

FEDERAL LAW

NO. 63-FZ OF MAY 31, 2002

ON SOLICITOR'S/BARRISTER'S ACTIVITY

AND THE BAR IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

(with the Amendments and Additions of October 28, 2003, August 22,

**December 20, 2004, July 24, December 3, 2007, July 23, 2008, July 11, 2011,
November 21, 2011)**

Adopted by the State Duma on April 26, 2002

Approved by the Federation Council on May 15, 2002

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Article 1. The Activity of Solicitor/Barrister

1. The activity of solicitor/barrister is the provision on a professional basis of highly qualified legal assistance by persons who have acquired the status of a solicitor/barrister in the manner established by the present Federal Law to natural and legal persons (hereinafter referred to as "clients") for the purpose of protecting their rights, liberties and interests and also ensuring access to justice.

2. The activity of solicitor/barrister is not an entrepreneurial activity.

3. The following shall not be deemed an activity of a solicitor/barrister: legal assistance provided by:

the employees of the legal services of legal entities (hereinafter referred to as "organisations") and also by the employees of governmental and local government bodies; the participants and employees of organisations providing legal services and also by individual entrepreneurs; notaries, patent solicitors, except for cases when a solicitor/barrister acts as a patent solicitor, or by the other persons specifically authorised under law to pursue their professional activities.

4. Also the present Federal Law shall not extend to the bodies and persons who pursue representative functions by virtue of the law.

Article 2. The Solicitor/Barrister

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 1 of Article 2 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

1. A solicitor/barrister shall be a person who has been granted in the procedure established by this Federal Law the status of solicitor/barrister and the right to practice law. A solicitor/barrister shall be an independent professional legal advisor. A solicitor/barrister shall not be entitled to enter labour relations as a worker, except for scientific, training and other creative work, as well as to hold governmental posts in the Russian Federation, governmental posts in the subjects of the Russian Federation, civil service posts and municipal offices.

A solicitor/barrister shall have no right to combine legal practice with the office of the head of a bar formation, as well as with holding elective offices in the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a subject of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as chamber of solicitors/barristers), in the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers), in all-Russia and international public associations of solicitors/barristers.

2. While providing legal assistance the solicitor/barrister shall:

- 1) provide consultations and reference on legal issues both in oral and written form;
- 2) draw up applications, complaints, petitions and other documents having a legal character;
- 3) represent the client's interests in constitutional court proceedings;
- 4) take part as a representative of the client in civil and administrative court proceedings;
- 5) take part as the client's representative or counsel for the defence in criminal court proceedings and administrative offence court proceedings;
- 6) take part as the client's representative in litigation performed by an arbitration panel, international commercial arbitration tribunal (court) and other conflict settlement bodies;
- 7) represent the client's interests in governmental bodies, local government bodies, public associations and other organisations;
- 8) represent the client's interests in governmental bodies, courts and law-enforcement bodies of foreign states, international judicial bodies, non-governmental bodies of foreign states, except as otherwise established by the law of foreign states, the constitutional documents of international judicial bodies and other international organisations or international treaties of the Russian Federation;

9) take part as the client's representative in execution proceedings and also in the event of performance of criminal punishment;

10) take part as the client's representative concerning legal relations taxation.

3. The solicitor/barrister is entitled to provide another legal assistance if not prohibited by federal law.

4. Only solicitors/barristers may act as representatives of organisations, governmental bodies, local government bodies in civil and administrative court proceedings and court proceedings relating to administrative offence cases, except for cases when these functions are performed by staff members of the said organisations, governmental bodies and local government bodies, except as otherwise established by federal law.

5. Solicitors/barristers of a foreign state may provide legal assistance in the territory of the Russian Federation on issues concerning the law of the foreign state.

Solicitors/barristers of foreign states are prohibited from providing legal assistance on the territory of the Russian Federation on issues relating to state secrets of the Russian Federation.

Federal Law No. 160-FZ of July 23, 2008 amended Item 6 of Article 2 of this Federal Law. The amendments shall enter into force from January 1, 2009

See the Item in the previous wording

6. Solicitors/barristers of foreign states pursuing the activity of solicitor/barrister on the territory of the Russian Federation shall be registered by the federal executive governmental body for justice (hereinafter referred to as "the federal justice body") in a special register which shall be kept in accordance with a procedure determined by authorized federal executive body.

See the Regulations for Keeping the Register of Lawyers of Foreign States, Who Carry out Advocacy on the Territory of the Russian Federation approved by Decision of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 584 of September 19, 2003

The pursuance of the activity of solicitor/barrister by solicitors/barristers of foreign states in the territory of the Russian Federation without their being registered in said register is prohibited.

Article 3. The Bar and the State

1. The Bar is a professional community of solicitors/barristers, and being a civic society institution it is not incorporated in the system of governmental bodies and local government bodies.

2. The Bar shall operate on the basis of the principles of lawfulness, independence,

self-government, corporation as well as the principle of equality of solicitors/barristers.

3. For the purpose of ensuring the general public's access to legal assistance and promoting the activity of solicitor/barrister the governmental bodies shall provide guarantees of the Bar's independence, provide funding to solicitors/barristers who provide legal assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation free of charge in the cases specified by Russian law and also where necessary provide solicitor/barrister formations with premises and communication facilities.

4. Each solicitor/barrister is guaranteed the social welfare to which citizens of the Russian Federation are entitled.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 4 of this Federal Law
See the previous text of the Article

Article 4. Legislation on the Activity of Solicitor/Barrister and on the Bar

1. The legislation on the activity of solicitor/barrister and on the Bar is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation and it is composed of the present Federal Law, the regulatory legal acts of the Government of the Russian Federation and federal executive governmental bodies issued pursuant to federal laws regulating the said activity and also of the laws and other regulatory legal acts of Russian regions adopted within the scope of powers established by the present Federal Law.

2. The Code of Solicitor's/Barrister's Professional Ethics adopted in the procedure provided for by this Federal Law shall establish the rules of behavior when practicing law mandatory for each solicitor/barrister, as well as grounds and procedure for calling a solicitor/barrister to account.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 5 of this Federal Law
See the previous text of the Article

Article 5. Use of the Terms Applied in this Federal Law

Using in the denominations of organisations and public associations the terms "activity of solicitors/barristers", "the Bar", "solicitor/barrister", "chamber of solicitors/barristers", "solicitor/barrister formation", "lawyer's office" or the word combinations including these terms shall be only allowed to solicitors/barristers and to organisations established in the procedure specified by this Federal Law.

Chapter 2. The Rights and Duties of the Solicitor/Barrister

Article 6. Powers of the Solicitor/Barrister

- 1.** The powers of a solicitor/barrister taking part as a client's representative in constitutional, civil and administrative court proceedings and also as the client's representative or counsel for the defence in criminal proceedings and proceedings relating to cases of administrative offences shall be governed by relevant procedural legislation of the Russian Federation.
- 2.** In the cases specified by federal law the solicitor/barrister shall hold a warrant to perform under instructions issued by a relevant solicitor/barrister formation. The form of the warrant shall be approved by the federal justice body. In other cases the solicitor/barrister shall represent his/her client under a power of attorney. Nobody is entitled to ask the solicitor/barrister and his/her client to present the contract for provision of legal assistance (hereinafter referred to as "contract") for the purpose of the solicitor/barrister entering the case.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 3 of Article 6 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

- 3.** The solicitor/barrister is entitled to:
 - 1) to collect data necessary for rendering legal aid, including to request state power bodies, local self-government bodies, as well as public associations and other organisations, to provide reference statements, references and other documents. The said bodies and organisations shall be obliged in the procedure established by the laws to issue to a solicitor/barrister at the latest in one month as of the date of receiving the solicitor's/barrister's request the documents requested by him or attested copies thereof;
 - 2) interview persons (with the consent thereof) who are believed to possess information relating to a case in respect of which the solicitor/barrister is providing legal assistance;
 - 3) gather and present things and documents that can be recognised as material and other evidence, in the manner established by Russian law;
 - 4) recruit under a contract specialists for the purpose of clarifying issues relating to the provision of legal assistance;
 - 5) to freely have private meetings with the client in conditions that ensure confidentiality (in particular, when the client is in detention), with no limit as to the number of meetings or duration thereof;
 - 6) record (in particular, by technical facilities) information contained in the materials of the case in respect of which the solicitor/barrister provides legal assistance, given the inviolability of state secrets and other secrets protected under law;
 - 7) commit other actions which do not conflict with the legislation of the Russian Federation.
- 4.** The solicitor/barrister is not permitted to:

- 1) accept instructions from a person who asked him/her to provide legal assistance if the instructions are of an obviously illegal nature;
 - 2) accept instructions from a person who asked him/her to provide legal assistance if the solicitor/barrister:
 - has his/her own independent interests in the subject matter of the contract with a client that is different from the person's interests;
 - has taken part in the case as a judge, arbitrator or arbitration judge, mediator, prosecutor, investigator, inquirer, expert, specialist, interpreter/translator, is in this case a victim or a witness or also if he/she has been an official responsible for making a decision in the interests of the person;
 - is a relative or a member of the family of an official who has taken part or is taking part in the investigation or consideration of the case of the person;
 - provides legal assistance to a client whose interests conflict with the interests of the person;
 - 3) take a position in the case that runs contrary to a client's will, except for cases when the solicitor/barrister is convinced that the client is making a false self-accusatory confession;
 - 4) make public declarations to the effect that the client's guilt is proven, if the client denies his/her guilt;
 - 5) disclose the information he/she has obtained from the client in connection with the provision of legal assistance thereto, without the client's consent;
 - 6) refuse to perform the defence he/she has undertaken to perform.
- 5.** The solicitor/barrister is prohibited from secretly co-operating with the bodies carrying out operational investigation activity.

Article 7. Duties of the Solicitor/Barrister

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 1 of Article 7 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

1. The solicitor/barrister shall:

- 1) honestly, reasonably and fairly defend the rights and lawful interests of clients by all means except those prohibited by the legislation of the Russian Federation;

Federal Law No. 214-FZ of July 24, 2007 amended Subitem 2 of Item 1 of Article 7 of this Federal Law. The amendments shall enter into force from September 7, 2007

See the Subitem in the previous wording

- 2) comply with the requirements of law concerning the mandatory participation of a

solicitor/barrister in criminal proceedings on the appointment of bodies of inquiry, preliminary investigation or a court and also provide legal assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation free of charge in the instances provided for by this Federal Law;

3) continuously improve his/her knowledge and skills;

4) to observe the code of solicitor's/barrister's professional ethics and to carry out decisions of the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a subject of the Russian Federation and of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers of the Russian Federation adopted within the scope of authority thereof;

5) to make deductions every month from the fees thereof towards general needs of the chamber of solicitors/barristers in the procedure and in the amount determined by a meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the appropriate subject of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as a meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers), as well as to allot funds for maintenance of the appropriate solicitor's/barrister's study, the appropriate college of solicitors/barristers or the appropriate solicitor's/barrister's office in the procedure and in the amount established by the solicitor/barrister formation;

Federal Law No. 320-FZ of December 3, 2007 suspended the validity of Subitem 6 of Item 1 of Article 7 of this Federal Law until the day of entry into force of the federal law, regulating the issues involved in the obligatory insurance of the obligatory responsibility of lawyers

Subitem 6 of Item 1 of Article 7 of this Federal Law shall enter into force from January 1, 2007

6) insure against the risks of his/her professional liability.

