



## **The Ravi Urban Development Authority Appointment of Advocates and Law Firms Regulations, 2024 (Amended)**

**No. RUDA/LW/Notifications/15-24:** In exercise of the powers conferred under section 55 of The Ravi Urban Development Act 2020 (amended and updated), the Board of the Ravi Urban Development Authority framed the Ravi Urban Development Authority, Appointment of Advocates and Law Firms Regulations, 2024 on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 and approved the amendments in approved regulations with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

### **CHAPTER I – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**1. Short title and commencement.** - (1) These regulations may be called the RUDA Appointment of Advocates and Law Firms Regulations 2024.

(2) The regulations shall come into force at once

**2. Definitions and interpretation.** – (1) In these regulations, the following words shall have the meanings set out herein:

- (a) "Act" means the Ravi Urban Development Authority Act, 2020 (XVII of 2020);
- (b) "Advocate" means a person who has been duly enrolled and licensed by a recognized Bar Council under the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973;
- (c) "Authority" means the Ravi Urban Development Authority established under the Act;
- (d) "Bar Council" means a statutory body established under the Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Act, 1973, and any amendments thereto;
- (e) "Board" means the Board of the Authority established under section 4A of the Ravi Urban Development Authority Act, 2020;
- (f) "Law Firms" means a registered legal entity <sup>[1]</sup> employing at least four advocates of the High Court, each having a minimum of six (6) years of post-qualification experience;
- (g) "Lower Courts" means any court of Law within Pakistan except the High Courts and the Supreme Court of Pakistan, administrative tribunals, executive authorities or quasi-judicial forums;



[1]. Substituted the word "comprising", with the word "employing"; vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

- (h) "Panels of Advocates" means collectively the Panels of Advocates of the Lower Courts, Lahore High Court, Supreme Court of Pakistan maintained by the Authority as per the terms of these regulations;
- (i) "post-qualification experience" means experience in practice after obtaining the license to appear before the Lower courts;
- (j) "schedule of charges" means a schedule prepared by the Selection Committee and approved by the CEO which shall outline the fees payable to the Advocates and Law Firms, listed on the Panel(s) of Advocates and Law Firms, on a case to case basis;
- (k) "Selection Committee" means the committee constituted in accordance with regulation 3 for the appointment of Advocates and Law Firms on the Authority's panel of Advocates and Law Firms.

(2) Any expression used but not defined in these regulations shall have the same meaning as is assigned to it in the Act.

## **CHAPTER II – PANELS OF ADVOCATES AND LAW FIRMS**

**3. Selection Committee.** – (1) There shall be a Selection Committee which shall make appointments to the Authority's Panels of Advocates and the Law Firms<sup>[2]</sup>. The Selection Committee shall consist of the following:

- (a) Executive Director, Legal (Convenor);  
(b) Director, <sup>[3]</sup> Litigations (Member); and  
(c) <sup>[4]</sup> Deputy Director, Litigations (Secretary).

(2) The <sup>[5]</sup> Deputy Director, Litigations of the Legal Department shall act as the secretary to the Selection Committee.

(3) The Selection Committee may decide its TORs and submit to the CEO for approval.

(4) The Selection Committee shall select and add Advocates and Law Firms to the panels created <sup>[6]</sup> under these regulations.

(5) Subject to sub-regulation (1) above, the appointments made by the Selection Committee to the Authority's panels shall be approved by the CEO.

(6) The Selection Committee shall possess complete authority to perform any act or exercise any of the Authority's powers under these regulations, save as where such power is expressly reserved for the Board or the CEO.

[2]. Omitted the words "for case to case basis", after words "Law Firms" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[3]. Added the word "Litigation" after the word "Director" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[4]. Substituted with the words "Deputy Director, Litigation, Legal (Secretary)" with words "Concerned Deputy Director, Legal (Secretary)" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[5]. Substituted the words "Deputy Director, Litigation" with words "Deputy Director of the Legal Department" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[6]. Substituted words "under these regulations" with the words "under regulation 6 hereof" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

**4. Public Notice.** – (1) The Selection Committee shall invite applications for enlistment of Advocates and Law Firms on the Authority's panels by publishing a notice on the Authority's <sup>[7]</sup> website.

