

ANNEX: FAQs ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF LAWYERS

General	
1.	What is the Committee for the Professional Training of Lawyers (“CPTL”)?
	<p>The Committee for the Professional Training of Lawyers was set up by the Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon in August 2016 to conduct a root-and-branch review of the professional training regime for lawyers and to make recommendations on how it might be modified to raise the quality and consistency of training standards across law practices.</p> <p>The CPTL was chaired by Justice Quentin Loh and comprised 14 other members including representatives from Singapore law practices, the Law Society of Singapore, the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Chambers, and the Ministry of Law (“MinLaw”).</p> <p>Following the completion of the CPTL’s work, its report was submitted for MinLaw’s consideration in 2018. Please refer to the CPTL’s report here.</p>
2.	What are the changes recommended by the CPTL?
	<p>The key recommendations of the CPTL include: (a) uncoupling admission to the Singapore Bar from the completion of a practice training contract; (b) lengthening the practice training period from six months to one year; and (c) raising the standard and stringency of Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations. The Committee also made 17 other specific recommendations to address discrete issues within the professional training regime.</p> <p>The implementation of these recommendations will help raise the quality of legal training and better equip law graduates with the necessary expertise to meet the demands of the future economy and society.</p>
3.	Have the recommendations of the CPTL been accepted?
	<p>In August 2018, after careful consideration, MinLaw accepted in principle the recommendations of the CPTL. MinLaw has been working with stakeholders, including the Law Society of Singapore, the Supreme Court of Singapore and the Singapore Institute of Legal Education, on the implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to MinLaw’s press release (“In-principle acceptance by MinLaw of the recommendations by the CPTL”, August 2018) for more information.</p>

4.	When will the recommendations of the CPTL be implemented?
	<p>It was previously announced that the following three key recommendations of the CPTL will apply from the 2023 session of Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Uncoupling admission to the Singapore Bar from the completion of a practice training contract; b) Lengthening the practice training period from six months to one year; and c) Raising the standard and stringency of Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations. <p>After careful consideration of feedback from the industry on more time being required to adapt to the changes, to take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, MinLaw announced on 27 February 2023 that the implementation of these three key recommendations will be deferred to apply from the 2024 session of Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations onwards.</p> <p>The Committee also made 17 other specific recommendations to address discrete issues within the professional training regime. These relate to training standards, as well as the processes involved in applying for and obtaining practice training contracts. These 17 recommendations, which will support the new professional training regime, are being implemented progressively in consultation with the relevant stakeholders (e.g. the Supreme Court of Singapore, the Law Society of Singapore, the Singapore Institute of Legal Education, law practices, and local law schools).</p>
5.	Who will be affected by the recommendations of the CPTL?
	<p>Qualified persons* who pass Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations (Part B) before the 2024 session will not be affected by the changes. They will come under the current regime and need to complete a 6-month practice training contract before they can be admitted to the Singapore Bar and obtain a practising certificate.</p> <p>Qualified persons* who pass Part B from the 2024 session onwards will come under the new regime. They will be admitted to the Singapore Bar after passing Part B. If they wish to practise law, they will be required to complete a 12-month practice training contract before they can obtain a practising certificate.</p> <p><i>For more information about being a “qualified person” and details on Part B or practice training, please refer to the website of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education.</i></p>

Questions from Law Students / Prospective Part B candidates	
6.	I have negotiated a 12-month practice training contract with a Singapore Law Practice, what should I do?
	If you are sitting for the 2023 session of Part B Bar Examinations and have already negotiated a 12-month practice training contract, you may wish to contact the law firm to renegotiate a 6-month practice training contract which is the current requirement to be admitted to the Singapore Bar.
7.	I am an overseas graduate from a Scheduled Overseas University and will be completing my law degree course at the end of 2023, will I be under the new regime?
	For returning overseas law graduates, you will still be required to first pass Part A of the Singapore Bar Examinations and complete a 6-month period of Relevant Legal Training before sitting for Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations. If you will be sitting for the 2024 session of Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations, you will come under the new regime.
Questions from Law Firms	
8.	Why is the implementation of the new regime being deferred to apply from the 2024 Session of Part B onwards?
	MinLaw recognises that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions to the legal industry which has felt significant impact and is in the process of adjusting to a new normal. We have received feedback from the industry that more time is required to adapt to the changes recommended, given the recent resumption of travel and business activities.
9.	My firm has offered 12-month practice training contracts to prospective trainees who will be registering for the 2023 session of Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations, are these offers still valid?
	Singapore Law Firms are advised to contact the prospective trainees to update the practice training contract duration from a 12-month period to a 6-month period as this is the current requirement for admission to the Singapore Bar. Please refer to the website of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education for details on practice training and admission requirements.