



**Majlis Peguam
Bar Council Malaysia**

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**Circular No 102/2011
Dated 19 May 2011**

To all Members of the Malaysian Bar

**Qualifying for the Bar: Standards Across the Jurisdictions
Conference on Legal Education in Malaysia
(29 and 30 July 2011)**

All across the Commonwealth, the legal profession is being challenged by a globalised world. While the practice of law has leapt over borders and expanded in scope and content, the professional education of law graduates has not kept pace with the increased expectations of the knowledge and skills required of law graduates by the legal profession. Despite a need to revamp the professional legal training, reform has been slow in many countries. Malaysia is of no exception. The professional training of law graduates in Malaysia has reached a cross road with multiple entry routes into the legal profession requiring different standards of entry. Bar Council has, since 1990, proposed a convergence of these routes into a Common Bar Course. There is yet no consensus on how to move ahead with the proposed reforms.

This conference is designed to create a forum to provoke thought and to challenge the status quo. It is meant for those who are interested in charting a new direction in the training of law graduates for legal practice. Experts from other Commonwealth jurisdictions will share their experiences learnt in their countries with their own experiments at reforms and advise us on the way forward. There will be working group discussions of stakeholders to explore the way to train legal professionals, benchmarked against the best systems from other countries.

Jointly organised by Bar Council and Taylor's University, the details of this conference are as follows:

Venue: Block D, Lecture Theatre 12, Taylor's University, Lakeside Campus
Date: 29 and 30 July 2011 (Friday and Saturday)

Presently, our confirmed key speakers (topics subject to change) are:

- YB Professor Dato Dr Hassan Said, Vice-Chancellor, Taylor's University (Welcome Speech);
- Steven Thiru, Chairperson, Bar Council Ad Hoc Committee on the Common Bar Course (Keynote Address on "Status Report on Qualifying for the Bar in Malaysia: Transcending the Barriers");
- Professor Nigel Savage, Chief Executive, College of Law of England and Wales ("UK: Bar Professional Training Course and Inns of Court");
- Christopher Roper, Consultant; Secretary, Judicial Conference of Australia ("Australia: The Legal Practice Courses");

- Professor (Dr) N R Madhava Menon, Dr S Radhakrishnan Chair on Parliamentary Studies (Rajya Sabha) (“India: Qualifying the All India Bar Examination as a Necessary Condition for Right to Practise the Profession of Law in India: A Critical Look at the All India Bar Examination Rules, 2010”);
- Dieter Yih, Vice-President of the Law Society of Hong Kong (“Hong Kong: The Postgraduate Certificate in Law”); and
- Professor Bradford W Morse, Dean of Law, *Te Piringa* Faculty of Law, University of Waikato, New Zealand; Professor of Law, University of Ottawa, Canada (“Bar Professional Courses in New Zealand and Canada).

This conference will be of interest to:

- Lawyers;
- Members of judicial and legal services (Attorney General’s Chambers, *Institut Latihan Kehakiman dan Perundangan*, Legal Profession Qualifying Board, etc);
- Deans and academics from public and private universities;
- Pupils in chambers; and
- Law students.

If you have an interest in the law, or institutions of law, this is the defining conference! This is your opportunity to be part of change, contribute your creative ideas, and to make a difference. To register, kindly complete and return the attached registration form by fax to 03-2032 2043, or by email to sumitra@malaysianbar.org.my by **15 July 2011 (Friday)**. For further information, please contact Sumitra Penesar by telephone at 03-2026 0864.

Thank you.

Steven Thiru
Chairperson
Ad Hoc Committee on the Common Bar Course

**Qualifying for the Bar: Standards Across the Jurisdictions
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(29 and 30 July 2011)**

