KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocate Act, 1961)

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RAJANNA R
CHAIRMAN

No. KSBC/2389/2026. Date: 13.11.2026

CIRCULAR

Sub: Cessation of practice by advocates who have not passed All India Bar Examination.

Ref: 1) BCI Resolution No.73/2010 & AIBE Rules 2010.
2) COP Verification Rules, 2015.
3) Judgment in Crl.P No.633/2020 dated 17.10.2026 (Hon'ble Mr. Justice H.P. Sandesh)
4) Our earlier circular dated 31/10/26 No. KSBC/2316/2026

In compliance with the directions issued in the judgment cited at Ref. (3), the following instructions are hereby issued for strict adherence:

1. **Exemption Criteria:** Law graduates who have completed their law degree on or before the academic year 2009–2010 (i.e., on or before 12.06.2010) and enrolled as advocates are exempted from appearing for the All India Bar Examination (AIBE).

2. **Mandatory AIBE Requirement :** Law graduates who have completed their law degree after the academic year 2009–2010 (i.e., after 12.06.2010), enrolled as an advocate, and has not passed the AIBE within two (2) years from their date of enrolment loses their right to practice law in any legal forum until they clear the examination.

3. All such ineligible persons shall forthwith cease practicing before any Court, Tribunal, or Authority, and shall neither file a *Vakalatnama* nor represent themselves as practicing advocates.

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4. Non-compliance with these directions shall attract prosecution under Section 45 of the Advocates Act, 1961, as well as Sections 318, 319, and 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, as held in the aforesaid judgment. Criminal proceedings may be initiated by any person independently of disciplinary action by the Bar Council.

5. All Bar Associations shall verify AIBE clearance and the Certificate of Practice (CoP) before admitting new members or renewing existing memberships, and shall prominently display this Circular on their notice boards. A list of defaulters must be furnished to the Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC) within 30 days.

6. Concerned persons may apply for the restoration of their right to practice upon passing the AIBE. This Circular is issued in compliance with the directions in Paragraphs (ix) to (xi) of the judgment dated 17.10.2026, for which a compliance report is to be filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka on 30.11.2026.

(RAJANNA. R)
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