



**SCHEME FOR ‘LAWYER OF THE YEAR- 2022’ AWARD
HIGH COURT OF ORISSA, CUTTACK**

Whereas, the High Court of Orissa with a view to encouraging young lawyers practicing in the District Courts including the outlying stations of the districts, has instituted an Award namely ‘*Lawyer of the year*’ Award;

And whereas, a Draft Scheme approved by the High Court for the said Award was circulated among all the Bar Associations of the Districts through the concerned District Judges seeking their views and comments;

And whereas, upon consideration of such views and comments, received from the Bar Associations and the District Judges, the High Court of Orissa, in order to regulate the procedure of submission of applications, the manner of recommendation for such Award and selection of the best Lawyer from amongst the candidates, had notified ‘Promising Lawyer of the Year Award Scheme’.

And whereas, the High Court of Orissa has partially revised the said scheme and do hereby notify the following revised scheme.

- 1.** The Scheme shall be called, “***Lawyer of the Year-2022 Award Scheme***” and it shall come into force from the date of its notification.
 - 2. Features of the Award:**
 - i. The Award shall be an annual Award and shall be in the form of a collection of books worth ₹ 10, 000/-, along with a certificate and a memento.
 - ii. The work of a Lawyer for the entire calendar year from 1st January to 31st December shall be evaluated by the Jury. For instance, for the year 2023, the work of the Lawyer for the period 1st January, 2022 to 31st December, 2022 shall be evaluated.
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- iii. The Award shall ordinarily be presented on “**Lawyer’s Day**” every year.
- iv. In a given year, only one Lawyer per District including the outlying stations, shall be chosen by the Jury for the Award.
- v. The High Court shall announce every year the schedule and dates of inviting applications, last date of receipt of the applications, date of receiving the recommendations of the Jury and the date of announcement of the Award.

3. Eligibility:

- i. The Lawyer must be an enrolled member of Odisha State Bar Council and a member of the local Bar Association.
- ii. The Lawyer must be a practicing lawyer either in a District Court or in any outlying station of that district.
- iii. The age of the Lawyer must not be less than 30 years and more than 40 years. In an exceptional case, a Lawyer below 30 years, but not below 28 years, may be considered but adequate justification shall be furnished by the Jury, in writing, in support of such recommendation. The age of the Lawyer shall be determined as on 1st day of January of the year, for which the Award is given. For instance, for the year 2022 the age shall be determined as on 1st January, 2022.
- iv. The Lawyer, who has won the Award in a particular year, shall not be eligible for being considered for the Award in the succeeding years.
- v. The Lawyer must not be related in the first degree to any sitting Judge of the High Court or any Judicial Officer in that district. A declaration to this effect shall be furnished by the Lawyer, along with the application in **Form-I**, annexed to the Scheme.
- vi. The Lawyer shall furnish certificates from two local lawyers of not less than 10 years of experience to be known as referees. The certificates of the referees for the Award should be in separate letters, certifying in three short paragraphs in **Form-II**, annexed to the Scheme the conduct, court etiquette, general reputation and integrity of the lawyer. The referee shall not be a current office bearer of the local Bar Association or related in the first degree to the Lawyer.

vii. A referee shall not give a certificate for more than 3 applicants.

4. Jury:

The Jury in every District shall comprise of:

(i) The District Judge

(ii) The Chief Judicial Magistrate

(iii) Three senior members of the Bars from the entire District including the outlying stations having experience of 20 years or more, to be nominated by the District Judge concerned. Preferably, one such senior member of the Bar shall be a woman, wherever available.

(iv) If an applicant Lawyer is related in the first degree to a member of the Jury or has been his/her associate lawyer at any point of time, the said Jury member shall not participate in selection process for that applicant Lawyer.

(v) The recommendation of the Jury must be unanimous.

(vi) The Jury in a district shall recommend to the High Court, one among those who qualify best in that particular District, including the outlying stations, for the Award. For the purpose of qualifying, a candidate shall have to secure minimum 50 points. The Jury can also gather inputs from a variety of sources for finalizing its decision. Each Jury member shall submit the evaluation in **Form-III**, annexed to the Scheme.

5. Selection Criteria:

In order to qualify for the Award, the following parameters shall be considered by the Jury:

(i) The number of cases handled by the Lawyer independently during the year;

(ii) Number of such cases e-filed by the Lawyer during the year.

