

SHAHZAD AHMED

Edmonton, Alberta
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ARTICLING CANDIDATE

Internationally trained law student licensed to practice in Pakistan and pursuing re-qualification in Canada, with 7 years' post-bar experience as an Associate in Civil, Corporate, Family and Criminal Law. Team player who contributes to client relationship and public relations management, supervision of pleadings and facilitation of client communication.

EDUCATION

Practice Readiness Education Program (PREP), CPLED 2023

NCA Certificate of Qualification (CQ), Federation of Law Societies of Canada 2022

LLB, Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan 2012

- Called to Bar in October 2013 and maintained Punjab Bar Council, Lahore membership.

Post Graduate Diploma in Information Technology, Government College, Chakwal, Pakistan

Bachelor of Arts, Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan

WORK EXPERIENCE

Commissionaires, Edmonton Apr. 2021 – Present

Non-profit delivering security services and solutions across Canada and providing meaningful employment to military and police veterans and civilians.

Commissionaire - Edmonton Police Service (EPS)

Currently positioned at the Front Desk, EPS Headquarters in downtown Edmonton. Perform reception duties and report directly to the Supervisor any incidents and complete computer-based work and incident reports.

- Issue visitor stickers to clients attending for fingerprinting, photograph, and DNA sampling for police or court purposes, and guide them to the Police Information Check Office.
- Guide clients looking to report crimes and collisions and seeking guidance on access to information.
- Perform standard wand and bag searches for prohibited weapons for those entering secure areas, while remaining attentive to relevant Criminal Code and Charter rights provisions.
- Follow Commissionaire and Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) policies in performance of duties to keep the workplace safe for everyone.
- Assess violence risks when dealing with clients with anger and behavioural issues, acknowledging concerns and keeping them calm.
- Independently manage administrative tasks and procedures, including access control after lockup, prisoner release protocols, and monitoring fire and safety alarms.
- Monitor incoming regular and electronic mail and coordinate internal information flow.

Assad Law Associates, Pakistan

Oct. 2013 – Apr. 2020

A mid-sized law firm in Rawalpindi Division serving business clients, individuals and families in corporate, family, civil and criminal law.

Associate Lawyer – Civil, Corporate, Family, Criminal Law

Reported to a senior lawyer, involved in family, corporate and criminal matters. Drafted and filed motions, appeals and revisions of family, civil and criminal cases. Participated in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation in family cases and corporate law.

- Researched and drafted memoranda for family, civil and criminal matters involving separation, divorce, child custody, bail and damages, and created case strategies based on research findings.
- Drafted partnership deeds and property contracts; criminal bail petitions; civil, criminal and family revisions and appeals; civil suit pleadings; and unlawful police search and arrest petitions.
- Represented corporate clients in litigation over specific performance of partnership contracts.
- Advocated for accused in criminal cases such as theft, robbery and homicide. Interviewed clients and witnesses, prepared exhibits, cross-examined crown witnesses and delivered final arguments.
- Argued civil, family and criminal revisions and regular appeals in High and Appellate Courts.
- Facilitated and promoted mediation and ADR efforts to help parties reach amicable solutions in divorce, division of property and assets, and child custody.
- Assisted in developing an electronic data system of records, memoranda, pleadings and factums from different resources for ready, user-friendly access by all staff.

VOLUNTEER/PRO BONO EXPERIENCE

Pro Bono Law Services (Grace and Peace Foundation), Rawalpindi, Pakistan May 2015 – Apr. 2020

Co-Founder of Grace and Peace Foundation providing access to justice for all, with free services to marginalized individuals such as the incarcerated, minorities, underprivileged and women.

Volunteer Duty Counsel

Provided pro-bono legal services to the underprivileged and persecuted clients.

- Supported incarcerated clients in filing bail applications and assisted them in criminal trials.
- Assisted as legal representative in child marriage cases, and on women’s rights issues by filing petitions against domestic abuse and for equal payment rights in industrial settings.
- Represented persecuted Christians in blasphemy cases, providing legal help and other assistance.
- Advocated for child marriage victims in court, supported women experiencing domestic abuse, and worked to create awareness about forced religious conversion.
- Worked for interfaith harmony and minority rights. Tried to initiate a healthy dialogue between the Muslim majority and other minorities in Pakistan.

INTERESTS

Reading: My favorite book is “Sophie’s World” by Jostein Gaarder; this book helped me to understand different cultures and belief systems.

Fishing: I like freshwater fly fishing.

Long Drives: Driving through the Rocky Mountains on a weekend is my way to connect with nature.