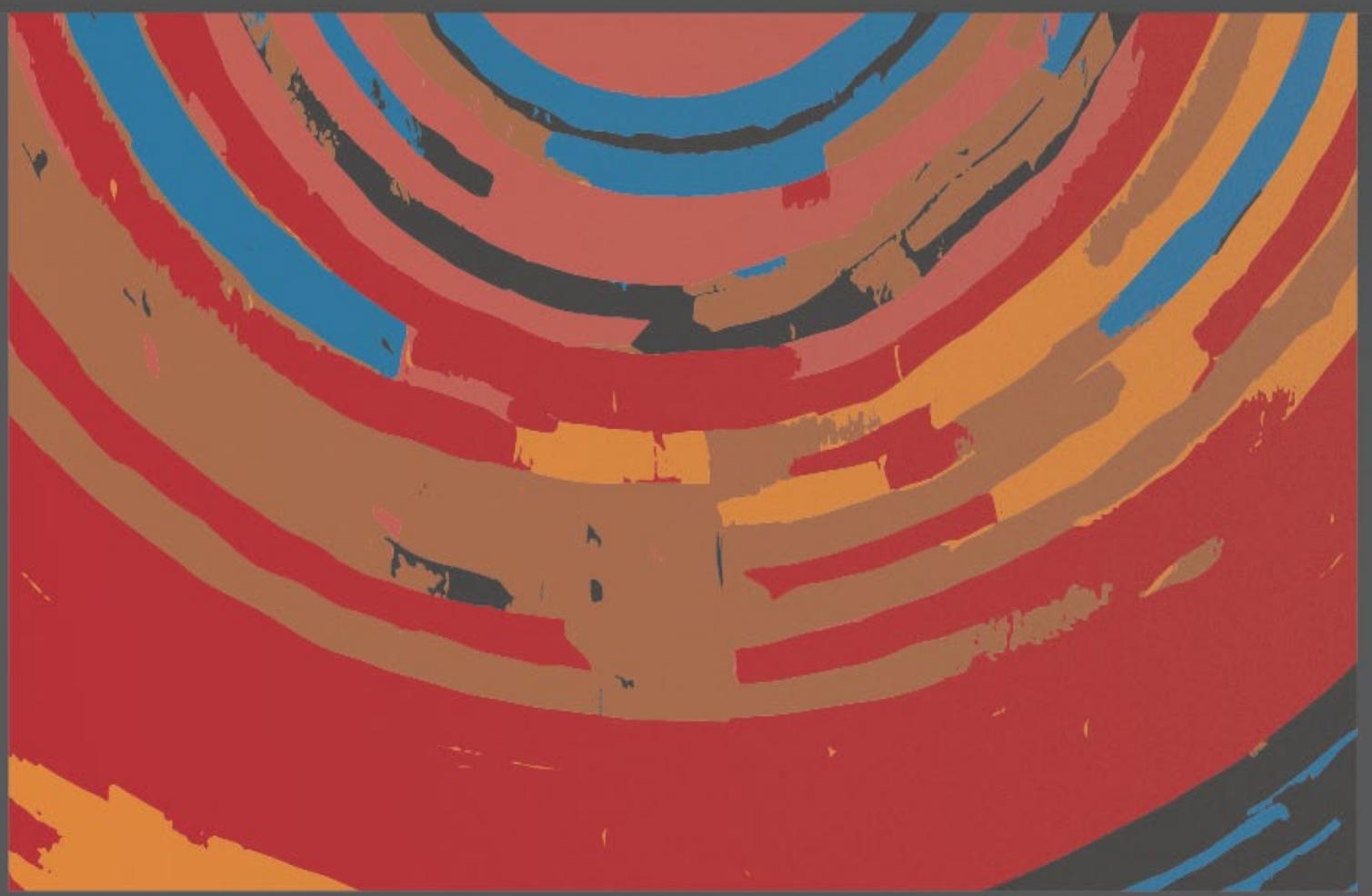




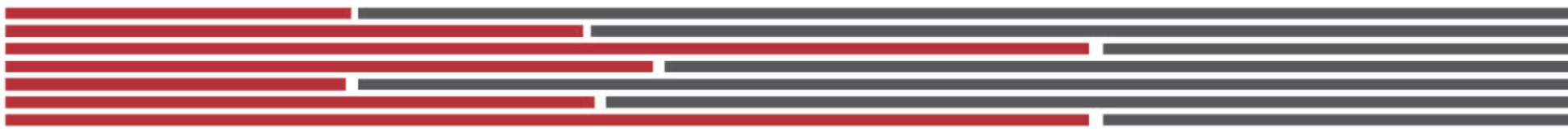
 JUSTICE | Annual
adda | Report

2022-2023





HELLO



We are happy to welcome you to our 2022-23 Annual Report!

This report traces our journey over the last two years, 2022 and 2023, where we fostered new partnerships and continued earlier collaborations. We have worked on some exciting projects, expanded our horizons, explored new mediums and learnt new skills. We were able to generate sustained social impact and create resources that are freely and easily accessible to all. What kept us going was your constant engagement with our content and support for our work. Thank you!

The past couple of years for Justice Adda have been a period of immense growth and innovation. We've fostered collaborations with a variety of organizations dedicated to human rights, explored new channels of communication, and reimaged justice spaces, all while contemplating how to shape a collective commitment to impactful projects that overcome barriers to justice in India.

