DLSA- District Legal Services Authority

The State of Uttarakhand has constituted the District Legal Services Authorities in all the 13 Districts under Section 9 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free legal aid, organize Lok Adalats, legal literacy camps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice and fundamental rights are not denied to any citizen by reasons of poor economic conditions and other disabilities or performs any other functions conferred on, or assigned to the District Authority under the Act. The District Authority is under the direct supervision of the District Judge who acts as the ex-officio Chairperson and is appointed by virtue of post. The State Authority in consultation with the Chairperson of the District Authority appoints a person belonging to the cadre of Civil Judge (Senior Division) as full time secretary of DLSA or in his absence Civil Judge (Senior Division) or Chief Judicial Magistrate, as the case may be, as Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority.

DLSA's functions

a) Providing free and competent legal aid in the nature of consultation and legal advice.
b) Providing free legal services in the conduct of cases before courts and tribunals.
c) Organizing regular Lok Adalats every month for all types of pending cases and special Lok Adalats for special category of cases. Lok Adalats limit fees and delays and ensure speedy justice by overcoming legal technicalities.
d) Taking responsibility for pre-litigation dispute resolution through conciliation mechanism by setting up Permanent Lok Adalats in each district where cases relating to public utility services are taken up for settlement.
e) Spreading legal awareness among the public, especially targeting the beneficiaries of social legislations and the public at large on various issues of legal importance.
f) Making efforts to provide free legal aid to under trial prisoners whose cases are pending in the courts.
g) Organizing legal literacy classes/camps in colleges, prisons and various places of district and legal awareness programs for women and children in need of care and protection and other vulnerable sections of society.
h) Organizing vocational training programs for inmates in prisons to help them reintegrate and rehabilitate in the society after they come out of prisons and to make them economically independent.
i) Organize free medical health check up camps for inmates in prisons including special Mental health check up camps and to organize free medical

health check up camps for laborers, senior citizens, transgender persons, rag pickers, women, children etc. in all parts of district including rural and far flung remotest areas of district.

DLSA structure in Almora

- Chairperson- Mr. Yogesh Kumar Gupta [District Judge]
- Secretary – Mrs. Anamika Singh [Civil Judge (Senior Division)]
- The DLSA office is located in the District Court complex in Almora.
- The DLSA's office phone number is 05962-231105.
- The DLSA's Secretary mobile number is 9456596757.
- The DLSA's official email address is dlsa-alm-uk@gov.in

TLSC- Taluka Legal Services Committee

- The State Authority establishes TLSCs to coordinate legal services in a taluk or mandal.
- In District Almora there are three TLSCs namely TLSC Ranikhet, TLSC Bhikiyasen and TLSC Dwarahat.
- The Civil Judge (J.D) Ranikhet is the Chairperson of TLSC Ranikhet.
- The Civil Judge (J.D) Dwarahat is the Chairperson of TLSC Dwarahat.
- Civil Judge (J.D) Ranikhet is the ex-officio Chairperson of the TLSC Bhikiyasen.
- Tehsildar Dwarahat and Tehsildar Bhikiyasen and Tehsildar Ranikhet are ex-officio Secretary of TLSC Dwarahat, TLSC Bhikiyasen and TLSC Ranikhet respectively.

TLSC structure in Ranikhet (District Almora)

- Chairperson- Ms. Sonam Rawat, Civil Judge (J.D.) Ranikhet.
- Secretary – Mrs. Deepika Arya, Tehsildar Ranikhet.
- The TLSC office is located in the Tehsil complex in Ranikhet.
- The TLSC office phone no is 05966-220613, 8650140305
- The TLSC official email address is ukdc.ranikhet@uk.gov.in

TLSC structure in Bhikiyasen (District Almora)