2. If he/she defaults on or improperly execute her/his professional duties the solicitor/barrister shall be held accountable under the present Federal Law.

Article 8. Solicitor's/Barrister's Secrets

1. Any information relating to the provision of legal assistance by a solicitor/barrister to his/her client shall be deemed a solicitor's/barrister's secret.

2. The solicitor/barrister shall not be summoned and interrogated as a witness about the circumstances that have come to his/her knowledge in connection with his/her being approached and asked for legal assistance or in connection with the provision thereof.

3. The performance of operational investigation actions and investigation actions in respect of a solicitor/barrister (in particular, on the residential and service premises used by him/her to pursue his/her activity of a solicitor/barrister) is permitted only under a court decision.

The information, things and documents received as the result of operational investigation or investigation activities (including, after suspension or termination of solicitor/barrister status) may be used as evidence for an accusation only when they are not part of the solicitor's/barrister's proceedings relating to his/her clients' cases. The said restrictions shall not extend to an instrument of crime and also items the circulation of which is prohibited or restricted under Russian law.

Chapter 3. The Status of Solicitor/Barrister

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 9 of this Federal Law
See the previous text of the Article

Article 9. Acquisition of the Status of Solicitor/Barrister

1. The following shall be entitled to acquire the status of solicitor/barrister in the Russian Federation: a person having a higher law education background who have graduated from a state-accredited higher professional education institution or is a holder of a scientific degree in law. The said person shall also have at least a two-year work record in legal profession or have undergone probation with a solicitor/barrister formation for a term established by the present Federal Law.

The working record in legal profession of the persons whose higher legal education is their first professional training shall be estimated at the earliest from the time of graduating from the appropriate educational facility.

2. The following are not entitled to seek the status of solicitor/barrister and pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister:

- 1) persons declared in the manner established by Russian law as lacking dispositive capacity or having a limited dispositive capacity;
- 2) persons having a conviction for murder that has not been expunged or lifted.

3. The decision whereby the status of solicitor/barrister is conferred on someone shall be made by the qualification commission of the solicitors'/barristers' chamber of Russian Region (hereinafter referred to as "qualification commission") after the contender for the status of solicitor/barrister (hereinafter also referred to as "contender") has passed a qualification examination.

4. The work record in legal profession required to acquire the status of solicitor/barrister shall include working:

- 1) as a judge;
- 2) in state positions that do not require a higher law education background with federal governmental bodies, governmental bodies of Russian regions, other governmental

bodies;

3) in positions that do not require a higher law education background in the governmental bodies of the USSR, the RSFSR and the Russian Federation which existed in the territory of the Russian Federation prior to the enactment of the effective Constitution of the Russian Federation;

4) in municipal positions that do not require a higher law education background;

5) in positions in the bodies of the Judicial Department under the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation that do not require a higher law education background;

6) in positions in the legal services of organisations that do not require a higher law education;

7) in positions in scientific research institutions that do not require a higher law education background;

8) as a teacher of law in secondary vocational education institutions, higher professional and postgraduate professional institutions;

9) as a solicitor/barrister;

10) as an assistant solicitor/barrister;

11) as a notary.

5. The solicitor/barrister is entitled to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister throughout the territory of the Russian Federation without any additional permission.

6. Foreign citizens and stateless persons who have acquired the status of solicitor/barrister in the manner established by the present Federal Law shall be cleared to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister throughout the territory of the Russian Federation except as otherwise required by a federal law.

Article 10. Clearance to Take a Qualification Examination

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 1 of Article 10 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

1. The person meeting the requirements of Items 1 and 2 of Article 9 of this Federal Law shall be entitled to file with the qualification commission of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a subject of the Russian Federation an application for granting thereto the status of solicitor/barrister.

2. Apart from the application the contender shall file the following with the qualification commission: a copy of his/her personal identity document, a questionnaire containing biographical information, a copy of his/her work record book or another document confirming his/her work record in legal profession, a copy of a document confirming a higher law education background or a scientific degree in law and also other documents in

the cases specified by the legislation on the activity of solicitor/barrister and the Bar. If unreliable information is provided it may serve as ground for a refusal to clear the contender for taking the qualification examination.

3. If necessary, the qualification commission shall within two months arrange a verification of the reliability of the documents and information provided by the contender. In such a case the qualification commission is entitled to ask relevant bodies to perform verification or to confirm the authenticity of the said documents and information. These bodies shall inform the qualification commission of the results of document and information verification or confirm their reliability within one month after the receipt of the qualification commission's request.

4. After the completion of the verification the qualification commission shall adopt a decision whereby the contender is cleared for taking the qualification examination.

5. The decision whereby the contender is refused clearance for taking the qualification examination may be made only on the grounds specified in the present Federal Law. The decision to refuse granting clearance for taking the qualification examination is may be appealed against.

Article 11. The Qualification Examination

1. Regulations on the procedure for taking the qualification examination and assessing contenders' knowledge and also a list of the questions to be offered to contenders shall be elaborated and approved by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

2. The qualification examination shall be composed of written answers to questions (testing) and an oral interview.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 3 of Article 11 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

3. A contender who has failed the qualification examination shall be admitted to a repeated procedure for taking the qualification examination established by this Federal Law at the earliest in one year.

Article 12. Conferring the Status of Solicitor/Barrister

1. Within three months after the filing of an application by the contender asking that the status of solicitor/barrister be conferred thereon the qualification commission shall adopt a decision to confer or refuse conferring the status of solicitor/barrister thereto.

The qualification commission's decision to confer the status of solicitor/barrister to the contender shall enter into force as of the date when the contender takes the oath of solicitor/barrister.

2. The qualification commission shall not be entitled to refuse granting the status of solicitor/barrister to a contender who has passed the qualification examination, except for cases when circumstances are discovered after the qualification examination is passed that can obstruct clearance for the qualification examination. In such cases the decision to refuse conferring the status of solicitor/barrister may be appealed in court.
3. The status of solicitor/barrister shall be conferred on the contender for an indefinite term and it shall not be limited by the specific age of the solicitor/barrister.

Article 13. The Oath of Solicitor/Barrister

1. The contender who has passed the qualification examination take the following oath in the manner established by the chamber of solicitors/barristers:
"I hereby solemnly swear to honestly and fairly execute the duties of solicitor/barrister, to defend the rights, liberties and interests of clients as being governed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the law and the code of professional ethics of solicitor/barrister".
2. As of the date of the oath the contender shall acquire the status of solicitor/barrister and become a member of chamber of solicitors/barristers.

Article 14. Registers of Solicitors/Barristers

1. The territorial body of the federal executive governmental body concerned with justice (hereinafter referred to as "the territorial body of justice") shall keep a register of solicitors/barristers of Russian region (hereinafter referred to as "regional register").
2. Every year, not later than February 1 the territorial body of justice shall forward a copy of the regional register to the chamber of solicitors/barristers. The territorial body of justice shall notify the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a relevant Russian region of amendments made to the territorial register, within ten days after the time of amendment.
3. The procedure for keeping regional registers shall be determined by the federal body of justice.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 15 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 15. Entering Details of a Solicitor/Barrister in the Regional Register

1. When the status of solicitor/barrister is conferred on a contender the qualification commission shall notify accordingly within seven days after the relevant decision the territorial body of justice which within one month after the receipt of the notice shall enter the details of the solicitor/barrister in the regional register and issue an appropriate identity card to the solicitor/barrister.
2. The form of the identity card shall be approved by the federal body of justice. The

following shall be specified in the identity card: the solicitor's/barrister's full name, registration number in the regional register. The identity card shall bear a photograph of the solicitor/barrister with the seal of the territorial body of justice being affixed thereto.

3. The identity card shall be the sole document to confirm the status of solicitor/barrister, except for the instance provided for by Item 5 of this Article

The person whose status of solicitor/barrister is terminated or suspended shall be obliged after rendering the appropriate decision by the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers to deliver his identification card to the territorial body of justice that has issued this identification card thereto.

4. The solicitor/barrister may at the same time be a member of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of only one Russian region, with information about him/her being entered only in one regional register. The solicitor/barrister shall be entitled to pursue his/her activity only in one solicitor/barrister formation founded under the present Federal Law.

5. An solicitor/barrister who has decided on changing his membership of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of one subject of the Russian Federation for membership of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of another subject of the Russian Federation shall notify on it by a registered letter the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the subject of the Russian Federation (hereinafter also referred to as the council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers) of which he is a member.

The council shall notify on the said decision of a solicitor/barrister the territorial body of justice within a 10-day term as of the date of receiving the solicitor's/barrister's notice.

Where a solicitor/barrister has arrears of deductions for the chamber of solicitors/barristers, the council shall not be entitled to direct the said notice pending the solicitor's/barrister's complete repayment of his/her debt.

The territorial body of justice shall exclude data on the solicitor/barrister from the regional register at the latest in one month as of the date of receiving the council 's notice. With this, the solicitor/barrister shall be obliged to deliver his identification card to the territorial body of justice. Instead of the identification card delivered by the solicitor/barrister, the territorial body of justice shall issue to the solicitor/barrister the document proving his/her status of solicitor/barrister. In this document shall be shown the date of entering data on the solicitor/barrister to the regional register and the date of excluding data on the solicitor/barrister from the regional register. The solicitor/barrister shall be obliged within a one-month term as of the date of excluding data on him/her from the regional register to notify on it by a registered letter the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the subject of the Russian Federation, of which he is a member.

The council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the appropriate subject of the Russian Federation within a one-month term as of the date of receiving the said notice from the solicitor/barrister shall verify data on the solicitor/barrister and decide on his/her

admittance to the membership of the chamber of solicitors/ barristers. The council shall notify on this decision the territorial body of justice and the solicitor/barrister within a ten-day term as of the date of rendering the decision.

The territorial body of justice within a one-month term as of the date of receiving the council's notice shall enter data on the solicitor/barrister to the regional register and shall issue to the solicitor/barrister a new identification card.

6. On the day when he/she is granted with the status of solicitor/barrister or his/her details are entered in the regional register after he/she has changed membership of chamber of solicitors/barristers or his/her status of solicitor/barrister was resumed the solicitor/barrister shall notify the council of chamber of solicitors/barristers of the form of solicitor/barrister formation he/she has chosen, within a three-month term after the onset of the said circumstances.