A significant change in relation to this has been an increase in projects directed at professionals and academics in the legal sphere in parallel with projects directed at individuals and communities. This multi-pronged approach recognises the interplay of various stakeholders. We recognise the need to first address those most affected by barriers to access to justice, primarily those who lack necessary information to negotiate the system. At the same time, there is also a need to provide support to professionals and academics, opening up conversations about how they can contribute to enabling those who are not familiar with the law.

This report reflects the dynamic interaction between our mission, goals, and the practical implementation of our vision through a variety of projects and outputs.

In the upcoming year, our focus remains on amplifying projects centered around the justice user (s). This entails developing models that empower individuals and communities

at the grassroots level, thereby crystallizing our vision of justice that emanates from society's very foundation. We are working harder to continue to create meaningful content which is interesting and relevant to India's diverse regional/cultural contexts.

We've reached a critical juncture as we've progressed through offline events and gradually expanded. It's not just about showcasing our work; it's about sharing our organization's evolution, absorbing knowledge from our diverse projects, and paving the way for collaborative growth. Our collective narrative values development, learning, and the profound transformation of both our organization and the justice landscape through which we operate.



The Team

Collaborators



Siddharth Peter DeSouza
Founder



Aparna Mehrotra
Law & Communication Lead



Naomi T. Jose
Editorial Lead



Siddhi Gupta
Design Lead



Varsha Aithala
Operations Lead



Payal Chandra
Senior Consultant & Legal Advisor



Saumya Varma
Senior Consultant, Parliament & Policy



Rachit Sharma
Associate (Legal Research & Design)



Rajith Nair
Financial Controller



In addition to our core team, We extend our deepest gratitude to Mahak Chhajer, Sharada Kerkar, Teresa Sebastian and Conor McGlynn for their contributions.



Informed to Empowered

By building repositories of information, we endeavour to support individuals and communities to take charge of their own journey to justice.

Empowered to Engaged

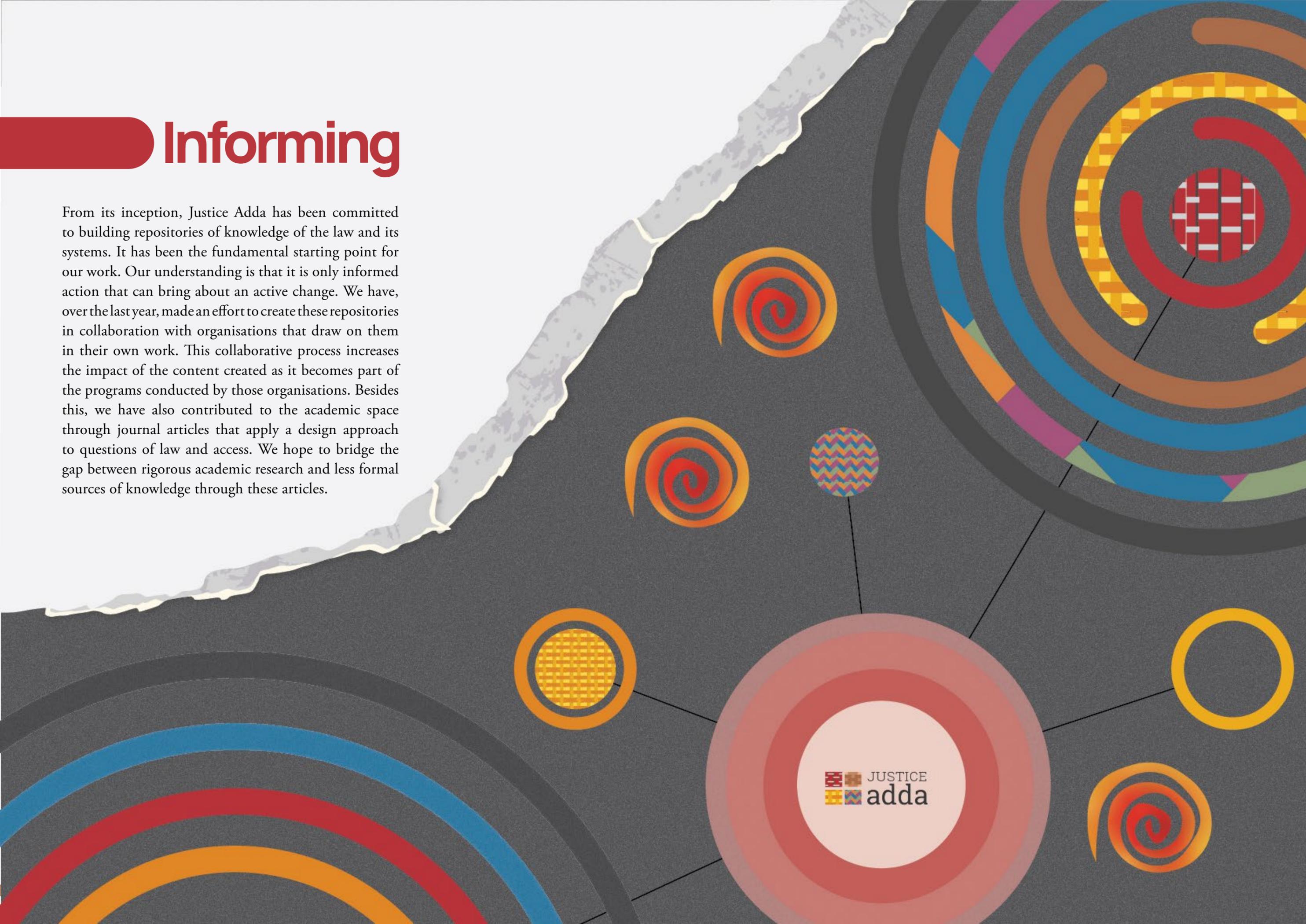
By empowering individuals and communities, we contribute to increasing their interaction with and interrogation of justice systems.

