

VIDHI-TATA TRUSTS FELLOWSHIP

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS)

The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and Tata Trusts are pleased to announce the “Vidhi-Tata Trusts Fellowship,” under which fellows will undertake the **Justice, Access, and Lowering Delays in India (JALDI) project**. JALDI is a multi-year project that aims to advocate for and implement evidence-based reforms to eliminate existing backlog in courts, and ensure that new cases are disposed of in reasonable timelines. The fellowship is a highly competitive programme designed to build research capacity and technical expertise on issues facing the Indian judiciary.

ABOUT TATA TRUSTS AND THE VIDHI CENTRE FOR LEGAL POLICY

Tata Trusts is India's leading philanthropic organisation and has played a pioneering role in transforming traditional ideas of charity, to philanthropy that makes a sustainable difference through collaborative partnerships with civil society institutions working on driving impact.

The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy is an independent think tank doing legal research and assisting government in making better laws. The Judicial Reforms Initiative at Vidhi undertakes interdisciplinary, data-driven research on contemporary issues related to judicial institutions. It aims both to inform public debate and propose institutional, legislative, and policy reforms to governments.

PROJECT AND ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Fellowship provides an exciting opportunity to use your research, skills, and technical expertise to transform judicial administration, and impact legal empowerment and access to justice of ordinary litigants. JALDI's twin objectives are to eliminate existing backlog in courts, and speedily dispose of new cases. It aims to do so in three phases: understanding the problems faced by the judiciary, designing targeted solutions, and implementing this through advocacy with the government, judiciary, and lawyers and litigants.

JALDI will focus on the following areas:

- simplification of judicial procedures
- case management reform
- judicial workload and court administration
- financing, budgeting, and appointments for the judiciary
- continuing judicial education and training
- alternate dispute resolution forums
- litigant awareness and empowerment.

Fellows will be hired in three fields, comprising research, advocacy and communications, and information and communications technology (ICT). Calls for research positions and for ICT positions can be found [here](#).

Fellows engaged with advocacy and communications will focus on implementing reforms in the above areas, through:

- liaising with Centre and state governments
- engaging with the judiciary
- designing and running JALDI-related campaigns, through mainstream and social media channels.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Essential requirements:

Candidates must have work experience in advocacy/ outreach/ communications.

Desirable requirements:

Bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees in mass communication, law, public policy, or the social sciences would be an asset, as would prior work experience with government or international organizations and knowledge on government procedures and systems.

Duration:

Vidhi-Tata Trusts Fellowships are full-time positions awarded for one year, with an option to renew for a second year by mutual agreement of the Research Director and the fellow.

Experience:

Hiring is invited at the level of Senior Resident Fellows (4+ years relevant experience).

Number of fellowships:

There is one (1) research fellowship on offer at the Senior Resident level.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

- Collaborative and cross-disciplinary work
- A non-hierarchical work environment, and opportunities to ideate and lead self-directed projects
- The satisfaction of tackling one of the most difficult challenges facing India today
- Salaries will be competitive and commensurate with experience. Kindly state your salary expectations in your application.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

Interested candidates should send only electronic copies of the following to jaldi.fellowship@vidhilegalpolicy.in with the subject line “Application for Vidhi-Tata Trusts Fellowship_{Advocacy}”

1. Latest Curriculum Vitae (CV) in not more than two A4 pages;
2. A brief statement of motivation in applying for the position (not to exceed 500 words);
3. One letter of reference from an academic or professional source, as well as name and contact details of referee; (references can be emailed to jaldi.fellowship@vidhilegalpolicy.in with the subject line “Reference for Vidhi-Tata Trusts Fellowship_{full name of applicant}”
4. The Judicial Reforms Initiative published a report on *Inefficiency and Judicial Delay: New Insights from the Delhi High Court*, available at <http://vidhilegalpolicy.in/reports-1/2017/3/29/inefficiency-and-judicial-delay-new-insights-from-the-delhi-high-court>. Prepare a 1-2 page plan on how best to disseminate the report’s findings and suggested reforms to all relevant stakeholders.

The deadline to submit applications is 7th May, 2017.