7. The failure to enter information on a solicitor/barrister in a regional register or a failure to issue an identity card to a solicitor/barrister within the term established by the present Federal Law are subject to court appeal.

8. The procedure for a solicitor's/barrister's changing his/her membership of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of one subject of the Russian Federation for membership of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of another subject of the Russian Federation shall be determined by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 16 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 16. Suspension of the Status of Solicitor/Barrister

1. The status of solicitor/barrister is suspended on the following grounds:

- 1) if the solicitor/barrister is elected to a governmental body or a local government body for the period of work on a permanent basis;
- 2) if the solicitor/barrister is unable to execute his/her professional duty for more than six months;
- 3) if the solicitor/barrister is drafted to undergo military service;
- 4) if the solicitor/barrister is declared unaccounted for in accordance with the procedure established by a federal law.

2. If a court adopts a decision to subject a solicitor/barrister to enforced medical measures the court may consider the issue of suspending the status of the solicitor/barrister.

3. A suspension of the status of solicitor/barrister shall ensue a suspension of the guarantees covering a given solicitor/barrister under the present Federal Law, except for the guarantees set out in Item 2 of Article 18 of the present Federal Law.

3.1. The person whose status of solicitor/barrister is suspended shall not be entitled to

practice law, as well as to hold elective offices in the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers or the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers. Failure to observe the provisions of this Item shall entail termination of the status of solicitor/barrister.

4. The decision whereby the status of solicitor/barrister is suspended shall be made by the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the Russian region in whose regional register the details of the solicitor/barrister are recorded.

5. Upon the termination of existence of the grounds specified in Items 1 and 2 of the present article the status of solicitor/barrister shall be resumed by the decision of the council which has decided to suspend it, this being done on the basis of a personal application filed by the solicitor/barrister whose status was suspended.

5.1. A decision of the council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers on suspending the status of a solicitor/barrister or on the refusal to renew the status of solicitor/barrister may be appealed against with court.

6. The council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall within ten days after its decision to suspend or resume the status of solicitor/barrister notify accordingly in writing the territorial body of justice for the purpose of relevant entry being made in the regional register, as well as the person whose status of solicitor/barrister is suspended or renewed, except for the instance of suspending the status of solicitor/barrister for the reason provided for by Subitem 4 of Item 1 of this Article, and the bar establishment where this person has practiced law" shall be added thereto.

Within ten days after the receipt of the said notice the territorial body of justice shall make an entry concerning the suspension or resumption of the status of solicitor/barrister in the regional register.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 17 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 17. Terminating the Status of Solicitor/Barrister

1. The status of solicitor/barrister shall be terminated by the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the subject of the Russian Federation, in whose regional register data on the solicitor/barrister are entered, for the following reasons:

- 1) the solicitor/barrister's filing an application for termination of the status of solicitor/barrister with the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers;
- 2) entry into legal force of the court decision whereby he/she is declared as lacking dispositive capacity or having limited dispositive capacity;
- 3) the solicitor/barrister's decease or entry into legal force of a court decision on declaring him dead;
- 4) entry into force of a court decision whereby the solicitor/barrister is found guilty of

committing a willful crime;

5) detecting the circumstances provided for by Item 2 of Article 9 of this Federal Law;

6) violation of the provisions of Item 3.1 of Article 16 of this Federal Law.

2. The status of a solicitor/barrister may be terminated by decision of the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the subject of the Russian Federation, in whose regional register the data on the solicitor/barrister are entered, on the basis of an opinion of the qualification commission in the event of the following:

1) the solicitor/barrister's failure to discharge or improper discharge of his/her professional duties in respect of his/her principal;

2) the solicitor/barrister's violating the rules of the code of solicitor's/barrister's professional ethics;

3) the solicitor/barrister's failure to discharge or improper discharge of decisions of the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers rendered within the scope of authority thereof;

4) establishing the unreliability of the data presented to the qualification commission in compliance with the requirements of Item 2 of Article 10 of this Federal law;

5) absence in the chamber of solicitors/barristers within four months as of the date of emergence of the circumstances provided for by Item 6 of Article 15 of this Federal Law of the data on the solicitor/barrister's selecting the form of the solicitor/barrister formation.

3. The person whose status of solicitor/barrister is terminated shall not be entitled to practice law, as well as to hold elective offices in the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers or in the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers. Violation of the provisions of this Item shall entail the liability provided for by this Federal Law.

4. The council shall notify in writing the person whose status of solicitor/barrister is terminated on the decision rendered in compliance with Items 1 and 2 of this Article within a ten-day term as of the date of rendering it, except for the instance of terminating the status of solicitor/barrister for the reason provided for by Subitem 3 of Item 1 of this Article, the appropriate solicitor/barrister formation, as well as the territorial body of justice that shall make necessary changes in the regional register.

5. The decision of the council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers rendered for the reasons provided for by Items 1 and 2 of this Article may be appealed with court.

6. The territorial body of justice that has available data on the circumstances serving as a ground for termination of the status of solicitor/barrister shall direct a proposal on termination of the solicitor's/barrister's status to the chamber of solicitors/barristers. If the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers does not consider such proposal within a three-month term as of the date of its coming in, the territorial body of justice shall be entitled to file with court an application for termination of the status of solicitor/barrister.

Article 18. Guarantees of Independence of the Solicitor/Barrister

1. Interference in the activity of solicitor/barrister pursued in compliance with the legislation or any obstruction whatsoever of such activity are prohibited.
2. The solicitor/barrister shall not be held accountable in any way whatsoever (in particular, after the suspension or termination of the status of solicitor/barrister) for an opinion he/she expressed during the pursuit of the activity of solicitor/barrister, unless his/her guilt in a criminal action (omission) is established by a court judgement that have taken effect. The said restrictions shall not extend to the civil legal liability of the solicitor/barrister in respect of the client under the present Federal Law.
3. It is prohibited to ask solicitors/barristers and also the employees of solicitor/barrister formations, chambers of solicitors/barristers or the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers to provide information relating to the provision of legal assistance in connection with specific cases.
4. The solicitor/barrister, the members of his/her family and their property are under protection of the state. The bodies of internal affairs shall take the necessary measures for ensuring the security of the solicitor/barrister, the members of his/her family and their property.
5. The criminal prosecution of a solicitor/barrister shall be done in the observance of the guarantees for the solicitor/barrister envisaged by the legislation on criminal procedure.

Article 19. Insurance of the Risk of Solicitor's/Barrister's Liability

The solicitor/barrister shall insure in compliance with a federal law the risk of his/her professional liability for breach of the terms of the legal assistance contract concluded with the client.

Chapter 4. The Organisation of the Solicitor's/Barrister's

Activity and of the Bar

Article 20. The Forms of Solicitor/Barrister Formations

1. The forms of solicitor/barrister formations are as follows: a solicitor's/barrister's study, college of solicitors/barristers, solicitor/barrister bureau and lawyer's office.
2. Under the present Federal Law the solicitor/barrister is entitled to chose at his/her own discretion the form of solicitor/barrister formation and the place of pursuance of the activity of solicitor/barrister. The solicitor/barrister is obligated to inform the council of chamber of solicitors/barristers in the manner established by the present Federal Law of the form of solicitor/barrister formation and the place of pursuance of the activity of solicitor/barrister he/she has chosen.

3. In the cases specified in Article 24 of the present Federal Law the solicitor/barrister shall pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister in a lawyer's office.

Article 21. The Solicitor's/Barrister's Study

1. A solicitor/barrister who has chosen to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister individually shall found a solicitor's/barrister's study.

2. A notice shall be filed by the solicitor/barrister about the foundation of the solicitor's/barrister's study with the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers by a registered letter, with the details of the solicitor/barrister, location of the solicitor's/barrister's study, the procedure for telephone, telegraph and other communications between the chamber of solicitors/barristers and the solicitor/barrister being specified therein.

3. The solicitor's/barrister's study is not a legal person.

4. The solicitor/barrister who has founded a solicitor's/barrister's study shall open bank accounts in keeping with the legislation, have a seal, rubber stamps and letterhead paper bearing the address and name of the solicitor's/barrister's study complete with an indication of the Russian region on whose territory the solicitor's/barrister's study has been founded.

5. Contracts for provision of legal assistance in a solicitor's/barrister's study shall be concluded between the solicitor/barrister and the client and registered in the books of the solicitor's/barrister's study.

6. As accommodation for his/her study the solicitor/barrister is entitled to use the residential premises owned by him/her or members of his/her family on the latter's consent.

7. The residential premises occupied by the solicitor/barrister and members of his/her family under a lease may be used by the solicitor/barrister to accommodate a solicitor's/barrister's study on the consent of the landlord and all the adults residing together with the solicitor/barrister.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 22 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 22. The College of Solicitors/Barristers

1. Two and more solicitors/barristers are entitled to found a college of solicitors/barristers.

2. The college of solicitors/barristers is a membership-based noncommercial organisation operating under its charter approved by its founders (hereinafter referred to as "charter") and the foundation agreement concluded by them.

3. The founders of a college of solicitors/barristers may be solicitors/barristers the details of which are recorded in only one regional register.

4. In the foundation agreement the founders shall set out the terms for transfer of their property to the college of solicitors/barristers, a procedure for participation in its activity, a procedure and terms for admitting new members into the college of solicitors/barristers, the rights and duties of the founders (members) of the college of solicitors/barristers, a procedure and terms for founders (members) opting out of the college of solicitors/barristers.

5. The charter shall contain the following information:

- 1) the name of the college of solicitors/barristers;
- 2) the location of the college of solicitors/barristers;
- 3) the subject matter and objectives of the activity of the college of solicitors/barristers;
- 4) the sources of property of the college of solicitors/barristers and guidelines for the use thereof (including the presence or absence of the indivisible fund and directions of its use);
- 5) the procedure for administration of the college of solicitors/barristers;
- 6) information on the branches of the college of solicitors/barristers;
- 7) the procedure for re-organisation and liquidation of the college of solicitors/barristers;
- 8) the procedure for amending the charter;
- 9) other provisions not running contrary to the present Federal Law and other federal laws.

6. The provisions of the foundation agreement and the charter shall be binding on the college of solicitors/barristers and on its founders (members).

7. The founders of a college of solicitors/barristers shall direct a notice to the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers on the establishment, re-organisation or liquidation thereof in the form of a registered letter. The notice on establishing or re-organisation of the college of solicitors/barristers must contain data on the solicitors/barristers practicing law in the college of solicitors/barristers, on the location of the college of solicitors/barristers, on the procedure for telephone, telegraph, postal and other ways of communication between the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and the college of solicitors/barristers. Copies of the constituent agreement and the charter thereof attested by a notary must be attached to the notice.

8. The college of solicitors/barristers shall be deemed founded as of the time of its state registration. The state registration of the college of solicitors/barristers and also the making of an entry in the comprehensive state register of legal entities concerning termination of its activity shall be effected in the manner established by the Federal Law on the state registration of legal entities.

