BLOGS

BCI Proposes Minimum Monthly Stipend for Junior Advocates- Rs. 20k for Urban Areas and Rs. 15k for Rural Areas

Ruchika Mohapatra · 17 Oct 2024

BCI proposes a monthly stipend for advocates in rural and urban areas. Read more about it here!

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has recently released guidelines regarding the minimum stipend junior advocates should receive when working under senior advocates, law firms, or practicing advocates. These recommendations aim to address the financial difficulties commonly faced by junior advocates at the start of their careers.

As per the notification, junior advocates practicing in urban areas should receive a minimum stipend of Rs. 20,000 per month, while those in rural regions should be paid Rs. 15,000 per month.

These guidelines are not binding but offer flexibility based on the financial capabilities of individual senior advocates and firms. The BCI emphasized that while compliance is encouraged, financial constraints should not be misinterpreted as neglect of professional responsibilities.

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The BCI also recommended that the stipend be provided for at least three years from the commencement of the junior advocate's work, and payments should be made through transparent, verifiable methods such as bank transfers.

In addition to financial support, the BCI urged senior advocates and firms to actively mentor junior advocates, offering guidance in legal research, drafting, and case strategies. According to the BCI, mentorship plays a critical role in a junior advocate's career development, often proving more valuable than monetary aid alone.

The BCI advised senior advocates and firms to issue formal engagement letters to junior advocates, clearly specifying the stipend, the duration of engagement, and mentorship opportunities. Moreover, records of stipend payments should be maintained and monitored by State Bar Councils.

Junior advocates facing issues with their stipends or working conditions are encouraged to approach their respective State Bar Councils, which will coordinate with the BCI to resolve such matters.

To ensure the smooth implementation of these guidelines, the BCI has set up a committee to oversee compliance and periodically review the policies. Adjustments to the stipend or other related provisions will be considered based on input from the legal community and economic conditions.

In conclusion, the BCI called on senior advocates, law firms, and the broader legal community to contribute not just financially but through mentorship, helping junior advocates grow and succeed in their careers.

Click here to go through the BCI Circular on Monthly Stipend for Advocates