

Phoness: 8985787788

8985797788

Email : secapbc@gmail.com

THE BAR COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

From B.Padma Latha, B.Com., LL.B.,
I/c Secretary,
Bar Council of A.P.,
Ground Floor,
A.P. High Court Building,
Nelapadu, Amaravati – 522 239.



To The Presidents of all
Bar Associations
in the State

ROC No. 201 / 2024

Dt: 10-07-2024

Sir,

Sub: Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh – Advocates to file Verification applications, who completed 5 years after issuance of “Certificate of Practice” under COP Rules OR under “All India Bar Examination Rules” – Reg.

Ref: Letter of the Bar Council of India BCI:D:205/2024 dt.14-01-2024

With reference to the subject cited above, I am to inform you that under Rule – 9 of COP Rules, 2015, the “Certificate of Practice” issued to an advocate OR under “All India Bar Examination Rules”, shall be valid for a period of 5 years, and is liable to be verified every 5 years by filing an application for verification, before the validity period of “Certificate of Practice” expires.

As per the circular of the Bar Council of India under reference, the Advocates must substantiate their existence in the legal profession during verification. **The verification process necessitates the attachment of essential documents such as Vakalatnama, Order sheet or proof of Drafting, Deeds in non litigious work etc.** In addition to the said documents, the advocates have to disclose any criminal cases filed / pending.

Therefore, the Verification applications shall be filed along with 5 Certified copies of Vakalatnamas / Order Sheets etc., along with all Educational Certificates, so as to enable the Office to forward the Certificates to the concerned Boards and Universities for Verification, which were not verified earlier. The advocates Enrolled prior to 1990, shall file Verification Application along with 5 Vakalatnamas / Order Sheets etc., **and need not submit Educational Certificates for Verification**, in view of the direction of the Bar Council of India.

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THE BAR COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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The Bar Associations are informed to certify only the practicing Advocates at Column – III of Form “A” to avoid “Non Practicing Advocates”, who are availing the benefits of Welfare Schemes and are participating in the Elections of the Bar Associations / Bar Council. Please, note that if the Bar Associations have issued Certificate to the Non-Practising Advocate, the Bar Council will be at liberty to take appropriate action, against the concerned Office bearers, under Rule-8 of the COP Rules.

Two separate Applications along with lists are enclosed herewith for compliance.

1. **Renewal Application** : Advocates, who were issued COP Certificates on 01-01-2020 and 5 years practice expires by 31-12-2024.
2. **Fresh Application** : Advocates, who have completed 5 years practice, after issuing Certificate by the Bar Council of India under “All India Bar Examination Rules”.

Therefore, all the Advocates are informed to submit Verification Applications i.e. Form “A” along with 5 Vakalatnamas / Order Sheets etc., from 15-07-2024 to 15-09-2024 along with fee of Rs. 500/-, through SBI Challan.

I further request the Presidents of the Bar Association, to place the said circular on the Notice Board of the Association for information of the Advocates and to take initiative and submit the applications collectively, through Bar Associations.



Yours faithfully,

B. Padmalate
I/c Secretary, Bar Council

Encl:

1. Copy of Application Forms “A” for “Renewal” and for “Fresh” Applications
2. Two separate lists of Advocates, Bar Association wise, for “Renewal” and “Fresh” Applications
3. Letter of the Bar Council of India dt. 14-01-2024.

Links:

1. To check COP Status <https://barcouncilap.org/cop-details>
2. List of Advocates to file renewal of Certificate of Practice application <https://barcouncilap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/COP-Renewal-Total-List-Bar-Assn-Wise.pdf>
3. List of Advocates to file COP, Enrolled from 01-01-2010 to 31-12-2018 <https://barcouncilap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/List-to-file-COP-Bar-Assn-Wise-Enrt.-from-2010-2018.pdf>
4. To Download Application Form for renewal <https://barcouncilap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/COP-Application-for-Verification.pdf>
5. To Download Application Form for filing of COP <https://barcouncilap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/COP-New-Application-Form-2010-2018.pdf>

Copy to:
Members, Bar Council

E-mail : bcinfo21@gmail.com
info@barcouncilofindia.org
Website : www.barcouncilofindia.org



Tel. : (91) 011-4922 5000
Fax : (91) 011-4922 5011

भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

BCI:D:205/2024

Date: 14.01.2024

To,

The Secretary/ies,
All the State Bar Council/s

Sub.: Urgent Notice Regarding Advocates Declaration of Existence in Profession - Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practise (Verification) Rules, 2015.

Sir(s)/Ma'am(s),

In light of recent concerns, apprehensions, surrounding misinformation and improper notifications, by State Bar Councils/Members of State Bar Councils/Advocates in their individual capacity, the Bar Council of India finds it imperative to issue this notice for clarity and caution.

Contrary to previous communications, if any, from State Bar Councils, etc. it is crucial to emphasize that Advocates, including those listed as voters in previous Bar Council Elections, must substantiate their existence in the legal profession during verification either after five years or when submitting fresh verification forms.

This verification process necessitates the attachment of essential documents such as vakalatnama, order sheets, or proof of drafting/deeds in non-litigious work, etc. in accordance with the Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice (Verification) Rules, 2015.

Incorrect declarations, if any, stemming from inaccurate information being provided to applicants must be promptly rectified.

We earnestly implore all concerned Advocates to meticulously review and rectify their submissions, aligning them with the established guidelines.

Furthermore, we request and direct the State Bar Council/s to reiterate this aspect promptly to all applicants.

To ensure compliance with Form A Column III, Advocates are reminded to submit:

1. Certified copies of at least 5 Vakalatnamas or any other document/cause list establishing five years of active practice.

2. For Advocates associated with law firms, a certificate from the authorized personnel of the firm detailing the period of service and nature of work.
3. For conveyancing lawyers, submission of five documents from the last three years supporting the claim of being a conveyancing practice lawyer.

In addition to these documents, Advocates are reminded to provide details and updates, if any, on educational qualifications, and disclose any filed/pending criminal cases.


Your cooperation in promptly addressing any inaccuracies in your submissions are of utmost importance for the sanctity of the verification process being monitored by a High Level Committee constituted on the request of the Bar Council of India by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The High-Level Committee has decided to concentrate on verification from the 1990 enrolments onward, deferring verification of pre-1990 enrolments, if any, to a later stage.

We trust that each esteemed Advocate will take immediate steps to ensure compliance, upholding the integrity of the profession.

The Secretary/ies of State Bar Council/s are requested to circulate this among Advocates enrolled under their Bar Council/s and also ensure verification is carried out as per such procedure as is mentioned above and as is stipulated in the Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice (Verification) Rules, 2015.

Yours sincerely,



(Srimanto Sen)
Secretary

Bar Council of India