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हिमाचल प्रदेश विधिज्ञ परिषद्
BAR COUNCIL OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

High Court Complex, Raveneswood, Shimla-171 001

Ref. No. BCHP/No. 1152-1202 Dated 20-07-2024

To

The President/Secretary

All Bar Associations of Himachal Pradesh

Subject: Implementation of BCI Circular regarding social media conduct, digital ethics, court decorum, confidentiality and professional responsibility.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed herewith the Circular issued by Bar Council of India regarding the immediate implementation of its direction concerning social media conduct, digital ethics, Court decorum, confidentiality and professional responsibility.

You are requested to kindly display the enclosed communication of the Bar Council of India on the notice board of your bar association and take appropriate steps for its effective implementation.

Thanking You

Secretary

E-mail : bciinfo21@gmail.com
Website : www.barcouncilofindia.org

Tel. : (91) 011-4922 5000

COUNCIL OF HIMACHAL
Diary No. 352
Dated 18/7/2026

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

BCI/D/4659/2026 **17.07.2026**

To,

1. **The Chairpersons and Secretaries of all State Bar Councils**
2. **The Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, Deans, Principals, Directors and Heads of all Centres of Legal Education**

Sub: Forwarding and immediate implementation of the Bar Council of India Circular concerning social media conduct, digital ethics, Court decorum, confidentiality and professional responsibility

Sir's/Ma'am's,

I am forwarding herewith the Circular issued by the Bar Council of India concerning maintenance of dignity, restraint and professional ethics in the use of social media by Advocates, law students and interns, including the directions relating to misuse of Court premises, judicial proceedings, live-streamed proceedings, professional identity, client and chamber material, misleading legal content, artificial intelligence-generated material, deepfakes, voice-cloned audio and other synthetic or manipulated content.

The Circular has been issued for immediate awareness, adoption and implementation. It shall not be treated as a routine communication merely requiring circulation. Every concerned institution shall take effective and verifiable measures to ensure that its contents are brought to the individual notice of all persons falling within its regulatory or institutional jurisdiction.

Directions to all Centres of Legal Education

Every Centre of Legal Education shall immediately circulate the enclosed Circular among all members of its teaching and non-teaching faculty, students, research scholars, interns, faculty coordinators, internship cells, legal aid cells, placement cells and other persons connected with its academic and professional activities.

The Centre of Legal Education shall ensure that every student and every member of the faculty is properly sensitised regarding the obligations contained in the Circular. Mere uploading of the Circular on the institutional website or forwarding it through an electronic group shall not, by itself, be treated as sufficient compliance.

Every Centre of Legal Education shall accordingly: -

a. conduct a formal sensitisation or orientation session explaining the Circular and the consequences of its breach;
b. obtain the prescribed standalone undertaking from every student at the time of admission and a separate undertaking before commencement of every internship;
c. incorporate the Circular into its admission, internship, legal aid, moot court, placement and institutional conduct guidelines;
d. ensure that faculty members, internship coordinators and institutional representatives explain the applicable standards to students before they are sent to any Court, Tribunal, chamber, law firm, legal office, public authority or other internship institution;
e. designate a responsible Nodal Officer or institutional monitoring group for implementation, sensitisation, preservation of complaints and first-level reporting; and
f. maintain proper records of circulation, undertakings, orientation sessions and implementation measures for production before the Bar Council of India or the concerned State Bar Council whenever called for.

Directions to all State Bar Councils:-

Every State Bar Council shall immediately circulate the enclosed Circular individually to every Advocate enrolled on its State roll and separately to every recognised Bar Association functioning within its jurisdiction.

The State Bar Council shall ensure that each Bar Association circulates the Circular among all its members, displays it prominently on its notice board, website and official communication groups, and takes appropriate steps for its effective implementation. Mere general publication on the website of the State Bar Council shall not be treated as complete compliance unless reasonable measures are also taken to bring the Circular to the notice of every enrolled Advocate and every Bar Association.

Every State Bar Council shall further:-

a. require all Bar Associations within its jurisdiction to adopt and implement the Circular and the stakeholder declaration annexed thereto;
b. ensure that Advocates already enrolled are made aware of the applicable standards concerning digital ethics, advertisement and solicitation, confidentiality, Court decorum, legal misinformation and misuse of artificial intelligence or synthetic content;
c. implement the prescribed standalone affidavit or compliance acknowledgement in relation to future enrolment and other regulatory processes, strictly in accordance with the terms and safeguards contained in the Circular;
d. designate a Digital Ethics Committee, Nodal Group or Nodal Officer for receiving and examining complaints, preserving relevant material, counselling first-time violators and referring serious or repeated violations to the competent authority;
e. establish a dedicated email address, complaint window or other accessible mechanism for reporting alleged violations; and

f. call for and maintain implementation reports from all recognised Bar Associations within its jurisdiction.