Engaged to Enabling

By engaging people in ideas of justice, we facilitate building communities that are committed to ensuring access to justice for all.

Informing

From its inception, Justice Adda has been committed to building repositories of knowledge of the law and its systems. It has been the fundamental starting point for our work. Our understanding is that it is only informed action that can bring about an active change. We have, over the last year, made an effort to create these repositories in collaboration with organisations that draw on them in their own work. This collaborative process increases the impact of the content created as it becomes part of the programs conducted by those organisations. Besides this, we have also contributed to the academic space through journal articles that apply a design approach to questions of law and access. We hope to bridge the gap between rigorous academic research and less formal sources of knowledge through these articles.

The background of the page is a dark grey, textured surface with a white, torn-paper-like edge at the top. It features several colorful, abstract geometric shapes: a large spiral in the top right, a smaller spiral in the middle left, a circular pattern with a grid of yellow and orange squares in the bottom left, and a large circular pattern with concentric rings of blue, orange, and red in the bottom right. The Justice Adda logo is centered in the bottom right area.

 JUSTICE
adda

Feminist approaches to the future of work

Justice Adda collaborated with the Feminist Approaches to Labour Collectives (FemLab.co) which builds on an understanding of communicative ecologies of women in specific sites of informal labour. The project explores how digital platforms can be leveraged by them to share grievances and communicate directly to the top of the supply chain, allowing their voices to contribute to the governance of the future of work. Here is link to the [project](#).



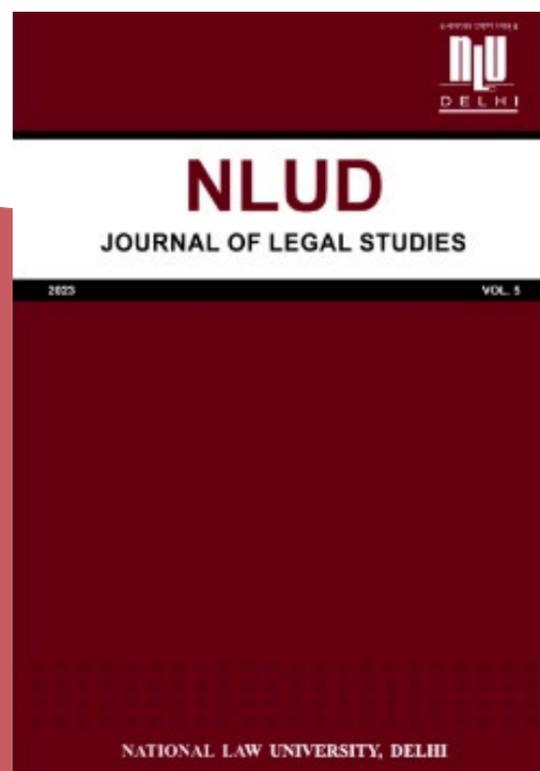
Illustrated Cases of the Indian Supreme Court: Translation Project

In 2018, Justice Adda in partnership with Manupatra produced an e-book of 50 cases of the Supreme Court of India that have influenced public discourse and contributed to debates on access to justice.

Justice Adda translated this e-book into five regional languages, Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Malayalam and Bengali, with support from Manupatra in partnership with the Awaaz Initiative supported by Youth Ki Awaaz in 2023. You can access these judgments [here](#).

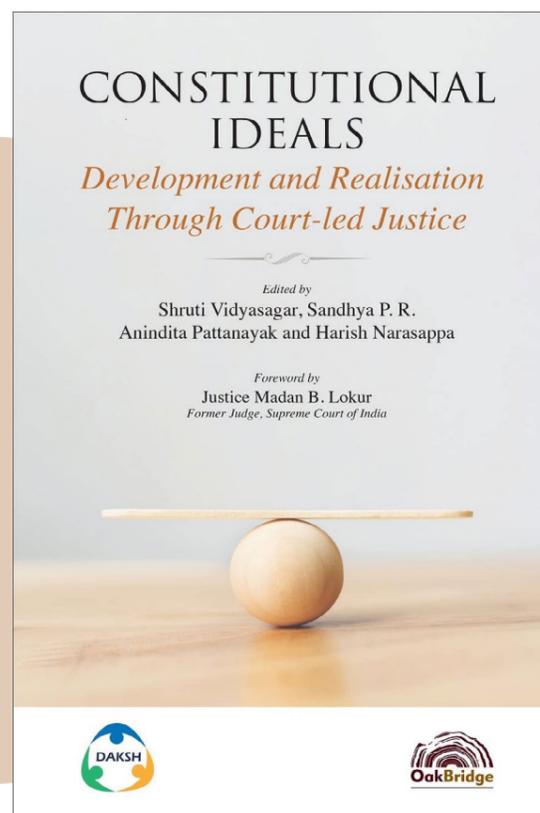


Constitutional Literacy



Siddharth Peter de Souza and Aparna Mehrotra contributed to the fifth volume of the National Law University Delhi Journal of Legal Studies with a research paper titled “Doing Constitutional Literacy in India: Exploring Practices of Making the Constitution a Living Document”. The paper introduces innovative projects aimed at encouraging active participation with the Indian Constitution. Within the paper, practical solutions are discussed to bridge knowledge gaps, empowering individuals and groups to effectively exercise their constitutional rights and address issues related to participation and access to platforms protected by the Constitution. This contribution exemplifies Justice Adda’s commitment to constitutional literacy, promoting engagement with the Indian Constitution through scholarly initiatives. Here is a link to [chapter](#).

