



## 2026 BAR EXAMINATIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) As of February 16, 2026

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) serve as an official reference for all matters regarding the 2026 Bar Examinations. Please review the FAQs in full before contacting the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC) Helpdesk at <https://bit.ly/PB2026Helpdesk>. As this document is updated monthly, kindly monitor it regularly to ensure compliance with the latest guidelines.

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## A. BARISTA

### ***Where can I access BARISTA to submit my application for the 2026 Bar Examinations?***

BARISTA can be accessed through the Philippine Judiciary Platform (PJP) at <https://portal.judiciary.gov.ph/login>.

### ***What device and web browser should I use to avoid compatibility issues when accessing BARISTA?***

BARISTA, through the PJP, is best accessed on a desktop or laptop. Any internet browser is compatible.

### ***How do I use BARISTA?***

You may refer to the [BARISTA User Guide](#). It is strongly recommended that you watch the video tutorial in full and read [Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026](#) in its entirety to avoid any issues during your application process.

### ***How do I know if I have an existing BARISTA account?***

If you applied for the 2023, 2024, and/or 2025 Bar Examinations and completed the application process, then you already have an existing BARISTA account. Your mandatory requirements from those previous applications are pre-uploaded in the Document Upload tab of BARISTA.

### ***How do I register in the PJP?***

To register, access the PJP at <https://portal.judiciary.gov.ph/login>, then click “Create an Account.” On the New User Registration page, complete all required information. Remember to use your personal email address when registering your account. School-issued or work-issued email addresses are not allowed.

Confirm that you have read and understood the Data Privacy Notice.

After this, you will receive a verification email where you must click “Activate my Account.” You will be directed to the sign-in page.

If you do not receive any email from BARISTA within 72 hours from registration, submit this concern to the OBC Helpdesk at <https://bit.ly/PB2026Helpdesk>.

If you already have a BARISTA Account, you can skip this step and directly log in to BARISTA using your existing credentials.<sup>1</sup>

***Can I change the email address I used to register in PJP/BARISTA?***

**No.** You cannot change the email address you used during registration. If you need to update your email address, you must submit a request through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#). When completing the form, specify your BARISTA-registered email account.

***How should I declare my name in BARISTA?***

You are required to use the name **appearing on your Birth Certificate or Marriage Certificate**, whichever is applicable. Special characters (*e.g.*, Ñ, Ä, Ô, È) must be properly displayed.

Married female applicants may register using:

- a. Their maiden surname;
- b. Their husband's surname (as shown on the Marriage Certificate); or
- c. A hyphenated surname

Your registered name in BARISTA will appear in all Supreme Court records, issuances, and communications.

Government-issued IDs and other documents do **NOT** need to reflect the married name. The Marriage Certificate will suffice for the OBC to reconcile any discrepancies in identity.

***Do I need to resubmit physical copies of documents that I have already submitted to the OBC for the 2023, 2024, and/or 2025 Bar Examinations?***

If you already have a BARISTA account, you only need to submit the following:

1. Accomplished BARISTA-generated Application Form
2. Marriage Certificate (*for female applicants who subsequently got married*)
3. Unretouched Photo
4. Two (2) Testimonials of Good Moral Character
5. Pending and Decided Case Details (*if applicable*)
6. Notarized Certificate of Completion of Refresher Courses (*for Refresher applicants only*)
7. Notarized Certificate of Completion of the Pre-Bar Review Course (*for Refresher applicants only*)

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<sup>1</sup> Updated as of December 1, 2025.

If you **do NOT** have a **BARISTA** account, you are required to submit all required documents as enumerated in [Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026](#).

***I am related by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth (4th) civil degree to an incumbent Supreme Court Justice, Supreme Court Official, and/or personnel of the Office of the Bar Chairperson or the Office of the Bar Confidant. How should I declare them in the BARISTA if I have more than one relative?***

List each relative separately in the designated section of the BARISTA application. Provide their full name, position, and your relationship for every entry.

You may use the format below:

1. Surname, Given Name, Middle Initial. – Relationship
2. Surname, Given Name, Middle Initial. – Relationship

For example:

1. De la Cruz, Juan, M. – Brother
2. De la Cruz, Maria, B. – Grandmother

***Is there a prescribed format for the file name of the documents to be uploaded?***

**No.** There is no prescribed format. You may name your documents in any way you prefer, as long as they are easy to identify. Avoid using special characters (e.g., ñ, ö, æ, etc.) in the file names.

***I am a Bar applicant with special needs. How can I submit my special request for accommodation?***

If you are an applicant with special needs, declare your status on the **Bar Applicant Profile Page**. To request assistance, upload a letter through the **Documents Upload Page**. The letter must clearly state your circumstances and the specific assistance needed during the Bar Examinations. You must also provide supporting documents (i.e., PWD card, medical certificate, etc.) and upload them as **PDF files**.

***How do I pay the Bar Application Fee?***

After uploading the required documents and clicking **Proceed Payment** in BARISTA, you will be redirected to the **Payment** page. Complete your payment online through any of the available channels in the **Landbank Link.Biz Portal**.

***How much is the Bar application fee?***

The Bar application fee is **PHP 12,800.00** for all types of applicants.

***What are the payment channels available in Landbank Link.Biz Portal?***

The following payment channels are available in Landbank Link.Biz Portal:

1. Landbank/OF Bank ATM Card
2. Payment via QRPh
3. VISA/Mastercard/JCB
4. Cash Payment
  - a. E-Wallets:
    - GCash
    - Maya
    - ShopeePay
    - GrabPay (*via* MYEG)
  - b. Over-the-counter:
    - BDO
    - Cebuana
    - Pay&Go
    - Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC)
    - 7-Eleven
    - Robinsons Mall
    - i2i Banks
    - Bayad Center
    - DA5
    - Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)
    - Palawan Express

**For over-the-counter transactions, applicants must first choose their preferred merchant and secure a reference number from the Link.Biz Portal before paying at their preferred store or bank.<sup>2</sup>**

5. Other Banks via Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC) PayGate

***Can I pay the Bar application fee over the counter?***

**No.** Direct over-the-counter payment is not available for the 2026 Bar Examinations. You must follow the procedure outlined above to generate your reference number before making any payment.

