

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ISRAEL BAR

(Revised Version, July 2009)

The following is a synopsis of the basic requirements for admission to the Israel Bar:

1. Requirements for eligibility to write the examination

- i) At least a first Law Degree of a Law School or other Higher Education Certificate recognized by the Law Faculty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, or
- ii) At least two years' practical experience as an attorney, or judge, holding license to practice in country of origin. Thus, a lawyer without two years' professional practice must have his law degree recognized as per section 1(i) before being eligible to write the exam.

2. Written Examinations - Length of Examination - 3 hours Subject

- a) Hebrew language Proficiency
- b) Obligations (Tort and Contract) and Labour Law
- c) Property Law
- d) Family and Succession Law
- e) Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure
- f) Civil Procedure and Professional Ethics
- g) Constitutional and Administration Law
- h) Commercial Law A (Corporations, partnerships and other Associations)
- i) Commercial Law B (Bankruptcy, Liquidations, Bills, of Exchange, and Tax Law)

Please Note:

- a) Candidates qualifying as per section 1(i) above are required to pass the Hebrew Language Proficiency Examination, and six of the eight Law examinations before beginning "articles" (see section 3 below).

b) Candidates qualifying as per section 1(ii) above are only required to pass the Hebrew Language Proficiency Examination before beginning articles. The law examinations can be taken during the articles or after.

c) Questions and Answers

All the law examination questions are in Hebrew, but the answers may be written in any other language approved by the Bar Association.

d) The pass mark for each examination is 61.

e) Dates of Examinations

The Law and Hebrew Language Proficiency Examinations are held twice a year in January and August. There is an additional Hebrew Language Proficiency Examination set in April and October every year.

f) **A candidate must pass ALL examinations BEFORE being eligible to take the Final Written Examination (see 4 below), or, if exempt from such Examination, BEFORE making an application for admission to the Israel Bar.**

3. Articles ("stages") of twelve months.

a) Articles, currently twelve months, must be served by every candidate. No reduction in this period can be made.

b) Articles must be at least 36 hours a week, of which at least 25 are to be worked before 14.00.

4. Final Written and Oral Examinations:

Held twice yearly in May and November, after completing articles, in the following theoretical and practical subjects:

a) Court Procedure, including in the execution office and bankruptcy.

b) Procedure for registering land and rights in real estate.

c) Procedure for registering corporations, partnerships and liquidations.

- d) Interpretation of laws and judicial documents.
- e) Professional ethics.
- f) Evidence.
- g) Recent changes in case law and legislation.

Eligibility to sit for the Final Oral Examination is dependent on success in the Final Written Examination.

Candidates with at least five years previous professional legal experience, who begin their articles within ten years of arrival in Israel, are exempt from both the Final Examinations.

5. **Residence in Israel** is a condition for admission to the Israel Bar. Admission ceremonies are held twice yearly at the end of June and the end of December.

6. **General**

- a) Certificate of degrees, diplomas etc. must be submitted to the Israel Bar.
- b) Only originals or copies legalized (notarized) by the Israeli Consular officers abroad or Israeli notaries are acceptable.
- c) Certificates for recognition of past legal experience must be obtained from the local Bar Association or other official judicial authorities in the country of origin where the experience has been obtained, or, if this is not possible, on headed notepaper of employers.
- d) Applications for the examinations must be submitted in writing at least one month prior to the examinations.
- e) All matters relating to registration, examinations, articles and admission to the Israel Bar are dealt with by the "Mitmahim" Department of the Israel Bar Association at 1 Chopin Street, Jerusalem 92190. Reception hours are Sunday – Thursday from 08.30 to 13.00. Telephone from overseas (972) 2-5411200 (When dialing in Israel 02-5411200).

Facsimile from overseas is (972) 2-561-0062 (When dialing in Israel 02-561-0062. E-mail address is Mitmahim@israelbar.org.il)

7. Study courses:

a) An afternoon course on easy Hebrew is held in Tel-Aviv from September until December and from April until July every year.

b) A crash course in English for the written examinations is held in Jerusalem starting one week before the first examination and continues during the examination period, – both in summer and winter.

8. Study Material in English

a) Laws of the State of Israel - eight volumes - Graphos, Jerusalem

b) Study Material Booklet - Hebrew Exam – Saville

c) Israel Law Review - Law Faculty, Hebrew University

d) Updated Israel Business Laws - Greenfield, Haifa

e) Syllabus of Laws - Israel Bar, Jerusalem