

Order of the Ministry of Justice

(No. 111)

The Administrative Measures for Law Firms, which were deliberated and adopted at the executive meeting of the Ministry of Justice on May 28, 2008, are hereby promulgated and shall come into force as of the date of promulgation.

Minister Wu Aiying

July 18, 2008

Administrative Measures for Law Firms

Chapter I. General Provisions

Article 1 For the purposes of regulating the establishment of law firms and strengthening the supervision and administration of law firms, these Measures are formulated in accordance with the Lawyers Law of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Lawyers Law) and other relevant laws and regulations.

Article 2 Law firms are practicing institutions of lawyers. A law firm shall be set up lawfully and acquire a practicing license.

Article 3 A law firm shall practice in pursuance of law, intensify its internal management and supervision over the practice of lawyers and bear corresponding legal liabilities. No organization or individual shall illegally interfere with the practice of or impair the lawful rights and interests of any law firm.

Article 4 The judicial administrative organ shall supervise and guide the law firms under the Lawyers Law and these Measures.

The lawyers associations shall, under the Lawyers Law, charters of the associations and industrial norms, requiring law firms to show industrial self-discipline.

Chapter II. Conditions for Establishment of Law Firms

Article 5 A law firm may be established by lawyers as a partnership, by an individual lawyer, or with the capital contributions made by the state.

A partnership lawyer may be established in the form of ordinary partnership or special ordinary partnership.

Article 6 A law firm to be established shall meet the following basic requirements:

1. It has its own name, place of residence and articles of association;
2. It has lawyers who meet the provisions of the Lawyers Law and these Measures;
3. The promoters shall be lawyers with certain practicing experience and can work as full-time lawyers and none of them shall have any record of punishment due to malpractice during the three years prior to establishment;
4. It has assets which reach the amount as prescribed in these Measures.

Article 7 An ordinary partnership law firm to be established shall meet the following requirements besides those as described in Article 6 of these Measures:

1. There is a written agreement;
2. There are 3 or more partners as promoters;
3. The promoters shall be lawyers with 3 or more years of practicing experience and can work as full-time lawyers; and

4. There are assets of 300, 000 yuan or more.

Article 8 A special ordinary partnership law firm to be established shall meet the following requirements besides those as described in Article 6 of these Measures:

1. There is a written partnership agreement;
2. There are 20 or more partners as the promoters;
3. The promoters shall be lawyers with 3 or more years of practicing experience and can work as full-time lawyers; and
4. There are assets of 10 million yuan or more.

Article 9 A law firm to be established by an individual shall meet the following requirements besides those as described in Article 6 of these Measures:

1. The promoter shall be a lawyer with 5 or more years of practicing experience and is able to work as a full-time lawyer; and
2. There are assets of 100, 000 yuan or more.

Article 10 A law firm to be established with money contributed by the state shall, besides meeting the general requirements as prescribed in the Lawyers Law, have at least 2 lawyers who meet the provisions of the Lawyers Law and is able to work as full-time lawyers.

Where it is necessary for the state to make capital contributions to establish a law firm, the local judicial administrative organ at the county level shall be responsible for the preparatory establishment. Prior to the application for approval of establishment, the relevant departments of the local people's government at the county level shall grant to the law firm a staffing quota and provide it with sufficient funds.

Article 11 The judicial administrative organ of a province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government shall, according to the status of local economic and social development and the development of the lawyering industry, make proper adjustments to the amounts of assets for the establishment of ordinary partnership law firms, special ordinary partnership law firms and individual law firms as prescribed in these Measures and implement them upon approval of the Ministry of Justice.

Article 12 The name to be for a law firm to be established shall conform to the provisions of the Ministry of Justice on the administration of names of law firms and a name search shall be made under relevant provisions prior to the application for approval of establishment.

Article 13 The candidate for the person-in-charge of a law firm shall, together with the application for approval of establishment, be submitted to the examination and approval organ for examination and approval.

The person-in-charge of a partnership law firm shall be elected from among the partners and elected by all partners of the law firm. The person-in-charge of a law firm established with state capital shall be elected upon the recommendation of the lawyers of this law firm and shall be subject to assent of the local judicial administrative organ at the county level.

The promoter of an individual law firm shall be the person-in-charge of this law firm.

