

REPUBLIC OF GHANA

LEGAL EDUCATION ACT, 2026

(ACT 1170)

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THE ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH

ACT

OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
ENTITLED

LEGAL EDUCATION ACT, 2026

AN ACT to establish the Council for Legal Education and Training to regulate legal education in the country, provide the curriculum and standards for legal education and provide for related matters.

DATE OF ASSENT: *11th May, 2026.*

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President:

Council for Legal Education and Training

Establishment of the Council for Legal Education and Training

1. (1) There is established by this Act, the Council for Legal Education and Training as a body corporate.

(2) The Council may, for the performance of the functions of the Council, acquire and hold property, dispose of property and enter into a contract or any other related transaction.

(3) Where there is a hindrance to the acquisition of land, the land may be acquired for the Council under the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036) and the cost shall be borne by the Council.

Object of the Council

2. The object of the Council is to regulate legal education in the country to ensure the promotion and maintenance of the highest possible standards in legal education.

Functions of the Council

3. To achieve the object of the Council under section 2, the Council shall

(a) accredit institutions to provide professional legal education and training in the country in accordance with paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 8 of the Education Regulatory Bodies Act, 2020 (Act 1023);

(b) in collaboration with the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission, set the standards for the accreditation of a law programme in institutions;

(c) supervise accredited institutions to ensure continued compliance with the set standards of accreditation;

(d) supervise the professional and practical training of persons who seek to become members of the legal profession;

(e) make provision for courses of study and the practical instruction of law students in accredited institutions;

(f) advise the Minister on matters relating to legal education and recommend national standards and norms of legal education to be adopted by accredited institutions;

(g) evaluate courses of study provided by accredited institutions to accord with appropriate recognition of legal qualifications obtained in institutions in other common law jurisdictions with analogous legal systems as Ghana, for purposes of admission to the Bar;

(h) control, supervise and administer the assets of the Council to achieve the object of the Council;

(i) invest the funds of the Council as the Council considers appropriate;

(j) collaborate with other bodies or organisations within or outside the country that the Council considers necessary to achieve the object of the Council; and

(k) perform any other function that is incidental to the achievement of the object of the Council.

Governance of the Council

Governing body of the Council

4. (1) The governing body of the Council is a Board consisting of

(a) one retired Justice of the Supreme Court or a person who qualifies to be appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court, nominated by the President, as chairperson;

(b) three representatives of the Judiciary, one of whom is from the lower bench, nominated by the Chief Justice;

(c) one representative of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice not below the rank of a Chief State Attorney nominated by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice;

(d) three representatives of the Bar, at least one of whom is not more than seven years' standing at the Bar nominated by the Bar;

(e) one representative of the Ministry responsible for Education not below the rank of a Director nominated by the Minister responsible for Education;

(f) one representative of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission nominated by the Director-General of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission;

(g) three persons who teach law in accredited institutions nominated by the Conference of Law Deans; and

(h) the Director-General.

(2) The President shall, in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution, appoint the members of the Board.

Functions of the Board

5. (1) The Board is, subject to this Act, responsible for the strategic direction of the Council.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Board shall ensure

(a) the achievement of the object of the Council; and

(b) the effective and efficient performance of the functions of the Council.

Tenure of office of members of the Board

6. (1) A member of the Board shall hold office for a period of four years and is eligible for re-appointment for another term only.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the Director-General and a person who is a member of the Board by virtue of office.

(3) A member of the Board may, at any time, resign from office in writing addressed to the President through the Minister.

(4) A member of the Board, other than the Director-General, who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without sufficient cause ceases to be a member of the Board.

(5) The President may, by letter addressed to a member, revoke the appointment of that member.

(6) Where a member of the Board is, for a sufficient reason, unable to act as a member, the Minister shall determine whether the inability of the member to act would result in the declaration of a vacancy.

(7) Where there is a vacancy

(a) under subsection (3), (4), (5) or subsection (2) of section 8,

(b) as a result of a declaration under subsection (6), or

(c) by reason of the death of a member,

the President shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term in accordance with this Act.

Meetings of the Board

7. (1) The Board shall meet at least once every three months for the conduct of business at a time and place determined by the chairperson.

(2) The chairperson shall, at the request in writing of not less than five members of the Board, convene an extraordinary meeting of the Board at a time and place determined by the chairperson.

(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), the chairperson may, by written notice to the members of the Board not less than two weeks before the date of the meeting, convene a meeting at a time and place that the chairperson considers necessary.

(4) The quorum at a meeting of the Board is seven members of the Board.

(5) The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Board and in the absence of the chairperson, a member of the Board elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.

(6) Matters before the Board shall be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting, and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(7) The Board may co-opt a person to attend a meeting of the Board but that person shall not vote on a matter for decision at the meeting.

(8) The proceedings of the Board shall not be invalidated by reason of a vacancy among the members or a defect in the appointment or the qualification of a member.

(9) Subject to this section, the Board may determine the procedure for the meetings of the Board.

Disclosure of interest

8. (1) A member of the Board who has an interest in a matter for consideration

(a) shall disclose in writing the nature of that interest and the disclosure shall form part of the record of the consideration of the matter; and

(b) is disqualified from being present at or participating in the deliberations of the Board in respect of that matter.

(2) A member ceases to be a member of the Board if that member has an interest in a matter before the Board and

(a) fails to disclose that interest; or

(b) is present at or participates in the deliberations of the Board in respect of that matter.

(3) Without limiting any further cause of action that may be instituted against the member, the Board shall recover any benefit derived by a member who contravenes subsection (1), in addition to the revocation of the appointment of the member.

Establishment of committees

9. (1) The Board may establish committees consisting of members of the Board or non-members or both to perform a function of the Board.