9. The college of solicitors/barristers is a legal person, it has an independent balance sheet, opens bank accounts in keeping with the legislation of the Russian Federation, has a seal, rubber stamps and letterhead papers bearing the address and name of the college of solicitors/barristers and an indication of the Russian region in whose territory the college of solicitors/barristers has been founded.

10. A college of solicitors/barristers shall be entitled to establish branches thereof all over

the territory of the Russian Federation, as well as on the territory of a foreign state, if it is provided for by the laws of the foreign state. The college of solicitors/barristers shall direct a notice of establishing or closing a branch thereof by a registered mail to the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the subject of the Russian Federation on whose territory the college of solicitors/barristers is established, as well as to the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the subject of the Russian Federation on whose territory the branch of the college of solicitors/barristers is established. The notice on establishing a branch of the college of solicitors/barristers must contain data on the solicitors/barristers practicing law in the branch of the college of solicitors/barristers, on the location of the college of solicitors/barristers and the branch thereof, on the procedure for telephone, telegraph, postal and other ways of communication between the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and the college of solicitors/barristers, as well as the branch thereof. Copies of the decision on establishing the branch of a college of solicitors/barristers and the regulations on a branch thereof attested by a notary must be attached to the notice. The solicitors/barristers practicing law in a branch of a college of solicitors/barristers shall be members of the college of solicitors/barristers that has established the appropriate branch.

Data on the solicitor/barristers practicing law in a branch of a college of solicitors/barristers shall be entered to the regional register of the subjects of the Russian Federation on whose territory the branch is established.

Data on the solicitor/barristers practicing law in a branch of a college of solicitors/barristers established on the territory of a foreign state shall be entered to the regional register of the subject of the Russian Federation on whose territory the college of solicitors/barristers is established.

11. The property contributed by the founders of a college of solicitors/barristers shall be owned by the college of solicitors/barristers.

12. The members of the college of solicitors/barristers shall not be liable for its liabilities, and the college of solicitors/barristers shall not be liable for the liabilities of its members.

13. Under Russian law the college of solicitors/barristers shall be the tax agent of the solicitors/barristers who are its members, in respect of the incomes they receive in connection with pursuance of the activity of solicitor/barrister and it shall also be their representative in settlements with clients and third persons and in respect of other issues specified in the foundation documents of the college of solicitors/barristers.

A college of solicitors/barristers shall be obliged to notify the chamber of solicitors/barristers on changes in the composition of solicitor/barristers being members of the college of solicitors/barristers.

14. The college of solicitors/barristers shall be accountable under Russian law for defaulting on or improperly performing the duties of tax agent or representative.

15. Contracts for provision of legal assistance in the college of solicitors/barristers shall be

concluded between a solicitor/barrister and a client and they shall be registered in the books of the college of solicitors/barristers.

16. Nothing in the provisions of the present article shall be deemed a limitation of the independence of the solicitor/barrister in his/her carrying out the client's instructions and also of his/her personal professional responsibility in respect of the client.

17. The college of solicitors/barristers shall not be transformed into a commercial organisation or any other non-commercial organisation, except for the cases of transformation of a college of solicitors/barristers into a solicitor/barrister bureau in the manner established by Article 23 of the present Federal Law.

18. The relations occurring in connection with the foundation, activity and liquidation of a college of solicitors/barristers shall be subject to the rules envisaged for non-commercial partnerships by the Federal Law on Non-Commercial Organisations, unless the rules do not contradict the provisions of the present Federal Law.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 23 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 23. The Solicitor/Barrister Bureau

1. Two and more solicitors/barristers are entitled to found a solicitor/barrister bureau.

2. The relations occurring in connection with the foundation and activity of the solicitor/barrister bureau shall be subject to the rules of Article 22 of the present Federal Law except as otherwise envisaged by the present article.

3. The solicitors/barristers who have founded a solicitor/barrister bureau shall conclude a partnership agreement between themselves in simple written form. Under the partnership agreement the solicitors/barristers being partners undertake to join their efforts for the purpose of providing legal assistance on behalf of all the partners. A partnership agreement shall not be presented for the state registration of a solicitor's/barrister's bureau.

4. The following shall be specified in the partnership agreement:

- 1) the effective term of the partnership agreement;
- 2) the procedure for the partners to make decisions;
- 3) the procedure for election of a managing partner and the scope of powers thereof;
- 4) other essential terms and conditions.

5. The management of the common affairs of the solicitor/barrister bureau shall be the responsibility of the managing partner, except as otherwise established by the partnership agreement. Contract for the provision of legal assistance with the client shall be concluded by the managing partner or another partner on behalf of all the partners under the powers of attorney issued by them. The powers of attorney shall include the following: all the

limitations on the scope of powers of the partner concluding contracts and deals with clients and third persons. The said limitations shall be brought to the notice of clients and third persons.

6. The partnership agreement shall be terminated on the following grounds:

- 1) expiration of the effective term of the partnership agreement;
- 2) termination or suspension of the status of a solicitor/barrister who is one of the partners, unless the partnership agreement envisages preservation of the agreement in relations between the rest of the partners;
- 3) rescission of the partnership agreement on the request of one of the partners, unless the partnership agreement envisages preservation of the agreement in relations between the rest of the partners.

7. From the time of termination of the partnership agreement the parties thereto shall be solidarily liable for outstanding common liabilities in respect of clients and third persons.

8. If one of the partners quits the partnership agreement he/she shall transfer to the managing partner proceedings relating to all the cases in respect of which he/she has been providing legal assistance.

9. A solicitor/barrister who has opted out of the partnership agreement shall be liable to clients and third persons for the common liabilities that have occurred during his participation in the partnership agreement.

10. Nothing in the provisions of the present article shall be deemed a limitation of the independence of the solicitor/barrister in his/her carrying out the client's instructions and also of his/her personal professional responsibility in respect of the client.

11. The solicitor/barrister bureau shall not be transformed into a commercial organisation or any other non-commercial organisation, except for the cases of transformation of a solicitor/barrister bureau into a college of solicitors/barristers.

12. After the termination of the partnership agreement the solicitors/barristers shall conclude a new partnership agreement. If no new partnership agreement is concluded within one month after the termination of the effective term of the previous partnership agreement the solicitor/barrister bureau shall be subject to transformation into a college of solicitors/barristers or liquidation.

From the time of termination of the partnership agreement and until the time of transformation of the solicitor/barrister bureau into a college of solicitors/barristers or the conclusion of a new partnership agreement the solicitors/barristers shall not be entitled to enter into contracts for the provision of legal assistance.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 24 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 24. The Lawyer's Office

1. If in the territory of one court district the total number of solicitors/barristers in all the solicitor/barrister formations located in the territory of this court district is less than two per federal judge the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall found a lawyer's office on the proposal of the executive body of a relevant Russian region.
2. The lawyer's office is a non-commercial organisation set up in the form of an institution. The issues of formation, re-organisation, transformation, liquidation and activity of the lawyer's office shall be governed by the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law on Non-Commercial Organisations and the present Federal Law.
3. A proposal of the executive body of a subject of the Russian Federation on establishing a lawyer's office must include the following data:
 - 1) on the judicial district where the establishment of the lawyer's office is required;
 - 2) on the number of judges in this judicial district;
 - 3) on the number of solicitor/barristers required in this judicial district;
 - 4) on the material-and-technical and financial support of the activities the lawyer's office, including on the premises provided to the lawyer's office, on the office equipment passed over to the lawyer's office, as well as on the sources of financing and on the amount of assets allocated for paying wages to the solicitor/barristers directed to the lawyer's office for work.
4. The council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers, after coordinating with the executive power body of the subject of the Russian Federation the terms provided for by Subitem 4 of Item 3 of this Article, shall decide on establishing a lawyer's office , shall approve the candidacies of the solicitor/barristers directed to the lawyer's office for work and send by registered mail a notice on establishing the lawyer's office to the executive body of the subject of the Russian Federation.
5. The council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers shall endorse the procedure for directing solicitors/barristers to a lawyer's office for work. With this, the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers may provide for paying to the solicitors/barristers exercising their professional activities at lawyer's offices additional remuneration at the expense of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

Federal Law No. 122-FZ of August 22, 2004 amended Article 25 of this Federal Law.
The amendments shall enter into force from January 1, 2005
See the previous text of the Article

Article 25. The Contract for the Provision of Legal Assistance

1. The activity of solicitor/barrister shall be pursued under a contract between the solicitor/barrister and the client.
2. The contract is a civil legal agreement conclude in simple written form between the client

and the solicitor(s)/barrister(s) for the provision of legal assistance to the client proper or to a person designated by the client.

The issues of rescission of a contract for the provision of legal assistance shall be governed by the Civil Code of the Russian Federation with the exemptions specified in the present Federal Law.

3. Irrespective of the specific regional register in which an entry is made about him/her, the solicitor/barrister shall be entitled to conclude a contract with a client with no regard to the latter's place of residence or whereabouts.

4. Below are the substantial terms and conditions of the contract:

1) indication of the solicitor(s)/barrister(s) who has/have accepted instructions to perform as a solicitor (solicitors) and also his/her/their belonging to a solicitor/barrister formation and to a chamber of solicitors/barristers;

2) the subject matter of the instructions;

3) conditions and the payment of the principal amount of remuneration for the assistance provided legal assistance or an indication of the fact that legal assistance is provided free of charge to the principal in accordance with the Federal Law "On Legal Aid in the Russian Federation";

4) the procedure and rate of compensation for the expenses incurred by the solicitor/barrister in connection with performance under the instructions except in cases where legal aid is the principal charge, in accordance with the Federal Law "On Legal Aid in the Russian Federation";

5) the scope and character of the liability of the solicitor's(solicitors')/barrister's(barristers') who have accepted the instructions to perform under them.

5. The solicitor's/barrister's right to a fee and a compensation of expenses incurred in connection with his/her performance under instructions shall not be assigned to third persons without a special consent of the client.

6. The fee payable by the client to the solicitor/barrister and/or the compensation for the expenses incurred by the solicitor/barrister in connection with performance under instructions shall be paid into the cash office of a relevant solicitor/barrister formation or remitted to the settlement account of the solicitor/barrister formation in the manner and within the term set out in the contract.

7. At the expense of the fee received the solicitor/barrister shall bear professional expenses towards:

1) the common needs of the chamber of solicitors/barristers at the rate and in the procedure determined by the meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers;

2) the maintenance of a relevant solicitor/barrister formation;

3) the insurance of professional liability;

4) other expenses relating to the pursuit of the activity of solicitor/barrister.

Federal Law No. 214-FZ of July 24, 2007 amended Item 8 of Article 25 of this Federal Law. The amendments shall enter into force from September 7, 2007

See the Item in the previous wording

8. The work of a solicitor/barrister taking part as counsel for the defence in criminal proceedings on the appointment of bodies of inquiry, preliminary investigation or court shall be paid for at the expense of the federal budget. Expenses towards these purposes shall be taken into account in a federal law on the federal budget for next year under a relevant target expense item.