(2). <sup>[8]</sup> The notice may include relevant information such as manner and process of submitting applications including supporting documents and such other information as may be deemed appropriate by the Selection Committee.

(3) The Authority may also provide any additional information which may be helpful for the applicants.

(4) <sup>[9]</sup> The notice shall be re-advertised on the Authority's website after the expiry of such period as may be determined by the Selection Committee.

**5. Panel of Advocates and Law Firms.** – (1) The Authority shall maintain three separate panels of Advocates, one for matters in the Lower courts, one for matters in the Lahore High Court, and one for matters in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

(2) In addition to the Panels of Advocates provided in sub-regulation (1) above, the Authority shall also maintain a panel of Law Firms to represent the Authority in contentious matters before <sup>[10]</sup> various courts, administrative tribunals, regulatory bodies, quasi-judicial forums, mediation centers, arbitral tribunals and/or other ADR based forums.

(3) In addition to representation before courts, the Authority may, from time to time, requires Advocates and Law Firms to perform certain tasks or provide services <sup>[11]</sup> under these regulations, including but not limited to consultancy services, legal opinions, settlement agreements etc.

(4) The enlistment of an Advocate on one panel of the Authority shall not bar enlistment on other panels provided that the Advocates and Law Firms meet the criteria for enlistment on other panels.

(5) No Advocate shall be appointed by the Authority to the Panels of Advocates who <sup>[12]</sup>:

[7]. Omitted the word "panels" after words "a notice on the Authority's" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[8]. Substituted the sub regulation "The notice may include relevant information such as manner and process of submitting applications including supporting documents and such other information as may be deemed appropriate by the Selection Committee" with sub-regulations "In addition to the criteria of enlistment, the Public Notice shall also mention the deadline for applications, if any, the schedule of charges approved by the CEO as per the terms hereof, and instructions with respect to submission of applications" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[9]. New sub regulation inserted "The notice shall be re-advertised on the Authority's website after the expiry of such period as may be determined by the Selection Committee" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[10]. Substituted the words "various courts, administrative tribunals, regulatory bodies, quasi-judicial forums, mediation centers, arbitral tribunals and/or other ADR based forums" with the words "all courts of Pakistan." vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[11] Omitted the words "related to cases assigned to them" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[12]. Omitted the words " does not meet the following minimum criteria", vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

- (i) <sup>[13]</sup> has less than five (5) years of post-qualification experience in case of appointment for Panel of Advocates of Lower Courts, seven (7) years of post-qualification experience in case of appointment for Panel of Advocates for High Court, and/or twelve (12) years of post-qualification experience in case of appointment for Panel of Advocates of Supreme Court;
- (ii) is facing, or subject to, disciplinary proceedings by the relevant Bar Council;
- (iii) has been convicted for fraud, moral turpitude, cheating, dishonesty or any other criminal offence.
- (iv) has been convicted for fraud, moral turpitude, cheating, dishonesty or any other criminal offence.
- (v) has a conflict of interest with the Authority or is not permitted to represent the Authority under rules of professional ethics;
- (vi) does not fulfill the criteria determined by the Selection Committee from time to time.



(6) In order to be enlisted, Law Firms shall meet such criteria as may be prescribed by the Selection Committee

(7) The Panels of Advocates and Law Firms maintained under these regulations shall be valid for a <sup>[14]</sup> minimum period of 2 years.

(8) The enlistment of an Advocate or Law Firm on the Authority's panel(s) may be extended by the Selection Committee based on a recommendation by the Legal Department.

(9) Upon <sup>[15]</sup> expiry of the Panels of Advocates or Law Firms, as per sub-regulation (7) above, pending cases or matters already assigned to the Advocates or Law Firms shall not be affected and such Advocates or Law Firms shall continue to perform any and all acts necessary for proper representation of the Authority.

