



REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

## ACTS SUPPLEMENT

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 4th November 2014 and assented to by the President on 10th December 2014:—

### REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

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**No. 40 of 2014.**

I assent.

TONY TAN KENG YAM,

*President.*

*10th December 2014.*



An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161 of the 2009 Revised Edition) and to make consequential amendments to the Singapore Academy of Law Act (Chapter 294A of the 1997 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

**Short title and commencement**

1. This Act may be cited as the Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 2014 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

**Amendment of section 2**

2. Section 2 of the Legal Profession Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “court” in subsection (1), the following definition:

““Director of Legal Services” means the Director of Legal Services appointed under section 2A(1);”;

- (b) by deleting the words “by the Attorney-General in respect of the registration of a foreign lawyer under section 130I” in the definition of “foreign practitioner certificate” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “in respect of the registration of a foreign lawyer under section 36B”;

- (c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “foreign practitioner certificate” in subsection (1), the following definition:

““Formal Law Alliance” means a Formal Law Alliance licensed under section 170;”;

- (d) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Institute” in subsection (1), the following definition:

““investigator” means an investigator appointed under section 2B(2);”;

- (e) by deleting the words “section 130B” in the definition of “Joint Law Venture” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “section 169”;

- (f) by deleting the definition of “law corporation” in subsection (1) and substituting the following definitions:

““law corporation” means a company licensed as a law corporation under section 153;

“law firm” means a partnership, or a practice of a solicitor who practises on his own account, which is licensed as a law firm under section 131;

“law practice entity” means any of the following:

- (a) a Singapore law practice;
- (b) a Joint Law Venture;
- (c) the constituent foreign law practice of a Joint Law Venture;
- (d) a Formal Law Alliance;
- (e) a foreign law practice which is a member of a Formal Law Alliance;
- (f) a Qualifying Foreign Law Practice;
- (g) a licensed foreign law practice;
- (h) a representative office;”;

(g) by deleting the words “section 130E” in the definition of “licensed foreign law practice” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “section 172”;

(h) by deleting the definition of “limited liability law partnership” in subsection (1) and substituting the following definition:

““limited liability law partnership” means a limited liability partnership licensed as a limited liability law partnership under section 138;”;

(i) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “practising certificate” in subsection (1), the following definition:

““public accountant” means a person who is registered or deemed to be registered under

the Accountants Act (Cap. 2) as a public accountant;”;

(j) by deleting the words “section 130D” in the definition of “Qualifying Foreign Law Practice” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “section 171”;

(k) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Registrar” in subsection (1), the following definitions:

““regulated foreign lawyer” means a foreign lawyer who is registered under section 36B, 36C or 36D, or who is granted an approval under section 176(1), and includes, for the purposes of Part VII, a foreign lawyer whose registration under section 36B, 36C or 36D or approval under section 176(1) is cancelled or suspended, or lapses, after the commencement of disciplinary proceedings against the foreign lawyer;

“regulated legal practitioner” means an advocate and solicitor or a regulated foreign lawyer;

“regulated non-practitioner” means an individual (not being a regulated legal practitioner) who is a director, partner or shareholder in, or who shares in the profits of, any Singapore law practice, Joint Law Venture, Qualifying Foreign Law Practice or licensed foreign law practice, and includes, for the purposes of Part VII, an individual who ceases to be a director, partner or shareholder in, or to share in the profits of, a Singapore law practice, Joint Law Venture, Qualifying Foreign Law Practice or licensed foreign law practice after the commencement of disciplinary proceedings against the individual;”;

(l) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “relevant legal officer” in subsection (1), the following definition:

““representative office” means an office set up in Singapore by a foreign law practice to carry out only liaison or promotional work for the foreign law practice, without providing legal services in Singapore;”;

(m) by deleting the words “section 24” in the definition of “roll” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “section 16”;

(n) by deleting the definition of “Singapore law practice” in subsection (1) and substituting the following definition:

““Singapore law practice” means —

(a) a law firm;

(b) a limited liability law partnership; or

(c) a law corporation;”;

(o) by deleting paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(a) sections 78, 140, 141, 142, 155, 156, 157 and 159;”;

(p) by deleting the words “except in Part IXA,” in subsection (6)(b).

## **New Part IA**

**3.** The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 2, the following Part:

### **“PART IA**

#### **DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**

#### **Appointment of Director of Legal Services**

**2A.—**(1) The Minister may appoint a Director of Legal Services —

(a) to administer Parts IVA and IXA; and