

**LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE
ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVILEGE OF RESTRICTED AUDIENCE (PART-CALLS)

What is part-call?

Under the Legal Profession Act (“the Act”), generally only an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court holding a current practicing certificate shall have the exclusive right to appear and plead in all courts of justice in Singapore.

However, section 32(3) of the Act provides for a form of restricted audience for practice trainees receiving supervised training in relation to the practice of Singapore law under a practice training contract with a Singapore law practice, which is generally referred to as having been "**part-called**" or "**half-called**". If the practice trainee has completed at least 4 months of his or her practice training period, the practice trainee qualifies to be part-called whereupon he or she may then appear on behalf of the Singapore law practice or any advocate and solicitor in active practice therein before:

- (a) a Judge or the 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.

If I have completed my training contract, can I still be part-called?

No, when your training contract ends, your right to be part-called under section 32(3) also ends: see *Re Cheng Su Yin Judy* [2003] 1 SLR 205.

How is the application for part-call made?

The application for part-call is by way of a Summons and can be made only by the supervising solicitor, and no other person (including the practice trainee), to a Judge of the High Court: see *Re Cheng Su Yin Judy* [2003] 1 SLR 205.

Do any supporting affidavits need to be filed together with the application?

Both the supervising solicitor and the practice trainee must file supporting affidavits together with the application.

The supervising solicitor’s affidavit should include the following information:

- details of the practice trainee as a qualified person;
- details of the practice trainee's completion of the Postgraduate Practical Course in Law (or by whatever name called);
- period of the practice training period served by the practice trainee with the law practice; and
- reasons why the court should grant the part-call application.

The practice trainee's affidavit should include the following information:

- confirmation of the relevant paragraphs of the supervising solicitor's affidavit concerning the practice trainee; and
- details of work undertaken and/or assisted by the practice trainee in the law practice;

Is it necessary to attach exhibits to the practice trainee's affidavit to prove that the practice trainee is a qualified person, has completed the Postgraduate Practical Course in Law (or by whatever name called) and has served the requisite period of the practice training period with the law practice?

It is not necessary to do so for the part-call application.

What are some of the common errors in the application for part-call?

- incorrect reference to the practice trainee as "the Applicant" or "the Petitioner", when the proper applicant is the supervising solicitor;
- error in the dates of the period of the Postgraduate Practical Course in Law (or by whatever name is called) taken by the practice trainee;
- referring to the wrong section of the Act for the application e.g. referring to section 32(2), instead of section 32(3);
- inconsistency between the supervising solicitor's affidavit and the practice trainee's affidavit; and
- error in calculating the 4-month period.

How should errors in the supporting affidavits be corrected?

The Society may require the supervising solicitor and/or the practice trainee to file a supplementary affidavit pointing out the error and providing the correct information. Where the time frame does not allow such an application, an oral application to the Judge in chambers to amend the affidavit may suffice.

Do I need a mover for my part-call?

Whenever possible the supervising solicitor should appear on these applications. If he or she is not able, then a senior colleague should attend.

What do I need to do after the application for part-call is heard?

If the application is granted, the Order of the Court to such effect should then be extracted.

After I have been part-called and have completed my practice training period, can I still appear in court?

No, a practice trainee who has been granted a limited right of audience in a part-call may not continue to exercise that right once his or her practice training period ends: see *Re Cheng Su Yin Judy* [2003] 1 SLR 205. The Act does not permit a person, who has been given a right of limited audience under section 32(3), to carry on appearing indefinitely in court if he or she is not called to the Bar after the practice training period has ended. This would be so even if the practice trainee remains with the law practice waiting for formal admission to the Bar.

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