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<sup>2</sup> Updated as of December 3, 2025.

***How long does it usually take for payments to be reflected in BARISTA?***

Payment confirmation may take 24 to 48 hours to reflect in BARISTA due to processing time. If your payment is not posted after 48 hours, submit your concern through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#) attaching proof of your payment.

***What should I do if I encounter an error while paying online, where the amount was already deducted from my bank account, but the payment is still not reflected in BARISTA?***

**DO NOT** attempt to make another payment. Keep your transaction number and a screenshot of your successful payment. Submit your concern through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#), and attach your proof of payment for verification.

***Can I pay the Bar application fee for other applicants?***

**No.** All payments must be made individually. Payments covering more than one applicant or in batches will **NOT** be accepted.

***Is the Bar application fee refundable?***

**No.** The 2026 Bar Application Fee is **non-refundable** and **cannot be applied to future bar examinations.**

Requests for refund will be considered **ONLY** in the following cases:

1. New Applicants who were subsequently unable to complete their law degree;
2. Refreshers who were unable to pass their Refresher Course; and
3. Double or erroneous payments.

However, refund requests are not automatically granted and are subject to review and approval by the OBC.

***How long does it take to receive a refund?***

Refunds take time because each request undergoes review and verification by multiple offices. Updates will be sent to your BARISTA registered email address once your request is processed.

***There seems to be a discrepancy in the information presented in BARISTA, the Supreme Court Microsite for the 2026 Bar Examinations, and the FAQs. Which source is controlling?***

The Supreme Court's official issuances published in the 2026 Bar Examinations Microsite shall prevail.

## B. Requirements for the 2026 Bar Examinations

### *What are the requirements to take the 2026 Bar Examinations?*

The requirements for taking the 2026 Bar Examinations for each type of applicant are enumerated in [Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026](#) issued by the Bar Chair on December 8, 2025.

### *What is the difference between mandatory and deferred documents?*

The difference between the two is the period of their submission.

**Mandatory documents** must be uploaded to BARISTA upon application, and the physical copies thereof submitted to the OBC, within 10 calendar days from email notification of the availability of the Application Form for download.

Meanwhile, **deferred documents** must be uploaded to BARISTA, and the physical copies thereof submitted to the OBC, from June 15, 2026 to October 13, 2026.

## B.1. Application Form

### *Where can I download the Application Form?*

You can download the generated PDF file of your Application Form from BARISTA after your application has been processed (Step 5 in the BARISTA dashboard).

### *Is a printed copy of the BARISTA-generated application form required?*

**Yes.** The BARISTA-generated Application Form must be printed on folio-size paper (8.5”x 13”), single-sided (not back-to-back).

### *When should I submit the printed Application Form?*

You must submit the printed Application Form within 10 calendar days from the date you received an email confirming that the Application Form is already downloadable.

***Should the Application Form be signed?***

**Yes.** The Application Form must be signed with your wet signature in the designated spaces on each page. Ensure that the date on each page matches the date when you sign it.

***Should the Application Form be notarized?***

**Yes.** The printed and signed Application Form must be duly notarized before you submit it to the OBC.

***What ID should I present when having my Application Form notarized? Does it need to be the same ID uploaded in BARISTA?***

You should present a valid government-issued photo ID when having your Application Form notarized. While not required, it is strongly recommended that you use the same ID for consistency and to avoid discrepancies.

If you use a different ID, ensure that both IDs are valid and that all details match your Application Form.

***Am I required to affix my thumbprint or thumbmark on the application form?***

**Yes.** You must affix your thumbprint or thumbmark on the third page of the application form.

## **B.2. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-issued Birth Certificate**

***Can I submit an original or certified true copy of my Birth Certificate issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO)?***

**No.** You cannot submit a Birth Certificate issued by the NSO, whether original or certified true copy. Only birth certificates issued by the PSA are recognized for purposes of the Bar Examinations.

***What if there are erroneous entries in my PSA Birth Certificate?***

If your PSA-issued Birth Certificate contains erroneous entries (e.g., incorrect name, sex, date of birth, or parent's name) and you intend to file a petition for correction, you must submit the following:

1. Proof of filing of a Petition for Correction of Entry with the Local Civil Registry (LCR) or a Petition for Change of Name with the Regional Trial Court (RTC);

2. Notarized Affidavit of Undertaking to submit the corrected PSA copy by October 13, 2026, or once available; and
3. The erroneous birth certificate.

Please note that you will be conditionally admitted to take the 2026 Bar Examinations pending your submission of the corrected Birth Certificate issued by the PSA with the appropriate annotation.

***Is there a standard format or template available for the Affidavit of Undertaking?***

**Yes.** The standard format or template for the Affidavit of Undertaking is provided in [Annex B](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

### B.3. Foreign Birth Certificate

***Can I submit a certified true copy of my Foreign Birth Certificate?***

**Yes.** You can submit a certified true copy of your Foreign Birth Certificate; provided, it must be accompanied by an original copy of Report of Birth.

***Where can I have my Foreign Birth Certificate certified?***

You can have your Foreign Birth Certificate certified by reporting and transmitting it to the PSA through the Philippine Embassy or Consulate in your country of birth.

***I only have a photocopy of my Foreign Birth Certificate, and it takes time to obtain the original or certified true copy from the issuing country. What should I do in the meantime?***

If you only have a photocopy of your Foreign Birth Certificate and obtaining the original or certified true copy will take time, you must submit the following:

1. Affidavit of Undertaking, stating that you are in the process of securing the original or certified true copy from the issuing authority; and
2. PSA-issued Record of Birth, which is mandatory for applicants born abroad.

