

रविशंकर प्रसाद
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD



2193/MR/C.S. dated 19/4/17

मंत्री
विधि एवं न्याय
और
इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी
भारत सरकार
MINISTER OF
LAW & JUSTICE
and
ELECTRONICS & IT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

D.O.No.A2J/Pro bono/08/17

Dear Chief Justice,

As you are already aware, on 20th April, 2017, I launched a web based initiative called 'Pro Bono legal services' on the website of Department of Justice through which interested lawyers can register themselves and volunteer to offer pro bono services for underprivileged litigants, who are unable to afford. Through this portal litigants from marginalized communities can also apply for legal aid and advice from the pro bono lawyers.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also highlighted the importance of legal aid to the poor in a recent tweet and appealed to the legal fraternity, to do more 'pro bono' work for poor, majority of whom still can't avail 'legal aid'.

Bearing in mind the social and economic condition of the marginalized in India, the Pro Bono service is an important element in the access to justice, as it provides people with the legal help they otherwise do not get.

Since its launch, the service has seen encouraging response from lawyers nationwide and so far 164 lawyers have already registered with the Pro bono service and several lawyers have already been assigned cases as well.

Presently, the Department of Justice is in the process of developing a mobile app for the Pro Bono Service to further facilitate and broadbase communication between the registered pro bono lawyers and interested litigants.

I shall be grateful if you can circulate the details of this initiative among lawyers practicing before the High Court and encourage them to register on the Department of Justice portal to provide Pro Bono legal services.

Your kind support in this regard will go a long way in strengthening the culture of pro bono legal services in our country.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Ravi Shankar Prasad)

Shri Justice Dhirubhai N. Patel,
Acting Chief Justice,
Jharkhand High Court,
Ranchi - 834002.

Sⁿ (DIE)
19-07-17
R.S.