

ANNEXURE-‘A’

- (1) The University/college must send a duly notarized affidavit stating the details of faculty members including the Principal/ Head of Institution, and Head of Department specifying and certifying their qualifications and the subjects being taught by them and further stating the salary being paid to the faculty members by RTGS/NEFT/Cheque which must be as per UGC scale under Bankers Book of Evidence Act. Authenticated, signed and certified Bank Statements, have to be necessarily furnished to the Bar Council of India every three months.

For the present moment authenticated signed and certified Bank Statements bearing bank stamp/seal and signature of the bank manager for a period of three months with effect from March 2022 the date of receipt (March, April, May, 2022 thereafter again after 3 Month be furnished immediately.

This must be continued to be submitted every three months without fail.

Other Condition

A. Conditions/Rules of Legal Education regarding which compliance affidavit has to be filed.

- (2) Kindly also furnish purchase receipts of Indian Bar Review and other minimum Library requirement , failing which the Centre of Legal Educations shall be liable to the natural consequences, which may include revocation of recognition/approval granted.

- (3) Centre of Legal Education (CLE) as defined under the Rules of Legal Education stands for the following and is being reproduced below for convenience:

“Centres of Legal Education” means (a) All approved Departments of Law of Universities, Colleges of Law, Constituent Colleges under recognized Universities and affiliated Colleges or Schools of law of recognized Universities so approved.

Provided that a Department or College or Institution conducting correspondence courses through distance education shall not be included.

- (4)(i) The Centre of Legal Education is directed to ensure establishment and continuance of a Legal Aid Centre as per Clause-11, Schedule-III of Rule-11 of the Part-IV of the Legal Education Rules – 2008. CLE **should keep activated** Legal Aid Clinic.
- (ii) Centre of Legal Education must ensure to teach clinical subjects and give marks as per the schedule.
- (iii) Centre of Legal Education should ensure the payment of salary to teachers as per Rules 22 schedule III, Part IV of BCI Rules.

- (iv) The library should be furnished as per Clause 15 of Schedule III of Legal Education Rules 2008 given below :-

Minimum Library requirement: To start with, a Law Library shall have a set of AIR manual, Combo offer of CD of AIR Pvt. Ltd. (containing electronic version of AIR Supreme Court and High Court Data bases Research 1950-2015 (four connections each) Cr. L.J. Data Base 1950-2015(four connections) AIR Privy Council Data Base 1900-1950 (four connections) AIR Mannual latest 6th Edition(1-45 Vols.) AIR Journal 2015, Cr. L.J. 2015, L.I.C. 2015, AIR Civil Cases 2015, AIR Law Lines 2015, AIR Cheque Dishonour Reports 2015, AIR Accident Claims and compensation 2015, Institution shall get electronic versions updated every year by AIR Pvt. Ltd. Central Acts and Local Acts, Criminal law journal, SCC, Company cases, Indian Bar Review, selected Judgements on Professional Ethics and Journals with the back volumes for at least ten years and also such number of text books in each subjects taught during the period according to the minimum standard ratio of ten books for each registered students. For running integrated program, text books of such other subjects are also to be kept in the similar minimum ratio.

- (V) The Centre of Legal Education should keep in mind that minimum 10 sets of Indian Bar Review, selected judgments and professional Ethics published by Bar Council of India Trust and the AIR volumes/set must be promptly ordered for the library if not already ordered, as it is an essential requirement to run a law college which is stipulated by Bar Council of India, Legal Education Rules 2008 framed under a Parliament Act.
- (VI) The Center of Legal Education is directed to make a minimum investment as provided below for upgrading it's library as per the following guideline :-
- "Today with the increasing cost of journals, books, wi-fi, e-library and online facilities including I.T. facilities, the minimum investment by each university should be Rs. 10 lakhs for each year. However for any university/deemed university in rural area, the investment should be Rs. 5 Lakh and for all other affiliated colleges in the urban area it should be Rs. 2 lakhs and in rural area it should be Rs. 1 lakh."*
- (VII) Teacher Student ratio **shall be 1:40** as per Schedule-III, Rule-11, Clause-17, Part-IV of Bar Council of India Rules.
- (VIII) Centre of Legal Education is directed to inform the timings of the classes.
- (IX) Centre of Legal Education must ensure that not less than three percent seats are reserved for persons with disabilities.
- (X) Centre of Legal Education shall equip itself to provide appropriate facilities in terms of the physical infrastructure, academic infrastructure and any other facilities required for the effective participation of disabled students, teachers and staff in their respective activities. For e.g. (a) ramps in public buildings and (b) Braille symbols and auditory signals in elevators or lifts.

- B. Further, the Centre of Legal Education should maintain the timing which has to be minimum 5 ½ hours with half an hour break.**

Rule (xxiii), Chapter I

“(xxiii) “Regular Course of Study” means and includes a course which runs for at least five hours a day continuously with an additional half an hour recess every day and running not less than thirty hours of working schedule per week.”

Rule 5 of Schedule III

“Classes may be conducted between 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in a Centre of Legal Education, which is not fully residential. However the Library may remain open till 10 p.m.”

- C. Further, the Centre of Legal Education should follow the attendance rule and file affidavit that they are following the aforesaid and below mentioned rule. The next inspection team shall also see whether the said rules are being followed by the university or not. The relevant Rule 12 is given below:-**

“12. End Semester Test: No student of any of the degree program shall be allowed to take the end semester test in a subject if the student concerned has not attended minimum of 70% of the classes held in the subject concerned as also the moot court room exercises, tutorials and practical training conducted in the subject taken together.

Provided that if a student for any exceptional reasons fail to attend 70% of the classes held in any subject, the Dean of the University or the Principal of the Centre of Legal Education, as the case may be, may allow the student to take the test if the student concerned attended at least 65% of the classes held in the subject concerned and attended 70% of classes in all the subjects taken together. The similar power shall rest with the Vice Chancellor or Director of a National Law University, or his authorized representative in the absence of the Dean of Law.

Provided further that a list of such students allowed to take the test with reasons recorded be forwarded to the Bar Council of India.”