Please note that if your Foreign Birth Certificate is not in English, an official English translation, notarized and authenticated, is also required.

You will be conditionally admitted to take the 2026 Bar Examinations pending submission of the original copy or certified true copy of your Foreign Birth Certificate.

***Where can I have my Foreign Birth Certificate officially translated into English?***

You can have your Foreign Birth Certificate translated into English from the following:

1. National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) for Arab countries;
2. Accredited translator of the Philippine Embassy in your country of birth;
3. Foreign embassy in the Philippines; or
4. Accredited translator of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs.

#### **B.4. PSA-issued Marriage Certificate**

***I am a female applicant who got married within the last six months from the date of filing of the application, and the PSA-issued Marriage Certificate is not yet available. What can I submit then?***

If your PSA-issued Marriage Certificate is not yet available at the time of application, you must submit the following:

1. Original or certified true copy of your Marriage Certificate issued by the LCR; and
2. Notarized Affidavit of Undertaking to submit the PSA-issued Marriage Certificate by October 13, 2026, or once available.

The standard format or template for the Affidavit of Undertaking is provided in [Annex B](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

Please note that you will be conditionally admitted to take the 2026 Bar Examinations pending submission of the PSA-issued copy of your Marriage Certificate.

#### **B.5. Valid Government-issued Identification Document (ID)**

***Do I need to submit my original ID to the OBC?***

**No.** You do not need to submit your original ID to the OBC.

After uploading the digital or scanned copy of the valid government-issued ID to BARISTA, you only need to submit a photocopied or scanned copy of the same ID, together with the other required documents to the OBC. Ensure that your ID clearly displays your photo and signature.

***My ID reflects my old signature. Can I use this ID for my application?***

**No.** The signature you provided on your Application Form must match the signature appearing on your ID and your unretouched photo.

***What government-issued ID may I use for my application?***

The valid government-issued ID must be from the following list:

- a. Barangay ID or Certificate
- b. Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Voter's ID or Voter's Certification
- c. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Certification
- d. Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) e-card
- e. Land Transportation Office (LTO) Driver's License or Student's Permit
- f. National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance
- g. National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) Certification
- h. Pag-IBIG Fund Loyalty Card
- i. Persons with Disability (PWD) ID
- j. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) ID
- k. Philippine National ID (digital copy with signature)
- l. Philippine Passport
- m. Philippine Postal ID (issued November 2016 onwards)
- n. Police Clearance (national or local)
- o. Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) ID
- p. Senior Citizen ID
- q. Social Security System (SSS)
- r. Solo Parent ID
- s. Tax Identification Number (TIN) ID
- t. Unified Multi-Purpose Identification (UMID) card

***I only have my Philippine National ID, but it does not contain my signature. Will it be accepted?***

**No.** You must submit a version of your Philippine National ID that contains your signature, which you can obtain by accessing the eGovPH platform.

***Am I required to provide three specimen signatures together with my submitted ID?***

**No.** Separate specimen signatures are not required. However, your signature must appear on both your government-issued ID and the Application Form.

***How should I upload my government-issued ID?***

You must upload separate images of your ID's front and back sides. If you are using **GSIS**, **SSS**, or **UMID ID**, you may redact or cover the sensitive information (e.g., account number, CVV, CVC) before uploading it to BARISTA and submitting the photocopy to the OBC.

***How should I upload my passport as my government-issued ID to BARISTA?***

The front part of your passport refers to the bio page containing your details (page 2), such as the passport number, date of issuance, and date of expiry. Meanwhile, the back part of your passport refers to the page containing your signature (page 3). Both sides must be scanned separately in JPEG format and also separately uploaded to their respective tabs in BARISTA.

***Am I required to provide the date of validity and place of issuance of my government-issued ID in BARISTA?***

**No.** These fields in BARISTA are optional. However, you must ensure that your photo and signature are clearly visible in both the scanned copy uploaded to BARISTA and the photocopy submitted to the OBC.

## **B.6. Unretouched Photo**

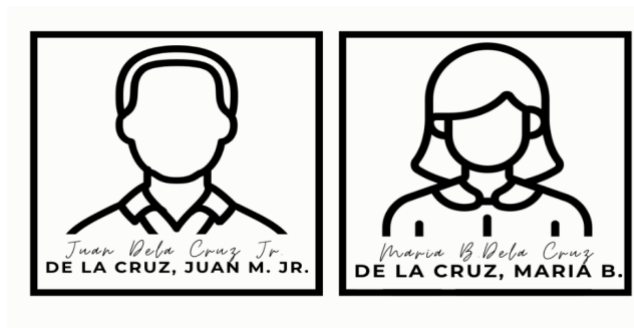
***What qualifies as an “unretouched” photo?***

To qualify as an unretouched photo, it must not have undergone any editing or enhancement of any kind, such as blemish removal, skin smoothing, teeth whitening, color correction, and any other digital adjustments to the background, lighting, or exposure. All forms of photo editing or modifications using software (e.g., Adobe Photoshop) are prohibited.

***What are the photo requirements?***

The photo must comply with the specifications in [Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026](#), which include: plain white background, decent attire with collar, full-face view (subject to certain exceptions), no eyeglasses or accessories which may obstruct identification, passport-size dimensions, and taken not more than three months prior to submission of application.

The following images illustrate acceptable photo format:



## B.7. Testimonial of Good Moral Character (TGMC)

### ***Who should accomplish and sign the TGMC?***

The TGMC must be requested from and signed by a member of the Philippine Bar, who:

- a. Has personally known the applicant for at least one year prior to executing the TGMC;
- b. Has been admitted to the practice of law for at least one year prior to executing the TGMC; and
- c. Is not related to the applicant by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth civil degree.

The standard format or template of the TGMC is provided in [Annex G](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

### ***How many TGMC should I submit?***

You should submit two separate TGMCs from two different lawyers.

