

KERALA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**Best Panel Lawyer in South India - 2018: Adv. Sreeja Sasidharan**
DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram

- ✓ Smt. Sreeja Sasidharan has been actively participating in all most all kind of activities of the District Legal Services Authority for many years. She was engaged to conduct criminal cases (both magistrate court and sessions court) for the under trial prisoners.
- ✓ In addition to the service as Panel Lawyer in court, she was also deputed as a legal aid counsel in the clinic attached to different care homes such as Sree Chitra Home for Destitute, Pazhavangadi Thiruvananthapuram and Rehabilitation Center for Beggars at Kalladimugham run by Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✓ The activities of the clinic came up in lime light after the intervention of DLSA and general people from different walks of life and the notable personality's institutions extended support to the inmates through DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram. A fully fledged Library with a computer was set up at Chitra home, and as part of that book collection drive the famous Media House namely TIMES OF INDIA had donated books for Rs 50,000/- to DLSA. Judicial Officers, Advocates, Journalists, Activist and other eminent personalities generously donated books worth more than Rs 2 Laks. The CRS teams from IT giant Alliance at Techno Park had gifted Oanakkodi, and Uniform for all the boys housed at Chitra Home. The students from JAWAHAR School Manacaud are still extending their support to the inmates at Chitra Home through DLSA. She has taken keen in effort in organizing a Medical Camp for the inmates. Smt. Sreeja Sasidharan played vital role in all these activities of the Rehabilitation Centre of beggars at Kalladimugham. She has traced out most of the relatives of the inmates by contacting their native police station as part of rehabilitation. Relatives from Maharashtra, Andhrapradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and from other districts of our state came to the institute, and as per order from DLSA they were released and rehabilitated along with their relatives. More than 20 persons were released and rehabilitated at their home town after tracing their relatives, and for that purpose an Adalat was also conducted at Rehabilitation centre.
- ✓ She did remarkable legal services to trace out the Landed property details of one inmate namely Anil Kumar who was a subject of National Trust Act, and appropriate report submitted to DLSA. Upon that, the District Collector being the chairman of the Committee under National Trust Act passed an order in favour of Mr.Anilkumar and direction given to the Village Office and SRO concern for restraining alienation or encumbering the property to protect the right of the inmate. The clinic played a major role for arranging an interactive session with the destitute inmate, with School Students from JAWAHAR School Manacaud on X-mas, and Onam, keeping in mind that the inmates had no opportunity to interact with the main society.
- ✓ She was deputed as a resource person for providing legal literacy classes/ awareness classes for the people among marginalized sector, for the prisoners and for the college and

school students and she was still actively participating all the activities of DLSA and hereby narrating her activities in short

Activities as a legal aid Counsel

- ✓ Appointed to conduct Civil, Criminal and Family Court cases Sessions cases deputed to her were over and one case she defended as SC 900/2016 before the Assistant Sessions Court was acquitted in January 2017. Trial is going on in the following cases. (OS 598/2012, LAR 683/88, SC No. 466/2015, MC No.132/2017, MC 4/2018, and OP 260/2018.)

Legal aid Lawyer in clinics

- ✓ Deputed as a legal aid lawyer for providing help at **Sree Chitra Home** for destitute - identified some inmates are rape victims and the matter intimated to DLSA and Superintendent, Sree Chitra Home for taking appropriate action. During that period, conducted activities for the welfare of kids and lady inmates and legal awareness programs and other programs were organized. Against the inhuman activities suffered by the inmates the clinic took initiative to file PL cases at DLSA Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✓ Deputed as panel lawyer to represent the inmates at **Rehabilitation Centre for beggars, Kothalam Road.** PL filed for shifting the institution to the newly constructed building at Kalladimugham. Further against the illegal detention, clinic taken up action and filed PL cases, and more than 40 persons were released through Lok Adalat.
- ✓ Conducted awareness programmes for the police officials and elected members in the subject "Begging act and Travancore Prevention of Begging Rules".
- ✓ From 2018 June, she has started rendering her service as panel lawyer at **Central Prison and Correctional Home, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram.** Now the legal clinic at Central prison is a fully fledged e-clinic which is in constant touch with DLSA and Central Prison Office through e-mails by addressing different issues.

Service for Convicted prisoners

- ✓ **Filing of Appeal before HC of Kerala:** Regularly interacts with the convicts and educate them their right to file appeal through legal aid clinic. After her interaction with inmates, the clinic received voluminous judgments for preparing appeal before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. The matter has been intimated to DLSA, and with the proper coordination of panel lawyers from other jail the legal aid clinic at central prison has succeeded to file more than 40 appeals before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.
- ✓ **Appeal and SLP to SC of India:** She has, as jail visiting lawyer, helped convicts to file appeal before the Supreme Court of India and supported all the works for collecting documents from the Trial courts. The Copy applications to the respective courts were prepared as part of the document collection. Proper coordination with High Court Legal Committee is also availing in this matter.
- ✓ **Extending help to dependant convicts:** As part of extending the help to the dependants of convicted prisoners, the clinic addressed the grievances raised by the prisoners. The applications received at the clinic were send to DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram for getting welfare support to the dependants from the Social Security Mission, State of Kerala.

Support for under trial Prisoners and RP prisoners

- ✓ **E- application/ E court:** Preparing bail application and other application for the prisoners for getting legal aid in the nature by appointing lawyers from respective courts, sending application from legal Clinic to DLSA. Proper co-ordination to the Magistrate court and District court through DLSA became a success and the e-application system helped the clinic to render service very quickly.
- ✓ **Plea Bargaining;** Among the under trial prisoners, a data study and survey was conducted on the base of register available in the UT section. The selected under trial prisoners were called before the clinic. After interacting with the prisoners regarding their case she has identified the cases which are fit for plea bargaining. A list is also prepared on the base of information received and the same has been submitted, to DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram.

Legal awareness provided to public

- ✓ Worked as resource person in legal literacy classes to school students in and around Trivandrum City. For the general public legal literacy classes were taken for Women and people from socio economically backward area.

Other Legal service activities.

- ✓ Had filed PL petition before the Adalath raising right of Transgenders and tried to bring those marginalized persons to the social lime light and through DLSA provided legal aid to them.
- ✓ Took active part in the campaign on Victim compensation Scheme. Visited Tribal areas at Kuttichal and interacted with the tribals.

To sum up, Smt. Sreeja Sasidharan has been serving DLSA as a sincere and dedicated legal aid counsel, and serves in the legal aid clinics attached to various shelter homes, prisons etc. She has proved her loyalty to the legal services institutions by spreading legal awareness among the general public also. Her service in court based legal aid activities is also worth mentioning. As recognition to the commendable performance as legal services lawyer, the Hon'ble Executive Chairman, KeLSA has nominated **Adv. Sreeja Sreedharan, DLSA, Thiruvananthapuram** as the best panel lawyer of Kerala in 2018.

Member Secretary