

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31.12.2024

Presented to the Parliament Pursuant to Section 10 of the
Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act No. 46 of 1985

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report 2024

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

Sri Lanka

VISION

We will serve as an institute of excellence for the judicial training and providing most advanced training and research facilities for Judges with a view to improving the professional expertise of judges and advancing their knowledge to achieve the justice system that is credible, impartial, independent, user-friendly and accessible to all.

MISSION

We will work towards achieving our vision by providing judicial officers with advanced knowledge and skills to improve the professional expertise of judicial officers and the quality of justice through various programs and activities.

The Sri Lanka Judges' Institute will seek to fulfill its **MISSION** by contributing to the following goals:

- Providing continuous training for judicial officers;
- Providing support for judicial officers through research, publications and technical assistance;
- Providing facilities for the exchange of views and ideas on judicial and legal matters by judicial officers
- Organizing and holding seminars, conferences, lectures, and workshops with a view to improving the professional expertise of judicial officers and advancing their knowledge and skills
- Contributing to the development of guidelines for best practices in delay reduction by way of case management and case flow management
- Conducting research activities on various aspects of administration of justice
- Providing library and web-based educational facilities and dissemination of legal information and material for judges
- Maintaining interacts with international judicial institutions
- Contributing to the law reforms towards providing redress to litigants in order to uphold public trust and confidence in the judicial system
- Contributing to the development and implementation of national policy and procedures regarding administration of justice and access to justice.

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Chairman's Message

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Message of the Honourable Chief Justice / Chairperson, Sri Lanka Judges Institute

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Judges Institute. If I may reflect on the past year, our journey was marked by resilience, growth, and an unwavering dedication to judicial excellence. Despite operating with limited financial and human resources, the Judges Institute has remained steadfast in its mission to strengthen the judiciary through innovative capacity-building initiatives.

The administration of justice is the cornerstone of a just society, and its efficacy depends on the competence, integrity, and adaptability of the judiciary. As the guardians of the rule of law, judges must continuously enhance their knowledge, skills, and professional judgment to meet the evolving demands of our legal system. The Sri Lanka Judges Institute remains steadfast in its mission to equip judicial officers with the tools necessary to uphold fairness, efficiency, and public trust in the courts.

Capacity-building is not merely an institutional obligation—it is a duty we owe to the people of Sri Lanka. When judges are empowered through rigorous training, exposure to best practices, and a deepened understanding of contemporary legal challenges, the entire justice system benefits. Timely, transparent, and equitable justice is the ultimate outcome, reinforcing confidence in the judiciary as a pillar of democracy.

A key milestone during the past year was the successful implementation of Training of Trainers (TOT) programs, empowering our resource persons with advanced pedagogical skills to further enhance the quality of judicial education.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the generous support of international donor agencies, whose contributions have been vital in advancing our goals. Their collaboration has not only provided technical assistance but also enriched our programs with global best practices, enabling us to overcome constraints and achieve meaningful progress in judicial capacity building.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Board of Management, the Director, and the dedicated staff of the Sri Lanka Judges Institute for their tireless contributions and hard work which has been instrumental in driving the Institute forward.

I commend the Sri Lanka Judges Institute for its unwavering commitment to judicial excellence. As we look ahead, we are inspired by the progress made and the lessons learned. Moving forward, we remain resolute in our pursuit of excellence, upholding the rule of law, and delivering justice with integrity and fairness. Together, we must ensure that the law remains a living instrument of justice, accessible to all and capable of addressing the needs of our nation.



Mrs. Murdu N. B. Fernando, P.C.

Chief Justice/Chairperson Sri Lanka Judges Institute

Director's Statement



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Sri Lanka Judges' Institute



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Director's Message for the Annual Report 2024

As we reflect on the year 2024, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I present this annual report, documenting the challenges, achievements, and transformative strides made by the Sri Lanka Judges Institute (SLJI). This year has been one of historic progress, marked by collaborative efforts, institutional strengthening, and a renewed commitment to judicial excellence.

The year presented its share of challenges, particularly in addressing the persistent issue of case backlogs that hinder timely justice delivery. However, through innovation, capacity-building, and strategic partnerships, we made significant progress in enhancing judicial efficiency.

A cornerstone of this success was the Case Management and Performance (CMP) Program, initiated in collaboration with the USAID (EEJ) Activity. This program laid a firm foundation in streamlining court processes, optimizing case flow management, and equipping judicial officers with the tools to reduce delays. The impact of this initiative has been profound, setting a benchmark for sustainable reforms in case backlog reduction.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the JURE Project (UNDP/UNICEF) for their invaluable technical assistance, which has strengthened our training programs and institutional frameworks. Their support has been instrumental in fostering a more efficient, transparent, and child-sensitive justice system.

July 2024 marked a defining moment in the SLJI's journey when we engaged in high-level discussions with the Treasury Department and the Department of Management Services. These discussions culminated in a historic consensus—that the SLJI should function as an independent institute, empowered to elevate judicial training and standards. This recognition paves the way for greater autonomy, enhanced resource allocation, and long-term institutional development, ensuring that the SLJI can better serve the judiciary and the people of Sri Lanka.

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None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our judicial officers, the support of our partners, and the commitment of all stakeholders. We extend our deepest gratitude to the USAID EEJ Activity for their visionary partnership in the CMP Program and backlog reduction efforts. Our special gratitude to the JURE Project (UNDP/UNICEF) for their technical expertise and unwavering support. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Treasury Department and the Department of Management Services for recognizing the importance of SLJI's independence and for their commitment to advancing judicial standards. We are also deeply grateful to the Ministry of Justice for their invaluable support in elevating the standards of SLJI. I express my deep appreciation to the Honorable Chief Justice and the members of the Board of Management for their steadfast guidance and unwavering support during a particularly challenging period for the SLJI. Their leadership served as a pillar of strength, enabling the Institute to navigate severe financial constraints with resilience. I am grateful to the Board's prudent direction, the Institute emerged stronger in the face of adversity. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff, whose relentless efforts and commitment were instrumental in achieving the Institute's goals.

As we move forward, the SLJI remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen judicial capacity, enhance efficiency, and uphold the rule of law. The foundation laid in 2024 will serve as a springboard for even greater advancements in the years to come.

With renewed determination,



Justice Mahinda Samayawardhene
Judge of the Supreme Court
Director, Sri Lanka Judges Institute

Introduction

The Sri Lanka Judges' institute was established by an Act of parliament titled "Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act No; 46 of 1985" to provide for the establishment of a Judges' Institute and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Objectives of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

The objectives of establishing the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute are as follows:

1. To provide facilities for the exchange of views and ideas on judicial and legal matters by judicial officers;
2. To organize and hold meetings, conferences, lectures, workshops and seminars with a view to improving the professional expertise of judicial officers and advancing their knowledge and skills;
3. To formulate and conduct training and research courses in various aspects of the administration of justice;
4. To provide library facilities and other educational material for judicial officers.

History of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute holds the rare distinction of being the only judicial institution in Sri Lanka in providing judicial education and training for Sri Lankan Judicial officers and enhancing their professional standards.

Before the Judges' Institute was established, the only training the judicial officers had, before they assumed their judicial duties, was a few weeks of court observation sitting with the presiding judge. It was strongly felt that judges who administer justice must have the training not only before they commence their judicial career, but that the training is a continuous process throughout their judicial career. It was then realized that an in-depth and regular training institute for judicial officers should be designed and set up where judicial officers of all ranks would get judicial training on regular basis.

The idea of a Judges' Institute was first mooted by Mr. P.B. Herath, then Secretary, the Ministry of Justice who having seen such an institute in France had written an article to the Newsletter of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka in 1982. But, as is usual, nothing was done about it and it was a voice in the wilderness. Mr. P.B. Herath who was the first to think of the Judges' Institute as Secretary, Justice was a steady source of encouragement to the Institute and became a very strong ally of the Institute.

Together they mooted the forming of a Judges' Institute for the provision of in-service continued legal education for Judges and Justice J.F.A. Soza was appointed the Director of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute on 02 May 1984. The question of funding had already been discussed with Mr. John Guyer, the Resident Representative of Asia Foundation. The first thing to be done was to find premises to house the new Institute. After looking at various alternatives, the Annex of Sri Lanka Foundation was taken on rent for one year. Steps were taken to furnish it. This was all done through the munificence of Asia Foundation. Some Seminars were held thereafter but only ad hoc programs could be put through as approval of the Government had to be obtained. A Cabinet Paper was prepared, but it was not clear whether the Government's approval was available.

Some excellent addresses were delivered and the discourses were of a very high standard. A Guest Speaker at this Seminar was Judge Clifford Wallace, Asia Foundation's Senior Advisor on Legal Systems and Judicial Administration and a distinguished Judge of the 9th Circuit of United States Court of Appeals.

The nascent Judges' Institute had its birth pangs. It was fortunate that Dr. A.R.B. Amerasinghe an

outstanding intellect and a man of vision was there to espouse its cause. His name has to be written largely in the genesis of the Judges' Institute as efforts resulted in the eventual establishment of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute by an Act of parliament titled "Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act No.46 of 1985 which was certified on 20th November 1985. Justice Soza was formally appointed the Director with effect from 1st January 1986. Since then, the judges' institute has by organizing Seminars, Workshops, and Practice Notes and with an on-going advisory Service served the judges in every possible way. In 1990, Justice Soza was fortunate to be given the assistance of Justice K. Viknarajah, who joined as Deputy Director and Mr. P. Neville A. de Silva who joined the institute as its secretary on retirement from the Chief Justice's Secretariat.

The Judges' Institute is run by a Board of Management headed by the Chief Justice as Chairman ex-officio, and two appointed members, generally the two most senior Judges of the Supreme Court. The Administration and management of the Judges' Institute was vested in the Board of Management.

The first Chairman of the Board of Management of the Judges' Institute was Chief Justice S. Sharvananda who was a keen supporter of the Institute. He was followed by Chief Justice Parinda Ranasinghe. He had himself been a member of the Judiciary and he threw himself wholeheartedly into the affairs of the Institute. He participated in all its seminars and activities. He held discussions with Lawyers and Surveyors at the seminars and set up Monitoring Committees with a view to establishing cordial relations between bench and bar. The Institute will always remember him.

Thereafter Justice H.D. Tambiah became the chairman of the board of management having being appointed the Chief Justice who by that time had already served as a member of the Board of Management and made an important contribution in the progress of the institute. Mr. A.S. Wijethunga who was the then Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission also played a key role in the pioneering efforts of the institute to get on its feet. He was then the president of the Court of Appeal and still evinced an abiding interest in the institute. His successor Mr. Lal Peris and his assistant Mr. S. Withanachchi also maintained an unflinching interest in the institute. They have bestowed a solicitous concern for the welfare of the institute and they were a tower of strength to the institute.

