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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

CNR No. DLHC010346152026

+ **W.P.(C) 10760/2026**

SIDHARTH YADAV & ANR.

.....Petitioners

Through: Mr. Aniket Kumar Gupta, Mr.
Sidharth Yadav (Petitioners In Person)

versus

**DELHI STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (DSLISA) &
ORS.**

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Harsh Prabhakar Adv., Mr.
Anirudh Tanwar Adv., Mr. Dhruv Chaudhry Adv.,
Mr. Vijit Singh Adv. for R1
Mr. Vedansh Anand (SPC) with Mr. Kush Garg
(Adv) for R3
Adv Mohinder Rupal Adv Hardik Rupal Adv
Aishwarya Malhotra Adv Tripta Sharma for
University of Delhi for R4-R6

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASMEET SINGH

ORDER

% **14.08.2026**

1. This is a writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking the following prayers:-

“a) Issue a writ, order, or direction in the nature of Certiorari or any other appropriate writ, quashing and setting aside the impugned communication dated 21.04.2026 issued by Respondent No. 1 regarding the training program for Para Legal Volunteers, declaring the same as arbitrary, discriminatory, and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India;

b) Issue a writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ,



order, or direction directing Respondent No. 1 to forthwith schedule and conduct the Para- Legal Volunteer (PLV) Training Programme for the provisionally selected law students of the University of Delhi in a time-bound manner;

c) Issue a writ, order, or direction in the nature of Mandamus directing the Respondents to formulate fresh, uniform, and transparent guidelines/SOP for the timely induction, training, and functioning of Para-Legal Volunteers in strict adherence to the principles of natural justice and statutory mandates;

d) Issue such further directions as may be deemed fit, including ensuring fair, transparent and time-bound mechanism for induction and training of Para- Legal Volunteers;

e) Award costs against Respondent No. 1 in favour of the petitioners for present proceedings. ...”

2. The brief facts of the case are that in the present case the petitioners are law students studying at Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, who seek to be recruited as Para-Legal Volunteers (**“PLVs”**) with the respondent No.

1.

3. The petitioners, who appear in-person, submit that the scheme of National Legal Services Authority (**“NALSA”**) for PLVs, read with Regulation 5(4) of the National Legal Services Authority (Legal Aid Clinics) Regulations, 2011, specifically provides for law students to be inducted as PLVs and that such induction is also encouraged by NALSA

4. It is further submitted that respondent Nos. 4, 5 and 6 i.e., Legal Aid



Society (Campus Law Centre), Legal Aid Society (Law Centre-II) and University of Delhi respectively, conducted a selection process in September, 2025, pursuant to which the most eligible students were selected and a list of such selected candidates was forwarded to respondent No. 1 on 28.10.2025.

5. It is the petitioners' case that despite the same, the 2nd and 3rd year students have not been recruited as PLVs and there are at present more than 600 PLVs vacancies with the respondent No. 1.

6. Mr. Rupal, learned counsel appearing for respondent Nos. 4 to 6, submits that after forwarding of the aforesaid list of selected students, respondent No. 1 had informed the respondent Nos. 4 to 6 that a valedictory function would be organised on around 21.11.2025-23.11.2025 to initiate the training schedule of the selected candidates. However, the same was abruptly put on hold.

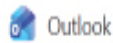
7. Consequently, the petitioners are aggrieved by the communication dated 21.04.2026 issued by the respondent No. 1, which reads as under:-



7/28/26, 10:15 PM

Mail - Legal Cell - DUSU - Outlook

31



ANNEXURE P-1

Sub: Regarding PLV training

From Abhinav Pandey <legallitwing-dslsa@nic.in>
Date Tue 4/21/2026 12:33 PM
To Legal Cell - DUSU <legalcell.dusu@outlook.com>

Through email

dated 21.04.2026

Sir,

In reference to your email dated 17.04.2026 it is to inform that at this stage, there is no requirement of considering law students for deployment as PLVs at DSLSA.

Accordingly, the request for conducting the PLV training for the law students may be considered as regretted.

This issues pursuant to the approval of Ld. Member Secretary, DSLSA

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(Pratishtha Saraswat)
Incharge, LLW/DSLISA

8. Mr. Prabhakar, learned counsel for the respondent No. 1 draws my attention to the NALSA Scheme for Para-Legal Volunteers (Revised) (***“the Scheme”***) and the relevant portion of the same reads as under:-

“GROUPS from whom Para-Legal Volunteers can be selected

- *Teachers (including retired teachers)*
- *Retired Government servants and senior citizens.*
- *M.S.W students and teachers.*
- *Anganwadi Workers.*
- *Doctors/Physicians.*
- *Students & Law Students (till they enroll as lawyers).*
- *Members of non-political, service oriented NGOs and*



Clubs.

- *Members of Women Neighbourhood Groups, Maithri Sanghams and other Self Help Groups including of marginalized/vulnerable groups*
- *Educated prisoners with good behaviour, serving long term sentences in prisons.*
- *Any other person whom the District Legal Services Authority or Taluk Legal Services Committee deems fit to be identified as PLVs.”*

9. He further states that even though respondent No. 1 is a state body, the PLVs are appointed at the District Level and hence the provisions of the scheme are applicable to the present case.

10. A perusal of the scheme shows that there are about ten streams from where PLVs can be selected by the respondent No. 1 and “*Students & Law Students (till they enroll as lawyers)*” as stated therein are only one of the feeder cadre. Additionally, there is no fixed proportion as to the number of PLVs which have to be chosen from any particular stream.

11. As to the procedure of selection of PLVs, it is submitted that after shortlisting all the eligible candidates for training, a Committee chaired by the Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority undertakes the selection for the most appropriate candidates to be trained as PLVs.

12. In this view of the matter, the only instruction that can be issued in the present case is a request to the Committee to conclude the selection procedure for PLVs as per the extant rules and regulation at the earliest, so as to enable law students who are in their 2nd and 3rd year of their courses to be selected as PLVs.



13. Since the 3rd year students would be passing out soon, it is expected that the Committee shall keep the same in mind and hopefully give them preference.
14. It is expected that the needful shall be done within 1 month from today.
15. With the aforesaid directions, the petition is disposed of.

AUGUST 14, 2026/AS

JASMEET SINGH, J