- D. Centre of Legal Education should also admit students as per the below mentioned Rule:**

7. Minimum marks in qualifying examination for admission: Bar Council of India may from time to time, stipulate the minimum

percentage of marks not below 45% of the total marks in case of general category applicants, 42% for OBC category and 40% of the total marks in case of SC and ST applicants, to be obtained for the qualifying examination, such as +2 Examination in case of Integrated Five Years' course or Degree course in any discipline for Three years' LL.B. course, for the purpose of applying for and getting admitted into a Law Degree Program of any recognized University in either of the streams.

Provided that such a minimum qualifying marks shall not automatically entitle a person to get admission into an institution but only shall entitle the person concerned to fulfill other institutional criteria notified by the institution concerned or by the government concerned from time to time to apply for admission.

E. Centre of Legal Education to follow Clause-24, Schedule-II of Legal Education Rule-2008 lays down Moot Court exercises and Internship; Clause-25, Schedule-III lays down Minimum period of Internship which is quoted hereunder.

(i) 24. Moot court exercise and Internship:

This paper may have three components of 30 marks each and a viva for 10 marks.

(a) Moot Court (30 Marks). Every student may be required to do at least three moot courts in a year with 10 marks for each. The moot court work will be on assigned problem and it will be evaluated for 5 marks for written submissions and 5 marks for oral advocacy.

(b) Observance of Trial in two cases, one Civil and one Criminal (30 marks):

Students may be required to attend two trials in the course of the last two or three years of LL.B. studies. They will maintain a record and enter the various steps observed during their attendance on different days in the court assignment. This scheme will carry 30 marks.

(c) Interviewing techniques and Pre-trial preparations and Internship diary (30 marks):

Each student will observe two interviewing sessions of clients at the Lawyer's Office/Legal Aid Office and record the proceedings in a diary, which will carry 15 marks. Each student will further observe the preparation of documents and court papers by the Advocate and the procedure for the filing of the suit/petition. This will be recorded in the diary, which will carry 15 marks.

(d) The fourth component of this paper will be Viva Voce examination on all the above three aspects. This will carry 10 marks.

(ii) 25. Minimum Period of Internship: (a) Each registered student shall have completed minimum of twelve weeks internship for Three Year Course stream and twenty weeks in case of Five Year Course stream during the entire period of legal studies under NGO, Trial and Appellate Advocates, Judiciary, Legal Regulatory authorities, Legislatures and Parliament, Other Legal Functionaries, Market Institutions, Law Firms, Companies, Local Self Government and other such bodies as the University shall stipulate, where law is practiced either in action or in dispute resolution or in management.

Provided that internship in any year cannot be for a continuous period of more than Four Weeks and all students shall at least gone through once in the entire academic period with Trial and Appellate Advocates.

(b) Each student shall keep Internship diary in such form as may be stipulated by the University concerned and the same shall be evaluated by the Guide in Internship and also a Core Faculty member of the staff each time. The total mark shall be assessed in the Final Semester of the course in the 4th Clinical course as stipulated under the Rules in Schedule II.

F. Centre of Legal Education should also follow Rule- 10 of Legal Education Rules 2008 which is quoted hereunder:-

10. Semester system

The course leading to either degree in law, unitary or on integrated double degree, shall be conducted in semester system in not less than 15 weeks for unitary degree course or not less than 18 weeks in double degree integrated course with not less than 30 class-hours per week including tutorials, moot court room exercise and seminars provided there shall be at least 24 lecture hours per week.

Provided further that in case of specialized and/or honours law courses there shall be not less than 36 class-hours per week including seminar, moot court and tutorial classes and 30 minimum lecture hours per week.

Provided further that Universities are free to adopt trimester system with appropriate division of courses per trimester with each of the trimester not less than 12 weeks.

G. Centre of Legal Education should also follow Rule 17 and Rule 18 of Schedule III of Legal Education Rules 2008 which is quoted hereunder :-

(i) Rule 17. Core Faculty:

There shall be sufficient number of full time faculty members in each Centre of Legal Education (i.e. ,Department, constituent or affiliated college) to teach each subject at all point of time for running courses who can be supported by part time or visiting faculty. Such a core faculty shall in no case be less than six in the first year of the approval with both streams in operation, eight in the second year and ten in the case of third year of law courses. In addition, for the integrated course qualification as is required under the UGC guideline or under such other standard setting body as the discipline is allotted to by any Act, statute, or Rules of the Government of India or of a State.

For the Three Year Bachelor of Law degree course only with two sections without the Honour program, there shall be minimum of 4 core faculty in the first year six in the second and eight in the third year in addition to the Principal/ Head or Dean as the case may be.

Provided that an institution intending to run any specialized or honours course must have at least three faculty in the group in which specialization and honours courses are offered.

Provided further that each full time faculty shall take as many classes in the subject or subjects as may be assigned to them on the basis of standard prescribed by 'the standard setting institution' like UGC.

Provided further, if any institution of a University, which was already affiliated to the University and approved to run professional courses of either scheme or both by the Bar Council of India after inspection of the University, falls short of required full time faculty, the new admission in courses may be required to remain suspended until new required number of faculty is procured. The University shall before starting a new academic session, notify which institutions are only be allowed to admit fresh students.

Provided further that if while inspecting the University it was found that in any institution of the University adequate number of full time faculty was not there in the staff, the Bar Council after giving notice to the University might give a public notice directing the University not to admit students in the new academic year in that institution.

There shall be adequate faculty in the subjects offered in the liberal educational subjects as part of the course by the institution. These faculties in the liberal educational discipline in Arts, Science, Management, Commerce, Engineering, Technology or any other discipline shall possess

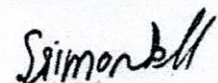
(ii) Rule -18 Minimum weekly class program per subject (paper):.

There shall be for each paper (with 4 credit) Four class-hours for one hour duration each and one hour of tutorial/moot court/project work per week.

Kindly ensure to comply with all the above stipulated and all other requisite Rules of Legal Education 2008 by way of compliance by way of duly notarized affidavit by attaching adequate documentary proof with the same within 31st Aug, 2022 for being eligible to be issued further Approval for further subsequent academic years.