Judges' Institute expresses our gratitude to Asia Foundation earlier headed by Mr. John Guyer and thereafter by Mr. Nick Langton to whose support the Institute owes its very existence. Our Institute, we are proud to say, is one of the prime concerns of the Foundation and a beneficiary of its largesse. The Institute was thereafter located in the premises of the Supreme Court at Hulftsdorp and the expenses of the maintenance were borne by the State. The Institute has drawn on the expertise and

experience of Senior Judges of the appellate Courts on judicial matters and Senior Officials of the Ministry of Justice on Administrative matters in formulating Training programs for trial court Judges. In November 1990 Dr. Paul M.Li, Executive Director, California Centre for Judicial Education and Research, visited Sri Lanka and formulated a project to enable the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute to provide, on a three-year pilot basis, a comprehensive educational training system for the judiciary as follows:

1. A six-month, professional education program for new members of the Sri Lanka Judiciary, with later continuing education to update and enhance their judicial knowledge and skills;
2. Separate one-month, in-service orientation programs for judges newly elevated to District Courts and High Courts;
3. Annual in-service continuing education conferences for, respectively, Magistrates, District Court Judges, High Court Judges, and Appellate Court Judges, to assist them in keeping up-to-date on new legal developments, meeting common and individual court problems, and standardizing local court practices and procedures.
4. Periodic one-week, advance judicial studies programs on such important judicial subjects as court management, communication skills, courtroom fairness to women and minorities, judicial fact finding and decision-making and jurisprudence and the humanities and in handling specialized court duty assignments involving matters of family law, juvenile law, criminal law, civil law, probate and mental health law, land and partition law, and human rights law;
5. The initiation of comprehensive set of everyday working tools (bench books, checklists with spoken words and written forms, manuals, and other reference materials) for the judiciary, including audio and video taped educational materials (with basic library facilities for Judges in the Courts);
6. An effective judicial faculty development program for Judge-teachers;

7. On-going research and development programs for improving court operations and overcoming court delay, and for enhancing the ethical conduct and public accountability of judges;
8. The design and possible rental or future construction of a training facility, with appropriate classrooms, offices, audio-visual equipment and other resources, to implement the above judicial education system.

The purpose of this project was to promote quality justice and strengthen the rule of law as for the fair, speedy and effective administration of justice. It is an imperative that the members of the judiciary be properly equipped for their roles and responsibilities. This required not only proper training for judges at the time of assuming office, but also continuing education throughout their tenure of office. The quality of justice will depend on how good the judges are. Laws alone are not enough. The justice administered will be only as good as the Judges who administer it. Countries all over the world committed to the rule of law have realized this and have training and education programs for the Judges.

During this period, the Institute was accommodated in the premises of the Supreme Court in Room No. 1308. The Board of Management of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute appointed Justice K. Viknarajah, retired Judge of the Court of Appeal as the Deputy Director who along with Justice J.F.A. Soza conducted in-service training for judicial officers. After Justice K. Viknarajah left the Institute, Justice S.J.D. de S. Wijeyeratne, retired Judge of the Court of Appeal assumed duties as the Deputy Director in 1986. Thereafter Justice P.H.K. Kulathilake, retired Judge of the Court of Appeal was appointed as the Deputy Director in 2002, who with his immense knowledge and experience as a member of the Attorney-General's Department, a High Court Judge and a Judge of the Court of Appeal was an asset to the Judges' Institute and a mentor to judicial officers.

After the retirement of Chief Justice G.P.S. de Silva, Justice Sarath N. Silva was appointed as the Chief Justice in 2000. Chief Justice Sarath N. Silva was a tower of strength to the Judges' Institute. He permitted his official Bungalow at Wijerama Mawatha to be used as the Judges' Institute and made the funds of the Legal and Judicial Reforms Project available for conducting training for judicial officers.

Chief Justice Sarath N. Silva initiated long term judicial training by initiating foreign scholarships for judicial officers with the support of the Legal and Judicial Reforms project of the Ministry of Justice, Law Reforms and National Integration in association with the World Bank. One of the

objectives of this Project was to establish a modern judicial system capable of efficiently and competently adjudicating disputes. The integral part of the project was to fund, training for the judiciary and to develop comprehensive training program for both new and in-service judges, with special focus on commercial law. To this end, the project funded the total costs of studying for a LLM program for 3 members of the Judiciary per year including tuition, travel, accommodation and reasonable costs of subsistence.

Chief Justice Sarath N. Silva also initiated computer training for judicial officers and the court staff at the Institute which was located at that time in his official Bungalow at Wijerama Mawatha. During his period the construction of a new building to the Ministry of Justice was made and the Institute was allotted the 5th floor and a part of the 4th floor was allotted as the Judges' Residences. The Institute is grateful to Chief Justice Sarath N. Silva for supporting the Institute and throwing himself wholeheartedly into the affairs of the Institute during his tenure of office from 2000 to 2009. The Institute always remembers him.

Justice J.F.A. Soza who was the founder Director and served the Institute as its Director for more than 21 years retired in 2008 having rendered a yeoman service to the Judges' Institute and Judicial officers. Justice J.F.A. Soza continues to be our inspiration and he will be in our memories for ever. After the retirement of Justice Soza, Justice Nissanka Udalgama, retired Judge of the Supreme Court was appointed as the Director in 2008 and Justice Udalgama functioned as the Director till 2011. During his period, Justice Nissanka Udalgama initiated the first web site of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. Justice J.F.A. Soza, Justice Udalgama and Justice P.H.K. Kulatilake were instrumental in publishing more than 10 Course materials on criminal, civil, commercial matters, Case Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution for judicial officers with the assistance of Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court. Justice Nissanka Udalgama! We salute you for all you did to the Institute.

After the retirement of Chief Justice Sarath Silva, Justice Asoka Silva was appointed the Chief Justice in 2009. During his period, Justice P.H.K. Kulatilake was appointed the Additional Director in 2009 and in 2011 he was appointed as Co- Director with Justice T.B. Weerasuriya, retired Judge of the Supreme Court. Justice T.B. Weerasuriya and Justice Kulatilake served the Institute with distinction and trained both civil and criminal judges with their immense experience and knowledge as judges of the Superior Courts. The Institute takes this opportunity to pay tribute to both of them for rendering a yeoman service to the Institute and the Judiciary. We always remember them as our great mentors.

Chief Justice Asoka Silva concentrated more on judicial education and training. Chief Justice Asoka

Silva restructured training programs and training contents with the assistance of the Institute. Several workshops were conducted for High Court Judges and Judicial Officers. Chief Justice Asoka Silva himself participated in several such seminars and supported all activities of the Institute. During this period several training modules were published and Chief Justice Asoka Silva obtained the services of both in-service judges and retired judges as resource persons for judicial training. Chief Justice Asoka Silva instructed the Institute to invite High Court Judges to train trainee judges.

Also, during this period, the Judges' Institute was located in the New Building of the Ministry of Justice and the Institute is grateful to Mr. Suhada Gamlath, the then Secretary to the Ministry of Justice for taking steps to establish a Judges' Institute with a new auditorium, a computer lab, a library and Judges' Residences. The Institute will remember you for your efforts to provide the judicial officers with a new Judges' Institute. The Institute is indebted to the UNDP for donating all equipment required for the computer lab, auditorium and the library and providing furniture for the Judges' Residences.

After the retirement of Chief Justice Asoka Silva, Justice Shirani A. Bandaranayaka was appointed as the Chief Justice in 2011 and she became the Chairperson of the Board of Management of the Institute. Justice T.B. Weerasuriya and Justice P.H.K. Kulathillake also functioned as Co-Directors of the Institute till May 2012. Thereafter the Board of Management of the Judges' Institute appointed Mr. Ruwan Fernando, a sitting High Court Judge as the Director of the Judges' Institute in June 2012 and appointed Mr. Mahie Wijeweera, a sitting Magistrate as the Academic Coordinator of the Judges' Institute.

The Board of Management headed by Chief Justice Shirani A. Bandaranayaka supported the affairs of the Institute and made an important contribution to the progress of the Institute. During this period the Accountant of the Judicial Service Commission was appointed as the Acting Accountant of the Judges' Institute on an acting basis. Also, a Court Registrar and three Management Assistants were appointed to the Judges' Institute to efficiently perform the functions of the Judges' Institute. The Institute is also grateful to Mr. Suhada Gamlath, Secretary to the Ministry of Justice for attaching two minor employees from the Ministry of Justice to the Judges' Institute. In 2012, the Institute prepared a Corporate Plan and an Action Plan and got the approval for the delegation of Authority in respect of income and expenditure under Financial Regulations of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. The Institute submitted annual reports to Parliament, prepared the Cadre of the Institute and extended training programs to the presidents of Labor Tribunals. During this period, the Institute began restructuring the training programs and modernization of the available facilities at the Institute to make the Institute a well-equipped modern training and research facility.

The priorities were given to find a suitable place to locate the secretariat of the Institute, extension of training programs, improving the library facility by making the library a fully equipped computer lab with Wi-Fi facility, reactivation of the Web site with the assistance of the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA), collection of unreported judgments of the Superior Courts, providing residential facilities to Judges within the Institute, commencement of the work on developing a training Manual for Judicial officers at the request of the UNDP, recruiting required staff, providing the required physical resources such as Computer server and commencing print outs and photocopying facility and putting the administrative matters in order by complying with the requirements of the Public Administration and Financial Circulars.

The Institute wishes to pay tribute to the Members of the Board of Management of the Judges' Institute in this regard and wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Staff of the Institute especially Academic Coordinator Mr. Mahee Wijeeeweera and Mr. Gnanapala, the Registrar of the Institute in this regard.

In January 2013, Hon. Mohan Peiris was appointed Chief Justice of Sri Lanka and subsequently became the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute (SLJI). Chief Justice Peiris immediately dedicated himself to the Institute's activities, becoming a pillar of strength for the organization. In April 2013, the SLJI secured a section of the New Building of the Ministry of Justice to serve as its office, thanks to the initiative taken by Chief Justice Peiris. The Institute is also grateful to Mrs. Kamalini de Silva, Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, for facilitating this arrangement.

Under the leadership of Chief Justice Peiris, the SLJI's cadre was expanded from 9 to 23 members. He invited academics, professionally qualified legal personalities, and experts from various fields to share their knowledge and experience with judges. Chief Justice Peiris regularly invited foreign judges and legal experts to address the Institute, providing judges with valuable opportunities to engage in discussions on legal and judicial issues. Chief Justice Peiris himself actively participated in numerous seminars, lectures, and presentations at the Institute and other venues, generously sharing his knowledge and experience with judges. During this period, two committees were appointed to update the Bench Book on Law of Evidence and Civil Law reforms.

After Chief Justice Mohan Peiris assumed Office, over 200 judges were given foreign training in Malaysia, India, Singapore and India mainly on case management, court administration and judicial ethics. During this period the Institute got the services of Mr. Lakmal Wickramasooriya as its Academic Coordinator who dedicated himself in finding foreign training opportunities to Judges and organized all foreign training programs of the Institute. The Institute wishes to take this

opportunity to thank him for his dedication and commitment in organizing and coordinating all foreign training programs on behalf of the Institute.

We have to express our gratitude to all Judges of the Superior Courts, High Court, Academic Community and professionals for extending their support to the Institute as resource persons and other activities of the Institute. We must also mention Mr. Sisira Ratnayake who as the Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission played a key role in supporting the training programs of the Institute.

The Institute is a member of the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT). It has its own website with an E-library to disseminate legal and judicial information to judicial officers. The Institute has a video conferencing facility linking the Institute with the High Court of Jaffna, Tangalle and the Chief Justice's Chambers. The Institute has purchased the Indian website "Manupatra," the first international database that has access to more than a million judgments from the Indian Supreme Court and High Court, USA Supreme Court and the judgments of the House of Lords. The Institute wishes to place on record the support extended by the Federal Judicial Center of the U.S.A, Judges Institute of Malaysia, Singapore and India for training Sri Lanka judicial officers and providing training modules including electronic training material to the Institute.

