

**TWO-DAY TRAINING PROGRAM ON EXPEDITIOUS DISPOSAL OF CRIMINAL TRIAL AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN TRIAL AND INVESTIGATION (BATCH-01 FROM 26 – 27 APRIL 2024 AT HYDERABAD)**



**Background Context**

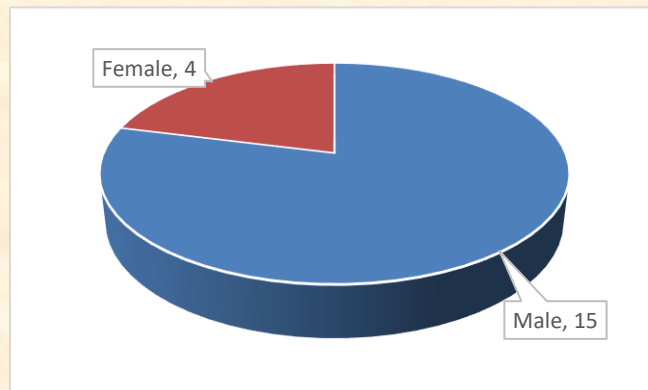
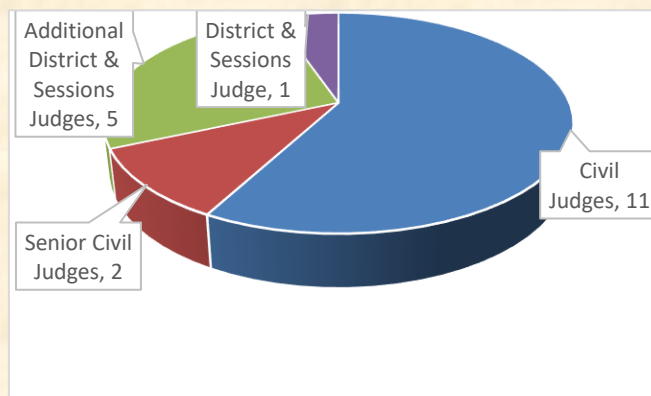
❖ It is a general perception among the litigants and general public that trial at the District Court level takes much time. The High Court of Sindh is making efforts to reduce delays in the trial. Training and monitoring are effective tools to achieve the objectives. Therefore, there was a dire need to plan training for trial court Judges on the subject of ‘expeditious disposal of criminal cases and use of technology.’

❖ The Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) has its mandate to uplift justice sector institutions by using the funds available under the head of the Access to Justice Development Fund (AJDF). There are seven windows and out of them, funds in the legal education window are fixed for Judicial Academies. Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA) applied for the release of funds against training sessions to be conducted at the district level whereby new laws and the use of technology and its advantages were to be shared with the Judges working at the district level.

❖ The SJA with technical assistance and cooperation with the LJCP planned training sessions at the district level for the Judges.

❖ As per project activities, ten (10) programs were to be conducted in different districts of Sindh province. The first program was arranged by associating Judges of districts Hyderabad and Jamshoro. It was a Two-Day training program in which 19 Judges

nominated by the High Court of Sindh vide letter No.Gaz/SJA/Training/2024 dated 24-04-



2024, participated. The letter is marked as Annexure ‘A’. Out of 19 Judges, 11 Civil Judges, 02 Senior Civil Judge, and 05 Additional District & Sessions Judge attended all training sessions. The learned District & Sessions Judge also attended these sessions. There was a reasonable representation of female judges.

## **Salient Proceedings**

❖ The training commenced at 01:00 PM, with a detailed program outlined in Annexure B. **Mr. Muhammad Shahid Shafiq**, District & Sessions Judge/Senior Faculty Member at SJA; **Qazi Muhammad Naeem Siddiqui**, Former Additional District & Sessions Judge; and **Malik Tahir Iqbal**, Advocate High Court of Sindh/Chief Executive Officer at Legal Right Forum led the training sessions.



❖ During the Inaugural Session, **Qazi Muhammad Naeem Siddiqui** supervised participant registration, attendance, Pre-Assessment, and the recitation of the Holy Quran. He warmly welcomed the attendees and provided an overview of the training program.



The following is the outcome of the Pre-Assessment:

On Day 01, the first session was conducted by **Mr. Muhammad Shahid Shafiq** on the subject of “Expeditious Disposal of Criminal Cases.” In this subject, he discussed the Stages of a Trial including the supply of documents; legal aid to victims and accused; framing charge; Recording plea; finalizing the schedule of trial; statement of the accused; recording statement of the accused on oath and of his defense witnesses; Final arguments; and Judgment.

**Mr. Shafiq** also elaborated on the effective role of courts.



❖ In the successive session, **Mr. Muhammad Shahid Shafiq** expounded on the “Use of Technology in Investigation and Trial.”

❖ The third session was conducted by **Malik Tahir Iqbal** on the topic of “Trial Court Role to Protect Victim and Witnesses.” The following subsequent topics were discussed:

- International National and Provincial Witness Protection Laws
- Scheme of International laws
- Articles 24 & 25 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- The Sindh Witness Protection Act, 2013
- Implementation issues

❖ On Day 02, the first session was conducted by **Qazi Muhammad Naeem Siddiqui** on the subject of “Functions of Consumer Courts.” In this subject, he discussed the following topics:

- How a consumer can approach the court?
- Jurisdiction of the consumer court
- Jurisdiction of the consumer court
- Procedure of consumer court – [products]
- Procedure of consumer court – [services]
- Powers of consumer courts
- Maximum time limit for deciding a claim
- What orders court can pass?
- Penalties by consumer court
- Restrictions on grant of damages (in case of products)
- Restrictions on grant of damages (in case of services)
- Act not in derogation of any other law

❖ The second session was conducted by **Mr. Muhammad Shahid Shafiq** on the subjects of “Introduction to Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 and Introduction to Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act 2018.” In these subjects, he discussed the following topics:

- United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 – Palermo Convention
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, 2002
- Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, 2002
- Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Rules, 2020
- In Camera Proceedings (Rule 35)

❖ The third session was also conducted by **Mr. Shafiq** on “Predicate Offence under the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010.” In these subjects, he discussed the following topics:

- The AMLA, 2010
- Definition of Money Laundering
- Role of Magistrate to identify predicate offense

❖ **Qazi. Muhammad Naeem Siddiqui** conducted the final session on “How to record evidence? and Appreciation of Evidence.” He discussed the Relevant Provisions in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. He also engaged the participants in practical exercises on ‘Commissions to examine witnesses.’

❖ The subsequent outcome from the Post-Training Assessment indicates that this training enhanced the participants' understanding of the subjects:

### Conclusion

❖ Overall, training in expeditious trial disposal and technology integration was essential for maintaining the effectiveness, fairness, and public trust in the justice system. The participants learned that the use of technology in trials and investigations enhances the efficiency and accuracy of legal proceedings as it improves the presentation of evidence in court.

❖ Later, participants were awarded certificates.

