



मानवाधिकार वकील

A Human Rights Lawyer fights for individuals and groups who have been denied the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India. They defend civil liberties (such as freedom of speech, faith and the right to live with...



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श्री चेनाराम चौधरी

प्रधानाचार्य, डाइट बाड़मेर
Principal, DIET Barmer



श्रीमती संघमित्रा

वरिष्ठ व्याख्याता, डाइट बाड़मेर (सहयोग)
Sr. Lecturer, DIET Barmer (Support)



भरत चौधरी

अभिकल्पना व विकास · व्याख्याता (इतिहास)
Designed & developed · Lecturer (History)

विशेष धन्यवाद · SPECIAL THANKS



सुरेन्द्र सिंह राठौड़

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. कानाना



सुरेश कुमार सैन

व्याख्याता (भूगोल) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



वनिता कुमारी

व्याख्याता (इतिहास) · रा.उ.मा.वि. रामसीन मूंगड़ा



कमलेश चौधरी

व्याख्याता (राजनीति विज्ञान) · रा.उ.मा.वि. टापरा

करियर मार्गदर्शन कार्यशाला, डाइट बाड़मेर (14-17 जुलाई 2026) में विकसित व लोकार्पित
Developed & unveiled at the Career Guidance Workshop, DIET Barmer (14-17 July 2026)

यह एक स्वतंत्र परियोजना है, जो सरकार की आधिकारिक करियर-मार्गदर्शन सामग्री पर आधारित है। · An independent project based on the Government's official career-guidance content.

1 About this career

A Human Rights Lawyer fights for individuals and groups who have been denied the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India. They defend civil liberties (such as freedom of speech, faith and the right to live with dignity) and protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, ethnic and religious minorities and the poor and marginalised. They file public interest litigation (PIL) in the courts, give free legal aid to victims, argue cases before human rights commissions and push for changes in policy. This career is driven more by purpose and social justice than by money, and it demands a deep understanding of law together with a strong conscience.

2 At a glance

Minimum qualification	5-year LLB after Class 12, or 3-year LLB after graduation
Entrance exam	CLAT (for admission to NLUs)
Starting salary	₹15,000–30,000/month (NGO / junior level)
Work mode	Full-time in courts, NGOs, human rights commissions and legal aid

3 What you need

INTERESTS

- A deep interest in justice, equality and the rights of the marginalised
- Interest in debate, reasoning and solving people's problems
- Enjoy reading and understanding law, the Constitution and social issues

ABILITIES

- Logical thinking and strong analytical ability
- Patience, empathy and the courage to stand against injustice
- Effective writing and public-speaking skills

KEY SKILLS

- Deep knowledge of the Constitution, human rights law and court procedure
- Courtroom argument, pleading and oral advocacy
- Counselling victims and handling sensitive issues with care
- Drafting public interest litigation (PIL), petitions and legal documents
- Legal research and analysis of case law and evidence
- Clear writing and communication in English and the local language

4 How to get there

- 1 Pass Class 12 (any stream) with good marks and prepare for an entrance exam like CLAT.
- 2 Through CLAT, join a 5-year BA-LLB/BBA-LLB at a National Law University (e.g. NLU Jodhpur); or do a 3-year LLB after graduation.
- 3 During the course, take up human rights, constitutional and criminal law subjects and take part in moot courts.
- 4 Pass the Bar Council of India's AIBE exam and register as an advocate.
- 5 Intern and gain experience with a human rights lawyer, NGO, legal aid centre (NALSA/DLSA) or a human rights commission.
- 6 Optionally, deepen expertise with an LLM or a specialised course in human rights.

MAIN EXAMS

- CLAT (Common Law Admission Test) — for law admission to NLUs
- AIBE (All India Bar Examination) — to obtain the licence to practise

5 Where to study

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTES

- राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालय, जोधपुर (NLU Jodhpur) — Jodhpur, Rajasthan (<https://www.nlujodhpur.ac.in/>)
- राष्ट्रीय विधि विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली (NLU Delhi) — New Delhi (<https://nludelhi.ac.in/>)
- नेशनल लॉ स्कूल ऑफ इंडिया यूनिवर्सिटी (NLSIU) — Bengaluru, Karnataka (<https://www.nls.ac.in/>)

PRIVATE INSTITUTES

- जयपुर नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी — स्कूल ऑफ लॉ — Jaipur, Rajasthan (<https://www.jnujaipur.ac.in/>)
- सिम्बायोसिस लॉ स्कूल — Pune, Maharashtra (<https://www.symlaw.ac.in/>)

ONLINE

- IGNOU — मानवाधिकार में सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स — Online / distance learning (<https://www.ignou.ac.in/>)
- कॉन्सोर्टियम ऑफ NLU's — CLAT आधिकारिक पोर्टल — Online