- Chairperson- Ms. Sonam Rawat, Civil Judge (J.D.) Ranikhet.
- Secretary –Mrs. Barkha Jalal, Tehsildar Bhikiyasen.
- The TLSC office is located in the Tehsil complex in Bhikiyasen.
- The TLSC office mobile number is 9412088563
- The TLSC official email address is ukdc.bhikiyasain@uk.gov.in

TLSC structure in Dwarahat (District Almora)

- Chairperson- Mr. Anil Kumar Kori, Civil Judge (J.D.) Dwarahat.
- Secretary – Ms. Titiksha Joshi, Tehsildar Dwarahat.
- The TLSC office is located in the Tehsil complex in Dwarahat.
- The TLSC office mobile number is 7500074043
- The TLSC official email address is ukdc.dwarahat@uk.gov.in

Legal aid by DLSA through Panel Lawyers:

A "panel lawyer" in the DLSA (District Legal Services Authority) of Uttarakhand refers to an advocate nominated by the Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority on recommendation of DLSA to provide free legal aid to eligible individuals who need legal assistance, essentially acting as a lawyer on the panel representing the DLSA in various legal matters within the state.

Who are panel lawyers?

- Panel lawyers are legal practitioners who are empanelled by the Legal Services Authority. They may be part of separate panels for different areas of law such as civil, criminal or constitutional.
- Any lawyer having experience of minimum 03 years is eligible to become a panel lawyer.

What is legal aid?

- Legal aid is the provision of free legal services to people who cannot afford a lawyer.
- This includes representation in court, payment of fees, and preparation of legal documents.

Who is entitled to free legal aid?

As per the statutory mandate under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the following sections of society are entitled to free legal services:-

- A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
- A victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution.
- A woman or a child (irrespective of her income /financial status);
- A person with disability as defined in clause (i) of section 2 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995
- A person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of

- a mass disaster, ethnic violence, cast atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster: or
- An industrial workman: or
- A person in custody, including custody in a protective home within the
- meaning of clause (g) or section 2 of the Immoral traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a Juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 or in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or
- Ex-serviceman
- Persons from Transgender Community
- Senior Citizen
- HIV/AIDS infected persons.
- Persons who have annual income from all sources less than rupees 3,00,000/- or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court.

Panel lawyers list and contact details

- Shri Manoj Singh Brijwal, Mobile No - 9368163944
- Mohd Imroj Khan, Mobile No - 9027513523
- Shri Prem Ram Arya, Mobile No- 9927401608
- Ms. Sunita Pandey, Mobile No- 7668548734
- Shri Bhaskar Pant, Mobile No- 7351614888
- Shri Bhole Shankar Arya, Mobile No- 7037468582
- Shri Lalit Mohan Arya, Mobile No- 8937003213

Legal aid by DLSA through LADCS:

The Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) provides legal aid to people accused or convicted of crimes. LADCS offers legal services at every stage of a criminal case from pre-arrest to appeals.

How LADCS works?

- Lawyers are employed full-time to work on legal aid cases.
- They work with a support system.
- They provide legal advice and assistance.
- They conduct trials and appeals in Magistrate Courts and Sessions Courts as the case may be.
- They handle bail applications in Magistrate Courts and Sessions Courts as the case
- may be.

- They visit jails to help unrepresented inmates.

Who can use LADCS?

- People who are in custody.
- People who meet the eligibility criteria set out in the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

What LADCS provides?

- Legal services at the pre-arrest, remand, trial and appellate stages.
- Legal representation in criminal cases.
- Free Legal aid Advice.

What is the rationale of LADCS?

- To provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society.
- To ensure that economic or other disabilities do not deny citizens access to justice.