In January 2015, Justice K. Sripavan was appointed as the Chief Justice and His Lordship became the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. Chief Justice K. Sripavan concentrated on improving the professional standard of Judges through continuing judicial training and appointed Justice T.B. Weerasuriya as one of the consultants to conduct civil training for Judges. In addition, Chief Justice Sripavan was pleased to invite retired judges including Justice P.H.K. Kulatillake, Justice Saleem Marsoof, Justice P.A.Ratnayake, Justice Suresh Chandra and Justice A.W.A.Salam to provide much-needed training for High Court Judges, Judicial Officers and Presidents of Labour Tribunals.

During this period, the Institute, under the direction of Chief Justice Sripavan, invited both local and foreign resource persons in different fields such as university academics, doctors, technology experts, forensic scientists, intellectual property law experts, trade and financial experts to share their knowledge and experience with judges. Subjects included Banking Practices under the Cheque & Truncation System, Cyber Crime & Electronic Evidence in cooperation with the United States Department of Justice, and Implementation of the NATA Act. In addition, one workshop was conducted for Presidents of Labour Tribunals on the Diplomatic Privileges Act and State Immunity. Chief Justice K. Sripavan participated in several such workshops and made the keynote address.

Under the Chairmanship of Chief Justice K. Sripavan, the Board of Management of the Institute

appointed a committee to update the Judges Manual headed by a retired Judge of the Court of Appeal and the Bench Book on Evidence headed by a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court. During this period, the Institute recruited a Secretary, a Librarian, Hardware & Software Technicians, Management Assistants, a Housekeeper and a Driver to the Institute.

The Institute also concentrated on training Court Registrars on court administration and accounting procedure. During this period, 3 workshops were conducted for 143 Court Registrars on “Court Administration, Establishment Code and Court Accounting Practices. A workshop for fifty-three Quazis on the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act was also conducted during this period.

During this period, the institute purchased the Westlaw legal database to the Library of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute in addition to the Manupatra Legal Database which was purchased to the library in 2014. The institute provided individual passwords to all Honorable Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and all High Court Judges of Colombo. This facility was also extended to all outstation judges for 2 weeks at a time upon a request made by them through the Judges' Institute.

The Board of Management also granted approval to develop a Judges' Legal Base with research and hyperlinking facilities for the benefit of Judges in collaboration with USAID and Lanka Bell Solutions (Pvt) Limited. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Institute and USAID Contractor for the development of the Legal Database. This is a joint project funded by the Ministry of Justice under the Budget Proposal 2016 and the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute and USAID. The USAID has already recruited a Consultant; a retired Judge of the Court of Appeal, Lawyers and a few Law Students for the Project. The Institute obtained permission from the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association and the Editor of the Sri Skantha Law Report for using the judgments reported in the Sri Lanka Law Reports, New Law Reports, Bar Association Law Reports and the Sri Skantha' Law Report.

One of the biggest achievements during this period was that the Institute was able to send 151 Judges and 30 Presidents of Labour tribunals for foreign training. Foreign training programs were conducted by the New Delhi Judicial Academy, National Judicial Academy of India, at Bhopal, Judicial & Legal Training Institute of Malaysia.

The second major achievement of the Institute during the period of Chief Justice Sripavan was the distribution of 294 Laptop Computers to all Judges of the Superior Courts, all confirmed Judges and Presidents of Labour Tribunals. These Laptop Computers were purchased by the Institute with the assistance of Ministry of Justice from the funds made available to the Institute by the Government of Sri Lanka.

In 2017, Sri Lanka Judges' Institute launched “SLJI Net” – the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute's online

legal information network. It is the first Judges' online database of legal information. SLJI Net provides access to a subject-wise collection of important case law and legal information only to Judges of Sri Lanka. SLJI Net intends to be a support tool for user-friendly database to judges to have subject-wise easy access to reported and unreported judgments of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court of Sri Lanka, Acts, foreign judgments, reports and articles. It is created for judges of Sri Lanka to have a subject-wise legal database by the Research Division of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute with the support of USAID.

In August 2017, Justice E.A.G.R.Amarasekara was appointed as the Director of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute after Hon. M.R.C.Fernando's resignation. In January 2018, Hon. Justice Janak de Silva was appointed as the Deputy Director of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. After Hon. Justice E.A.G.R. Amarasekara's resignation as the Director of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute, the Board of Management appointed Hon. Justice Janak de Silva as the Director. Afterwards, Hon. M.P.D. Silva, Judge of the High Court appointed to the post of Deputy Director of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. In the same year, Mr. D.M.A. Senevirathne was appointed as the Academic Coordinator of the Institute.

In 2019, after Hon. Justice Janak De Silva's resignation as the Director of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute, the Board of Management appointed Hon. Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya as the Director.

In 2020, the Board of Management appointed Hon. Frank Gunawardhana as the Deputy Director of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. In 2021, the Board of Management appointed Hon. Frank Gunawardhana as the Acting Director of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute since Hon. Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya was appointed to the Judicial Service Commission.

In 2022, Hon. Justice Mahinda Samayawardhena was appointed as the Director. Also, Hon. Lakmal Wickramasooriya was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. In 2023, Ms. Geethani Wijesinghe was appointed the Academic Coordinator of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. In addition, due to the retirement of Hon. Justice L.T.B.Dehideniya, Hon. Justice E.A.G.R. Amarasekara was appointed as a member of the Board of Management. After the retirement of Hon. Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare, PC, Hon. Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC was appointed as a member of the Board of Management of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute respectively. Moreover, the former president of the Court of Appeal Hon. Justice A.W.A. Salam was appointed as a Consultant to Sri Lanka Judges' Institute.

In 2024, Mr. D.M. Jayaruwan Dissanayake was appointed as the Academic Coordinator of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute and dedicated immensely to the upliftment of the SLJI. Subsequent to the retirement of Hon. Justice Vijith Kumara Malalgoda, Hon. Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC was appointed as a member of the Board of Management of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute, and Hon. Justice Murdu N.B. Fernando PC was appointed to the same position after the retirement of Hon. Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC. Afterward, due to the retirement of the Chief Justice Hon. Jayantha Jayasuriya PC, the new Chief Justice Hon. Murdu N.B. Fernando PC. was appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of Management. Accordingly, Hon. Justice P. Padman Surasena was appointed as a member of the Board of Management. Furthermore, Hon. Justice Dr. Ruwan Fernando, the former judge of the Court of Appeal was appointed as a Consultant to Sri Lanka Judge's Institute after the period of Consultancy of Hon. A.W.A. Salam Former President of the Court of Appeal.

In the year 2024, after a meeting held with all the stakeholders, foundations were laid to create a separate fund as stipulated by section 08 of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act No. 46 of 1985. This was the basis for establishing the independence of the SLJI. Most significantly in 2024, BOM reiterated that the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute is the only training arm of the Judicial Services Commission by referring to Sections 111H(1) of the Constitution and Section 5 of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act No. 46 of 1985. The Judicial Services Commission is empowered by the Constitution of Sri Lanka to make rules regarding the training of Judges. As per section 5 of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act, the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute is the only institute statutorily empowered to conduct judicial training in Sri Lanka. The Judicial Services Commission is referring Judges for training by the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute and to fund other higher studies of the Judges.

Furthermore, during the year 2024, the approval of the Department of Management Services was obtained to enhance the cadre of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. Accordingly, positions of Internal Auditor, Evaluation and Monitoring Officer, Administration Officer, Stenographer/Typist, Translator and Financial Assistant were created. In addition, several suggestions were made to the DMS in respect of the retention of the staff of the SLJI and consultants. Furthermore, with the relaxation of the restrictions imposed by the government during the crisis, the recruitment of the SLJI staff was increased from 9 to 20 during the year. The assistance of UNICEF in providing equipment such as computers, laptops, printers, photocopy machine, projectors and screen must also be commended.

The Institute wishes to thank the Board of Management of the Institute, the Secretary, Ministry of Justice and the staff, the Secretary, the Judicial Service Commission and the staff, the USAID EEJ activity, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) under the JURE Project, Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, US Department of Justice, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), and other funding agencies and also the Staff of the Institute for contributing to the progress of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute.

(History from 1985-1991 (Courtesy Judges' Journal Vol. 1))

MANAGEMENT AND THE STAFF OF THE SRI LANKA JUDGES' INSTITUTE

The Institute is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and its administration and management are vested in the Board of Management. The Board of Management comprises the Chief Justice and two Judges of the Supreme Court appointed by the President and the Chief Justice is the chairman of the Board of Management. After the re-structuring plan of the Institute, the organizational structure of the Institute will be as follows:

Board of Management

The Board of Management of the Sri Lankan Judges' Institute for the year 2024 consists of:

The Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, Hon. Murdu N.B. Fernando PC. (Chairman)

Hon. Justice P. Padman Surasena, Judge of the Supreme Court, (Member)

Hon. Justice E.A.G.R. Amarasekara, Judge of the Supreme Court, (Member)

Staff of the Institute

The Board appoints the Institute's Director and such other officers and servants, in its necessary for caring out the objects of the institute and to exercise disciplinary control (including the power of dismissal) over the Director, officers and servants of the institute. The board also has the power to determine the remuneration and terms of service of the Director, officers and servants of the institute.

01.	Director	His Lordship Justice Mahinda Samayawardhena, Judge of the Supreme Court
02	Consultant	Hon. Justice A.W.A. Salam, Former President of the Court of Appeal. (Up to 1 st September 2024) Hon. Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane, Former Judge of the Supreme Court. (Up to 31 st December 2024) Hon. Justice Dr. Ruwan Fernando, Former Judge of the Court of Appeal. (From 1 st October 2024)
03	Deputy Director	Hon. Lakmal Wickramasooriya, Judge of the High Court.
04.	Academic Coordinator	Mr. D.M.Jayaruwan. Dissanayake, Magistrate.
05.	Secretary	Ms. D.M.A.K. Dissanayaka
06	Accountant	Mrs. U.V. Rathmini Rajakaruna
07	Research Officer	Ms. W.M.M. Karunaratna, Attorney-at-law. Ms. S.D. Athukorala, Attorney-at-law.
08	Software and Hardware Technician	Mr. K.N. Liyanage

		Mr. S.A.J. Rahuman
09	Management Assistants	Mrs. V. K. Ranaweera
		Ms. V. A. S. Lakmali
		Ms. T. P. N. De Silva
10	Book Binder (Attached from JSC)	Mr. W.G. A. D. Weerasinghe
		Mrs. G.D. Lilani.Iroshini. Gunarathna
		Ms. R.M.Buddhima.Sumuduni. Rajapaksha
11	K.K.S	Mrs. Menaka Padmaseeli
		Mrs. Nadeesha Chathurangani
		Mrs. Manoharan Sathyakala
		Mrs. H.M. Irosha Sandamali Wijesooriya
12	House Keeper	Mr. H.K.T.M. Senevirathne

FUNDS OF THE INSTITUTE

In the year 2024, the institute suggested maintaining a separate fund which is administrated by the Board of Management of the institute. The institute is mainly financed from the treasury grants channeled through the Ministry of Justice both for its capital and recurrent expenditure. The Ministry of Justice/treasury places a ceiling for this expenditure and the institute has to operate within these restrictions.

In terms of the provisions of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act No.46 of 1985, the institute has the authority to accept donations, gifts and grants from any source approved by the president and all such donations, gifts and grants received by the institute from any source shall be paid into the fund. All expenses incurred in the administration and management of the institute (including the payment of remuneration) shall be paid out of the fund of the institute.

