

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
New Delhi

No.: A-25/14/1(1)/2024-Legal

Dated: 13 March, 2025

NOTICE

Empanelment of Panel Counsel

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), a statutory body, intends to empanel counsels for representing TRAI before the different Courts/judicial bodies, rendering legal advice, drafting, and vetting of petitions, appeals, replies etc. in three categories. The interested Advocates who are desirous to be considered for engagement and have adequate experience in dealing with legal matters pertaining to the telecommunication/ broadcasting and cable services may submit their application, latest by 03.04.2025. The details of the terms and conditions of engagement of counsel contained in this notice is also published on the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP).

For any further information/query, Shri Akhil Saxena, Advisor (Legal) may be contacted over telephone No. (011) 26769710.



**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

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The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) intends to empanel counsels in three categories for representing TRAI before different Courts/judicial bodies, rendering legal advice, drafting of petitions and vetting of legal documents etc. The Advocates who are desirous to be considered for engagement and have adequate experience in dealing with legal matters pertaining to the telecommunication/ broadcasting and cable services may submit their application in a sealed envelope to be marked as '**Application for Empanelment as Panel Counsel of TRAI**' and containing the requisite documents as explained below:-

It should contain the Bio Data of the applicant and Declaration, as per the formats specified in Annexure-I and II respectively.

The fees and other Terms and Condition for the Panel Counsel Group -I, II and III is attached as Annexure-III.

The envelope shall be addressed to –

**Advisor (Legal),
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
World Trade Center, Tower 'F',
Nauroji Nagar, Delhi-110029,**

and should contain the name and address of the Applicant. The applications, complete in all respects, should reach the above address, latest by 03.04.2025.



The details of professional service required from the counsel and other terms and conditions of the engagement are as under:-

1. **Tenure of Empanelment:** The initial employment of the counsel will be for a period of two years, which may be extended beyond the period of two years subject to TRAI's satisfaction with the performance of the counsels and as the Authority may decide from time to time. However, the Authority reserves the right to terminate the engagement of the counsels at any time by giving one month's prior written notice.
2. **Eligibility for engagement:**
 - (a) The counsels should possess adequate experience in handling cases pertaining to telecommunications, broadcasting & cable services and should also be well versed with constitutional law and other relevant laws.
 - (b) For Panel Counsel Grade-I, the Advocate should have professional experience of more than 15 years in High Courts, TDSAT, CAT and State Consumer Commission/ NCDRC etc. For Panel Counsel Grade-II, the Advocate should have professional experience of more than 10 years in High Courts, TDSAT, CAT and State Consumer Commission/ NCDRC etc. and for Panel Counsel Grade-III, the Advocate should have professional experience of more than 7 years in High Courts, TDSAT, CAT, District Courts, CIC and State Consumer Commission/ NCDRC etc.
 - (c) The Advocate should have necessary infrastructure, such as internet facility, printing and scanning facility, etc. and sufficient support staff, such as junior advocates/ partners, clerks, etc. in Delhi/NCR for proper management of the cases assigned to him.
 - (d) An Advocate applying for engagement as Advocate on Record in TRAI in terms of TRAI Notice dated 13/03/2024 shall not be considered for appointment as Panel Counsel and his application for appointment as Panel Counsel shall be summarily rejected.
3. **The professional services required from the Counsel:** The counsel shall provide the following professional services:-
 - (a) Represent/ make Appearance on behalf of TRAI before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and if so directed by the Authority, also before High Courts and Tribunals/ Commissions



(TDSAT, CAT, NCDRC, CMM courts, CIC, NCDRC and State/ District Consumer Commissions, etc);

- (b) Briefing/ conferencing with the Senior Advocate engaged in a particular case before the Court/ Tribunals and other judicial bodies, and if required, render all assistance to such Senior Advocate;
- (c) Examination and drafting of legal documents to be filed in the court, including petitions (such as SLP/ Writ Petition/Transfer Petition, etc.), replies/ Counter Affidavit, etc., applications (such as Additional Affidavit/ Miscellaneous Applications, etc.), appeals (revision/review) on behalf of TRAI, as well as prompt removal/curing of defects in appeals/petitions filed; as may be pointed out by the registry;
- (d) Render legal advice to TRAI on civil, criminal, service and such other matters arising in the course of administration of the Authority as are referred to him/her;
- (e) Render considered legal opinion on the issues referred to him/ her by TRAI, including consultation papers/ draft regulations proposed by TRAI, advisability of filing appeals, etc.;
- (f) Apply for the copy of judgment from the court in cases attended by him/her and supply the copy of judicial pronouncements at the earliest but not later than 10 days from the date of order (excluding the time taken by the court in preparation of the copy);
- (g) Keep TRAI informed and updated on all important developments in the designated cases, dates of hearing, order of the court on the date of its pronouncement, supplying copy of judgment etc;
- (h) Furnish monthly statement about the cases represented by him/her before various courts/Tribunals or any other authority and their outcomes.
- (i) Perform such other duties of legal nature which may be assigned to him/her by TRAI.