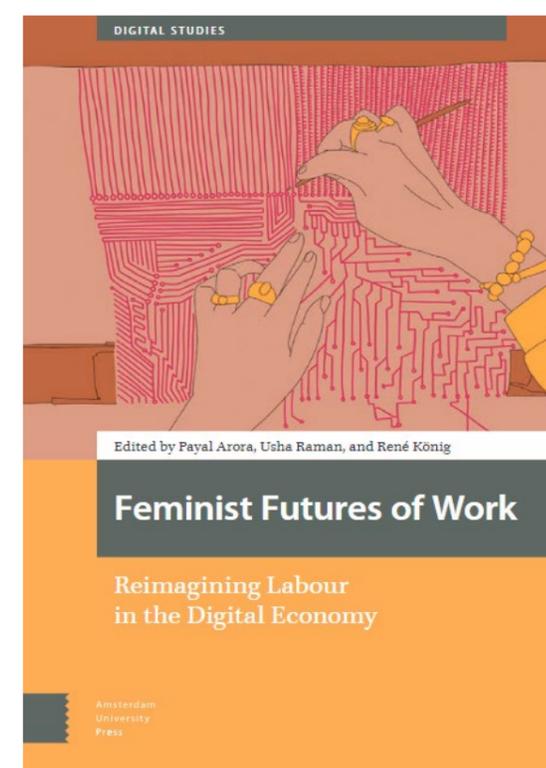
Virtual Justice



Varsha Aithala and Siddharth Peter de Souza provided insights in the chapter titled “Administering Virtual Justice in Times of Suffering During Covid-19,” published in the book “Constitutional Ideals - Development and Realization Through Court-led Justice.” The chapter underscores the significance of digital platforms in maintaining the continuity of justice, especially during challenging times such as the Covid-19 pandemic. This contribution adds valuable perspectives to the discourse on the intersection of constitutional ideals and the evolving landscape of justice administration. Here is a link to the [book](#).

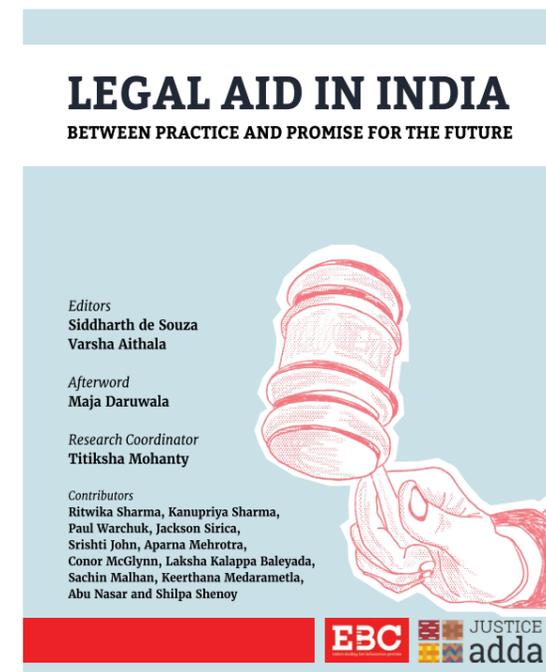
Impact of Storytelling

In the book “Feminist Futures of Work,” Siddharth Peter de Souza and Siddhi Gupta, representing Justice Adda, contributed a paper titled “Why Stories Matter for Representation, Action, and Collectivization.” Their focus centered on the significance of storytelling as a crucial tool for documenting experiences and fostering agency. Emphasizing the potency of stories in presenting diverse perspectives, the chapter argued that narratives play a pivotal role in expanding the vocabulary used to articulate people’s lived realities. This contribution explored storytelling not only as a process but also as a mechanism for amplifying marginalized voices and challenging prevailing norms, particularly in the context of the digital age. The chapter, situated within the broader examination of work and gender in the digital era, presented a compelling case for the transformative power of narratives. Here is a link to the [article](#).