The Treasury has granted through the Ministry of Justice Rs. 0.8 million as allocation for capital expenditure and Rs. 19 million as allocation for recurrent expenditure under the vote on account 110 for the year 2024. For the purpose of Judges Trainings, the Treasury has granted Rs. 7.8 million under the vote on account 228 for the year 2024. Furthermore, the task of implementing a separate fund for the Institute is currently in progress and the request has already been made to the President of Sri Lanka through the Secretary of the Ministry of Justice.

The most significant achievement of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute in the year 2024 is the suggestion to establish its own dedicated fund as per Section 8 of the Judges Institute Act. The primary purpose of this is to support and enhance the professional development and capacity-building of the judiciary in Sri Lanka and to secure its independence.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Since the establishment of the Judges' Institute in 1985, a number of training courses and events have been held in the institute. However, with the expansion of the institute in 2013, the programs of the institute are intended to cater to High Court Judges, District Judges, Magistrates and Presidents of Labor Tribunals, Judges of Kathie Courts (Quazis), and Court Management Assistants. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the Judges Institute is committed to ensuring a high standard of judicial performance through programs designed with a focus on judicial education, capacity enhancement (including skills development), attitudinal change and social commitment. It is also committed to further developing and adopting improved judicial administration and management through education and research. The programs of the institute are intended to cater to original court judges and presidents of Labor Tribunals who come within the purview of the judicial service.

Training requirements vary depending on the training modules and types of training participants, although there are common training programs relevant to all participants. A training program can be mandatory, voluntary or optional depending on the type of training and the experience of the judicial officer or his acquired knowledge at earlier training sessions. It also covers the question of who has the authority to control the training and how training programs are financed, target groups and the time of training.

In Sri Lanka, all judicial officers are required to take part in mandatory in-service training as a means of improving the professional expertise of judicial officers and advancing their knowledge throughout their judicial careers. They are required to attend in-service training programs conducted by the judges' institute on each Saturday in the Judges' Institute of Sri Lanka and in case of any inability: they are required to inform the authorities of their inability to attend mandatory in-service training sessions.

In the case of newly recruited trainee judicial officers, introductory and preliminary training programs are conducted on a day-to-day basis and such training programs are mandatory. They do not have any option of attending training sessions conducted by the judges' institute. The other type of training requirement arises in the case of a decision taken by the Judicial Service Commission to attach an in-service judicial officer to the judges' institute for further training.

Nature of Training

1. Mandatory Training

The existing continuing mandatory judicial training for in-service and trainee judicial officers would continue and optional and voluntary training programs would be enhanced for in-service judicial officers as indicated above. However, new approaches for judicial training would be introduced taken into consideration the needs of the judicial officers and the changes taking place in other jurisdiction which now concentrate on technology-based face to face distance learning and technology-based self – learning judicial training.

2. Optional Training

The need for support courses in other subject areas such as English writing for judicial work, personality development, computer training, and health development are regarded as optional courses depending on the standard and the requirements of judicial officers, and availability of funding. Support courses such as the Mentoring Program are optional programs for in-service judicial officers.

3. Training Period

In Sri Lanka, judicial officers are drawn from lawyers who have completed the initial mandatory period of practice as an attorney-at-law either in the private bar or official bar unlike in other countries where a significant proportion of judges are drawn from academia where self-development or training is well-established. The Sri Lanka experience shows that judicial training has been confined to usually six months, compared to civil law jurisdiction where an extended period of initial training is given, followed by an evaluation system. It has been proposed in this module that the training should be extended to a period of one year with mandatory presentations, research works and presentation of a thesis.

4. Training Authorities

Judicial training at present is delivered by the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute. However, the Board of Management of the Judges' Institute grants permission to conduct some specialized training programs by Governmental Agencies or Universities when such programs are relevant and useful for judicial officers. In the case of foreign training, such training sessions are conducted either by a foreign university, judicial academy or specialized training institution. Furthermore, during the year 2024, SLJI was able to create a pool of superior court Justices and other Judges as trainers subsequent to following TOT programmes.

5. Judicial Trainers

At present, training programs are conducted mainly by the Judges of the Sri Lankan Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. However, senior members of the Attorney General's Department also conduct certain types of training programs. Eminent jurists and academics are also invited to conduct judicial training programs taking into consideration of their knowledge, experience and specialty relevant to judicial officers. As far as trainee judicial officers are concerned their courses would be mainly conducted by the Judges of the Court of Appeal, High Court Judges, both in-service and retired and senior members of the Attorney-General's Department. For practical training such as identification parades, inquests and recording statements, senior Magistrates would also be invited to conduct such practical training and moot court sessions. Furthermore, support courses such as computer courses, electronic courses filing, mental development, and forensic science courses would be conducted by outside trainers who are the experts in their respective support courses.



Aims and Objectives of the Coursers

1. To understand the prestige of judicial office and the role of judges in the administration of justice;
2. To understand the importance of a code of ethics for judicial officers in the administration of justice to minimize erosion of public confidence in their judicial and extra-judicial

activities;

3. To understand the basic norms for the management of personal affairs, beyond the suspicion of the litigants and the public;
4. To understand the rules of Court behaviour and court craft including with officers of courts, litigants and the public etc.
5. To develop a code of ethics for judicial officers (where under a written code of conduct or unwritten self-imposed code of ethics)

Training content for in-service courses

1. Judicial behavior, ethics and conduct;
2. Core legal knowledge (substantive and procedural Law – Criminal, Civil, Constitutional, Commercial Law, Criminal and Civil procedure, Law of Evidence)
3. Special Laws and Acts;
4. Personal Laws;
5. Human Rights;
6. Anti-Corruption Laws;
7. Computer skills and information technology;
8. Intellectual property;
9. Court Administration and Court Management;
10. Case Management and Case Flow Management;
11. Accounts & Finance;
12. Disciplinary procedure;

13. Juvenile justice;
14. Access to justice and Legal Aid;
15. Forensic Science and Forensic Medicine;
16. Judgment writing;
17. Sentencing policy and exercises;
18. Research methodology and Online Research Methodology;
19. Alternative Dispute Resolution;
20. Personality and Skills Development;
21. Health Development and Stress Management;
22. Practical Training-judgment writing exercises, drafting of issues, framing of charges, identification parades, holding of inquests, recording confessions and statements, preparation of inspection notes.

Types of training methods

1. Centralized face-to-face method;
2. Decentralized/provincial-based face to face method;
3. Court-based Mentoring method;
4. Centralized mentoring method by appointed Mentors (appointed Resource Persons;)
5. Streamed methods for individual officers;
6. IT and web-based distance learning methods;
7. Everyday working tools, bench books, audio and videotaped educational materials;
8. Modules;
9. Course Materials;
10. Reference Materials;

11. Research papers;
12. Video-conferencing;
13. Practical-methods-moot courts;
14. Visits;
15. Presentations;
16. Essay writing;
17. Research Work;
18. Preparation of individual course materials;
19. Foreign training methods;
20. Mentoring;

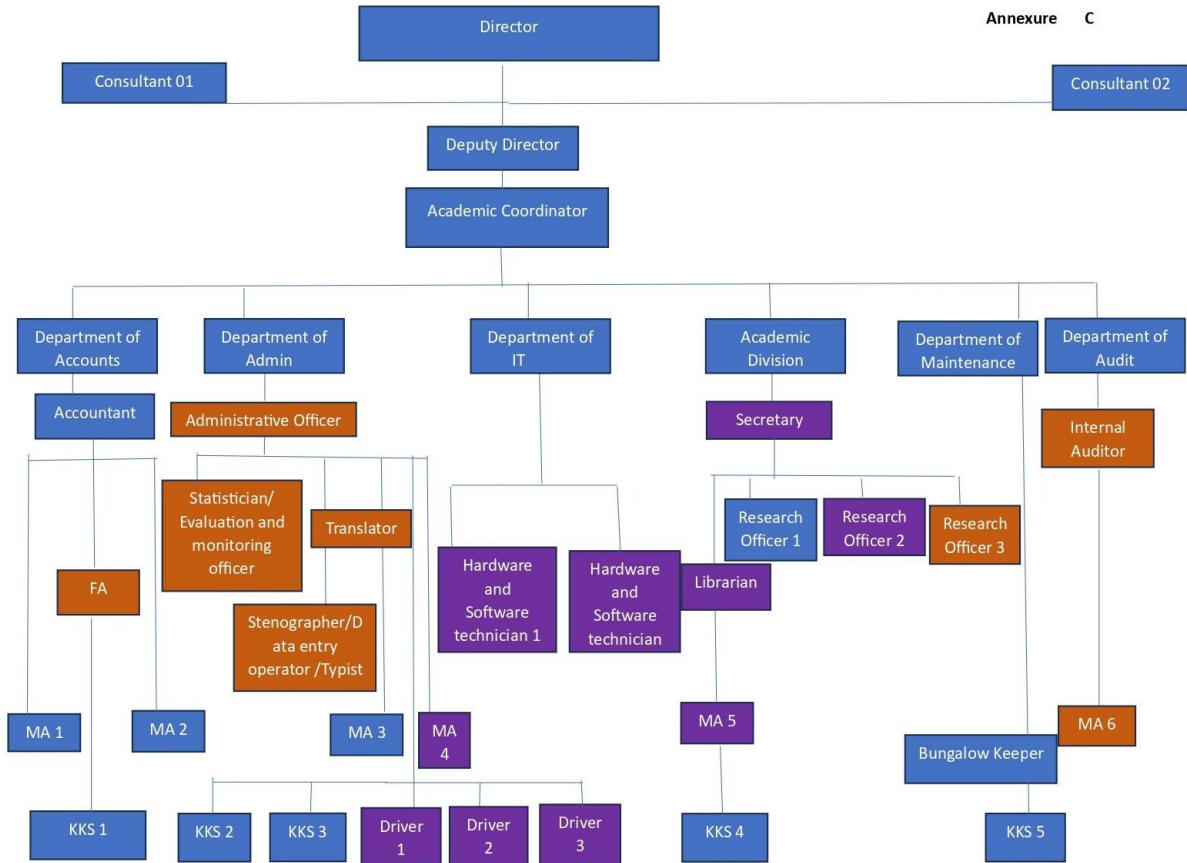
The mentoring training consists of two types of programs, both court-based mentoring program by the chief-justice, and centralized mentoring program by resource persons. In Sri Lanka mentoring is used as training at a personal; level without any official recognition. The new training manual however, introduces a mentoring training program by which two eminent resource persons who is either retired Supreme Court judge or Court of Appeal judges, advise judicial officers, high Court Judges and Presidents of Labor Tribunals. The mentors (consultants) deal with the following functions;

1. Criminal law and evidence – Original and appeal-mentor (Consultant) retired judge of the A Supreme Court or Court of Appeal
2. Civil Law and Labor Law – Original and appeals- 1 mentor (Consultant) - retired judge of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal.

This type of training method will be conducted mainly through pre-arranged telephone calls, e-mails, web-based methods as well as pre-arranged face-to-face institutional sessions.

