



Republic of the Philippines  
**Supreme Court**  
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2023 BAR CHAIR

**REVISED**  
**BAR BULLETIN No. 4**  
Series of 2023

REVISED AS OF JULY 20, 2023

RECALLING BAR BULLETIN NO. 4, SERIES OF 2023 DATED JULY 12, 2023  
ON **RANDOMIZED QUEUING NUMBER TIME SLOT ALLOCATION AND SCHEDULING**

Considering the unprecedented influx of applications received just before the deadline, and in pursuit of a more equitable venue selection process for all stakeholders, the mechanics as to the Random Queuing Number (RQN) time slot allocation and scheduling is hereby **UPDATED**.

The previous allocation of RQNs for each time slot from July 24 to 25, 2023 is **AMENDED**.

All Bar applicants are to **DISREGARD** such previous RQN schedule as laid out and tabulated in Bar Bulletin No. 4, Series of 2023 dated July 12, 2023.

The RQNs with their updated time slots will be sent to all qualified applicants' BARISTA accounts and BARISTA-registered email addresses, **today, July 20, 2023**, as scheduled. Please note that the updated time slot received shall **GOVERN**.

All other matters stated in Bar Bulletin No. 4, Series of 2023 dated July 12, 2023 and which are not otherwise inconsistent herewith shall **STAND** and are reproduced below.

**FINAL LIST OF LOCAL TESTING CENTERS;  
VENUE SELECTION GUIDELINES AND MECHANICS**

*Final List of Local Testing Centers for the 2023 Bar Examinations*

In accordance with the regionalization and digitalization of the Bar Examinations, the 2023 Bar Examinations shall be administered in the following **fourteen (14) local testing centers (LTCs)** spread across the country:

Area	LTCs for the 2023 Bar Examinations
<i>National Capital Region</i>	1. <b>San Beda University - Manila</b>
	2. <b>University of Santo Tomas</b>
	3. <b>San Beda College - Alabang</b>
	4. <b>University of the Philippines - Diliman</b>
	5. <b>Manila Adventist College</b>
	6. <b>University of the Philippines - Bonifacio Global City</b>
<i>Luzon</i>	7. <b>Saint Louis University</b>
	8. <b>Cagayan State University</b>
	9. <b>University of Nueva Caceres</b>
<i>Visayas</i>	10. <b>University of San Jose - Recoletos</b>
	11. <b>University of San Carlos</b>
	12. <b>Dr. V. Orestes Romualdez Educational Foundation</b>
<i>Mindanao</i>	13. <b>Ateneo de Davao University</b>
	14. <b>Xavier University</b>

**San Beda College - Alabang** shall also serve as the site of the **National Headquarters** for the 2023 Bar Examinations, where the Court will be supervising and directing the simultaneous operations in the different LTCs during the Bar Examinations.

Qualified applicants<sup>1</sup> are to select their preferred venue exclusively through **BARISTA**<sup>2</sup> during the venue selection period and in accordance with the guidelines and mechanics laid down below.

*Revised Venue Selection Guidelines and Schedule*

Applicants may choose to take the Bar Examinations in *any* LTC subject to the availability of examinee slots therein. Thus, they shall not be barred from selecting the law school where they graduated as their LTC, or an LTC that is located farthest from their present address, as long as there is an examinee slot available.

Venue selection shall be conducted on **July 24 and 25, 2023** (two days) **in two (2) time slots per day** (morning and afternoon), for a total of four (4) time slots.

Each applicant is assigned a single RQN, a unique number generated by BARISTA designating the applicant's place in a virtual line to enter the Venue Selection module. The RQN shall determine the time slot during which the applicant may select and finalize his or her preferred LTC *via* BARISTA.

Conditioned on the *first-come-first-served* rule and on the allotted number of examinees that each LTC has expressly undertaken to accommodate for the Bar Examinations, **all** fourteen LTCs will be available as a choice in every time slot.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants who (1) have been approved by the Court as being conditionally admitted to take the Bar Examinations (*i.e.*, have been notified of their generated Application Forms *via* BARISTA or email); and (2) have not complied with the requirements for withdrawal and/or request for refund.

<sup>2</sup> Bar Applicant Registration Information System and Tech Assistance. Site is accessible at <https://barista.judiciary.gov.ph/>.

The following shall be sent to the BARISTA account and BARISTA-registered email address of all qualified applicants today, July 20, 2023:

1. The applicant's RQN for the venue selection on July 24 and 25;  
*and*
2. Instructions on your updated time slot for the venue selection, among other related matters.

Please note that the updated time slot sent today, July 20, 2023 to your BARISTA account and registered email shall GOVERN.

Applicants may select their preferred LTCs *only during* their assigned updated time slot, depending on their RQN.