The amount of remuneration payable to the lawyer participating in criminal court proceedings as the defence counsel on the appointment of inquiry bodies, preliminary investigation bodies, prosecutor or court and the procedure for paying it shall be established by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 9 of Article 25 of this Federal Law. The amendments shall enter into force from January 1, 2005

See the previous text of the Item

9. The material-and-technical and financial support to rendering legal aid in regions difficult of access and in sparsely populated areas shall be an expense commitment of a subject of the Russian Federation.

The procedure for reimbursing the expenses of the solicitor/barrister rendering legal aid to the Russian Federation citizens free of charge in the procedure established by Article 26 of this Law shall be determined by the laws and other normative legal acts of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Federal Law No. 214-FZ of July 24, 2007 amended Item 10 of Article 25 of this Federal Law. The amendments shall enter into force from September 7, 2007

See the Item in the previous wording

10. The rate of the additional fee paid at the expense of the funds of chamber of solicitors/barristers to a solicitor/barrister taking part as counsel for the defence in criminal proceedings on the appointment of bodies of inquiry, preliminary investigation or court or as representative in civil proceedings, court-appointed, and the lawyer provides legal assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation for free in accordance with the Federal Law "On Legal Aid in the Russian Federation" and the order of payment of such additional compensation shall be established annually by the Board Bar Association.

Article 26. Provision of Legal Assistance to Citizens of the Russian Federation Free of

Charge

Federal Law No. 134-FZ of October 28, 2003 amended Item 1 of Article 26 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

1. Advocates provide legal assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation for free under the Federal Law "On Legal Aid in the Russian Federation."
2. Payment of attorneys that provide legal assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation free of charge under the state system of legal aid and compensation for their expenses are expense commitment of the Russian Federation.

Article 27. The Assistant Solicitor/Barrister

1. The solicitor/barrister is entitled to have assistants. Assistant solicitors/barristers may be persons with higher, incomplete higher or secondary law education background, except for the persons specified in Items 2 of Article 9 of the present Federal Law.
2. The assistant solicitor/barrister is not entitled to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister.
3. The assistant solicitor/barrister shall keep solicitor/barrister secret.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 4 of Article 27 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

4. The assistant solicitor/barrister shall be hired to perform work on the terms of a labour contract concluded with the solicitor/barrister formation and in case when the solicitor/barrister pursues his/her activity in a solicitor's/barrister's study - with the solicitor/barrister being employers in respect of the person. A solicitor/barrister formation shall be entitled to make a term labour contract with a person ensuring the activities of one solicitor/barrister for the time of exercise by the latter of his/her professional activities in this solicitor/barrister formation.
5. Social insurance for the assistant solicitor/barrister shall be arranged by the solicitor/barrister formation with which the assistant solicitor/barrister works and in case when the solicitor/barrister pursues his/her activity in a solicitor's/barrister's study - by the solicitor/barrister in whose solicitor's/barrister's study he/she works.

Article 28. The Probationer of a Solicitor/Barrister

1. A solicitor/barrister with a work record of five years and more is entitled to have probationers. The probationers of a solicitor/barrister may be persons having higher law education background, except for the persons specified in Item 2 of Article 9 of the present Federal Law. The term of training shall range from one to two years.
2. The probationer of a solicitor/barrister shall pursue his/her activity under the guidance of

the solicitor/barrister, carrying out his/her specific instructions. The probationer of a solicitor/barrister is not entitled to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister on his/her own.

3. The probationer of a solicitor/barrister shall keep the solicitor/barrister secret.

4. The probationer of a solicitor/barrister shall be hired to perform work on the terms of a labour contract concluded with the solicitor/barrister formation and in case when the solicitor/barrister pursues his/her activity in a solicitor's/barrister's study - with the solicitor/barrister being employers in respect of the person.

5. Social insurance for the probationer of a solicitor/barrister shall be arranged by the solicitor/barrister formation with which the probationer works and in case when the solicitor/barrister pursues his/her activity in a solicitor's/barrister's study - by the solicitor/barrister in whose solicitor's/barrister's study he/she works.

Article 29. The Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers of a Russian Region

1. The chamber of solicitors/barristers is a non-governmental noncommercial organisation based on the mandatory membership of the solicitors/barristers of one Russian region.

2. The chambers of solicitors/barristers shall operate on the basis of the general provisions set out in the present Federal Law as concerning organisations of this type.

3. The chamber of solicitors/barristers shall have its name containing an indication of its organisational legal form and the Russian region in whose territory it is founded.

4. The chamber of solicitors/barristers shall be formed to ensure the provision of high-qualification legal assistance, access to such assistance for the general public throughout the territory of a given Russian region, the organisation of the legal assistance provided to citizens of the Russian Federation free of charge, the performance of representative function and defence of the interests of solicitors/barristers in governmental bodies, local government bodies, public associations and other organisations, control over the professional background of the persons cleared to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister and the observance of the code of professional ethics of solicitor/barrister.

5. The chamber of solicitors/barristers is formed by a foundation meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers.

The chamber of solicitors/barristers is a legal entity, has an independent balance sheet, it opens a settlement account and other accounts in banks in compliance with Russian law, and it also has a seal, rubber stamps and letterhead paper bearing its name and an indication of the Russian region in whose territory it has been formed.

6. The solicitors/barristers shall not be liable for the liabilities of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall not be liable for the liabilities of chamber of solicitors/barristers.

7. The chamber of solicitors/barristers shall be subject to state registration which shall be effected on the basis of a decision of the foundation meeting (conference) of

solicitors/barristers and in the manner established by the federal law on the state registration of legal entities.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 supplemented Article 29 of this Federal Law with Item 7.1:

7.1. A chamber of solicitors/barristers shall not be subject to reorganisation. The chamber of solicitors/barristers of a subject of the Russian Federation may be liquidated on the basis of a federal constitutional law on establishing within the Russian Federation a new subject in the procedure set up by federal law.

8. In the territory of a Russian region only one chamber of solicitors/barristers may be formed and this chamber shall not be entitled to form its structural units, branches and representative offices in the territories of other Russian regions. Formation of interregional and other inter-territorial chambers of solicitors/barristers is prohibited.

9. The decisions of the bodies of a chamber of solicitors/barristers adopted within the scope of their powers shall be binding on all the members of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

10. The chamber of solicitors/barristers is not entitled to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister on its own behalf and also to pursue entrepreneurial activity.

Article 30. The Meeting (Conference) of Solicitors/Barristers

1. The supreme body of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a Russian region shall be the meeting of solicitors/barristers. If the number of members of the chamber of solicitors/barristers exceeds 300 the supreme body of the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall be the conference of solicitors/barristers. The meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be convened at least once a year.

The meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be deemed competent if attended by at least two thirds of the members of the chamber of solicitors/barristers (delegates of the conference).

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 2 of Article 30 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

2. The following shall be within the scope of authority of a meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers:

1) forming the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a subject of the Russian Federation, including the election of new members to the council and termination of authority of the council's members subject to replacement in compliance with the procedure

for the council's renewal (rotation) provided for by Item 2 of Article 31 of this Federal Law, deciding on the early termination of the authority of the council's members, as well as endorsing the council's decisions on the early termination of the authority of the council's members whose status of solicitor/barrister is terminated or suspended;

2) electing members of the inspection commission and election of members of the qualification commission from among solicitor/barristers;

3) electing a representative or representatives to the All-Russia Congress of Solicitor/Barristers (hereinafter also referred to as the Congress);

4) determining the rate of mandatory deductions made by solicitor/barristers towards the general needs of the chamber of solicitors/barristers;

5) approving an estimate of outlays on the maintenance of the chamber of solicitors/barristers;

6) approving a report of the inspection commission on the results of inspection of the chamber of solicitors'/barristers' financial and economic activities;

7) approving the council's reports, including on administration of the estimate of outlays on the maintenance of the chamber of solicitors/barristers;

8) endorsing the agenda of a meeting (conference) of solicitor/barristers;

9) determining the location of the council ;

10) establishing targeted funds of the chamber of solicitors/barristers;

11) establishing incentives and penalties for solicitor/barristers in compliance with the code of solicitor's/barrister's professional ethics;

12) rendering other decisions in compliance with this Federal Law.

3. The decisions of the meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be made by simple majority vote of the solicitors/barristers attending the meeting (of the delegates attending the conference).

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 31 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 31. The Council of Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers

1. The council of chamber of solicitors/barristers is a collective executive body of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

2. The council shall be elected by a meeting (conference) of solicitor/barristers by secret ballot, shall include 15 persons at the most from among members of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and shall be subject to renewal (rotation) once every two years by one third. With this, the provisions of Item 6 of Article 41 of this Federal Law shall not apply. During a regular rotation the president of a chamber of solicitors/barristers shall introduce

for consideration by the council the candidacies of the council members for dropping out, as well as candidacies of solicitors/barristers for filling vacancies of members of the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers. The candidacies proposed by the president after approval thereof by the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall be introduced to a meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers for consideration and approval.

Where a meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers does not endorse the presented candidacies, the president of the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall only introduce new candidacies to the meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers after their consideration and approval by the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

3. The council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers:

- 1) shall elect from among its members the president of the chamber of solicitors/barristers for a four-year term and on his/her proposal one or several vice-presidents for a two-year term, shall determine the authority of the president and vice-presidents. With this, one and the same person may not hold the office of the president of a chamber of solicitors/barristers for more than two terms running;
- 2) during the intervals between meetings (conferences) of solicitors/barristers shall decide on the early termination of the authority of the council members whose status of solicitor/barrister is terminated or suspended. These decisions shall be introduced to a regular meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers for endorsement;
- 3) shall determine the electoral quotient at a conference and a procedure for electing delegates thereto;
- 4) shall ensure the accessibility of legal aid all over the territory of a subject of the Russian Federation, including legal aid rendered to citizens of the Russian Federation free of charge in the instances provided for by this Federal Law. With that end in view, the council shall decide on establishing on the proposal of the executive body of the subject of the Russian Federation lawyer's offices and shall direct solicitors/barristers to lawyer's offices for work in the procedure established by the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers;

Federal Law No. 214-FZ of July 24, 2007 amended Subitem 5 of Item 3 of Article 31 of this Federal Law. The amendments shall enter into force from September 7, 2007

See the Subitem in the previous wording

- 5) shall determine the procedure for rendering legal aid by the solicitors/barristers participating as defence counsels in criminal court proceedings appointed by inquiry bodies, preliminary investigation bodies or court; shall bring this procedure to the knowledge of the said bodies and solicitors/barristers, and shall exercise control over following it by solicitors/barristers;

- 6) shall determine the amount of additional fees paid for the expense of the Bar