It is suggested that all information should be provided to Bar Council of India both in hard and soft copy/pen-drive and by email at complianceaffiliationle2@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely



**(Srimanto Sen)
Secretary**



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:465/2024

Date: 24.01.2024

To

All the Vice-Chancellor(s), Dean(s)/HOD(s)/Principal(s),
All the Centres of Legal Education

Sub.: Circular - Implementation of Computer Education in Legal Courses.

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

The Bar Council of India draws your attention to reinforce the significance of computer education in legal courses, as outlined in Bar Council of India Legal Education Rules of 2008.

The impetus for this communication arises from the recent recommendation by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Functioning of Virtual Courts/Court Proceedings Through Video Conferencing.

The relevant para of the Recommendation of Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 134th report on the action taken on the 103rd report is quoted herein below: -

The Committee also recommends that the Bar Council of India may introduce computer course as one of the subjects in three year/five year courses to enable the students to get trained in handling computers and get adapted to the online systems while they pursue the Law Course. This will help educate and equip budding lawyers with knowledge and skills required for handling digital platforms.

We wish to draw your attention to the proactive measures already embedded in the Bar Council of India's Legal Education Rules.

Our existing framework, particularly Clause-9(b), Schedule-III of Rule-11 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008 mandates computer education for all law students.

Additionally, Clause-6 of Schedule-III of Rule-11 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008 emphasizes the provision of computer facilities with internet access in libraries, underlining the essential role of technology in legal education.

Furthermore, Rule-16(v), Chapter-III of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008 highlights the importance of a sufficient number of computers and terminals, reinforcing our commitment to integrating computer education into the legal curriculum.

Rule 18(iv), Chapter-III of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008 accentuates the necessity of adequate library, computer, and technical facilities, including online resources.

These rules reflect our foresight into the evolving nature of legal practice and our dedication to preparing the legal fraternity for the challenges of the digital age.

The recommendations are already an integral aspect of the BCI's Legal Education Rules.

The BCI, recognizing the transformative impact of technology, has been steadfast in addressing the need for computer education in legal courses.

As guardians of legal education, we urge you to ensure strict adherence to the BCI's Legal Education Rules, aligning your institution with the Committee's recommendations.

We believe that by adhering to BCI Rules of Legal Education incorporating computer education, you not only enhance the quality of legal education but also equip aspiring lawyers with the essential skills required for a dynamic legal practice environment.

The BCI actively emphasizes the importance of computer education.

We encourage you to play a pivotal role in this initiative, fostering an environment that nurtures technological proficiency in our future legal professionals.

We call upon you to embrace this opportunity to shape the future of legal education.

Together, we can ensure that aspiring lawyers are well-versed in handling digital platforms, contributing to the overall development of the legal profession in this era of digital transformation.

All Centers of Legal Education are expected to show unwavering commitment to legal education.



(Srimanto Sen)

Secretary

Bar Council of India

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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: 468 /2024 /Cir-006/2024 (LE)

Date: 20.05.2024

To,

The Vice-Chancellor(s)
All the University(ies)

The Registrar(s)
All the University(ies)

Principal(s)/Dean(s)/Director(s),
All the Centers of Legal Education

Sub.: Comprehensive Implementation of Legal Education Reforms, Mandatory Guidelines, Norms & Rules of Legal Education.

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

A transformative vision has been articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his address on 30.04.2022 at the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts, advocating for the integration of new subjects in Legal Education, and recognizing the emphasis placed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on incorporating computer education within the ambit of Legal Education, alongside acknowledging the collective keenness of the judiciary and Government towards the inclusion of Mediation as a compulsory subject in Legal Education, and considering the dynamic landscape of legal education.

Furthermore, during the inauguration of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, the Prime Minister emphasised that the Legal education is a key instrument in boosting justice delivery, noting that both passion and professional competence are introduced to young minds through education. Giving insights into realizing the potential of women in every domain, the Prime Minister has suggested making each domain inclusive at the educational level. He said that an increase in the number of women in law schools will lead to an increase in the number of women in the legal profession. Thus, this principle must be kept in mind, and law schools must encourage the admission of female students by offering them incentives.

The Prime Minister also stated that Legal education needs to adapt to changing times and technologies, focusing on understanding the latest trends in crimes, investigation, and evidence. The Prime Minister was also of the view that there's a call for strengthening exchange programs between law universities from different countries to provide young legal professionals with greater international exposure. In the light of these considerations, the Bar Council of India issues this circular to all Centers of Legal Education for immediate implementation.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 indeed marks a significant overhaul in India's education system, aiming to provide a more holistic and flexible approach to learning. One of its key features is the establishment of a single regulatory body, the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), which will oversee all forms of higher education except for medical and legal education. While the NEP 2020 primarily focuses on higher education and proposes the HECI for its regulation, it does touch upon certain guidelines for legal education as well. The NEP 2020 provides broad guidelines for enhancing the quality and accessibility of legal education. Legal education in India is governed by the Bar Council of India (BCI), which regulates the legal profession and legal education. The BCI is working towards implementing the relevant and applicable guidelines within the framework of legal education to enhance the quality and effectiveness of legal education in the country.

1. Reminder of Inclusion of Emerging Subjects:

All Centers of Legal Education are directed to incorporate subjects such as Blockchains, Electronic-Discovery, Cyber-Security, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Bio-Ethics etc. into their Legal Education curricula as per vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister. This is to ensure graduates are well-equipped to handle contemporary legal challenges.

2. Emphasis on Constitutional Values

Legal education programs should ensure to impart a profound understanding of constitutional values, including Justice - Social, Economic, and Political. Emphasis should be placed on practical applications of these values in legal practice in consonance with NEP.

3. Contextualization within Socio-economic and Cultural Realities

All Centers of Legal Education are instructed to integrate socio-economic and cultural contexts into their syllabi, for a nuanced understanding of the law among students to align with NEP.

4. Bilingual Education for Accessible Justice

To enhance access to justice and minimize delays, institutions offering law education must endeavour to provide bilingual education, using both English and the Regional/Bilingual Language as per NEP.

