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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961) 21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

Press Release dated 15.02.2025

The Bar Council of India has identified the circulation of a document falsely attributed to the Council, titled "Official Notification- Mandatory Minimum Fee Structure for Advocates in India," dated February 15, 2025, purportedly issued by the Bar Council of India. This fraudulent document claims to introduce a mandatory minimum fee structure for advocates, effective from March 1, 2025.

The document is intended to mislead the public and members of the legal profession by falsely presenting itself as an official directive from the Bar Council of India.

The document is a fraudulent creation and constitutes an act of forgery, which involves the making of a false document or part of a document with the intent to cause damage or injury, support a false claim or title, or commit fraud.

The fraudulent document does not bear an official signature, proper reference numbers, or procedural documentation.

The explicit mention of "No Signature Required" is a calculated attempt to avoid verification and authentication, which is a known tactic for creating fraudulent and forged documents.

Furthermore, the document misuses the name, and address of the Bar Council of India to convey a false impression of legitimacy.

This deliberate misrepresentation seeks to deceive the public and the advocate community into believing that the Bar Council has issued an official directive.

The purported mandatory minimum fee for advocates is indicative of an attempt to confuse and mislead.

The intention behind this forgery appears to be to deceive and spread misinformation, causing significant reputational damage to the Bar Council while misleading the legal fraternity and the public at large.

Circulating such a document constitutes a serious offense.

The Bar Council of India unequivocally condemns the creation and circulation of this false document.

The Council wishes to assure the legal community and the public that immediate steps have been taken to initiate legal proceedings against those to be identified or held responsible for this act. Dissemination of such false and misleading information is a serious criminal offense and will be met with strict legal consequences.

The Bar Council of India will continue to uphold the integrity and dignity of the legal profession while safeguarding the interests of the legal community and the public from such fraudulent and malicious activities.

The Bar Council of India urgently requests the media and the general public to refrain from circulating or publishing the false document in question. Circulating it further may contribute to the spread of misinformation and increase the harm caused. The media is advised to verify facts with the Bar Council of India before reporting on any such documents or directives.

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(Srimanto Sen) Principal Secretary Bar Council of India