



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2020/21 BAR CHAIRPERSON

BAR BULLETIN NO. 29, S. 2021

**ADDITIONAL LOCAL TESTING CENTERS AND
THE OPENING OF THE VENUE MATCHING MODULE**

After assessment, negotiations, and initial ocular inspections, the following institutions have been added as local testing centers for the 2020/21 Bar Examinations, with their offered maximum capacities:

National Capital Region

1. University of the Philippines – Diliman, Quezon City (maximum 756 slots)
2. University of the Philippines – Bonifacio Global City, 32nd Street, Taguig City (maximum 436 slots)
3. De La Salle University, 2401 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila – (maximum 794 slots)

Region 3 (Central Luzon)

4. Angeles University Foundation, MacArthur Highway, Angeles City, Pampanga (maximum 200 slots)

Region 10 (Northern Mindanao)

5. Liceo de Cagayan University, Paseo del Rio Campus, Rodelsa Circle, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental (maximum 208 slots)

With these, there are now **29** local testing centers for the 2020/21 Bar Examinations:

National Capital Region

1. Ateneo de Manila University Law School, Ateneo Professional Schools Building, 20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City (maximum 269 slots)
2. Manila Adventist College, 1975 San Juan Street, Pasay City (maximum 450 slots)
3. University of Makati, J.P. Rizal Extension, West Rembo, Makati City (maximum 1,000 slots)
4. Far Eastern University, Nicanor Reyes, Sampaloc, Manila (maximum 600 slots)
5. University of Santo Tomas, España Boulevard, Sampaloc, Manila (maximum 500 slots)
6. University of the Philippines – Diliman, Quezon City (maximum 756 slots)
7. University of the Philippines – Bonifacio Global City, 32nd Street, Taguig City (maximum 436 slots)
8. De La Salle University, 2401 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila – (maximum 794 slots)

Cordillera Administrative Region

9. St. Louis University School of Law, A. Bonifacio Street, Baguio City (maximum 1,035 slots)

Region I (Ilocos Region)

10. St. Louis College, Carlatan, San Fernando City, La Union (maximum 1,280 slots)

Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)

11. Cagayan State University College of Law, Carig Campus - Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan (maximum 475 slots)
12. St. Mary's University College of Law, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya (maximum 259 slots)

Region 3 (Central Luzon)

13. Angeles University Foundation, MacArthur Highway, Angeles City, Pampanga (maximum 200 slots)

Region 4A (CALABARZON)

14. De La Salle University Lipa, 1962 Pres. J.P. Laurel National Highway, Lipa City, Batangas (maximum 1,125 slots)

Region 4B (MIMAROPA)

15. City College of Calapan, Barangay Guinobatan, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro (maximum 200 slots)

Region 5 (Bicol Region)

16. University of Nueva Caceres, J. Hernandez Avenue, Naga, Camarines Sur (maximum 1,000 slots)

Region 6 (Western Visayas)

17. Central Philippines University, University Avenue, Jaro, Iloilo City, Iloilo (maximum 475 slots)
18. University of St. La Salle, La Salle Avenue, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental (maximum 1,340 slots)

Region 7 (Central Visayas)

19. University of San Jose Recoletos – Basak Campus, N. Bacalso St., Basak, Pardo, Cebu City (maximum 600 slots)

20. University of Cebu School of Law, UC Banilad, M. Cuenco Avenue, Banilad, Cebu City (maximum 1,000 slots)
21. University of San Carlos School of Law and Governance, University of San Carlos Law Building, Pelaez Street, Cebu City (maximum 200 slots)
22. Silliman University College of Law, 1 Hibbard Avenue, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental (maximum 1,000 slots)

Region 8 (Eastern Visayas)

23. Dr. V. Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation, Calanipawan Road, Barangay Calanipawan, Tacloban City, Leyte (maximum 400 slots)

Region 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula)

24. Ateneo de Zamboanga University, La Purisima Street, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur (maximum 365 slots)

Region 10 (Northern Mindanao)

25. Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan, 73 Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental (maximum 420 slots)
26. Liceo de Cagayan University, Paseo del Rio Campus, Rodelsa Circle, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental (maximum 208 slots)
27. Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, Andres Bonifacio Avenue, Tibanga, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte (maximum 200 slots)

Region 11 (Davao Region)

28. Ateneo de Davao University, Senior High School Campus, Bangkal, Davao City (maximum 800 slots)

Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN)

29. Mindanao State University, Fatima, General Santos City (maximum 204 slots)

Per the memoranda of agreement between the Supreme Court and these local testing centers, all parties have guaranteed that the required health and safety protocols shall be strictly implemented, and that the community quarantine classifications per area will be respected.

