



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2023 BAR CHAIR

BAR BULLETIN No. 3
Series of 2023

UPDATES ON LOCAL TESTING CENTERS;
SOME BAR APPLICATION REMINDERS;
OTHER MATTERS

Locations of Tentative Local Testing Centers

In accordance with the Supreme Court's institutional reform of administering a regionalized Bar examinations, and upon purposeful assessment of the prospective examinees' geographical demand, the Office of the 2023 Bar Chair has determined a current total of **fourteen (14) tentative local testing centers (LTCs)** spread across the country:

Region	<u>Tentative</u> Local Testing Center	Location; Exact Address
National Capital Region	1. San Beda University - Manila	Manila City 638 Mendiola Street, San Miguel, Manila
	2. University of Santo Tomas	Manila City España Boulevard, Sampaloc, Manila
	3. San Beda College - Alabang	Muntinlupa City 8 Don Manolo Boulevard, Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City
	4. University of the Philippines - Diliman	Quezon City Diliman, Quezon City

	5. Manila Adventist College	Pasay City 1975 corner San Juan & Donada Streets, Pasay
	6. University of the Philippines - Bonifacio Global City	Taguig City 14th Drive, University Parkway District, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
Luzon	7. Saint Louis University	Baguio City A. Bonifacio Street, 2600 Baguio City
	8. Cagayan State University	Tuguegarao City Carig Campus, Palm Avenue, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
	9. University of Nueva Caceres	Naga City J. Hernandez Avenue, Naga City, Camarines Sur
Visayas	10. University of San Jose – Recoletos	Cebu City Basak Campus, Cebu City
	11. University of San Carlos	Cebu City Hoerdemann Law and Business Building, Pelaez, Street, Cebu City
	12. Dr. V. Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation	Tacloban City Calanipawan Road, Barangay Calanipawan, Tacloban City
Mindanao	13. Ateneo de Davao University	Davao City Senior High School, McArthur Highway, Bangkal, Davao City
	14. Xavier University	Cagayan de Oro City Ateneo de Cagayan, 73 Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City

This list of sites is disclosed this early to aid applicants in their venue choices and logistical preparations.

Please note, however, that, as of the date of this Bar Bulletin, these sites remain tentative and are pending negotiations and final formal engagement.

Venue Selection and Future Announcements

The venue selection of applicants shall be conducted through **BARISTA**¹ after the close of all the application periods. An applicant may choose to take the Bar Examinations in *any* LTC, whether or not it is the applicant's own law school, and regardless of its proximity to the applicant's indicated current address. The applicant's preference shall be prioritized, but subject to the availability of slots provided by each LTC.

The specific schedule and mechanics for venue selection and the final list of testing centers, along with guidelines on the digitalized examination process, *i.e.*, hardware and software specifications, will be announced in later Bar Bulletins.

Application Reminders

The **application period for Previous Takers² and Refreshers³**, which commenced last May 1, 2023, **shall close on July 8, 2023**. These applicants are obliged to *promptly* and *completely* accomplish their online applications, upload their mandatory documents,⁴ and pay their Bar Application Fees⁵ *via* BARISTA.

Meanwhile, **all applicants** are enjoined to take note of the two (2) sets of requirements below and their respective compliance periods:

- (1) The submission of hard copies of their respective mandatory documents listed in *Annexes A, B, or C* of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2023, within ten (10) calendar days upon receipt of an email notification from BARISTA approving their application; and
- (2) The online and physical submission of their deferred documents listed in *Annex D* of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2023, beginning

¹ Bar Applicant Registration Information System and Tech Assistance accessible at <https://barista.judiciary.gov.ph/>.

² Those who will take the Bar examinations for the second or third time.

³ Those who will take the Bar examinations for the fourth time or more.

⁴ The list of documentary requirements for Previous Takers is indicated in *Annex B* of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2023, accessible at [https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/files/bar-2023/\[Dec-15\]-BB-2-ANNEX-B-2023.pdf](https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/files/bar-2023/[Dec-15]-BB-2-ANNEX-B-2023.pdf).

The list of documentary requirements for Refreshers is indicated in *Annex C* of Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2023, accessible at [https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/files/bar-2023/\[Dec-15\]-BB-2-ANNEX-C-2023.pdf](https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/files/bar-2023/[Dec-15]-BB-2-ANNEX-C-2023.pdf).

⁵ The amount and other particulars of the Bar Application Fee are indicated in Bar Bulletin No. 2, Series of 2023, accessible at [https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/files/bar-2023/\[Dec-15\]-BB-2-2023.pdf](https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/files/bar-2023/[Dec-15]-BB-2-2023.pdf).

August 1, 2023 but no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the last day of the 2023 Bar Examinations.

Rest assured that the verification and processing of applications by the Office of the Bar Confidant are ongoing. Considering the volume of submissions received and being received, applicants are implored to patiently await the full assessment of their applications and to regularly monitor their BARISTA Dashboards for developments.

For all stakeholders' guidance.

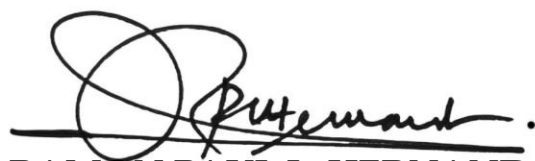
Again, a personal note:

To those who have emerged victorious from the 2022 Bar Examinations, who have just recently sworn their oaths and signed the Roll of Attorneys as new members of the legal profession, I extend my warmest congratulations.

To the previous examinees who found their names missing from the 2022 Bar Passers' list, or any list of successful Bar Examinees in the past years, please hold fast to your faith and fortitude. This heartbreak shall inundate you with unspeakable bouts of envy, spite, fear, and self-defeat. Allow all these to just flow and overflow, grieve if you must, indulge reasonably in these feelings, even; but I hope that you may find solid ground to start anew. And when you do, you will certainly have become a better version of your previous best. Soldier on towards your dreams, along the path lit brightly by the deity *Tala*. *You will get there*. Take courage and, should you opt to retake the Bar Examinations this year, seize it as a chance for redemption, "for the flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all."⁶

The Court is with you every step of the way.

May 18, 2023.



RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines
Chair, 2023 Bar Examinations

⁶ Cook, B. and Bancroft, T. (Directors). (1998). *Mulan* [Film]. Walt Disney Pictures.