

How to become an Advocate on Record?

Who is an Advocate on Record?

An Advocate on Record (AOR) in India is a legal professional who is entitled to represent clients and plead for them in the Supreme Court of India. It is a specific category of advocate with rights of audience in the Supreme Court. He has the exclusive right to file and conduct cases in the Supreme Court. This includes drafting and filing petitions, applications, and other legal documents. They specialize in the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court. They are familiar with the rules and regulations governing the court and play a crucial role in navigating legal matters through the highest court of the country. They are authorized to appear and argue on behalf of clients in the Supreme Court. They can represent clients in hearings, present legal arguments, and advocate for their clients' interests. To become an [Advocate on Record](#), one needs to meet specific eligibility criteria, including a minimum number of years of practice as an advocate, and successfully pass the AOR examination conducted by the Supreme Court. They are expected to adhere to high professional standards and ethics. They play a crucial role in upholding the integrity of the legal profession in the context of the Supreme Court. In essence, an Advocate on Record is a legal practitioner with specialized expertise in handling cases in the Supreme Court of India. This designation is significant as it designates individuals who are qualified and authorized to practice at the highest level of the Indian judicial system.

Article 145 of the Constitution of India

Article 145 of the Constitution of India deals with the rules of procedure of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has the power to make rules for regulating the practice and procedure of the court. However, any such rules must not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution. In exercising its rule-making power, the Supreme Court is required to consult the President of India. The rules of procedure may cover various aspects, including The presentation of appeals to the Supreme Court, The conditions for filing petitions for leave to appeal, The practice regarding references to the court, The powers of the court to review its own judgments, orders, and decrees. The rules made by the Supreme Court for its own procedures will also apply to any High Court for the purpose of the more convenient transaction of business. Article 145 provides the Supreme Court with the authority to establish rules that govern the conduct of cases, appeals, and other legal proceedings before it. These rules are crucial for the efficient functioning of the Supreme Court and ensure consistency in its procedures while maintaining compatibility with the constitutional framework. Under Order IV of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 framed under this article, he is allowed to act and plead for a party in the Supreme Court.

Process for becoming an Advocate on Record



- **Eligibility:** To be eligible for enrollment as an AOR, you must have been practicing as an advocate for at least four years and trained under a senior for 1 year.
- **Examination:** You need to pass the AOR examination conducted by the Supreme Court. The examination generally consists of four papers:
 1. Practice and procedure of the Supreme Court.
 2. Drafting.
 3. Professional ethics.
 4. Professional standards.
- **Registration Fee:** Pay the prescribed registration fee of Rs. 250.
- Maintain an office within a radius of 16 kms from the supreme court in Delhi.

Advocate on record examination

The examination is usually conducted in a written format, and candidates need to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the relevant areas. Candidates need to pass each paper to successfully clear the examination. The passing criteria may vary, and it's essential to refer to the specific guidelines provided by the Supreme Court. Successful candidates in the written examination may be called for an interview. The interview assesses the candidate's knowledge, understanding of professional ethics, and overall suitability for enrollment as an Advocate on Record. Candidates often prepare for the AOR examination using study materials and resources specific to the subjects covered in the examination. The Advocate on Record examination in India holds significant importance, particularly for legal professionals aspiring to practice in the Supreme Court. Here are some key aspects that highlight the significance of the examination:

- **Authorized Practice in the Supreme Court:** Successfully passing the examination is a prerequisite for enrolling as an Advocate on Record. This enrollment authorizes an advocate to practice in the Supreme Court of India.
- **Specialized Knowledge:** The examination covers areas such as the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court, drafting, professional ethics, and standards. They are expected to have specialized knowledge in these areas, ensuring a high standard of legal practice in the Supreme Court.
- **Maintaining Professional Standards:** The examination and subsequent enrollment are designed to ensure that advocates practicing in the Supreme Court adhere to the highest professional standards and ethics.
- **Responsibility in High-Stakes Cases:** Advocates on Record often handle complex and high-stakes cases in the Supreme Court. The examination helps identify individuals with the requisite skills and knowledge to handle such cases effectively. The examination serves as a mechanism to assess the competency of advocates who wish to practice in the Supreme Court. It helps ensure that practitioners have a thorough understanding of the court's procedures and legal principles. By setting rigorous standards for enrollment, the examination contributes to upholding the integrity and reputation of the legal profession, especially in the highest court of the country.

- Enhancing Credibility: AOR status enhances the credibility of an advocate, signaling to clients, colleagues, and the court that the individual has met the necessary qualifications and standards for practicing in the Supreme Court.
- Contribution to Legal Education: The preparation for the examination involves a deep dive into legal principles, procedures, and ethics. This process contributes to the continuous legal education and professional development of advocates.

Job of Advocate on record

- Representation in the Supreme Court: He is authorized to represent clients in the Supreme Court of India. They have the exclusive right to file and conduct [cases in the Supreme Court](#).
- Drafting Legal Documents: A significant part of the job involves drafting various legal documents, including petitions, applications, appeals, and other filings that are presented to the Supreme Court.
- Court Procedures: They are well-versed in the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court. They are responsible for navigating the court's processes, adhering to its rules, and ensuring that all legal formalities are fulfilled.
- Argumentation and Advocacy: They present legal arguments and advocate on behalf of their clients during court hearings. They are skilled in articulating legal points and persuading the court in favor of their clients' interests.
- Research and Case Preparation: A significant amount of time is spent on legal research and case preparation. AORs must thoroughly understand the legal issues involved in a case, analyze precedents, and develop a strong legal strategy.
- Client Interaction: AORs interact with clients, providing legal advice, updates on case proceedings, and explaining legal implications. They may also counsel clients on the likelihood of success in their cases.
- Compliance with Ethical Standards: Advocates on Record are expected to uphold high ethical standards. They must maintain the integrity of the legal profession and adhere to the professional code of conduct.
- Collaboration with Senior Advocates: AORs often work in collaboration with senior advocates, who may lead arguments in court. They play a crucial role in supporting the senior advocate by handling procedural aspects and document preparation.
- Case Management: AORs are responsible for the overall management of cases. This includes keeping track of deadlines, filing requirements, and ensuring that all procedural steps are taken in a timely manner.
- Continuous Legal Education: To stay effective in their roles, they engage in continuous legal education to stay abreast of changes in laws, precedents, and court procedures.

Conclusion

Overall, the Advocate on Record examination plays a crucial role in ensuring the competence, ethical conduct, and specialized knowledge of advocates practicing in the Supreme Court of India. It is a mechanism to maintain high standards in legal practice and uphold the integrity of the judicial system.