#### *General Mechanics for Venue Selection*

All 2023 Bar applicants are **required** to use a desktop or laptop with a reliable internet connection and adhere to the following venue selection mechanics:

1. *Secure your RQN and find your time slot.*

Each RQN shall be impartially assigned, electronically generated, and sent to your BARISTA account and registered email address **today, July 20, 2023**. Please monitor your respective BARISTA accounts and registered email inboxes (and Spam folders, for good measure) to verify receipt of your RQN.

If you have not received your RQN, please message the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC)'s 2023 Helpdesk under the "*Venue – Selection*" section.

2. *Access the Venue Selection module during your time slot.*

Log in to BARISTA and select the Venue Selection module in the BARISTA dashboard during your assigned time slot. You will not

be allowed to access a time slot other than the one that corresponds to the schedule of your RQN.

3. *Select and finalize your preferred LTC within ten (10) minutes from opening the Venue Selection module.*

Upon opening the Venue Selection module, select your preferred LTC by clicking the box corresponding to it.<sup>3</sup> **You have ten (10) minutes to choose and finalize your preferred LTC, and it is recommended that you finish the venue selection process within this 10-minute timeframe.** While BARISTA will not prohibit you from retrying, you may only do so within your assigned time slot and at the risk of losing your chance to secure an examinee slot in your desired LTC.

It will definitely help to prepare in advance a list of your preferred and contingent LTCs in the interest of time management.

**Do not use multiple devices.** This will cause unnecessary online traffic, longer wait times, and abject inconvenience to everyone.

4. *An email will be sent to your BARISTA-registered email address confirming your LTC.*

Once you finalize your LTC through BARISTA, a confirmatory email will be sent to your registered email address within the day. Your venue choice, as confirmed *via* email, is **final and irrevocable**.

It is best to peruse the [User Guide](#)<sup>4</sup> for a detailed walkthrough of the Venue Selection module in BARISTA to gain a clearer perspective and advance visualization of the venue selection process.

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<sup>3</sup> The available number of examinee slots per LTC shall be displayed in real-time at the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Clicking the corresponding box to select an LTC will trigger a pop-up notification reflecting such choice. If the maximum capacity of an LTC has been reached, such status shall be displayed in the column for slot availability, and the LTC will no longer be available for selection.

<sup>4</sup> For ease of reference, the full site address of the User Guide is [bit.ly/BARISTA-VSUserGuide2023](https://bit.ly/BARISTA-VSUserGuide2023).

### *Default Assignment of Venue*

**An applicant who fails to select a venue during his or her assigned time slot shall be deemed to have waived the right to exercise his or her venue preference.**

By default, he or she shall be assigned an LTC in the province or region nearest his or her present address or law school, depending on the remaining available slots after the entire venue selection period.

The said applicant will be informed of his or her default LTC assignment **no later than July 28, 2023.**

### *Requests for Transfer of Venue*

The Office of the 2023 Bar Chair and the OBC reserve the full discretion to act and decide on all requests for transfer of venue. These may be granted only upon highly meritorious, exceptional, and compelling reasons, and shall always be subject to the availability of examinee slots in the LTC to where the applicant would request to transfer.

Requests for transfer of venue may be submitted through the OBC's [Venue Appeals Form](#)<sup>5</sup> **beginning July 29 until July 31, 2023.** Requests for transfer of venue filed beyond this period shall not be considered, and notice thereof to the applicant shall be dispensed with.

Requests for transfer of venue due to "change of mind" and other similarly baseless and superficial grounds shall not be entertained.

Applicants will be informed of the action on their requests for transfer of venue **no later than August 10, 2023.**

If the request is approved, the applicant will be notified *via* his or her BARISTA account and registered e-mail address regarding his or her new venue assignment.

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<sup>5</sup> For ease of reference, the full site address of the OBC's Venue Appeals Form is [bit.ly/2023BarVenueAppeals](https://bit.ly/2023BarVenueAppeals).

If the request is denied, this shall be communicated to the applicant through his or her registered email address. Denied requests are **final and unappealable**.

All queries relating to venue selection may be coursed through the OBC's 2023 Helpdesk<sup>6</sup> under the "Venue - Selection" section.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you to rely on the official communication channels in the interest of obtaining complete and accurate information on the 2023 Bar Examinations.

For your information and guidance.

**We are now close to the last two months.** Time runs doubly fast, and all of us are midway to our goals. As we take full advantage of the momentum to prepare ourselves for #Bar2023, please remember to safeguard your health and well-being. Remain steadfast, keep calm, and believe that #WeCanDoIt. Your hard labor will bear fruit and bounty, as shall be rewarded by *Bathala's* benevolent child, *Tag-ani*.

July 20, 2023.



**RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO**

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

#HernanDoIt

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<sup>6</sup> For ease of reference, the full site address of the OBC's Helpdesk Form is <https://bit.ly/2023BarExamsHelpdesk>.