### ***Should the TGMCs be notarized?***

**No.** The TGMCs do not need to be notarized.

### ***Is there a required paper size for the TGMC?***

The TGMC should be printed on folio-size paper (8.5" x 13").

### ***The TGMC I submitted was declined. Am I allowed to submit a new one signed by a different lawyer?***

**Yes.** You may submit a new TGMC signed by a different lawyer, provided that the replacement form fully complies with the requirements stated in Bar

Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026. The resubmission must be done within the period prescribed by the OBC.

***I have been charged with a case. Should the signatory of the TGMC know about it?***

**Yes.** The signatory in the TGMC must be aware that you were charged with a case and should select the appropriate statement in item no. 4 of the TGMC. You are required to fully disclose to the signatory all pending or decided cases, if any, including those resolved in prior years.

## **B.8. Law Transcript of Records (TOR)**

***How should I submit my Law TOR in BARISTA?***

You must upload all pages of your Law Transcript of Records (TOR) as separate pages in BARISTA under the designated field. Your school may issue either a separate Law TOR or a consolidated TOR that includes both Pre-Law and Law records. If a single consolidated TOR is issued, only one documentary stamp is required, and the document may be uploaded as a single file.

Please note that submission of the Pre-Law TOR is **NO** longer required.

***Should the Law TOR be recently issued? Are there any special remarks that should be indicated in the TOR?***

The Law TOR does **NOT** need to be recently issued or state that it is for the 2026 Bar Examinations. It may be submitted as is, even if it contains other remarks. However, it must clearly indicate the applicant's date of graduation.

***I am a transferee from more than two law schools. What should I do if my latest TOR does not reflect all completed subjects and corresponding grades?***

If your latest TOR does not include all completed subjects and their corresponding grades, you must submit your previous TORs together with the latest one. This will enable the OBC to verify your full academic compliance.

***Is the Legal Education Board (LEB) Certificate required?***

**No.** You do **NOT** need to submit your LEB Certificate. The submission of your Law TOR is considered sufficient.

***Do I still need to obtain at least 18 units of English, six units of Mathematics, and 18 units of Social Science subjects as stated in Section 16 of LEB Memorandum Order No. 1, Series of 2011 (Board Prerequisites for Admission to the LL.B or J.D. Program)?***

For the purpose of your application to take the 2026 Bar Examinations, there is **NO** need to obtain at least 18 units of English, six units of Mathematics, and 18 units of Social Science subjects, as stated in Section 16 of LEB Memorandum Order No. 1, Series of 2011.

***I am a graduate of a foreign law school. How do I upload my additional documentary requirements (i.e., TORs from foreign law school, accreditation or recognition of my foreign law school by the proper authority, and CLEP Level 1 and 2 Certifications)?***

You must combine all the documents required under Rule 138 of the Rules of Court, as amended by [A.M. No. 24-10-05-SC](#), August 12, 2025, together into a **single PDF file** and attach them to the **Law TOR** upload tab.

## **B.9. Certificate of Enrollment (For Graduating New Applicants)**

***Where can I find the template for the Certificate of Enrollment for graduating new applicants?***

The standard format or template of the Certificate of Enrollment for graduating new applicants is provided in [Annex D](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

## **B.10. Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP) Certification/s**

***Who can issue the certified true copies of the CLEP Certification/s?***

As a general rule, certified true copies of CLEP Certification/s must be secured from the issuing office (e.g., trial court or Office of the Court Administrator). However, the CLEP Level 2 Certification may also be certified by the Clerk of Court of the office that endorsed the application.

***Do I need to submit my CLEP Certification for the 2026 Bar Examinations?***

As a general rule, there is **NO** need to submit the CLEP certification, **EXCEPT** when:

1. The CLEP course is not reflected in your Law TOR; or
2. You are a graduate of a foreign law school.

## B.11. Certificate of No Derogatory Record (CNDR)

*Should the CNDR be recently issued?*

No. The CNDR does **NOT** need to be recently issued by the law school or university.

## B.12. Refresher Course

*I last took the Bar Examinations several years ago. Am I required to take a Refresher Course?*

It depends. You are required to take a Refresher Course only after three unsuccessful attempts at the bar examinations, and for every third unsuccessful attempt thereafter. Please refer to Rule 138 of the Rules of Court, as amended by [A.M. No. 24-10-05-SC](#), August 12, 2025.

*I graduated with a law degree a long time ago, but I have never taken the bar examinations. Am I required to take a Refresher Course?*

No. You are **NOT** required to take a Refresher Course. This requirement only applies to those who have not passed the bar examinations three times or more.

*For how long is my Refresher Course valid?*

Your Refresher Course is valid only for up to three bar years from completion.

The Refresher Course must be completed within a maximum period of four consecutive semesters beginning the initial enrollment.

*What should I do if my law school or university has adopted the Optional Fourth-Year Curricular Subject Offerings in the Basic Law Course, for instance, Remedial Law Review and Civil Law Review per LEB Memorandum Order No. 21, Series of 2019?*

You must secure a certification issued by the Law School Dean or their authorized representative stating that **Remedial Law Review is equivalent to Remedial Law Review I and II**, and **Civil Law Review is equivalent to Civil Law Review I and II**.

This statement may either be included in the Notarized Certificate of Completion of the Refresher Course or issued as a separate certification.

***Am I eligible to apply for the 2026 Bar Examinations if I still have nine subjects to complete at the time of application?***

**Yes.** You are still eligible to apply for the 2026 Bar Examinations even if you still have nine remaining subjects to complete at the time of application, provided that you comply with the documentary requirements set forth in Rule 138 of the Rules of Court, as amended, such as the certifications and undertakings.

### **B.13. Pre-Bar Review Course**

***I am a Refresher applicant. Do I need to enroll and regularly attend a Pre-Bar Review Course?***

**Yes.** You are required to attend a Pre-Bar Review Course in a recognized law school or university.

In relation to this requirement, you must submit a notarized certification issued by the Law Dean and/or Review Director, attesting that you have completed the Pre-Bar Review Course in a recognized law school or university.