All State Bar Councils and Centres of Legal Education shall ensure that implementation remains educative, preventive, proportionate and consistent with the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India Rules, applicable Court rules and principles of natural justice. The Circular shall not be misused for personal rivalry, moral policing, suppression of lawful criticism or action on the basis of unverified allegations.

The Bar Council of India expects immediate and complete compliance.

Srimanto Sen
Principal Secretary
Bar Council of India

Encl.
Bar Council of India Circular concerning social media conduct, digital ethics, Court decorum, confidentiality and professional responsibility, together with its annexures.

ANNEXURE A

FINAL STANDALONE SWORN AFFIDAVIT AT THE STAGE OF ENROLMENT

Derivation note. This affidavit records awareness of duties already traceable to the Preamble to Chapter II, Part VI, Rules 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 17, 24, 36 and 37 of the Bar Council of India Rules. It is declaratory, educative and evidentiary. It shall not by itself operate as an additional ground to refuse, defer or deny enrolment, Sanad or licence to practise beyond the Advocates Act, 1961 and validly notified Rules.

Who shall fill this annexure

Every candidate seeking enrolment as an Advocate with the concerned State Bar Council.

Stage at which this annexure shall be executed

At the time of the enrolment process, as a standalone declaration for record, awareness and future professional responsibility, without creating any additional substantive eligibility condition beyond the Advocates Act, 1961 and the rules validly framed thereunder.

I, _____, son/daughter/spouse of _____, aged about _____ years, resident of _____, presently seeking enrolment as an Advocate with the Bar Council of _____, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I have read and understood the Bar Council of India Circular/Circular regarding maintenance of dignity, restraint and professional ethics in the use of social media by Advocates, law students and interns, including the provisions relating to reels, short videos, Court premises, Court proceedings, chambers, judicial hearings, live-streamed proceedings, professional work, AI generated content, deepfake videos, voice cloned audio and synthetic digital content.

2. That I undertake to maintain dignity, restraint, confidentiality and professional responsibility in all digital and social media conduct connected with Courts, Judges, counsel, litigants, witnesses, victims, clients, chambers, Court proceedings, professional work and the legal profession.

3. That I shall not create, upload, publish, circulate, forward, repost, monetise or use any reel, short video, edited clip, meme, dramatic presentation, promotional post, AI generated image, deepfake video, voice cloned audio, face swapped visual, synthetic avatar, manipulated screenshot or synthetic content depicting or purporting to depict any Judge, Court, Tribunal, counsel, litigant, witness, victim, client, Court officer, Court proceeding, chamber discussion or professional interaction in a false, misleading, mocking, sensational, scandalising, defamatory, privacy invasive, confidential or professionally improper manner.

4. That I shall not record, photograph, publish or circulate any Court proceeding, virtual hearing, client conference, chamber discussion, case file, cause list, pleading, draft, research note, case strategy, settlement discussion, mediation material or professional communication except where expressly permitted by law, Court rules and professional ethics.

5. That I shall not use robes, bands, Court premises, Court corridors, chamber settings, senior chambers, law firm spaces, client files, Court

signage or the identity of being an Advocate for indirect advertising, solicitation, sensationalisation, glamourisation, follower seeking, personal branding or content inconsistent with the dignity of the profession.

6. That I understand that ordinary personal freedom of expression is not prohibited, but that such freedom cannot be used to lower the dignity of Courts, breach confidentiality, misuse professional identity, solicit work, invade privacy, mislead the public or prejudice the administration of justice.

7. That I understand that breach of this undertaking may be considered in accordance with the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India Rules, Court rules, applicable law and principles of natural justice.

Verification

Verified at _____ on this _____ day of _____, 20____ that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Deponent

ANNEXURE B

FINAL UNDERTAKING FOR LAW STUDENTS AT ADMISSION AND BEFORE INTERNSHIP

Derivation note. This undertaking is framed for legal education, internship discipline and professional training. It draws from the same professional standards which students must learn before entering the Bar, particularly dignity towards Courts, confidentiality, non solicitation, proper use of robes and professional identity, and avoidance of unauthorised practice of law.

Who shall fill this annexure

Every student enrolled in LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D., certificate, diploma or any other law related course.

Stage at which this annexure shall be executed

Separately at the time of admission and again before commencement of every internship or institutional placement.

I, _____, student of _____, enrolled in _____ course, hereby undertake as follows:

1. That I have read and understood the Bar Council of India circular on social media conduct, Court decorum, confidentiality, internship ethics, AI generated content, deepfakes, voice cloned audio and synthetic content.

