



WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 13.04.2022

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R.MAHADEVAN
AND
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.SATHYA NARAYANA PRASAD

W.P.Nos.9841 to 9884 of 2014
and
M.P.Nos.1 to 1 of 2014

Justin.J	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9841 of 2014
Babu.E	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9842 of 2014
Martin Manivannan M.G.	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9843 of 2014
Parameswaran	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9844 of 2014
Sathiamoorthy. T	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9845 of 2014
Revathi T.A.K.	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9846 of 2014
R.Chandrasekaran	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9847 of 2014
Suresh Kumar N.V.	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9848 of 2014
Ramasubramanian K	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9849 of 2014
Ravicandran V	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9850 of 2014
Ranganathan V	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9851 of 2014
Venkatesan V	...Petitioner in W.P.No.9852 of 2014



Arjunan N

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9853 of 2014

Balasubramani M

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9854 of 2014

Umarani S

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9855 of 2014

Ayyappan V

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9856 of 2014

Kumaravel P

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9857 of 2014

Arjunan A

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9858 of 2014

Palani Velu C.N.

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9859 of 2014

Kartheswaran K

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9860 of 2014

Suresh Y.K.R.

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9861 of 2014

Lakshmipathy B

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9862 of 2014

Vijayakumar D

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9863 of 2014

Thayanidhi R

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9864 of 2014

Sekar M.G.

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9865 of 2014

Anbazhagan G

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9866 of 2014

Velu M

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9867 of 2014

MuraliKrishnan V. R

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9868 of 2014



Senthil Kumar T. J

P.Sridar

D.Cheladurai

Babu N

Mohammed Zaid Sait

Jayanthi

Rameshbabu E

Vijayakumar M

Ramesh A

Ramadas R

Kannan A

Gurumurthy K

Vasantha Lakshmi L

Saravanakanni R

Gopi D

Dhayalan V

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9869 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9870 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9871 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9872 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9873 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9874 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9875 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9876 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9877 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9878 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9879 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9880 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9881 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9882 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9883 of 2014

...Petitioner in W.P.No.9884 of 2014



Versus

The Secretary,
The Bar Council of Tamil Nadu,
High Court Campus, Chennai - 600 104.

... Respondent in all W.Ps.

Common Prayer:

Writ Petitions filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of certiorari calling for the records relating to the order dated 17.03.2014 of the respondent herein in R.O.C.Nos.967, 959,1025, 936, 1100, 1159, 950, 969, 1070, 997, 1044, 1156, 1043, 1164, 1032, 998, 1175, 1145, 976, 1160, 1158, 981, 1153, 918, 1073, 1154, 980, 935, 1107, 1066, 973, 971, 942, 1056, 1031, 966, 943, 1127, 1002, 1022, 1050, 1069, 1106 and 1040 of 2014 and quash the same.

For Petitioner in all W.Ps : Mr.M.Radhakrishnan

For Respondent in all W.Ps. : Mr.C.K.Chandrasekar

COMMON ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by R.MAHADEVAN, J.)

Heard all the parties and perused the materials available on record.

2.This Court by order dated 03.02.2014, in WP(MD)No.10315 of 2013, directed the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to take necessary action for removal of advocates, who have completed the law course in violation of clause 28 Schedule III Rule 11 of Rules of Legal Education, 2008 of Bar Council of India. Placing reliance on the same, the respondent / Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry issued show cause notices, calling upon the petitioners to explain as to why their names should not be removed from the rolls of the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, for the alleged violation referring to their age. Challenging the said notices, the petitioners have come up with these writ petitions to quash the same.

3.The issue involved herein is no longer res integra. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Indian Council of Legal Aid and Advice and others v. Bar Council of India and another [1995 (1) SCC 732] has observed that fixing a bar at the age of 45 years is violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India, discriminatory, unreasonable and arbitrary. Paragraph 13 of the said judgment is usefully extracted below:



WEB COPY

"13. The next question is the rule reasonable or arbitrary and unreasonable? The rationale for the rule, as stated earlier, is to maintain the dignity and purity of the profession by keeping out those who retire from various Government, quasi-Government and other institutions since they on being enrolled as advocates use their past contacts to canvass for cases and also pollute the minds of young fresh entrants to the profession. Thus the object of the rule is clearly to shut the doors of the profession for those who seek entry into the profession after completing the age of 45 years. In the first place, there is no reliable statistical or other material placed on record in support of the inference that ex-government or quasi-government servants or the like indulge in undesirable activity of the type mentioned after entering the profession. Secondly, the rule does not debar only such persons from entry into the profession but those who have completed 45 years of age on the date of seeking enrolment. Thirdly, those who were enrolled as advocates while they were young and had later taken up some job in any Government or quasi-Government or similar institutions and had kept the sanad in abeyance are not debarred from receiving their sanads even after they have completed 45 years of age. There may be a large number of persons who initially entered the profession but later took up jobs or entered any other gainful occupation who revert to practise at a later date even after they have crossed the age of 45 years and under the impugned rule they are not debarred from practising. Therefore, in the first place there is no dependable material in support of the rationale on which the rule is founded and secondly the rule is discriminatory as it debars one group of persons who have crossed the age of 45 years from enrolment while allowing another group to revive and continue practise even after 45 years. The rule, in our view, therefore, is clearly discriminatory. Thirdly, it is unreasonable and arbitrary as the choice of the age of 45 years is made keeping only a certain group in mind ignoring the vast majority of other persons who were in the service of Government or quasi-Government or similar institutions at any point of time. Thus, in our view the impugned rule violates the principle of equality enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution."

4. Following the aforesaid decision, a Division Bench of this Court in *M. Radhakrishnan v. the Secretary, Bar Council of India* and another [2006 (5) CTC 705] has also held that "the object of



the rule is only to curtail group of persons from entering into profession and to satisfy other group of person who also stand on the same footing. The State Bar Council cannot widen / expand its rule-making power so extensively to discriminate or classify between two similarly placed persons based on utter arbitrariness".

5. Therefore, from the above judgments, it is clear that the fixation of upper age limit in enrolling in the Bar is construed to be unreasonable.

6. However, Mr. C.K. Chandrasekar, learned counsel appearing for the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry submitted that the subject matter in issue is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Rishabh Duggal and another v. the Bar Council of India and another in WP(Civil) No. 1023 of 2016 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has stayed the Notification issued by the Bar Council of India in BCI:D:1519 (LE:Cir.-6) dated 17.09.2016, on 03.03.2017.

7. In view of the above, all these writ petitions are disposed of subject to result of the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1023 of 2016 pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS III)

/True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

msr/gba

To

The Secretary,
The Bar Council of Tamil Nadu,
High Court Campus, Chennai - 600 104.

W.P.Nos. 9841 to 9884 of 2014
and

M.P.Nos. 1 to 1 of 2014

AJS[co]
NSK/07/06/2022