(2) A committee composed of members and non-members of the Board shall be chaired by a member of the Board,

(3) Section 8 applies to a member of a committee of the Board.

Allowances

10. Members of the Board and members of a committee of the Board shall be paid allowances approved by the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance.

Administrative Provisions

Director-General of Legal Education

11. (1) The President shall, in accordance with article 195 of the Constitution, appoint a Director-General of Legal Education.

(2) The Director-General shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the letter of appointment.

Functions of the Director-General

12. (1) The Director-General is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Council.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Director-General shall

(a) advise the Board on matters relating to legal education;

(b) supervise and coordinate the activities of Registrars, Directors and other employees of the Council;

(c) oversee the accreditation process and monitor compliance by accredited institutions with the requirements of this Act, Regulations made under this Act and administrative instructions issued by the Council;

(d) monitor admission processes across accredited institutions to ensure fairness, transparency and non-discrimination;

(e) lead the development and periodic review of curricula for the law programme in consultation with accredited institutions;

(f) promote the integration of information technology, digital resources and innovative pedagogical methods in legal education;

(g) conduct regular inspections of accredited institutions to ensure the maintenance of quality assurance standards and practices in legal education;

(h) organise training programmes and professional development initiatives for law lecturers and other officials and stakeholders involved in legal education;

(i) develop and maintain partnerships with local and international legal education bodies and academic institutions;

(j) establish and maintain partnerships with regulatory bodies, faculties of law, the Judiciary, law firms, law associations, public sector agencies, other legal sector institutions and relevant stakeholders;

(k) represent the Council in national, regional and international fora, conferences and meetings relating to legal education;

(l) prepare and submit to the Board for approval the annual budget, strategic plans and reports of the Council;

(m) ensure the maintenance of financial records and accounts of the Council in accordance with applicable laws;

(n) sign or authorise the signing of contracts, agreements and other instruments on behalf of the Council in accordance with guidelines approved by the Board; and

(o) perform any other function assigned by the Board.

(3) The Director-General may delegate a function under subsection (1) to an employee of the Council, but is not relieved of the ultimate responsibility for the performance of the delegated function.

Appointment of Registrar

13. (1) The Council shall, in accordance with article 195(3) of the Constitution, appoint a Registrar for the Council.

(2) The Registrar shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the letter of appointment.

Functions of the Registrar

14. (1) The Registrar

(a) is answerable to the Director-General in the performance of functions;

(b) is the secretary to the Board;

(c) shall prepare and keep accurate records of the deliberations and decisions of the Council; and

(d) shall perform any other function assigned by the Director-General.

(2) The Registrar may delegate a function to an officer of the Council but is not relieved of the ultimate responsibility for the performance of the delegated function.

Appointment of other staff of the Council

15. (1) The Council shall, in accordance with article 195(3) of the Constitution, appoint other staff of the Council that are necessary for the efficient and effective performance of the functions of the Council.

(2) Other public officers may be transferred or seconded to the Council or may otherwise give assistance to the Council.

(3) The Council may, for the effective and efficient performance of the functions of the Council, engage the services of advisers and consultants on the recommendation of the Board.

Internal Audit Unit

16. (1) The Council shall have an Internal Audit Unit in accordance with section 83 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

(2) The Internal Audit Unit shall be headed by an Internal Auditor who shall be appointed in accordance with the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658).

(3) The Internal Auditor is responsible for the internal audit of the Council.

(4) The Internal Auditor shall, subject to subsections (3) and (4) of section 16 of the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658), at intervals of three months

(a) prepare and submit to the Board a report on the internal audit carried out during the period of three months immediately preceding the preparation of the report; and

(b) make recommendations in each report with respect to matters necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Council.

(5) The Internal Auditor shall, in accordance with subsection (4) of section 16 of the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658), submit a copy of each report prepared under this section to the Registrar and the chairperson of the Board.

Financial Provisions

Funds of the Council

17. The funds of the Council include

(a) moneys approved by Parliament;

(b) internally generated funds;

(c) returns on investments;

(d) loans; and

(e) donations, gifts and grants.

Bank account of the Council

18. Moneys for the Council shall be paid into a bank account opened for the purpose with the approval of the Controller and Accountant-General.

Borrowing powers

19. Subject to article 181 of the Constitution and section 76 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921), the Council may obtain a loan and any other credit facility from a bank or any other financial institution approved by the Minister responsible for Finance.

Accounts and audit

20. (1) The Council shall keep books, records, returns of account and other documents relevant to the accounts in the form approved by the Auditor-General.

(2) The Board shall submit the accounts of the Council to the Auditor-General for audit at the end of the financial year.

(3) The Auditor-General shall, within six months after the end of the immediately preceding financial year, audit the accounts of the Council and forward a copy of the report to the Minister and the Board.

(4) The financial year of the Council is the same as the financial year of the Government.

Annual report and other reports

21. (1) The Board shall, within thirty days after the receipt of the audit report, submit an annual report to the Minister, covering the activities and operations of the Council for the year to which the report relates.

(2) The annual report shall include the report of the Auditor-General.

(3) The Minister shall, within thirty days after the receipt of the annual report, submit the report to Parliament with a statement that the Minister considers necessary.

(4) The Board shall submit to the Minister any other report that the Minister may require in writing.

Accreditation of Institutions to Offer or Provide Law Practice Training

Standards for accreditation of institutions

22. (1) The Council shall, in collaboration with the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission, set standards for the accreditation of institutions to offer or provide Law Practice Training.