Article 14 The articles of association of a law firm shall cover

1. the name and residence address of the firm;
2. the aim of the law firm;
3. the organic form of the law firm;
4. the amount of assets for establishment;
5. the duties, procedures for the appointment and change of the person-in-charge of the law firm;
6. the setup and functions of the decision-making and management bodies of the law firm;
7. rights and obligations of lawyers of the law firm;

8. the major management bylaws of the law firm on practice, fees, financial affairs, distribution, etc.;
9. the causes, procedures, liquidation measures for the dissolution of the law firm;
10. the interpretation and revision procedures for the articles of association of the law firm; and
11. Other matters necessary to be specified.

For the establishment of a partnership law firm, the articles of association shall give clear indications of the name of the partners as well as the amount and way of capital contribution of the partners besides those as mentioned above.

The articles of association of the law firm shall not contravene any relevant law, regulation or rule.

The articles of association of the law firm shall be effective as of the day on which the judicial administrative organ of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government approves the establishment of the law firm.

Article 15 A partnership agreement shall give clear indications of

1. the partners, including the name, place of residence, identity card number and practicing experience of each lawyer;
2. the amount and manner of the capital contribution of each partner;
3. the rights and obligations of the partners;
4. the duties, procedures for the appointment and change of the person-in-charge of the law firm;
5. the duties and rules of procedure of the meetings of partners;
6. the distribution of profits and assumption of debts;
7. the conditions and procedures for becoming a partner, termination and removal of a partner;
8. the methods and procedures for settlement of disputes between partners, and liabilities of partners for breaching the partnership agreement;
9. the procedures for interpretation and revision of the partnership agreement;
10. other matters necessary to be specified.

The partnership agreement of the law firm shall not contravene any relevant law, regulation or rule.

The partnership agreement shall, upon the consent and signatures of all partners realized through negotiations, be effective as of the day on which the judicial administrative organ of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government approves the establishment of the law firm.

Chapter III Licensing Procedures for Establishment of Law Firms

Article 16 An application for the establishment of a law firm shall be subject to the preliminary examination of the judicial administrative organ at the level of a districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government and then be submitted to the judicial administrative organ of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government for examination and approval, which shall decide to approve or disapprove the establishment.

Article 17 To apply for the establishment of a law firm, the applicant shall submit the following materials to the judicial administrative organ at the level of a districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government:

1. An application;
2. The name and articles of association of the law firm;
3. The name list, resumes, identity certificates and practicing lawyer certificates of the promoters, and candidate of the person-in-charge of the law firm;
4. A certificate of the place of residence; and
5. A certificate of assets.

Apart from the aforesaid materials, the applicant shall submit a partnership agreement if it applies for establishing a partnership law firm.

For a law firm to be established with state capital, the applicant shall submit the approval documents issued by the relevant departments of the local people's government on the staffing quota and guaranteeing the provision of the operating funds to the law firm to be established.

To apply for approval of establishment, the applicant shall faithfully fill out a Registration Form of Application for Establishment of Law Firm.

Article 18 The judicial administrative organ at the level of a districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government shall handle the application for the establishment of a law firm in light of the following circumstances, respectively:

1. It shall accept it if the application materials are complete and meet the statutory form;
2. If the application materials are incomplete or do not meet the statutory form, it shall, on the spot or within 5 days after it receives the application materials, inform, once and for all, the applicant of the contents that should be supplemented or corrected. If the applicant makes supplements and corrections as required, it shall accept the application. If it fails to inform the applicant of the contents that should be supplemented or corrected, it shall be deemed to have accepted the application on the date of receipt of the application materials.
3. If any matter in the application does not meet the statutory conditions obviously, or if the applicant refuses or is unable to supplement or correct the relevant materials, it shall reject the application and make an explanation in writing to the applicant.

Article 19 The judicial administrative organ which has accepted an application shall finish the examination of the application materials within 20 days from the date of acceptance.

During the course of examination, it may consult the opinions of the judicial administrative organ at the county level of the place at which the to-be-established law firm is located. If it is necessary to investigate into and verify the relevant information, it may require the applicant to provide relevant certification materials or authorize the judicial administrative organ at the county level to verify it.

It shall, upon examination, issue examination opinions on whether the application for establishment of a law firm meets the statutory conditions and whether the application materials are genuine and complete, and shall submit the examination opinions and all the application materials to the judicial administrative of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government.