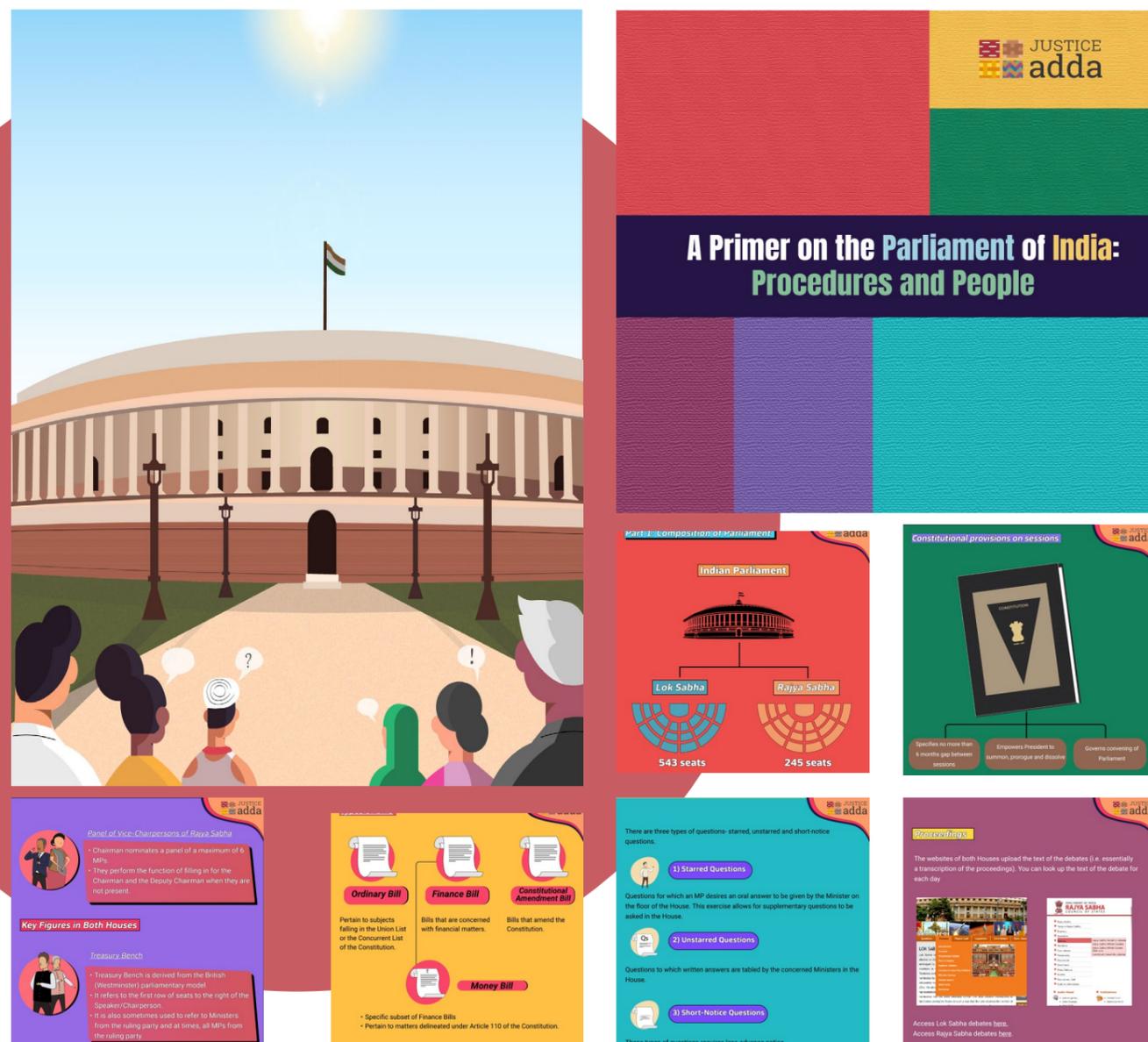
Future of Legal Aid in India

Justice Adda came out with a handbook on legal aid published by Eastern Book Company. The handbook lays out the current architecture, discusses the barriers preventing effective access to legal aid, and provides ideas for designing an effective model for legal aid in India. It draws on comparative legal scholarship and innovations introduced around the world to build the path for reform of India’s legal aid system. Here’s a link to the [handbook](#).



Justice Adda launched the Parliament Primer initiative, with the goal of demystifying the intricate workings of the Indian Parliament. The primer peels back the layers of complexity in the process, shedding light on key stakeholders and providing a comprehensive understanding of our country's democratic heart. The Parliament Primer, which consists of six modules, provides the public with essential insights, transforming the often-confusing realm of parliamentary affairs into an accessible resource. This initiative actively encourages participation in the democratic process by providing citizens with necessary tools and knowledge, resulting in a more informed and empowered citizenry. The primer served as an introduction to 'Sabha', the game on the Indian parliament created by Justice Adda. Here is a link to the [primer](#).

Justice Adda members Siddharth Peter de Souza, Varsha Aithala, Naomi Jose, Conor McGlynn and Teresa Sebastian with Vivek Divan, Gargi Mishra and Disha Verma from C-Help and Vaibhav Bhawsar captured their work of creating an online resource on 'Covid-19 and the Constitution' in an article for the Sur International Journal on Human Rights. The article explains the components of the timeline on the subject with impactful stories, legal and policy responses and detailed analysis presented by the authors. It describes their motivations, aims and the methodologies which informed the project aimed at developing rights-based responses to public health challenges in the country. You can find the article [here](#).



