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SUPREME COURT

Gavel Before the Gown

Supreme Court Declares Civil Judge Exams Off-Limits Without 3 Years at the Bar

Sheikh Rayees • May 21, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a ruling that slams the brakes on fresh law graduates vaulting straight into the judiciary, the Supreme Court has revived a long-contested rule: no robe without real-world experience. Aspiring civil judges across India must now prove at least three years of legal practice before they even think about sitting for the Civil Judge (Junior Division) examination. The judgment, delivered by a bench led by the Chief Justice and Justices...

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