4. Fees and other conditions:-

- (a) No retainer fee will be paid to any of the empanelled counsel.
- (b) The Authority reserves the right to add or vary the terms and conditions when engaging the counsel.
- (c) The counsel shall have the right to private practice which should not, however, interfere with the efficient discharge of his duties as a counsel for the Authority.



5. Termination:- The Authority may terminate the empanelment of a counsel, by giving one month's prior written notice to the Advocate, without assigning any reason. The counsel may also resign from the panel of TRAI by serving one month's notice, in writing.

6. General terms and conditions:-

- (a) The counsel will be engaged by TRAI on case-to-case basis and the allocation of work will be decided by TRAI.
- (b) The counsel will take necessary steps to protect the interest of the Authority in matters entrusted to him from time to time.
- (c) Engagement does not confer any right or claim that the counsel shall alone be entrusted with the work of the Authority.
- (d) The Authority may, at any time, at its discretion, withdraw from the counsel any proceedings/matter/brief.
- (e) The counsel shall keep TRAI informed regarding the developments in the matters entrusted to him.
- (f) If more than one counsels are engaged, TRAI will decide and allocate the work and assign the cases to them.
- (g) The counsel shall not use Authority's name or symbol, logo in his letter heads, sign boards, name plates etc.
- (h) In case of any misconduct, the Authority will take appropriate action against the counsel which includes filing complaint with Bar Council and recovery of financial loss caused to the Authority due to misconduct of the counsel.
- (i) In case of initiation of any disciplinary proceedings/ criminal proceedings against the counsel, the Authority may remove such counsel from the panel without waiting for the conclusion of such proceedings.
- (j) The counsel shall ensure that during their engagement with TRAI, there is no clash of interest with TRAI vis-à-vis their other clients. The counsel shall not advise any party or accept any case against the Authority in which he has appeared or is likely to be called upon to appear for or to give advice or which is likely to affect or lead to litigation against the Authority.
- (k) The size of panel of counsels will be decided by the Authority from time to time based on the quantum of work. Refusal by any counsel to accept any work otherwise on the ground



of conflict of interest may result in removal of such counsel from the panel. The counsel shall not contest any case against the Authority during their engagement. The engaged counsel shall not delegate the case to any other Advocate. Engaged counsel shall not be treated as employee of the Authority and, therefore, shall not be eligible for any benefit available to its employees.

7. **Confidentiality:** The engaged counsel shall maintain absolute secrecy and confidentiality about the cases of the Authority entrusted to him/ her and any other sensitive information acquired by him/her during the course of defending the Authority or otherwise.

8. The Authority reserves the right to engage any other counsel or Government law officers for any case.

9. The engagement of any counsel shall be at the sole discretion of the Authority and no person shall have any claim for being engaged.

10. **Interpretation:** In case of any doubt relating to the above terms and conditions and in respect of any item not covered by the above terms and conditions, the decision of the Authority shall be final and binding upon the counsel.

11. **Opening and Evaluation of Applications:-**

- (a) The applications will be opened and evaluated by one or more Committees, duly constituted for the said purposes.
- (b) The applications will be examined to determine whether they are in order and in compliance with the requisite formats. Eligibility and compliance to the formats at Annexures-I and II would be the first level of evaluation. Only those applications which comply with the eligibility criteria will be taken up for further evaluation.
- (c) The Committee shall then shortlist the applicants who meet the requisite qualifications and eligibility criteria.
- (d) The Committee may call the shortlisted candidates for personal interviews, which may be held on the date and time fixed by the Authority and in the mode (online or offline) decided by it. No requests for change in the date and time shall be entertained.



Annexure-I

FORMAT OF BIO DATA FOR PANEL COUNSEL

(Application for Grade____)

(1) Name of the Advocate:

(2) Date of Birth:

(3) Educational Qualifications:

(4) Date of enrolment and the name of the Bar Council:

(5) Period of practice:

(6) Details of experience/ practice:

(7) Area of practice:

(8) Specialization, if any (constitution/telecommunication/taxation/services etc)

The details of a few important cases the Advocate has dealt with/handled and reported Judgment, if any.

(9) Brief list of clients eg. Govt./organizations/Commissions/PSUs

(10) The courts where the Advocate is regularly practicing (Enclose Bar Association Membership Certificate)

(11) Experience in Telecom & Broadcasting matter (list out the cases handled in Telecom & Broadcasting, Regulatory, TRAI matter and the results thereof)

(12) A brief note on suitability of the applicant and giving his/her willingness for engagement with TRAI.



Annexure-II

DECLARATION

I declare that I have never been penalized by any Bar Council in any disciplinary proceedings. I also undertake to maintain absolute secrecy about the cases of the Authority.