The standard format or template of the Certificate of Completion of Pre-Bar Review Course is provided in [Annex J](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

If you are still taking refresher subjects at the time of application, you must submit during the application period a notarized Affidavit of Undertaking stating that you will subsequently enroll in a Pre-Bar Review Course.

The standard format or template of the Affidavit of Undertaking to Enroll and Complete the Pre-Bar Review Course is provided in [Annex K](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

***Can I use my Certificate of Completion of the Pre-Bar Review Course even if I completed it before the application period of the 2026 Bar Examinations?***

**Yes.** Rule 138 of the Rules of Court, as amended by [A.M. No. 24-10-05-SC](#), August 12, 2025, provides that the Certificate of Completion of Pre-Bar Review Course may be used up to three times, within three bar years.

For example, applying the “three Bar year” rule, a Pre-Bar Review Course completed in 2024 may still be used for the 2026 Bar Examinations, as this falls within the third bar year counting from 2024.

***Can I use the notarized Certificate of Completion for the 2025 Pre-Bar Review Course when applying for the 2026 Bar Examinations?***

**Yes.** According to Rule 138 of the Rules of Court, as amended by [A.M. No. 24-10-05-SC](#), August 12, 2025, the Pre-Bar Review Course may be used up to three times, within three bar years from completion. Therefore, you may submit a notarized Certificate of Completion of the 2025 Pre-Bar Review Course for your application for the 2026 Bar Examinations, regardless of whether you were tagged as “Discontinued” or “Did not Pass.”

## B.14. Case Details

***What type of cases do I need to disclose in my bar application?***

You are required to disclose all cases filed against you, whether pending or resolved, regardless of the date of disposition. This covers cases of any nature: civil, criminal, administrative, or otherwise, including traffic violations and similar infractions. It also extends to related proceedings such as counterclaims, crossclaims, appeals, and similar actions before any court, tribunal, or authority.

***I am the complainant in a case. Do I have to disclose it?***

**No.** You do **NOT** need to declare cases which you initiated as a complainant, plaintiff, or petitioner. **HOWEVER**, if such cases were appealed or a counterclaim has been filed making you the respondent, defendant or accused, they must be disclosed.

***I have a pending civil case regarding nullity or annulment of marriage. Am I required to disclose this fact as a pending case?***

If you are the respondent in a case for declaration of nullity or annulment of marriage, or if a counterclaim has been filed against you, you are required to disclose and classify it as a pending case.

***My case has been archived or provisionally dismissed. Can I declare it “dismissed” as its case status?***

Cases that have been archived or provisionally dismissed are still considered **PENDING**. Accordingly, you must indicate the case status as **PENDING** in your application and put a note in the **remarks section** that the case has been archived or provisionally dismissed.

***My case has been decided, closed and terminated. What documents should I submit to prove it?***

If your case has been **DECIDED**, you must submit the following:

1. Copy of the Judgment, Decision, Order, or Resolution, whichever is applicable (original or certified true copy);
2. Copy of the Entry of Judgment or Certificate of Finality, whichever is applicable (original or certified true copy); and
3. Clearance attesting to the fact that you have no pending case as of the time of application. This must be issued by the court or tribunal that rendered the decision leading to the closure and termination of the case.

***I requested a Certificate of Finality from the Office of the Prosecutor, but they informed me that they do not issue such certificates. What document should I submit instead?***

Some offices and agencies, such as the Office of the Prosecutor and the Office of the Ombudsman do not issue certificates of finality. In such cases, the following documents will be sufficient:

- a. Judgment, Decision, Order, or Resolution; and
- b. Certificate of No Pending Case or Clearance

***I have multiple cases filed against me. Can I upload them all together?***

**No.** Each case must be uploaded as a separate entry. All required documents pertaining to the same case should be **consolidated into a single PDF file** and uploaded under the tab designated for that specific case.

If a document (e.g., complaint/decision) is **voluminous** and exceeds the allowable file size, you may upload only the **first five pages** and the **last five pages** of the document instead of the entire file.

***Is a Clearance or Certificate of No Pending Case still required even if a complaint against me was decided and settled at the barangay level?***

**Yes.** A Clearance or Certificate of No Pending Case is still required for cases decided at the *barangay* level. You must attach the original or certified true copy of the Decision, Arbitration Award, or Amicable Settlement, signed by the parties and attested by the *Barangay* Captain or Chairperson of the *Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo*.

***I failed to disclose my case at the time of application. What should I do?***

If you fail to disclose a case during your initial application, you must promptly notify the OBC and request an update to your BARISTA records. To

process this update, submit the following details and the supporting documents in **PDF format** through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#):

Case Title:\*

Date Filed:\*

Status of Case (Decided or Pending):\*

Charge and/or Penalty:

Remarks:

Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory.

## C. Deferred Application Requirements

*When should the deferred documents be submitted? What happens if I fail to submit the deferred documents?*

Both the digital or scanned copies and physical copies of the deferred documents (except Law TOR) must be uploaded to BARISTA and submitted to the OBC, respectively, **not later than October 13, 2026**. Failure to submit these documents within the prescribed period may result in disqualification from the 2026 Bar Examinations.<sup>3</sup>

*Should I wait for the approval of my deferred documents in BARISTA before I can submit the original hard copies of the documents to the OBC?*

**No.** You **DO NOT** need to wait for an email confirmation from the OBC regarding the digital submission of your deferred documents before submitting the physical copies thereof. You can submit the digital or scanned and physical copies simultaneously.

*I have already submitted the physical copies of my deferred documents, but I received an email saying I still need to submit them. What should I do?*

If you receive an email from BARISTA asking for the physical copies of the deferred documents, you may disregard it if you have already submitted them. The email is just an automated reminder sent after your documents have been processed.

After receiving your documents, the OBC will review the physical copies of your documentary requirements. If clarification is needed, the OBC may reach out to you through **email** or via **phone call**. Please make sure that your registered email address and contact number are active.

