## **ENHANCED CRIMINAL** LEGAL AID SCHEM



The Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) was set up by the Law Society of Singapore in 1985 to provide legal assistance to accused persons facing non-capital criminal charges and unable to afford their own lawyers. It is run by the Law Society and the legal representation is provided by volunteer lawyers and CLAS Fellows.

SCHEME		Existing CLAS		Enhanced CLAS
		Serves 400+ accused persons	*****	Serves up to 6,000 accused persons
What are the services provided under enhanced CLAS? There are 4 tiers of assistance, under enhanced CLAS. These aim to		Provides aid only if you qualify for full representation		Also provides basic legal advice and unbundled services in addition to full representation
serve up to <b>6,000 accused persons annually</b> . This is a more t tenfold increase from what CLAS is currently serving.	han	No plead guilty cases*		Plead guilty cases covered*
Tier Information   The accused is provided with information on how to apply for aid under CLAS.	Benefits Potential applicants	No honorarium provided	\$	Honorarium provided
		Basic means test		Enhanced means test <sup>#</sup> which will allow many more applicants to qualify
Tier 2 Basic legal advice Lead lawyers provide free legal advice on the criminal justice process, avenues of assistance taking a plea, bail applications and overview of defences possible.	Benefits <b>6,000</b> litigants-in-person	15 statutes covered	<u>*</u>	16 statutes covered
		No co-payment	<b>○ ③ ○</b>	Co-payment
Tier 3 Unbundled services CLAS Fellows or volunteer lawyers provide services not involving Court attendance, such as representation to AGC, written mitigation pleas and drafting of defence case.	Benefits <b>2,000</b> litigants-in-person	Volunteer lawyers, one MOU with Harry Elias Partnership		Volunteer lawyers, more MOU commitments, CLAS Fellows, Lead Lawyers
		No direct Government funding		\$800,000 one-off funding and yearly funding of up to \$3.5 mil
Tier <b>Full representation</b> The accused can expect to be fully represented by a lawyer in court for the case.	Benefits <b>1,000</b> litigants-in-person	* Under existing CLAS, plead guilty cases a mental illness. Under enhanced CLAS, plea sentencing of the accused person.	re not allowed o ad guilty cases w	unless the defendant is under 18 years old or has a vill be supported where it can make a difference in the

sentencing of the accused person. # Persons with a disposable income of not more than \$10,000 per annum and a disposable capital of not more than \$10,000 may be granted aid