

**LEGAL
AID
OFFICE**



LAS
LEGAL AID SOCIETY

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS (ELPS)

COME JOIN US TO
IMMERSE, EMPOWER AND ACTUATE

WHO ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Legal Aid Office (LAO) project operates under the umbrella of the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP) which is a committee established by the Government of Sindh in 2004. The ultimate vision of the LAO is to provide legal aid and assistance to all underserved and needy under trial prisoners incarcerated in Sindh. In addition to managing the largest legal aid program for prisoners in the country, the LAO prides itself with running the country's first prison paralegal program which is aimed at empowering prisoners through imparting legal information and literacy. The LAO also works to improve the living conditions for prisoners and conducts research, periodic seminars, conferences and training related to the criminal justice system specifically with the objective of improving the functioning of the justice system and furthering access to justice outcomes for all.

The Legal Aid Society (LAS) was founded in 2014 as a non-governmental not for profit entity set up with the objective of legally empowering citizens and improving access to justice for vulnerable and deprived communities specifically women, children, and religious minorities. The LAS runs community legal services programs in Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana, Ghotki, Nawabshah, Nausheroferoze, Larkana, Hyderabad, Khairpur and Sanghar through which it seeks to provide free legal assistance on a case by case basis in addition to working for system level changes through the legal empowerment approach.

Both the organizations work in complementary and supporting ways under the chairmanship of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid, former Chief Justice of the province of Sindh and a retired judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

WHAT EXPERIENTIAL ARE LEARNING PROGRAMS

We offer three separate streams of unpaid work placements / internships under our Experiential Learning Programs (ELPs) which are customized to suit the needs and potential of pre-college students, recent law graduates and undergraduate students.

LAO and LAS bring together over 14 years of experience starting from the grass root level in communities and spreading to high level policy work in the areas of rule of law, accountability, legal empowerment, women's empowerment, legal aid and assistance and human rights. Our team comprises of lawyers, paralegals, development leads, researchers, retired judges, subject matter and technical experts who have come together to design the ELPs in a bespoke manner to ensure that capacity and potential of the cadres of successful applicants are honed and enhanced. At the moment the ELPs are based out of our two Karachi offices located in Phase 1, DHA and Clifton and require successful applicants to ensure attendance in person for the entire duration of the programs for recognition of completion. The ELP programs range from 3 to 6 month pupillages, 2 to 3 month summer research programs and our annual 3 week long summer student internship program.



WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for applicants who are serious and committed to a sense of community service and believe in equal treatment and justice for all in society. We are looking for those who are discontent with the prevailing state of law and order and rule of law in the country. The candidates we seek are those who are willing to challenge the status-quo and dare to think out of the box to bring about the changes required for empowerment of citizens. Join us if you are an optimist that believes in the realization of change and is willing to take audacious steps to make social change possible.

We are only able to accept a few applicants every year under each ELP stream therefore, preference will be given to certain applicants over others. The relationship between the organization and interns is one of mutual benefit. In addition to passion and a desire for change, qualities and skills in research, content analysis and writing, communications and prior experience in community work will be given additional weightage in evaluation of applications.

WHY SHOULD YOU

APPLY FOR AN ELP ?

Whether you desire to start a career in the development sector, join the traditional legal circles or are simply curious or seek the requisite experience to make an informed decision on 'your BIG next steps', the ELPs at the LAO and LAS will provide you with exposure and contact to a wide array of professionals. You will engage with real life situations , immerse with problems , communities and stakeholders and will be engaged in meaningful work which has a direct impact on social outcomes. Our team comprises of practicing lawyers who are sensitized to the plight of the poor and oppressed and have real experience representing the poorest of the poor. The team of lawyers is led by retired judges who are well versed and experienced in a wide range of legal matters. Our team also includes paralegals and trainers who are skilled in advanced community engagement techniques and understand how to work with a wide group of people with diversified and often competing needs.

We also have on board development, research and project cycle leads who understand how to conceptualize and manage large scale projects that are driven by an empirical basis and designed to meet actual needs. Successful applicants will get the opportunity to shadow practicing lawyers in courts or will be supervised by senior development, research and legal empowerment specialists. Our organization has also been shortlisted recently as a finalist for the 2017 Global Grassroots Justice Prize for **The Nomboniso Nangu Maqubela Memorial Prize for Scale and Sustainability** which accredits the work and efforts of the organizations with international level recognition.