*I submitted physical copies of both my mandatory and deferred documents during the mandatory submission period. Should I retrieve my deferred documents from the OBC and resubmit them during the correct period?*

**No.** You **DO NOT** need to retrieve and resubmit the physical copies of your deferred documents. Instead, submit a signed letter, through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#), explaining the situation. The letter should include:

1. The date and mode of submission (e.g., registered mail or personal filing) you submitted the physical copies of your deferred documents;
2. A request to consider these documents as part of your official submission and include them in your file; and

<sup>3</sup> Bar Bulletin No. 2, December 8, 2025, Application Requirements and Venue Selection Procedure for the 2026 Bar Examinations.

3. An acknowledgment that the documents will still undergo OBC processing.

If you included your deferred documents in your initial submission, but do not have digital or scanned copies to upload in BARISTA, you must submit a signed manifestation in the upload tab for each missing document. The manifestation should include:

1. The fact that you failed to keep digital or scanned copies of the deferred documents before submitting them;
2. A request for the OBC to process your application using the physical copies of the documents; and
3. An acknowledgment that if the physical documents are incorrect or deficient, you will:
  - a. Re-upload the correct documents to BARISTA; and
  - b. Resubmit the correct documents to the OBC at your own cost.

## D. General Queries

***I submitted my application and was admitted as a candidate in the 2025 Bar Examinations but decided not to take the same. What is my applicant type?***

You are still considered a **New Applicant**. The following are considered New Applicants:

1. Those who have never submitted their application to take the bar examinations, including those who are currently enrolled and those who have completed their law degree but have not yet officially graduated;
2. Those who submitted their application but later withdrew their application; or
3. Those who submitted their application but did not take the bar examinations (“no-show” for all the scheduled days of the bar examinations).

***I am a Previous Taker or a Refresher who was conditionally admitted to take the last Bar Examinations. What reason(s) should I state for my conditional admission?***

If you were conditionally admitted to take any of the previous bar examinations, you should state the reason(s). Acceptable reasons include, but are not limited, to the following:

- a. Pending correction of Birth Certificate;
- b. Pending case;
- c. Lack of Certificate of Completion of Pre-Bar Review Course; or
- d. Lack of other documentary requirements.

If you did not receive an email from the OBC explaining why your application was conditionally admitted, please indicate “lack of other documentary requirements.”

In stating your reason, kindly indicate the status of compliance, following this format:

<Reason>; Status of Compliance

For example:

Pending correction of Birth Certificate; Complied.

***I received an email that my BARISTA-generated Application Form is already available for download. When should I submit my Application Form and mandatory documentary requirements to the OBC?***

You must submit the physical copies of the signed and notarized Application Form as well as the mandatory documentary requirements within 10 calendar days from the date of email notification of the availability of the Application Form for download.

***How do I submit the physical copies of the documentary requirements to the OBC?***

You must submit **one set of all the required documents**, securely enclosed in a long brown envelope. The envelope must be sealed with masking tape and labeled as follows:

Subject: Bar Application Documents [Mandatory or Deferred]

Bar Examinee Number: PB2026-XXXXX

Applicant's Surname and Initials: [e.g. Dela Cruz, J.A.]

The same must be submitted personally or via private courier service, addressed to:

**CHIEF OF OFFICE**

Office of the Bar Confidant

Supreme Court of the Philippines

Padre Faura St., Ermita, Barangay 669,

1000 Manila, Philippines

(02) 8552 9690

The envelope labels may be either typewritten or handwritten and positioned anywhere on the envelope, provided they are clearly visible.

***May I submit my Bar application requirements on weekends or during holidays?***

**Yes.** You may submit the physical copies of documentary requirements on weekends and holidays through the OBC's dedicated drop box located at the **Supreme Court One Stop Shop, Window 4.**

***What is the official filing date if I send my documentary requirements through a private courier?***

The official filing date will be **the date you sent the documents to the courier**, as indicated on the courier's official receipt or tracking record.

***Will the OBC acknowledge the receipt of my documents? Will I be informed if the OBC has received my documentary requirements?***

**No.** The OBC will **NOT** send an acknowledgement message for the receipt of your physical documents. Please monitor your courier's tracking or keep proof of personal submission for your records.

If there is an issue with any document or information you submitted, the OBC will contact you through your BARISTA-registered email address or phone number. Please note that we only reach out if a problem arises.

***My BARISTA application is still pending, while some of my colleagues' applications have already been processed even though I submitted mine earlier. Should I be worried?***

There is no need to worry. BARISTA applications are processed in random order, not by submission date. This means that some applications submitted later may be processed before yours.

***The deadline has passed, but my application is still pending. Should I be concerned?***

**No.** The processing of the documents extends beyond the specified deadline to file applications.

***I have already submitted the documents to the OBC, but I will not be taking the 2026 Bar Examinations. Can I request the return of my documents?***

**No.** The physical copies of your application documents cannot be returned. They will remain part of the OBC's official records. Rest assured that your personal information will only be used for legitimate purposes related to your application and admission to the Bar, and will be protected in compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

***If the physical set of my mandatory documents is missing a document or includes a wrong one, what should I do?***

There is no need to submit a new set of mandatory documents. You only need to submit the missing or correct document to the OBC, along with a signed cover letter which should state:

- a. The details of your initial submission; and
- b. The request that the new document be made part of your official submission.

This is allowed only if the error relates to the physical submission, and the document to be included still matches the information you originally provided in BARISTA.

If you discover errors in the information entered in BARISTA or any substantial mistakes in the Application Form itself, you **MUST** resubmit the corrected form along with a signed cover letter requesting that the new form be treated as your official submission.

***I uploaded the wrong document to BARISTA. How can I rectify it?***

You must request changes to your uploaded document through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#). Please note that if the processor determines that your uploaded document/s do not comply with the prescribed requirements, they will return the documents for correction. Should this occur, ensure that the correct and compliant documents are prepared and uploaded promptly.