2. That I shall not make reels, videos, photographs, posts, stories, vlogs, live streams or similar content inside Court premises, Court corridors, Court rooms, Bar rooms, chambers, law offices, law firms, legal aid offices or any internship location without express written permission and subject to Court rules and professional ethics.

3. That I shall not record, photograph, publish or circulate hearings, virtual proceedings, chamber discussions, client conferences, case files, pleadings, briefs, drafts, legal opinions, research assignments, settlement discussions, mediation discussions, cause lists, judicial data, client details, witness details, victim details or any sensitive professional material.

4. That I shall not create or circulate lawyer life reels, day in Court videos, day in chamber videos, internship reveal posts, case file content, courtroom drama content, AI generated images, deepfake videos, voice cloned audio, synthetic clips or manipulated content depicting Courts, Judges, counsel, litigants, witnesses, victims, clients or Court proceedings.

5. That I shall not use internship access, chamber access, Court visits, robes, Court signage, senior chambers, law firm spaces, files or professional identity for self-promotion, follower seeking, glamourisation, indirect solicitation or content inconsistent with the dignity of the profession.

6. That I shall comply with all directions of the Court, Centre of Legal Education, internship coordinator, chamber, law firm, Advocate, Senior Advocate, Law Officer, Tribunal, public authority or institution where I am placed.

7. That I understand that breach of this undertaking may result in withdrawal of internship, reporting to the Centre of Legal Education, reporting to the Bar Council or any other action permissible in law and institutional rules.

Signature of student

Name

Course and year

Date

Countersignature of Faculty/Internship Coordinator where required

ANNEXURE C

STAKEHOLDER DECLARATION FOR ADOPTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT PRINCIPLES

Derivation note. This declaration is an institutional adoption of existing professional duties under Chapter II, Part VI of the Bar Council of India Rules. It is intended to assist education, reporting, counselling and proportionate referral, and not to create a parallel disciplinary forum outside the Advocates Act, 1961.

Who shall fill this annexure

The authorised representative of the concerned State Bar Council, Bar Association, law firm, chamber, Centre of Legal Education, legal aid body or legal institution.

Stage at which this annexure shall be executed

At the time of adoption and circulation of this circular and whenever called for by the Bar Council of India, State Bar Council or competent authority.

We, _____, being a State Bar Council/Bar Association/law firm/chamber/Centre of Legal Education/legal institution, hereby adopt the social media conduct principles issued by the Bar Council of India and undertake to promote responsible digital conduct in the legal profession.

We shall circulate the circular, conduct orientation or sensitisation sessions, discourage misuse of Court premises, robes, chambers, client material and professional identity, and encourage approved public legal awareness content which is accurate, dignified, non-promotional and non-sensational.

We shall designate a Social Media Ethics Nodal Officer or monitoring group, as feasible, to receive concerns, preserve basic evidence, counsel first time violators, request voluntary deletion where appropriate, and refer serious or repeated violations to the competent authority.

We shall not use this declaration as a tool for personal rivalry, censorship of lawful criticism or moral policing. The focus shall remain on Court dignity, confidentiality, privacy, prevention of solicitation, prevention of AI/deepfake misuse and preservation of professional ethics.

Signature and seal

Name and designation

Date

ANNEXURE D

FINAL CIRCULAR AND REQUEST FORMAT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA INTERMEDIARIES AND PLATFORMS

Derivation note. This format is only a request and escalation template for lawful platform review. It does not confer adjudicatory power on any intermediary. Any professional consequence against an Advocate shall remain subject to the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India Rules and principles of natural justice.

Who shall fill this annexure

The authorised signatory, Nodal Officer or designated officer of the concerned Court, Bar Council, Bar Association, Centre of Legal Education, chamber, law firm, legal aid body, affected institution or affected person making a lawful request.

Stage at which this annexure shall be executed

At the time of seeking platform action, after preserving the URL, handle, screenshots and basic particulars of the offending content.

To,

The Grievance Officer/Nodal Officer/Authorised Officer
Name of intermediary/platform

Sub: Request for action in relation to offending content concerning Courts, Judges, counsel, litigants, Court proceedings or the legal profession

Sir/Ma'am,

It is brought to your notice that the following content hosted or circulated on your platform appears to concern Courts, Judges, counsel, litigants, witnesses, victims, clients, Court proceedings, chamber work or confidential legal material and may be false, misleading, AI generated, deepfake, voice cloned, synthetic, privacy invasive, defamatory, contemptuous, confidential or inconsistent with professional ethics:

URL/handle/link

Date and time noticed
Brief description of offending content

Nature of concern, including AI generated/deepfake/voice cloned/synthetic/misleading/confidential/privacy invasive/solicitation/Court dignity issue

You are requested to examine the matter and take appropriate action in accordance with the Information Technology Act, 2000, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, as amended from time to time, your platform policies and applicable law. You are also requested to preserve relevant records, metadata and logs to the extent permissible in law, in case the matter is required for

lawful proceedings.