LADCS structure in District Almora

- Secretary DLSA– Mrs. Anamika Singh
- Chief LADC– Mr. Shekhar Chandra Nailwal
- Deputy LADC- Mr. Deepak Arya
- ALADC – Mr. Rohit Bisht
- Receptionist cum Data-Entry Operator : Depanshu Bhandari
- Office Assistant : Jay Dev
- Office Assistant : Pankaj Jeena
- Office Assistant : Balwant Manral
- Office Peon : Renu Bisht
- Office Peon : Guddu Kanwal
- The LADC's office is located in the District Court complex in Almora.
- The LADC's office phone number is 05962-231105
- The LADC's official email address is dlsa-alm-uk@gov.in

LADCS Contact details

- Mr. Shekhar Chandra Nailwal (Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel) Mobile No-9411327162
- Mr. Deepak Arya (Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel) Mobile No-9536171049
- Mr. Rohit Bisht (Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel) Mobile No-9837978968

Mediation:

Mediation is a process of negotiation with the help of a neutral third party called a mediator. Mediation is a structured way to resolve conflicts between people.

List of Mediators and contact details

- Mr. Bhanu Prakash Tilara, Mobile No- 9412966827
- Mr. Hridesh Dipali, Mobile No- 8859436717
- Ms. Amita Chaudhary, Mobile No- 9411526622
- Mr. Lalit Mohan Arya, Mobile No- 8937003213
- Mr. Naveen Chandra Upadhyay, Mobile No- 9412161950

How does mediation work?

- The mediator helps the parties to identify issues and explore options.
- The mediator encourages open communication and helps the parties to find a mutually acceptable solution.
- The mediator uses a variety of techniques to guide the process.
- The mediator does not have the power to decide the outcome of the dispute.

When is mediation used?

- Mediation is often used to resolve civil disputes and disputes between separated families about their matrimonial and other related issues.
- Mediation can be used to resolve commercial disputes and criminal matters of compoundable nature like matters covered under section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act etc.

Benefits of mediation

- Mediation is a flexible process that can be modified to the needs of each case.
- Mediation creates an informal and cordial environment for dispute resolution.
- Mediation allows the parties to carry on with their day-to-day activities.

Pre-Institution Mediation in Commercial disputes

- Commercial mediation is a confidential process that helps businesses to resolve disputes. It is a structured and flexible way to reach an agreement that is legally binding.
- In all commercial cases regarding which Commercial Court is having jurisdiction to try the case, it is mandatory to file Pre-Institution mediation before concerned Secretary DLSA.

List of commercial mediators and contact details

- Mr. Bhanu Prakash Tilara, Mobile No- 9412966827
- Mr. Hridesh Dipali, Mobile No- 8859436717
- Ms. Amita Chaudhary, Mobile No- 9411526622
- Mr. Lalit Mohan Arya, Mobile No- 8937003213
- Mr. Naveen Chandra Upadhyay, Mobile No- 9412161950

How does commercial mediation work?

- Confidentiality: Agreements protect what is discussed during mediation so parties can communicate openly.
- Stages: The process usually has several stages, each building on the last.
- Collaboration: Parties work together to find a solution.
- Reflection: The mediator helps parties consider commercial and legal aspects of their positions.
- Flexibility: Either party can end the mediation at any time.

Lok Adalat:

Lok Adalat is a forum where the disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably. The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Under the said Act, the award made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be the decree of a Civil Court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies before any court against its award.

Benefits of Lok Adalat

a) If a pending civil matter is resolved in Lok Adalat then plaintiff gets refund of the entire court fee paid by him for filing suit.
b) Matter is settled expeditiously and with the consent of all parties.

How it works?

- Lok Adalats are a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).
- They help reduce the number of cases in courts.
- They help settle disputes even at the pre-litigation stage.
- They help resolve disputes amicably.

Types of Lok Adalats

- **State Lok Adalats**

Organized by Legal Services Authorities/Committees to settle pre-litigation and post-litigation cases.

- **National Lok Adalats**

Conducted quarterly to settle cases in all courts from the Supreme Court of India to the Taluk Courts.

- **Permanent Lok Adalats**

Set up to settle cases relating to Public Utility Services like transport, postal and telegraph etc.

