

FACT SHEET 3

Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill 2011
Admissions Framework

1. In order to make the process of admission to the Singapore Bar clearer and more accessible to aspiring lawyers, the Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill makes amendments to the admission and practical legal training frameworks, as follows:
 - (a) To consolidate and streamline the admission requirements and procedures; and
 - (b) To enhance the practice training framework.

(A) AMENDMENTS TO THE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

2. Presently, admission requirements to the Singapore Bar are contained under the Legal Profession Act (LPA) and disparate subsidiary legislation passed under the LPA (Rules).
3. The various admission requirements contained in both the LPA and numerous related Rules will be consolidated into two distinct sets of rules to make them more user friendly:
 - (a) The **criteria** for a person to be “qualified” to seek admission to the Singapore Bar (i.e. admission requirements); and
 - (b) The **formal steps** which a “qualified person” must take (i.e. the admission procedures) in order to be admitted to the Singapore Bar.
4. Refinements to modernise, shorten and simplify the procedure for admission are also envisaged. These details will be set out in rules.

(B) PRACTICE TRAINING: PART-CALL

5. Under the current practice training framework, a trainee undergoing his practice training contract may gain practical experience by being part-called to the Bar. This will allow him to appear before the courts in limited types of hearing¹. A trainee may be entitled to be part-called if he has served at least four months of his practice training period (which usually lasts six months).

¹ Limited to appearing (a) before a Judge or Registrar in chambers; (b) a District Judge, a Magistrate, the Registrar of the Subordinate Courts or a Deputy Registrar of the Subordinate Courts in chambers; and (c) a District Judge or a Magistrate to mention a case or to apply for bail.

6. With the amendments, the minimum period has been reduced, and a practice trainee may now to apply to be part-called after he has served three months of his practice training period.
7. Once part-called, a practice trainee may appear in court for all types of hearing (instead of the present limited circumstances).
8. These amendments will enhance the practical training aspect of legal education. As they can be part-called earlier and handle a broader scope of work, part-called trainees have a greater opportunity to garner practical legal experience before they are called.

**MINISTRY OF LAW
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