



DELHI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

Fight for Justice Awards 2023 December 18, 2023; The Lalit, New Delhi Press Backgrounder

“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.”
- Benjamin Franklin

The first Fight for Justice Awards will be held on December 18, 2023 at The Lalit, Barakhamba Avenue, New Delhi. **Justice N.V. Ramana, former Chief Justice of India, will be the Chief Guest.**

The Delhi High Court Bar Association and Live4Freedom LLP have initiated the Fight for Justice Awards to identify and honour Indian citizens – **the average litigants** – who have won cases in the Supreme Court of India against all odds; cases that have resulted in landmark judgements. The Fight for Justice Awards is a unique, first of its kind initiative that would be held annually.

The awardees have been decided by an eminent jury comprising the following members:

- Justice Rajendra Menon, Chairman, Armed Forces Tribunal and former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court
- Justice Kailash Gambhir, former Justice, Delhi High Court
- Justice Challa Kodanda Ram, former Justice, Telangana High Court
- Shri Vikas Pahwa, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
- Shri Mohit Mathur, Senior Advocate
- Shri B.K. Gupta, former Commissioner of Police, Delhi

For the first awards function, the jury has identified eight categories:

- Criminal Cases
- Women Cases
- Administration & Governance Cases
- Labour Cases
- Environment Cases
- Specially Abled Persons Cases
- Child Rights Cases
- Lifetime Achievement

The nominees for the eight categories were shortlisted through a rigorous process by a team of legal researchers. The researchers were:



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- Ananya Khanna – Law Researcher a/w Hon'ble Mr. Justice Siddharth Mridul, High Court of India
- Aehsas Puri – Law Researcher a/w Hon'ble Ms. Justice Hima Kohli, Supreme Court of India
- Siddharth Singh – Independent Counsel
- Abhishek Budhiraja – Law Researcher a/w Hon'ble Ms Justice Poonam A Bamba, Delhi High Court
- Rohit Sharma – Independent Counsel

APPENDIX

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AWARDS 2023 – SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection of Award Categories and Entries for Recognizing Contributions to Justice in India Detailed are the steps involved in selecting the award categories and entries to recognize the outstanding contributions of litigants in the furtherance of justice in India. The purpose of this note is to provide insights into the rigorous and transparent process that was followed to ensure the credibility and fairness of the selection process.

1. Selection of Entries

Eligibility Criteria: To ensure consistency and fairness, a set of eligibility criteria were established. These criteria included factors such as the significance of the case, legal precedent set, impact on society and ethical conduct. Only entries meeting these criteria were considered for further evaluation.

Preliminary Evaluation: The screened entries were carefully reviewed by a panel of legal professionals and subject matter experts. They assessed the entries based on their merits, significance, and impact on the advancement of justice in India. Entries that demonstrated exceptional contributions were shortlisted for further consideration.

2. Formation of Award Categories

Jury Deliberation: The jury members, esteemed professionals with extensive experience and knowledge, convened to discuss and deliberate on the selection of the award categories. The discussions revolved around identifying key areas of legal practice and litigation that deserved recognition for their contribution to justice.

Defining the Categories: Based on the deliberations, a comprehensive list of potential award categories was formulated. The categories were designed to encompass a wide range of legal practice areas, such as human rights, family law, administrative law, criminal law, and environmental law, among others.

Refinement of Categories: The initial list of categories was further refined through collective deliberations. The jury



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members along with the research team considered factors such as the relevance and significance of each category, ensuring that they accurately reflected the diverse legal landscape in India. As a result, some categories were combined, modified, or eliminated to ensure clarity and meaningful recognition.

3. Jury Brief

The jury members provided a specific brief outlining their expectations and guiding principles for the selection process. The brief emphasized the importance of impartiality, transparency, and adherence to the established evaluation criteria.

The brief also highlighted the significance of considering the broader impact of the nominees' work on the Indian legal system, society, and the pursuit of justice. The jury members emphasized the need for recognizing both individual lawyers and litigants as well as collective efforts that have significantly contributed to justice in India. Furthermore, they emphasized on focusing on the struggle of the litigant/lawyer to fight the system and all the hardships and impediments they had to face to fight the case.

The brief further emphasized the need for a fair and unbiased evaluation process, ensuring that all nominated entries receive careful consideration based on their merits and the impact they have made, the focus being on the social impact of the judgements.


Jatan Singh
Vice-President