

BARS ASSOCIATIONS OF TURKEY

"The lawyer freely represents the independent defence which is one of the constituents of the judiciary." - Article 1 of the Lawyer Law No. 1136

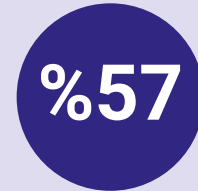
OVERVIEW

- 81** provinces exist in Turkey.
- 80** Bar associations used to exist
Bar associations opposed the multi-bar bill.
- 614** delegates used to represent all bar associations in The Union of Turkish Bar Associations.
- 251** delegates used to represent Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir bars in The Union of Turkish Bar Associations (TTB).

* The information on this page is based on the former system and statistics from 2019. In September 2020, a new bar was established in Bayburt (the last remaining city), raising the total count to 81.

Members of 3 Largest Bar Associations in Turkey

Istanbul 46,052
Ankara 17,598
Izmir 9,612



3 largest cities have %57 of registered members in Turkey

There are a total of
127,691

registered lawyers in
Bar associations in Turkey.

The downgraded judicial representation justice in The Union of Turkish Bar Associations

Amount of automatic delegates
For each bar association

Extra delegate amount according to the total member count

Former System

- 1 President
- 2 Delegates

+1 delegates for every 300 members
**For Bar associations with more than 100 members

Current System

- 1 President
- 3 Delegates

+1 delegates for every 5,000 members

* Amendments to the original Lawyer Law no.1136 were adopted by the Turkish Parliament on 11 July 2020,

Requirements To Establish a New Bar

Former System

Only **1** Bar Association could be established in all provincial centres that have at least **30** lawyers in them

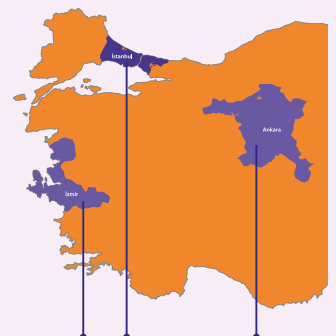
PEN
NORWAY

This infographic is prepared by PEN Norway, as a part of the Turkey Indictment Project. The infographic aims to display basic information concerning the legal system in Turkey.

Current System

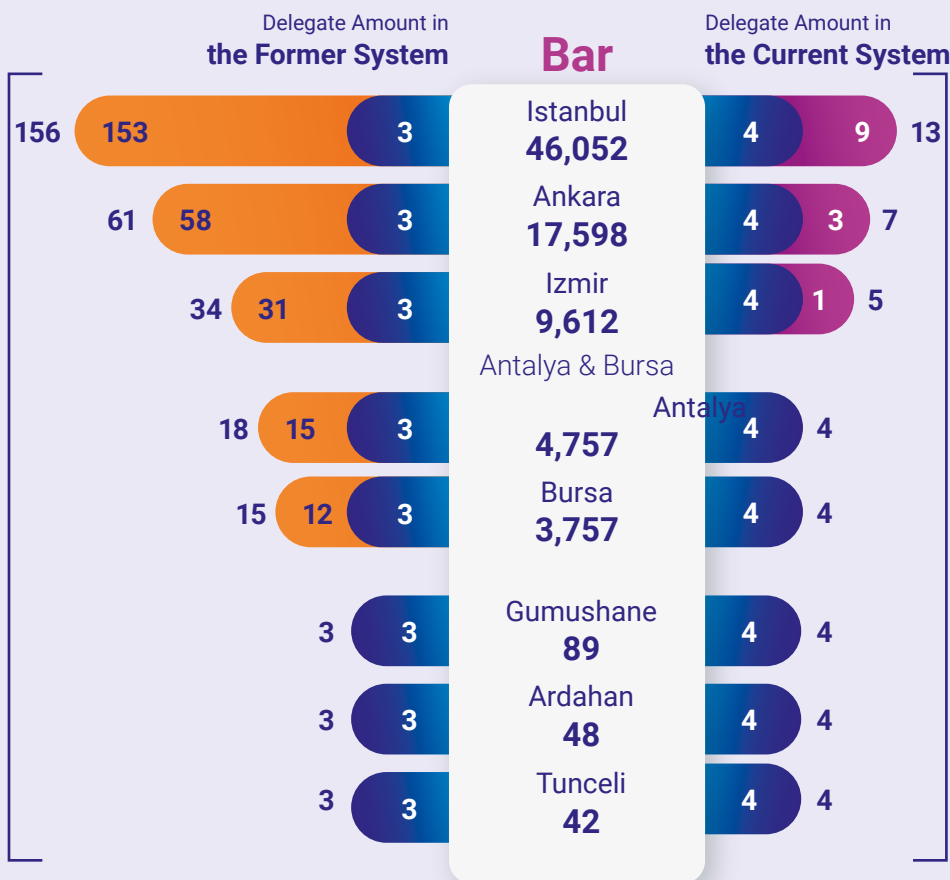
In cities with more than **5,000** lawyers, a minimum of **2,000** lawyers can gather to establish a new bar.

Provinces with over **5,000** registered lawyers



A new bar can be established in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir

Changes In Representation of the Bars With the Highest and Lowest Member Counts



Representative Justice?

The new system decreased the representation rates of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

While the Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir bars have 57% of the registered lawyers in Turkey, they will only have 7,5% of the delegates in The Union of Turkish Bar Associations

- Amount of delegates for every 300 member
- Amount of automatic delegates
- Amount of delegates for every 5000 member

Representative Justice?

The Antalya bar with 4,757 members is now represented by the same amount of delegates with the Tunceli Bar with 42 members.

* "Entry in the bar association directory is optional for those employed regularly and permanently as attorneys with public agencies and organizations and state economic enterprises." Considering this *option*, it is possible that the amount of registered members to increase above 5,000 in Antalya and Bursa as well.

"... the new model of multiple bars based on voluntary membership has many downsides. Most importantly, it may lead to politicisation of BAs, which would likely endanger the independence of attorneys and the political neutrality of the legal profession. It may also result in administrative instability."

- § 57 From The Joint Opinion Of The Venice Commission and The Directorate General of Human Rights And Rule Of Law (DGI) of the Council. (adopted by the Venice Commission at its 124th online Plenary Session)