law School of India University Bangalore with the support of Human Rights Law Network. Legal Aid Watch aims being a catalyst for the generation of data relating to legal aid in India. Currently, there is little scholarship, and possibly lesser empirical data, about the quality and accessibility of legal aid in India. Legal Aid Watch is an attempt to fill this void through encouraging students and researchers to collect and create this data across the country.

Legal Aid Watch is being run in the form of a student-edited blog, that carries opinion pieces, interviews, audits of various stakeholders, research papers and any other form of scholarship on legal aid. Over the course of the year, we hope to carry audit reports and interviews of every stakeholder in the process from Legal Services Authorities, judges, student-run clinics to prisons and police stations. We shall do this by calling for submissions for Interviews and Audits of specific stakeholders each month.

Call for Submissions: Submit by June 30, 2017:

We are currently calling for the following kinds of contributions to be submitted by June 30, 2017 as per the attached templates:

Interviews

District Legal Services Authorities

Audits

Police Stations

Research Papers

Accessibility of Legal Aid in Police Stations

Prizes:

1. **Audits:** The **best Audit** each month shall be awarded **Rs. 7,500/-**.

The authors of the **three best Audits** shall also be given the opportunity to **intern** with Human Rights Law Network.

Every Audit that meets the editorial standards shall be published on <https://legalaidwatch.org>.

All contributors shall receive Certificates of Acknowledgment from Human Rights Law Network.

2. **Interviews:** The **best Interview** each month shall be awarded **Rs. 1,500/-**.

The authors of the **three best Interviews** shall also be given the opportunity to **intern** with Human Rights Law Network.

Every Interview that meets the editorial standards shall be published on <https://legalaidwatch.org>.

All contributors shall receive Certificates of Acknowledgment from Human Rights Law Network.

General guidelines:

1. All contributions submitted to Legal Aid Watch should be original and not published elsewhere.
2. For Interviews and Audits, the questions given in the attached templates must be answered to the greatest extent possible. Any additional information shall be appreciated.
3. There is no word limit provided point number 2 is satisfied.
4. Contributions should be emailed to **legalaidwatch.india@gmail.com**.
5. All submissions are to be made via email as .doc or .docx files.
6. Biographical information of the author should be provided in a separate document to be attached in the same email.
7. The last date for submissions on the current issues is **May 1, 2017**.
8. Though there is no mandated system of citation, all references must be made in a uniform manner.
9. All submissions that meet the editorial standards shall be published on <https://legalaidwatch.org>, regardless of whether it is the recipient of an award.
10. For any clarifications, please contact us on legalaidwatch.india@gmail.com.

Template for Interviews of District Legal Services Authorities

Answers to the following questions must be recorded, to the greatest extent feasible. However, please note that this should not limit the scope of the interview, but must serve as an indication of the minimum requirement.

A. Staff

- Strength by role (number of lawyers, law clerks, translators etc.)
- Pay structure for lawyers
- Nature of employment (full-time, part-time etc.)
- Organisational Structure
- How many languages can they speak?

B. Clients

- Number of pending cases
- Duration of pendency
- Number of disposed cases
- Time taken for disposal
- Nature of cases

C. Funding

- Source
- Quantum

D. Projects

- If any, please elaborate nature of project, aim, target audience, funding, methodology etc.

E. Partner Organisations

- If any, please elaborate name and nature of relationship

F. Issues

- Elaborate any challenges/issues faced

G. Response of judiciary to legal aid lawyers

Template for Audits of Police Stations

The availability of the following facilities in police stations must be observed and noted, to the greatest extent feasible. However, please note that this should not limit the scope of the interview, but must serve as an indication of the minimum requirement.

A. Provisions for legal aid

- Are there any provisions for legal aid? (Are there lawyers attached?/ Are there lawyers on-call? etc.)
- Who are these lawyers? (Private/ DSLSA)
- Response time for lawyers

B. Accessibility of legal aid

- How are people informed? Are there notices? Which language are the notices in?
- Payment structure.
- Response time of legal aid lawyer from time of request.

C. Provisions for women and children

- Is there a lady police officer?
- Is there a Child Protection Officer or Special Juvenile Police Unit?
- Relation with Child Welfare Committee (Are the officers aware of the same? Are contact details available?)



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