



THE MENDES LEGAL

A Socio-Legal Research Platform · Delhi, India

CALL FOR MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

About The Mendes Legal

The Mendes Legal is an interdisciplinary socio-legal research platform dedicated to examining the relationship between law, society, and public policy. Based in Delhi, India, and collaborating with VidhiAgaaz and Better With Law, we publish analytical blogs, case commentaries, policy discussions, and peer-reviewed research at the intersection of law and social reality. The Mendes Legal accepts blog submissions across four categories, namely: Analytical Blogs, Case Commentaries, Policy Discussions, and Opinion Essays. As our platform grows and submission volume increases, we are also formalising our editorial review structure by inviting dedicated Blog Reviewers who bring disciplinary expertise, editorial rigour, and a commitment to socio-legal scholarship.

The Advisory Board is envisioned as a body of eminent legal scholars, senior practitioners, policy experts, and interdisciplinary academics who share The Mendes Legal's commitment to rigorous socio-legal inquiry, inclusive scholarship, and meaningful public engagement.

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Advancing Socio-Legal Research for a Transforming Society



ELIGIBILITY

Who Should Apply — Advisory Board

- ✓ Academics with a PhD or equivalent qualification and a strong record of publications in socio-legal or allied fields
- ✓ Senior legal practitioners (advocates, judges, retired judicial officers) with demonstrated engagement in socio-legal discourse
- ✓ Policy experts, former government officials, or senior researchers at think-tanks or law commissions
- ✓ Professionals from civil society, legal aid organisations, or human rights bodies with expertise in law and social justice
- ✓ International scholars or practitioners with expertise in comparative law, international human rights, or global governance
- ✓ Professionals in academic publishing, digital media, or legal education with relevant advisory capacity
- ✓ All applicants must demonstrate a commitment to academic integrity, independence, and non-partisan engagement with legal issues
- ✓ Advisory Board membership is honorary and unremunerated; members serve in their individual capacity, not as institutional representatives

BENEFITS

Named Recognition

Prominent recognition on The Mendes Legal website, publications, and all institutional communications as an Advisory Board Member.

Institutional Letterhead

Named in the capacity of Advisory Board Member on official correspondence and publications of the platform.

Research Collaboration

Priority access to joint research initiatives, co-authored publications, and special issues developed by the platform.

Speaking Opportunities

Invited to deliver keynote addresses, chair sessions, or deliver guest lectures at The Mendes Legal events and webinars.

Platform Reach

Wider dissemination of the member's own work through the platform's digital channels, newsletter, and academic network.

Collaborative Network

Access to The Mendes Legal's collaboration ecosystem, including VidhiAgaz, Better With Law, and institutional partners.

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ADVISORY BOARD – ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair, Advisory Board *[Strategic Leadership]*

The Chair leads the Advisory Board, convenes meetings, and serves as the principal liaison between the Board and the platform's founding team. The Chair's authority is consultative; operational decisions remain with the founding editorial team.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- › Preside over quarterly Advisory Board meetings (virtual or in-person) and ensure productive deliberation
- › Set the agenda for Board meetings in consultation with the Editorial and Research Teams
- › Provide strategic guidance on the platform's research priorities, thematic focus areas, and long-term vision
- › Serve as an external ambassador for The Mendes Legal to academic institutions, funding bodies, and policy organisations
- › Lead the Board's annual review of the platform's editorial policy, research ethics statement, and publication standards
- › Facilitate resolution of disputes or ethical concerns escalated by the Editorial Team
- › Represent the Advisory Board in institutional collaborations and memoranda of understanding
- › Identify and recommend potential Advisory Board members, institutional partners, and collaborating scholars
- › Contribute a Foreword or editorial note to at least one annual publication or special issue of the platform
- › Support fundraising and grant applications by providing institutional endorsement where appropriate

Eligibility Note: *Distinguished academic or senior practitioner with a minimum of 15 years of experience in socio-legal scholarship, legal education, or legal policy; prior experience in academic leadership or institutional governance preferred.*

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Member — Research & Academic Standards *[Core Member]*

Advises on the academic quality, methodological rigour, and research integrity of the platform's publications, projects, and blog content. Ensures that The Mendes Legal's output meets the standards expected of respected academic institutions.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- › Review and advise on the platform's research ethics framework and academic integrity policies
- › Provide guidance on research methodology for empirical, doctrinal, and interdisciplinary studies published by the platform
- › Evaluate proposals for special issues, thematic blog series, or collaborative research projects
- › Advise on the development of a formal peer-review process for research papers submitted to the platform
- › Recommend relevant literature, datasets, or methodological resources to strengthen publications
- › Support capacity building for emerging scholars through mentorship, webinar participation, or workshops
- › Review and advise on academic writing guidelines, citation policy, and formatting standards
- › Contribute at least one substantive advisory opinion or written comment per calendar year on a topic of the platform's choosing
- › Identify opportunities for joint research, data partnerships, or academic exchanges
- › Attend a minimum of two Advisory Board meetings per year

Eligibility Note: *PhD in Law, Sociology, Political Science, or a cognate discipline; active researcher with peer-reviewed publications; university faculty or senior research fellow at a recognised institution preferred.*



⚡ Member — Policy & Governance *[Core Member]*

Brings expertise in legislative processes, regulatory governance, public administration, and evidence-based policymaking. Advises the platform on the policy relevance of its research and helps position The Mendes Legal as a credible voice in law reform discourse.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- › Advise on the policy relevance and real-world applicability of published research and blog content
- › Identify emerging legislative developments, government consultations, or regulatory reforms that warrant socio-legal commentary
- › Provide guidance on structuring policy briefs, submissions to law commissions, and evidence-based advocacy documents
- › Facilitate engagement with government bodies, parliamentary committees, or regulatory agencies where appropriate
- › Review and comment on the platform's policy discussion pieces before final editorial clearance
- › Advise on ethical considerations in research that involves vulnerable communities or sensitive data
- › Support the platform's engagement with civil society organisations, NGOs, and legal aid bodies
- › Recommend funding opportunities, government grants, or institutional support for socio-legal research
- › Contribute to the platform's annual policy review — identifying critical areas where socio-legal scholarship is urgently needed
- › Attend a minimum of two Advisory Board meetings per year

Eligibility Note: *Senior experience in public policy, legislative drafting, regulatory affairs, or public administration; former or current government official, think-tank researcher, or senior NGO professional with legal/policy background.*

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Member — Interdisciplinary & International Perspectives *[Core Member]*

Enriches the platform's intellectual scope by integrating perspectives from sociology, criminology, gender studies, development studies, human rights, and comparative international law. Ensures the platform's work is genuinely interdisciplinary and globally contextualised.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- › Advise on expanding the thematic scope of publications to include underrepresented socio-legal areas
- › Evaluate submissions and research proposals from an interdisciplinary or comparative law perspective
- › Identify international scholars, institutions, or research bodies for potential collaboration
- › Advise on the platform's international outreach strategy and cross-border research partnerships
- › Recommend comparative legal systems, regional human rights instruments, or international legal frameworks relevant to current themes
- › Support the development of courses and training programmes with an international comparative dimension
- › Review proposed thematic blog series on international law, human rights, or comparative constitutional law
- › Contribute to at least one guest post, editorial commentary, or workshop session per calendar year
- › Facilitate connections with international academic journals, law reviews, or research networks
- › Attend a minimum of two Advisory Board meetings per year

Eligibility Note: *Senior academic or practitioner with expertise in international law, comparative law, human rights, or any social science discipline with a socio-legal dimension; international institutional affiliation desirable.*

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Member — Digital Publishing & Outreach *[Core Member]*

Advises on the platform's digital strategy, online presence, content accessibility, and academic outreach. Ensures that The Mendes Legal's publications reach the widest possible audience while maintaining academic standards.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- › Advise on SEO strategy for socio-legal blogs and research publications to maximise online discoverability
- › Guide the development of accessible, reader-friendly content formats without compromising analytical rigour
- › Recommend digital tools, open-access platforms, or repository partnerships to archive and disseminate publications
- › Advise on social media strategy, newsletter content, and academic community engagement
- › Evaluate the user experience of the platform's website and suggest improvements for readability and navigation
- › Support the development of online courses, webinars, and multimedia content
- › Advise on intellectual property, open-access licensing, and copyright matters for published content
- › Identify opportunities for media partnerships, legal journalism collaborations, or podcast engagement
- › Provide guidance on data privacy compliance for user data collected through the platform
- › Attend a minimum of two Advisory Board meetings per year

Eligibility Note: *Experience in academic publishing, legal journalism, digital communications, or online education; background in law or social sciences desirable but not mandatory.*



TERM & GOVERNANCE

Term & Governance Details	
Term of Appointment	<i>Two (2) years, renewable by mutual consent</i>
Meeting Frequency	<i>Quarterly (minimum) – virtual, with option for annual in-person convening</i>
Quorum	<i>50% of Board membership required for advisory recommendations</i>
Conflict of Interest	<i>Members must declare and recuse from matters where a conflict of interest exists</i>
Confidentiality	<i>Members are bound by a confidentiality undertaking in respect of platform deliberations</i>
Remuneration	<i>Honorary and unremunerated; travel and accommodation for in-person meetings to be discussed separately</i>
Resignation	<i>30 days written notice to the Chair or the Editorial Team</i>
Review	<i>The Board's composition and mandate will be reviewed at the end of each two-year term</i>

APPLICATION PROCESS – ADVISORY BOARD

01 Letter of Intent <i>500-word statement of interest detailing expertise and vision for the platform</i>	02 Curriculum Vitae <i>Full academic/professional CV with publication list and affiliations</i>	03 Review & Interview <i>Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a brief virtual conversation</i>	04 Appointment <i>Offer letter and onboarding to the Advisory Board are issued within 14 working days</i>
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✉ **Submit your application to: themendeslegal@gmail.com**
Subject Line: Application – Advisory Board Membership | [Your Designation]

OR

Submit your application through this Link:
<https://forms.gle/idB6B7uEZDsoTmZ99>

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