



# भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

BCI:D: 4130 :2017(Council/Cir.)

24.08.2017

**The Secretaries  
of all the  
State Bar Councils**

**Sub. : Compliance of the Order dated 23.08.2017 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Transferred Case (Civil) No. 126 of 2015 In-Re Ajayinder Sangwan and Ors. Versus Bar Council of Delhi & Ors.**

**Sir/Ma'am,**

This is to bring to your kind notice that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Order dated 23.08.2017 passed in Transferred Case (Civil) No. 126 of 2015 In-Re Ajayinder Sangwan and Ors. Versus Bar Council of Delhi & Ors. has provided a last opportunity to advocates to submit complete application forms for necessary verifications of their degrees and has directed all the State Bar Councils as follows :-

**"15 (fifteen) days' time be given to cure the defective applications by the concerned Advocates and to all such advocates to submit their complete application forms for necessary verification of their degrees if they have not submitted the same earlier, from the date of publication of advertisement in two leading newspapers, one in English and the other in regional language having wide circulation in the respective State/Union Territories, for which advertisement shall be published within 7 days from the passing of this order."**

In lieu of the above, you are directed to comply with the above referred order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and **do the needful by publication of the same by on or before 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 and send/scan the copy/copies of the same to the Bar Council of India.**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court **has furthermore also directed the State Bar Councils to verify such applications without any charge within a period of one month after the expiry of above 15 days.**

Furthermore, the Supreme Court has also directed the University authorities to ensure the verification of degrees awarded by them without any charge within 1 (one) month of its presentation. Thus, **all the State Bar Councils are also directed to intimate the Universities concerned of the Order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with respect to them to ensure the compliance of the same.**

A copy of the above referred order is attached herewith for your reference, necessary perusal and compliance within the time limit granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as the order has further directed the State Bar Councils to take necessary steps and conclude all proceedings by 31.12.2017 and send a reply/status report to the Bar Council of India.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Srimanto Sen)  
Secretary



REPORTABLE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

**CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION**

**TRANSFERRED CASE (CIVIL) NO. 126 OF 2015**

Ajayinder Sangwan and Ors.

.... Petitioner(s)

Versus

Bar Council of Delhi & Ors.

.... Respondent(s)

**WITH**

**TRANSFERRED CASE (CIVIL) No. 110 OF 2015**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 97 OF 2016**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 799 OF 2016**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 644 OF 2016**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 709 OF 2016**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 776 OF 2016**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 808 OF 2016**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 1005 OF 2016**

**ORDER**

**R.K. Agrawal, J.**

1) The present transferred case has originated owing to the steps taken by the Bar Council of India to cause an enquiry and to find out fake lawyers out of its members and/or not even a member of the Bar Councils and/or member of an Bar Association of the country. While countering, Bar Council of India has submitted that steps have been taken in the matter in accordance with the Advocates Act, 1961 and the Rules framed thereunder to come to a conclusion and to find out each number of fake lawyers in the country and only thereafter the elections to the State Bar Councils can be held.

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2) This Court, vide order dated 05.10.2015, directed that all the matters which are pending in different High Courts in connection with the matter in question be transferred to this court for hearing while refusing to grant stay in respect of giving effect to the Notification in connection with the Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice (Verification) Rules, 2015.

3) Further, in pursuance thereto, this court, vide order dated 02.11.2015, directed that the persons who are not members of the Bar Association of any State or District or otherwise to carry on their profession, the certificate which has been asked for by the Bar Council of India to be attached with the application form that should be taken into account by the respective Bar Councils allowing them to apply and thereby on such application concerned, Bar Council will take necessary steps to find out the correct position in respect of those persons. It was further made clear that the persons who were practicing as a conveyancing lawyer or otherwise or in terms of the Rules of Advocates Act in any manner whatsoever, they should not be interfered with carrying on their practice in such manner whatsoever by the Bar Council of India, if they are legally enrolled through the Bar Councils.

