Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 2000 (No. 4 of 2000)

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THE SCHEDULE

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ACTS SUPPLEMENT

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 17th January 2000 and assented to by the President on 8th February 2000:—

LEGAL PROFESSION (AMENDMENT) ACT 2000

(No. 4 of 2000)

I assent.

S R NATHAN President. 8th February 2000.

Date of Commencement: 5th May 2000

An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161 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.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 2000 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

(2) The Minister may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of different provisions of this Act.

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 word "solicitor's" in the last line of paragraph (a) of the definition of "client", the words "or a law corporation's";
- (b) by deleting the words "for his services" in the last line of paragraph (b) of the definition of "client" and substituting the words "or a law corporation for his or its services"; and
- (c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of "Judge", the following definition:

""law corporation" means a company approved as a law corporation under section 81B;".

Amendment of section 25

3. Section 25 (3) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the word "signed", the words "or approved".

Amendment of section 26

4. Section 26 (1) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after paragraph (b), the following paragraph:

"(ba) unless he is or is about to be a director or an employee of a law corporation;".

Amendment of section 33

5. Section 33 (6) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the

word "solicitor" in the 5th line, the words ", or has the capacity or powers of a law corporation when in fact the body corporate does not,".

Amendment of section 37

6. Section 37 (2) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of paragraph (c), and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:

"(*ca*) exercise such powers or functions as may be conferred upon the Society by this Act or any other written law; and".

Amendment of section 61

7. Section 61 of the principal Act is amended —

- (*a*) by inserting, immediately after the words "bankruptcy have been taken" in the 3rd line, the words "or the file of winding up proceedings against a law corporation"; and
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the word "solicitor" in the section heading, the words "or winding up of law corporation".

Amendment of section 72

8. Section 72 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

"(1A) Such rules may provide for the manner in which the matters referred to in subsection (1) shall apply to law corporations or to Joint Law Ventures or Formal Law Alliances registered under Part IXA.".

Amendment of section 75A

9. Section 75A of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word "and" at the end of subsection (1)(a);
- (b) by deleting the full-stop at the end of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and substituting the word "; and", and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:
 - "(c) by a law corporation in connection with legal services performed by it or with any trust of which it is a trustee.";
- (c) by inserting, immediately after the word "certificate" in subsection (2)(c), the words "and all law corporations";

- (d) by inserting, immediately after the word "certificates" in subsection (3)(b) and (c), the words "and all law corporations";
- (e) by inserting, immediately after the word "solicitor" in the 2nd lines of subsections (3)(f) and (6), the words "or a law corporation";
- (f) by deleting the words "him" in the 5th line and "he" in the 6th line of subsection (3)(f) and substituting in each case the words "the advocate and solicitor or the law corporation";
- (g) by inserting, immediately after the word "solicitors" in subsection (3)(g), the words "or law corporations"; and
- (*h*) by inserting, immediately after the words "himself" and "him" in subsection (6), the words "or the law corporation".

Amendment of section 75C

10. Section 75C of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the word "partnership" in the section heading, the words "or as director of law corporation";
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the word "partnership" in the 3rd line of subsection (1), the words "or as a director of a law corporation";
- (c) by inserting, immediately after the word "Singapore" in subsection (1)(b), the words "or in the practice of a law corporation"; and
- (d) by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

"(3A) Subsection (1) shall not apply to a solicitor who is a director of a law corporation if at least one of the directors of that law corporation is a solicitor who has been in active practice in Singapore for not less than 3 continuous years or 3 years out of a continuous period of 5 years."

Amendment of section 79

- 11. Section 79 of the principal Act is amended
 - (a) by deleting the words "neither he nor a member nor an assistant of the firm of which he is a member either as partner or employee" in the 3rd and 4th lines of subsection (1) and substituting the words "no specified person"; and
 - (b) by deleting the full-stop at the end of the definition of "sale of immovable property" in subsection (2) and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting