



# THE MENDES LEGAL

A Socio-Legal Research Platform · Delhi, India

## CALL FOR BLOG REVIEWERS

### 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 formalising our editorial review structure by inviting dedicated Blog Reviewers who bring disciplinary expertise, editorial rigour, and a commitment to socio-legal scholarship.

## WHY WE NEED REVIEWERS

### Quality Assurance

Ensure all published content meets academic and editorial standards expected of a reputed socio-legal platform.

### Legal Accuracy

Verify the accuracy of legal citations, case references, statutory provisions, and doctrinal analysis.

### Analytical Depth

Assess the depth of argument, clarity of structure, and coherence of socio-legal reasoning in submissions.

### Interdisciplinary Lens

Evaluate submissions from sociology, political science, criminology, gender studies, and allied disciplines.

## THE MENDES LEGAL

*Advancing Socio-Legal Research for a Transforming Society*



## ELIGIBILITY

### Who Should Apply – Blog Reviewers

- ✓ Law graduates (LLB / LLM / PhD) from a recognised university, or postgraduates in cognate social science disciplines
- ✓ Legal practitioners with experience in academic writing, legal journalism, or editorial work
- ✓ Researchers or doctoral scholars working in socio-legal, criminological, or policy-oriented fields
- ✓ Persons with familiarity with at least one formal citation style: ILI, Harvard Bluebook, or OSCOLA
- ✓ Individuals committed to academic integrity, blind review confidentiality, and timely turnaround
- ✓ No geographic restriction – remote reviewers across India and internationally are welcome

## BENEFITS

### **Certificate of Review**

An official Certificate of Appreciation issued by The Mendes Legal for every review cycle completed.

### **Editorial Credit**

Named acknowledgement in the platform's Editorial Panel, visible on the website.

### **Research Exposure**

Early access to submitted manuscripts and engagement with emerging socio-legal scholarship.

### **Network**

Integration into The Mendes Legal's academic and institutional collaboration network.

### **Co-Authorship Opportunities**

Preferred consideration for co-authored publications and joint research projects.

### **Professional Development**

Periodic editorial workshops, citation clinics, and academic writing seminars.

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## REVIEWER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Blog Reviewer — General Socio-Legal** *[All Blog Categories]*

*Conducts first-level editorial review of submitted analytical blogs, opinion essays, and policy discussions across general socio-legal themes. Acts as the first quality gate ensuring submissions are original, well-structured, and analytically sound.*

#### **Roles & Responsibilities:**

- › Review submitted blogs within the prescribed turnaround time (7–10 working days)
- › Assess submissions against The Mendes Legal's editorial standards: originality, clarity, argument structure, and socio-legal relevance
- › Verify that citations conform to the designated citation style (ILI, Harvard Bluebook, or OSCOLA) and that all legal references are accurate
- › Provide structured written feedback to authors including recommendations to accept, revise, or reject, with clear reasoning
- › Identify plagiarism, factual inaccuracies, or ethical concerns and flag them to the Editorial Team
- › Suggest appropriate subheadings, structural improvements, or additional sources where necessary
- › Maintain confidentiality of all submissions and reviewer deliberations at all times
- › Complete and return the standardised Reviewer Assessment Form for each submission reviewed
- › Attend periodic virtual editorial meetings (once per quarter) to align on platform standards
- › Recuse from reviewing submissions where a conflict of interest exists (institutional, personal, or academic)

**Eligibility Note:** *LLB / LLM / PhD in Law or a cognate social science discipline; minimum 1 year of academic writing or editorial experience; demonstrated interest in socio-legal issues.*



### **Case Commentary Reviewer** [*Case Commentaries*]

*Specialises in reviewing case commentaries that critically examine judicial decisions of the Supreme Court of India, High Courts, and comparable international tribunals. Brings expertise in constitutional law, criminal law, family law, environmental law, or any other branch of public or private law.*

#### **Roles & Responsibilities:**

- › Assess whether the case commentary accurately presents the facts, procedural history, and ratio decidendi of the judgment
- › Evaluate the quality of critical analysis: does the author engage with the court's reasoning, identify tensions with precedent, and assess broader implications?
- › Verify accuracy of all case citations (including party names, court, year, and reporter references) against established legal databases
- › Ensure the commentary situates the decision within the broader doctrinal and socio-legal landscape
- › Check that the commentary draws on relevant secondary literature, law commission reports, or comparative jurisprudence where applicable
- › Recommend revisions to correct any mischaracterisation of the judgment or inadequate engagement with the reasoning
- › Flag decisions that require a disclaimer (e.g., pending appeals, stay orders, or political sensitivity)
- › Ensure the obiter dicta are clearly distinguished from the ratio decidendi in the author's analysis
- › Provide a recommendation (Accept / Minor Revision / Major Revision / Reject) with written justification
- › Maintain strict confidentiality of the blind review process

**Eligibility Note:** *LLB / LLM with demonstrated expertise in judicial analysis; familiarity with Supreme Court or High Court reporting; experience writing or reviewing case notes preferred.*



### **Policy & Legislative Commentary Reviewer** *[Policy Discussions]*

*Reviews submissions that evaluate legislative developments, draft bills, government notifications, policy frameworks, and regulatory instruments through a socio-legal lens. Brings expertise at the intersection of law, governance, and public policy.*

#### **Roles & Responsibilities:**

- › Assess whether the policy discussion accurately describes the legislative or regulatory instrument under examination
- › Evaluate the analytical framework: does the author identify the policy objective, target population, enforcement mechanism, and socio-legal consequences?
- › Verify the accuracy of citations to statutes, parliamentary debates, committee reports, and government notifications
- › Ensure that comparative policy analysis (if included) is accurate, contextually appropriate, and properly cited
- › Assess whether empirical claims are substantiated and whether data sources are credible and current
- › Evaluate the quality of the author's reform proposals: are they grounded in evidence, legally feasible, and responsive to identified gaps?
- › Identify omissions of key stakeholder perspectives (e.g., marginalised communities, civil society, regulatory bodies)
- › Ensure the submission adheres to the word count and formatting requirements of The Mendes Legal
- › Return a structured review report within the prescribed timeline with recommendations and suggested revisions
- › Maintain confidentiality of all submissions and reviewer correspondence

**Eligibility Note:** *LLB / LLM / Master's in Public Policy, Political Science, or Governance; experience with policy analysis, legislative drafting, or regulatory research preferred.*



## APPLICATION PROCESS

**01**

### Expression of Interest

*Email a one-page statement of interest and your CV*

**02**

### Expertise Declaration

*Indicate subject areas and preferred blog categories*

**03**

### Sample Review

*Complete a short sample review task provided by the Editorial Team*

**04**

### Onboarding

*Attend an orientation session and receive the Reviewer Handbook*

✉ **Submit your Expression of Interest to: [themendeslegal@gmail.com](mailto:themendeslegal@gmail.com)**

*Subject Line: Application – Blog Reviewer | [Your Subject Area]*

**OR**

**CLICK ON THIS LINK**

*Subject Link: <https://forms.gle/GtAFmTCCdSRuAMvP8>*

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