If your online application has already been fully processed and your document was not returned for corrections, but you believe it still requires changes, you may request an update to your uploaded documents through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#).

***My documentary requirements were issued on A4-size or letter-size paper. Are these acceptable?***

**Yes.** Only the BARISTA-generated Application Form and the TGMCs should be printed in folio-size paper (8.5" x 13"). All other documents may be printed on A4 or letter-size paper.

***Are documents with electronic signatures accepted?***

Electronic signatures are accepted **ONLY** for PSA-issued Birth Certificates and Marriage Certificates. All other documents must contain wet (handwritten) signatures.

***My law school or university has permanently closed. How can I comply with the requirement to submit a Law TOR and CNDR?***

If you are a Previous Taker or a Refresher, and you have submitted your Law TOR and CNDR in a prior application, you must submit a **notarized affidavit** stating that:

1. Your law school or university has permanently closed;
2. You have previously submitted your Law TOR and CNDR to the OBC; and
3. You are requesting for the previously submitted documents to be considered and made part of your current application's documentary requirements.

However, submission of the affidavit **DOES NOT** automatically confirm compliance. All previously submitted documents will still undergo verification and evaluation.

The standard format or template of the **Affidavit (For Graduates of Permanently Closed Law Schools)** is available [here](#).

***Should I label my documents as annexes?***

**No.** It is not necessary to label your documents as annexes.

***I am currently residing in a rented property. May I indicate this as my present address?***

**Yes.** You may use your current residence as your present address, provided it is your actual place of residence at the time of application. Please ensure that the address is complete and accurate for purposes of correspondence and verification.

**Note:** Once you pass the bar examinations and become a full-fledged lawyer, your permanent address will be reflected in your membership certificate and official records.

***On what grounds may my Bar application be denied?***

Your application may be denied if:

- a. You are found not qualified to take the 2026 Bar Examinations; or
- b. You fail to submit any or all of the required documents, whether mandatory or deferred, during the prescribed period.

***What does the ‘Pending Court Action’ shown in my BARISTA account mean? I do not have any pending or decided cases.***

The **“Pending Court Action”** status displayed in BARISTA does not refer to any criminal, civil, or administrative action before the Court. This status pertains solely to the process of submitting your names to the Court *En Banc* for approval/denial to take the 2026 Bar Examinations.

Please note that the “Court Action” status in BARISTA may remain marked as pending until official updates on the 2026 Bar Examinations are released.

***I am unable to take the digital bar examinations and would prefer to take the same in handwritten format. As a senior citizen or an individual with special needs, how can I request permission for this accommodation?***

If you are a senior citizen or an individual with special needs, and are unable to take the digital examinations, you may request permission to take the 2026 Bar Examinations in handwritten format. To do so, submit a formal request through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#) and attach supporting documents such as:

- a. A medical certificate or proof of condition/s (for special needs); or
- b. A valid government-issued ID indicating age (for senior citizens)

The OBC will review your request and notify you of the outcome and/or any additional instructions from the Court.

## E. Other Matters

You may raise any Bar Examinations-related concern not addressed in the FAQs via the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#). Please expect a response **within a maximum period of five working days** before sending follow-ups.

You may also call the OBC at **(02) 8552 9690**, from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **except on holidays**.

To receive updates relating to the 2026 Bar Examinations, join the [2026 Bar Exams Official Viber Channel](#) by scanning the QR code below:



Republic of the Philippines)  
City of \_\_\_\_\_)s.s

**AFFIDAVIT**  
**(For Graduates of Permanently Closed Law Schools)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [Surname, Given Name, Middle Name, Suffix], of legal age, Filipino citizen, and a resident of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby **ATTEST** that:

1. I completed my legal education (i.e., Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor) at \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of Law School/University] with previous address in \_\_\_\_\_ [City/Municipality];
2. The school ceased operations in \_\_\_\_\_ [Year] and is now officially closed; and
3. I previously submitted my Law Transcript of Records (TOR) and Certificate of No Derogatory Record (CNDR) to the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC), as part of my application requirements to take prior Bar Examinations.

I respectfully request that the said documents be considered and included as part of my documentary requirements for my 2026 Bar Examinations application.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, Philippines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature over Printed Name]  
Affiant

**SUBSCRIBED** and **SWORN** to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, Philippines, affiant exhibiting their proof of identity \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTARY PUBLIC**

Doc. No. \_\_\_\_\_;  
Book No. \_\_\_\_\_;  
Page No. \_\_\_\_\_;  
Series of \_\_\_\_\_.

## G. Updates as of January 2026

*I have an existing BARISTA account and I intend to apply for the 2026 Bar Examinations. However, I am unable to proceed to Step 2 of the application process because my account does not permit me to update my profile. What steps should I take to continue with my application?*

You must ensure that your personal information – including religion, law school completion status, and special needs – is accurately updated in your profile. If you are able to make the necessary edits, you must do so.

Should you encounter any difficulties in updating these details, contact the OBC through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#) so you can proceed with your application.

*I am trying to pay through the Landbank Link.Biz Portal, but I cannot access the site. What should I do?*

Landbank Link.Biz Portal is accessible from 12:01 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays, subject to system maintenance or technical issues, as indicated in the [Landbank Link.Biz Portal FAQ](#).

If you are unable to access the portal, try making your payment during off-peak hours (early morning or late evening). If this does not resolve the issue, submit your concern through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#).

*I am trying to pay my application fee, but BARISTA displays an error message while processing the payment. What should I do?*

First, check whether the amount has been deducted from your account. If **NO deduction** occurred, try clicking “Proceed Payment” again. If the issue persists, submit your concern through the [OBC Helpdesk Form](#).

