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# Punjab Bar Council

9 - Fane Road, Lahore (Pakistan)  
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No. 5052

Date 28-04-2026

To:  
The Chairman,  
Federal Board of Revenue,  
Islamabad.

*Handwritten initials in green ink.*

**Subject: Circulation of Direction Regarding Suspension of Advocate License under Rule 5.39, Punjab Legal Practitioners & Bar Council Rules, 2023 - One Month Amnesty Scheme Announced by Punjab Bar Council**

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Sir,

It is submitted that Rule 5.39 of the Punjab Legal Practitioners & Bar Council Rules, 2023 provides as under:

M (HR-Ops)	
M (IR-P)	
M (Cus-Ops)	
M (Cus-P)	
M (Admn/HR)	
M (IT)	
M (PR)	
M (DR)	
M (Legal)	
M (Reforms)	
M (LSA Custom)	
M (Acc. & Audit)	
Adj. Secy Rev Div	
CA/IS/PS	

"The Enrollment Committee may suspend the license of an advocate where it is established that, after due notice to the advocate concerned, the advocate has entered in Government employment or in service of Pakistan or any other employment, business, vocation or profession."

"Provided further that if he fails to seek such suspension within one month of such engagement or employment in such other profession or service, he shall be guilty of professional misconduct."

2. It has come to the notice of the Punjab Bar Council that a number of persons who obtained practicing licenses as advocates have subsequently joined Government service/service of Pakistan or other employment, business, vocation or profession, but have failed to get their licenses suspended as required under the Rules. Copy of the Order dated 16.04.2026 passed by the Competent Authority is attached

3. Amnesty Scheme: To provide an opportunity for compliance, the Punjab Bar Council has announced a one-month amnesty scheme. Under this scheme, all such employees who are enrolled as advocates and are presently serving in any Government department, autonomous body, or private organization, may voluntarily apply for suspension of their advocate license within one (01) month from the date of issuance of this letter.

4. Consequences of Non-Compliance: In case of failure to avail this amnesty, disciplinary action shall be initiated against the defaulting persons under the Legal Practitioners & Bar Councils Act, 1973 and Rules framed thereunder, for professional misconduct.

You are, therefore, requested to please circulate this direction amongst all employees working under your administrative control and direct them to comply with Rule 5.39 ibid, and send us complete record including copy of their practicing licenses. A compliance report in this regard shall be appreciated.

The cooperation of your department will help uphold the dignity and discipline of the legal profession.

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SECRETARY  
PUNJAB BAR COUNCIL  
LAHORE.

Chief (M/HR-IR)  
Chief (M/HR-C)

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No. 4469

Date 16-04-2026

**ORDER:**

1. The Punjab Bar Council, being the regulatory and supervisory body of the legal profession in the province, is committed to uphold the highest standards of integrity and professional conduct. It has been observed that certain individuals, by concealing their employment or business engagements, have obtained or retaining licences to practice law.

2. It is hereby clarified that such persons are not eligible to hold a licence. Their conduct constitutes professional misconduct and entails strict legal consequences. All such individuals are granted a final opportunity to voluntarily surrender their licences within 30 days, i.e., by 15.05.2026.

3. Failure to comply within the stipulated period shall result in strict legal action under the law, including cancellation of licences and registration of criminal cases.

4. Reference is made to Chapter V of the Punjab Legal Practitioners & Bar Council Rules, 2023, particularly Rules 5.1(6), 5.3(k), 5.3(o), 5.3(q)(3), 5.38, and 5.39, which clearly prohibit enrolment, continuation of practice and retaining the license by persons engaged in employment, business, or any other vocation, and provide for cancellation and prosecution in case of concealment. However, advocates who joined the service in Pakistan as an advocate on the basis of their licences, length of experience and their services are connected with law, need not to suspend their practicing licence.

5. This notice shall be treated as final, and strict compliance is expected in the interest of maintaining the dignity and integrity of the legal profession.

Dated:16-04-2026.

**(KHAWAJA QAISER BUTT)**  
Vice Chairman,  
Punjab Bar Council, Lahore.

**(FAKHAR HAYAT AWAN)**  
Chairman Executive,  
Punjab Bar Council, Lahore.