

## News Release

### **Continuing Professional Development Scheme for Newly-qualified Lawyers Commences on 1 April 2012**

**Singapore, 27 March 2012** – From 1 April, some 1,200 newly-qualified lawyers will be the first to be subject to a new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme which will require them to spend at least eight hours on learning activities by December 2012 before they can renew their practising certificates in 2013. Newly-qualified lawyers are those who are admitted to practise at the Singapore Bar on or after 2 January 2007. The CPD scheme will in due course apply to the entire profession.

Under the CPD scheme which is administered by Singapore Institute of Legal Education (the Institute), a newly-qualified lawyer will need to obtain eight CPD Points to meet his or her CPD requirements. These eight CPD Points translate to about eight hours of learning activity, of which a minimum of four CPD Points must be obtained by attending accredited learning activities conducted by one of the 12 Accredited Institutions. These Accredited Institutions include the Singapore Academy of Law, the Law Society of Singapore, the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Law and the Singapore Management University's School of Law.

For the remaining CPD Points, lawyers may attend legal conferences and seminars organised by non-accredited institutions, review learning videos and online programmes, or write and publish articles in legal publications and journals approved by the Institute's Accreditation Committee.

The CPD Scheme was spearheaded by two of the Institute's Board Members who have primary responsibility over the CPD Scheme, Professor Yeo Tiong Min, SC (Hon) – the Dean-Designate of the Singapore Management University's School of Law, and Ms Kala Anandarajah, a Partner at Rajah & Tann LLP.

Ms Anandarajah, who is also the chairperson of the Accreditation Committee, explained the Institute's philosophy behind launching the CPD Scheme in phases, "We opted for a modest start to the scheme to ease all the stakeholders into it. We want lawyers to accept and recognise the importance of continuous learning, even as the Accredited Institutions work on making available good quality training programmes which are relevant to the profession. The Institute will monitor the scheme framework and fine-tune it as necessary."

## About the Singapore Institute of Legal Education

The Singapore Institute of Legal Education (the “Institute”) is a statutory body established under the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161).

With its remit of maintaining and improving the standards of legal education in Singapore, the Institute oversees professional legal training both before as well as after qualification to practise law in Singapore.

The Institute has oversight of Part A of the Singapore Bar Examinations and conducts Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations and the preparatory course leading to the examinations. The Institute also conducts the Foreign Practitioner Examinations for foreign-qualified lawyers seeking to practise in permitted areas of Singapore law, and administers the continuing professional development scheme for practising lawyers.

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