(2) The Council shall, in setting standards under subsection (1), have regard to the availability of

(a) library resources that serve teaching, learning, research and other educational objectives of the institution, including access to online library resources and hard copy legal materials;

(b) a physical and an electronic law library that has the following:

(i) relevant national and international law reports;

(ii) books relevant to the law courses offered in the institution;

(iii) legislation enacted in the country, including Acts of Parliament, legislative instruments and constitutional instruments;

(iv) articles and journals on law; and

(v) law dictionaries;

(c) requisite physical infrastructure necessary for running the law programme and operations of the institution, including a permanent office and classrooms, whether shared with other departments or not, provided that

(i) the arrangements do not disrupt the scheduling of lectures; and

(ii) the facilities of the institution are within a reasonable proximity and accessible to students for a reasonable period of time outside lecture periods;

(d) adequate space for administrative and teaching staff, including private offices for senior administrators and full-time teaching staff and a spacious office lounge for part-time teaching staff;

(e) a balanced student-lecturer ratio and proportionate class sizes;

(f) law lecturers with requisite qualifications as determined by the Council; and

(g) the requisite technology and the human resources needed to resolve technology-related issues that may arise in the delivery of the educational programme, including a well-equipped computer centre with access to the internet.

Requirement to obtain accreditation

23. (1) An institution that runs a Bachelor of Laws programme shall not offer or provide Law Practice Training unless the institution has obtained accreditation from the Council.

(2) An institution that contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty thousand penalty units and not more than one hundred thousand penalty units.

Application for accreditation

24. (1) An institution that runs a law programme that seeks accreditation for the institution to offer or provide Law Practice Training shall submit an application in the prescribed form to the Council.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be accompanied with

(a) information on

(i) the administrative structure of the institution; and

(ii) the curriculum and teaching methodology of the institution;

(b) evidence of compliance with the standards set by the Council; and

(c) the prescribed fee.

Consideration of application

25. (1) The Council shall, on receipt of an application for accreditation, constitute an Accreditation Committee from the members of the Board to conduct an evaluation of the institution that seeks to offer or provide Law Practice Training.

(2) The Accreditation Committee constituted under subsection (1) shall

(a) review the documents submitted by the applicant and any other document that relates to the institution;

(b) conduct an on-site evaluation of the premises of the law programme of the institution within a period specified by the Council; and

(c) present a written report to the Council on the evaluation conducted by the Committee.

(3) The written report on the evaluation shall contain the relevant facts and observations to enable the Council determine compliance with the standards set by the Council.

(4) The Accreditation Committee may co-opt a non-member of the Board to assist the Committee.

Issue of provisional accreditation licence

26. (1) The Council shall review the report of the Accreditation Committee submitted under paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 25 to determine compliance with the standards set by the Council.

(2) The Council shall issue a provisional accreditation licence which is valid for two years in the prescribed form to an institution if

(a) the Council is satisfied that

(i) the institution is in substantial compliance with the standards of accreditation set by the Council; and

(ii) the institution is suitable and competent to offer or provide Law Practice Training; and

(b) the institution

(i) presents a plan for bringing the institution into full compliance with the standards within two years after the issue of a provisional accreditation licence; and

(ii) indicates the specific actions that the institution intends to take to bring the institution into full compliance with the standards and the manner in which the plans will be executed.

(3) The Council shall specify in the provisional accreditation licence

(a) the law programme which the institution may offer; and

(b) other terms and conditions that the Council considers necessary.

Application for full accreditation licence

27. (1) An institution that is issued with a provisional accreditation licence shall, within two years after the issuance of the provisional accreditation licence, apply for a full accreditation licence from the Council.

(2) An application for a full accreditation licence under subsection (1) shall be made to the Council

(a) not earlier than a year, and

(b) not later than two years

after the issuance of a provisional accreditation licence.

(3) An application under subsection (2) shall be accompanied with

(a) a copy of the provisional accreditation licence of the institution;

(b) information on

(i) the administrative structure of the institution; and

(ii) the curriculum and teaching methodology of the institution;

(c) evidence of compliance with the standards set by the Council; and

(d) the prescribed fee.

Consideration of application for full accreditation licence

28. (1) The Council shall, on receipt of an application for a full accreditation licence, refer the application to the Accreditation Committee to conduct an evaluation of the institution that seeks to offer or provide Law Practice Training.

(2) The Accreditation Committee constituted under subsection (1) of section 25 shall

(a) review the documents submitted by the applicant and any other document that relates to the institution;

(b) conduct an on-site evaluation of the premises of the institution within a period specified by the Council; and

(c) present a written report to the Council on the evaluation conducted by the Committee.

Issue of full accreditation licence

29. (1) Where the Council is satisfied that the applicant is in full compliance with the standards set by the Council, the Council shall issue a full accreditation licence in the prescribed form to the institution.

(2) A full accreditation issued under subsection (1) is valid for three years.

(3) A subsequent re-accreditation after the expiry of the period specified in subsection (2) is valid for five years.

Display of accreditation licence

30. An institution that is issued with an accreditation licence shall

(a) display the licence

(i) conspicuously in the registered office of the institution and in the facility where the institution runs the law programme of the institution; and

(ii) on the website of the institution; and

(b) indicate in the official letters and documents of the law programme of the institution that the institution has been issued with a provisional accreditation licence or a full accreditation licence, as the case may be.

Publication of accreditation licence

31. The Council shall, within fourteen days after issuing an accreditation licence, publish the name of the licensee

(a) in the *Gazette*;

(b) in at least one daily newspaper of nationwide circulation; and

(c) on the website of the Council.

Suspension of accreditation licence

32. (1) The Council may suspend an accreditation licence issued under this Act where the licensee

(a) uses a falsified document or submits false information in the application for the accreditation licence;

(b) fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the accreditation licence; or

(c) fails to comply with a provision of this Act or Regulations made under this Act.

