



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

NOTIFICATION

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 is pleased to frame the Ravi Urban Development Authority (Appointment of Advocates and Law Firms) Regulations, 2024 with effect from 23rd August 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 comprising 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;



- (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 for case to case basis. The Selection Committee shall consist of the following:

- (a) Executive Director, Legal (Convenor);
(b) Director, Legal (Member); and,
(c) Concerned Deputy Director, Legal (Secretary).

(2) The Deputy Director 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 under regulation 6 hereof.

(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.

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 panels/ website.

(2) 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.

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

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 all courts of Pakistan.

(3) In addition to representation before courts, the Authority may, from time to time, require Advocates and Law Firms to perform certain tasks or provide services related to cases assigned to them 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 does not meet the following minimum criteria:

- (i) 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;
- (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 a conflict of interest with the Authority or is not permitted to represent the Authority under rules of professional ethics;
- (v) 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 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 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.

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 for enlistment on the Authority's panels, along with the supporting particulars as may be required by the Selection Committee through the Public Notice published under regulation 4 hereof.

(2) The Selection Committee shall review and scrutinize the applications, received as per sub-regulation (1) above, in light of an evaluation criteria to be prescribed by the Legal Department provided that only 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.

(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.





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(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 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.

CHAPTER III – MISC.

9. Special Dispensation. – (1) 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.

(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.





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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.


(Imran Amin)
Chief Executive Officer

Ravi Urban Development Authority