[13]. Substituted the sub-regulation "has less than five (5) years of post-qualification experience in case of appointment for Panel of Advocates of Lower Courts, seven (7) years of post-qualification experience in case of appointment for Panel of Advocates for High Court, and/or twelve (12) years of post-qualification experience in case of appointment for Panel of Advocates of Supreme Court with sub-regulation "has less than eight (8) years of post-qualification experience in case of Lower Courts, ten (10) years in case of Lahore High Court and eighteen (18) years in case of the Supreme Court of Pakistan vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025

[14]. Added the word "minimum" after the words "for a" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[15] Added the word "expiry" after the word "upon" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

(10) <sup>[16]</sup> No Law Firm shall be appointed by the Authority to the Panel of Law Firms where one or more of that Law Firm's partner(s):

- (i) is facing, or subject to, disciplinary proceedings by the relevant Bar Council;
- (ii) has been convicted for fraud, moral turpitude, cheating, dishonesty or any other criminal offence;
- (iii) has a conflict of interest with the Authority or is not permitted to represent the Authority under rules of professional ethics; and where the Law Firm itself;
- (iv) does not fulfill the definition given in sub-regulation (f) of regulation 2(1);
- (v) does not fulfill the criteria determined by the Selection Committee from time to time; and
- (vi) is not registered with the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA).



**6. Panel Appointment.** – (1) Any Advocate or Law Firm that meets the criteria prescribed by the Authority and mentioned in these regulations may apply to the Selection Committee <sup>[17]</sup> on a rolling basis for enlistment on the Authority's panels, along with <sup>[18]</sup> such supporting particulars as may be required by the Selection Committee. <sup>[19]</sup>

(2) The Selection Committee shall review and scrutinize the applications received as per sub-regulation (1) above <sup>[20]</sup> in accordance with the provision of these regulations and only those Advocates and Law Firms that meet the prescribed criteria may be added to the Authority's panels.

(3) The Advocates and Law Firms shall be informed of their enlistment on the Authority's panels as per terms of sub-regulation (2) above.

(4) The Advocates and Law Firms appointed to the Authority's panels shall abide by such code of ethics as may be issued by the Authority from time to time.

**7. Remuneration and Assignment of Cases.** – (1) The Selection Committee shall propose a schedule of charges to be approved by the CEO.

[16] New sub-regulations inserted "No Law Firm shall be appointed by the Authority to the Panel of Law Firms where one or more of that Law Firm's partner(s): (i). is facing, or subject to, disciplinary proceedings by the relevant Bar Council; (ii) has been convicted for fraud, moral turpitude, cheating, dishonesty or any other criminal offence; (iii). has a conflict of interest with the Authority or is not permitted to represent the Authority under rules of professional ethics; and where the Law Firm itself;(iv) does not fulfill the definition given in sub-regulation (f) of regulation 2(1); (v) does not fulfill the criteria determined by the Selection Committee from time to time; and (v). is not registered with the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA)." vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[17]. The words "on a rolling basis" added after the word "Committee" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[18]. Substituted the word "the" with the word "such" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[19]. Added the words "as may be required by the Selection Committee" after the word "particulars" and omitted the words "through the Public Notice published under regulation 4 hereof", vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

[20] Substituted with words "in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and only those" with words "in light of an evaluation criteria to be prescribed the Legal Department provided that only" vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

(2) The schedule of charges approved under sub-regulation (1) above shall contain the applicable remuneration, for Advocates and Law Firms on each of the Authority's panels, on a case-to-case basis.

(3) Subject to such directions as the CEO may give, the Executive Director, Legal shall have the power to mark and assign cases or matters to Advocates and Law Firms on the panel of the Authority.

(4) When assigning cases as per sub-regulation (3) above, the Executive Director, Legal shall determine the remuneration for the Advocates and Law Firms, as per the schedule of charges, on case to case basis based on the recommendation of Director / Deputy Director.

(5) The Executive Director, Legal, or any other person from the Legal Department duly authorized by the Executive Director, Legal, shall have the power to sign pleadings, complaints, written statements, applications, rejoinders, power-of-attorneys etc. on behalf of the Authority.

**8. Evaluation, Removal from Panel and Termination of Services.** – (1) The Legal Department shall review and monitor the performance of Advocates and Law Firms on the Authority's panels from time to time.