PERFORMANCE OF THE INSTITUTE

1. The cadre of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute as approved in the year 2024 by the Department of Management Service is as follows,



2. The cadre of the Institute as approved by the Department of Management Services under FR 71 in the year 2024 is as follows,

Name of Designation	No of Posts Approved
Director	01
Deputy Director	01
Consultant	02
Academic Coordinator	01
Secretary	01
Accountant	01
Internal Auditor	01
Statistician/ Evaluation and Monitoring Officer	01
Research Officer	03
Administrative Officer	01
Translator	01
Financial Assistant	01
Software/Hardware Technician	02
Librarian	01
Stenographer / Typist	01
Management Assistant	06
Driver	03
Bungalow Keeper	01
Office Aid	05

In 2024, Sri Lanka Judges' Institute could expand the cadre by obtaining the approval from the Department of Management Services for the following positions

- Internal Auditor
- Statistician/ Evaluation and Monitoring Officer
- Administrative Officer
- Translator
- Finance Assistant
- Stenographer / Typist

In addition to that, approval was granted to include another Research Officer and Management Assistant for the Cadre of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

ACTIVITIES OF THE SRI LANKA JUDGES INSTITUTE FOR THE PERIOD
01.01.2024 - 31.12.2024

Workshops Seminars and Webinars

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - SRI LANKA JUDGES' INSTITUTE
Workshops, Seminars and Webinars Conducted

in the Year 2024

No	Workshop, Seminar/Webinar	Donor Agency	Participated Judges	No of Sessions	No of participants	Dates
1.	Judicial Induction Program 2023/24	-	New Batch December 2023	28	25 Judicial Officers, 05 Presidents of Labour Tribunal	January 2024
2.	Residential Workshop on Medico-legal Processes	ICRC	District Judges and Magistrates	01	40	26 th - 28 th January 2024
3.	Seminar for Quazis	-	Quazis	01	65	28 th January 2024
4.	Follow-up Workshop for Judicial Officers on Small Claims Courts' Procedure Act No.33 of 2022	UNDP	District Judges	01	30	10 th February 2024
5.	One-day Workshop on Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act No. 10 of 2023	UNDP	Magistrates	01	35	10 th February 2024
6.	Judicial Colloquium on Justice for Children in Sri Lanka	UNICEF	District Judges and Magistrates	01	25	16 th - 18 th February 2024
7.	Residential Workshop on Pre-trial Procedure	USAID	District Judges	01	40	02 nd - 03 rd March 2024

8.	Residential Colloquium on Alternative Dispute Resolution for High Court Judges	International ADR Center (IADRC) and the Commercial Law Development Programme of the US Department of Commerce (CLDP)	HCJ	01	35	08 th – 09 th March 2024
9.	Residential Workshop on Medico-legal Processes for High Court Judges	ICRC	HCJ	01	40	15 th - 17 th March 2024
10.	Judicial Colloquium on Justice for Children in Sri Lanka	UNICEF	District Judges and Magistrates	01	40	15 th - 17 th March 2024
11.	Residential Workshop on Medico-legal Processes for High Court Judges	ICRC	HCJ	01	27	05 th - 07 th April 2024
12.	Workshop on a Rights-based Approach to Judicial Decision-making in times of Crisis	Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law	District Judges and Magistrates	01	25	26 th - 28 th April 2024
13.	Residential Workshop on Pre-trial Procedure	USAID	District Judges	01	40	11 th and 12 th May 2024
14.	Judicial Colloquium on Justice for Children in Sri Lanka	UNICEF	Magistrates	01	40	17 th - 19 th May 2024
15.	Residential TOT Workshop on Judicial Ethics	USAID	HCJ, District Judges and Magistrates	01	15	07 th and 09 th June 2024

16.	Residential TOT Workshop on Counter Terrorism	CEELI Institute	H CJ	01	06	28 th and 30 th June 2024
17.	One day hybrid workshop on Drug related offences, Bail and rehabilitation	UNDP	District Judges and Magistrates	01	125	29 th June 2024
18.	Residential TOT Workshop on Presentation Skills	USAID	H CJ, District Judges and Magistrates	01	15	06 th July 2024 – 07 th July 2024
19.	Residential TOT Workshop on Case Management	USAID	H CJ, District Judges and Magistrates	01	15	12 th July 2024 – 14 th July 2024
20.	Half day workshop on International Experience in use of Sentencing Policy and related instruments towards efficiency and efficacy in the Criminal Justice System	JICA	H CJ, District Judges and Magistrates	01	11	17 th of July 2024
21.	One day Introductory workshop for Judges of the High Courts on Prevention of Money Laundering and its application in judicial proceedings along with Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the High Court of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	US State Department of Justice	H CJ	01	89	27 th July 2024
22.	TOT Workshop on Presentation Skills (practical)	USAID	H CJ, District Judges and Magistrates	01	15	03 rd August 2024
23.	Non-Residential Workshop for Judicial Research Officers	Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law	Judicial Research Officers	01	39	21 st and 22 nd August 2024

24.	Residential Workshop on a Rights-based Approach to Judicial Decision-making in times of Crisis	Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law	District Judges and Magistrates	01	30	23 rd – 25 th August 2024
25.	Residential TOT Workshop on Counter Terrorism	CEELI Institute	HCJ	01	06	23 rd – 25 th August 2024
26.	Residential Workshops on Judicial Ethics	USAID	District Judges and Magistrates	02	60	30 th August 2024 to 01st September 2024
27.	Sri Lanka and the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC) Further Developing Successful Commercial Dispute Resolution for Sri Lanka – An Intensive Programme of Observation and Discussion	SIFoCC and USAID	Hon. Chief Justice, Judges of the Supreme Court/ Court of Appeal/ Commercial High Court , HCJ, District Judges, SIFoCC Delegation, Committee on Commercial Law, BASL, Representatives of the Attorney General's Department, Representatives of the various law firms	04		02 nd September 2024 to 04 th September 2024
28.	Residential Workshop for the Judges of the High Courts on Prevention of Money Laundering and its application in judicial proceedings	US State Department of Justice	HCJ	01	30	06 th September 2024
29.	One-day Workshop for the Presidents of Labour Tribunals on Recent Trends in Labour Laws	SLJI	PLT	01	30	28 th September 2024

30.	Workshop on Identification Parade	SLJI	HCJ	01	12	02 nd October 2024
31.	Residential TOT Workshop on Counter Terrorism	Ceeli Institute	HCJ	01	05	11 th – 13 th October 2024
32.	Judicial Induction Program 2023/24	-	New Batch December 2023	28	25 Judicial Officers, 05 Presidents of Labour Tribunal	January 2024
33.	Residential Workshop on Medico-legal Processes	ICRC	District Judges and Magistrates	01	40	26 th - 28 th January 2024
34.	Seminar for Quazis	-	Quazis	01	65	28 th January 2024
35.	Follow-up Workshop for Judicial Officers on Small Claims Courts' Procedure Act No.33 of 2022	UNDP	District Judges	01	30	10 th February 2024
36.	One-day Workshop on Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act No. 10 of 2023	UNDP	Magistrates	01	35	10 th February 2024
37.	Judicial Colloquium on Justice for Children in Sri Lanka	UNICEF	District Judges and Magistrates	01	25	16 th – 18 th February 2024

The Sri Lanka Judges Institute (SLJI) was allocated the sum of Rupees 5 million in 2024 for capacity building. As an unwavering commitment to the professional development of our judiciary this allocation was specifically designated to provide financial assistance for judicial officers pursuing postgraduate courses. This initiative underscores our dedication to fostering academic advancement and ensuring that our officers have the opportunity to enhance their legal expertise. By investing in the higher education of our judiciary, we are not only enriching individual careers but also elevating the collective knowledge and capabilities of our judicial system.

In 2024, the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute (SLJI) faced a significant challenge as our library and auditorium underwent extensive renovations. These essential facilities, which are crucial for our judges' research and collective learning, were temporarily inaccessible. Despite this setback, the SLJI successfully mitigated the impact by providing access to the Law Ceylon online database, made possible through generous funding from the Ministry of Justice. This initiative not only ensured uninterrupted access to a wealth of legal resources but also demonstrated our commitment to continuous learning and judicial capacity building amidst infrastructural upgrades.

In addition to the Judges' Journal 2024, published under the patronage of the USAID EEJ activity, the SLJI successfully launched its first publication of the booklet on "Pre-trial conferences in civil procedure" by Justice Dr. Ruwan Fernando. Further, SLJI made a Paradigm shift from the traditional training methods and made initiatives to develop handbooks on commercial law and cases related to children, Identification parade guidelines, SGBV checklist and appointing a committee to prepare a Judicial code of conduct.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the Accounting Standard lay down by the accountants of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute.

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute**Significant Accounting Policies:****Year Ended 31st December 2024**

1. All values presented in the financial statements are in Sri Lankan Rupees unless otherwise stated.
2. No adjustments are made for inflationary factors.
3. **Government Grant**
The accounting policy adopted for the government grants including the methods of presentation as follows;
 - (a) Government grants for purchase of assets are recognized as an asset in respect of Transfers when the transferred resources meet the definition of an asset and satisfy the criteria for recognition as an asset, and as revenue for the period.
 - (b) Other grants received as well as expenses thereon have been incorporated in the profit and loss account as a revenue.
4. **Valuation of Stock**
Stock are value at historical cost.
5. **Liabilities and Provision**
Provision has been made in the financial statement for retiring gratuity in term of Sri Lanka accounting standards. The liability is not externally funded.
6. **Identify and Capitalize the Fixed assets**
The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment will be Recognized as an asset if:
 - a) It is probable that future economic benefits or service Potential associated with the item will flow to the entity more than one year,
 - b) The cost or fair value of the item can be measured reliably and more than Rs. 10,000.00

7. Property plant and Equipment

Property plant and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation, which is provided for on the basis specified below.

8. Depreciation and Amortization

- (a) The provision for depreciation is calculated on the cost of all property plant and equipment. Property plant and equipment acquired are depreciates from the date assets are available for use over their estimated useful lives.
- (b) Intangible assets are amortized using straight line basis throughout its estimated useful life.
- (c) Intangible assets which determined to have indefinite useful lives are not amortized but are tested for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate the asset may be impaired.

Depreciation of fixed assets provided on a straight line basis at the following rates;

Office Equipment	20%
Furniture and fittings	12.5%
Library Book	10%
Computer Equipment	25%
Electrical Instrument	20%
Pantry Items	12.5%
Travelling Bags	10%
Machinery	12.5%

Amortization of Intangible Assets provided on a straight line basis at the following rates;

Accounting Package	25%
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024


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Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Statement of Financial Position As At 31st December 2024

	Notes	2024		2023
		Rs.cts	Rs.cts	Rs.cts
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalent	3	367,350.73		353,830.29
Stock (Office stationery)		931,285.95		1,241,762.25
			1,298,636.68	1,595,592.54
Non - Current Assets				
Property, Plant and Equipments	4		6,316,387.43	2,894,173.54
Intangible Assets	5		3,607,214.18	3,704,714.18
Salary Refund Recievable			-	2,204.19
Refundable Deposit			1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Assets			11,223,238.29	8,197,684.45
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Provision for Audit fee		450,000.00		442,980.00
Provision for Gratuity	6	178,200.00		361,165.00
Accrued Expenses	7	181,810.25		164,146.46
			810,010.25	968,291.46
Non - Current Liabilities				
Provision for Gratuity	6	988,700.00	988,700.00	646,462.50
Total Liabilities			1,798,710.25	1,614,753.96
Net - Assets			9,424,528.04	6,582,930.49
Net Assets / Equity				
Capital Grant		14,380,984.61		17,003,575.60
Accumulated Surplus/ (Deficits)		(7,798,054.12)		(10,302,382.46)
Less: Dificit for the year/Add: Profit of the year	8	2,841,597.55	9,424,528.04	(118,262.65)
				6,582,930.49
			9,424,528.04	6,582,930.49

The Financial Statements of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute have been prepared and presented in Accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The Accounting policies on pages 05 to 06 and notes on pages From 07 to 15 an integral part of these Financial statements.


U.V.R Rajakaruna
Accountant
Sri Lanka Judges' Institute


Justice Mahinda Samayawardhena
Director
Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

U. V. R. Rajakaruna
Accountant
Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
No. 80, Adikarana Mawatha,
Colombo 12.