(2) The Council shall not suspend an accreditation licence unless the Council has

(a) given the licensee fifteen days' notice in writing of the intention to suspend the licence;

(b) specified in the notice the reasons for the intended suspension; and

(c) given an opportunity to the licensee to

(i) make a written representation within ten days of receipt of the notice; or

(ii) remedy the breach if the breach is capable of remedy.

Restoration of suspended accreditation licence

33. (1) The Council may restore an accreditation licence that was suspended if the licensee remedies the breach in the manner specified by the Council.

(2) The Council shall restore an accreditation licence within thirty days after the licensee remedies the breach that resulted in the suspension.

Revocation of accreditation licence

34. (1) The Council may revoke an accreditation licence if the institution

(a) fails to remedy a breach that results in a suspension of the accreditation licence;

(b) fails to comply with the standards set by the Council;

(c) fails to make the required progress towards achieving

(i) full compliance with the standards set by the Council; and

(ii) a full accreditation licence;

(d) fails to obtain a full accreditation licence within four years after the grant of a provisional accreditation licence; or

(e) is unable to demonstrate satisfactorily that the institution is able to execute the plans necessary for achieving full compliance with the standards set by the Council.

(2) The Council shall not revoke an accreditation licence unless the Council has

(a) given the licensee fifteen days' notice in writing of the intention of the Council to revoke the licence;

(b) specified in the notice the reasons for the intended revocation; and

(c) given an opportunity to the licensee to make a written representation within ten days of receipt of the notice.

(3) Despite paragraph (d) of subsection (1), the Council may, on reasonable grounds, extend the period for obtaining a full accreditation licence for a period of not more than one year.

(4) Where an accreditation licence is revoked under this section

(a) persons already enrolled in Law Practice Training at the institution at the time of revocation shall complete the law programme as if the institution continued to hold the requisite accreditation licence; and

(b) the institution shall not enroll or admit new persons to Law Practice Training without obtaining a valid accreditation licence under this Act.

Inspection of accredited institutions

35. (1) The Council shall carry out an inspection of accredited institutions once every academic year.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1), the Council shall designate an officer of the Council as an inspector to inspect an accredited institution to ensure compliance with the standards determined by the Council.

(3) An inspector shall prepare a written report on the facts and observations made by the inspector to enable the Council determine compliance with the requisite standard determined by the Council.

(4) The Council may conduct additional inspection where

(a) credible information suggests a material breach of standards; or

(b) a significant complaint has been received.

Appeal

36. An institution that is aggrieved with a decision of the Council in respect of

(a) the grant or refusal of an accreditation licence,

(b) the terms and conditions of an accreditation licence, or

(c) the suspension or revocation of an accreditation licence

may appeal to the Legal Education Appeals Tribunal established under section 79.

Administration of Law Programme

Administration of law programme

37. A law programme of an institution shall be administered by the following persons:

(a) a Dean;

(b) an administrator;

(c) an accounts officer; and

(d) administrative staff that are necessary for the effective and efficient performance of the administrative functions of the law programme of the institution.

Dean of law programme

38. (1) A Dean of a law programme of an institution shall be the chief academic and administrative officer of the law programme.

(2) A person qualifies to be appointed as the Dean of a law programme of an institution if that person

(a) is of a rank of

(i) a Senior Lecturer and holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Law; or

(ii) an Associate Professor of Law or above;

(b) has outstanding legal academic credentials, including legal publications;

(c) is of good moral character;

(d) demonstrates sound knowledge of and appreciation for the legal profession and for legal scholarship;

(e) is in good standing as a member of the Bar;

(f) displays strong communication and interpersonal skills;

(g) demonstrates an ability and commitment to integrate and advance the core values, mission and vision of the institution into the operation and planning of the law programme;

(h) has wide expertise in legal education and demonstrates an appreciable understanding of pedagogy and commitment to experiential education; and

(i) demonstrates a concern for, and interest in, student affairs.

Functions of the Dean

39. The Dean of a law programme of an institution shall

(a) act as the chief intermediary between the law programme and the institution;

(b) manage the finances and budgets of the law programme;

(c) implement the educational and professional objectives of the law programme in a manner consistent with the broader objectives of the mission, vision and strategic plan of the institution;

(d) co-operate with and supervise the activities of senior members, staff and students of the law programme to promote quality teaching and scholarly research;

(e) ensure the maintenance of the library and other resources of the law programme;

(f) in collaboration with other staff of the law programme, plan, implement and administer admission policies and procedures;

(g) represent the law programme locally, regionally and internationally in matters involving the law programme;

(h) act as chairperson of the meetings of the law programme;

(i) act as or appoint a representative to act as an *ex officio* member of every committee formed on the law programme;

(j) ensure compliance of the law programme with the requirements for accreditation; and

(k) formulate the curriculum and methods of instruction for the law programme and the standards for retention, advancement and graduation of students, in a manner that is consistent with the standards set under this Act.

Administrator of law programme

40. A person is qualified to be appointed as an administrator of a law programme of an institution if the person demonstrates

(a) record-keeping and record-retrieval skills;

(b) administrative skills;

(c) effective communication skills;

(d) monitoring, supervisory and appraising skills;

(e) confidence and accessibility to the members of staff and students of the law programme; and

(f) knowledge of financial management.

Functions of administrator

41. The administrator of a law programme of an institution shall

(a) keep and maintain records of the law programme;

(b) take charge of the administration of assessments;

(c) supervise the non-teaching staff of the law programme;

(d) serve as the head of human resource of the law programme;

(e) prepare timetables of the law programme;

(f) liaise with the accounts officer and the Dean for drawing the budget of the law programme and administer expenditure from the available funds of the law programme; and

(g) perform any other function assigned by the Dean.

