



Empowering Newly Enrolled Advocates: Confronting Professional Challenges and Cultivating Success in Legal Profession

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Over the last two decades, increasing number of law students have been enrolled as Advocates along with permission to practice before the Hon'ble High Court Division. I've had the opportunity to meet and interact with some outstanding and meritorious Barristers and Advocates among them. These interactions have given me the conviction that these young professionals would be upholding the highest standard of professionalism and significantly contribute to the judicial development of Bangladesh. However, it's regrettable that 95% of them have chosen to join various corporate houses, choosing not to pursue this noble profession of law practice. Consequently, both the Bar and the Bench are being significantly impacted, ultimately affecting the entire nation.

Major reasons for their departure from the dignified profession of legal practice include the lack of opportunities to work with reputable chambers, inadequate stipend for those fortunate enough to secure positions, limited chances to independently appear before the court on behalf of their chambers, and a dearth of opportunities to interact directly with clients. These factors adversely impact their dignity, personality, and professional growth leading to their exit from this profession.

The Judiciary, like other institutions of this country, has been suffering due to a lack of democratic practices, accountability, and transparency. It appears that political affiliation often overrides merit and competence in providing opportunities to many lawyers. Unfortunately, despite the competence of meritorious lawyers, they sometimes fail to secure relief for their clients due to discrimination. Consequently, there is a public perception that lawyers aligned with the ruling political party, offer the best service, even though this is not necessarily true. Regrettably, this perception is getting stronger day by day among the mass people. As a result, politically unaffiliated and highly skilled lawyers feel their opportunities in serious legal practice are diminishing, leading to an exodus from the profession.

Nowadays, it is practically impossible to find 20 law firms that do chamber-based practice. It is a well-established fact that Chamber based practice makes good lawyers. Professionals in a law chamber gets the opportunity to learn and develop themselves through the process of perusing different client documents, preparing a draft after doing extensive research, placing the case before the competent court, obtaining initial orders and then do substantive final hearing at one point of time. Through this process, within 5 years of time, a lawyer with ordinary talent can turn into an outstanding lawyer. Additionally, this process helps a professional to develop very important aptitudes like communication skill and client-handling skill. But most unfortunately, this strenuous yet very effective process of developing and graduating a lawyer through chamber based practiced is on the verge of collapse. A lot of Senior Members of the Bar are now anxious that if both the bench and bar fail to take immediate actions to create and promote a congenial atmosphere to nurture and encourage merit and ethics based legal practice, it will give rise to unethical practices like "copy paste" (much talked about issue in the 3rd floor of the bar building nowadays). We are also seeing the ubiquity of

“brokers” engaged in different unscrupulous activities like manipulating and receiving briefs illegally from clients. If such a situation continues, the overall situation of legal profession shall be deteriorating, and the dream of bringing back the golden days of this noble profession will remain an illusion.

If we fail to retain talented and well educated, smart and humble Advocates and Barristers in this noble profession, it may happen someday that 75% of the advocacy will be controlled by con men.

Another issue that requires serious attention and immediate fixing is, the inordinate delay in allowing enrollment to the UK Barristers. It is beyond comprehension that, when the Bar Standard Board of the UK is allowing the lawyers from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan to do practice in England and Wales, why the members of that bar cannot be given the initial Sanad/Enrollment without an examination? Any prudent person with the minimum idea about the vast courses of the undergrad and Bar Training Courses knows how appalling and illogical this process is!

Last but not the least, the senior advocates have individual as well as collective responsibilities to step up and do the needful to resolve the challenges that the legal fraternity particularly, the young professionals are facing! It is imperative for all of us to work together with a view to maintain the dignity of practice and honor of this noble profession as otherwise, we shall always remain accountable to our conscience and the future generations for our miserable failure to act and deliver in the times of need.

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