HOW IS THE PROFESSIONAL LEGAL TRAINING?

<u>Professional legal training</u> is an essential part for your professional law career, whether you wish to become a judge, lawyer, public prosecutor, public notarie, bailiff, or other judicial title. Generally, when mentioning professional legal training, people usually imagine that for lawyers, which is the most popular. Therefore, in this article, we provide you information relating the professional legal training to become a lawyer.

The <u>professional legal training course</u> for becoming a lawyer is a one-year postgraduate course. You will need to complete it at an accredited provider. In Vietnam, it is organised and conducted by Judicial Academy, a public education institution under the Ministry of Justice of Vietnam.

To register for the course, you must have a Bachelor of Law diploma, i.e. graduating from licensed national law schools or foreign law schools recognised by the Ministry of Justice. This professional legal training emphasises ethics, knowledge, and practical skills which helps new lawyers bridge the gap between law school and practice.

After the course, you must qualify for the criteria of knowledge, skills and ethics of lawyers. Regarding the knowledge, you must understand and apply the provisions of law in your legal career and in the variety of areas of practice. Regarding the skills, lawyers are required to have both basic skills (e.g. skill of consulting, skill of defending, and skill of representing clients) and in-depth skills in some specific areas of law. Relating the ethics, lawyers are expected to obey laws and behave accordingly with the rules of ethics of lawyers.

One of the important issues to mention here is the content of the **professional legal training course for lawyers**. It includes compulsory knowledge and optional knowledge. Regarding the compulsory knowledge, there is general knowledge of lawyer, lawyer ethics, basic knowledge on different practicing areas, and knowledge on how to practice as a lawyer. Regarding the optional knowledge, it's up to you to study skills in alternative dispute resolutions, skills in resolving civil cases, criminal cases or administrative cases. Both are necessary for aspiring lawyers. After completing the **professional legal training course**, your next steps will be passing the legal practice probation and obtaining a legal practicing certificate. Once passing the examination, trainee lawyers shall be granted a legal practicing certificate by the Ministry of Justice. As recommended by the bar association where the lawyer is member, lawyers' card shall be issued by the Vietnam Bar Federation for that lawyer.