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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

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Bar Council of India welcomes historic judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court affirming independence, dignity and self-regulatory character of the legal profession

The Bar Council of India warmly welcomes the landmark judgment dated 7 July 2026 delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in *Ajay Vijn versus Indian Banks Association and Others*, authored by Hon'ble Mr Justice P. S. Narasimha for the Bench comprising His Lordship and Hon'ble Mr Justice Alok Aradhe.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has emphatically recognised that the independence of the legal profession is as essential to the preservation of the rule of law and democracy as the independence of the judiciary itself.

The Court has reiterated that advocates are officers of the Court, integral participants in the administration of justice, defenders of constitutional freedoms and indispensable partners in maintaining the credibility of the justice delivery system.

The Bar Council of India particularly welcomes the declaration that matters concerning the professional conduct, competence, negligence or misconduct of advocates fall within the exclusive disciplinary jurisdiction of the statutory bodies constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Bar Council of India to constitute a committee for undertaking a comprehensive performance audit of the disciplinary mechanisms administered by the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Councils. The exercise is intended to objectively examine the institution, disposal, pendency, timelines, regional variations, procedural practices, infrastructure, staffing, transparency and effectiveness of disciplinary proceedings. The Council accepts this responsibility with complete seriousness and humility.

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The Bar Council of India also welcomes the far-reaching emphasis placed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court upon institutionalising Continuing Legal Education for advocates. The legal profession cannot remain static in a changing society.

It is a most welcome step and judgment rightly recognises that post-enrolment education must move beyond occasional seminars and ceremonial conferences.

The suggestion of the Court for the establishment of a full-time National Legal Academy for advocates, broadly on the lines of the National Judicial Academy, and the direction to the Bar Council of India to constitute a team of senior advocates, junior advocates and experts experienced in establishing academic institutions to consider, discuss and evolve the proposal, are among the most path-breaking and epoch-making steps in the history of the legal profession.

The proposed National Legal Academy would be a major transformative national institution. It can become a centre for continuing professional development, mentoring, ethical training, technological capacity building, advanced advocacy, specialised legal education and transmission of the finest traditions and values of the Bar to future generations.

The Academy will certainly serve as a bridge between urban and rural practitioners, senior and junior advocates, the Bar and the Bench, and traditional legal learning and emerging areas of law and technology. Its purpose will not merely be to impart knowledge, but to nurture an informed, independent, ethical, competent and socially responsive Bar.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has rightly underlined that reducing judicial pendency cannot remain the sole responsibility of the judiciary alone. The Bar is an equal institutional partner in the administration of justice. Timely disposal of cases, avoidance of unnecessary adjournments, professional preparation and cooperative functioning between the Bar and the Bench must become part of a shared national mission.

The Bar and the Bench are not isolated institutions. Reform in the justice delivery system can succeed only through cooperation, coordinated planning, mutual respect and shared accountability.

In immediate response to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Bar Council of India shall convene a meeting next week to consider and constitute the committees and expert groups required for implementing the judgment.

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The proposed deliberations shall include

- i. Constitution of a broad-based committee to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of disciplinary mechanisms under the Advocates Act, 1961
- ii. Collection and analysis of reliable data relating to disciplinary complaints, disposals, pendency, timelines, staffing, procedural practices and institutional support across State Bar Councils
- iii. Examination of measures for ensuring expeditious, fair, transparent and effective disciplinary proceedings
- iv. Constitution of a team of senior advocates, junior advocates, academicians and institutional experts to prepare the framework for the proposed National Legal Academy
- v. Preparation of a structured national model for Continuing Legal Education, professional development, mentoring and specialised training of advocates
- vi. Identification of technological, administrative and institutional reforms necessary for modernising the regulatory and educational framework of the legal profession

The Bar Council of India shall make every endeavour to ensure that the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are implemented not merely formally, but in their true letter and spirit. The Council has initiated the process of identifying suitable land, buildings and allied infrastructure for the establishment and operationalisation of the proposed National Lawyers Academy.

The Council shall place before the Hon'ble Supreme Court an affidavit setting out the developments, decisions, measures proposed and steps taken, within the time prescribed by the Court.

The Bar Council of India believes that this judgment marks the beginning of a New Institutional chapter for the legal profession.

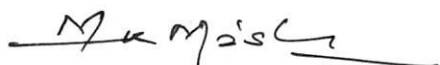
The true strength of an independent Bar lies not merely in resisting external pressure, but also in possessing the courage and institutional maturity to examine, reform and improve itself.

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The Bar Council of India shall rise to the occasion.

This historic judgment is not merely a declaration of the rights and independence of the legal profession. It is a call to responsibility, renewal and collective action.

The Bar Council of India welcomes that call and commits itself to fulfilling it with sincerity, urgency and resolve.



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