

## **THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**

### **PRACTICE DIRECTION 3.9.1**

*[Formerly PDR 2013, para 1; PDR 1989, chap 1, para 4]*

#### **APPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE TRAINEES TO APPEAR BEFORE A JUDGE OR REGISTRAR**

Members' attention is drawn to section 32(3) of the Legal Profession Act (Cap 161, 2009 Rev Ed) where an advocate and solicitor (as described by the Act) who is qualified to practise under Parts IIA and IVA of the Act may apply to allow a qualified person who has satisfied the requirements under the section to have limited right of appearance before a judge or registrar.

Former Chief Justice, Wee Chong Jin, has commented that it is a discourtesy for petitioners who apply for their pupils (now known as practice trainees) to appear in chambers not to attend on their applications, or if they are unable to attend for good reasons that a sufficiently senior colleague should attend.

Justice Choo Han Teck reinforced this point in *Re Ang Jian Xiang and Others* [2016] SGHC 92, where he stated:

“When counsel is late for court it is a mark of disrespect, not for the individual judge as a person, but to the court as representing a legal institution. Unpunctuality in such applications [for practice trainees] also impart the wrong lesson that the court can be kept waiting.”

Members of the Bar are reminded that whenever possible the supervising solicitor of a practice trainee should appear on these applications and if he is not able, then a senior colleague should attend.

Date: 1 June 2018

**THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**