

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT**

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.NAGARESH

Monday, the 25th day of August 2025 / 3rd Bhadra, 1947

WP(C) NO. 31555 OF 2025 (T)

PETITIONER:

**STEPHEN V. THOMAS AGED 23 YEARS S/O. LIJU V. STEPHEN, 7 A NOEL TALL
TERRACE, AMRITHA NAGAR, CHERANALLOR, EDAPALLY, ERNAKULAM, PIN -
682034**

RESPONDENTS:

- 1. BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, 21 ROUSE AVENUE
INSTITUTIONAL AREA NEAR BAL BHAWAN, NEW DELHI (DELHI), PIN - 110002**
- 2. HIGH COURT OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, HIGH
COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682031**
- 3. REGISTRAR- GENERAL HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682031**
- 4. BAR COUNCIL OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, BAR COUNCIL, BAR
COUNCIL BHAVAN, HIGH COURT OF KERALA CAMPUS, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682031**
- 5. ENROLLMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN, ENROLMENT
COMMITTEE, BAR COUNCIL, BAR COUNCIL BHAVAN, HIGH COURT OF KERALA
CAMPUS, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682031**
- 6. STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF LAW,
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM , PIN - 695001**

**Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances
stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be
pleased to direct the 2nd respondent to expeditiously conduct the
enrolment of lawyers exercising the powers vested under section 58 of the
Advocates Act 1961 or in the alternative to direct the 4th and 5th
Respondents to expeditiously conduct the enrolment of lawyers, pending
disposal of this Writ Petition**

**This petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and
the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and upon hearing the arguments of
M/S. T.KRISHNANUNNI (SENIOR) along with THAREEQ ANVER K., VINOD
RAVINDRANATH, MEENA.A., K.C.KIRAN, M.R.MINI, ANISH ANTONY ANATHAZHATH,
NIVEDHITHA PREM.V, ANANTHAKRISHNAN A. KARTHA, MARIYA JOSEPH & AMEERA JOJO,
Advocates for the petitioner, the court passed the following:**

N. NAGARESH, J.

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Dated this the 25th day of August, 2025

ORDER

The Bar Council of India constituted three committees relating to the Bar Council of Kerala - a) the Office Bearers of Committee, b) Executive Committee and c) Enrolment Committee. The appointment of these Committees was subjected to challenge in W.P.(C) No.18361 of 2024. A learned Single Judge of this Court upheld the Constitution of those Committees by the Bar Council of India. The said judgment was challenged in W.A.No.788 of 2024. The Division Bench of this Court upheld the Constitution of the said Committees.

2. In another writ petition, disciplinary proceedings against a lawyer enrolled under the Bar Council of Kerala were under challenge. The writ petition was dismissed. The said judgment was challenged in W.A.No.1043 of 2025. In

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the Writ Appeal, another Division Bench of this Court held that the present Bar Council of Kerala is a body existing or continuing in violation of the statute. The disciplinary proceedings were therefore held illegal.

3. The grievance of the petitioner is that in view of seemingly conflicting judgments of the two Division Benches, the enrolment that may be conducted by the present Committee can be legally challenged at a later date of time, in which case, the petitioner and similarly situated Law Graduates who are to get enrolled would be put to irreparable loss. The petitioner, therefore, seeks to invoke Section 58(1) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and pass appropriate orders appointing a Committee to conduct enrolment of Advocates.

4. It is submitted that Review Petition No.827 of 2025 has been filed in W.A. No.1043 of 2025 and the judgment is awaited.

5. Taking into consideration the fact that a large number of Law Graduates are awaiting enrolment for which

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applications are received from 25.08.2025, in order to protect the interest of the aspiring Law Graduates, it would be only appropriate that this Court invokes the powers under Section 58(1) of the Advocates Act, 1961.

6. In the facts of the case, as an interim measure, in exercise of the powers under Section 58(1) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Committee appointed by the Bar Council of India for enrolment as per letters dated 06.05.2024 and 20.05.2024 is appointed as Enrollment Committee. This will be subjected to further orders in this writ petition. The Committee shall finalise the date for enrolment and submit a report to this Court after the enrolment.

Post on 13.10.2025.

Sd/-
N. NAGARESH
JUDGE

SR