

# THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO THE GIBRALTAR GAZETTE

No. 5306 GIBRALTAR Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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B. 20/26

## BILL

FOR

AN ACT to amend the Supreme Court Act.

ENACTED by the Legislature of Gibraltar.

### Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Supreme Court (Amendment) Act 2026.

### Commencement.

2. This Act comes into operation on the day appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette and different days may be appointed for different provisions.

### Amendment of the Supreme Court Act.

3.(1) The Supreme Court Act is amended in accordance with this section.

(2) In section 2, after the definition of “Registrar” substitute the “.” with a “;” and insert-

““Senior Courts” has the same meaning as contained in the United Kingdom’s Senior Courts Act 1981;

“Solicitors Regulation Authority” means the regulatory body for solicitors in England and Wales established by the United Kingdom’s Legal Services Act 2007;

“Solicitors Qualifying Examination” means the examinations and assessments prescribed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority for the purpose of admission as a solicitor of the Senior Courts.”

(3) Substitute section 27W(9)(b) with-

“(b) a reference to the examinations and assessments validated for admission as a solicitor of the Senior Courts includes-

(i) the examinations formerly set by the Law Society of England and Wales for that purpose; and

- (ii) the passing of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination or any examinations and assessments prescribed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority for that purpose.”.

(4) In section 28(1)-

(a) substitute “enroll” with “enrol”; and

(b) substitute paragraph (c) with –

“(c) in addition to his call to the Bar in England and Wales or Northern Ireland, or admission as an advocate in the Court of Session in Scotland or admission in the Republic of Ireland, he has completed-

(i) the practical training requirement; and

(ii) an approved academic course in Gibraltar Law and the professional skills course, or a combined approved academic course in Gibraltar Law and the professional skills course; and”.

(5) In section 29(1)-

(a) substitute “enroll” with “enrol”;

(b) for paragraph (a) substitute-

“(a) he has-

(i) been admitted as a solicitor of the Senior Courts, or in any court of record in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, or as a solicitor admitted in practice in Scotland; or

(ii) passed the examinations and assessments validated for admission as a solicitor of the Senior Courts; and”;

(c) for paragraph (ba) substitute-

“(ba) in addition to his admission referred to in paragraph (a)(i) or his passing of examinations and assessments referred to in paragraph (a)(ii) he has completed-

(i) the practical training requirement; and

(ii) an approved academic course in Gibraltar Law and the professional skills course, or a combined approved academic course in Gibraltar Law and the professional skills course; and”.

(6) In section 29(1A), delete the words “and (iii)”.

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Bill amends the Supreme Court Act so as to introduce the Solicitors Qualifying Examination as an examination or assessment validated for admission as a solicitor, or any replacement or modification thereof. It replaces existing training requirements for barristers who wish to seek admission in Gibraltar, removing the former six months’ pupillage requirement. The Bill also changes the timing requirement for the completion of practical training requirement, the completion of the approved academic course in Gibraltar law and the professional skills course, to allow these requirements to be in addition to admission as a solicitor or call to the Bar and not to necessarily follow such call or admission. The Bill also includes provision for a combined approved academic course in Gibraltar Law and professional skills course

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