Justice Mahinda Samayawardhena
Judge of the Supreme Court
Director
Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
No. 80, Adhikarana Mawatha
Colombo 12

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Page 02

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Note	2024		2023
		Rs.Cts.	Rs.Cts.	Rs.Cts.
Income				
Recurrent Grant Received	9	17,858,641.46		18,662,345.91
Capital Grant Received	10	8,426,494.21		
Foreign Grants Received	11	4,645,460.00		
Interest Received from saving Account		8,967.28		9,374.40
Other Income - Gratuity over provision		-		163,000.00
Other Income -Salary Refund	12	-		57,160.00
Other Income - Unidentified deposit		5,000.00		-
Total Income			30,944,562.95	18,891,880.31
Less - Expenditure				
Employment Benefit Costs				
Salaries & Wages	13	7,879,811.05		7,042,140.93
Employees' Provident fund expenses		751,063.58		678,687.30
Employees' Trust fund expenses		187,765.91		169,671.83
Staff Training		125,394.42		154,942.09
Over Time		207,611.40		141,508.97
Other Allowances	14	573,935.48		84,870.97
Gratuity		540,862.50		296,237.50
			10,266,444.34	8,568,059.59
Operational Activities				
Seminars & Training Expences	15	6,333,545.09		2,931,485.00
Expenses for foreign Training programs	16	1,417,497.00		-
Security Charges		1,204,796.17		1,416,766.33
			8,955,838.26	4,348,251.33
Supplies and Cosumable Used				
Postal Charges		32,750.00		18,235.00
Office Stationary expenses		596,843.10		261,363.17
Printing Expenses		-		2,720.00
Fuel		205,895.00		340,309.91
Other Service & Supplies	17	1,859,861.43		294,325.50
			2,695,349.53	916,953.58
Finance Costs				
WHT		448.36		468.74
Bank fees		18,762.87	19,211.23	4,000.00
Other Expense				
Travelling Expenses		64,062.72		16,336.00
Vehicle Maintenance		456,481.89		236,722.47
Building Machinery & Equipment Maintenance	18	573,438.81		184,834.95
Translation fees		110,935.00		225,092.50
Telephone & Internet Charges		271,567.66		592,366.10
Cleaning Charges		810,098.55		794,618.00
Electricity & Water Expences		1,571,391.30		1,359,173.77
Depriciation and Amortization	19	1,904,646.11		1,230,258.93
Audit Fees		403,500.00		533,007.00
			6,166,122.04	5,172,409.72
Total Expenses			28,102,965.40	19,010,142.96
Surplus (Deficit)			2,841,597.55	(118,262.65)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Page 03

Sri Lanka Judges Institute
Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		Rs.Cts	Rs.Cts	Rs.Cts	Rs.Cts
Cash Flows from Operating Activities					
Receipts					
Recurrent Imprest From Ministry		15,082,453.99		16,353,820.81	
Interest Received		8,518.92		8,905.66	
Other Income		7,204.19		54,955.81	
Cash Inflows from Operating Activities			15,098,177.10		16,417,682.28
Payments					
Employee Costs	20	(10,080,027.42)		(8,498,616.46)	
Operational Activities	21	(9,976,284.52)		(4,485,608.14)	
Supplies and Consumables	22	(2,829,726.06)		(3,416,077.02)	
Finance Costs	23	(18,762.87)		(4,000.00)	
Stamp Duty		(4,550.00)		(4,500.00)	
Cash outflows from Operating Activities			(22,909,350.87)		(16,408,801.62)
Net Cash flows from Operating Activities			(7,811,173.77)		8,880.66
Cash Flows from Investing Activities					
Purchase of Fixed Assets	24	(583,800.00)		(315,974.00)	
Net Cash flows from Investing Activities			(583,800.00)		(315,974.00)
Cash Flows from Financial Activities					
Capital Grant Received		8,408,494.21		315,999.00	
Net Cash flows from Financial Activities			8,408,494.21		315,999.00
Net increase in cash & cash equivalents			13,520.44		8,905.66
Cash & cash equivalents at Beginning of period			353,830.29		344,924.63
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	25		367,350.73		353,830.29

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Sri Lanka Judges Institute
Statement of Changes in net Assets for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Page 04

	Note	Contributed Capital	Other Reserves	Accumulated Surplus(Deficits)	Total (Rs.)
Balance as at 01.01.2023		17,003,575.50	-	(10,302,382.46)	6,701,193.14
Changes in Accounting Policy - Differed Income		1,311,907.45		(1,311,907.45)	-
Surplus (Deficit) During the year		-		(118,262.65)	-
Balance as at 01.01.2024		18,315,483.05	-	(11,732,552.56)	6,582,930.49
Changes in Accounting Policy - Capital grant received from government shall be recognized as Revenue instead of capital reserve	8A 26	(3,934,498.44)		3,934,498.44	-
Surplus (Deficit) for the period		-		2,841,597.55	2,841,597.55
Balance as at 31.12.2024		14,380,984.61	-	(4,956,456.57)	9,424,528.04

- a) The proceeds are being recognized only if the liability associated with the item will flow to the entity more than one year,
b) The cost or fair value of the item can be measured reliably and more than Rs. 10,000.00

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
DECEMBER 2024

Page | 7

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024****NOTE 01****CORPORATE INFORMATION****Reporting Entity**

Reporting entity is Sri Lanka Judges' Institute incorporated under Sri Lanka Judges' Institute act No 46 of 1985.

NOTE 02**BASIS OF PREPARATION AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of Preparation****• Statement of Compliance**

The Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2024, Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31st December 2024, the Statement of Change in Equity and Statement of Cash Flow, together with Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial Statements of the Institute as at 31st December 2024 and for the year ended, all material aspects comply with the Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards (SLPSAS).

• Going Concern

The Institute has prepared the financial statements assuming that, Institute has a going concern.

• Consistency of Accounting Policies

Certain balances referred in the financial Statements have been re-adjusted / re- classified with comparative figures for the better presentation of the Financial Statements.

• Financial Year

The Financial Statements of Sri Lanka Judges' Institute have been prepared for a twelve-month period ended 31stDecember 2024.

• Presentation of functional and reporting currency

Financial Statements are prepared in Sri Lankan Rupees.

• Events after the date of the Statement of Financial Position

All material post balance sheet events have been considered. Where appropriate, either adjustments have been made or adequately disclosed in the Financial Statements.

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Note 03

Cash and Cash Equivalent

As at 31st December in LKR	2024	2023
Current Account	5,001.52	-
Savings Account	362,349.21	353,830.29
	<u>367,350.73</u>	<u>353,830.29</u>

Note 04

Property, Plant and Equipments

Refer Page number 09

Note 05

Intangible Assests

Legal Data Base (Internally Developed)		3,517,995.00	3,517,995.00
Accounting Software	390,000.00		
(-) Accumulated Amortization	300,780.82	89,219.18	186,719.18
		<u>3,607,214.18</u>	<u>3,704,714.18</u>

Internally generated Legal data base

The Institute has internally developed a legal database (software) that was previously recognized as an intangible asset. However, the software has not been in active use since 2017.

During the financial year 2024, the Institute initiated a redevelopment process to enhance the system, with an expected completion date in 2025. Given its nature of continuous updates and improvements, the legal database is classified as having an indefinite useful life in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standard (SLPSAS) 20 – Intangible Assets.

As per SLPSAS 20, an intangible asset with an indefinite useful life is not amortized but is subject to annual impairment testing or whenever there is an indication of impairment. The Institute will continue to assess the recoverability and future economic benefits of the legal database upon the completion of the redevelopment.

Note 06

Provision for Gratuity

Name	Designation	Appointment date	Service period as at 31.12.2024	gross salary as at 31.12.2024	Service period in years	Gratuity provision for the year
U. V. R. Rajakaruna	Accountant	2020.03.20	3Y 9M 10D	76,475.00	4	152,950.00
T.P.N De Silva	MA	2021.09.01	3Y 4M	46,610.00	3	69,915.00
V.K Ranaweera	MA	2021.09.01	3Y 4M	46,610.00	3	69,915.00
V.A.S Lakmali	MA	2021.09.01	3Y 4M	46,610.00	3	69,915.00
W.M.M Karunaratna	Research Officer	2017.6.1	6Y 6M 30D	77,030.00	7	269,605.00
H.K.T.M. Seneviratne	House Keeper	2016.6.27	7Y 6M 4D	44,550.00	8	178,200.00
W.A. Menaka Padmaseeli	KKS	2016.6.27	7Y & 8M	44,550.00	8	178,200.00
U.A. Nadeesha Chathurangani	KKS	2016.6.27	7Y & 8M	44,550.00	8	178,200.00
						<u>1,166,900.00</u>

	2024	2023
Provision as at 01/01/2024	1,007,627.50	1,107,555.00
Gratuity paid	(381,590.00)	(396,140.00)
Provision for the year 2024	540,862.50	1,007,627.50
Gratuity expense for the year	<u>1,166,900.00</u>	<u>296,212.50</u>

Provision for Gratuity - Current Liabilities	178,200.00	361,165.00
Provision for Gratuity - Non Current Liabilities	988,700.00	646,462.50
	<u>1,166,900.00</u>	<u>1,007,627.50</u>

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Note 07

Accrued Expenses

Telephone bill payable	76,092.54	76,286.46
EPF payable - Isuri Kavindi	4,200.00	4,200.00
ETF payable - Isuri Kavindi	630.00	630.00
Security charges payable	-	-
Cleaning Charges Payable	85,703.55	83,030.00
Stamp Duty Payable	25.00	-
Fuel Chargers Payable	-	-
Other Payable	15,159.16	-
	<u>181,810.25</u>	<u>164,146.46</u>

Note 08

Adjustment to the Accumulated Fund

	2024	2023
Balance as at 01/01/2024	(11,732,552.56)	(10,302,382.46)
Error correction of reversal of Differed Income as at 31.12.2023	1,311,907.45	-
Changes in Accounting Policy - Capital grant received from government shall be recognized as Revenue instead of capital reserve	2,622,590.99	-
Profit for the year 2024	2,841,597.55	-
Balance as at 31/12/2024	<u>(4,956,456.57)</u>	<u>(10,302,382.46)</u>

Note 08.A

As per the SLPSAS 11, and SLPSAS 03 - Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors, the effect on the Financial Statements at respective years are disclose as follows.

