



Georgian model of Admission into Profession and the concept for its development

Irakli Kandashvili

Board Member & Head of Educational Board of Georgian Bar Association
Programmatic Cooperation Framework for
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe

The Goal of Mandatory Internship Program

Mandatory internship program means the training of the applicant on professional skills through the theoretical and practical course. The goal of the mandatory internship program is to admit into the profession person with practical knowledge and professional skills.



The admission process into the legal profession

- The applicant wishing to become an advocate shall be registered for the bar examination (according to the specialization).
- Applicant shall take an exam;
- Any applicant who successfully passed the bar examination and during 7 years decided to become an advocate and applied for the membership to the Georgian Bar Association is required to go through the mandatory internship program (induction period/orientation course for entering the legal profession) which shall not exceed 1 year.



Higher Legal Education

Passing Bar (equivalent) Examination

Mandatory one yera internship detemined by the law



The initial stage of this course shall be the obligation to go through the mandatory internship course (basic education) during 3 months at the Georgian Bar Association ONLY/learning component (at the High School of Advocates).

GBA Executive Board will have written and approved system and program for the mandatory internship (basic education course), which will be prepared and presented for approval by the supervisory board of the School;

-



The applicant will go through the teaching component of internship during 3 months period at the High School of Advocates;

The program shall include:

- legal professional Skills –legal writing; negotiation technique; client counseling technique; professional ethics; drafting legal documents; structure of the law firms and the role and place of an advocate in the law firm;
- The course will also include non Legal Professional Skills – public speaking skills; communication skills; presentation skills and etc.



The participant will not take an exam at the end (oral or written) – just will receive the positive evaluation by attendance without the final examination.



Practical Internship

After the completion of learning course the applicant shall go through 9 months practical course either in the legal bureau or another institution of legal profession (idea: it might be mandatory for an applicant to go to 2 or 3 different institutions for the practice for either 2 or 3 months – for instance: courts, prosecutor’s office, mentor lawyer, notary, Ministry of Justice (Probation Bureau, Public Registry), non-governmental organizations working on legal issues, free legal aid service providers and etc. **BUT 5 MONTHS AT LAW OFFICE MINIMUM;**



These institutions shall be in close cooperation with the GBA, who have memorandum of cooperation and who are trustworthy to be involved in the second stage of the mandatory internship (induction period).



Those mentor advocates (legal bureau), who will accept an intern under the existed regulation shall at least have minimum 3 or/and 5 years of working experience as a lawyer or law firm. The forms of encouragement of mentorship among the lawyers shall be developed or the system of mandatory mentorship established that will require each mentor lawyer to have certain number of interns. The reasonable amount for the internship and the system of evaluation of an intern by the mentor shall be determined.



An applicant wishing to become an advocate shall present the document proving the successful completion of both practical and learning component of internship to the GBA Executive Board along with other documents necessary for the membership.



The cost of internship program

- The mandatory internship system shall be paid course;
- The Supervisory Board of the High School of Advocates shall determine the cost and present it for approval to the Executive Board.



Exclusion from the mandatory internship requirement

Only few exceptions shall be made to the mandatory internship system/exclusion from 9 months practical Internship:

- a) A person having minimum 5 years of working experience as a judge in first Instance;
- b) Judges of Supreme Court and Constitutional Court;
- c) A person having minimum 5 years of working experience as a prosecutor;



Thank You for Your Attention!!!

