

Legal Profession (Continuing Professional Development) Rules 2012

Table of Contents

Enacting Formula

1 Citation and commencement

2 Definitions

3 CPD activities

4 Accreditation Committee

4A Accreditation by Director

5 Compliance Committee

6 Programmes Committee

7 CPD Review Board

8 Declaration under section 25(1)(ca) of Act

9 Undertaking of CPD activities

10 Record and evidence of CPD activities

11 Verification of compliance with CPD requirements

12 Non-compliance with CPD requirements

13 Application to review decision of Director, etc.

14 Guidelines

FIRST SCHEDULE CPD requirements applicable to solicitors

SECOND SCHEDULE CPD requirements applicable to foreign practitioners

No. S 115

LEGAL PROFESSION ACT (CHAPTER 161)

LEGAL PROFESSION (CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT) RULES 2012

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10(1) and (2) of the Legal Profession Act, the Board of Directors of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education, after consulting the Minister for Law and the Council of the Law Society of Singapore, hereby makes the following Rules:

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Legal Profession (Continuing Professional Development) Rules 2012 and shall come into operation on 1st April 2012.

Definitions

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Accreditation Committee” means the Accreditation Committee appointed by the Board under rule 4(1);

“accredited CPD activity” means a CPD activity accredited by the Accreditation Committee or by the Director under rule 4A;

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the Institute;

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Institute;

“Compliance Committee” means the Compliance Committee appointed by the Board under rule 5(1);

“CPD activity” means an activity that —

(a) contributes to the continuing professional development of a solicitor

or foreign practitioner undertaking the activity; and

[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

(b) satisfies the requirements under rule 3;

“CPD point” means a continuing professional development point which a solicitor or foreign practitioner obtains by undertaking any CPD activity;

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

“CPD requirement” means a requirement relating to continuing professional development under rule 9, 10, 11 or 12(5) or (7);

“CPD Review Board” means the CPD Review Board appointed by the Chairman under rule 7(1);

“Director” means the Director of Continuing Professional Development appointed by the Board, and includes any Deputy Director of Continuing Professional Development appointed by the Board;

“foreign practitioner” means a foreign lawyer who is registered under section 36B of the Act;

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

“practice year” means the period from 1st April in any calendar year to 31st March in the next calendar year;

“pro bono programme for law students” means a programme —

(a) in which law students in the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore, the School of Law of the Singapore Management University or the School of Law of the Singapore University of Social Sciences, must participate in order to graduate; and

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]
[S 513/2017 wef 15/09/2017]

(b) for which any services performed by a solicitor or foreign practitioner are not provided for or in expectation of any fee, gain or reward;

[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

“Programmes Committee” means the Programmes Committee appointed by the Board under rule 6(1).

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

[Deleted by S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

CPD activities

3.—(1) A CPD activity may consist of —

- (a) attending, or reviewing a recording of, any conference, lecture, seminar, workshop or discussion group that satisfies —
 - (i) the requirements under paragraphs (2) and (3); or
 - (ii) the requirements under paragraphs (2A) and (3);
[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
- (b) reviewing any multimedia, Internet-based, audio-visual, audio or video programme or material that satisfies —
 - (i) the requirements under paragraph (2); or
 - (ii) the requirements under paragraph (2A);
[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
- (c) writing an article that —
 - (i) satisfies the requirements under paragraph (4); and
 - (ii) is published in any publication that the Institute may specify in any guidelines issued under rule 14, or that the Accreditation Committee may approve on a case by case basis;
[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
- (d) teaching in, or acting as a subject-coordinator or an examiner for, any course or programme of the Institute that the Institute may specify in any guidelines issued under rule 14, or that the Accreditation Committee may approve on a case by case basis;
[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
- (e) serving as a member of any committee, sub-committee, working party or advisory panel of the Academy, the Institute or the Society, in accordance with any guidelines issued under rule 14;
[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
- (f) performing services for a pro bono programme for law students, in accordance with any guidelines issued under rule 14;
[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]
[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]
- (g) in the case of a solicitor of not less than 5 years' standing on 1 January in any calendar year, speaking, teaching or participating in a panel discussion, during that calendar year, in any conference, lecture, seminar or workshop that satisfies the requirements under paragraphs (3) and (4A); or
[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

- (h) in the case of a foreign practitioner, speaking or teaching at or participating in a panel discussion in any conference, lecture, seminar or workshop that satisfies the requirements under paragraphs (3) and (4A).

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

(2) Every conference, lecture, seminar, workshop or discussion group referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i), or multimedia, Internet-based, audio-visual, audio or video programme or material referred to in paragraph (1)(b)(i), to which a CPD activity relates shall —

- (a) deal primarily with matters relating to the practice of law;
- (b) comprise significant intellectual or practical content; and
- (c) seek to extend the knowledge or skill of a solicitor or foreign practitioner undertaking the CPD activity in one or more areas that are relevant to the solicitor's or foreign practitioner's practice needs.

[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

(2A) Every conference, lecture, seminar, workshop or discussion group referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(ii), or multimedia, Internet-based, audio-visual, audio or video programme or material referred to in paragraph (1)(b)(ii), to which a CPD activity relates shall —

- (a) comprise significant intellectual or practical content; and
- (b) deal primarily with, and seek to extend the knowledge or skill of a solicitor or foreign practitioner undertaking the CPD activity in, at least one of the following areas:
 - (i) financial literacy;
 - (ii) information technology and computer literacy;
 - (iii) office productivity and management skills;
 - (iv) presentation and communication skills;
 - (v) personal management and development skills;
 - (vi) any non-legal specialist knowledge relevant to the solicitor's or foreign practitioner's practice needs.

[S 784/2014 wef 01/01/2015]

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

[S 630/2016 wef 01/01/2017]

(3) Every presentation at a conference, lecture, seminar, workshop or discussion