

Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 16/2008

Read the first time: 21st July 2008

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Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 16/2008

Read the first time on 21st July 2008.

An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161 of the 2001 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 2008 and shall, with the exception of section 15(b), come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

(2) Section 15(b) shall be deemed to have come into operation on 1st June 2007.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2(1) of the Legal Profession Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “client”, the following definitions:

“constituent foreign law practice”, in relation to a Joint Law Venture, means the foreign law practice which constitutes

part of the Joint Law Venture;

“constituent Singapore law practice”, in relation to a Joint Law Venture, means the Singapore law practice which constitutes part of the Joint Law Venture;”;

- (b) by deleting the words “, whether as an advocate or a solicitor,” in the definition of “contentious business”;
- (c) by deleting the definition of “Disciplinary Committee” and substituting the following definition:

“ “Disciplinary Tribunal” means a Disciplinary Tribunal appointed by the Chief Justice under section 90(1);”;

- (d) by inserting, immediately before the definition of “Inquiry Committee”, the following definitions:

“ “foreign law” means the law of any state or territory other than Singapore, and includes international law;

“foreign law practice” means a law practice (including a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a body corporate, whether with or without limited liability) providing legal services in any foreign law in Singapore or elsewhere, but does not include a Singapore law practice;

“foreign lawyer” means an individual who is duly authorised or registered to practise law in a state or territory other than Singapore by a foreign authority having the function conferred by law of authorising or registering persons to practise law in that state or territory;”;

- (e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Inquiry Committee”, the following definition:

“ “Joint Law Venture” means a Joint Law Venture licensed under section 130B;”;

- (f) by deleting the definition of “lay person” and substituting the following definition:

“ “lay person”, in relation to the Inquiry Panel or an Inquiry Committee, means an architect, an accountant, a banker, a company director, an insurer, a professional engineer, a medical practitioner or any other person (not being an