5. Promotion of Critical and Interdisciplinary Thinking

All Centers of Legal Education are encouraged to actively involve students in critical and interdisciplinary thinking. Research and collaboration across disciplines to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing legal challenges in accordance with NEP.

Integrated 5 year LL.B degree course/s have already acknowledged and promoted this aspect since the introduction of the said course w.e.f. year 1986 at NLSIU, Bangalore which was followed by maximum law schools in India over a period of time

6. Compulsory Integration of Mediation into Legal Education: Government and Judiciary Directive

Keenness has been expressed by both the Government and the Judiciary for the introduction of Mediation as a compulsory specific subject, with a particular emphasis on its integration into Legal Education/Law degree courses. This directive for the introduction of Mediation as a compulsory specific subject, was communicated by the Bar Council of India through a circular dispatched earlier on 13.08.2020 bearing No.BCI:D:1897/2020 (323/2020).

7. Integration of Computer Education into Legal Education: Implementation Directive and Compliance

Simultaneously, we draw your attention to the circular dated 25.01.2024, highlighting the necessity of implementing computer education in Legal Education, particularly in 3-year LL.B and 5-year Integrated LL.B degree programs, both hons and non-hons, which is already a part of Rules of Legal Education-2008. Moreover, a circular BCI:D:465/2024 dated 24.01.2024 has already been earlier issued in this regard.

8. Incorporation of New Legal Enactments into University Curriculum

In line with the evolving legal landscape of the nation, it has been decided to incorporate three new enactments i.e. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 into the curriculum of Universities and Centers of Legal Education starting from the academic year 2024-2025.

These enactments include the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, aimed at ensuring justice and equity within the legal framework; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, focused on safeguarding the rights and security of citizens; and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, aimed at streamlining the processes related to gathering and presenting evidence in legal proceedings, thereby ensuring fair and efficient administration of justice.

With these enactments coming into effect from 1st July, 2024, it is imperative for legal education institutions to integrate them into their curricula to equip future legal professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the legal landscape and ensure their readiness to navigate and contribute effectively to the evolving legal system.

Ensuring compliance of the same is crucial for ensuring preparedness for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic session.

9. Non approval/ non recognition by BCI of law courses by online mode and through correspondence, open and distance under the name/nomenclature of LL.B.2; BA (Law etc.); LL.M; MA (Law/etc.) etc.

BCI and it's Legal Education Committee have time and again reiterated, stated and clarified, that it does not recognise LL.B and/or LL.M or any Law degree course through online mode, correspondence, open and/or distance learning mode.

It has further come to the attention of the Bar Council of India and its Legal Education Committee that certain institutions are offering Master of Arts (MA) programs with a Law subject, in open and distance learning mode, or online mode which attempts to mimic the structure and content of a Master of Laws (LL.M.) program. Upon careful examination, it has been observed that such an endeavor is beyond the scope and intent of a Master of Arts Degree and is deemed impermissible. It is hereby clarified that such MA degrees will not be recognized by the BCI as equivalent to a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree and for the purpose of teaching of LL.B. Course.

It is crucial to clarify that the designation "MA" signifies "Master of Arts," whereas "LL.M." represents "Legum Magister," a Latin term denoting a "Master of Laws" Degree. The distinction between these two titles is significant, as an LL.M. degree is specifically tailored for graduates of law programs, whereas an MA degree encompasses a broader range of academic disciplines and is separate and distinguished from Master of Laws Degree. It is a deliberate attempt to bypass LL.M. in such a manner.

The BCI emphasizes that an MA degree with a Law subject does not confer the same benefits or privileges as an LL.M. degree. Individuals holding an MA degree in Law will not be entitled to the benefits typically associated with possessing an LL.M. degree, nor will they be eligible to teach in LL.B degree programs. Pursuit of legal education at the postgraduate level, in the form of an LL.M. degree, is restricted to individuals who have completed their undergraduate legal studies while it is clarified that any specialized branch of law offered at the master's level, without the LL.B./BA.LLB qualification as the requisite entry-level credential, shall not be recognised as equivalent to an LL.M. degree.

Some Universities, including some reputed Universities are running such programs in flagrant violation of clear directives and guidelines as stipulated above and without even having made a request or application to BCI in this regard. It is categorically made clear, such programs have no recognition and/or approval from BCI.

It is imperative for all stakeholders in the legal education sector to understand that the distinction between an MA degree and an LL.M. degree is significant. An MA degree with a Law subject does not fulfill the requirements for recognition by the BCI as a qualification equivalent to an LL.M. degree.

This notification serves to clarify the position of the BCI on the recognition of MA degrees with a Law subject and to prevent any misconceptions regarding their equivalence to LL.M. degrees.

It has also been brought to the notice of Bar Council of India that some entities claiming to be Centre of Legal Education are offering courses through distance education/correspondence mode, under the nomenclature of the degree of LL.M. or LL.M. professional, where anyone even without LL.B. can get an LL.M. degree, and, the same persons are also getting registered for Ph.D., appearing for UGC NET etc. thereby diluting quality of legal education.

This is an illegal practice and Bar Council of India shall not hesitate in taking stringent action against such centers.

As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 29.08.2019 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No.1510 of 2018, titled as Vinit Garg Vs. University Grants Commission and as per the earlier order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 03.11.2017 passed in Civil Appeal Nos.17869-17870, arising out of SLP No. 19807-19808/2012 in the case of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corp Ltd. Vs Ravi Shankar Patro & Ors., the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that an University has to obtain permission from the concerned regulatory body for initiating/starting, opening and conducting any distance learning course/s.

As per UGC Regulations 4(A)(iv), (*Open and Distance Learning Programmes & Online Programmes*) Regulations, 2020, the Higher Educational Institution must have the approval or recommendations of the statutory or regulatory authority, in this case, the Bar Council of India (BCI), for offering law programs in Open and Distance Learning mode or Online mode.

Explanation: Programmes as mentioned at clause (iv) shall be considered only when these are recommended by the respective statutory or regulatory authority or regulatory council to offer in Open and Distance Learning mode or Online mode, as applicable....."

