

**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"**. If the practice trainee has completed at least 3 months of his or her practice training, the practice trainee qualifies to be part-called whereupon he or she may then appear on behalf of the Singapore law practice before:

- (a) a Judge or the Registrar;
- (b) a District Judge, a Magistrate, or the Registrar or a Deputy Registrar of the Subordinate Courts.

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 Preparatory Course leading to Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations, where applicable;
- 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 he or she is a qualified person, has completed the Preparatory Course leading to Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations and has served the requisite period of the practice training 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 Singapore law practice;
- error in the dates of the period of the Preparatory Course leading to Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations;
- referring to the wrong section of the Legal Profession 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 3-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 is then extracted.