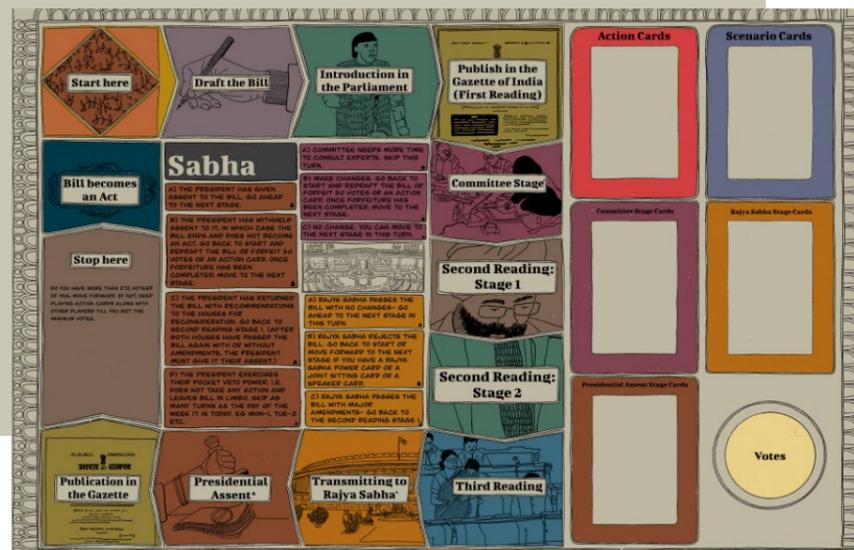
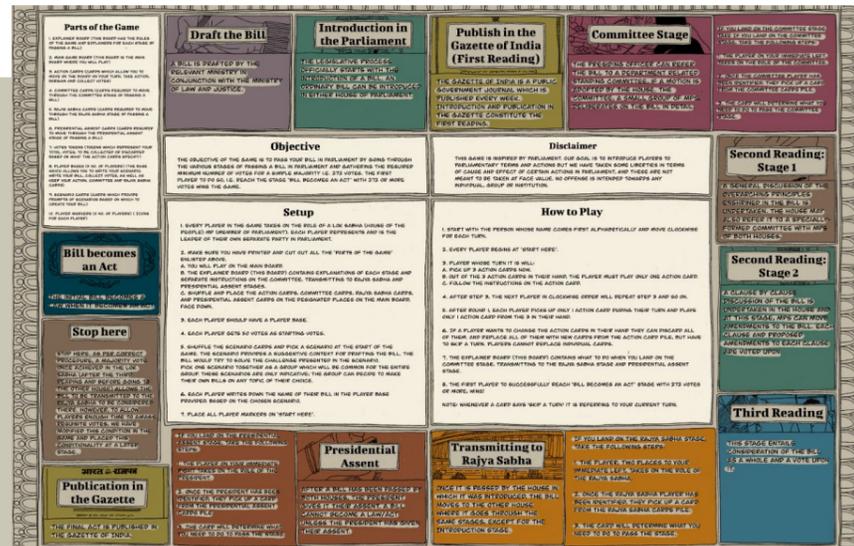


Empowering

Justice Adda is dedicated to creating dynamic spaces for engagement, encouraging conversations that can form the foundation to user centric solutions to obstacles to access to justice. By forging strategic partnerships and designing innovative tools and content, we strive to build a community of thinkers and practitioners committed to driving positive change within the legal landscape.

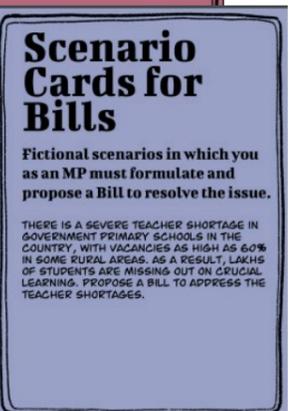
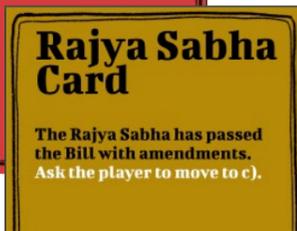
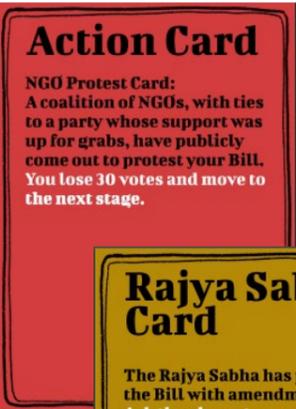
Sabha- a board game on the Indian Parliament

Justice Adda, in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation India, unveiled “Sabha”. Sabha is a dynamic simulation of India’s Parliament and the intricate law-making process. The game invites players to navigate the complexities of law-making, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and compromises inherent in the legislative process. It is available as a free and open-ended “print-and-play” model. The ultimate goal of Sabha is to empower ordinary people by educating them about the Indian Parliament and encouraging active participation in the creation of our nation’s laws. Here is a link to [Sabha](#).



Exploring digitalization and judiciaries in Asia

Justice Adda participated in a two-day workshop that brought together members of civil society groups, the judiciary, researchers, practitioners, and academics from countries including Singapore, China, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines. This workshop was organised by Tilburg University and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Rule of Law in Asia Program acted as a nexus for exploring the intersection of judiciary and legal technology. Participants delved into the promises, challenges, and effects of technology on justice systems, with a keen focus on transparency, accountability, and addressing digital divides. The conference featured panels that offered a thorough exploration of the judiciary’s motivations, transparency and accountability in legal technology, and the broader implications for safeguarding basic rights. Through this initiative, Justice Adda actively engaged academic professionals in meaningful discussions and offered a platform for collaborative efforts to shape the future of justice in the digital age.



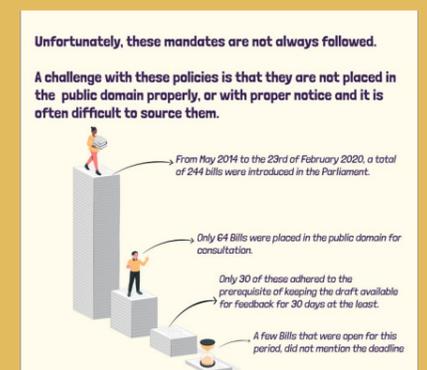
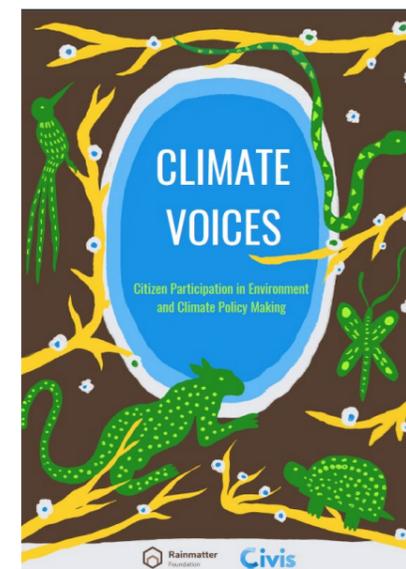
International Workshop Retreat with FemLab.Co