Furthermore, the Distance Education Bureau under UGC explicitly prohibits courses in engineering, law, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy, applied arts, and other such programs from being offered through online mode without approval from the respective statutory or regulatory bodies.

CLE's must ensure to comply with these directives, failing which necessary action will ensue.

Public at large is being made aware of non approval/ non recognition by BCI of law courses by/through correspondence, open and distance learning, and online mode under the name/nomenclature of LL.B; BA (Law etc), LL.M, MA (Law/etc) etc.

The BCI and its Legal Education Committee has further also observed that running an MA (with Law subject) by any such mode is an attempt to mimic an LL.M, which is also not permitted by such mode.

10. General Timing for conduct of classes/courses by CLEs

It may be noted that LL.B. Three year/Five year is a regular course and there is no concept of evening classes. Central of Legal Education can run law courses only in accordance to Rule-2(xxiii) of Rules of Legal Education, 2008, which states that a course should run for at least five hours a day continuously with an additional half an hour recess every day and should have less than thirty hours of working schedule per week

As per Clause-5 of Schedule-III of the Rules of Legal Education, classes can be conducted only between 8 am to 7 pm in an institution, which is not fully residential. However, the Library may remain open till 10 pm.

Kindly note that approval of affiliation of any Center of Legal Education may be revoked with immediate effect without giving notice, if the CLE is found violating the above Rules.

11. Bar Council of India Regulations Regarding Equivalence of Foreign Law Degrees and Compliance of Legal Education Rules in India -Guidelines and Prerequisites

Any LL.B degree obtained from a foreign University jurisdiction by an Indian national requires to be equated to a LL.B degree issued by an Indian University, by the Bar Council of India. Without this equivalence, the degree holder is not entitled to admission in LL.M under any CLE/ University in India.

It is very essential to note that if a University is granting LL.M admission without this LL.B degree equating process, the LL.M degree obtained would lack validity since a valid LL.B degree recognized by the BCI is a fundamental prerequisite for LL.M.

Even if a foreign University or its Law degree is recognized by the BCI, it is crucial to understand that the recognition is subject to such foreign LL.B degree aligning with the pattern of studies required for pursuing an LL.B degree in India.

Further it is crucial to note that Chapter II, Rule 5 of Rules of Legal Education-2008, which stipulates eligibility criteria for admission to law programs must be complied with before seeking admission into a LL.B degree course.

Further, the Bar Council of India mandates that no Centers for Legal Education can enroll students or provide legal education courses without prior approval from the Bar Council of India. Existing centers cannot offer legal education courses if their affiliation is disapproved or revoked by the Bar Council of India. In cases of violations, the Bar Council has the authority to suspend a center for a period of two academic years.

Foreign universities and their law degrees not recognized by the BCI imply that their law graduates are not entitled to equate their LL.B. degree with an Indian LL.B degree.

Even for those recognized by the BCI but not following the pattern of 12 plus 5 (integrated degree) or 12 plus 3 (graduation) plus 3, individuals shall be required to undergo a bridge course of BCI for 1 or 2 years to make up for the deficiency in the pattern. Subsequently, they must qualify in the qualifying examination for Indian nationals holding foreign law degrees being held since the year 2005, with a minimum qualifying mark (as prescribed) in each paper for their degree to be equated to an Indian LL.B. degree and for them to be eligible for enrolment in the Indian Bar subject to other pre -requisites of enrolment under State Bar Council Rules, BCI Rules and under provisions of Advocates Act.

Indian Nationals acquiring LL.M degrees, from abroad are also required to apply to the BCI for the equivalence of their foreign LL.M degree and without such equivalence, they are not eligible for admission to any post qualification course which requires passing LL.M.



No University in India can offer 4 year LL.B followed by a 1 year LL.M a tie up with a foreign University under the present BCI regulations. Such a Law degree, nor the post qualification after it, is recognised by Bar Council of India. The BCI only recognizes the pattern of a 12th class +3 (graduation in any stream+3 (year Law degree) and/or a 12 + 5 year integrated law degree

Names of defaulting Universities may be published on the website of BCI.

Para 9 & 10 serves as a reminder and reflects the established procedure.

12. Periodic Review and Adaptation:

Necessary adaptations and updates are required to be made by CLE's to align with the dynamic nature of legal practice and emerging global trends. The CLE's are expected to report adherence to Bar Council of India to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

13. Compliance of Sanctioned Seat Strength in Centers of Legal Education & any/all reservation or quota must fall within the sanctioned strength of seats and not exceed it -Only degrees awarded to students within the sanctioned strength of seats will be recognized by the BCI.

The BCI wishes to reiterate a fundamental principle upheld by the Bar Council of India repeatedly regarding the sanctioned strength of seats in Centers of Legal Education. It has been explicitly stated and reiterated time and again in approval letters and in provisional approval letters and by way of circulars, that BCI does not permit any supernumerary quota of seats, i.e., seats over and above the sanctioned strength, except for the provision of 10 percent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), which provision is also contingent upon the availability of adequate infrastructure to accommodate these additional seats without compromising the quality of education.

It is imperative to emphasize that any reservation or quota must fall within the sanctioned strength of seats and not exceed it under any circumstances. If any CLE has violated this norm by admitting students beyond the sanctioned strength, it is incumbent upon them to acknowledge and inform the BCI accordingly.

Only degrees awarded to students within the sanctioned strength of seats will be recognized by the BCI.

To ensure further meticulous compliance with this requirement, the BCI is implementing a mechanism through its portal. State Bar Councils will be requested to verify the names and roll numbers of students enrolled in CLEs to ascertain their adherence to the sanctioned strength. Students not found within this list will not be enrolled, and their degrees will not be recognized.

CLEs found to have violated this norm are urged to come forward with complete details of the infractions and submit them to the BCI without delay, so that BCI can consider their case for regularisation as a one time opportunity. Failure to comply with this directive may result in the BCI derecognizing the degrees awarded by the respective CLEs and/or revoking any approvals granted to them.