Association lawyer providing legal assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation for free in the public system of free legal aid and (or) is involved as a defense in criminal proceedings for the appointment of inquiry, the preliminary investigation or the court or as representative in civil proceedings court-appointed, and the order of payment of such additional remuneration;

7) shall represent the chamber of solicitors/barristers in state power bodies, local self-government bodies, public associations and other organisations;

8) shall assist raising professional qualifications of solicitors/barristers, including the approval of the programme of raising solicitors'/barristers' qualifications and of training probationers for solicitors/barristers, shall arrange the professional training in compliance with these programmes;

9) shall consider complaints against actions (omission to act) of solicitors/barristers subject to an opinion of the qualification commission;

10) shall protect solicitors/barristers' social and professional rights;

11) shall assist providing solicitor/barrister formations with official premises;

12) shall arrange information support to solicitors/barristers, as well as the exchange of working experience between them;

13) shall exercise methodological activities;

14) shall call at least once a year a meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers and shall draw up the agenda thereof;

15) shall dispose of the property of the chamber of solicitors/barristers in compliance with the estimate and purpose of the property;

16) shall endorse the rules on the council and inspection commission and the list of the staff members of the chamber of solicitors/barristers;

17) shall determine the rate of remuneration of the president and vice-presidents, of other members of the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and members of the inspection and qualification commissions within the limits of the estimate of outlays on the chamber of solicitors'/barristers' maintenance endorsed by the meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers;

18) shall keep the register of solicitor/barrister formations and branches thereof on the territory of the appropriate subject of the Russian Federation;

19) shall give explanations within the scope of authority thereof in reply to solicitors'/barristers' enquiries in respect of the probable actions of solicitors/barristers in a complex situation concerning the observance of ethical rules on the basis of the code of solicitor's/barrister's professional ethics.

4. If the council of chamber of solicitors/barristers fails to observe the provisions of the present Federal Law the powers thereof may be terminated before due time at a meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers. An off-schedule meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be convened on the request of at least half the members of the

chamber of solicitors/barristers, on the request of the territorial body of justice or by decision of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

In the event of systematic failures of the council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers to carry out decisions of the bodies of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers rendered within the scope of authority of these bodies, including in the event of failure to make mandatory deductions towards the general needs of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers for over six months, an extraordinary meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be called by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

In a decision of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers must be specified the grounds for calling an extraordinary meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers, the time and place of holding the meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers, the electoral quotient and procedure for electing delegates to the conference.

5. The meetings of the council shall be convened by the president of the chamber of solicitors/barristers as the need for it arises but at least once a month. The meeting shall be deemed competent if attended by at least two thirds of council members.

6. The decisions of the council shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the council members attending the meeting and they shall be binding on all the members of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

7. The president of the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall represent the chamber of solicitors/barristers in relations with governmental bodies, local government bodies, public associations and other organisations as well as natural persons, acts on behalf of the chamber of solicitors/barristers without powers of attorney, issue powers of attorney and enter into deals in the name of the chamber of solicitors/barristers, dispose of the property of the chamber of solicitors/barristers by the decision of the council in keeping with the cost-estimate and with the purpose of property, hire and dismiss the employees of the staff of the chamber of solicitors/barristers, convene meetings of the council, ensure implementation of decisions of the council and decisions of the meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers.

The president of a chamber of solicitors/barristers shall initiate disciplinary proceedings in respect of a solicitor/barrister or solicitors/barristers in the presence of an allowable cause for it and in the procedure provided for by the code of solicitor's/barrister's professional ethics.

8. The president and vice-presidents and also the other members of the council may combine their work with the council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and the activity of solicitor/barrister, and receive in such a case a fee for the work with the council at the rate set by council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers.

9. The council of chamber of solicitors/barristers shall not pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister in its own name and also shall not pursue entrepreneurial activity.

Article 32. The Audit Commission

1. For the purpose of monitoring the financial and economic activities of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and its bodies an audit commission shall be elected from among the solicitors/barristers of which details are recorded in the regional register of a relevant Russian region.
2. The audit commission shall render an account about the results of its activity to the meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 3 of Article 32 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

3. The members of the audit commission may combine their work with the audit commission with the activity of solicitor/barrister, and to receive in such a case a fee for their work with the audit commission at the rate set by council of a chamber of solicitors/barristers. Members of the inspection commission shall not be entitled to hold some other elective office in the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 33 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 33. The Qualification Commission

1. from a chamber of solicitors/barristers - seven solicitors/barristers, including the president of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of the subject of the Russian Federation. With this, a solicitor/barrister being a member of the commission must have at least a five-year record of practicing law;
2. The qualification commission shall be formed for a two-year term as composed of 13 commission members according to the following representation ratios:
 - 1) from the chamber of solicitors/barristers: seven solicitors/barristers. In this case the solicitor/barrister being a member of the commission is to have at least a five-year work record as a solicitor/barrister;
 - 2) from the territorial body of justice: two representatives;
 - 3) from the legislative (representative) governmental body of the Russian region: two representatives. Here the representatives shall not be deputies, civil servants or municipal employees. Procedure for the election of the said representatives and the standards applicable to them shall be determined by laws of Russian regions;
 - 4) from the supreme court of the republic, a territorial, regional court, the court of a

federal-significance town/city, the court of the autonomous region and the court of an autonomous district: one judge;

5) from the arbitration court of the Russian region: one judge.

3. Chairman of the qualification commission shall be the president of the solicitor/barrister ex officio.

4. The qualification commission shall be deemed formed and it shall be competent to adopt decisions if composed of at least two thirds of the members of the qualification commission as specified in the present item.

5. The meetings of the qualification commission shall be convened by the chairman of the qualification commission as the need for it arises but at least four times a year. The meeting shall be deemed competent if attended by at least two thirds of qualification commission members.

Decisions rendered by the qualification commission shall be legalized in the form of a record to be signed by the chairman and the secretary thereof. If, when voting, a member of the qualification commission expresses a dissenting opinion that differs from the decision adopted by the majority of votes of the members of the qualification commission attending the meeting, this opinion presented in writing shall be attached to the record of the meeting.

6. The decisions of the qualification commission concerning the issue of holding qualification examinations for contenders for the status of solicitor/barrister shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the members of the qualification commission who attend the meeting, with the voting being done by personal ballot. The ballot form shall be approved by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers. The ballots, the texts of written answers to questions (testing) shall be attached to the minutes of the meeting of the qualification commission and preserved in the document files of the chamber of solicitors/barristers as strict-accountability papers for a three-year term. The decision of the qualification commission shall be announced to the contender immediately after the voting.

7. According to the results of consideration of a complaint the qualification commission shall issue a statement as to the availability in the actions (omissions) of the solicitor/barrister of a breach of the norms of the code of professional ethics of solicitor/barrister, a default on or improper execution of duties by the solicitor/barrister. The statement of the qualification commission shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the qualification commission members attending the meeting, with the voting done by personal ballot. The ballot form shall be approved by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers. The solicitor/barrister and the person who has filed a complaint against the solicitor's/barrister's actions (omission) shall be entitled to an objective and just consideration of the complaint. The said persons shall be entitled to invite a solicitor/barrister they chose at their own discretion to take part in the consideration of the

complaint.

8. The solicitors/barristers being members of the qualification commission may combine their work with the qualification commission and the activity of solicitor/barrister, and to receive in such a case a fee for their work with the qualification commission at the rate set by council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

Article 34. The Property of a Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers

1. The property of a chamber of solicitors/barristers shall be made up at the expense of deductions effected by solicitors/barristers towards the common needs of the chamber of solicitors/barristers, grants and charitable aid (donations) received from legal entities and natural persons in the manner established by the legislation of the Russian Federation. The chamber of solicitors/barristers shall be the owner of this property.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 2 of Article 34 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

2. The costs of common needs of the chamber of solicitors/barristers shall be deemed expenses towards the fees payable to the solicitors/barristers working with the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers, compensation payable to these solicitors/barristers for expenses incurred in connection with their work with these bodies, expenses towards wages payable to the employees of the staff of the chamber of solicitors/barristers, material maintenance of the operation of the chamber of solicitors/barristers and by the decision of council of the chamber of solicitors/barristers - expenses towards payment for additional compensation of the solicitors/barristers rendering legal assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation free of charge and the other expenses specified in the cost-estimate of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 35 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 35. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers of the Russian Federation

1. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers of the Russian Federation shall be an all-Russia non-governmental non-profit organisation uniting chambers of solicitors/barristers of the subjects of the Russian Federation on the basis of obligatory membership therein.

Federal Law No. 214-FZ of July 24, 2007 amended Item 2 of Article 35 of this Federal

Law. The amendments shall enter into force from September 7, 2007

See the Item in the previous wording

2. As a self-governing body of solicitors/barristers in the Russian Federation, the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers of the Russian Federation is formed to ensure representation and defence of the interests of solicitors/barristers in governmental bodies, local government bodies, co-ordinate the activities of chambers of solicitors/barristers, ensure a high level of the legal assistance provided by solicitors/barristers.

The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be an organisation authorised to represent the interests of solicitors/barristers and chambers of solicitors/barristers of the subjects of the Russian Federation in relations with the federal state power bodies, when resolving issues concerning the interests of the community of solicitors/barristers, including issues connected with the allocation of budgetary funds for paying wages to the solicitors/barristers participating in criminal court proceedings as defence counsel appointed by inquiry bodies, preliminary investigation bodies or court.

3. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers is a legal entity, it has a cost-estimate, settlement bank account and other bank accounts in compliance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, a seal, rubber stamps and letterhead paper bearing its name.

4. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be formed by the all-Russian congress of solicitors/barristers. Formation of other organisations and bodies with the functions and powers similar to those of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers is prohibited.

5. The charter of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be adopted by the all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers.

6. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be subject to state registration in accordance with the procedure established by the Federal Law on the State Registration of Legal Entities.

6.1. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall not be subject to re-organisation. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers may be only liquidated on the basis of a federal law.

7. The decisions of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers and its bodies adopted within the scope of their powers shall be binding on all the chambers of solicitors/barristers and all solicitors/barristers.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 36 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 36. All-Russia Congress of Solicitors/Barristers

1. The supreme body of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be an All-Russia Congress of Solicitors/Barristers. The Congress shall be called at least once every two years. The Congress shall be deemed authorized if at least two thirds of the chambers of solicitors/barristers of the subjects of the Russian Federation take part in the work thereof.

Chambers of solicitors/barristers shall have equal rights and equal representation at the Congress. Each chamber of solicitors/barristers shall have one vote, regardless of the number of representatives thereof.

