

Requirements to Obtain Advocacy License in Ethiopia

Description

By DMLF Team



The Federal Advocacy Service Licensing and Administration Proclamation Number 1249/2021 contains the requirements needed for obtaining an advocacy license.

Any person who wishes to join the advocacy profession may obtain advocacy license by fulfilling the following requirements: a) to be an Ethiopian national or a foreign national of Ethiopian origin; b) have a minimum of first degree in law from a recognized Ethiopian Higher Education Institution; c) able to present a statement from his most recent employer indicating that, in his last two years of employment, he had not been subjected to measures for serious disciplinary infractions and can produce proof of good conduct; and d) meet the work experience required in the legal profession and e) pass any qualification examination that may be necessary to obtain advocacy license.

The requirement of being an Ethiopian national or a foreign national of Ethiopian origin is further extended to **foreign national advocates or law-firms** under Article 8 of the Proclamation. A foreign national advocate or law-firm with valid advocacy license granted in a foreign country may use his foreign license to render advocacy service to clients in Ethiopia under the following conditions: a) where the case involves the law of the Country that issued the advocacy license; and b) only in partnership with an advocate or law-firm licensed under this Proclamation.

The requirement of first degree in law from recognized Ethiopian Higher Education Institution is further extended to first degree in law from recognized higher education institution abroad. However, any person who received his first degree in law from a recognized higher education institution abroad may be granted advocacy license provided he fulfills the criteria set out under in the Proclamation.

There are three types of advocacy license namely: The Federal First Instance Court Advocacy License, All Federal Courts Advocacy License and The Federal Special Advocacy License. To obtain each type of license, the requirement of work experience differs for those individuals having degrees or diplomas from higher education in Ethiopia or abroad.

A Federal First Instance Court Advocacy License may be granted to a person who graduated with first degree in law from a **recognized foreign Higher Education Institution** with a minimum of **five years of professional experience** in the field of law in Ethiopia.

On the other hand any Ethiopian citizen or foreign national of Ethiopian origin who has graduated with a first degree in law from a recognized **Ethiopian Higher Education Institution** is required to have a minimum of **three years** of professional experience in the field of law; or has graduated with diploma in law and has a minimum **of five years** of professional experience in the field of law;

All Federal Courts Advocacy License may be granted to a person who graduated with a first degree in law from a recognized **foreign higher education institution** if he has a minimum of **seven years** of professional experience in the field of law in Ethiopia.

Any Ethiopian citizen or a foreign national of Ethiopian origin who has graduated with first degree in law from a recognized **Ethiopian Higher Education Institution** is required to have a minimum of **five years of professional experience** in the field of law;

Any person who wishes to obtain the **Federal Special Advocacy License** shall have a first degree in law from a recognized Higher Education Institution and a minimum **of five years** of professional experience in the field of law. If it is an institution or organization, the institution or organization needs to have a lawyer graduated with first degree in law from a recognized Ethiopian Higher Education Institution and has a minimum **of five years of professional experience** in the field of law. Federal Special Advocacy Licence holder does not receive payment from his client or section of the society he

represents.

For obtaining First Instance Advocacy Licence and All Federal Courts Advocacy Licence, those Ethiopians or foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin who presented higher education qualification from Ethiopia or abroad shall sit for a qualification exam. They have to **pass the entrance qualification examination** set for the particular type of advocacy license.

Those advocates who fulfill the requirements of the Proclamation are allowed to engage in advocacy services. The Proclamation defined advocacy services as *any kind of legal service provided by an advocate or a law firm for payment of a fee or in expectation of direct or indirect future benefit, or pro bono, including the following: a) providing consultation on legal issues; conducting negotiations except in criminal cases; b) drafting legal documents or submitting documents on behalf of a client; c) representing a client and litigating before courts of law; administrative tribunal; quasi-judicial institutions; arbitral bodies and other alternative dispute resolution forums.*

Hence, the Proclamation Number 1249/2021 set out the requirements to obtain advocacy licenses for Ethiopians, foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin or foreign lawyers or foreign law firms. The requirements range from having the necessary higher education qualification to a minimum number of years of experience and passing a qualification exam.

For any inquiries you may contact us at info@dmethiolawyers.com

- ## [New Precedent Establishes Three Years as a Period of Limitation for “Petitio Haereditatis”](#)

By Mahlet Mesganaw, Partner at DMLF Background There were Federal Supreme Court Cassation Division Decisions that give contradictory interpretations on periods of limitation as to the time of filing of suit to partition of inheritance property or get share of the inheritance. Cassation File Number 186329(including 26422,20295, and others) accepts three years of limitation...

October 26, 2024

- ## [Things to Know when Buying Urban Land or Immovable Property in Ethiopia](#)

By DMLF This brief article is intended to give picture to those who wants to know about the process of purchase of land or immovable property in Ethiopia. Thus, the article focuses on giving few informative procedures on immovable property purchase. The article attempts to shed light of the property law structure from the FDRE...

October 19, 2024

•

Residential House Rental Dispute Handling Procedure

By DMLF Team The Rent Control and Administration Proclamation Number 1320/2024 (hereafter referred to as this Proclamation) governs the lessor and lessee relationship when it comes to residential house rent. The Proclamation is done on May 9th 2024. The focus of this article is on disputes resolution procedures incorporated in the proclamation. The Proclamation...

October 12, 2024

•

Administrative Independence of the Judiciary

By Dagnachew Tesfaye, Managing Partner at DMLF The House of Peoples' Representative has enacted a Regulation namely "the Federal Courts Administrative Employees Regulation Number 1/2023", (hereafter referred to as the Regulation). The Regulation is effective from the date of publication in the Federal Negarit Gazette. The Regulation was signed into law by the Speaker of the...

October 5, 2024

•

Foreign National Spouse Adopting the Child of their Ethiopian Spouse: Cassation Division Decision

By Dagnachew Tesfaye, Managing Partner at DMLF The Federal Supreme Court

Cassation Division on Cassation File Number 215383 on 30/05/2022 (Volume 26 pages 232-236) between Applicants 1. Mrs. Arsema Elias 2. Yergen Vandra Vade (rough translation from Amharic), Respondent-None, gave a binding decision on the fact that a foreigner spouse can adopt the child of...

September 28, 2024

•

Major Amendments to Immigration Proclamation

By Mahlet Mesganaw, Partner at DMLF Immigration Proclamation No. 354/2003 has been governing the immigration procedures of the country since July 3rd, 2003. Quite recently, the House of Peoples' Representative of Ethiopia endorsed an amendment to the Immigration Proclamation No 354/2003. The new amendment proclamation can be referred to as Immigration Amendment Proclamation No.1339/2024. This new...

September 22, 2024

Category

1. Latest Posts

Date Created

November 19, 2023

Author

dmethiol_admin