14. Implementation and Compliance:

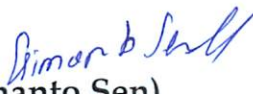
All Centers of Legal Education under the BCI's purview are required to adhere to Bar Council of India Legal Education Reforms, Mandatory Guidelines, Norms & Rules of Legal Education in the design and execution of Legal Education/Law Degree programs

Non-compliance shall result in necessary action.

This circular is effective immediately.

Your cooperation is pivotal for advancing legal education with excellence.

Yours sincerely,


(Srimanto Sen)

**Secretary
Bar Council of India**

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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: 469/2024 (LE/Cir. 007)

21.05.2024

To,

**The Vice-Chancellor(s) & Registrars
of all Universities issuing Degrees in Law**

**The Secretary (ies)
All the Department of Higher Education**

**Ref. : Our Earlier Circular sent to you vide letter No.
BCI:D:375/2024:Cir.005/2024 dated 15.04.2024.**

**Sub.: Circular for Most Urgent Attention Required-Maintaining
Standards of Legal Education in India**

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

**This follows up on our previous Circular (No.
BCI:D:375/2024:Cir.005/2024 dated 15.04.2024) concerning the
maintenance of standards in legal education in India. This
circular includes minor additions to the previous one and should
be adhered to and responded to accordingly.**

**We write to you with a strong sense of responsibility and
concern.**

Bar Council of India is an independent statutory body under The Advocates Act, 1961, which has been entrusted to regulate legal education. The Bar Council of India derives its power and functions from the Advocates Act, 1961, more particularly under Section 7(h) and (i), 24(1)(c)(iii) and (iiia), 49(1)(af), (ag), and (d) of the said Act, which lays down the function of the Bar Council of India which includes promotion the legal education and to lay down standard of such education in consultation with Universities in India, imparting such education and State Bar Councils and to recognize Universities whose degree shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate, including inspection of such Universities.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Bar Council of India has been diligently striving to uphold and elevate the standards of legal education across the

nation. However, despite our collective efforts, we continue to face significant challenges posed by the mushroom growth and proliferation of substandard law colleges.

Expressing grave concern over the rampant proliferation of law colleges nationwide, the General Council of the Bar Council of India took decisive action by passing resolution No. 114/2015 dated 06.06.2015. This resolution unequivocally urged all State Governments and Universities to impose restrictions on the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and affiliations for a period of three years.

Despite this resolute decision and the subsequent issuance of circulars to this effect, it is regrettable to note that over 300 "No Objection Certificates (NOCs)" were issued by State Governments, and affiliations were granted by Universities. This concerning trend highlights the urgent need for stricter adherence to regulatory measures in order to curb the unchecked proliferation of law colleges across the country.

Bar Council of India again, by way of resolution dated 11.08.2019, imposed moratorium for a period of three years on opening of New Law Colleges/Centers of Legal Education, even additional sections of existing colleges were disallowed in order to try and curb this mushrooming growth.

The moratorium imposed vide council resolution dated 11.08.2019, was challenged by way of a Civil Writ Petition before the Punjab and Haryana High court and the Court was pleased to set aside the Moratorium. The Hon'ble Court considered the fact that the concerned Society/similar placed institutions had already invested a huge sum on construction of infrastructure, on the basis of NOC being granted to them, apart from other considerations. The Bar Council of India vide Press Release dated 16.06.2021 thus informed that the moratorium was no longer in existence.

Despite the proactive measures taken by the Bar Council of India, the response from universities regarding surprise inspections of affiliated law colleges has not met the expected standards. Circulars dated 7th June 2016, 12th July 2019, and 28th March 2023 were issued to all universities, emphasizing the importance of conducting surprise inspections as a means to enhance legal education quality and curb the proliferation of substandard law colleges.

However, the level of responsiveness and adherence to these directives has fallen short of expectations. Despite the clear instructions provided by the Bar Council of India, the desired level of cooperation and action from the universities in conducting and submitting reports of surprise inspections has not been achieved. This lack of proactive engagement undermines the efforts to improve the standards of legal education and address the issue of unchecked growth of law colleges.

Moving forward, it is imperative for universities to demonstrate a greater commitment to fulfilling their responsibilities in conducting surprise inspections and promptly submitting reports to the Bar Council of India. Only through collaborative efforts and strict adherence to regulatory measures can the quality of legal education be safeguarded and the proliferation of substandard institutions be effectively addressed.

Thus despite the imposition of moratoriums and taking regulatory measures, the issue persists, posing a serious threat to the quality and integrity of legal education in India.

While the BCI plays a pivotal role in regulating legal education, we acknowledge and reiterate that our mandate primarily comes into play at the 3rd stage once an institution has procured NOC from the concerned Education Ministry in the State and has further obtained an affiliation order from the University concerned. The BCI comes into the picture at this stage to consider approval of affiliation already granted by the University. Thus BCI is set in motion more or less when once a proposed Centre of Legal Education/Law College is established and has invested a substantial amount in such establishment.

It is at the initial stages, particularly during the process of grant of No Objection Certificate by the Ministry of Education in each State and Centre as applicable according to the location and jurisdiction of the Centre of Legal Education, and during the process of affiliation by an University, where proactive measures must be taken to ensure compliance with stringent standards.

Rule 16 of Chapter III of the Bar Council of India Rules of Legal Education underscores the importance of strict adherence to prescribed guidelines and criteria during the affiliation process by an University to a law College/Center of Legal Education.