FEES

At government NLU's (like NLU Jodhpur) the 5-year law course costs roughly ₹2.5–3.5 lakh per year, while state government law colleges can be far cheaper (a few thousand rupees a year). Private law institutes charge around ₹1.5–5 lakh per year. Scholarships and fee waivers are available for SC/ST/OBC and economically weaker students.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- राष्ट्रीय छात्रवृत्ति पोर्टल (NSP) (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>)
- SJE राजस्थान छात्रवृत्ति (सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग) (<https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/>)
- Buddy4Study — लॉ स्कॉलरशिप्स (<https://www.buddy4study.com/scholarships/law-scholarships>)

6 What the work is like

WHERE YOU WORK

District and High Courts, the Supreme Court, human rights NGOs and legal aid bodies, national and state human rights commissions, legal services authorities (NALSA/DLSA) and international bodies such as the United Nations.

WORK CULTURE

The work involves long and irregular hours, case preparation, field visits and court hearings. It is emotionally demanding but deeply satisfying, often working with limited resources on behalf of society's most vulnerable people.

WHO HIRES

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Human rights NGOs and legal aid organisations (e.g. Human Rights Law Network, Lawyers Collective) | • National and State Human Rights Commissions |
| • National and State Legal Services Authorities (NALSA/RLSA/DLSA) | • Independent practice — PIL and constitutional litigation |
| • United Nations and international human rights bodies | • Universities, law schools and policy research organisations (teaching/research) |

DEMAND (2026)

Rising social awareness, activism around constitutional rights and the growing number of PILs keep demand for human rights lawyers alive. Regular, well-paid posts in NGOs and international bodies are limited, so this field suits young people who put justice and social service first. Experienced and reputed lawyers build both a stable reputation and income through court practice.

7 Career growth

- 1 Law intern / junior advocate
- 2 Human rights lawyer (NGO / independent practice)
- 3 Senior advocate / legal advisor / programme head
- 4 Senior Advocate (Supreme Court), human rights commission member or judge

EARNINGS

Starting	₹15,000–30,000/माह
Mid level	₹40,000–75,000/माह
Senior level	₹1,00,000–2,50,000+/माह

Human rights practice is primarily purpose-driven, so income at the entry and NGO level is often modest. It pays less than corporate law, but with experience, reputation and becoming a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court, income rises sharply. Many lawyers also take up free (pro bono) cases. Figures are indicative and vary by city, organisation and experience.

8 The good parts · The challenges**The good parts**

- The chance to bring real change for society's most vulnerable people
- Deep sense of purpose, respect and satisfaction of delivering social justice
- A strong grasp of the Constitution and law that opens many career paths

The challenges

- Income is often lower and less certain than corporate law
- Emotionally draining cases and long-drawn court battles
- Sometimes facing pressure, opposition and limited resources

9 Real-life journeys

Colin Gonsalves

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court; founder of the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN)

Colin Gonsalves trained as a civil engineer at IIT Bombay before studying law at night school and choosing to become a lawyer. In 1989 he founded the Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), today India's leading public interest law group with over 200 lawyers and activists. As a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court he won landmark cases on the right to food, child labour, workers' health and compensation for acid-attack survivors. For three decades of using public interest litigation to protect the rights of the marginalised, he received the prestigious 2017 Right Livelihood Award (the 'Alternative Nobel').

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Gonsalves

Indira Jaising

Senior Advocate; India's first woman Additional Solicitor General

Indira Jaising became the first woman designated a Senior Advocate by the Bombay High Court in 1986, and in 2009 India's first woman Additional Solicitor General. She co-founded 'Lawyers Collective' in 1981 and fought for decades for the human rights of women, minorities and the marginalised. In the Mary Roy case she secured equal inheritance rights for Christian women, and in the Githa Hariharan case she established that a mother holds equal guardianship rights with the father. She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2005 and named in Fortune magazine's '50 Greatest Leaders' in 2018. Her journey shows how law can be turned into a tool for social justice.

Wikipedia · https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indira_Jaising

10 If this route does not work out

One exam or one attempt does not close the door. The same subjects also open these routes — entry is usually easier, and you can return to this field later.

- Judge
- Corporate Legal Advisor / Compliance Officer
- Mediator / Arbitrator

11 Sources & further reading

1. Rajasthan Career Guidance — Human Rights Lawyer — <https://cg.rajasthan.gov.in/careerguidance/hi/career/%e0%a4%ae%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%a8%e0%a4%b5%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%a7%e0%a4%bf%e0%a4%95%e0%a4%be%e0%a4%b0-%e0%a4%b5%e0%a4%95%e0%a5%80%e0%a4%b2/>
2. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) — <https://nhrc.nic.in/>
3. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) — <https://nalsa.gov.in/>
4. Careers360 — Human Rights Lawyer — <https://www.careers360.com/careers/human-rights-lawyer>



And 770+ more careers — the whole portal

Interest and aptitude tests, government jobs, skill courses and a CV builder — free, no login, and it works offline.

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