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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**
+ **W.P.(C) 7902/2019**
AKASH VERMA Petitioner
Through Mr Nikhil Sharma, Advocate.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ANR. Respondents
Through Mr Ripu Daman Singh Bhardwaj, CGSC
Mr Anil Soni, CGSC with Mr Abhieshek Khanna
GP for R1.
Mr Preet Pal Singh, Mr Saurabh Sharma,
Advocates for BCI.
Mr Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, CGSC with Mr T.P.
Singh, Advocates for UOI.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIBHU BAKHRU

ORDER

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23.07.2019

CM APPL. 32753/2019

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.
2. The application is disposed of.

W.P.(C) 7902/2019 & CM APPL. 32752/2019

3. The petitioner has filed the present petition, *inter alia*, impugning the advertisement dated 28.05.2019 issued by the Government of NCT of Delhi, inviting applications from graduates in Law for appointment as Legal Research Associates on contract basis. It is pointed out that the educational qualification as stipulated in the said notice is “*Five year integrated bachelor's degree in Law from the recognized university or National Law University with not less than 60% marks or equivalent CGPA in aggregate of all semesters/years upto final examination*”.

4. It is the petitioner's case that restricting the applicants only to those graduates who had completed a five-year integrated bachelor's degree is arbitrary and unreasonable and this amounts to hostile discrimination against those candidates who had completed a three-year degree course from a recognized university.

5. *Prima facie*, the challenge in the present petition is merited as both the qualifications are of equivalent value.

6. Issue notice. Learned counsel appearing for the respondent accepts notice and seeks time to file the counter affidavit. Let the same be filed within a period of two weeks. Rejoinder, if any, be filed within a period of one week, thereafter.

7. It is clarified that in the meanwhile, the respondent shall not process any application pursuant to the notice issued on 28.05.2019. It is further clarified that the respondents are at liberty to issue an amended notice including the three-year degree in Law from a recognized university as an acceptable educational qualification.

8. It is clarified that if such an amended notice is issued then this order will not come in the way of the respondents to receive and process the applications pursuant to the amended notice.

9. List on 06.09.2019.

VIBHU BAKHRU, J

JULY 23, 2019/pkv