The Rules are herein quoted below :-

16. *Conditions for a University to affiliate a Centre of Legal Education (1)*
When a University receives an application for affiliation of a Centre of Legal Education to provide legal education by running professional degree program in law under either or both the streams, the University may before the Bar Council of India decide whether it is fit case for seeking inspection from the Bar Council of India, shall ensure that

(i) *the applicant organization proposing to run the institution is either already a non-profit organization of trust or registered society or a nonprofit company or any other such legal entity or has taken all legal formalities to be as such,*

(ii) *the institution has in its name either in freehold or leasehold, adequate land and buildings, to provide for Centre of Legal Education building, library, halls of residences separately for male and female and sports complex both indoor and outdoor, so that it can effectively run professional law courses provided that in case of leasehold the lease is not less than ten years, Provided that sufficient and adequate floor space area specially and completely devoted for a Centre of Legal Education, based on the size of its student population, faculty requirement, adequate space required for infrastructure facilities can be considered sufficient accommodation for the purpose in a multi-faculty building on land possessed by the Management of a Society/ Trust running multi-faculty institutions.*

(iii) *recruited or taken steps to recruit adequate number of full time and visiting faculty members to teach each subjects of studies, each faculty having at least a Master Degree in the respective subject as required under the UGC Rules,*

(iv) *there is the separate Centres of Legal Education for the study of law under a separate Principal who should be qualified in Law to be a Professor of Law as stipulated under UGC and Bar Council of India rules,*

(v) *there is adequate space for reading in the library and there are required number of books and journals and adequate number of computers and computer terminals under a qualified librarian,*

(vi) *if the prior permission of the State Government is necessary, a no objection certificate is obtained to apply for affiliation,*

(vii) *a minimum Capital Fund as may be required under Schedule III from time to time by the Bar Council of India, and put into a Bank Account in the name of the proposed Centre of Legal Education sponsored by any private sponsor or sponsors, and*

(viii) *all other conditions of affiliation under the University rules as well as the Bar Council of India Rules are complied with.*

(2) *After affiliation order is received from the University the Centres of Legal Education may only then apply for inspection by the Bar Council of India.*

However, it has come to our attention that some universities may not be exercising due diligence in this regard.

Therefore, we earnestly request and direct all affiliating Universities to not only comply with the aforementioned directives but also to furnish comprehensive insights into the criteria, norms, personnel involved, and the inspection procedures utilized during the affiliation process of new legal education centers. This should encompass all documents involved in the entirety of the affiliation process, including a standardized format of the inspection form

It may be pertinent to mention that in the matter of The State of Tamil Nadu Vs. Advocate's Forum for Social Justice & ors., the Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed an order, the relevant extracts of which is furnished below.

*The concerned University, who has to affiliate the college in question, is **also required to inspect the college for grant of affiliation** and to pass the order with respect to the affiliation to be granted.It also transpires that the Bar Council of India has also inspected the college. However, its Legal Education Committee and the Bar Council of India are also required to consider the matter for approval of affiliation once it is granted by the concerned University.*

But affiliation has to be granted firstly by the concerned University. After the grant of affiliation by the concerned university, let the matter be considered for its approval by the Legal Education Committee and by the Bar Council of India in their meeting and let decision be placed before us.

In our pursuit to ensure adherence to the stipulated regulations, it is imperative that we have access to the inspection reports conducted by

universities in relation to their affiliated centers of legal education. This holistic approach will enable us to effectively monitor and assess compliance with the prescribed standards, thereby upholding the integrity and quality of legal education across all affiliated institutions.

Furthermore, we urge state governments and their concerned Ministries, to conduct thorough surveys and assessments before granting No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to new centers of Legal Education.

It is imperative that these NOCs are issued based on comprehensive evaluations of the need for legal professionals in the region and the ability of the proposed centers of legal education to meet the requisite standards.

We request you to kindly let us the know criteria and documentation required and the process and procedure for consideration and grant of NOC to proposed Centres of Legal Education.

The following guidelines, criteria, and procedures for the consideration and granting of NOCs are strongly recommended for adoption. These measures are essential for upholding the highest standards and should be implemented conscientiously to ensure compliance and integrity in our educational framework:

--Conduct a comprehensive survey to assess the demand for legal professionals in the region. Factors to consider include population demographics, legal infrastructure, demand for legal professionals, and employment opportunities for law graduates.

---Assess the financial viability of the proposed center, including funding sources, fee structure, and sustainability plans. Verify the availability of funds for infrastructure development, faculty salaries, and other operational expenses.

---Specify the documentation required for NOC application, which may include detailed project proposals, financial statements, infrastructure plans, etc.

----Establish a transparent and time-bound review process for NOC applications. Designate a committee or regulatory authority responsible for evaluating applications and making recommendations based on the above criteria. Ensure that decisions are communicated to applicants promptly and include reasons for approval or rejection.

---Evaluate the center's plans for providing legal aid to the community and integrating clinical legal education into the curriculum. Emphasize the importance of hands-on learning experiences through internships, moot court competitions, and legal clinics.

---Ensure that the proposed center complies with all regulatory standards set by the Bar Council of India

This will help in promoting the growth of legal education institutions that contribute effectively to the development of the legal profession and justice system in the region.

We must emphasize that the responsibility for curbing the mushroom growth and proliferation of substandard law colleges does not rest solely on the shoulders of the BCI.

While we remain committed to our regulatory role, the active involvement and cooperation of universities and government bodies are indispensable in achieving our collective goal of maintaining the highest standards of legal education.

It's crucial to recognize the pivotal roles played by both the State Government and the Universities in addressing the mushroom growth/proliferation of substandard law colleges. The foundation of tackling this issue lies in the groundwork carried out by the State Government's Higher Education Department and the Universities, which serve as the grassroots entities responsible for regulating educational standards.

The establishment of a law college typically undergoes three key stages. Firstly, it requires obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Department of Higher Education, which serves as an initial quality control measure. Secondly, the Concerned University issues an affiliation order, signifying its endorsement of the college's standards and curriculum. Lastly, the Bar Council of India grants approval to the university's affiliation, ensuring adherence to the Rules of Legal Education.

By meticulously adhering to these stages, the State Government, Higher Education Departments, and Universities can collectively mitigate the proliferation of substandard law colleges. This structured approach not only ensures the maintenance of educational standards but also safeguards the integrity of legal education as a whole.

It has come to our attention that several universities are granting affiliations to new Colleges of Legal Education (CLEs) in remote districts where more than five CLEs already exist.

Universities are requested to meticulously examine any proposed centers of legal education to ensure they fully comply with the minimum standards and procedures outlined in the Rules of Legal Education. Affiliations granted must meet these standards, and universities may be required to explain and justify their decisions to the Bar Council of India (BCI) if the affiliations/ proposes Centers of Legal are found to be non-compliant with the Rules & Norms and Guidelines of Legal Educations

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the careful and responsible granting of affiliations, which is essential for maintaining the quality and sustainability of legal education.