(iii) The number of judgments/final orders in contested cases, during the year, handled independently by the Lawyer;

(iv) The Lawyer should have conducted at least one trial in a civil or in a criminal case entirely by himself/herself, during the year by appearing for any party i.e., Plaintiff, Defendant, Accused or for the Prosecution or even for the Complainant/ Victim.

- (v) A trial shall be considered complete only when the final judgment/order is pronounced.
- (vi) The information in clauses (i) to (v) above shall be provided by the lawyer in **Annexure-A** to **Form-I**, annexed to the Scheme and shall be accompanied by self-attested documents which shall be verified by the Office of the District Judge. If any information provided in any of the Forms annexed to this Scheme is found to be false or incorrect, at any point of time, it shall disqualify the Lawyer for the Award.
- (vii) The conduct, Court etiquette, general reputation and integrity of the Lawyer.
6. It is possible that in a particular calendar year (1st January to 31st December) no Lawyer from a particular District fulfils the above parameters. The Award is not to be given for the sake of being given. It must be given only to a Lawyer who truly satisfies all the above requirements.
7. A Committee of Judges of the High Court constituted by the Chief Justice shall examine the recommendations of the Jury in each District whereupon the matter shall be placed before the Chief Justice with the views of the Committee. The announcement of the Award will be made by the Chief Justice, whose decision shall be final.

BY ORDER OF THE HIGH COURT

**SOUMYAK
PATRA**

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SOUMYAK PATRA
Date: 2023.01.26
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CO-ORDINATOR, ARBITRATION CENTRE

FORM-I
[Clause 3(v) of the Scheme]

**APPLICATION FORM FOR THE
'LAWYER OF THE YEAR-2022' AWARD**

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1. Award for the year: _____
 2. Name of the Lawyer Applicant:
(in capital letters) _____
 3. Gender: Male/Female/Third gender
 4. Odisha State Bar Council enrolment No. with date:
(Copy of the enrolment certificate shall be enclosed) _____
 5. Local Bar Association membership No. _____
 6. Ordinary place of practice: _____
 7. Date of birth:
(Date)/(Month)/(Year)
(authenticated document shall be enclosed) _____
 8. Address for correspondence: _____

 9. Telephone/mobile number: _____
 10. e-mail ID (if any): _____
 11. (a) Number of cases handled independently
by the applicant Lawyer during the year. _____
(b) Number of cases e-filed by the applicant
Lawyer during the year _____
(c) Number of judgments/final orders in contested cases,
during the year, handled independently
by the applicant Lawyer. _____
(d) Number of trials (Civil/Criminal) conducted by the
applicant Lawyer by himself/herself during the year. _____
- (The Case numbers and Court's name be indicated
in a separate format as at **Annexure-A** of this application)
{Self-attested proof in support of the information supplied in (a), (b), (c) & (d) be enclosed}

DECLARATION

I, Mr/Miss/Mrs. _____ son/daughter/wife of
Shri _____ do hereby declare that the information furnished above
are true to the best of my knowledge. I do further declare that I am not related in the first degree to any
sitting Judge of the High Court or any Judicial officer in that district. Given on this the ___ day
of _____, 20__.

Date:
Place :

Signature of the Applicant

FORM-II
[Clause 3(vi) of the Scheme]

**CERTIFICATE BY THE REFEREE LAWYER REGARDING THE COURT
ETIQUETTE, GENERAL REPUTATION AND INTEGRITY OF THE
APPLICANT LAWYER**

I, Mr./Miss/Mrs. _____ do hereby certify that:

(Three short paragraphs on the
Court etiquette, general reputation
and integrity of the applicant lawyer.)

DECLARATION

I, Mr/Miss/Mrs. _____ son/daughter/wife
of _____ and a member of _____ Bar
Association, do hereby declare that I am not a current office bearer of the local
Bar Association or related in the first degree to the applicant Lawyer.

Signature of the Referee Lawyer



Time Schedule for 'Promising Lawyer of the Year-2022' Award

1	Uploading of the Scheme with appendices including the Application Form, certificate of the referee lawyers, dispatch by e-mail of the evaluation sheet for the Jury, checklists for the District Judges.	By 26 th January 2023
2	Last date for receipt of complete applications by the District Judges	By 15 th March 2023
3	Last date for receipt by the High Court, the recommendation by the Jury from the Districts	By 31 st March 2023
4	Announcement of Awards	22 nd April 2023
5	Presentation of Awards at Cuttack	28 th April 2023