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Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

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The Bar Exam In Finland

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Who is an advocate?

An advocate is an experienced lawyer specialised in handling legal matters of his clients. Only a member of the Bar Association is allowed to use the professional title "advocate".

An advocate is a safe choice for solving legal issues. The quality of the legal services is continuously developed and monitored.

The Qualifications of an Advocate

- Age of 25 years
- Citizen of Finland or of an other EU-country
- Has a Master of Laws degree
- has the following skills and practical experience
 - Four years experience after academic examination
 - of which two years practicing law
- Competence to act as an advocate in an other EU-country (special rules applied)
- Has passed Bar exam
- Has full legal capacity
- Suitability
 - Honesty
 - Way of life and characteristics
 - Independence
 - Professional

Bar Examining Board (not an official translation)

- Appointed by the Board of the Bar
- Chairperson (Justice of the Supreme Court), vice-chairperson (Justice of The Supreme Administrative Court) and 3-5 members
- 2 secretaries, advocates
- One year mandate, re-appointment possible (not limited)
- Decides the dates and places of Exam
- Confirms the questions of written exam
- Confirms the results
- Resolve the complaints
- Makes decisions on other issues regarding the Bar Exam

Right to Participate

- Have completed a Master of Laws degree in Finland, other than a master of international and comparative law degree
- or have completed a law degree outside Finland and has received a decision by [the Finnish National Board of Education](#) on the eligibility for the post requiring a Master of Laws degree

The Bar Exam

- Provided by the Bar
- Universities has no role
- Consist of three parts
 - A written exam
 - A course on ethical and practical issues of advocacy (=ethical part)
 - A course covering basic process skills (=process part)
 - In Finnish or Swedish (not possible in English)

The Bar Exam

- Parts can be completed in any order
 - Recommendation: a written exam before ethical part
- Bar Exam or its part doesn't expire

A Written Exam

- Three times a Year
 - January, April and September
- Three hours
- Legal profession regulations, ethics, legislation (especially administrative procedure, criminal law, criminal proceedings and procedural law)

A Written Exam

- Electronic exam is not possible
- 6 questions
- Essay question, yes/no questions, case-question
- 1-10 points / question, max. 60 points
- 30 points has to be received to pass the exam
- Usually about 10-40 % of candidates fails the exam

An Ethical Part

- Two-day course in Helsinki
- Twice a year (May, October)
- Consist of
 - Presentation of the Bar
 - Code of Conduct (in practise)
 - Marketing
 - Ethics
 - Wellbeing at work
 - Advocate and publicity
 - Anti money laundering
- 100 % mandatory attendance
- Learning diary

A Process Part

- Twice a year
- 12 weeks e-learning
 - Application for a summons
 - Response
 - Questions to answer
 - Participants need a computer and internet
 - Canvas-software

A Process Part

- Two-day course in Helsinki
 - Lectures on litigation
 - Training in small groups (3 persons/group)
 - Each group has a teacher
 - oral preparatory session
 - Main hearing
 - Written evidence
 - Witness hearing

Fees

- Written part EUR 150
- Ethical part EUR 675
- Process part EUR 675

THANK YOU!

www.barassociation.fi

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