



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Office of the Court Administrator  
Manila

**OCA CIRCULAR NO. 129-2019**

**TO : ALL JUDGES AND CLERKS OF COURT OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS**

**SUBJECT : COURT EN BANC RESOLUTION DATED 25 JUNE 2019 IN A.M. NO. 19-03-24-SC (AMENDMENT OF RULE 138 SECTION 5 IN RELATION TO THE REVISION OF RULE 138-A OF THE RULES OF COURT)**

For the information, guidance and strict compliance of all concerned, appended herein as Annex "A" is the Resolution dated 25 June 2019 of the Honorable Court *En Banc* in **A.M. No. 19-03-24-SC** (*Amendment of Rule 138 Section 5 in Relation to the Revision of Rule 138-A of the Rules of Court*).

The Resolution was published in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and the *Philippine Star* on 18 July 2019 and shall take effect on 2 August 2019.

Any prior circular from the Office of the Court Administrator on this matter which is contrary to the foregoing is hereby superseded.

22 July 2019

  
**JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ**  
Court Administrator



Republic of the Philippines  
Supreme Court  
Manila

EN BANC

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

*Please take notice that the Court en banc issued a Resolution dated JUNE 25, 2019, which reads as follows:*

**"A.M. No. 19-03-24-SC  
AMENDMENT OF RULE 138 SECTION 5 IN RELATION TO THE  
REVISION OF RULE 138-A OF THE RULES OF COURT**

*Whereas*, Section 5 (5), Article VIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that the Supreme Court has the power to adopt and promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights, pleading, practice and procedure in all courts, the admission to the practice of law, the Integrated Bar, and legal assistance to the underprivileged;

*Whereas*, the Court has approved the proposed Rule 138-A on Law Student Practice; and

*Whereas*, as a consequence of said approval of Rule 138-A, there is a need to amend provisions of Rule 138 as herein proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, Supreme Court *En Banc* hereby adopts and amends the following provisions of Rule 138 to read:

**RULE 138  
ATTORNEYS AND ADMISSION TO THE BAR**

**SEC. 5. Additional requirements for other applicants.** - All applicants for admission other than those referred to in the two preceding sections, shall before being admitted to the examination, satisfactorily show that they have regularly studied law for four years, and successfully completed all

prescribed courses, in a law school or university, officially approved and recognized by the Secretary of Education. The affidavit of the candidate, accompanied by a certificate from the university or school of law, shall be filed as evidence of such facts, and further evidence may be required by the court.

No applicant shall be admitted to the bar examinations unless he has satisfactorily completed the following courses in a law school or university duly recognized by the government: civil law, commercial law, remedial law, criminal law, public and private international law, political law, labor and social legislation, medical jurisprudence, taxation, legal ethics and clinical legal education program.

This amendment shall apply to the bar examination applicants commencing the 2023 bar examinations. This resolution shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

June 25, 2019, Manila, Philippines.

*(Original Signed)*  
**LUCAS P. BERSAMIN**  
Chief Justice

*(Original Signed)*  
**ANTONIO T. CARPIO**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*  
**DIOSDADO M. PERALTA**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*  
**MARIANO C. DEL CASTILLO**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*  
**ESTELA M. PERLAS-BERNABE**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*  
**MARVIC M.V.F. LEONEN**  
Associate Justice

*(On Leave)*  
**FRANCIS H. JARDELEZA**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*  
**ALFREDO BENJAMIN S. CAGUIOA**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*  
**ANDRES B. REYES, JR.**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*

**ALEXANDER G. GESMUNDO**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*

**JOSE C. REYES, JR.**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*

**RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*

**ROSMARI D. CARANDANG**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*


**AMY C. LAZARO-JAVIER**  
Associate Justice

*(Original Signed)*

**HENRI JEAN PAUL B. INTING**  
Associate Justice

(adv20-a)

Very truly yours,

  
**EDGAR O. ARICHETA**  
Clerk of Court