2. The All-Russia Congress of Solicitors/Barristers:

- 1) shall adopt the charter of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers and shall endorse the introduction of amendments and additions thereto;
- 2) shall adopt the code of solicitor's/barrister's professional ethics and shall endorse introduction of amendments and additions thereto;
- 3) shall form the composition of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers, including the election of new members thereto and termination of the authority of the council members to be replaced. In compliance with the procedure for the council's renewal (rotation) provided for by Item 2 of Article 37 of this Federal Law, shall decide on the early termination of the authority of the council members, as well as shall endorse the council's decision on the early termination of the authority of the council's members whose status of solicitor/barrister has been terminated or suspended;
- 4) shall determine the rate of deductions by chambers of solicitors/barristers towards the general needs of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers on the basis of the number of members of a chamber of solicitors/barristers;
- 5) shall endorse an estimate of outlays on the maintenance of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers;
- 6) shall endorse reports of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers including on the administration of an estimate of outlays on the maintenance of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers;
- 7) shall elect members of the inspection commission of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers for a two-year term and shall endorse a report thereof on the results of financial and economic activities of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers;
- 8) shall endorse the rules of the Congress;
- 9) shall determine the location of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers;
- 10) shall exercise other functions provided for by the charter of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Article 37 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Article

Article 37. The Council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/ Barristers

1. The council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers is a collective executive body of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

2. The council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be elected by the All-Russia Congress of Solicitors/Barristers by secret ballot, shall include 30 persons at the most and shall be subject to renewal (rotation) once every two years by one third.

When effecting a regular rotation, the president of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall introduce to the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers for consideration candidacies of the council members for dropping out, as well as candidacies of solicitors/barristers for filling the vacancies of members of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers. After endorsement by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers the candidacies advanced by the president shall be introduced to the Congress for consideration and approval.

If the Congress does not approve the advanced candidacies, the president of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall only introduce new candidacies to the Congress for approval after their consideration and endorsement by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

3. The council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers:

1) shall elect from among its members the president of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers for a four-year term and on the proposal thereof one or several vice-presidents of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers for a two-year term, shall determine the authority of the president and vice-presidents. With this, one and the same person may not hold the office of the president of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers for more than two terms running;

2) during the periods between sessions of the Congress shall decide on the early termination of the authority of the council members whose status of solicitor/barrister is terminated or suspended. These decisions shall be introduced to a regular session of the Congress for approval;

3) shall represent the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers in state power bodies, local self-government bodies, public associations and other Russian organisations, as well as outside the Russian Federation;

4) shall coordinate the activities of chamber of solicitors/barristers;

5) shall assist raising the qualifications of solicitors/barristers, shall develop uniform methods of professional training and re-training of solicitors/barristers, assistant solicitors/barristers and probationers for solicitors/barristers;

6) shall protect social and professional rights of solicitors/barristers;

7) shall participate in holding expert examinations of draft federal laws on the matters

pertaining to the activity of solicitors/barristers;

8) shall arrange informational support to solicitors/barristers;

9) shall generalize disciplinary practices in chambers of solicitors/barristers and shall work out the necessary recommendations in connection with it;

10) shall exercise methodological activities;

11) shall call at least once every two years the all-Russia Congress of Solicitors/Barristers and draw up the agenda thereof;

12) shall dispose of the property of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers in compliance with an estimate and the purpose of the property;

13) shall endorse the electoral quotient for the Congress from chambers of solicitors/barristers;

14) shall endorse the rules of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers and the list of staff members of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers;

15) shall determine the rate of remuneration for the president and vice-presidents, for other members of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers and members of the inspection commission of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers within the limits of an estimate of outlays on the maintenance of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers endorsed by the Congress;

16) shall exercise other functions provided for by the charter of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

4. If the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers fails to comply with the provisions of the present Federal Law the powers of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers may be terminated before due time at the all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers. An off-schedule all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers shall be convened by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers on the request of one third of the chambers of solicitors/barristers of the Russian regions.

5. The meetings of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be convened by the president of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers as the need for it arises but at least once in three months. The meeting shall be deemed competent if attended by at least two thirds of the members of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

6. The decisions of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the members of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers attending the meeting.

7. The president of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall represent the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers in relations with governmental bodies, local government bodies, public associations and other organisations as well as natural persons, act on behalf of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers without powers of attorney, issue powers of attorney and enter into deals in the name of the Federal Chamber

of Solicitors/Barristers, dispose of the property of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers by the decision of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers in compliance with the cost-estimate and the purpose of the property, hire and dismiss the employees being members of the staff of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers, convene the meetings of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers, ensure implementation of the decisions of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers and the decisions of the all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers.

8. The president and vice-presidents and also the other members of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers may combine their work with the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers and the activity of solicitor/barrister, and receive in such a case a fee for the work with the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers at the rate set by the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

9. The council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers is prohibited to pursue the activity of solicitor/barrister and also pursue entrepreneurial activity.

Article 38. The Property of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/ Barristers

1. The property of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be made up at the expense of deductions effected by chambers of solicitors/barristers, grants and charitable aid (donations) received from legal entities and natural persons in the manner established by the legislation of the Russian Federation. The Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers is the owner of this property.

Federal Law No. 163-FZ of December 20, 2004 amended Item 2 of Article 38 of this Federal Law

See the previous text of the Item

2. The costs of common needs of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers shall be deemed expenses towards the fees payable to the solicitors/barristers working with the bodies of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers, compensation payable to these solicitors/barristers for expenses incurred in connection with their work with these bodies, expenses towards wages payable to the employees of the staff of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers, material maintenance of the operation of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers and the other expenses specified in the cost-estimate of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

Article 39. Public Associations of Solicitors/Barristers

Solicitors/barristers are entitled to form public associations of solicitors/barristers and/or to

be members (participants) of public associations of solicitors/barristers under Russian law. Public associations of solicitors/barristers shall not have a right to pursue the functions of solicitor/barrister envisaged by the present Federal Law and also the functions of the chambers of solicitors/barristers of Russian regions or the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers or the bodies thereof.

Chapter 5. Conclusive and Transitional Provisions

Article 40. Retaining the Status of Solicitor/Barrister

- 1.** The solicitors/barristers being members of the colleges of solicitors/barristers formed under the legislation of the USSR and RSFSR and operating in the territory of the Russian Federation as of the time of entry into force of the present Federal Law (hereinafter referred to as "the colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law") who meet the requirements set out in Items 1 and 2 of Article 9 of the present Federal Law shall retain the status of solicitor/barrister after the entry into force of the present Federal Law without a need for them to take a qualification examination and for the qualification commissions to make decisions to confer the status of solicitor/barrister thereon.
- 2.** A college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall within one month after the entry into force of the present Federal Law forward a list of its members signed by the head of this college of solicitors/barristers and attested by its seal to the territorial body of justice. The said list shall be forwarded to the territorial body of justice of the Russian region where the members of the college of solicitors/barristers are registered as payers of the uniform social tax with a tax body. The Moscow Regional College of Solicitors/Barristers and the Leningrad Regional College of Solicitors/Barristers shall forward lists of their members to the territorial body of justice for Moscow Region and to the territorial body of justice for Leningrad Region respectively, with no regard to the place where the members of these colleges of solicitors/barristers are registered as taxpayers of the uniform social tax with tax bodies.
- 3.** The list sent to the territorial body of justice shall contain the full names of the solicitors/barristers of which details are presented for the purpose of being entered in a relevant regional register. The following documents shall be attached to the list:
 - 1) the solicitors'/barristers' personal applications for entering their details in a relevant regional register;
 - 2) copies of the solicitors'/barristers' personal identity documents;
 - 3) questionnaires containing biographical information about the solicitors/barristers;
 - 4) copies of work record books or other documents confirming work record in legal

profession;

5) copies of documents confirming higher law education background or scientific degree in law;

6) copies of decisions on admittance into a college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law.

See Administrative Rules of Procedure for the Exercise by Regional Agencies of the Federal Registration Service of the State Function of Keeping the Register of Solicitors/Barristers of a Constituent Entity of the Russian Federation and of Issuance of Identification Cards to Solicitors/Barristers approved by Order of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation No. 20 of February 5, 2008

4. The territorial body of justice shall arrange for verification of the reliability of the documents and information provided. Here the territorial body of justice is entitled to apply to relevant bodies and organisation if necessary.

5. Having confirmed the reliability of the said documents and information the territorial body of justice shall within three months after the entry into force of the present Federal Law makes an entry about the solicitors/barristers specified in Item 1 of the present article in the regional register and publish the said lists arrange according to the alphabetical order in the mass media. The failure to make an entry about a solicitor/barrister in a regional register is subject to court appeal. Until the issuance of the identity cards specified in Article 15 of the present Federal Law to solicitors/barristers the identity cards issued thereto before the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall remain in effect.

6. The colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall stop admitting new members of the colleges of solicitors/barristers not later than July 1, 2002. From the date of entry into force of the present Federal Law until the date of formation of a qualification commission in a specific Russian region the conferring of the status of solicitor/barrister shall be suspended.

Article 41. Holding Foundation Meetings (Conferences) of Solicitors/ Barristers

1. The territorial bodies of justice jointly with the presidia of the colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall arrange for holding foundation meetings (conferences) of solicitors/barristers in the Russian regions within five months after the entry into force of the present Federal Law. The composition of a foundation meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be made up of the solicitors/barristers included in a regional register in keeping with Article 40 of the present Federal Law who were members of colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law as of July 1, 2001.

2. The colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present

Federal Law shall elect delegates at their general meetings to attend the foundation conference of solicitors/barristers at the representation ratio set by the territorial body of justice jointly with the presidia of these colleges of solicitors/barristers.

3. If solicitors/barristers are registered as payers of the uniform social tax with tax bodies of one Russian region but are members of a college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law of another Russian region the territorial body of justice at the place where the solicitors/barristers are registered as taxpayers shall arrange for holding a general meeting of such solicitors/barristers at which they shall elect delegates to attend the foundation conference of solicitors/barristers. The representation ratio for such solicitors/barristers shall be set by the organisers of the foundation conference of solicitors/barristers of the relevant Russian region.

4. Foundation meetings (conferences) of solicitors/barristers shall be deemed competent if attended by at least two thirds of the solicitors/barristers (conference delegates). The foundation meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall elect three delegates to attend the first all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers.

5. Responsibility for opening of a foundation meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be vested in the oldest solicitor/barrister attending the meeting (conference). A presidium shall be elected by the solicitors/barristers attending the meeting (conference) to conduct the session.

6. The decisions of a foundation meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the solicitors/barristers attending the meeting (conference) . The organisers of foundation meeting (conferences) of solicitors/barristers shall be entitled to establish a procedure for nominating candidates to the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers with due regard to the need for representation of the various colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law in the executive body of the chamber of solicitors/barristers pro rata to the numbers of their members.

7. Solicitors/barristers not being participants in the foundation meeting (conference) of solicitors/barristers may be elected to the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a Russian region.

Article 42. Holding the First All-Russia Congress of Solicitors/ Barristers

1. The federal body of justice jointly with the chambers of solicitors/barristers arrange for holding the first all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers within seven months after the entry into force of the present Federal Law.