Pre-litigation

Pre-litigation is the process of resolving a dispute before filing a law suit in court. It can involve gathering evidence, negotiating, and exchanging information with the other party.

How does Pre-litigation work?

- The parties involved in the dispute work together to resolve the issue same as in pending cases.

When is Pre-litigation used?

- Pre-litigation can be used in a variety of cases, including commercial, domestic, property-related disputes and cheque dishonour cases.
- It is often recommended in Family Courts.

Legal Assistance through PLV's/Adhikar Mitra:

- Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) provide legal assistance and awareness to people in their communities. They are not lawyers but they have basic knowledge of laws and the legal process.

How PLVs help?

- **Legal advice:** PLVs help people in rural and remote areas by providing them legal advice and information.
- **Legal awareness:** PLVs educate people about laws and the legal system.
- **Dispute resolution:** PLVs are instrumental in settling simple disputes between people.
- **Legal assistance for the arrested:** PLVs help people who are arrested to get legal assistance.
- **Legal assistance for victims of crime**: PLVs ensure that victims of crime get proper care and attention timely.
- Para-Legal Volunteers shall assist the DLSA/TLSCs in organizing legal awareness camps in their area of operation.
- Report violations of child rights, child labour, missing children and trafficking of
- girl children to the nearest legal services institutions or to the Child Welfare Committee.

Legal assistance through awareness camps and special awareness drives:

- DLSA/TLSC on direction of UKSLSA and NALSA organizes awareness camps and special awareness drives to sensitize people.
- Legal awareness camps and special awareness drives help people learn about their
- rights and access legal services. These activities are part of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which aims to provide free legal services to the underprivileged.

How legal awareness camps and special awareness drives are conducted?

- Seminars and lectures
- Distribution of pamphlets, Saral Gyan Mala books and pocket books
- Affixing banners and flex boards
- Organizing training programs for various stakeholders involved in the process of dispensation of justice and safeguarding the rights of citizens
- Television programs
- Mobile vans
- Nukkad nataks
- Short documentaries
- Cultural programs like cause related dance performances, songs, musicals etc.
- Competitions like painting, essay writing, debates and declamation etc.
- Radio shows including community Radio show in District Jail Almora
- Press conferences
- Exclusive Interviews
- Rallies including motorcycle and car rallies
- Workshops
- Door to door awareness programs

Victim Compensation Scheme:

In state of Uttarakhand there is a victim Compensation Scheme for the victims of crimes. Initially the Victim Compensation Scheme was implemented by State of Uttarakhand which was named as “Uttarakhand Victim of Crime Assistance Scheme, 2013” and later on state of Uttarakhand also adopted and implemented the compensation scheme framed by NALSA namely Uttarakhand Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes, 2020 with effect from 2018.

Front office of DLSA:

In the context of a District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), the "Front Office" refers to the primary point of contact for individuals seeking legal aid, where they can receive initial legal advice, file applications, and access information about legal services offered by the DLSA; essentially, it is the department that handles the first interaction with potential clients and manages the intake process for legal aid cases.

Key functions of a DLSA front office:

- **Providing legal advice:** Answering basic legal questions and guiding individuals on appropriate legal actions.
- **Accepting legal aid applications:** Receiving and processing applications for legal assistance.
- **Maintaining records:** Keeping track of legal aid cases and related documentation.
- **Connecting with legal aid lawyers:** Referring cases to suitable lawyers within the DLSA network.
- **Raising legal awareness:** Providing information about legal rights and remedies to the public.

Front Office DLSA structure in District Almora

- Secretary DLSA– Mrs. Anamika Singh
- Retainer Lawyer– Ms. Tulsi Johari, Mobile No- 8272874648
- The Front office is located in the District Court complex in Almora.
- PLV's/Adhikar Mitra –
    1. Ms. Deepa Arya, Mobile No- 9536171049
    2. Ms. Vinita Arya, Mobile No- 8057483648