Article 20 The judicial administrative organ of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government shall, within 10 days as of the date of receipt of the examination opinions and all the application materials submitted by the application acceptance organ, examine the application and decide to approve or disapprove the establishment of law firm.

If it approves the establishment, it shall, within 10 days as of the date of decision, issue to the applicant a law firm practicing license.

If it disapproves the establishment, it shall make an explanation in writing to the applicant.

Article 21 A law firm practicing license shall consist of an original and a duplicate. The original license shall be hung in the office and the duplicate shall be kept available for inspection. The original license and duplicate are of identical legal effect.

The contents of, specifications for the making of, and the numbering of a law firm practicing license shall be prescribed by the Ministry of Justice. The law firm practicing licenses shall be uniformly produced by the Ministry of Finance.

Article 22 An applicant for the establishment of a law firm shall, within 60 days after he fetches the practicing license, and under the relevant provisions, prepare the corporate seals, open a bank account, handle the tax registration, finish all preparations for starting the business operations of the law firm, and submit the specimen of the impressions of the official seal and financial seal as well as the bank account of the law firm to the local judicial administrative organ at the level of districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government.

Article 23 The judicial administrative organ of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government that approved the establishment of a law firm shall, under either of the following circumstances, revoke the former decision of approval of the establishment and take back and cancel the law firm practicing license:

1. The applicant obtained the approval of establishment by deception, bribery or other improper means; or
2. The approval of establishment was granted to an application which did not meet the statutory conditions, or the approval was made by violating the statutory procedures.

Chapter IV Changes to and Termination of Law Firms

Article 24 Where a law firm changes its name, person-in-charge, articles of association or partnership agreement, it shall be subject to the examination of the judicial administrative organ at the level of a districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government and then be submitted to the original examination and approval organ for approval. The changes shall be made by following the procedures for the establishment of law firms.

Where a law firm changes its place of residence or partner, it shall, via the judicial administrative organ at the level of a districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government, report to the original examination and approval organ for archival purposes within 15 days as of the date of change.

Article 25 Where a law firm changes its place of residence to a different county, city without districts, or district under the jurisdiction of a municipality, if it has to change the judicial administrative organ responsible for its routine supervision and administration, it shall, after finishing the record-filing formalities, notify the county-level judicial administrative organ of the place to which it moves via the local judicial administrative organ at the level of districted city or the judicial administrative organ of the municipality directly under the Central Government,

Where a law firm plans to move its place of residence to different province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government, it shall comply with the procedures for deregistration of a law firm and those for establishment of a new one.

Article 26 The change of partners of a law firm includes addition of new partners, termination of partners, and removal of partners for statutory causes or upon resolution of the partners' meeting.

A new partner shall come from the full-time practicing lawyers and have 3 or more years of practicing experience, except that it is otherwise provided for by the Ministry of Justice. For a lawyer who has been given a punishment of suspension of practice for 6 months or longer, if 3 years haven't lapsed as of the date of expiration of the punishment period, he shall not act as a partner.

Where a partner is terminated or removed, the law firm shall, under the relevant law, its articles of association and the partnership agreement, dispose of the pertinent properties, rights and interests, debts, and other matters.

Where it has to revise the partnership agreement due to any change to partners, the post-revision partnership agreement shall be submitted for approval under paragraph 1 of Article 24 of these Measures.

Article 27 Where a law firm changes its organic form, it shall not apply for change under paragraph 1 of Article 24 of these Measures until it, on its own initiative, has ensured the smooth transition of business operations, arranged its personnel, disposed of its assets and debts, and made corresponding revisions to its articles of association and partnership agreement.

Article 28 Where, due to split or merger, a law firm has to modify the registration of or deregister the former law firm or set up a new law firm, after it has ensured the smooth transition of business operations, arranged its personnel, disposed of its assets and debts, it shall submit the split agreement or merger agreement and other application materials and follow the relevant provisions of these Measures.

Article 29 A partnership law firm which has been established for 3 or more years and has 20 or more practicing lawyers may establish branches. The establishment of a branch shall be subject to the examination and approval of the judicial administrative organ of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government where the branch is to be established. The administrative measures for branches of law firms shall be formulated separately.

