

ADV. ASHOK SONI
ADV. PARSHANT GUPTA

ATTORNEY & SOLICITORS AT LAW

Office at: Shop No.1, Nangloi Railway Road, Nangloi, New Delhi-110041.

To

Date: 04.08.2020

The Bar Council of India,
21, Rouse Avenue Industrial Area,
Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi-110002.

Subject: Expression, Suggestion and requesting regarding deduction in fees structure of AIBE (All India Bar Examination) 2020.

Respected Sir,

It is general fact that the outbreak of COVID-19 has created an unprecedented situation in the entire world, although civilization is no stranger to calamitous outbreaks of epidemics from time to time, but, this is for the first time ever, when we are vouching for the pandemic outbreak of this nature in the twentieth century, that causes the shutdown in the world's economic together. According to a report analysis by "The Hindu" on 7th May 2020 states that.... "According to estimates from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, Over 122 million people in India lost their jobs in April 2020. The average employment reduced from an estimated 404 million during 2019-20 to 396 million in March 2020. In April it came down to 282 million (122 million estimated job losses)..." the above-mentioned estimated data is just till April 2020, and as per the WHO the Covid-19 vaccine can't be discovered before 2021. So, there is no hope for fast recovery of this collapsed economy. We all aren't just confronting hardship in our ordinary life, but the financial hardship is most horrendous for every profession, and at most for legal profession. The Bar Council of India in collaboration with State Bars, trying it's best to disburse its needy advocates with financial aid, but still, the situation is intractable due to limited resources.

So, the main rationale for writing this letter is to accentuate the unfortunate condition of the fresh enrolled lawyers (includes those who are going to seat in AIBE 2020). This is the high time when the condition of well-settled advocates, who are practicing since long years become helpless presently

before this pandemic, then it's not a tough task to imagine the unpleasant situation of fresh enrolled lawyers, who are obliged to pay high AIBE fee. It's well recognized that during the initial stage of practice barely an advocate gets fresh case for few years, and these young lawyers get nothing in the caption of remuneration for their work, and the same situation is more worst in rustic areas. So, during this arduous journey these young lawyers dependent upon their family, guardian, etc, but now due to complete shutdown in court premises since March 2020, these young fresh enrolled lawyers, as well as their families, are suffering through financial crisis and unemployment. But the struggle not over here, now these lawyers are obliged to follow the procedure to be a full flagged lawyer, for which, they are require to qualify the All India Bar Examination to get a permanent license for practice in courts. Its well known that the AIBE proposed in 2010, and after that, AIBE became mandatory for all fresh enrolled lawyers to get permanent license for practice in courts, but it is harsh to pinpoint that the fee for AIBE is Rs. 3,500/- (Thirty five hundred). The fresh enrolled lawyers, who are sitting at home since March 2020, facing various hardships already, in such time the burden of paying Rs. 3,500/-(Thirty five hundred) will also integrate an impression of mental pressure upon these fresh enrolled lawyers. It is not concealed that it will take time to normalize the situation and the pandemic may be continued to the next year.

It is pertinent to mention here that Bar Council of India has already knocked the door of Supreme Court to seek a direction for the Central government as well as the State Governments to arrange an interest free loan of upto Rs.3,00,000/- (Three Lakh only) each to advocates enrolled with respective State Bars. So it can be analyze that Bar Council of India has already estimated the worst situation of lawyers in India during pandemic, but this letter seeks specific concern towards the hardship faced by fresh enrolled lawyers in paying huge amount for AIBE. It is well evident that the Bar Council of India remains always ready to help to legal fraternity and this is the want of bad time that the BCI may comes forward to help its lineage, and it is expected here that reducing the AIBE fees isn't going to be a tough task for the BCI in the welfare of the fresh enrolled lawyers. The prestigious organization "Union Public Selection Commission" charges average Rs. 1000/- for competitive exams and the State Governments also charge maximum Rs. 1000/- for respective judicial

services examination, so comparatively paying Rs. 3500/- for AIBE isn't a manageable amount for fresh enrolled lawyers during pandemic.

In the above-mentioned facts and circumstances, we are requesting that you kindly consider this representation with the utmost seriousness of the pressure faced by fresh enrolled lawyers and humbly request you to reduce the fees charges upto a reasonable amount for AIBE. This is highly required and is an onerous task upon the Bar Council of India to display some much-needed resilience by shouldering moral professional responsibility and to help fresh enrolled lawyers by helping them in each perspective. So, being fresh enrolled lawyers, we request the Bar to take necessary and effective steps in this difficult time just to procure legal morality.

Thank you

Adv. Ashok Soni

(a.soni29051995@gmail.com)

Adv. Parshant Gupta

(advprashantgupta92@gmail.com)