

**THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR  
AT IMPHAL**

**NOTIFICATION**

Imphal, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 2022

**HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR (DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES) RULES, 2022**

No. HCM/R-46/2019-Estt.(I)/ In exercise of powers conferred  
by Section 34(1) read with Section 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961, and in accordance  
with the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated  
12.10.2017 in Writ Petition (C) no. 454 of 2015, the High Court of Manipur frames the  
following rules for designation of Senior Advocates and the matters incidental thereto.

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.-**

- (1) These Rules shall be called 'High Court of Manipur (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2022'.
- (2) These Rules shall extend to the entire jurisdiction of the High Court of Manipur.
- (3) These Rules shall come into force immediately.

**2. Definitions.-** In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) "Advocate" means an Advocate entered in any roll under the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961;
- (b) "Committee" means the Permanent Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates, as constituted under sub-rule (1) of Rule 5 of these Rules.
- (c) "Court" includes any authority exercising judicial powers in the State of Manipur.
- (d) "High Court" means the High Court defined in Section 2(g) of the Advocates Act, 1961; (e) "Roll" means the roll of Advocates prepared and maintained under the Advocates Act, 1961;
- (f) "Secretariat" means the Secretariat established by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur under sub-rule (2) of Rule 6 of these Rules.

*Handwritten signature and date: 11/8/2022*

**3. Designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate.-** (1) The High Court of Manipur may designate an Advocate as Senior Advocate, if in its opinion, by virtue of his ability and standing at the Bar, the said Advocate is deserving of such distinction.

**Explanation:** The term "standing at the Bar" means the position of eminence attained by an Advocate at the Bar by virtue of his seniority, legal acumen and the high ethical standards maintained by him, both inside and outside the Court.

(2) No person shall be eligible to be designated as Senior Advocate unless he:

- (a) has a minimum of 10 years standing as an Advocate, of which 5 years of practice should be in any Court within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Manipur;
- (b) is a permanent resident of the State of Manipur;

Further, such a person must be liable to be taxed under the Income Tax Act, and in case of those who are not liable to pay tax, a statement of the extent of income shall be furnished.

Provided that the High Court, for reasons to be recorded in writing, may grant an exemption to any individual member from the above requirement regarding income.

4. While calculating the aforesaid standing of 10 years, the period spent by an Advocate serving as a Judicial Officer shall be taken into consideration.

**5. Motion for designation as Senior Advocate.-**(1) Designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Manipur may be considered on the written proposal made by:

- (a) the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur; or
- (b) any sitting Judge of the High Court of Manipur; or
- (c) the Advocate General of the State of Manipur, provided he himself is a Senior Advocate; or
- (d) two existing Senior Advocates of the High Court of Manipur:

Provided that every such proposal shall be made, as far as possible, in Form No. 1 of Appendix-A appended to these Rules and shall carry the written consent of the Advocate concerned to be designated as Senior Advocate.

(2) Along with the proposal, the Advocate concerned shall append his certificate that he has not applied to any other High Court for being designated as Senior Advocate and that his application has not been rejected by any High Court within a period of two years prior to the date of the proposal.

*[Handwritten signature and date: 1/8/2022]*

**6. Permanent Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates.-** (1) All the matters relating to designation of Senior Advocates in the High Court of Manipur shall be dealt with by a Permanent Committee (to be known as "Committee for Designation of Senior Advocates") which will be headed by the Chief Justice and consist of: (i) two senior-most sitting Judges of the High Court of Manipur; (ii) the Advocate General of the State of Manipur; and (iii) a member of the Bar, to be nominated by other members in the first meeting of the Committee.

(2) The Committee constituted under sub-rule (1) above shall have a Secretariat, the composition of which will be decided by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur in consultation with the other members of the Committee.

(3) The Committee may issue such directions from time to time, as are deemed necessary, as regards functioning of the Secretariat, including the manner in which and the source/s from which necessary data and information are to be collected, compiled and presented.

**7. Procedure for designation.-**(1) All the written proposals for designation of Advocates as Senior Advocates shall be submitted to the Secretariat.

(2) On receipt of any proposal for designation of an Advocate as Senior Advocate, the Secretariat shall compile the relevant data and information with regard to the reputation, conduct, integrity of the Advocate concerned, including his participation in pro-bono work; reported judgements for the last five years in which the concerned Advocate has appeared and actually argued. In case of an Advocate who was earlier serving as a Judicial Officer, judgments rendered by him/her in the last 5 years and his/her ACRs for the last 5 years may also be considered.

(3) The Secretariat will publish the application/proposal for designation of a particular Advocate as Senior Advocate in the official website of the High Court of Manipur, inviting suggestions/views of other stakeholders in the proposed designation within such time as may be directed by the Committee.

(4) After the data-base in terms of the above is compiled and all such information, as may be specifically directed by the Committee to be obtained in respect of any particular candidate, is collected; and the suggestions/views of other stakeholders have been received, the Secretariat shall put up the case before the Committee for scrutiny.

(5) Upon submission of the case by the Secretariat, the Committee shall examine the same in the light of the data provided and shall interview the concerned Advocate; and shall, thereafter, make its overall assessment on the basis of the point-based format provided in Appendix – B appended to these Rules.