Article 30 A law firm shall be terminated if it is under any of the following circumstances:

1. It can not keep the statutory conditions for establishment and fails to meet the relevant conditions after rectification within a time limit;
2. Its practicing license is revoked;
3. It decides to dissolve on its own initiative; or
4. Other circumstances under which it shall be terminated under any law or administrative regulation.

After a law firm acquires the approval of establishment, if it fails to start its business operations within 6 months or suspends its business operations for a full year, it shall be deemed to have stopped business automatically and thus shall be terminated.

Prior to the expiration of the time limit for the punishment of suspension of business for rectification, it shall not decide to dissolve on its own initiative.

Article 31 A law firm shall, after the occurrence of an event for termination, make an announcement to the general public and shall liquidate under the relevant provisions, divide and dispose of the assets, and repay the debts, etc. If it is terminated due to revocation of its practicing license, the judicial administrative organ which made the decision of punishment shall make an announcement to the general public. If it is terminated for other causes and refuses to make an announcement, the judicial administrative organ at the level of a districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government shall make an announcement to the general public.

After the occurrence of an event for termination, the law firm shall not accept any new business.

A law firm shall, within 15 days after the end of liquidation, go through the deregistration formalities by submitting a deregistration application, liquidation report, its practicing license and other relevant materials to the judicial administrative organ at the level of a districted city or of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government, which shall issue examination opinions and send its examination opinions together with all the deregistration application materials to the original examination and approval organ for examination and approval.

Where a law firm is deregistered, it shall deliver, manage and deal with its business archives, financial account books and seals in accordance with relevant provisions.

Chapter V. Rules on Practices and Management of Law Firms

Article 32 A law firm shall, under the Lawyers Law and other relevant laws, regulations, rules and industrial

norms, formulate practice management and other internal management bylaws and intensify the supervision over the practice of its lawyers.

The lawyers shall accept the supervision and management of the law firm.

Article 33 The business to be undertaken by the lawyers of a law firm shall be uniformly accepted by the law firm, which shall sign a written entrustment contract with the clients.

When a law firm accepts business, it shall examine to see if there is any conflict of interest and shall not accept any business which has conflict of interest with the business it undertakes or with its client.

Article 34 Where a law firm organizes and carries out business activities, it shall direct its lawyers to practice in pursuance of law, fulfill the obligation of legal aid, work out rules on collective discussion and reporting for instructions about the major complicated cases, supervise the lawyers' compliance of laws, regulations, rules, occupational ethics and practicing disciplines, and timely correct any problem it finds out.

Article 35 A law firm shall uniformly charge fees under relevant provisions, work out sound rules on the charge of fees and timely investigate into and punish the exposed violations for or complaints about illicit charge of fees.

A law firm shall, under relevant provisions, formulate sound financial management rules, establish and adopt a reasonable distribution system and incentive mechanism.

A law firm shall pay taxes according to law.

No law firm shall engage in any business other than legal services.

Article 36 A partnership law firm or state-funded law firm shall buy unemployment, old-age, medical and other social insurances for its lawyers and the auxiliary personnel under relevant provisions.

Where an individual law firm hires lawyers and auxiliary personnel, it shall buy social insurances for them according to the provision of the preceding paragraph.

Article 37 A law firm shall, under relevant provisions, set up practice risk, career development, social security funds, etc.

The detailed measures for the lawyers practice liability insurance shall be formulated separately.

Article 38 Where a lawyer causes any loss to the party concerned due to his illicit practice or fault, the law firm in which he works shall be liable for compensation. After the law firm makes the compensation, it may recourse against the lawyer with intention or gross negligence.

The partners of an ordinary partnership law firm shall bear unlimited joint and several liabilities for the debts of the law firm. Where one or more partners of a special ordinary partnership law firm causes any debt to the law firm due to his (their) intention or gross negligence during his (their) practice, he (they) shall bear unlimited liabilities or unlimited joint and several liabilities, and the other partners shall bear the liabilities to the extent of their respective proportion of properties of the law firm. Where a partner causes any debt to the law firm for a reason other than intention or gross negligence during his practice, all partners shall bear unlimited joint and several liabilities. The promoter of an individual law firm shall bear unlimited liabilities for the debts of the law firm. A state-funded law firm shall bear the liabilities for its debts with all its assets.

Article 39 The person-in-charge of a law firm shall be responsible for the management of its businesses and internal affairs, and shall, on behalf of the law firm, bear the liabilities for the violations of the law firm.

