



2026:KER:4464

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE BECHU KURIAN THOMAS

MONDAY, THE 19TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026 / 29TH POUSHA, 1947WP(C) NO. 42845 OF 2025PETITIONERS:

- 1 ADV. SHANI A.R., AGED 24 YEARS
 D/O ANI, REEJA BHAVAN, POZHUTHIL, VENGANOOR.
 P.O., VIZHINJAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA,, PIN
 - 695523
- 2 ADV. NAVEEN PRINCE, AGED 24 YEARS
 S/O PRINCE JOSE, ADUPPUKALLUMKAL, TEKKOY,
 MEENACHIL, KOTTAYAM, KERALA,, PIN - 686580
- 3 ADV. MOHAMMED DHULQR SHAN, AGED 24 YEARS
 S/O ABDUL JABBAR K C, CHENDRATHIL HOUSE,
 POKKAKKILLATH, CHIRAMANANGAD P.O., THRISSUR,
 KERALA,, PIN - 680604
- 4 ADV. VARSHA THOMAS, AGED 25 YEARS
 D/O THOMAS N. JOSEPH, 2180 A, NADUVILATHAYIL
 HOUSE, KASTHURBA NAGAR, KADAVANTHARA, P.O.,
 ERNAKULAM, KERALA,, PIN - 682020
- 5 ADV. ANUVIND P, AGED 23 YEARS
 S/O K.S. PRAVEEN, 17/675(2), NANDANAM,
 PATHIRAPPALLY ROAD, POOJAPPURA,
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA,, PIN - 695012
- 6 ADV. JEROME V. SHEEN, AGED 24 YEARS
 S/O SHEEN GEORGE, VENKALAKADAYIL, KIZHAKKETHERUVU
 P.O., KOTTARAKKARA, KOLLAM, KERALA,, PIN - 691506
- 7 ADV. SHALVIN CHAMATHAKAL ROBIN, AGED 24 YEARS
 AGED 24 YEARS, S/O ROBIN VARGHESE JOHN,
 CHAMATHAKAL, OTHERA EAST P O, ERAVIPEROOR,
 THIRUVALLA, PATHANAMTHITTA, KERALA, PIN - 689546



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BY ADVS.
SHRI.SHINTO MATHEW ABRAHAM
SRI.ARUN THOMAS
SMT.VEENA RAVEENDRAN
SMT.KARTHIKA MARIA
SRI.ANIL SEBASTIAN PULICKEL
SMT.LEAH RACHEL NINAN
SHRI.MATHEW NEVIN THOMAS
SHRI.KARTHIK RAJAGOPAL
SHRI.KURIAN ANTONY MATHEW
SMT.APARNNA S.
SHRI.NOEL NINAN NINAN
SHRI.ADEEN NAZAR
SHRI.ARUN JOSEPH MATHEW
SHRI.ROHAN MATHEW

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 BAR COUNCIL OF KERALA
BAR COUNCIL OF KERALA BHAVAN, HIGH COURT CAMPUS,
ERNAKULAM, KOCHI, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,,
PIN - 682032
- 2 BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA
21, ROUSE AVENUE INSTITUTIONAL AREA, NEW DELHI,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,, PIN - 110002

BY ADVS.
SMT.M.U.VIJAYALAKSHMI
SRI.K.JAJU BABU (SR.)

OTHER PRESENT:

R2-ADV.RAJIT

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 19.01.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



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BECHU KURIAN THOMAS,J**WP(C) No.42845 of 2025****Dated this the 19th day of January, 2026****JUDGMENT**

Petitioners are all advocates who are members of the Bar Council of Kerala. The issue raised in this writ petition relates to the enrollment fee demanded and collected by the 1st respondent.

2. Petitioners alleged that an exorbitant amount of Rs.5,000/- was collected by the Bar Council of Kerala in excess of the permitted fee of Rs.750/- as contemplated under Section 24(1)(f) of the Advocates Act towards enrollment of Advocates. According to the petitioners, the excess payment of Rs.5,000/- per person is to be refunded since in **Gaurav Kumar v. Union of India [(2025) 1 SCC 641]**, it was declared that the 1st respondent could not collect any fee in excess of Rs.750/- prescribed by law.

3. A counter affidavit has been filed by the 1st respondent wherein, in paragraph No.5, it is affirmed that, in the light of the judgment (wrongly mentioned as Ext.P3 instead of Ext.P2), if the petitioners approach the 1st respondent, the fee in excess of the statutory enrollment fee and stamp duty amounting to Rs.750/- would be refunded.

4. I have heard the learned counsel for the petitioners, the



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learned Standing Counsel for the 1st respondent, as well as the learned Standing Counsel for the 2nd respondent.