2. The first all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers shall be deemed competent if attended by at least two thirds of the congress delegates.

3. Responsibility for opening the first all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers shall be vested in the oldest solicitors/barrister attending the congress. A presidium shall be

elected by the congress delegates for the purpose of conducting sessions.

4. The decisions of the first all-Russia congress of solicitors/barristers shall be adopted by simple majority vote of the congress delegates.

5. Solicitors/barristers not being delegates of the first allRussia congress of solicitors/barristers may be elected to the bodies of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a Russian region and the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers.

Article 43. Bringing the Organisational Legal Forms of the Colleges of Solicitors/Barristers Formed Prior to the Entry into Force of the Present Federal Law in Line with the Present Federal Law

1. Under the present Federal Law the organisational legal forms of the colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall be brought into line with the present article.

2. After the registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a Russian region the colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall not be entitled to pursue the functions of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a Russian region and the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers specified in the present Federal Law, except for the functions specified in Article 44 of the present Federal Law.

3. Within six months after the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers of a Russian Region the colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed after the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall bring their organisational legal forms in line with the present Federal Law.

4. The bringing of the organisational legal forms of colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law and based on membership and having the features of a non-commercial organisation in line with present Federal Law shall be done by the decision of a general meeting of the solicitor/barrister formation by means of its reorganisation (devolution, separation, transformation) into one or several solicitor/barrister formations having the organisational legal forms specified by the present Federal Law.

5. The territorial bodies of justice shall be responsible for monitoring the observance of legislation when colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law are reorganised.

6. The present Federal Law recognises the right of the solicitors/barristers working with a lawyer's office to demand that its devolution from the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law, and that this lawyer's office be transformed into a non-commercial organisation with one of the organisational legal forms specified in the present Federal Law. The decision on devolution of a lawyer's office and its transformation into a college of solicitors/barristers shall be made by simple majority

vote of the solicitors/barristers recorded on the list of staff and working in the lawyer's office as of the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers. Here, all the solicitors/barristers working in the lawyer's office as of the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers, in particular, those who did not take part in the devolution demand shall have a right to become founders (members) of the newly emerging college of solicitors/barristers.

The decision on devolution of a lawyer's office and its transformation into a solicitor/barrister bureau shall be adopted by two thirds of votes of the solicitors/barristers recorded on the list of staff and working with the lawyer's office as of the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers. Here, only the solicitors/barristers who have concluded the partnership agreement shall become founders (members) of the newly emerging solicitor/barrister bureau.

7. The decision of solicitors/barristers of a lawyer's office on devolution from a college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall be forwarded within two months after the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers by a registered letter to the presidium of the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law and also to a relevant territorial body of justice. The decision received shall be considered by a general meeting of the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law within four months after the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

8. The rights and duties of a college of solicitors/barristers under re-organisation which was formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall be transferred to the newly formed legal entity under a separation balance sheet. In such a case the property in kind and rights in rem used earlier by the lawyer's office shall be transferred to the newly formed legal entity.

9. The present Federal Law recognises the right of the solicitors/barristers working with a lawyer's office being an institution of a college of solicitors/barristers which was formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law to obtain the legal title to the property of the said institution, with the organisational legal form of the institution being later brought in line with the present Federal Law. The decision to file a claim for transfer of the legal title shall be made by two thirds of the solicitors/barristers recorded on the list of staff and working with the solicitor/barrister bureau as of the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

10. The claim for transfer of legal title shall be forwarded within two months after the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers by a registered letter to the presidium of the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law and also to a relevant territorial body of justice. The claim received shall be considered by a general meeting of the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the

entry into force of the present Federal Law within five months after the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

11. As the result of satisfaction of the claims specified in Items 6 and 9 of the present article the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall transfer the legal title to the property of solicitor/barrister bureau or the property of the lawyer's office under a deed to the solicitors/barristers working with the bureau or office in equal shares, given the fact that these shares are produced out of the indivisible fund of the newly emerging college of solicitors/barristers or the solicitor/barrister bureau.

12. After satisfaction of the claims specified in Items 6 and 9 of the present article the solicitors/barristers which remained in the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall be entitled to adopt a decision whereby the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law is transformed (split) into one or several solicitor/barrister formations with the organisational legal forms specified in the present Federal Law.

13. The splitting up of a college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law into two or more solicitor/barrister formations shall be done if requested by at least half of the solicitors/barristers being members of the college of solicitors/barristers under re-organisation who remain members of the college of solicitors/barristers after satisfaction of the claims specified in Items 6 and 9 of the present article. The rights and duties of the college of solicitors/barristers under re-organisation shall be transferred to the legal entities newly emerging as the result of the split in compliance with a separation balance sheet. Distribution of the rights and duties of a college of solicitors/barristers under reorganisation which was formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law among the newly formed legal entities shall be effected in proportion to the numbers of the solicitors/barristers who are participants in the newly formed legal entities. The legal entities that have emerged as the result of splitting up a college of solicitors/barristers which was formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall not be entitled to use the name and the symbols of the college of solicitors/barristers re-organised.

14. The demand for splitting up a college of solicitors/barristers which was formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law into two or more solicitor/barrister formations shall be forwarded within five months after the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers by a registered letter to the presidium of the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law and also to a relevant territorial body of justice. The demand received shall be considered by a general meeting of the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law within six months after the date of registration of the chamber of solicitors/barristers.

15. The transformation of a college of solicitors/barristers or another solicitor/barrister formation formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law into one of the organisational legal forms specified by the present Federal Law shall be carried out by the decision of the general meeting adopted by majority vote of the members of the specific solicitor/barrister formation. Here, the rights and duties of the college of solicitors/barristers or another solicitor/barrister formation shall be transferred to the newly formed college of solicitors/barristers or solicitor/barrister bureau under a deed.

16. The colleges of solicitors/barristers and solicitor/barrister bureaux newly formed as the result of re-organisation shall be successors of the colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law, in compliance with the separation balance sheet or the deed.

17. From the date of entry into force of the present Federal Law the colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall not be entitled to transfer their members and property between lawyer's offices, solicitor/barrister bureaux and equally to alienate the property of the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law otherwise than in the manner established by the present article.

18. If within three months after the receipt of the demands specified in Items 6, 9 and 13 of the present article the general meeting of a college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law does not endorse a separation balance sheet or deed and also if the said college of solicitors/barristers fails to file lists of the solicitors/barristers who are its members together with the necessary documents specified in Article 40 of the present Federal Law with the territorial body of justice within 45 days after the entry into force of the present Federal Law the arbitration court shall appoint an outside administrator for the said college of solicitors/barristers and instruct him/her to carry out its re-organisation, on the complaint of a relevant territorial body of justice.

19. As of the date of appointment of the outside administrator he/she shall acquire all the powers to manage the college of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law subject to re-organisation.

20. The outside administrator shall act in the name of the college of solicitors/barristers being re-organised in court, he/she shall draw up a separation balance sheet or deed and hand it over to the court for consideration together with the foundation documents of the legal entities emerging as the result of the re-organisation. The endorsement of the said documents by the arbitration court shall be deemed ground for the state registration of the newly emerging legal entities.

21. The state registration of the legal entities formed as the result of bringing colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law in line with the present Federal Law shall be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the federal law on the state registration of

legal entities.

22. Notary-attested copies of the following documents shall be filed with the bodies responsible for state registration of legal entities:

- 1) the re-organisation decision;
- 2) the separation balance sheet or deed;
- 3) the foundation documents of the newly emerging legal entities;
- 4) documents confirming the fact that entries concerning the solicitors/barristers being founders have been made in a regional register.

23. The re-organisation of colleges of solicitors/barristers and other solicitor/barrister formations formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law shall be subject to the rules of reorganisation of legal entities established by the Civil Code of the Russian Federation and the Federal Law on Non-Commercial Organisations if they are not in conflict with the present article.

Federal Law No. 214-FZ of July 24, 2007 amended Article 44 of this Federal Law. The amendments shall enter into force from September 7, 2007

See the Article in the previous wording

Article 44. Ensuring the Provision of Legal Assistance to Citizens of the Russian Federation Free of Charge and Also by Appointment

1. Within 20 days after their registration all chambers of solicitors/barristers shall adopt decisions concerning the procedure for rendering legal assistance to Russian Federation citizens free of charge and also the procedure for solicitors'/barristers' participation as counsels for the defence in criminal proceedings by the appointment of bodies of inquiry, bodies of preliminary investigation or court.

2. Until the adoption of the said decisions the chambers of solicitors/barristers responsibility for the provision of legal assistance to Russian Federation citizens free of charge and also for the participation of solicitors/barristers as counsels for the defence in criminal proceedings by the appointment of bodies of inquiry , bodies of preliminary investigation or court shall be borne by the colleges of solicitors/barristers formed prior to the entry into force of the present Federal Law.

Article 45. Entry into Force of the Present Federal Law

1. The present Federal Law shall enter into force as of July 1, 2002, except for Subitem 6 of Item 1 of Article 7 of the present Federal Law which shall enter into force as of January 1, 2007.

2. From the date of entry into force of the present Federal Law:

- 1) Law of the USSR No. 1165-X of November 30, 1979 on the Bar in the USSR (Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR, item 846, No. 49, 1979) shall be declared invalid

in the territory of the Russian Federation;

2) the following shall be declared invalid:

the Law of the RSFSR of November 20, 1980 on Endorsing the Regulations on the Bar in the RSFSR (Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta RSFSR, item 1596, No. 48, 1980);

Resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR No. 1560-I of July 8, 1991 on Measures for Social Protection of the Citizens Pursuing the Practices of Solicitor/Barrister in the Colleges of Solicitors/Barristers of the RSFSR when the Economy Is in Transit to the Market Relations (Vedomosti Syezda Narodnykh Deputatov RSFSR i Verkhovnogo Soveta RSFSR, item 977, No. 28, 1991).

3. Until the entry into force of Subitem 6 of Item 1 of Article 7 of the present Federal Law the solicitor/barrister shall be entitled to effect voluntary insurance of the risk of his/her professional liability. In such a case the insurance premiums paid by the solicitor/barrister under an insurance policy shall be classified as funds deducted by the solicitor/barrister under Item 7 of Article 25 of the present Federal Law.

4. Until the formation of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers the councils of the chambers of solicitors/barristers of Russian regions shall exercise the following powers of the council of the Federal Chamber of Solicitors/Barristers:

1) the elaboration and endorsement of temporary provisions on the procedure for holding the qualification examination and assessing the knowledge of contenders and also a list of the questions offered to contenders;

2) the endorsement of the ballot forms mentioned in Items 6 and 7 of Article 33 of the present Federal Law.

5. The President of the Russian Federation is hereby proposed and the Government of the Russian Federation is hereby instructed to bring their regulatory legal acts in line with the present Federal Law.

President

of the Russian Federation V. Putin

Moscow, the Kremlin