*I am a refresher applicant who completed the review courses (Fourth-year and Pre-Bar Review) in 2024 and 2025. I used these review course completions to take the 2024 and 2025 Bar Examinations, but unfortunately did not pass. Can I still use my completions to apply for the 2026 Bar Examinations?*

**Yes.** You can still use the review course completions to apply for the **2026 Bar Examinations** despite their use in the previous bar examinations.

Rule 138 of the Rules of Court, as amended by [A.M. No. 24-10-05-SC](#), August 12, 2025, has two relevant additions on the review course requirement, namely:

- a. “on every third unsuccessful attempt thereafter” (*three-attempts phrase*); and
- b. “those who have completed their fourth-year review course shall be given a maximum of three bar years within which to take the bar examinations” (*three-bar-year clause*).

The *three-attempts phrase* affects the number of times the review course completions may be used. Meanwhile, the *three-bar-year clause* affects the validity period of the review course completions.

Reading them in harmony shows that **the *three-bar-years clause* governs both the number of uses and validity period of review course completions.** Hence, such completions may now be used for up to three bar examinations, but such attempts must occur within the validity period of three bar years from the academic year the review courses were completed.

Please note, however, that for purposes of applying for and complying with the documentary requirements for the 2026 Bar Examinations, the latest completion (i.e., the 2025 completion) should be used.

## H. Updates as of February 2026

*I have an existing BARISTA account and have previously uploaded the required documents in past years (i.e., 2023, 2024, and 2025), but BARISTA still requires me to upload the documents already submitted. Should I upload the documents again for the 2026 Bar Examinations?*

**Yes.** If your previously submitted documents do not appear in your BARISTA account, re-upload the required documents to proceed with your application and payment.

*There is an error in my name on my PSA-issued Birth Certificate and I intend to file a Petition for Correction of Entry. Which name should I use for my application in the meantime?*

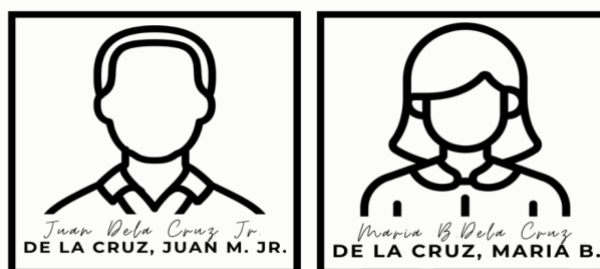
If your PSA-issued Birth Certificate does not accurately reflect your complete name, and you intend to file a Petition for Correction of Entry, you must **indicate in the Application Form the name you are currently using**, as reflected in your school records and valid IDs.

*I have already uploaded my photo in BARISTA as part of my submission for the 2025 Bar Examinations. Do I still need to upload a new photo for the 2026 Bar Examinations?*

**Yes.** You must upload a new photo for the 2026 Bar Examinations. The photo must be recent, **taken no more than three months before you submit your application** in BARISTA.

*Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026 requires the inclusion of the applicant's handwritten full name (Surname, Given Name, Middle Name, Suffix) and signature at the bottom of their photo. However, the sample image shows only the middle initial instead of the middle name. Which format should be followed?*

Follow the name format displayed in the sample image:



**Surname, First Name, Middle Initial, Suffix**

***Should the TGMC be entirely handwritten?***

**No.** The information in the TGMC may be typed or digitally encoded, but the lawyer’s signature must be a wet signature. Electronic signatures are **NOT** allowed.

***I graduated in AY 2022-2023 and my TOR reflects the CLEP course as “Practice Court I.” Does this sufficiently comply with the CLEP requirement?***

**No.** If CLEP is not explicitly reflected in your TOR, you must attach your CLEP Level 1 Certification, CLEP Level 2 Certification, or both. **This requirement applies to applicants who graduated in AY 2022–2023 onward.**

***Do I need to submit a physical copy of my CLEP Certification if I already submitted the original during my previous Bar application?***

**No.** If you have already submitted the original physical copy of your CLEP Certification during your previous Bar application (i.e., 2023, 2024, or 2025), you are no longer required to submit it again for the 2026 Bar Examinations.

***I am currently enrolled in my last year of law school and I intend to apply for the 2026 Bar Examinations. Is the CNDR considered a deferred document in my case?***

**No.** The CNDR is **NOT** considered a deferred document in your case, or in any case. It is mandatory for all types of applicants and must be submitted at the time of application.

Since you are currently enrolled in your last year of law school, your CNDR must state that:

- a. You have no derogatory record at the time of the application (or if applicable, disclose any disciplinary or corrective action taken); and
- b. The law school or university undertakes to immediately report to the OBC, should any criminal or administrative case be filed against you while still a student therein, from the time the certification is obtained until graduation.

The standard format or template for the CNDR for currently enrolled New Applicants is provided in [Annex F](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

However, if the applicant has already graduated or has completed the law degree requirements but has not yet officially graduated, their CNDR must state that they have no derogatory record (or if applicable, disclose any disciplinary or corrective action taken).

The standard format or template for the CNDR for such applicants is provided in [Annex E](#) of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2026.

***My previously issued CNDR states that it is valid only for a particular bar examination year. Do I need to secure a new CNDR for the 2026 Bar Examinations?***

**No.** You do not need to secure a new CNDR for the 2026 Bar Examinations. **Any statement indicating that the previously issued CNDR is limited to a particular bar examination year may be disregarded.**

***I have already submitted my Notarized Certificate of Completion of Refresher Course and Notarized Certificate of Completion of Pre-Bar Review Course during my previous Bar application (i.e., 2024 or 2025). Do I need to request these certificates anew for the 2026 Bar Examinations?***

**No.** You do not need to request new certificates. You may simply upload the previously submitted Notarized Certificate of Completion of Refresher Course and Notarized Certificate of Completion of Pre-Bar Review Course to BARISTA, as they remain valid for your application to take the 2026 Bar Examinations.

If you have likewise submitted the original physical copies of these certificates during the 2024 or 2025 Bar Examinations, you are only required to provide photocopies of the same for the 2026 Bar Examinations.