(2) The CEO may remove Advocates or Law Firms from its panels on the recommendation of the Executive Director, Legal without the need to provide a reason for such removal.

(3) In addition to removal from a panel <sup>21</sup> owing to performance of an Advocate or a Law Firm, the CEO may at any time terminate their services in case it is found that the Advocate or Law Firm is representing any party against the Authority in any legal action, proceeding or dispute and / or where the Advocate or Law Firm has accepted a case where their submissions, arguments or legal position may be reasonably construed as prejudicial to the interests of the Authority.

(4) The following conditions shall apply to removal and termination of Advocates and Law Firms:



- (i) termination of services of Advocates and Law Firms shall be effective immediately;
- (ii) upon termination as per this regulation, the Advocate or Law Firm shall return case files and any copies thereof to the Authority; and,
- (iii) Advocate or Law Firm shall maintain complete confidentiality subsequent to removal or termination regarding all information obtained during their tenure with the Authority.

[21] Substituted the words "owing to performance of an Advocate or a Law firm," with the words "under sub-regulation (2) above" with the words vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.

### **CHAPTER III – MISCELLANOUS.**

**9. Special Dispensation.** – (1) <sup>[22]</sup> The Board shall have the power to dispense with the requirements of these regulations including payment of special fees or entrustment of a matter to a lawyer or law firm outside the Authority's Panel. Any entrustment will be made with the approval of the Board, which approval may be obtained by the way of circulation or presenting to the Board.

(2) Where the Authority requires representation before an arbitral tribunal, the Executive Director, Legal may assign the case to an Advocate or Law Firm on any of its panels.

(3) The schedule of charges shall not be applicable to Advocates or Law Firms engaged under this regulation.

(4) The CEO shall fix the remuneration of Advocates and Law Firms hired under this regulation based on the recommendation of the Executive Director, Legal.

**10. Applicability.** – Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in any other regulations of the Authority, the provisions outlined herein shall prevail for engagement of Advocates and Law Firms to represent the Authority in all courts of Law and arbitral tribunals. Until the process of new regulations has been completed, the appointment of lawyers will be dealt under the same regulations 2022. The new regulations shall apply at once after the advertisement publish in authority's website meanwhile the old regulations 2022 are in working.

**11. Repeal and Savings.** – (1) The Ravi Urban Development (Legal Counsel(s)/Advisor(s)/Consultant(s)/Law Firm(s) Appointment) Regulations, 2022 are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Ravi Urban Development (Legal Counsel(s)/Advisor(s)/Consultant(s)/Law Firm(s) Appointment) Regulations, 2022, anything done or any action taken or purported to have been done or taken under the said regulations shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of these regulations.

[22]. Substituted the sub-regulation "The Board shall have the power to dispense with the requirements of these regulations including payment of special fees or entrustment of a matter to a lawyer or law firm outside the Authority's Panel. Any entrustment will be made with the approval of the Board, which approval may be obtained by the way of circulation or presenting to the Board with the sub-regulation "Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations, the CEO shall have the power to dispense with the requirements of these regulations and assign a case to an Advocate Supreme Court, Senior Advocate for High Court, Advocate for Civil Courts or a Law Firm outside the Authority's panels where the concerned Director / Deputy Director of Legal Department is of the opinion that specialist expertise is required that cannot be offered by those on the Authority's panels or where doing so is necessary to safeguard the interests of the Authority vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.



**RAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Housing Urban Development & Public Health Engineering Department  
Government of the Punjab



(3) <sup>23</sup> Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations, till such time that the Authority Panels are not duly constituted in accordance with these regulations, the CEO may on the recommendations of the Selection Committee entrust cases to different lawyers or Law Firms as per schedule of Charges; provided that such process shall be concluded within 120 day of the approval of this sub-regulations or any time extended with the approval of CEO.

**(Imran Amin)**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ravi Urban Development Authority



[23]. Inserted new sub-regulation (3) vide RUDA notification number RUDA/LW/Notifications/03-25, dated 24-01-2025.