



BAR COUNCIL OF THE MALDIVES

ONE-YEAR LICENSING TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRAINEES

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to section 30(a)(4), 30(b), and 31(a)-(d) of the Legal Profession Act, law graduates must participate in a supervised licensing training program (“traineeship”) and pass a bar examination to become eligible to be licensed as lawyers.

The purpose of the traineeship shall be to ensure that aspiring lawyers receive adequate and appropriate preparation for the practice of law before they become full members of the legal profession, by incorporating both practical and theoretical knowledge to the necessary level of legal knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality and professional legal services.

DURATION OF TRAINEESHIP

Law graduates may apply to participate in the traineeship after graduating with a university degree in law, from an accredited Maldivian or foreign law school. Law graduates may take the bar examination before, during, or after their traineeship, but must pass the bar examination and complete the traineeship in order to become licensed lawyers.

The duration of the traineeship is 360 hours. Every trainee must complete a minimum of 20 hours of training per month (for 12 months), within the 1-year training.

CORE SKILLS FOR THE TRAINEESHIP

The traineeship must be structured in such a way to provide trainees with practical experience **in all of the following core skills:**

1) CLIENT CARE AND MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING:

- a) clients and taking clients' instructions; and
- b) advising clients and preparing written opinions;
- c) drafting, in particular, of
 - i) general correspondence;
 - ii) court documents, such as any originating process, pleading, summons, order of court or written submission; and
- d) different types of agreements;

2) CONDUCTING LEGAL RESEARCH;

3) CONDUCTING DUE DILIGENCE;

4) CASE AND TRANSACTION MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING MONITORING FILES;

- i) conducting negotiations; and
- ii) advising on settlements; and

5) ADVOCACY

During the traineeship, trainees must gain practical experience **in one or more areas of practice**. These areas of practice may include:

- (1) in relation to civil litigation, experience through
 - (a) assisting in preparations for an interlocutory application;
 - (b) assisting in preparations for a trial or appeal of a civil matter;
- (2) in relation to criminal litigation, experience through assisting in preparations for a trial or appeal of a criminal matter;
- (3) in relation to corporate practice, experience through assisting in a corporate transaction; and
- (4) in relation to conveyancing practice, experience through assisting in a conveyancing transaction.

The traineeship must also include instruction or mentoring in **professional responsibility and ethics**.

THE TRAINEESHIP PLAN & SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The supervisor of trainee lawyers must keep a regular record of trainees' hours worked, and their performance in relation to various core skills. The Supervisor must submit a mid-term progress report at the end of the first 6 months and a final report at the end of the training.

The Supervisor must submit a performance report at the end of the training. The Report should include information in the following areas:

- The traineeship plan;
- Supervision arrangements;
- Which area(s) of practice was covered in the licensing training, and how the trainee has received training in the six core skills articulated above;
- How the trainee has received instruction or mentoring in professional responsibility and ethics; and
- Evaluation of trainee's performance over the 12-month period.

EARLY TERMINATION OF THE TRAINEESHIP

In the event that a trainee or supervisor must terminate the traineeship prior to the completion of the traineeship plan, the trainee must find a new supervisor and submit a new application for the traineeship.

The trainee may receive credit for hours worked with both supervisors, provided that each supervisor provides adequate certification on the training received.

ENDS