



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:2198/2026

Date: 21.04.2026

To,

The Hon'ble Chairmen,
All the State Bar Council/s

The Secretaries/ concerned in charge official of the State Bar Council/s
All State Bar Councils for information, dissemination and compliance

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Women Advocates enrolled with State Bar Councils/who may be members of
Bar Associations
Through the State Bar Councils

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All the Women Candidates in State Bar Council Elections
Through the State Bar Councils

Sub.: Hearing before the High Powered Election Supervisory Committee
regarding co-option of women in the State Bar Councils on 26.04.2026 at 11 and
on 27.04.2026 at 5 pm.

Sir's/Ma'am's,

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 08.12.2025 directed that 30% of the total seats of the State Bar Councils, where elections are being held in the current election cycle should be represented by women wherein 20% are to be filled up by way of election and 10% through way of co-option.

The Bar Council of India had framed the rules in regard to co-option of women candidates which were challenged before the Hon'ble Supreme Court having IA No 62386/2026, 62395/2026 and 62401/2026 in W.P. No. 1319/2026, wherein the Hon'ble Court observed

"2. Following the past practice, we dispose of these applications with liberty to the applicant(s) to approach the High Powered Election Supervisory Committee headed by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, former Judge of this Court. With respect to the legality of the rules, we request the Committee to assist us with its expert opinion. Further orders shall be passed keeping in mind the recommendations of the Committee. The parties shall be at liberty to approach the said Committee to raise all the issues sought to be presented before us through these applications."

Thereafter, another writ, W.P. No. (Civil) No. 372/2026 titled 'Siva Kumari R v. Union of India & Ors.' was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding co-option of women in the State Bar Councils, the court while disposing of the matter in its order dated 13.04.2026 observed that

"8. These are all suggestions, and each option has its own merits and demerits. It seems to us that the High-Powered Supervisory Committee headed by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia is well-equipped to take a final call in this regard. It goes without saying that the petitioners/intervenors, State Bar Councils, Bar Council of India, and the women candidates, who are in the fray in different States, and other women advocates, would be the direct stakeholders whose assistance to the Supervisory Committee would be helpful in taking a transparent and objective decision.

9. We, therefore, dispose of these writ petitions, at this stage, with liberty to the petitioners/applicants to approach the High Powered Committee. We request the Supervisory Committee to pass an appropriate order with respect to the manner in which the co-option exercise shall take place. As noted above, the Bar Council of India, the State Bar Councils, and other stakeholders may be heard before passing the order."

Therefore, in the High Powered Election Supervisory Committee has directed that a virtual hearing with all the concerned stakeholders shall be held on 26.04.2026 at 11:00 A.M. and 27.04.2026 at 05:00 P.M. The virtual link of which shall be shared in due course of time.

Accordingly, all the concerned stakeholders send their representations/submissions to the given email id: sec.supervisorycommittee@gmail.com. at the earliest feasible as per directions of the Hon'ble High Powered Election Supervisory Committee.

The Secretary/concerned in charge official of the State Bar Council, shall be required to ensure that the present communication is disseminated forthwith to all concerned stakeholders by every available and expeditious means at his/her disposal, including, WhatsApp, e-mail, publication on the official website of the State Bar Council, display on the notice board of the State Bar Council, and circulation for display on the notice boards of the concerned Bar Associations.

It is requested that Hon'ble Chairman of the respective State Bar Council/s should endeavour to attend the meeting virtually and personally.

This is for your necessary information and for compliance of directions of the Hon'ble High Powered Election Supervisory Committee, pursuant to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.



**Srimanto Sen
Principal Secretary
Bar Council of India**