In the year of 2018, Government Grants received for purchase assets were not capitalized.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Contributed Capital	18,305,662.20	18,705,843.70	17,744,073.05	17,003,575.60	71,759,154.55
Capital Grants Recognized	1,291,309.99	400,181.00	412,700.00	518,400.00	2,622,590.99
Re- Stated Contributed Capital	17,014,352.21	18,305,662.70	17,331,373.05	16,485,175.60	

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

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Note 04
Property, Plant and Equipments

Cost	Balance as at 01/01/2024	Additions during the year	Disposals During the Year	Balance as at 31/12/2024	Balance as at 31/12/2023
Office Equipment	2,040,854.25	614,500.00	-	2,655,354.25	2,040,854.25
Furniture & Fittings	3,056,725.30	245,000.00	-	3,301,725.30	3,056,725.30
Library Books	7,353,108.40	8,500.00	-	7,361,608.40	7,353,108.40
Computer Equipment	44,681,712.49	4,030,960.00	-	48,712,672.49	44,681,712.49
Electrical Instrument	1,680,436.73	330,400.00	-	2,010,836.73	1,680,436.73
Pantry Items	121,858.33	-	-	121,858.33	121,858.33
Travelling Bags	20,100.00	-	-	20,100.00	20,100.00
Machinery	1,266,905.00	-	-	1,266,905.00	1,266,905.00
	60,221,700.50	5,229,360.00	-	65,451,060.50	60,221,700.50
Depreciation	Balance as at 01/01/2024	Depriciation for the year	Disposals During the Year	Balance as at 31/12/2024	Accumulated Depreciation 31/12/2023
Office Equipment	1,704,249.32	166,308.49	-	1,870,557.81	1,704,249.32
Furniture & Fittings	2,937,483.11	85,856.57	-	3,023,339.68	2,937,483.11
Library Books	5,365,061.51	690,351.51	-	6,055,413.02	5,365,061.51
Computer Equipment	44,675,073.52	681,412.45	-	45,356,485.97	44,675,073.52
Electrical Instrument	1,366,550.67	66,096.46	-	1,432,647.13	1,366,550.67
Pantry Items	116,851.87	4,406.25	-	121,258.12	116,851.87
Travelling Bags	20,100.00	-	-	20,100.00	20,100.00
Machinery	1,142,156.96	112,714.38	-	1,254,871.34	1,142,156.96
	57,327,526.96	1,807,146.11	-	59,134,673.07	57,327,526.96
Net book value	2,894,173.54			6,316,387.43	2,894,173.54

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31st December 2024

Note 9	2024	2023
Recurrent Grants Received - (Government Grant)		
Cash imprest received from MoJ (Vote 110)	15,082,453.99	16,669,819.81
Payments made by Ministry of Justice		
Water & Electricity Expense	1,571,391.30	1,359,173.77
Security and Fuel Expenses	1,204,796.17	633,352.33
	<u>17,858,641.46</u>	<u>18,662,345.91</u>

Note 10
Capital Grant Received - (Government Grant)

Capital Grants From Vote 110	613,000.00
Capital Grants From Vote 228	7,813,494.21
	<u>8,426,494.21</u>

Note 11
Foreign Grant Received

During the year ended 31 December 2024, the Company received assets from United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) as a grant. In accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standard (SLPSAS) 11 - Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Grants & Donations), these assets have been recognized as both Revenue and Assets in the financial statements for the year.

Details of the grant received are as follows:

Description	Received Date	Cost (Rs.)
Photocopy machine	28.06.2024	614,500.00
Aser laptops I5 -16Gb 1Tb	16.04.2024	435,120.00
Aser laptops I5 -16Gb 1Tb	16.04.2024	435,120.00
Aser laptops I5 -16Gb 1Tb	16.04.2024	435,120.00
Aser laptops I5 -16Gb 1Tb	16.04.2024	435,120.00
Acer Projector	16.04.2024	128,000.00
Multimedia tripod projector screen 6*6	16.04.2024	35,000.00
HP pro i5 Computers- 8GB 1Tb	13.05.2024	453,120.00
HP pro i5 Computers- 8GB 1Tb	13.05.2024	453,120.00
HP pro i5 Computers- 8GB 1Tb	13.05.2024	453,120.00
HP pro i5 Computers- 8GB 1Tb	13.05.2024	453,120.00
Canon colour printer MF643CDW	15.05.2024	157,500.00
Canon colour printer MF643CDW	15.05.2024	157,500.00
		<u>4,645,460.00</u>

Note 12
Other Income -Salary Refund Receivable

As of 31st December 2024, the Institute has recognized a receivable amounting to Rs.24,750.00 in respect of salary refund due from an employee who resigned without serving the required notice period, as per the terms of employment. She has submitted an appeal to the Board of Management for reconsideration of her appointment and the decision is currently pending. The Institute will assess the recoverability of this receivable upon conclusion of the appeal process and make any necessary adjustments in subsequent periods, if required.

Note 13
Salaries and wages

Permanent staff - EPF Liable	6,894,761.05	6,315,740.93
Consultants allowance - EPF not liable	985,050.00	726,400.00
	<u>7,879,811.05</u>	<u>7,042,140.93</u>

Note 14
Other Allowances

Professional Allowances	72,000.00	84,870.97
Uniform Allowances	4,000.00	-
Communication Allowances	497,935.48	-
	<u>573,935.48</u>	<u>84,870.97</u>

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31st December 2024

Note 15

Seminar & Training Expenses

Refreshment and other expenses for Local Training and Workshops	-	5,795.00
Workshops and Local training programmms	279,345.09	74,290.00
postgraduate courses- Judicial Officers	6,054,200.00	2,851,400.00
	<u>6,333,545.09</u>	<u>2,931,485.00</u>

Note 16

Foreign Training Expenses

Air ticket fee	-	-
Travell insurance	-	-
Insidental, Perdiium	-	-
Institutiunal fees	1,299,457.50	-
Warm Clothing Expenses	-	-
	<u>118,039.50</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1,417,497.00</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 17

Other Service & Supplies

Refreshment for others	-	-
Other expenses	105,482.83	40,170.00
Staff welfare	15,020.09	68,813.00
Recruitment Expenses	57,696.91	28,316.00
Subscription fee for Law ceylon	181,661.60	93,150.00
Supplies & Consumable Used	1,500,000.00	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>63,876.50</u>
	<u>1,859,861.43</u>	<u>294,325.50</u>

Note 18

Building Machinery & Equipment Maintenance

Repirs and upkeepComputers and Office equipments	76,381.05	24,442.25
Toners for Photocopy machine	-	82,866.70
Building & Equipment Maintenanac	101,116.52	77,526.00
Service agreements and maintenance	395,941.24	-
	<u>573,438.81</u>	<u>184,834.95</u>

Note 19

Depriciation and Amortization

office equipments	-	-
library books	166,308.49	103,680.00
Furniture and fittings	690,351.51	710,710.55
computer and Equipment	85,856.57	165,320.17
Electrical Instruments	681,412.45	5,675.00
pantry item	66,096.46	2,112.94
Travelling Bags	4,406.25	4,406.25
Machinery	-	-
Amortization of Inatngible Assets	112,714.38	140,854.02
	<u>97,500.00</u>	<u>97,500.00</u>
	<u>1,904,646.11</u>	<u>1,230,258.93</u>

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the cash flow statement

Cash flow statement has been prepared on Direct method

Note 20

Wages and salaries and Employment benefits

Salaries and wages	6,960,862.44	5,884,903.70
Consultant fee	984,500.00	716,075.00
Consultant travelling Allowance	-	10,000.00
Employees provident Fund expenses	1,251,772.67	1,126,945.50
Employees Trust Fund expenses	187,765.91	169,041.83
Overtime	207,611.40	143,618.34
Uniform allowance	4,000.00	-
Staff training	101,950.00	154,917.09
Payment of Gratuity	381,565.00	233,115.00
Festival advance paid	-	60,000.00
	<u>10,080,027.42</u>	<u>8,498,616.46</u>

Note 21

Operational activities

Seminars and training expenses	333,920.09	74,290.00
LLM fees paid to Judges	6,054,200.00	2,851,375.00
forign training program	1,417,497.00	-
Refreshment for seminars and other programs	129,263.83	45,965.00
Expenses for conducting the interviews	144,948.60	-
Security chargers	-	854,338.14
Annual subscription chargers	1,499,975.00	-
Audit fee	396,480.00	659,640.00
	<u>9,976,284.52</u>	<u>4,485,608.14</u>

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

Notes to the Financial Statements for the

Note 22

Supplies and consumables Used

Postal chargers	32,750.00	18,235.00
Purchase of office stationery	231,741.80	788,813.00
Fuel expenses	205,845.00	347,514.91
Other servise and supplies	15,020.09	171,166.00
Travelling expenses	64,062.72	16,336.00
Vehicle Maintenance	468,739.89	239,572.47
Services & Maintainance	395,816.24	106,798.20
Computer Maintainance	53,881.05	24,442.25
Printing Expenses	-	2,720.00
Building machinery and Equipments maintenance	113,826.78	91,526.00
Telephone and internet chargers	271,761.58	581,889.69
Cleaning chargers	807,100.00	744,160.00
Staff welfare	58,295.91	57,961.00
Translation fee	110,885.00	224,942.50
	2,829,726.06	3,416,077.02

Note 23

Finance Cost

Bank fee	18,762.87	4,000.00
	18,762.87	4,000.00

Note 24

Purchase of Fixed Assets

During the period, the economic entity acquired property, plant and equipment with an aggregate cost of Rs. 583,900.00 of which was acquired by means of capital grants by the government. Cash payments of Rs. 583,900.00 were made to purchase property, plant and equipment.

Office Equipments	330,350.00	315,974.00
Furniture and fittings	244,950.00	-
Library books	8,500.00	-
	583,800.00	315,974.00

Note 25

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and balances with banks. Cash and cash equivalents included in the cash flow statement comprise the following statement of financial position amounts:

	2024	2023
Cash on hand	-	-
Current Account balance with Bank of Ceylon	5,001.52	-
Savings Account balance with Bank of Ceylon	362,349.21	353,830.29
	367,350.73	353,830.29

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
Note 26		
Prior Year Adjustment		
Error correction of reversal of Differed Income as at 31.12.2023	1,311,907.45	1,311,907.45
Changes In Accounting Policy - Reversed back the capital Reserve, that recognized when the government capital grants received.	2,622,590.99	
	<u>3,934,498.44</u>	<u>1,311,907.45</u>

Year	Capital Grants Recognition in respective year (Rs.)
2018	-
2019	1,291,309.99
2020	400,181.00
2021	412,700.00
2022	518,400.00
	<u>2,622,590.99</u>

STATEMENT OF BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute
 Comparison of Budget estimate Vs Actual expenses
 year ended 31st December 2024

Sub Projects	Object Code	Items	Financing	Category/ Object Title	Rs.		Actual Expenses %
					Estimate for 2024	Actual 2024	
	1503			RECURRENT EXPENDITURE			
				<i>Personal Emoluments</i>			
	1001		11	Salaries & Wages	8,800,103.25	9,694,466.02	110%
	1002		11	Over Time & Holiday Payments	419,896.75	207,611.40	49%
	1003		11	Other Allowances	780,000.00	72,000.00	9%
	1509			<i>Others (Without Personal Emoluments)</i>			
				<i>Travelling Expenses</i>			
	1101		11	Domestic	50,000.00	-	-
	1102		11	Foreign	-	-	-
				<i>Supplies</i>			
	1201		11	Stationery & Office Requisites	1,200,000.00	231,741.80	19%
	1202		11	Fuel	480,000.00	205,845.00	43%
	1203		11	Diets & Uniforms	8,000.00	4,000.00	50%
				<i>Maintenance Expenditure</i>			
	1301		11	Vehicles	250,000.00	468,739.89	187%
	1302		11	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	230,000.00	167,707.83	73%
	1303		11	Building & Structure	600,000.00	395,816.24	66%
				<i>Services</i>			
	1401		11	Transport	50,000.00	64,062.72	128%
	1402		11	Postal & Communication	615,000.00	304,511.58	50%
	1403		11	Electricity & Water	-	-	-
	1404		11	Rent & Local Taxes	-	-	-
	1405		11	Other	3,517,000.00	2,892,306.00	82%
				<i>Transfers</i>			
	1505		11	Subscriptions & Contributions Fee	-	-	-
				SUB-TOTAL	17,000,000.00	16,708,808.48	87%
				CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			
				<i>Rehabilitation and Improvement of Capital Assets</i>			
	2001		11	Building & Structures	-	-	-
	2002		11	Plant, Machinery and Equipment	-	-	-
	2003		11	Vehicles	-	-	-
				<i>Acquisition of Capital Assets</i>			
	2101		11	Vehicles	-	-	-
	2102		11	Furniture & Office Equipment	550,000.00	583,800.00	106%
	2103		11	Plant, Machinery and Equipment	-	-	-
	2104		11	Building & Structures	-	-	-
				<i>Human Resource Development</i>			
	2401			Staff Training	250,000.00	101,950.00	41%
				Other Capital Expenditure (Purchase of Library Books)	-	-	-
				SUB-TOTAL	800,000.00	685,750.00	86%
				TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,800,000.00	17,394,558.48	86%

CHALLENGES

Sri Lanka Judges' Institute has reached many remarkable achievements throughout its' long journey, including developing a website, obtaining membership of the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT), Partnerships with other Judicial Academies and International Donor agencies including the European Union, US Department of State, UNDP, UNICEF, USAID, ICRC, ICJ and Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law.

