

**NOTICE**

**'Pro Bono Legal Services' Initiative**  
**Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice**  
**8 May 2017**

The Department of Justice has launched a web based platform for 'Pro Bono Legal Services', available at its website <http://doj.gov.in/>

This initiative, launched on 20 April 2017, by the Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice, Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad, is aimed at institutionalizing pro bono legal services in India. Through this online portal, practicing advocates can volunteer themselves for pro bono legal services for the underprivileged litigants who are unable to afford it (as defined under Section 12 of the Legal Services Act, 1987). Registrations can be done at <http://doj.gov.in/>

The database of registered lawyers will be utilized by the Department of Justice to create a liaison between those entitled to legal services under The Legal Services Authority Act, 1987 and a qualified lawyer providing pro bono services having expertise or interest in the related matter.

The government has also proposed to include and recognize pro bono legal assistance provided by lawyers as a yardstick to be considered for appointment to appropriate positions.

Please note, Pro bono services are by definition voluntary and no honorarium or financial assistance shall be provided to the lawyers.