

Advocates: An Invaluable Investment

The quality of advocates is largely responsible for the quality of the justice delivery system. Astute, well-prepared advocates effectively represent their clients within the court hall through stellar arguments. Advocates are also the primary feeders for the Bench. Intelligent and perceptible exchanges between the Bar and the Bench would tremendously increase the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

Therefore, an investment in the advocates is an investment in the justice delivery system and the judiciary. With this in mind, during the years 2022 and 2023, unique initiatives for the growth and development of the advocates across Madhya Pradesh were conceptualized by the Chief Justice. This Chapter provides a brief look at such initiatives.

A. Specialized Training Programmes For Advocates With 0-5 Years Of Experience

The Bar has many seasoned veterans. Senior advocates and other advocates with rich experiences across sectors are sought after. Not just by the clients, but also by younger advocates who would like to gain from their experience by working with them. However, unlike earlier times, law is now a coveted profession and the number of young advocates entering the Bar greatly exceeds the number of advocates who are able to mentor them.

Therefore, in the interest of the Bar, for the first time in Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere, in the year 2022, the Chief Justice devised specialized training programmes for the young members of the Bar. These training programmes were designed for advocates who have zero to five years of experience.

These training programmes were conducted with the assistance of the Madhya Pradesh

State Judicial Academy and offered on a pro bono basis. The first of these programmes

This was also undertaken with the objective of boosting the confidence of the advocates and empowering them to make frequent appearances in the court hall without fear.

was conducted on September 10, 2022 and multiple other sessions were conducted thereafter.

Discourses and presentations on the essentialities of the profession, discussions on the important aspects that are required to be known about procedures and the like were on the agenda. The advocates were also encouraged to ask questions about any topic that troubled them and any problems that they faced.

These training programmes were offered to not just advocates of the High Court, but also to advocates at the trial courts. Separate programmes, as set forth below, were offered to advocates practicing at the High Court and trial courts in order to thoroughly address the intricacies of each category:

- ❖ Foundation Training Programme for Advocates at the District level.
- ❖ Regional Workshop for Advocates, targeting group of districts.
- ❖ Special Workshop for Advocates practising at the High Court.

At the trial court level, a total of 4,351 advocates cutting across all districts of Madhya Pradesh participated in the various sessions of the programme.

At the High court level, as many as 659 advocates at Jabalpur, 536 advocates from the Bench at Indore and 381 advocates from the Bench at Gwalior participated in multiple programmes.

The programmes received massive appreciation from one and all. Many advocates made requests for more such programmes to be offered frequently. Such was the success of the programme that advocates who had more than 5 years of experience approached officials requesting for the organization of similar programmes for their level of experience. In the absence of this, they requested to be included in the programme for advocates with 0 to 5 years of experience.

A peek into some of the programmes follow on the next page.

Hon'ble Chief Justice inaugurating the Special Workshop for Advocates at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh Bench at Gwalior (March 18, 2023)



Gathering at the inaugural ceremony at the aforementioned event



Hon'ble Chief Justice inaugurating the Special Workshop for Advocates at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh Bench at Indore (November 20, 2022)



Hon'ble Chief Justice inaugurating the Special Workshop for Advocates at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur (January 7, 2023)



Participants attending the training programme



A Participant interacting during the training session