In a collaborative effort with FemLab.Co (with partners from the University of Hyderabad and Erasmus University Rotterdam), Justice Adda co-moderated and designed a transformative workshop retreat held in Leusden, The Netherlands. This event, spanning from March 10-12, 2023, served as a dynamic platform, bringing together a diverse group of designers, artists, activists, researchers, and scholars from across the globe. Focused on feminist work principles, worker-centric approaches, and the ethics of care, the retreat provided a unique space for participants to engage in thought-provoking conversations. By sharing experiences and exploring the application of feminist principles in various work contexts, the workshop fostered an inclusive and empowering environment, inspiring action-oriented research and collaborative endeavors among academic professionals.



Promoting Public Participation: Pre-Legislative Consultation Project

Justice Adda embarked on a project to promote the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy in India in collaboration with Civis. This initiative aims to promote the public consultation process by providing in-depth explanations of its various components. The project discusses the role of Civis in amplifying citizen voices, the benefits of active participation, and inspiring success stories from previous engagements. Additionally, Justice Adda and Civis joined forces to create the 'Climate Voices' handbook, supported by the Rainmatter Foundation. This handbook serves as a comprehensive guide, empowering individuals to actively participate in the development of environmental legislation in India. Filled with real-life examples, the guide underscores the importance of public consultations in providing a platform for diverse voices to shape climate policies, fostering a more inclusive and participatory approach to environmental governance. You can access the primer [here](#).



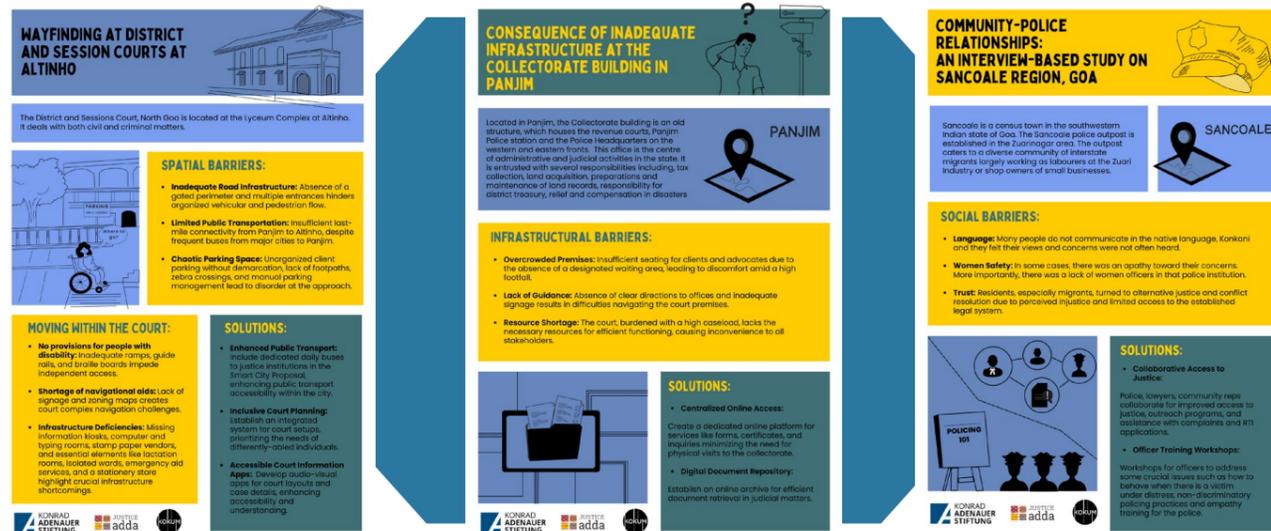
Enabling

Embracing the impactful role of design thinking in the legal realm, Justice Adda is at the forefront of pioneering an approach that not only empowers users but also propels them into meaningful action. Through innovative initiatives, we bring together a diverse array of experts, professionals, and audiences, fostering collaboration that seamlessly transcends traditional barriers. In our quest to expand accessibility, we employ strategies, ensuring that both the general audience and professionals can engage seamlessly. By marrying design thinking with legal expertise, we create a dynamic space that not only equips users with the tools to navigate legal complexities but also mobilizes them to actively participate in shaping a more just and accessible legal landscape