Signature of Advocate

Address –

Office:

Residence:

Chamber:

Tel. No.-----

Mobile No.-----

Fax No.-----

E-mail.-----

PAN No. -----

GST No. -----

Reveen Ann

Annexure-III

FEES AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The heads/ items of fee per instance and other terms and conditions for Parnel Counsel Grade-I, Grade-II and Grade-III are as under:

S. No.	Item		Fee proposed (in INR)		
			Grade-I	Grade-II	Grade-III
1	Fee for drafting of petitions/appeals/ replies/ written submissions, etc.		7,000	6,500	6,000
2	Fee for drafting Applications/ Caveats, etc.		5,000	4,500	4,000
3	(a) Fee for vetting/ settling of petitions/ appeals/ replies/ etc.		5,000	4,500	4,000
	(b) Fee for vetting/ settling of regulations/ directions/letters etc.		7,000	6,500	6,000
4	Fee for appearance in Courts/ Tribunals in Delhi independently or in association with a Senior Counsel, per effective hearing	Supreme Court	20,000	16,000	15,000
		High Court, TDSAT & other Tribunals, etc.	16,000	12,000	10,000
		District Courts, CMM Courts, CIC, etc.	15,000	8,000	6,000
5	Fee for appearance in outstation Courts/ Tribunals and remaining away from Delhi independently or in association with a Senior Counsel, per effective hearing	High Courts, Tribunals, District Courts, etc.	32,000	20,000	15,000
6	Fee for holding conference with clients/ Senior Advocates	Supreme Court	6,500	5,500	5,000
		High Court, TDSAT & other Tribunals, etc.	5,000	5,000	5,000
		District Court	5,000	3,300	3,000
7	Fee for giving written opinion		5,500	5,500	5,000

Note: TRAI reserves the right to allocate the case to an advocate in any court at the rates proposed.



(i) The Panel Counsel shall be entitled to claim full fees only in case of effective hearing and for non-effective hearing the counsel shall be entitled for 1/4th of the full fees. Effective hearing for the purpose of claiming appearance fee in a case means a hearing in which one or both the parties involved in a case are heard by the court. If the matter is called in its turn and the Counsel is present to represent the Authority and the Court/Tribunal listens to the submissions made by him or by other side or by both and if, thereafter, the Court/Tribunal adjourns the matter, that will be an effective hearing. If the case is mentioned and adjourned or only directions are given or only judgment is delivered by the Court/Tribunal, it would not constitute an effective hearing but will be termed as non-effective hearing.

(ii) Where two or more cases involving substantially identical or similar questions of law or facts are heard together, the counsel will be paid full fee in one case and 1/4th fee for each of the remaining cases.

(iii) When the case is listed for hearing but adjournment is sought at the direction of the Authority, the counsel will be entitled for 1/4th of the applicable fee only in one case irrespective of the number of tagged cases listed for hearing. The fee payable for cases listed for notice or direction shall also be regulated in the similar manner.

(iv) In Case the Panel Counsel or his junior is present in the Court/Tribunal, but the matter is not taken up due to paucity of time or any other reason attributable to Court, the counsel shall be paid 1/4th of the applicable fee only in one case, irrespective of the number of tagged cases listed for hearing.

(v) For cases listed before Registrar Court, 1/4th of the fees will be paid, if the counsel is required to appear.

(vi) For outstation appearance, the expenses towards to and fro travel (By Air) and for stay in hotel (lodging charges only) as applicable to the officers of the level of Joint Advisor in TRAI will be over and above the fees for appearance/ conference payable to the counsel. No other allowances/ expenses shall be admissible.



- (vii) No fee is payable in cases where advance notice of adjournment is received.
- (viii) In case the counsel is busy in one Court/ Tribunal in connection with some case or cases of TRAI and after finishing his work in such Court/ Tribunal, he joins during the course of an effective hearing of a case in another Court/ Tribunal, the counsel shall be entitled to full appearance fee for his appearance in the second Court/ Tribunal in addition to the applicable fee for his appearance in the first Court/ Tribunal. In case only the junior of the counsel appears and takes note in such effective hearing, only 1/4th of the appearance fee shall be payable.
- (ix) Whenever the counsel is unable to appear in a Court/Tribunal for arguing the case on behalf of TRAI due to his pre-occupation in some other Court/Tribunal in connection with the case of some other client, the counsel shall give advance intimation to TRAI so that TRAI may request another counsel to appear and argue in his place and, in such case, the appearance fee shall be paid to the other counsel actually appearing in the case. However, the panel counsel may be required to depute his junior to brief the other counsel and to assist him in the hearing, for which no fee would be paid for the briefing or appearance of the junior.
- (x) In cases where due to exigencies, the Panel Counsel is not able to attend the scheduled briefing of Senior Advocate and his Junior attends such briefing with the Senior Advocate or the officers of TRAI, the counsel shall be paid 1/4th of the applicable fee.
- (xi) Clerkage will be paid at 10% of fee bill (excluding miscellaneous expenses).
- (xii) The miscellaneous expenses such as typing, photocopy, etc. will be paid on actual basis.
- (xiii) The above fees shall be revised every year by 5% of the rates enumerated above.



