

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CIVIL APPEAL NO.13559 OF 2025**

STS GLADIES

...APPELLANT

VERSUS

BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA & ANR.

...RESPONDENTS

WITH

CIVIL APPEAL NO. 13562 OF 2025

O R D E R

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1. The present matters arise out of a batch of proceedings concerning the eligibility of candidates for enrolment as advocates where the law degree has been obtained through the regular mode, but one or more of the preceding educational qualifications have been obtained through the open, distance or correspondence mode. The controversy principally concerns the interpretation and application of Rule 5 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008 framed by the Bar Council of India (hereinafter referred to as “BCI”).
2. At this stage, we are concerned with I.A. No. 246673 of 2026 in Civil Appeal No. 13559 of 2025 (which we are taking on board) and I.A. No. 154580 of 2025 in Civil Appeal No. 13562 of 2025. The applications seek, inter alia, appropriate interim directions in relation to

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enrolment as advocates pending final adjudication of the respective Civil Appeals. Since the issue arising in the two applications is substantially connected, they are being considered by this common order.

3. The applicants in I.A. No. 246673 of 2026 state that they completed the requisite school education and thereafter obtained their Bachelor's degrees from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad. They subsequently completed their respective three-year LL.B. courses through the regular mode from universities recognised by BCI. Their grievance is that their enrolment as advocates has not been processed on account of the preceding Bachelor's degrees having been obtained through the open or distance mode. They have, therefore, sought provisional enrolment pending adjudication of Civil Appeal No. 13559 of 2025.
4. In Civil Appeal No. 13562 of 2025, the appellant, Kevin Sukirthy, completed his Intermediate qualification in 2005 and thereafter obtained his B.Com. degree in 2006 through the distance mode from Madurai Kamaraj University. He subsequently completed the three-year LL.B. course through the regular mode from Marwadi Siksha Samithi Law College, affiliated to Osmania University, in September 2020. He submitted his application for enrolment as an advocate before the Telangana State Bar Council on 11.01.2021. His claim for enrolment was ultimately not accepted on the basis

of the interpretation placed upon Rule 5 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008. The challenge raised by the appellant was rejected by the High Court of Telangana by judgment and order dated 14.10.2024 passed in Writ Petition No. 13037 of 2024. I.A. No. 154580 of 2025 has been filed seeking, inter alia, provisional enrolment as an advocate during the pendency of the appeal.

5. We have heard the arguments of the respective parties and have considered the material placed on record. At this stage, we are not inclined to enter into the merits of the controversy concerning the interpretation of Rule 5 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008, which shall be considered at the time of final hearing of the respective Civil Appeals.
6. It is, however, not in dispute that the applicants in I.A. No. 246673 of 2026 as well as the appellant in Civil Appeal No. 13562 of 2025 have completed their respective three-year LL.B. courses through the regular mode from recognised universities. The impediment to their enrolment arises from the nature or mode of the educational qualifications obtained prior to pursuing the LL.B. course. This is the very issue which is pending consideration before this Court in the present appeals.
7. In these circumstances, we are of the view that continued denial of enrolment during the pendency of the appeals would cause avoidable prejudice to the persons concerned and prevent them from entering the

legal profession notwithstanding completion of their regular law degrees. At the same time, their interests can adequately be protected without prejudicing the final adjudication of the appeals by directing that their enrolment be provisional and expressly subject to the final outcome of the respective Civil Appeals. Such provisional enrolment shall not create any equity in their favour and shall remain subject to verification of their documents and fulfilment of the other applicable requirements.

8. For the reasons stated above, we are of the view that the applications deserve to be allowed to the limited extent of granting provisional enrolment, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the issues arising in the respective Civil Appeals.
9. Accordingly, the Telangana State Bar Council is directed to provisionally enrol the applicants in I.A. No. 246673 of 2026 in Civil Appeal No. 13559 of 2025 as advocates, subject to verification of their educational and other requisite documents and fulfilment of the other applicable requirements. Such enrolment shall remain subject to the final outcome of Civil Appeal No. 13559 of 2025.
10. The Telangana State Bar Council shall likewise provisionally enrol the appellant in Civil Appeal No. 13562 of 2025 as an advocate, subject to verification of

his educational and other requisite documents and fulfilment of the other applicable requirements. Such enrolment shall remain subject to the final outcome of Civil Appeal No. 13562 of 2025.

11. It is made clear that the provisional enrolment granted pursuant to this order shall not create any equity in favour of the persons concerned and shall abide by the final decision in the respective Civil Appeals.

12. I.A. No. 246673 of 2026 in Civil Appeal No. 13559 of 2025 and I.A. No. 154580 of 2025 in Civil Appeal No. 13562 of 2025 stand disposed of in the above terms.

13. The Civil Appeals shall be listed for hearing in due course.

.....J.
[VIKRAM NATH]

.....J.
[SANDEEP MEHTA]

**NEW DELHI;
SEPTEMBER 09, 2026**