ELP TRACK 1: **SUMMER LEGAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM**

ELP 1 is a robust rotational 3 week long program for pre-college students which is grounded within the narrative of legal needs of local communities. The program is designed around three thematic areas which are covered during the 3 weeks with a week dedicated to each area. These include



**Legal Awareness
and Literacy,**



**Community
Engagement**



**Introduction to the
Criminal Justice System**

Interns are provided with direct exposure and experience which helps them decode legal and non-legal needs of citizens. Interns will observe the operations of a legal advisory help line which caters to criminal, civil and public service matters and will conduct visits to mapped communities to interact with them through legal aid and awareness clinics. Through these exposure visits and opportunities to immerse with our beneficiaries, interns will be required to use their analytical skills and reflections to apply new ideas to citizen centric problems. Interns can expect hands-on learning while addressing real world concerns and will benefit from gaining a context which will help them apply theories into practice in effective community engagement techniques. They will be introduced to concepts of community involvement and awareness that can include service, advocacy, volunteerism and political participation, with the goal of helping to develop community based knowledge, values and skills. The Internship is likely to give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths.



Applicants who are 16 years or older may apply for ELP 1. Applicants must be enrolled in a registered school and must furnish proof of being a student with the current institute. School reports and mark sheets may be requested. The applicants must be available for the 3 consecutive weeks specified for the program dates which are fixed and will only receive recognition of completion of the program after finishing assigned challenges at the end of each of the three weeks. The program commences on 18th June, 2018 and ends on 6th July, 2018. The deadline for applying is 10th June, 2018. Applicants are required to submit a 1000 word essay on why they would like to work on the summer legal empowerment program.



ELP TRACK 2: **SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM**

ELP 2 is designed for students who are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate /masters program in either human rights, international relations, sociology, anthropology, gender and women studies, law, social sciences, history, law and politics . Only 3 candidates are taken every year and preference is given to those who can commit to working for a minimum of 8 weeks which corresponds roughly to academic summer terms. Applications are accepted in February of each year for the coming summer term. Preference is also given to applicants who have experience in conducting primary research and engaging in data collection efforts. Successful applicants can expect to work with research associates and program team members of an assigned program through which they will gain a first-hand understanding of development and justice sector problems in Pakistan. The opportunity offers a chance to work alongside highly talented and experienced professionals who will mentor and guide successful applicants through the program. Successful applicants will contribute to multiple existing research outputs of the organization. In addition they are required to submit a research proposal that is aligned with the objectives and mission of the LAO and LAS. This proposal will be vetted by the selection jury and upon acceptance will be built into the research program as a deliverable at the end.

There is no minimum age requirement for ELP 2. Proof of student status at a University and study program will be required at the time of applying in addition to a research proposal which is under 2000 words and clearly mentions its methodology. Where research involves collection of primary data and/or engagement with the communities directly, a strong preference will be given to those who are both fluent in spoken English , Urdu and in some cases Sindhi. The deadline for applying is 20th February 2019.

ELP TRACK 3: PUPILLAGES FOR LAW GRADUATES

ELP 3 is designed for law graduates who are keen to disembark upon criminal law careers in courts in Sindh. The LAO manages the country's largest legal aid program which has provided legal representation to over 15,000 under trial prisoners in petty offences before the trial courts in 21 judicial districts since 2004. A team of 40 lawyers work full time with the LAO and each lawyer manages an average of 30-35 clients whom they represent in courts. Successful candidates will get the opportunity to shadow lawyers in trial courts and will observe the functioning of the system specifically from the lense of dispensation of justice for juveniles in addition to adult male and female clients. Successful applicants will be introduced to the skills of interviewing and handling clients in a sensitized manner in addition to effective case management techniques. They will also be provided with the opportunity to draft key applications for clients and will conduct necessary research for this. Candidates can expect to shadow lawyers defending vulnerable and poor clients implicated in cases relating to theft, robbery, possession of an unlicensed weapon, narcotics and attempted murder and will gain first hand exposure of practicing the art of defence lawyering in courts in such cases. In addition, applicants may also be involved in working on class actions that the organization is pursuing.

There is no minimum age requirement for ELP Track 3. Applicants will need to furnish a mark sheet for their final year of law school if their degrees have yet to be awarded to them at the time of making the application. Candidates are required to submit a short essay of not more than 2000 words explaining their interest in the study of criminal law and practice. Selected candidates will be called in person to sit for a multiple choice question test on general knowledge, criminal laws and procedure which will determine selection. Applications for ELP 3 are accepted all year round.

HOW TO **APPLY?**

Email your resumes, cover letters and research proposals / essays to HR at **hr@lao.org.pk** marking the subject of the email with the chosen ELP track.