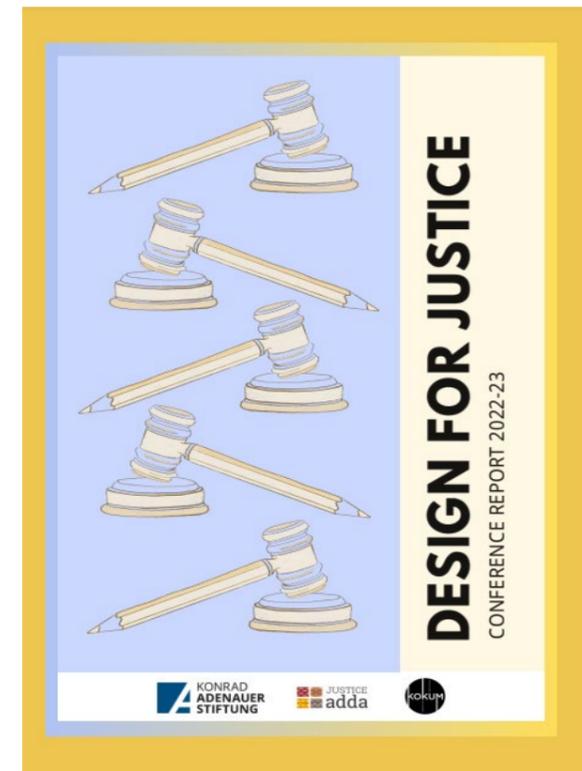
Design for Justice Fellowship

Justice Adda, in collaboration with Kokum Design Trust and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, proudly launched the “Design for Justice Fellowship” in September 2022- December 2022. This innovative fellowship brought together students from diverse backgrounds, including law, architecture, p engineering, and design, alongside domain experts, researchers, and activists. The participants, hailing from institutions such as Goa College of Architecture, Salgaocar Law College, and BITS-Goa, collaborated to reimagine justice institutions and tackle access to justice challenges in Goa. This immersive experience enabled them to explore innovative ways to enhance accessibility, distribute resources equitably, and incorporate restorative justice. Link to the [study](#).



Design for Justice Conference

As a followup to the “Design for Justice” fellowship, Justice Adda organized the “Design for Justice” conference in Goa on January 7, 2023. This conference aimed to reshape and redesign justice institutions with a focus on meeting the needs of marginalized users. Building upon the insights gathered from the Design for Justice Fellowship, the conference facilitated a discourse among over 15 experts and stakeholders, including lawyers, judges, activists, designers, and students. Through interactive discussions on the role of design in justice, the challenges of redesigning institutions, and the needs of marginalized users, the conference paved the way for a design sprint. This collaborative effort visualized the collective understanding of justice and explored practical avenues for implementing insights gained from the conference, bridging the gap between design thinking and tangible actions in the realm of justice. Here’s a link to the [conference report](#).



Legal Design Training for the Canadian Bar Association

Siddharth Peter de Souza, founder of Justice Adda, and Mahak Chhajer, co-founder the d-Van joined forces to conduct a legal design workshop as part of the CBA Young Lawyers International Program (YLIP). This workshop centred around the transformative role of design in enhancing the usability of legal services for clients and fostering future-ready legal organizations. Participants were introduced to innovative and creative approaches, marking a collaborative effort to make legal services more user-centric.



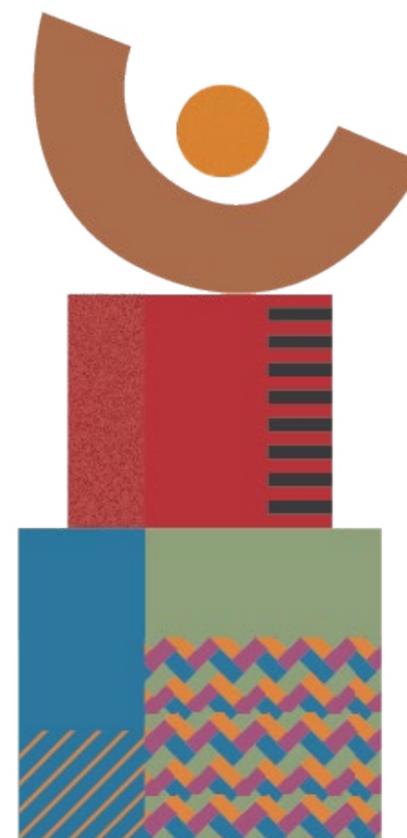
Looking Forward

Civic AI Lab

Civic AI lab is an ICAI lab, with partners University of Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, City of Amsterdam and Ministry of Interior. Its mission is to support an engaging society where all people have equal opportunity to participate and benefit from using artificial intelligence (AI). In 2023, Justice Adda in partnership with the Civic AI Lab received COMMIT funding to develop a new AI science communication website. The new AI information resource website will deploy creative and relatable visuals and storytelling, interactive elements, and accessible language to relate information on AI. The aim of the website is to make the reader a partner to this information communication process, so that previously excluded voices in the conversation around this critical technology can be amplified. The website will be launched in May, 2024.

Collaborative project: 'Reading between the Lines'

In 2023, Justice Adda joined an international consortium of academics and civic organisations for an initiative called 'Reading between the Lines.' The initiative is a youth-centred approach to explore (in)equality of opportunities for physical, mental and social health at the interface of the online and offline society. The initiative is led by Netherlands-based New Momentum, a social venture to promote media literacy and stimulate open debate for resilient digital democracies. Other consortium partners include the Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Rotterdam and the Rathenau Instituut, among others. The project will be executed from 2024-2026.



Law and Everyday Life

Justice Adda is introducing 'Law and Everyday Life', a learning toolkit on locating and actioning the law in our civic spaces. We encounter the law everyday in the various spaces we occupy- at the traffic signal, on product packaging, during elections. The toolkit speaks to a young audience about how the law intersects with their everyday life. It encourages meaningful and active engagement through design thinking and storytelling. The topics covered relate to those fundamentals of the law that enable us to be active and aware members of the community. It hopes to be a guide for you for the first time you enter a courtroom, speak to a police officer or lawyer, draft an RTI enquiry or for when you try to understand the Constitution better. This toolkit includes an interactive workbook, workshop templates and infographics, provided in a modular format. The toolkit with its different constituents is aimed at CSOs, NGOs, legal aid societies, organizations that work on the ground and typically with those outside of formal education system. However, various combinations of the elements can be used even by individuals directly depending on context and requirements.

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