Accounts officer of law programme

42. A person qualifies to be appointed as an accounts officer of a law programme of an institution if that person is an accountant and has experience in accounting for a period of not less than five years.

Functions of accounts officer

43. The accounts officer of a law programme of an institution shall

(a) manage the accounts of the law programme and make recommendations for budgetary allocations;

(b) spearhead the drawing of the budget of the law programme and make disbursements from the accounts of the law programme as may be directed by the Dean;

(c) evaluate the internal financial management procedures and make recommendations on how to improve the financial position of the law programme;

(d) scrutinise financial reports and the budgetary performance of the law programme and offer guidance on necessary adjustments for staying within the budget in a given year;

(e) prepare the financial reports of the law programme for auditing and other purposes; and

(f) perform any other function assigned by the Dean.

Records of law programme

44. (1) An institution that runs a law programme shall maintain accurate and comprehensive records of the following in electronic or physical form:

(a) records of applications and ancillary records;

(b) admission records;

(c) files and progress reports of students;

(d) transcripts;

(e) meetings of the committees of the law programme;

(f) library records;

(g) records of attendance at lectures and tutorials;

(h) locations for clinical training;

(i) disqualified or dismissed students;

(j) students who have repeated courses;

(k) courses taken by each student;

(l) degrees conferred by the institution; and

(m) law lecturers and other staff members of the law programme.

(2) The Council may, at any time, request for any of the records of the law programme to perform the functions of the Council.

Admission to Law Programme

Admission examination and entrance standards

45. (1) An institution that runs a law programme shall,

(a) subject to the approval of the Council, set uniform minimum standards for admission to assess the academic potential of a prospective law student to ensure that the student has the capacity to complete the law programme and practise law effectively; and

(b) determine the minimum standards of admission through a fair and transparent entrance examination or any other standard for the admission of a student to the law programme.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a person qualifies to undertake a Bachelor of Laws programme if

(a) that person has attained excellent academic performance in the West African Senior School Certificate Examination or an equivalent examination; or

(b) has a first degree.

(3) The minimum entry requirement for admission to Law Practice Training shall be determined and published by the Council and shall be binding on all institutions.

Non-discriminatory admission measures

46. An accredited institution shall

(a) not discriminate against an applicant for admission to a law programme on the grounds of race, gender, place of origin, colour, religion, social or economic status, language or any form of disability; and

(b) formulate sound policies and procedures on admission which provide equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination.

Admission measures for persons with disability

47. (1) An accredited institution may adopt special admission measures for the purpose of increasing the representation of persons with disability in the legal community.

(2) In furtherance of subsection (1), an accredited institution shall

(a) adopt special measures to enable students with disability pursue legal education;

(b) maintain adequate infrastructure which are accessible to persons with disability; and

(c) make any other provision to accommodate persons with visual, hearing or any other form of impairment.

Academic Curriculum and Methodology for Legal Education

Curriculum for Bachelor of Laws programme

48. (1) The Council shall, in consultation with accredited institutions, develop a comprehensive curriculum for a Bachelor of Laws programme.

(2) The curriculum developed under subsection (1) shall

(a) accord with contemporary demands for legal services;

(b) provide for the recruitment of competent and committed teaching staff for the institution; and

(c) meet the standards set by the Council and the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission.

Content of curriculum

49. (1) The curriculum for a Bachelor of Laws programme shall provide

(a) instruction that is necessary for the impartation of a particular subject matter or skill;

(b) practical and theoretical training in the law;

(c) an opportunity to take elective courses;

(d) training in information technology, having regard to the rapid growth of technology in the legal profession globally;

(e) pre-determined course content for the courses offered, including relevant statutes, cases, articles, books and topics in the course;

(f) instructions on the ethics and values of the legal profession, including the ethical and professional dilemmas that a student might face after being called to the Bar;

(g) practice-based skills and competency training, including

(i) oral presentation and advocacy training;

(ii) training in interviewing and counselling;

(iii) legal research and at least two writing experiences, one in the first year and at least another after the first year;

(iv) applied legal writing, including drafting contracts, pleadings and other legal instruments;

(v) pre-trial preparation and fact investigation, including discovery, motion practice, assessing evidence and utilising experts;

(vi) trial practice skills;

(vii) transactional skills;

(viii) formation of corporations;

(ix) client service, professional civility and professional responsibility; and

(x) instruction in alternative dispute resolution; and

(h) instruction in legal research to instil a research culture in students.

(2) The Council shall review the curriculum every five years to take account of new developments in the law.

Minimum requirement for Bachelor of Laws degree

50. (1) The minimum requirement for the award of a Bachelor of Laws degree is the satisfactory completion of the number of courses of study that amount to a number of credit hours that the Council determines, taking into consideration the general policy of the institution in which the Bachelor of Laws degree programme operates regarding the number of credit hours required for completion.

(2) An institution that runs a law programme shall formulate written policies to regulate regular and punctual attendance to the academic engagements in the Bachelor of Laws degree programme.

(3) The written policies shall

(a) indicate the punishment for the failure to attend academic engagements regularly and punctually; and

(b) be uniform across each Bachelor of Laws degree programme.

Form of and standards for assessment

51. (1) An institution that runs a law programme shall set a uniform standard and format for the conduct of assessment which shall be communicated in the students' manual.

(2) The assessment of the law programme shall be designed to give effect to the objectives and intended learning outcomes of the law programme.

(3) Without limiting subsection (2), the assessment of the law programme shall include a variety of assessment methods appropriate to the nature, level and objectives of the law programme.