The meeting of partners or meeting of lawyers shall be the decision-making body of a partnership law firm or of a state-funded law firm. To make a significant decision, an individual law firm shall fully listen to the opinions of the lawyers it hires.

A law firm shall, under its articles of association, set up relevant management departments or be equipped with full-time managerial personnel to assist its person-in-charge to carry out the routine management.

Article 40 A law firm shall strengthen the occupational ethics and practicing disciplines education to its lawyers, organize and carry out knowledge study and experience exchange activities and provide convenience for lawyers to accept business training and continuing education.

Article 41 A law firm shall formulate rules on the investigation and handling of complaints, timely investigate into, punish and correct the violations of laws, regulations, and rules committed by lawyers during their practice, and mediate and settle the disputes with clients during their practice. Where it believes that it is necessary to give a lawyer whom is complained about an administrative punishment or industrial punishment, it shall timely report to the local county-level judicial administrative organ or to the lawyers association.

Where a lawyer fails to pass the annual evaluation or severely violates the articles of association or management rules of the law firm, the law firm may terminate the employment relationship with him or remove him through the meeting of partners, and report the handling result to the local county-level judicial administrative organ or to the lawyers association for archival purposes.

For a lawyer who has become a partner, if he is given a punishment of suspension of practice for 6 months or longer, he shall not act as a partner within 3 full years from the date when the punishment enters into force to the expiration of the punishment period.

Article 42 A law firm shall establish an annual evaluation system for the practice of lawyers, evaluate its lawyers' performances in practice and their compliance of occupational ethics and practicing disciplines, assess their grades, give them awards or punishments and establish lawyers' practice archives.

Article 43 A law firm shall, in the first quarter of each year, submit to the judicial administrative organ at the level of districted city via the local county-level judicial administrative organ a report about its practice and the results of evaluation of lawyers' practice of the previous year. A law firm in a municipality directly under the Central Government shall directly submit a report about its practices and the results of evaluation of lawyers' practice to the judicial administrative department of the district (county) where it is located and accept the annual inspection and evaluation of the judicial administrative organ. The detailed measures for the annual inspection and evaluation shall be formulated by the Ministry of Justice.

Article 44 A law firm shall, under relevant provisions, formulate sound rules on the management of archives, timely put the case files and materials relating to its practice into archives and properly preserve them.

Article 45 A law firm shall properly preserve and use its practicing license and shall not alter it, or lend or rent it to others. If it is lost or mutilated, it shall timely report to the local judicial administrative organ at the county level and via the local judicial administrative organ at the level of districted city or the judicial administrative organ of the district (county) of the municipality directly under the Central Government, apply to the original examination and approval organ for a new one. Where the practicing license of a law firm is lost, the law firm shall publish a loss statement on a local periodical or newspaper.

Where a law firm is given a punishment of revocation of approval or revocation of its practicing license, the local judicial administrative department at the county level shall take back its practicing license.

Where a law firm is given a punishment of suspension of business for rectification, it shall, during the period from the punishment decision's entry into force to the expiration of the punishment period, have its practicing

license kept by the local judicial administrative organ at the county level.

Chapter VI Supervision and Administration of Judicial Administrative Organs

Article 46 A judicial administrative organ at the county level shall conduct routine supervision and administration of the practice of law firms within its administrative area and exercise the following functions:

1. Supervising law firms' compliance of laws, regulations and rules during their practice;
2. Supervising law firms' formulation and implementation of bylaws on practice and internal management;
3. Supervising law firms' keeping statutory conditions for establishment as well as their implementation of the provisions on reporting changes for approval or for archival purposes;
4. Supervising law firms' liquidation and application for deregistration;
5. Supervising law firms' annual evaluation of lawyers' practice and reporting the annual summary of practice to the next higher level;
6. Accepting the tip-offs and complaints against the law firm;
7. Supervising law firms' execution of administrative punishments and their rectification; and
8. Other functions as prescribed by the Ministry of Justice and by the judicial administrative organ of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government.

Where a judicial administrative organ at the county level, during its routine supervision and administration, finds out or verifies upon investigation any problem existing in the practice and internal management of a law firm, it shall arrange a warning talk with the person-in-charge or pertinent lawyer of the law firm, order it to make a correction and supervise its rectification. If it considers that the violation of the law firm should lead to an administrative punishment, it shall raise a punishment proposal to the judicial administrative organ at the next higher level. If it considers it necessary to give it an industrial punishment, it shall deliver the case to the lawyers' association.

