

**TITLE 19 – REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**  
**CHAPTER 5 - LEGAL PROFESSION**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

## LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 1991

### Arrangement of Sections

Section	Page
§501. Short title. ....	3
§502. Interpretation. ....	3
§503. Requirements for the practice of law. ....	4
§504. Admissions without examination. ....	5
§505. Failure to comply with requirements. ....	6
§506. Transition. ....	7
§507. Unauthorized practice of law. ....	7
§508. Rules. ....	7
§509. Legal fees. ....	8
§510. Penalty. ....	9



**TITLE 19 – REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**  
**CHAPTER 5 - LEGAL PROFESSION**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 1991**

**AN ACT** to regulate the practice of law in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

*Commencement:* March 22, 1991

*Source:* P. L. 1991-117

*Amended By:* P. L. 1992-17 P. L. 1993-64 P. L. 1996-3

P. L. 2007-81 P. L. 2014-36 P.L. 2018-88

**§501. Short title.**

This Chapter may be cited as the Legal Profession Act 1991. [P.L. 1991-117, §1.]

**§502. Interpretation.**

In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) **“approved law school”** means:

- (i) Any law school approved by the American Bar Association’s section on Legal Education and Administrations to the Bar; or
- (ii) A law school in a nation other than the United States which uses the common law as a background for study and which is an accredited institution in that country, such as the University of the South Pacific School of Law; or
- (iii) Any other law school approved by the Supreme Court;

- (b) **“client”** means a person, group of persons, firm, joint venture, partnership, corporation or any other agency, body or entity, public or private, which engages the services of a lawyer or a trial assistant with respect to legal services;
- (c) **“lawyer”** means any person qualified in the law who provides legal services to a client. The term includes a person, group of persons, firm, joint venture, partnership, corporation or any other body or entity, public or private, which engages in the delivery of legal services;
- (d) **“legal services”** include, but are not limited to, the following: appearing before any court in the Republic or before any person, agency, body, corporation or tribunal or any other institution or department of government; drafting of pleadings, affidavits and other documents to be filed in court; and the preparation and drafting of deeds, agreements, contracts or any other document or instrument and giving legal advice whether in or outside the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- (e) **“police prosecutor”** means an adult citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who is not a graduate of an approved law school but who has been admitted to practice law for the limited purpose of prosecuting local government ordinances before Community Courts under a delegation from the Attorney-General;
- (f) **“practice of law”** means to engage in the delivery of legal services to or for the benefit of others;
- (g) **“trial assistant”** means an adult citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who is not a graduate of an approved law school, but has been admitted to practice law in the Courts of the Trust Territory for the Marshall Islands District prior to March 3, 1982, or by the Court of the Republic of the Marshall Islands after that date.[P.L. 1991-117, §2][Amended by P.L. 2014-36]

### §503. Requirements for the practice of law.

- (1) Except as provided for in Section 504 of this Chapter, a person may not engage in the practice of law, provide legal services to another, hold himself out to be a lawyer, trial assistant, police prosecutor or

otherwise represent or designate himself to be a lawyer, trial assistant or police prosecutor, unless that person:

- (a) is 21 years of age or older;
  - (b) if admitted as a lawyer, has graduated from an approved law school;
  - (c) has passed a written examination, which examination shall be selected, developed and administered by the Supreme Court; provided, however that any such written examination shall include an adequate section on the customary law of the Marshall Islands; and
  - (d) has been duly admitted to practice by the Supreme Court or the High Court of the Republic.
- (2) This Section does not apply to persons admitted to practice prior to the date PL.1991-117 came into effect, February 19, 1991.[P.L. 1991-117, §3; amended by P.L. 1992-17, §4; amended by P.L. 1996-3, §3(1).][Amended by P.L. 2014-36][amended Sectopm 2(b) by P.L. 2018-88].

#### **§504. Admissions without examination.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of Court Rules on Admission promulgated in accordance with Section 19 of the Judiciary Act (27 MIRC s 219), the following persons shall not be required to pass a written examination to be admitted to practice:
- (a) a person who is duly authorized to practice and is in good standing in another jurisdiction and is temporarily in the Republic in connection with a particular matter or for a particular client, or who has been admitted pro hac vice in any matter;
  - (b) a person who is duly authorized to practice and is in good standing in another common law jurisdiction who accepts full-time employment with the central government, any local government, or any agency or department of the central government or any local government, or any public agency providing legal services;
  - (c) any Marshallese citizen who has graduated from an approved law school who accepts full-time employment with the central government, any local government, or any agency or