We appeal to Universities and the Ministry of Education in each State to join hands with the BCI in our endeavor to uphold the sanctity and quality of legal education in India.

Your unstinted support and collaboration in this endeavor will be instrumental in safeguarding the future of our legal fraternity.

We look forward to your prompt and positive response.

This is for your information and urgent and necessary action

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srimanto Sen', written in a cursive style.

(Srimanto Sen)
Secretary



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:0525/2024 (LE Circular No.008/2024)

Date: 30.05.2024

To,

The Vice-Chancellor(s)/Registrar(s)/Director(s) & Dean(s) of
All Universities Issuing Law Degrees

Sub.: Clarification on Regulation of Legal Education under Bar Council of
India in the context of NEP & HECI.

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

We write to you to state and reiterate the position of the Bar Council of India regarding the regulation of legal education in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the proposed establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), which explicitly excludes legal and medical education from its domain.

As you are aware, the NEP 2020 introduces significant reforms aimed at enhancing the overall educational framework in India. However, it is crucial to understand that NEP 2020 sets only broad guidelines concerning Legal Education. Legal education continues to fall under the exclusive regulatory domain of the BCI, as mandated by the Advocates Act, of 1961. Specifically, Section 7 of the Advocates Act empowers the BCI to promote legal education, lay down standards of legal education, and further to recognize universities whose law degrees qualify for enrollment as advocates and to inspect these universities. Additionally, Section 49 grants the BCI the authority to prescribe standards of legal education and conduct inspections.

The BCI remains dedicated to aligning with the guiding goals of NEP 2020, recognizing that while it may not bind the regulation of legal education, it serves as a valuable framework for enhancing standards, quality, and accessibility of legal education. In this regard, on 20.05.2024, we issued a comprehensive circular (BCI:D:468/2024, LE Circular No.6/2024) outlining mandatory guidelines, norms, and rules for legal education, which also contained guidelines which was in alignment with NEP 2020's broad objectives.

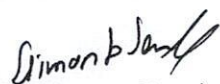
It is essential for Universities issuing law degrees to adhere strictly to the circulars and the minimum criteria guidelines issued by the BCI. This ensures that the standards of legal education are maintained.

Furthermore, a copy of our response dated 23.05.2024 bearing No. BCI:D:2591/2024 to a communication from Secretary of the UGC, dated 02.05.2024 (D. O. No.F.5-1/2022 (CPP-II) (Comp. No.114619)), regarding the nomination of a BCI representative to the UGC's Standing Committee on the Specification of Degrees in light of NEP 2020 is attached for your reference. In our response, we reiterated that while the NEP 2020 and HECI aim to regulate various aspects of higher education, the regulation of legal education remains under the purview of the BCI. We also underscored our intention to take into account any recommendations from the UGC Standing Committee that align with BCI policies.

We urge all universities issuing law degrees to continue to follow BCI circulars and guidelines diligently.

Your cooperation is vital in ensuring that the standards of legal education in India are upheld.

Yours sincerely,


(Srimanto Sen)

Secretary
Bar Council of India

Enclosure: Copy of the letter sent to UGC dated 23.05.2024 bearing No.BCI:D:2591/2024.

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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:2591/2024

Date: 23.05.2024

To,

Prof. Manish R. Joshi
Secretary,
University Grants Commission
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New delhi-110002
Email ID: secy.ugc@nic.in

Sub.: Response to Communication of Prof. Manish R. Joshi, Secretary, University Grants Commission dated 02.05.2024 bearing D. O. No.F.5-1/2022 (CPP-II) (Comp. No.114619) addressed to Hon'ble Chairman, Bar Council of India Regarding Nomination to Standing Committee of UGC on Specification of Degrees in Light of NEP 2020.

Sir,

We acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated 02.05.2024 bearing D. O. No.F.5-1/2022 (CPP-II) (Comp. No.114619) addressed to Hon'ble Chairman, Bar Council of India regarding the nomination of a representative to the Standing Committee constituted by UGC to make recommendations pertaining to the specification of degrees and related issues in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

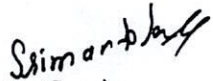
The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a significant overhaul of India's educational framework, aiming for a more holistic and flexible approach to learning. However, one of the notable features of NEP is the establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), which aims to regulate and oversee all forms of higher education except medical and legal education. In the context of legal education, the NEP 2020 provides only broad guidelines to enhance its quality and accessibility. It is important to highlight that legal education in India falls under the regulatory purview of the Bar Council of India (BCI), as stipulated by the Advocates Act, 1961.

According to Section 7 of the Advocates Act, the functions of the Bar Council of India include recognizing universities whose degrees in law shall qualify for enrollment as an advocate and for conducting inspections of said universities. Furthermore, under Section 49, the Bar Council of India holds the power to make rules for, prescribing standards of legal education and the inspection of universities for that purpose.

The BCI is committed to aligning with the relevant guidelines under the NEP 2020, though not binding upon us, but to enhance the quality and effectiveness of legal education. We would like to inform you that we are in ongoing communication with key stakeholders, including centers of legal education and noted academicians. To this end, we have recently issued an extensive circular (BCI:D:468/2024, LE Circular No.6/2024, dated 20.05.2024) that outlines comprehensive reforms in legal education, mandatory guidelines, norms, and rules, in alignment with the broad outlines of NEP with respect to Legal Education and BCI policy.

Given that legal education falls distinctly under the regulatory purview of the Bar Council of India, it is imperative for the best interests of the legal education sector that we continue to operate and function autonomously while consulting with our stakeholders.

In case your standing committee comes up with any suggestions, that align with BCI policies, we will certainly give them due consideration. We are dedicated to meticulously attending to the unique needs of legal education while upholding the paramount standards.


(Srimanto Sen)
Secretary
Bar Council of India

Copy to:

1. The Chairman,
University Grants Commission.
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New delhi-110002
Email ID: cm.ugc@nic.in
2. All Vice-Chancellors/Registrars of
Universities Issuing Law Degrees