

NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW, HYDERABAD
Justice City, Shameerpet, Medchal District – 500101
The Square Circle Clinic

July 9, 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – CONSULTANT (SENIOR LEGAL FELLOW) FOR NAGPUR

The NALSAR University of Law (‘University’) is seeking to engage, on a contractual basis, **one Consultant (Senior Legal Fellow)** at its Nagpur office for the Fair Trial Programme of The Square Circle Clinic. This is a **full-time position based in Nagpur** and the contract will be for one year initially, extendable on a yearly basis at the discretion of the University.

The Senior Legal Fellow will be assigned to work on cases of undertrial prisoners being represented by District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) through the panel advocates and the office of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) and will be in charge of providing assistance in court hearings, legal research, drafting and prison visits (for client interviews) to the legal aid lawyer leading the case. The period of engagement will be for one year and any extension will be subject to the needs of the Programme and availability of funds.

About The Square Circle Clinic:

The Square Circle Clinic is a criminal justice initiative at NALSAR University of Law, with its offices in New Delhi, Pune, Nagpur and Hyderabad. The Square Circle Clinic undertakes *pro bono criminal defense of prisoners sentenced to death and also undertrials*, research and public engagement efforts on issues relating to the death penalty, forensics, criminalisation and punishment, prevention of torture, legal aid, and mental health and criminal justice. The founders, leadership group, and the full-time staff members at The Square Circle Clinic earlier carried on the abovementioned criminal justice work as Project 39A and moved to NALSAR in April 2025.

About the programme:

The Fair Trial Programme (“the Programme”) is an opportunity for young lawyers and social workers to work for providing quality legal representation to undertrial prisoners. The Programme works in Nagpur and Pune Central prisons with a group of young professionals (Fellows) to work in collaboration with the State Legal Services Authority towards ensuring fair trial for undertrial prisoners at both pre-trial and trial stages. The twin goals of the programme are to reduce the under trial population in prisons and to work

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towards strengthening the legal aid system in Maharashtra. The programme has its offices in Pune and Nagpur.

Responsibilities:

This is a full time paid position based in Nagpur. Selected candidates will be expected to reside within the municipal limits of the city of their selection but may be required to travel frequently to other districts as per programme needs.

The responsibilities of the Legal Fellows will include:

- A. Visiting prison with the duty counsels of the DLSA and providing legal counseling to inmates requiring legal aid.
- B. Coordinating with DLSA and authorities from the Prison Department to ensure allocation of DLSA panel advocates for undertrials who do not have any legal representation.
- C. Briefing and assisting the LADC and/or the panel lawyer of the DLSA assigned on a case during court hearings at both pre-trial and trial stage.
- D. Regular Prison visits to seek instructions from an undertrial client on behalf of the LADC counsels and/or the DLSA panel advocates.
- E. Reviewing documents brought on record in a case, providing research inputs and devising legal strategy in consultation with the LADC counsels and/or the DLSA panel advocates concerned.
- F. Assisting the LADC counsels and/or the DLSA panel advocates in drafting legal documents to be submitted at both pre-trial and trial stage.
- G. Following-up ongoing cases in court and updating the client (undertrial) and/or the family members concerned
- H. Regularly communicating with prison authorities to obtain case specific information and documents.
- I. Preparation for Recording evidence and cross examination.
- J. Preparing written arguments based on the evidence for the final submissions before the court
- K. Travelling as required to meet and communicate with family members of undertrial prisoners and other persons who may have oral and documentary information relevant to the case procedure.
- L. Organising and conducting training workshops and conferences.
- M. Documentation and Reporting as per programmatic needs.
- N. Any other work that may be necessary to further the aims of the Fellowship Programme.

Qualifications:

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- A. Registration as a practicing advocate (Sanad) with Bar Council of any state in India
- B. Minimum of seven years experience of criminal law practice at trial court level
- C. Proficiency in reading, writing and speaking Marathi
- D. Ability to read, write and speak English
- E. Familiarity with the use of MS-Office, emails and the internet
- F. Prior work experience in work with the District Legal Services Authority is desirable.

The above qualifications may be relaxed in exceptional circumstances

Compensation: The compensation will be competitive and will be commensurate with experience. Fellows will be paid a fellowship amount of INR 63,000- 67,000 per month.

Application Process: Applications are accepted only through the online application form available at the link provided below. Through the online application form, interested persons will be required to upload their resumé and a statement of purpose, explaining their interest in representing prisoners sentenced to death and the contribution that they see themselves making through this position. The statement of purpose must not exceed 750 words.

Applications and documents must be submitted only through this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRcr8X2TpMypMChgKitkzqPNYcUn1OAp6UMTpPFkLoArnbLw/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Based on the online applications, applicants will be shortlisted for an interview and exercises based on an actual criminal law case file. The University reserves the right to add further rounds of selection or modify the above mentioned rounds.

Deadline: Applications must be submitted no later than 11.00 PM on 30th July 2026. Interview dates will be notified separately to shortlisted candidates.

Note:

- A. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted via email. If you do not hear from us within three weeks after the deadline, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful. Unfortunately, we cannot reply to individual queries on the status of applications.
- B. NALSAR University of Law is an equal opportunity employer and The Square Circle Clinic ensures access to *pro bono* legal representation for prisoners regardless of the offence.

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- C. NALSAR University of Law reserves the right to conduct additional rounds of interviews or written tests or simulation exercises.
- D. NALSAR University of Law reserves the right to conduct interviews/ written tests/ simulation exercises etc and not fill these positions.
- E. The position shall be paid under the grants received by The Square Circle Clinic, NALSAR University of Law.
- F. For any query, please write to us at **squarecirclerecruitment@nalsar.ac.in**.