Despite our significant strides in judicial education and training, we must acknowledge the persistent challenges. A dedicated building for the Judicial Academy remains paramount, equipped with all essential facilities to foster an environment conducive to learning and professional growth. Moreover, the scarcity of adequate human resources impedes our efforts, necessitating a strategic approach to recruitment and retention. Financial constraints have imposed limitations on our capacity-building programs, which are vital for the continuous development of our judiciary. Addressing these challenges will be crucial as we strive to uphold the highest standards of judicial excellence.

The financial autonomy of a judicial institution is a cornerstone of its independence, as underscored by the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles. However, our Institute's reliance on external financial sources has raised concerns regarding our adherence to these principles. The current funding model, which is contingent upon allocations and grants subject to external approval, inadvertently undermines our autonomy. This financial dependency creates a predicament where our operational independence is compromised, making it challenging to align fully with the Latimer House Principles' standards for an independent judicial institute.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Sri Lanka Judges' Institute appreciates the assistance and cooperation given by the following:

1. The Board of Management
2. The secretary and the staff of the Ministry of Justice
3. The Secretary and the staff of the Judicial Service Commission
4. The Secretary of the Treasury and Staff of the Treasury.
5. The UNDP, USAID, UNICEF and other funding organizations
6. The Auditor-General and his staff
7. The Superintendent of Prison and his staff
8. Registrar of the Supreme Court
9. Registrar of the Court of Appeal
10. Marshall of the Supreme Court
11. JMO Colombo and College of Forensic Pathologists
12. Ceylon College of Physicians.
13. The National Institute of Social Development

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

My No: JLO/B/SLJI/FA/2024/06
2025

Your No.

Date:30th May

Director,
Sri Lanka Judges' Institute.

Report of the Auditor General under Section 12 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 with regard to the Financial Statements and other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year ending on the 31st of December 2024.

1. Financial Statements

1.1. Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute for the year ended 31 December 2024 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and Finance Act No. 38 of 1971. My Report under Article 154 (6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka will be forwarded to the parliament in due course.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described under the 'basis for the qualified opinion' in this report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of Corporation as at 31 December 2024 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended, in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

1.2.1 Non Compliance to the Accounting Standards

a). Even though rounding should be applied when presenting values in financial statements, in accordance with paragraph 63(e) of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standard No. 01, the financial statements presented for the year 2024 included values shown in cents.

b) Even though cash receipts from grants, transfers, and other appropriations or budget authority provided by the central government or other public sector entities should be classified under cash-generating activities in terms of Para 22 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standard No. 02, the financial grant of Rs. 8,408,494 received for the year 2024 was shown under financing activities.

(c) Although the residual value and useful life of an asset must be reviewed at each annual reporting date in accordance with Para 65 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 07, the entity has not reviewed 6 type of assets valued at Rs.47,729,163 which were fully depreciated as of 31st December 2024. Consequently, estimated errors have not been revised as per Public Sector Accounting Standard No. 03.

(d) Assets amounting to Rs. 3,130,669, reported as the opening balance prior to 2012 under property, plant, and equipment in the financial statements, could not be identified.

(e) Sufficient evidence was not provided to the audit to verify the value and quantity of library books reported in the financial statements, which reflected a net value of Rs. 1,306,195.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibilities, under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

1.3 Other information included in the Annual Report, 2024 of the Institute

Other information represents the Information included in the Annual Report, 2023 of the Institute which is to be scheduled to produce afterward the date of this audit report but not included in my audit report on the financial statements. Management is responsible for this other information.

I do not discover other information through my opinion on Financial Statements and I do not provide any kind of assurance or state opinion with regard to that information.

With regard to my audit of Financial Statements, my responsibility is to read the aforesaid other information recognized when available and in doing so to check whether the other information is not sufficiently mismatched with the Financial Statements or in accordance with my knowledge obtained in the audit or in another way.

Had there been any material misstatements that remained uncorrected, based on the information obtained and the procedures I performed, they would have been included in my report. However, I have no such matters to report.

1.4 Responsibilities of the management and controlling parties in the financial statements.

It is the responsibility of the management to prepare and fairly present these financial statements in accordance with the accounting standards of the public sector in Sri Lanka and to determine the internal controls required to enable the preparation of financial statements without quantitative misrepresentations due to fraud or errors.

In preparing financial statements, it is the responsibility of the management to determine the capacity to maintain the continuity of the institute. The management also has a responsibility to keep accounts and disclose matters relevant to the continued existence of the institute, unless it intends to liquidate the institute or discontinue operations when there is no other option.

Responsibilities related to the financial reporting process of the institute are borne by the controlling parties.

Sub-section 16 (1) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 provides for the proper maintenance of books and records on its own income, expenditure, assets and liabilities so as to ensure the preparation of annual and periodical financial statements of the institute.

1.5 Responsibilities of the Auditor in relation to the financial statement auditing

As a whole, my intention is to issue an auditor's report incorporating my opinion providing a fair proof that the financial statements are without quantitative misrepresentations due to,

frauds and errors. Despite the fair certification is a high level of guarantee, when auditing is carried out in accordance with the Sri Lanka Audit Standards, it is not always a guarantee that it will detect quantitative misrepresentations at all material times. Frauds and errors, individual or collective, can lead to quantitative misrepresentations which are expected to affect the economic decisions made by users based on these financial statements.

I conducted the audit in accordance with the Sri Lanka Audit Standards with professional judgment and professional scepticism. Furthermore,

- When identifying and assessing the risks of quantitative misrepresentations in financial statements due to fraud or errors, it is the basis of my opinion that it requires obtaining adequate and appropriate audit evidence to overcome the risks posed by frauds or errors by way of planning appropriate audit procedures as the case may be. The impact of fraud is far greater than the impact of quantitative misrepresentations and corruption, forgery, deliberate evasion of internal controls can lead to a fraud.
- Although an understanding of the internal governance of the institute was gained in order to plan an appropriate audit procedures, it is not intend express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.
- The fairness of the accounting policies and accounting estimates used and the appropriateness of the relevant disclosures made by management were evaluated.
- The relevance of using the institute's continuity basis for accounting was determined based on the audit evidence obtained as to whether there was quantitative uncertainty about the firm's continuity due to events or circumstances. If there is sufficient uncertainty, the audit report should focus on the disclosures made in the financial statements, and if those disclosures are not sufficient, my opinion should be distorted. However, continued existence may end on future events or circumstances.
- The presentation structure and content of the financial statements including disclosures were evaluated and it was evaluated that the transactions and events on which they were based are included in the financial statements in an appropriate and fair manner.

The governing parties were made awareness of the important audit findings, key internal governance weaknesses and other issues identified during my audit.

2. Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

2.1 The National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 contains special provisions regarding the following requirements.

2.1.1 Except for the effects of the matters described in the 'Basis for Qualified Opinion' section, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 12(a) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, I obtained all information and clarification required for the audit subject to the observations described in the paragraph pertaining to the basis for the observed opinion and as appeared in my inquiry, proper financial reporting has been maintained by the institute.

2.1.2 That the financial statements of the institute correspond with the previous year as per the requirement mentioned in Section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

2.1.3 The recommendations, other than my observations in 1.2.(c) and 1.2.(d), made by me during the last year as per the requirement mentioned in Section 6(1)(d)(iv) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, are included in the submitted financial statements.

2.2 In restricting the actions taken and the evidence obtained and quantitative facts, nothing came to my notice to state follows.

2.2.1 According to the requirement of Section 12(d) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, a member of the Board of Directors of the institute may have a direct or indirect involvement in any Agreement pertaining to the institute, outside its general business of activities.

2.2.2 In accordance with the requirements set out in Section 12 (f) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, save and except for the observation mentioned below, inconsistency with any applicable written law or any other general or special provisions issued by the Board of the institute.

Reference to Law/ Regulations

Observations

(a) Para 40(1) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018

Even though the entity is required to have its own Internal Auditor, duly appointed by its governing body to perform internal audits, the position remained vacant as of 31st December 2024.

b) Financial Regulations of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri
Lanka

i. 1645(a)

Even though the officer responsible for the vehicles of the institute is required to maintain a vehicle log book, as specified in General Format 267, for each vehicle under his charge and make regular entries—the details such as vehicle information, fuel consumption, annual licenses, and monthly running summaries for 02 vehicles have not been completed or updated in the institution's vehicle log book

ii.1646

Although officers in charge of vehicles are required to submit the original copy of the monthly summary of journeys, written in Form General 268(a), along with the daily running charts for each month through their respective department heads by the 15th of the following month, this procedure has not been followed with regard to 2 vehicles

(c). Para 3.1 of the Public
Administration Circular dated 29th
December,2016.

Although a fuel test should be conducted every 12 months, after driving 25,000 kilometers, or following a major engine repair—whichever occurs first—a fuel test had not been conducted for one vehicle in the institute.

(d). Para 4 of Public Finance Circular
No.02/2020 dated 28th December,2020

Although the annual procurement plan for the coming year should be prepared before 10th December of the current year, approved by the Chief Accounting Officer, and a copy forwarded to the

Auditor General, the institution's procurement plan for the year 2024 was submitted for audit only on 3rd December, 2024.

2.2.3 The powers, functions, and duties of the institution have not been carried out as required by Section 12(g) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

2.2.4 According to the requirement mentioned in Section 12 (h) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, apart from the following observations, the resources of the institution have not been procured and utilized economically, efficiently and effectively within the time frames and in compliance with the applicable laws.

Although an amount of Rs. 250,000 was allocated for staff training programs in the 2024 procurement plan, the planned training programs were not conducted.

2.3 Other Facts

(a). The legal database, which cost Rs. 3,517,995, remained inactive from 2017 to 31 December 2024.

(b). The budget allocation of Rs. 2,148,464 for other allowances, local travel expenses, stationery, fuel, and staff training was underutilized by between 57% and 100%.

(c). As of 31st December 2024, the approved staff strength of the institution was 34, while the actual staff count was 18, resulting in 16 vacancies. There were 4 vacancies for 4 senior-level posts, 1 vacancy for 1 junior-level post, 7 vacancies for 5 secondary-level posts, and 4 vacancies for 2 primary-level posts.

(d) Even though providing library facilities to judicial officers as per Section 5(d) of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute Act No. 46 of 1985 is one of the primary objectives of the institution, it was observed that this objective has not been fulfilled due to the post of Librarian being vacant. In addition, the positions of Evaluation and Monitoring Officer, Administrative Officer, Typist, and Driver were all 100 percent vacant according to the approved cadre.

Sgd. by

G. H. D. Dharmapala

Auditor General (Acting.)