Article 47 A judicial administrative organ at the level of districted city shall exercise the following supervisory and administrative functions:

1. Gathering information about the practice, organization, teams and bylaws of law firms within its administrative area, and formulating measures for intensifying the work relating to lawyers;
2. Directing and supervising the routine supervision and administration of the judicial administrative organs of the next lower level, organizing and carry out special supervision and inspection over law firms, and guiding the investigation and punishment of major cases of complaint against law firms;
3. Commending law firms;
4. Under its statutory functions, imposing administrative punishments on the law firms which have committed violations, and raising punishment proposals to the judicial administrative organ at the next higher level in the event that it considers it necessary to give a violator a punishment of revocation of its practicing license;
5. Organizing and carrying out annual inspection and evaluation of law firms;
6. Accepting and examining the applications for the establishment or change of law firms, establishment of branches, and applications for deregistration, etc.;
7. Establishing practicing archives for law firms, taking charge of the disclosure of information about approval, changes, termination, and practicing archives of law firms; and
8. Other functions as prescribed by laws, regulations and rules.

A judicial administrative organ of a district (county) of a municipality directly under the Central Government shall exercise the functions as described in the preceding paragraph.

Article 48 A judicial administrative organ of a province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government shall exercise the following supervisory and administrative functions:

1. Setting forth plans and relevant policies on the development of law firms within its administrative area and formulating regulatory documents on the administration of law firms;
2. Gathering information about the organization, teams, bylaws and businesses of law firms within its administrative area;

3. Supervising and directing the supervision and administration of the judicial administrative organs at the lower level and guiding the special supervision and inspection and the annual inspection and evaluation of law firms;
4. Organizing activities for commending law firms;
5. Imposing the punishment of revocation of practicing license on any law firm with severe violations, supervising the administrative punishment work of the judicial administrative organs at the next lower level, and handling the relevant administrative reconsideration and appeal cases;
6. Handling such matters as examination and approval of establishment of law firms, examination and approval or record-filing of changes, examination and approval of establishment of branches, and cancellation of practicing licenses;
7. Taking charge of the disclosure of significant information relating to law firms within its administrative area; and
8. Other functions as prescribed by laws and regulations.

Article 49 The judicial administrative organs at all levels and the functionaries thereof shall supervise and administer law firms. None of them shall hinder the lawful practice of any law firm, impair the legitimate rights and interests of any law firm, extort or accept any property of any law firm or lawyer or seek any other benefit.

Article 50 A judicial administrative organ shall strengthen the level-by-level supervision over the licensing and administrative activities and formulate rules on the statistics of relevant work, requests for instructions, reports, urging the handling of relevant affairs, etc.

A judicial administrative organ which is responsible for the implementation of licensing, annual inspection and evaluation or award and punishment shall timely notify the judicial administrative organs at the lower level of information about the licensing decisions, evaluation results or awards and punishments, and report it to the judicial administrative organ at the next higher level.

Article 51 A judicial administrative organ shall intensify the guidance and supervision of the lawyers' association, support the lawyers association to adopt industrial self-disciplines for law firms according to the Lawyers Law, the charter and industrial norms of the lawyers association, and establish and improve a coordination and collaboration mechanism combining the administration with the industrial self-disciplines.

Article 52 The judicial administrative organs at all levels shall regularly report the statistical materials relating to the organization, teams and practice, as well as the annual administration summaries of the law firms within its administrative area.

Article 53 Where any of the functionaries of a judicial administrative organ abuses his power or neglects his duties during the licensing of establishment of law firms and during the supervision and administration, if his violation constitutes any crime, he shall be subject to criminal liabilities. If his violation does not constitute any crime, he shall be given an administrative sanction.

Chapter VII. Supplementary Provisions

Article 54 The judicial administrative organ of a province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government shall formulate detailed measures for the implementation of these Measures and report them to the Ministry of Justice for archival purposes.

Article 55 These Measures shall come into force as of the date of promulgation. Where any rule, regulation or regulatory document previously formulated by the Ministry of Justice on the administration of law firms contravenes these Measures, these Measures shall prevail.