(4) The assessment methods applied shall

(a) provide an adequate and fair basis for determining whether a student has achieved the objectives and intended learning outcomes of the law programme; and

(b) test the ability of students to employ knowledge of fundamental principles of law to solve practical legal issues.

Grading standards

52. (1) An institution that runs a law programme shall adopt, in writing, uniform grading standards that ensure accuracy, validity, reliability and consistency in the evaluation of student performance in assessments.

(2) An institution that runs a law programme shall ensure consistency in the application of the written grading standards by the law lecturers of the law programme.

Review of grades

53. (1) A student who is dissatisfied with a grade of an assessment may apply to the institution for a review of the grade.

(2) An institution that runs a law programme shall establish written procedures for processing a request for the review of a grade of an assessment by a student.

Teaching method

54. An institution that runs a law programme shall adopt

(a) teaching methods that impart, in addition to the theoretical aspects of the law, practical skills, including

(i) research skills;

(ii) analyses of real cases;

(iii) drafting of legal documents;

(iv) making oral arguments;

(v) communication skills;

(vi) advocacy skills; and

(vii) client relations; and

(b) exercises, hypothetical case studies or simulations that enable practical approaches to learning the law.

Duration of Bachelor of Laws degree programme

55. An institution that runs a law programme shall determine the duration of a Bachelor of Laws degree programme in accordance with the Statutes of the institution.

Scholastic Standards

Scholastic standards for legal education

56. (1) An institution that runs a law programme shall set written scholastic standards to assess the capability of students and dismiss students who are not fit to continue the law programme based on the set standard.

(2) The standards set under subsection (1)

(a) may be reviewed by the person in charge of the law programme; and

(b) shall be approved by the Council before implementation.

Retention, academic disqualification and graduation policies

57. An institution that runs a law programme shall adopt written policies that are consistent with the general policies of the institution in which the law programme operates on

(a) the requirements for graduation;

(b) the grounds upon which students are disqualified from pursuing the law programme; and

(c) the grounds upon which students are retained to pursue the law programme.

Evaluation of students for advancement and retention purposes

58. An institution that runs a law programme shall assess each law student on the basis of performance in the courses pursued for purposes of retention or disqualification.

Disqualification for failure in assessment

59. (1) Where an institution that runs a law programme is satisfied that a student is unable to complete the law programme successfully, the institution shall disqualify the student from continuing the law programme.

(2) An institution that runs a law programme shall

(a) ensure the prompt marking and early release of the results of assessments by law lecturers to ensure that the evaluation of student performance is done fairly and adequately; and

(b) submit a detailed report of the performance of all law students to the Council for purposes of the evaluation within a time indicated by the Council.

Repetition of courses

60. (1) An institution that runs a law programme shall formulate policies on the procedure for a student who has failed a course to re-take the failed course.

(2) The policies formulated under subsection (1) shall indicate

(a) when a student can re-take a failed course and the effect of a repeated course on the cumulative grade point average of the student; and

(b) the maximum number of times a student can re-take a failed course.

(3) Where a student is unable to pass a course after re-taking that course for the maximum number of times required, the institution shall dismiss the student.

Academic freedom

61. An institution that runs a law programme shall formulate a comprehensive policy on academic freedom that promotes

(a) the freedom of lecturers of the law programme to state a position on a particular legal concept, opinion or doctrine without fear of any reprisal; and

(b) scholarship, research, debate, public service and the freedom of association.

Law Practice Training

Law Practice Training

62. (1) A person who holds a Bachelor of Laws degree shall undergo Law Practice Training in order to qualify to sit the National Bar Examination.

(2) Law Practice Training shall involve

(a) instructions on the following:

(i) civil procedure;

(ii) criminal procedure;

(iii) advocacy, ethics and the practice of law, including topics on law practice management, basic accountancy and professional responsibility;

(iv) conveyancing and drafting; and

(v) law of evidence;

(b) the provision of legal services on an *ad hoc* basis to needy clients; and

(c) working

(i) as a law clerk for a judge or a magistrate;

(ii) in an administrative agency; or

(iii) by active engagement in a law firm.

(3) The Council shall determine the duration of training under paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2).

(4) An institution that runs a law programme shall supervise the students of the law programme to undertake Law Practice Training to ensure that work is done toward the realisation of the aims of the Law Practice Training.

Duration of Law Practice Training

63. The duration for Law Practice Training is at least one academic year.

Law Practice Training Certificate

64. A person who successfully completes a Law Practice Training shall be awarded a Law Practice Training Certificate by the institution.

National Bar Examination Committee

Establishment of the National Bar Examination Committee

65. (1) There is established by this Act, the National Bar Examination Committee comprising

(a) two members of the Board nominated by the Board;

(b) three judges with an academic background nominated by the Chief Justice;

(c) three members of the Bar in good standing with an academic background nominated by the Bar; and

(d) three members of academia nominated by the Conference of Law Deans.

(2) The Chief Justice shall appoint a member of the National Bar Examination Committee who has been a law lecturer for a period of not less than ten years as the chairperson of the National Bar Examination Committee.

Functions of the National Bar Examination Committee

66. (1) The National Bar Examination Committee shall

(a) conduct assessments of students who have undertaken Law Practice Training and are eligible to sit the National Bar Examination for purposes of enrolment on the Roll of Lawyers;

(b) assign responsibility for invigilating and marking the National Bar Examination;

(c) ensure the provision of maximum security for examination scripts and answer scripts;

(d) handle appeals from students against examination results and other matters relating to the assessment of students;

(e) conduct the moderation or equivalent reviews of results for the National Bar Examination, test and assessment marks;

(f) discipline students for examination misconduct;

(g) formulate policies regarding the re-sitting of the National Bar Examination;

(h) issue qualifying certificates to students who have passed the National Bar Examination; and

(i) review examination related policies and procedures at least once a year.