(6) After the overall assessment by the Committee, all the names listed before it will be submitted to the Full Court along with the assessment report.

*[Handwritten signature]*

(7) Voting by secret ballot will not be normally resorted to in the Full Court, except when unavoidable. In the event of resort to secret ballot, decisions will be carried by a majority of the Judges who have chosen to exercise their preference/ choice.

(8) On the approval of the Full Court, an Advocate shall be designated as Senior Advocate.

(9) The cases that have not been favourably considered by the Full Court may be reviewed/reconsidered after expiry of a period of two years following, in the manner indicated above, as if the proposal/application is being considered afresh.

**8. Restrictions on the designated Senior Advocate.**-An Advocate, on being designated as Senior Advocate, shall be subject to such restrictions as the High Court of Manipur, the Bar Council of India, or the Bar Council of the State of Manipur may prescribe.

**9. Canvassing.**- Canvassing in any manner by a nominee/applicant for designation as Senior Advocate shall disqualify him for being designated.

**10. Review and recall.**- In the event of a Senior Advocate being found guilty of any such conduct which, according to the Full Court, disentitles him to be worthy of designation as Senior Advocate, the Full Court may review and recall its decision to designate the concerned person as Senior Advocate after such notice as may be directed by the Chief Justice.

**11.** The designation of Senior Advocate shall be liable to be cancelled after due notice in the event of it being found that his name has been removed from the roll of Advocates maintained by the Bar Council of Manipur under Section 35(3)(d) of the Advocates Act, 1961.

**12. Notification of designation/recall.**-In the event of designation of an Advocate as a Senior Advocate, or on recalling of any such designation, a notification to that effect shall be issued and published in such manner as may be directed by the Chief Justice.

**13. Interpretation.**- All questions relating to the interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the Chief Justice, whose decision thereon shall be final.

**14. Repeal and Saving.**-All the previous Rules in respect of the subject matter covered by these Rules, including the Guidelines Regarding Designating an Advocate as Senior Advocate, as provided in Appendix-II, Chapter XIII of the High Court of Manipur Rules, 2019 are hereby repealed. However, this repeal shall not, by itself, invalidate actions taken under the repealed Rules/Guidelines.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
11/8/2019

**FORM No. 1**

[Rule 5 (1)]

**FORM OF PROPOSAL FOR DESIGNATION AS SENIOR ADVOCATE**

It is proposed that the Advocate whose particulars are given below may be designated as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Manipur.

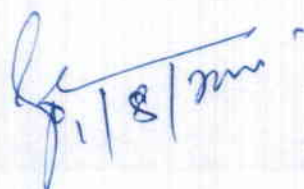
1. Name of the Advocate :
2. Permanent Residential Address  
and mobile number of the Advocate :
3. Email Address :
4. Educational Qualification :
5. Date of Birth :
6. Date of enrolment as an Advocate  
and where enrolled :
7. Enrolment Number :
8. Is the Advocate under proposal  
an assessee under the Income Tax Act  
in respect of his professional income.  
If so, give details of income assessed  
for the last three years and  
Permanent Income Tax A/C number :
9. Other information, if any,  
including reported cases,  
legal aid work/ publication/  
participation in Seminars or Conferences/  
associations with any Faculty of Law etc :

Dated:

**SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER**

I hereby express and give my consent to be designated as Senior Advocate by the High Court of Manipur.

Dated:



**SIGNATURE OF ADVOCATE**

**POINT BASED FORMAT FOR ASSESSMENT OF AN ADVOCATE  
FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS SENIOR ADVOCATE**

[Rule 7 (5)]

Sl. No.	Matter	Points
1	Number of years of practice of the Advocate from the date of enrolment or from the date of entry into judicial service as the case may be. [one mark each shall be allotted for every year of practice between ten to twenty years]	10 points
2	Judgements (reported and unreported) which indicate the legal formulations advanced by the concerned Advocate in the course of the proceedings of the case; pro bono work done by the concerned Advocate; domain expertise of the Advocate in various branches of law, such as Constitutional law, Criminal Law, Arbitration Law, Corporate Law, Family Law, Human Rights, Public Interest Litigation, International Law, Law relating to women, Customary Laws in the State of Manipur, etc.	40 points
3	Publications by the Advocate	15 points
4	Tests of Personality & Suitability on the basis of interview/ interaction.	25 Points

By Order

Sd/-

REGISTRAR GENERAL

HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR

Dated Imphal the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 2022

Memo. No. HCM/R-46/2019-Estt.(I)/ 13340-53

Copy to :-

1. The Advocate General, Manipur.
2. Commissioner (Law), Govt. of Manipur.
3. The Government Advocate, Govt. of Manipur.
4. The Assistant Solicitor General of India.
5. The President, High Court Bar Association, Manipur.
6. The President, All Manipur Bar Association.
7. Chairman, Bar Council of Manipur.
8. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble The Chief Justice.
9. P.S. to Hon'ble Mr. Justice MV Muralidaran.
10. P.S. to Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh.
11. P.S. to Registrar General.
12. The Systems Analyst, High Court of Manipur for uploading the same on the official website.
13. The Director, Directorate of Printing and Stationery, Govt. of Manipur Government with a request to publish the notification in the next issue of the government Gazette.
14. Office file.

REGISTRAR GENERAL