5. The issue raised in this writ petition lies in a narrow compass and relates to refund of the excess fee collected by the 1st respondent in connection with enrollment of the petitioners and since in paragraph 5 of the counter affidavit the said respondent has agreed to refund the excess amount to the petitioners, I am of the view that further consideration of the contentions raised in this writ petition becomes only an academic nature.

6. Having regard to the admitted averments in the counter affidavit of the 1st respondent, there will be a direction to the 1st respondent to return the excess fee collected from the petitioners immediately, at any rate, within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this judgment. Needless to mention that in the light of the declaration of law by the Supreme Court in **Gaurav Kumar's** case cited supra, the 1st respondent cannot collect anything more towards enrollment fee other than the statutorily fixed fee and stamp duty amounting to Rs.750/-.

The writ petition is disposed of as above.

Sd/-

BECHU KURIAN THOMAS, JUDGE



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APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 42845 OF 2025

PETITIONERS' EXHIBITS

Exhibit P1	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF THE 1ST PETITIONER, DATED 16-07-2025
Exhibit P1A	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF THE 2ND PETITIONER, DATED 16-07-2025
Exhibit P1B	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF THE 3RD PETITIONER, DATED 16-07-2025
Exhibit P1C	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF THE 4TH PETITIONER, DATED 16-07-2025
Exhibit P1D	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF THE 5TH PETITIONER, DATED 17-07-2025
Exhibit P1E	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF THE 6TH PETITIONER, DATED 16-07-2025
Exhibit P1F	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL GRADUATION CERTIFICATE OF THE 7TH PETITIONER, DATED 10-09-2025
Exhibit P2	A TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT IN GAURAV KUMAR V. UNION OF INDIA, (2025) 1 SCC 641 DATED 30-07-2024
Exhibit P3	A TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT IN KIRAN BABU V. KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL, 2025 KHC 7437, DATED 04-08-2025
Exhibit P4	A TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, DATED 03-11-2025, IN RAVICHANDRAGOUDA R. PATIL V. KARNATAKA STATE BAR COUNCIL & OTHERS
Exhibit P5	A TRUE COPY OF THE ENROLMENT FEE RECEIPT OF THE 1ST PETITIONER, DATED 09-09-2025,
Exhibit P5A	A TRUE COPY OF THE ENROLMENT FEE RECEIPT OF THE 2ND PETITIONER, DATED 09-09-2025



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Exhibit P5B	A TRUE COPY OF THE ENROLMENT FEE RECEIPT OF THE 3RD PETITIONER, DATED 10-09-2025
Exhibit P5C	A TRUE COPY OF THE ENROLMENT FEE RECEIPT OF THE 4TH PETITIONER, DATED 10-09-2025
Exhibit P5D	A TRUE COPY OF THE ENROLMENT FEE RECEIPT OF THE 5TH PETITIONER, DATED 09-09-2025
Exhibit P5E	A TRUE COPY OF THE ENROLMENT FEE RECEIPT OF THE 6TH PETITIONER, DATED 10-09-2025
Exhibit P5F	A TRUE COPY OF THE ENROLMENT FEE RECEIPT OF THE 7TH PETITIONER, DATED 10-09-2025
Exhibit P6	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE OF THE 1ST PETITIONER, DATED 11-10-2025
Exhibit P6A	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE OF THE 2ND PETITIONER, DATED 12-10-2025
Exhibit P6B	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE OF THE 3RD PETITIONER, DATED 11-10-2025
Exhibit P6C	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE OF THE 4TH PETITIONER, DATED 12-10-2025
Exhibit P6D	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE OF THE 5TH PETITIONER, DATED 12-10-2025
Exhibit P6E	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE OF THE 6TH PETITIONER, DATED 12-10-2025
Exhibit P6F	A TRUE COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ENROLMENT CERTIFICATE OF THE 7TH PETITIONER, DATED 12-10-2025
Exhibit P7	A TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL SENT BY 1ST PETITIONER TO 1ST RESPONDENT, DATED 04-11-2025
Exhibit P7A	A TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL SENT BY 2ND PETITIONER TO 1ST RESPONDENT, DATED 04-11-2025
Exhibit P7B	A TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL SENT BY 3RD PETITIONER TO 1ST RESPONDENT, DATED 04-11-2025



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Exhibit P7C	A TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL SENT BY 4TH PETITIONER TO 1ST RESPONDENT, DATED 04- 11-2025
Exhibit P7D	A TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL SENT BY 5TH PETITIONER TO 1ST RESPONDENT, DATED 04- 11-2025
Exhibit P7E	A TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL SENT BY 6TH PETITIONER TO 1ST RESPONDENT, DATED 04- 11-2025
Exhibit P7F	A TRUE COPY OF THE EMAIL SENT BY 7TH PETITIONER TO 1ST RESPONDENT, DATED 05- 11-2025