



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2023 BAR CHAIR

BAR BULLETIN No. 2
Series of 2023

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE 2023 BAR EXAMINATIONS**

Application Form; Supporting Documents

The Application Form for the 2023 Bar Examinations shall be accomplished **only** through Bar Applicant Registration Information System and Tech Assistance (BARISTA), the Court's new online application platform. Once the application periods below commence, applicants may access BARISTA [here](#).¹

The supporting documentary requirements are as follows, depending on the type of applicant:²

¹ For ease of reference, the full site address of BARISTA is <https://barista.judiciary.gov.ph/>

² The applicant type is determined based on the time of actual taking of the Bar examinations, and regardless of the year of graduation from law school or previous applications filed.

In the interest of clarity, an applicant who has applied, but has (1) formally withdrawn; (2) otherwise failed to appear during the first day; or (3) suffered from COVID-19, was not able to appear on the first day, and thus was not able to take the 2022 Bar Examinations at all, shall have the same application type as declared on his or her 2022 Bar Application.

Applicant Type	Description	Checklist of Documentary Requirements
NEW APPLICANTS	Those who will take the Bar examinations for the first time.	Please refer to the attached <i>Annex A</i> .
PREVIOUS TAKERS	Formerly referred to as “Repeaters”; Those who will take ³ the Bar examinations for the second or third time.	Please refer to the attached <i>Annex B</i> .
REFRESHERS	Those who will take the Bar examinations for the fourth time or more.	Please refer to the attached <i>Annex C</i> .

In addition, ALL applicants must submit within the prescribed period, the documents enumerated in the attached *Annex D*.

Application Schedule

Online Application Forms shall be filed within the following periods, depending on the applicant type:

Applicant Type	Application Period
NEW APPLICANTS	January 8, 2023 to April 30, 2023
PREVIOUS TAKERS and REFRESHERS	May 1, 2023 to July 8, 2023

The hard copies of the Application Form and supporting documentary requirements laid out per applicant type in *Annexes A, B, and C* must subsequently be submitted through private courier services (*e.g.*, LBC, Ninja Van, etc.) to the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC), within ten (10) calendar days upon receipt of an email notification from BARISTA approving the application.⁴

³ An applicant who has completely taken all the examination subjects required by the respective year’s examinations, but was otherwise unsuccessful in obtaining a satisfactory grade.

⁴ All applicants are required to provide all the necessary information in BARISTA. Once the application has been approved, a generated PDF file of the Application Form with the applicant’s given information will be available for download via BARISTA. Please download the Application Form and print on separate sheets (not back-to-back) of folio paper (8.5” x 13”). Applicants must affix their wet signature on the designated spaces on each page of the Application Form. The dates on Pages 1 and 2 thereof should both refer to the date when the wet signatures were affixed.

Further, ALL applicants are required to submit, through the online application platform and through courier service, the supporting documentary requirements listed in *Annex D* beginning August 1, 2023 but no later than October 24, 2023, or thirty (30) calendar days from the last day⁵ of the 2023 Bar Examinations. **Failure to submit these documents within the prescribed period will result in the disqualification of the applicant and the immediate stoppage of the checking of his or her examination answers.**

These periods and deadlines shall be strictly observed to enforce efficiency in administrative processes. Application Forms and supporting documentary requirements filed outside the periods set above shall **not** be entertained, and the applicants thereof shall not be allowed to take the 2023 Bar Examinations or shall be disqualified, as the case may be.

Bar Application Fee

The 2023 Bar Application Fee is **Php12,800.00**.⁶ The application fee was reasonably adjusted to partially cover the increased costs of software licensing, venue rentals for local testing centers, and safety measures, among others, due to inflation. The rest of the expenses will be shouldered by the Supreme Court.

Each applicant shall pay this amount **individually** and **exclusively** through the online payment facilities made available in BARISTA.

Applicants who have previously applied for the 2022 Bar Examinations but deferred from taking the same due to the effects of the onslaught of severe tropical storm "Paeng," must still pay the above application fee and instead request in writing for a refund of the 2022 Bar Fee. Specific refund mechanics shall be addressed in a separate notice from the OBC.

Once paid, the 2023 Bar Application Fee is **non-refundable**.

However, requests for refund may be instituted by New Applicants who, after payment of the Bar Application Fee, eventually fail to complete their law degrees or on such other ground as may be approved by the Court *En Banc*. The refund of these paid Bar Application Fees may be applied for through the 2023 Bar Examinations Helpdesk of the OBC, available [here](https://bit.ly/2023BarExamsHelpdesk).⁷

⁵ September 24, 2023.

⁶ Approved per *En Banc* Resolution in Bar Matter No. 4367 *Re: Increased Bar Fees*, December 6, 2022.

⁷ For ease of reference, the full site address for the Helpdesk is <https://bit.ly/2023BarExamsHelpdesk>.

Status of Applications

An applicant is deemed **conditionally admitted** to take the 2023 Bar Examinations upon his or her complete and timely submission of the requirements enumerated in *Annexes A, B, and C* and payment of the Bar Application Fee. The applicant shall then be allowed to take the 2023 Bar Examinations.

However, to reiterate, the failure of an applicant to submit on time the documents enumerated under *Annex D* shall result in his or her disqualification and the immediate stoppage of the checking of his or her examination answers.

An application submitted under any of the following circumstances shall be considered **NOT filed**:

- a. Application Form contains blank spaces that are not properly filled;
- b. Details supplied on the Application Form do not strictly comply with the prescribed format;
- c. Incomplete documents and papers;
- d. Alteration, revision, or deletion made on the Application Form or on any of the required documents to be submitted;
- e. Non-payment of the Bar Application Fee; or
- f. Submission of the required papers and documents beyond the deadlines set by the Court.

Tentative Target Locations of Testing Centers

In line with the regionalization of the Bar examinations, the following cities are the tentative target locations of testing centers for the 2023 Bar Examinations:

Luzon

1. Baguio City;
2. Tuguegarao City;
3. San Fernando City, La Union;
4. National Capital Region (Manila City, Makati City, Pasay City, Quezon City, and Taguig City); and
5. Naga City.

Visayas

1. Cebu City;
2. Iloilo City; and
3. Tacloban City.

Mindanao

1. Davao City;
2. Cagayan de Oro City; and
3. Zamboanga City.

This list is **not final** and is subject to change. The Office of the Bar Chair is still in the process of mapping out the applicants' geographical demand for each tentative target location. Your opinion is placed in high regard. Stakeholders are implored to accomplish the survey on or before January 15, 2023. Access the survey form [here](#).⁸

The venue-matching mechanics and final list of testing centers will be announced in a later Bar Bulletin.

The holidays are at hand; I wish you and your loved ones all the best in this season of warm, good cheer. Rest well and plan thoroughly in preparation for the months ahead.

May your journey with *Bantugën* on his mystic *bangka* bring each one of you joyful tidings around this time next year.

For everyone's guidance and information.

December 15, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hernando', with a horizontal line underneath it.

RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines
Chair, 2023 Bar Examinations

⁸ For ease of reference, the full site address for the survey form is: <https://tinyurl.com/2023BarVenueSensing>.