The Office of the Bar Chairperson extends its profuse thanks to these institutions who have generously offered their facilities and personnel in this historic undertaking.

On **October 15, 2021**, unconditionally and conditionally approved bar candidates may select their preferred local testing centers through the Bar Personal Login Unified System (Bar PLUS). They will receive an email directing them to their Bar PLUS dashboards, where the venue selection module will be made available.

To make the examinations more inclusive, **venue matching will not be on a first-come, first-served basis**. Due to the limited number of available slots in each testing center, priority will be given to examinees who reside in remote areas. Early bird submissions shall have no bearing on the final selection.

Examinees will select two venue choices, with the first given more weight than the second. If both of the examinees' choices are already at full capacity, they will be assigned to a testing center in the province or region nearest to their mailing address. Starting October 13, 2021, the Office of the Bar Confidant shall no longer grant any requests from examinees wishing to change their mailing addresses. **Once examinees submit their venue choices, the submission shall be final and irrevocable.**

The venue matching module will close on **October 20, 2021**. Failure to select their venues will constitute a **waiver** by the examinee, who will then be **assigned to an exam venue based on the remaining slots in any local testing center in the province or region nearest to their mailing address.**

Additionally, graduates of law schools designated as testing centers in Metro Manila and Cebu will be disallowed from taking the Bar Examinations at their law schools, even if they submitted it as a choice, or if it is their nearest testing center.

The venue matching module will also require examinees to answer two questions on their COVID-19 vaccination status. Answering these questions is **mandatory**. Examinees will receive a follow-up email concerning the answers to these questions, which may include a request for proof of vaccination status or appointment. The health information will only be used to formulate COVID-19 safety policies, and will not be shared to any unauthorized third parties.

The Office of the Bar Chairperson shall announce the list of examinees' assigned local testing centers by October 25, 2021 on the Supreme Court website. Those who have not been included in the list should email the Office of the Bar Confidant at obc.helpdesk.sc@judiciary.gov.ph with the subject line: *No Bar Venue*, by October 26, 2021.

Requests for transfer of venue may be accommodated based on: (1) **meritorious reasons**; and (2) **availability of slots in the chosen venue**. Requests without valid basis, such as “change of mind,” shall not be entertained.

Requests may be submitted from October 27 to 29, 2021 through <https://bit.ly/2021barvenue-transfer>. All requests made beyond the period shall no longer be accommodated.

Bar Permits and Notices of Admission shall be sent, with the final local testing center of the examinee, starting **November 5, 2021**.

Finally, examinees must download the Honor Code at <https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/files/bar-2021/honor-code.pdf>, sign it, and email the scanned copy of the signed pdf document to obc.helpdesk.sc@judiciary.gov.ph with the subject line: *Signed Honor Code*, by **November 30, 2021**. The printed signed copies of the Honor Code must be submitted in person to the designated Office of the Bar Confidant personnel on January 16, 2022, the first bar Sunday, upon entry into the local testing center.

Examinees are highly encouraged to choose the local testing centers closest to their residences. The Office of the Bar Chairperson and the Supreme Court has localized the examination sites in order to minimize movement, anticipate disruptions in transportation through various provinces, and increase the probability that all examinees finish the examinations hopefully all with exemplary ratings.

In choosing your testing venues, kindly anticipate the following: (a) a prohibition by the Court, the local government unit, or any relevant authority from congregating in dorms or hotels for “bar operations” except for those who have to travel because there are no testing centers in their city, municipality or province of residence; and (b) disruption of local travel. Also, remember that if you choose *not* to take the Bar Examinations in a local testing center in or near your area of residence, you may—in all likelihood—deprive someone else who does not have your resources from taking the exams in that locality.

Localizing the Bar Examinations was meant to reduce the costs of *all* examinees. Thus, it will have a differential but significant impact on those who are, for various reasons, less financially endowed than others. Incidentally, it was also meant to bolster support from one's family during these trying times.

We encourage everyone to keep their compassion for others. In choosing your venue, act with empathy and consider the needs of others. This will be good karma.

Study well, meaningfully, and passionately. Do your part to ease the suffering of others.

For your information and guidance.

October 11, 2021.

A handwritten signature in dark red ink, appearing to read 'Marvic Leonen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARVIC M.V.F. LEONEN

*Associate Justice and
2020/21 Bar Examinations
Chairperson*