(2) Sections 8 and 10 on disclosure of interest and allowances apply to a member of the National Bar Examination Committee.

Tenure of office of members of the National Bar Examination Committee

67. (1) A member of the National Bar Examination Committee shall hold office for a period of four years and is eligible for reappointment for another term only.

(2) A member of the National Bar Examination Committee may at any time resign from office in writing addressed to the Chief Justice.

(3) A member of the National Bar Examination Committee who is absent from three or more consecutive meetings of the National Bar Examination Committee without sufficient cause ceases to be a member.

(4) The Chief Justice may, by letter addressed to a member, revoke the appointment of that member.

(5) Where a member of the National Bar Examination Committee is, for a sufficient reason, unable to act as a member, the Chief Justice shall determine whether the inability of the member to act would result in the declaration of a vacancy.

(6) Where there is a vacancy

(a) under subsection (2), (3), (4) or subsection (2) of section 8,

(b) as a result of a declaration under subsection (5), or

(c) by reason of the death of a member,

the chairperson of the National Bar Examination Committee shall give notice of the vacancy to the Chief Justice and the Chief Justice shall appoint another person to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

Meetings of the National Bar Examination Committee

68. (1) The National Bar Examination Committee shall meet at least once each quarter for the conduct of business.

(2) The chairperson of the National Bar Examination Committee shall, at the request in writing of not less than one-third of the membership of the National Bar Examination Committee, convene an extraordinary meeting of the National Bar Examination Committee at a time and place determined by the chairperson.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the National Bar Examination Committee is six members.

(4) The chairperson shall preside at meetings of the National Bar Examination Committee and in the absence of the chairperson, a member of the National Bar Examination Committee elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.

(5) Matters before the National Bar Examination Committee shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(6) The National Bar Examination Committee may co-opt a person to attend a meeting of the National Bar Examination Committee but that person shall not vote on a matter for decision at the meeting.

(7) The proceedings of the National Bar Examination Committee shall not be invalidated by reason of a vacancy among the members or a defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

(8) Subject to this section, the National Bar Examination Committee may determine the procedure for the meetings of the National Bar Examination Committee.

Conduct of National Bar Examination

Mode of conduct of National Bar Examination

69. The National Bar Examination Committee shall determine the manner and the period within which the National Bar Examination shall be conducted.

Qualification to sit for National Bar Examination

70. A person qualifies to sit for the National Bar Examination if that person

(a) holds a Bachelor of Laws degree and a Law Practice Training Certificate from an institution accredited by the Council; or

(b) has successfully completed the Post-Call Law Course.

Areas of law to be covered in National Bar Examination

71. Unless otherwise determined by a unanimous decision of the Council, the areas of law to be examined in the National Bar Examination include

(a) civil procedure;

(b) criminal procedure;

(c) advocacy, ethics and the practice of law, including topics on law practice management, basic accountancy and professional responsibility;

(d) conveyancing and drafting; and

(e) law of evidence.

Form of and standards for National Bar Examination

72. (1) The National Bar Examination Committee shall set the standard and format for the conduct of the National Bar Examination.

(2) The National Bar Examination shall be designed to give effect to the objectives and intended learning outcomes of the National Bar Examination.

(3) Without limiting subsection (2), the National Bar Examination shall include a variety of assessment methods appropriate to the nature, level and objectives of the National Bar Examination.

(4) The assessment methods applied under subsection (3) shall

(a) provide an adequate and fair basis for determining whether a student has achieved the objectives and intended learning outcomes for the National Bar Examination; and

(b) test the ability of students to employ knowledge of fundamental principles of law to solving practical legal issues.

Re-sit of National Bar Examination

73. (1) A person who fails the National Bar Examination may, subject to the payment of the prescribed fee, re-sit the National Bar Examination.

(2) The Council shall prescribe rules to govern the re-sit of the National Bar Examination.

Enrolment

Qualification for enrolment

74. (1) A person qualifies to be enrolled on the Roll of Lawyers if the person

(a) obtains a Bachelor of Laws degree from an institution accredited by the Council;

(b) holds a Law Practice Training Certificate; and

(c) passes the National Bar Examination.

(2) Despite subsection (1), the Council may recommend the enrolment of a person who

(a) qualifies to practise law in a country with a system of law analogous to that of Ghana or a country which has a reciprocal arrangement with Ghana;

(b) has successfully completed the Post-Call Law Course conducted by the Ghana School of Law; and

(c) passes the National Bar Examination.

Issue of Qualifying Certificate

75. The Council shall issue a Qualifying Certificate to a person who qualifies under section 74 to be enrolled on the Roll of Lawyers.

Enrolment on the Roll of Lawyers

76. A person who passes the National Bar Examination and is issued with a Qualifying Certificate under section 75 may apply to the General Legal Council to be enrolled on to the Roll of Lawyers.

Ghana School of Law

Establishment of the Ghana School of Law

77. There is established by this Act, the Ghana School of Law as a directorate of the Council.

Functions of the Ghana School of Law

78. The Ghana School of Law shall,

(a) administer the Post-Call Law Course to a person who is

(i) qualified and licensed to practise law in a country with a system of law analogous to that of Ghana or a country which has a reciprocal arrangement with Ghana and who seeks to be enrolled on the Roll of Lawyers; or

(ii) a citizen and has satisfied the educational assessments required for admission to practise in a country with a system of law analogous to that of Ghana and may or may not have been admitted to practise in that country and who seeks to be enrolled on the Roll of Lawyers;

(b) offer courses, including remedial courses, for a person who wishes to sit or re-sit the National Bar Examination;

(c) design, develop and offer specialised programmes that align with contemporary legal education and professional practice needs, technological developments and emerging areas of the law; and

(d) collaborate with local and international legal education and other institutions and professional bodies to promote world-class standards and best practices.