29 July 2011 (Friday)

- 08:00 am – 09:00 am: Registration
- 09:00 am – 10:00 am: Opening Ceremony
- Welcome Speech
by YB Professor Dato Dr Hassan Said
Vice Chancellor, Taylor’s University
- Speech by Lim Chee Wee
President of the Malaysian Bar
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am: Keynote Address on “Status Report on Qualifying for the Bar in Malaysia: Transcending the Barriers”
by Steven Thiru
Chairperson, Bar Council Ad Hoc Committee on the Common Bar Course
- 10:30 am – 11:00 am: Coffee/Tea break
- 11:00 am – 12:30 pm: Session 1: Experiences Across the Jurisdictions
- “UK: Bar Professional Training Course and Inns of Court”
by Professor Nigel Savage
Chief Executive, College of Law of England and Wales
- “Singapore: The Preparatory Course for the Singapore Bar Examination” (TBC)
- “Australia: The Legal Practice Courses”
by Christopher Roper
Consultant; Secretary, Judicial Conference of Australia
- Question and Answer Session
- 12:30 pm – 02:30 pm: Lunch
- 02:30 pm – 04:00 pm: Session 2: Experiences Across the Jurisdictions
- “India: Qualifying the All India Bar Examination as a Necessary Condition for Right to Practise the Profession of Law in India: A Critical Look at the All India Bar Examination Rules, 2010”
by Professor (Dr) N R Madhava Menon
Dr S Radhakrishnan Chair on Parliamentary Studies (Rajya Sabha)

“Hong Kong: The Postgraduate Certificate in Law”

by Dieter Yih

Vice President of the Law Society of Hong Kong

“Bar Professional Courses in New Zealand and Canada”

by Professor Bradford W Morse

Dean of Law, *Te Piringa* Faculty of Law, University of Waikato,
New Zealand; Professor of Law, University of Ottawa, Canada

04:00 pm – 04:20 pm:

Coffee/Tea Break

04:20 pm – 06:00 pm:

Session 3: Making the Transition – Overcoming Obstacles and
Proposed Timelines
(Break-Out Session)

(1) Working group of public law schools;

(2) Working group of private law schools;

(3) Working group of government institutions

(Attorney General, Certificate in Legal Practice (“CLP”), *Institut
Latihan Kehakiman dan Perundangan, Jabatan Perkhidmatan
Awam*, Legal Profession Qualifying Board, Malaysian
Qualifications Agency and Ministry of Higher Education);

(4) Working group of legal firms; and

(5) Working group of CLP students/pupils in chambers.

06:00 pm – 08:00 pm

Conference Reception

30 July 2011 (Saturday)

09:00 am – 10:30 am:

Session 4: Reflections from the Working Groups
Question and Answer Session

10:30 am – 11:00 am:

Session 5: Discussion Forum

11:00 am – 11:30 am:

Coffee/Tea break

11:30 am – 12:30 pm:

Session 6: Road Map to the Malaysian Bar Course
Question and Answer Session

12:30 pm – 01:30 pm:

The Way Forward

01:30 pm – 02:30 pm:

Lunch

02:30 pm – 04:30 pm:

Drafting of the Conference Proposals

QUALIFYING FOR THE BAR: STANDARDS ACROSS THE JURISDICTIONS CONFERENCE ON LEGAL EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA

Registration Form

Please complete the following using capital letters. (Fields marked with * are compulsory)

Full Name (in passport/IC) : _____

(please underline your surname)

Title / Designation : _____

Institution /Company : _____

Please Tick (✓) : Legal Firm Intl. Law Association Judicial & Legal Services
 Govt. Agency Corporate Others

If "Others", please specify : _____

Address : _____

Tel Number : _____ Mobile Number : _____

Email : _____ Fax Number : _____

Preferred name for Name Tag : _____

Registration Fee (Please tick (✓) as applicable)

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Members of the Malaysian Bar | RM 400.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Students/Pupils in Chambers | RM 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Delegates | USD 300.00 |

*Registration fee includes lunches, tea breaks and Conference Reception

Payment Options (Please tick (✓) as applicable)

Payment can be made by cheque, bank draft, credit card or bank transfer. Cheques and bank drafts should be made payable to "Bar Council Continuing Legal Education". Payment must be made in advance of the Conference.

I would like to pay by :

Cheque Cheque No : _____

Bank Draft

Bank Transfer Bank : Eon Bank Berhad, No 9, Jln Tun Cheng Lock, 50000 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
Account No : 0 0 0 6 - 1 0 - 0 0 1 8 1 0 - 1
SWIFT CODE NO : EOBMYKL

*Please fax a copy of the bank transfer documentation to us for verification purposes at 03-20322043

Credit Card 16-digit Credit Card No : _____ last-3 digit code (behind card) : _____

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION: 15 JULY 2011

Terms & Conditions :

1. Substitution may be made for registered delegates if written notification is provided to the Legal Education Conference organisers before the conference.
2. For cancellations, refund of 60% will be given if written notification is provided to the organisers by 20 July 2011. No refund will be given for cancellations received after 20 July 2011.
3. A cheque for the refund in the payee's name will be issued within 30 days from the date of cancellation.