



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

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Bar Council of India Orders Removal of Advocate Enrolled on Basis of Fake Law Degree; Flags Exceptional Case of Collusion and Directs Strict Action Against Those Involved

The General Council of the Bar Council of India, through circulation-on 17th November 2025, has considered and accepted the report submitted by the Sub Committee comprising Hon'ble Mr. Apurba Kumar Sharma, Senior Advocate, Chairman, Executive Committee, Bar Council of India and Hon'ble Mr. Ved Prakash Sharma, Co Chairman, Bar Council of India, in Removal Proceeding No. 47/2025 relating to Mr. J. Vasanthan (Enrolment No. D/81/2023).

The reference was received from the Bar Council of Delhi under the proviso to Section 26(1) of the Advocates Act, 1961, after verification revealed that the law degree and marksheets submitted by Mr. J. Vasanthan were fake. Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, vide communication dated 26.06.2025, confirmed that the LL.B. degree and marksheet attributed to the said candidate were not genuine.

Despite issuance of show cause notice, the advocate initially failed to provide any explanation. Subsequently, a reply dated 12.11.2025 was submitted to the Bar Council of India wherein he admitted that his enrolment was facilitated through intermediaries or touts upon payment of money and that fabricated academic documents were used. He further alleged the involvement of private individuals and a staff member of the Bar Council of Delhi.

It has emerged as an exceptional case in which fake degrees and other academic papers were allegedly created by staff of the State Bar Council in collusion with broker and tout Mr. Arbind Panchal, who is himself an advocate enrolled with the Bar Council of Delhi. The matter therefore discloses not merely an individual instance of misrepresentation by an applicant, but a grave abuse of the statutory enrolment process from within the system.

Upon review of the record, the Sub Committee found overwhelming material indicating that Mr. J. Vasanthan had secured enrolment fraudulently and through misrepresentation. Enrolment obtained on the basis of forged educational qualifications and dishonest non disclosure constitutes a fraud on the statutory body and on the scheme of the Advocates Act, 1961, and cannot be permitted to stand. In exercise of the powers relating to admission and removal from the State roll and disciplinary control under the Advocates Act, 1961, including Sections 24, 26, 26A, 35, 36, 48B and 49, the Bar Council of India has directed the Bar Council of Delhi to remove his name from its roll of advocates with immediate effect, to treat the enrolment as void and of no legal effect, and to issue the requisite public notification.

The Sub Committee has recorded its serious concern that the facts disclosed may indicate an organized criminal network involving touts, intermediaries and insiders facilitating illegal enrolments on the basis of forged educational qualifications. The Committee has specifically noted that this may not be an isolated incident and that the possibility of similar illegal enrolments in the past by the same persons cannot be ruled out, particularly as Mr. Jagdish has been an employee of the Bar Council of Delhi for more than two decades.

In view of these grave concerns, the Special Committee of the Bar Council of Delhi has, in its meeting held yesterday, removed Mr. Jagdish from service. He had been continuing as an employee of the Bar Council of Delhi on extension after his superannuation in 2024. His removal is without prejudice to any further civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings that may be initiated against him in accordance with law.

The Bar Council of India has further directed the Bar Council of Delhi to take strict and exemplary action against Mr. Jagdish and all other persons found involved in this act of fraud against a statutory body, including any intermediaries and touts such as Mr. Arbind Panchal, who is enrolled as an Advocate, with the Bar Council of Delhi, as well as any other insiders or outsiders who may be identified during the inquiry. Such conduct, if established, would amount to a serious breach of the trust reposed in the institutional framework of the Bar Councils and warrants proportionate punitive and deterrent measures.

Accordingly, the Bar Council of India has directed the Bar Council of Delhi to (a) Conduct an immediate, comprehensive and time bound inquiry into all suspicious or irregular enrolments, including those in which the above named individuals or any other staff members, intermediaries or touts may have been involved in the past (b) Identify and proceed against all persons involved, including intermediaries and brokers, as well as any staff of the Bar Council of Delhi or other insiders who may be found complicit, and to initiate appropriate disciplinary and other legal proceedings against them and (c) issue notices and take appropriate action against the two advocates who issued the moral character certificate in this case, after following due process, in order to ascertain their role and fix responsibility, if any, for facilitating an enrolment based on forged documents.

The Bar Council of India reiterates its firm commitment to preserving the sanctity of enrolment and protecting professional standards under the Advocates Act, 1961. The functions of the Bar Council of India and State Bar Councils in relation to maintaining the State rolls of advocates, supervising enrolment and enforcing discipline, and laying down standards of professional conduct and etiquette are statutory functions under the Advocates Act and the Bar Council of India Rules, including Part VI, Chapter II (Standards of Professional Conduct and Etiquette).

Any attempt to pollute the roll of advocates, undermine public trust or enter the legal profession through fraudulent means, forged documents or collusive practices will be treated as grave professional misconduct and a fraud on the legal system and will be dealt with sternly and without any leniency. Integrity of enrolment is the foundation of the legal profession, and any dilution thereof shall not be tolerated.


(Srimanto Sen)
Principal Secretary
Bar Council of India