4) Heard learned counsel for both the sides on the question of holding elections to the State Bar Councils at the earliest and perused



the records.

5) Learned senior counsel for the Bar Council of India admitted that the work relating to verification is very slow as the States where Advocate Generals are functioning as the Chairman of the State Bar Councils and elections are due, they are unable to spare time for the affairs of the State Bar Councils due to heavy workload. Further, no verification of certificates/degrees have been undertaken for LLB Graduates seeking enrolment after July 2010 and the All India Bar Examination (AIBE) cannot be said to be proof of having a valid degree of any candidate. In order to expedite the process of verification of degrees, the Bar Council of India proposes to constitute a Central Verification Committee of the Bar Council of India headed by a former Judge of this Court for the purpose of transparent and fair verification.

6) To put it in a nutshell, the petitioners are requesting for immediate elections of the State Bar Council as the term has expired long back whereas the Bar Council of India is pressing for the need of verification of the candidates to eliminate fake lawyers in order to bring improvement in the Bar and to get deserving practicing advocates for the respective Bar Councils.

7) We have been informed by learned senior counsel for the Bar Council of India as well as the respective State Bar Councils that the process of verification is not completed yet. In view of that, to do



complete justice to the parties, it would be proper for us to provide a last opportunity for the same as mentioned below:-

(1) 15 (fifteen) days' time be given to cure the defective applications by the concerned Advocates and to all such advocates to submit their complete application forms for necessary verification of their degrees if they have not submitted the same earlier, from the date of publication of advertisement in two leading newspapers, one in English language and the other in regional language having wide circulation in the respective State/Union Territories, for which advertisement shall be published within 7 days from the passing of this order.

(2) 1 (one) month time for verification of applications, without any charge, by the State Bar Councils, after the expiry of the above 15 (fifteen) days.

(3) The University Authorities shall ensure the verification of degrees awarded by them, without any charge, within 1 (month) on its presentation.

(4) The respective State Bar Councils shall publish a Final Electoral Roll by including the names and particulars of such advocates whose degrees attached with the application forms have been verified by the concerned University authorities. The names of all such advocates who have not removed the defects in the application forms already submitted within the specified time



and also such persons whose degrees on verification have been found false or fake by the University authorities shall not be included in the Electoral Rolls.

(5) Bar Council of India to declare the schedule of elections in respective State Bar Councils to be held after the expiry of 75 (seventy five) days, as mentioned above, within one week mentioning therein:-

- (i) 15 days for nomination.
- (ii) 1 week for withdrawal of nomination.
- (iii) to upload final candidates' list in 1 (one) week.
- (iv) to decide the date of election.

8) We further make it clear that all the steps be taken by all the parties concerned in the matter for the purpose of elections in respect of all the Bar Councils where the term of the existing members have already expired or to be expired. We further make it clear that although this order has been passed in favour of the verification only for the purpose of the election but it would also include for the purpose of the verification of all other learned lawyers who have already applied within the time stipulated by this Court.

9) We direct all the State Bar Councils to take necessary steps and to conclude all proceedings by 31.12.2017 and send a reply to the Bar Council of India. Thereafter, the Bar Council of India, after receiving all the replies from the State Bar Councils, would file a status report.

10) We, hereby, authorize the Bar Council of India to notify all the

State Bar Councils, by way of publication in two leading newspapers, that they must take all steps to complete the process before 31.12.2017.

11) The Bar Council of India is directed to request a retired Judge of the Supreme Court in order to control and supervise the verification process and preparation of Electoral Rolls. We direct the Bar Council of India to take all steps in this regard immediately in order to do the needful. All concerned are directed to render full assistance and cooperation to the Verification Committee. List the matter in the second week of January, 2018 on a Non-Miscellaneous Day.

.....J.  
**(R.K. AGRAWAL)**

.....J.  
**(ABHAY MANOHAR SAPRE)**

NEW DELHI;  
**AUGUST 23, 2017.**