Legal Education Appeals Tribunal

Establishment of the Legal Education Appeals Tribunal

79. (1) There is established by this Act, the Legal Education Appeals Tribunal.

(2) The Tribunal shall be constituted on an *ad hoc* basis to consider appeals against a decision of the Council on a matter under this Act.

Composition of the Tribunal

80. (1) The Tribunal consists of

(a) a chairperson, who is a person with not less than ten years' experience in legal education; and

(b) four other persons, each of whom has not less than five years' experience in legal education.

(2) The Board shall appoint the members of the Tribunal.

(3) Sections 8 and 10 on disclosure of interest and allowances apply to a member of the Tribunal.

Administration of the Tribunal

81. (1) The Board shall appoint

(a) a Registrar to manage the administrative affairs of the Tribunal; and

(b) other staff necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the Tribunal.

(2) The Registrar shall oversee the day-to-day operations of the Tribunal.

Expenses of the Tribunal

82. The expenses of the Tribunal shall be a charge on the funds of the Council.

Rules of procedure of the Tribunal

83. (1) The Board shall, within ninety days after the constitution of the Board, draft rules of procedure for the Tribunal.

(2) The rules of procedure shall be approved by a panel of the Tribunal convened for that purpose.

(3) The Board shall publish the rules of procedure

(a) in the *Gazette*; and

(b) on the website of the Council.

Right of appeal

84. (1) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Council on a matter under this Act may, within twenty-one days after the date of the decision, appeal to the Tribunal.

(2) A notice of appeal under subsection (1) shall specify

(a) the decision being appealed against;

(b) the legal provisions under which the decision was made; and

(c) the grounds for appeal.

(3) The Tribunal shall convene to hear the appeal within thirty days after receipt of the notice of appeal.

Decisions of the Tribunal

85. (1) The Tribunal may, after hearing an appeal,

(a) overturn the decision being appealed;

(b) partially allow the appeal; or

(c) dismiss the appeal and uphold the decision of the Council.

(2) Where the Tribunal allows an appeal in part, the Tribunal may modify the decision of the Council subject to conditions that the Tribunal considers appropriate.

Appeal against decision of the Tribunal

86. (1) A party who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Tribunal on a matter may appeal to the High Court.

(2) An appeal under subsection (1) shall be

(a) on a point of law only; and

(b) filed within thirty days after the decision of the Tribunal.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Request for information

87. The Council may, within the time specified by the Council, require a person to provide the Council with returns or information relating to legal education and training that the Council requires to enable the Council to perform a function under this Act.

Regulations

88. (1) The Minister shall, within twelve months after the coming into force of this Act, on the advice of the Council, by legislative instrument, make Regulations for the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Regulations shall provide for

(a) the courses and examinations to be undertaken at law programmes of institutions;

(b) rules to be observed by persons admitted to the law programme of an institution;

(c) rules to govern the conduct of the National Bar Examination;

(d) fees charged by the Council in respect of an application, a licence or any other service under this Act;

(e) the terms and conditions of service of staff of the Council including appointment, dismissal, remuneration and retirement benefits; and

(f) forms to be used for an application under this Act.

Interpretation

89. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

"Board" means the governing body of the Council established under section 4;

"Council" means the Council for Legal Education and Training established under section 1;

"Director-General" means the Director-General of Legal Education appointed under section 11;

"General Legal Council" means the Council established under section 1 of the Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32);

"institution" means a body that provides legal education;

"Law Dean" means a person responsible for a law programme of an institution;

"law programme" includes the Bachelor of Laws degree and Law Practice Training;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Justice;

"National Bar Examination Committee" means the National Bar Examination Committee established under section 65; and

"Tribunal" means the Legal Education Appeals Tribunal established under section 79.

Revocation

90. Regulations 1 to 22 of the Legal Profession (Professional and Post-Call Law Course) Regulations, 2018 (L.I. 2355) are revoked.

Consequential amendments

91. The Legal Profession Act, 1960 (Act 32) is amended by the repeal of the following:

(a) paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1;

(b) section 3;

(c) section 4;

(d) section 13;

(e) paragraph (a) of section 14; and

(f) section 15.

Savings

92. (1) Despite the revocation and repeal of the provisions under sections 90 and 91, any Regulations, bye-laws, directives, notices, licences, authorisations, appointments or other act lawfully made under the repealed provisions and in force immediately before the coming into force of this Act shall be deemed to have been made under this Act and shall continue to have effect until revoked, reviewed, cancelled or terminated.

(2) This Act shall not affect the repealed provisions in the operation of offences committed, penalties imposed or proceedings commenced before the coming into force of this Act.

Transitional provisions

93. (1) A person who, before the coming into force of this Act, is enrolled at the Ghana School of Law and is undertaking the Professional Law Course, shall complete the Professional Law Course under the applicable enactment and curriculum in force at the time of enrolment.

(2) A person who, before the coming into force of this Act, is enrolled in a law programme at an institution that does not hold an accreditation licence to offer or provide Law Practice Training may apply for admission to undertake Law Practice Training at

(a) the Ghana School of Law; or

(b) any institution that holds a valid accreditation licence to offer or provide Law Practice Training.

(3) A person who has obtained a Bachelor of Laws degree before the coming into force of this Act and who has not yet undertaken Law Practice Training may apply for admission to undertake Law Practice Training at

(a) the Ghana School of Law; or

(b) any institution that holds a valid accreditation licence to offer or provide Law Practice Training.

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