

Date: 24 August 2026

To
The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi

And to:

The Committee concerned with the SAMADHAN Initiative
Supreme Court of India
New Delhi

Subject: Representation seeking a transparent, inclusive and objective process for selection of members of the Bar for participation in the SAMADHAN initiative

1. The Lawyers Association for Constitution (LAFC), founded on 15 August 2026, is a broad and non-partisan platform committed to the values of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity enshrined in the Constitution. Within a short period, LAFC has grown to 438 members, including practising advocates, Senior Advocates designated by the Supreme Court and High Courts, retired High Court Judges, professors and academicians of law, and law students. LAFC seeks to promote constitutional values, equality of

opportunity, institutional transparency and accountability, and an inclusive legal profession.

2. In furtherance of these objectives, LAFC has undertaken the Know Your Candidate (KYC) initiative in connection with the Supreme Court Bar Association Elections, 2026, encouraging candidates to voluntarily disclose relevant information concerning their professional standing and candidature so that members of the Bar may make an informed choice.
3. LAFC places on record its sincere appreciation for the efforts of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in conceptualising and implementing the SAMADHAN initiative and in promoting mediation and consensual dispute resolution. The participation of members of the Bar alongside Hon'ble Judges is an important step towards strengthening the culture of mediation. It is precisely because the initiative is valuable that LAFC believes it should benefit from wider participation of the Bar.
4. In this context, LAFC wishes to draw attention to the process adopted for inclusion of members of the Bar in the

mediation/settlement panels constituted under the SAMADHAN initiative. To the best of our knowledge, no open invitation or expression of interest was issued to eligible members of the Supreme Court Bar, nor were criteria publicly notified regarding mediation training, practical experience, professional standing, seniority or other relevant qualifications.

5. As a result, the basis on which members of the Bar were selected is not readily ascertainable to the wider Bar. Several advocates having mediation training, practical experience and professional standing did not have an opportunity to offer their candidature or express their willingness to participate.
6. The competence, credentials or suitability of the members of the Bar nominated for participation in the initiative is not being questioned. The concern raised in this representation is limited to the process of selection and the absence of an open and equal opportunity for other qualified and interested members of the Bar.
7. LAFC is aware of considerable interest among members of the Bar in participating in SAMADHAN and similar programmes. Several

advocates with mediation training and practical experience would have welcomed an opportunity to contribute had an open invitation been issued. The absence of such an opportunity has understandably caused some concern and discontent among members of the Bar.

8. LAFC therefore submits that future participation should, as far as practicable, be through an open, transparent and inclusive process, with appropriate consideration to mediation training, practical experience, professional standing and seniority. A broad-based process would provide equality of opportunity and enable the institution to utilise the wider pool of trained and experienced members of the Supreme Court Bar.
9. LAFC also suggests that appropriate guidelines may be considered regarding public and social-media communication of participation in Court-associated programmes. Since such participation carries institutional credibility, it should not inadvertently convey an impression of comparative certification or endorsement of professional merit or mediation expertise where the selection has not been made pursuant to publicly notified criteria.

10. In these circumstances, LAFC requests that the Hon'ble Court/concerned Committee may consider:

- I. Issuing an open invitation or expression of interest for future mediation and similar institutional initiatives.
- II. Publishing objective eligibility and selection criteria, including mediation training, practical experience, professional standing and other relevant qualifications.
- III. Ensuring broad-based, inclusive and, as far as practicable, rotational participation among eligible members of the Bar.
- IV. Maintaining a transparent roster of trained and experienced members of the Bar for future programmes;
- V. Ensuring that holding or having held office in a Bar association does not create any preference or perceived advantage in obtaining such opportunities; and
- VI. Framing appropriate guidelines concerning public and social-media communication of participation in Court-associated programmes.

11. This representation is institutional and is not directed against any individual advocate or participant. LAFC requests the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the concerned Committee to consider framing an objective, transparent and inclusive mechanism for selection and empanelment of members of the Bar for future editions of SAMADHAN and similar initiatives.

12. The representation is made with utmost respect for the institution and in a constructive spirit, with the objective of ensuring wider participation, fairness of opportunity and institutional transparency.

Respectfully submitted,



Convenor

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