

## **BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE ISRAEL BAR**

(Revised Version, June 2020)

The following is a synopsis of the basic requirements for admission to the Israel Bar.

### **1. Requirements For Eligibility to Write The Examination**

Candidates must first open a file with the Israel Bar Association (contact information may be found below) and:

- i) A bachelor's degree/undergraduate degree or higher in law (LL.B. or J.D.) that is recognized by the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Candidates who qualify as per this subsection are required to pass a Hebrew language examination and at least six of eight examinations before beginning their articulated internship (see, section 3, "Articled Internship," below);

*or*

- ii) At least two years of practical experience as an attorney or judge holding a license to practice in one's country of origin. Thus, a lawyer without two years of professional practice must have their law degree recognized as per section 1(i) before being eligible to write the exam. Candidates qualifying as per section 1(ii) above are only required to pass a Hebrew language proficiency examination before beginning articles. The remainder of the exams may be taken during the course of the articulated internship or after, but before the final exam and admission to the bar.

### **2. Written Examinations - "Dinei Yisrael"**

**Length of examinations - 3 hours each (4 hours for candidates who do not have a matriculation certificate in Hebrew)**

Prior to admission before the Israel Bar and prior to or during the completion of their articulated internship, as applicable (see section 1, above),

candidates must pass a legal Hebrew proficiency exam as well as a series of eight (8) exams on Israeli law (“Dinei Yisrael”).

**A. Subjects:**

- a) Hebrew Language Proficiency – Legal Hebrew
- b) Obligations (Tort and Contract) and Labor Law
- c) Property Law
- d) Family and Succession Law
- e) Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure
- f) Civil Procedure and Professional Ethics
- g) Constitutional and Administrative Law
- h) Commercial Law A (Corporations, Partnerships, and Other Associations)
- i) Commercial Law B (Bankruptcy, Liquidations, Bills of Exchange, and Tax Law)

*The passing grade for each examination is 61%.*

**B. Exemption from the Legal Hebrew Proficiency Exam**

An exemption from the legal Hebrew proficiency exam will be granted if you meet one of the following conditions:

- You have passed at least six (6) of the written examinations answering in Hebrew; or
- You have been awarded a matriculation certificate in Hebrew from the Israel Ministry of Education or any diploma/certificate attesting to academic studies in any subject, successfully completed in the Hebrew language, from an institution licensed/accredited by the Israeli Council for Higher Education.

**C. Exam Questions and Answers**

The questions on all examinations are in Hebrew but the answers may be written in any other language preapproved by the Israel Bar Association, in advance. Requests to write the exams in any language other than Hebrew must be made on the Exam Registration Form at time of registration. You must review the current registration

instructions prior to each semiannual exam session, as these are updated periodically.

#### **D. Dates of Examinations**

The examinations are held twice a year. There is normally one winter session and one summer session. (Changes and dates are updated on the Israel Bar Association website. It is the candidate's responsibility to periodically check the Israel Bar Association website as dates and requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the Israel Bar Association.)

**Please note: A candidate must pass all examinations BEFORE they can take the Final Written Examination (see, section 4, below), or, if they are exempt from such examination (pursuant to section 38 of the Bar Association Law, 5721-1961 (the "Bar Association Law")), BEFORE they can be admitted before the Israel Bar.**

#### **3. Articled Internship**

The articled internship is for a period of 18 months.

For more information, please contact the Israel Bar Association

#### **4. Final Exam [the "Bar Exam"]**

The format of the exam and a list of relevant laws are published for each exam date. You must regularly check the Israel Bar Association website for updates.

Attorneys with at least five (5) years of previous professional legal experience as *admitted and/or licensed* attorneys in their country of origin (must be proved by documents as specified on the application form) and who begin their articled internship **within ten years** of their arrival in Israel may submit a petition for exemption from this requirement, pursuant to section 38 of the Bar Association Law. Petitions may be submitted only after formal commencement of one's articled internship.

**5. Residence in Israel**

Being a resident of Israel is a prerequisite for admission before the Israel Bar.

**6. Admission Dates**

Admission ceremonies are held twice annually. In addition, small ceremonies may be held at other times during the year. The ceremony dates are updated on the Israel Bar Association website from time to time.

**7. General**

Opening a file:

- a) Degree certificates, diplomas, etc. must be submitted to the Israel Bar at 1 Chopin Street, Jerusalem.
- b) Only originals or copies legalized/verified (notarized) by Israeli consular officers abroad or Israeli attorneys are acceptable. Documents not in English must be translated and verified by an Israeli notary.
- c) Documentation for recognition of past legal experience including bar admission and/or work experience must be obtained from the local bar association or other official judicial authorities and employers in the country of origin in which the experience has been obtained.

**8. Fees**

1. Registration for the Dinei Yisrael Exams – NIS 160 each exam
2. Translation of a candidate's answers to the exams to another language:  
English – NIS 200/exam (payable by candidates not recognized as *Olim* by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and Immigration)  
Other languages approved by the Bar Association – NIS 500/exam (payable by candidates not recognized as *Olim* by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and Immigration).
3. Registration articulated internship – NIS 250

4. Registration for the post-articles exam (the “Bar Exam”): NIS 520
5. Registration for initial admission before the Israel Bar – NIS 660

Contact us:

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