

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

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RESPONDING TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

By Dagnachew Tesfaye, Partner at DMLF The Alternative Child Care and Support Directive Number 976/2023 by Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, October 2023, incorporates a section namely Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect. The State is given the responsibility to respond to child abuse and neglect. The procedure of reporting, assessment, court approval, emergency...

June 30, 2024

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Gold Purchase Price Adjustment

By DMLF The National Bank of Ethiopia has introduced an amendment Directive namely NBE Amendment Procedure on Price of Gold Purchase No 1/2024, effective as of June 17/2024. This Directive is an amendment to a similar Directive number 3/2023. The

amendment Directive encompasses price adjustment for provision of gold in terms of its weight and...

June 23, 2024

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The New Public Holidays Proclamation

By DMLF The House of Peoples' Representative in its session on June 11/2024 enacted the Proclamation to Determine Public Holidays and Celebration of Public Holiday Proclamation Number 1334/2024. The Proclamation identifies 12 celebrated public holidays that governmental and non-governmental institutions shall be closed for public services. These public holidays and rest days are salaried days....

June 16, 2024

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Membership to American Bar Association (ABA)

Partners to DMLF namely Mr.Dagnachew Tesfaye Abetew and Mrs.Mahlet Mesganaw Getu are proud to announce the membership to the American Bar Association (ABA). We hope the ABA membership will provide us with professional advantages in building networks for rendering life changing legal services for our communities.

June 9, 2024

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The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks

By DMLF The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks is a centralized system that simplifies the process of registering trademarks in multiple countries. It's administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Under this system, trademark owners can file a single application with WIPO to protect their mark in multiple member countries. This...

June 9, 2024

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Ethiopian National Dialogue

By DMLF The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (hereafter the Commission) was established by Proclamation 1265 /2021(hereafter the Proclamation). The Proclamation was done as of 13th of January 2022. The term of office of the Commission is three (3) years. The term of the Commission shall begin from the time Commissioners have been appointed in accordance...

June 2, 2024

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