This request is without prejudice to the rights and remedies of the affected person, Court, Bar Council, Bar Association or any competent authority.

Yours sincerely,

Authorised signatory

ANNEXURE E
FINAL FORMAT FOR APPROVED PUBLIC LEGAL AWARENESS CONTENT

Derivation note. This format permits ethical legal literacy while keeping the content within Rule 36, Rule 37 and the duties of dignity, confidentiality and fair conduct. Approval of awareness content shall not be treated as endorsement of the professional superiority of any individual Advocate.

Who shall fill this annexure

The institution, Bar Association, Centre of Legal Education, chamber, law firm, legal aid body or other authorised body preparing or approving public legal awareness content.

Stage at which this annexure shall be executed

Before publication, upload, circulation or dissemination of the approved legal awareness content, with the script, source material and approval record to be preserved.

1. Topic of proposed content

2. Name of institution/Bar Association/Centre of Legal Education/chamber/law firm/legal aid body preparing the content

3. Purpose of content, namely legal literacy, public legal awareness, constitutional literacy, procedural awareness, legal aid, mediation awareness, cyber safety or responsible legal education

4. Confirmation that the content is non promotional, non soliciting, non sensational, accurate, respectful to Courts and institutions and does not disclose confidential or personal data without lawful basis

5. Confirmation that no real Judge, Court proceeding, litigant, witness, victim, client, case file, chamber discussion or privileged communication is depicted without lawful authority

6. Confirmation that any illustrative AI generated or synthetic content is clearly labelled as illustrative, fictional or AI generated and does not impersonate any real person or real proceeding

7. Name and designation of approving authority

8. Date of approval

9. Platform where proposed to be uploaded or circulated

10. Record of script, visuals and approval to be preserved by the institution

ANNEXURE F
FINAL DISCLOSURE AND DISCLAIMER FORMAT FOR LEGAL AWARENESS CONTENT CREATORS

Derivation note. This disclosure is aligned with the existing Rule 36 Schedule permitting limited identification particulars. It is meant for transparency and accountability, not advertisement, solicitation, comparison, testimonial use or guarantee of results.

Who shall fill this annexure

The legal awareness content creator, including an enrolled Advocate, law teacher, law student, intern, researcher, Bar Association, Centre of Legal Education, law firm, chamber, legal aid body or other legal institution, as applicable.

Stage at which this annexure shall be executed
Before uploading or circulating legal awareness content. The disclosure or disclaimer should be reflected in the caption, description, profile, website, video, poster or accompanying material wherever feasible.

1. Name of creator or institution.

2. Status of creator, namely enrolled Advocate, law teacher, law student, intern, researcher, Bar Association, Centre of Legal Education, law firm, chamber, legal aid body or other institution.

3. For enrolled Advocates, concerned State Bar Council, enrolment number or other verifiable professional identifier, broad area of practice where relevant, and years of standing only if stated accurately.

4. For law students, interns and researchers, clear statement that the creator is not holding himself or herself out as an Advocate or as a person authorised to practise law.

5. Disclaimer that the content is for general legal awareness or academic discussion only and is not legal advice for any individual case.

6. Disclaimer that legal outcomes depend on facts, documents, applicable law, forum, evidence, limitation, procedure and judicial discretion, and that no outcome is guaranteed.

7. Reference, wherever feasible, to the relevant statutory provision, rule, notification, circular, judgment or official source relied upon.

8. Statement that no confidential client information, case papers, case numbers, privileged communication, sensitive personal data, identity documents or material from a pending matter is being disclosed without lawful authority.

9. Disclosure where AI tools have been used to generate or substantially modify images, videos, voiceovers, posters, summaries, avatars, captions or illustrative legal content.

10. Confirmation that any illustrative Court scene, client story, legal dialogue, image or audio visual material is fictional or anonymised and does not impersonate any real Judge, Court, Advocate, litigant, witness, victim, client or proceeding.

11. Confirmation that the content does not contain clickbait guarantees, fabricated testimonials, fake engagement, false claims of appearance, false claims of success, fake judgments, manipulated orders or any material inconsistent with the dignity of the legal profession.

12. Record of script, source material, AI disclosure, approval and upload link to be preserved by the creator or institution for reasonable verification if a lawful complaint is received.