

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

PRACTICE DIRECTION 6.2.3

[Formerly PDR 2013, para 76]

IDENTIFICATION OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS OR LAW PRACTICES

Claim to Expertise or Specialisation

[Ethics in Practice, Singapore Law Gazette, March 2010]

A. Letterheads

Legal practitioners named on a law practice's letterhead should be limited to:

- (a) partners or directors of the law practice; and
- (b) consultants, foreign lawyers or legal associates employed by the law practice in accordance with Singapore's legislative and regulatory requirements.

Rule 43(1)(a) of the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct) Rules 2015 (S 706/2015) ('PCR 2015') requires that any claim to expertise or specialisation can be justified. Only the names of persons who are listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) above are permitted in the letterheads of their law practices. The names of foreign lawyers or consultants who are not qualified to practice in Singapore and are not considered employees of law practices in Singapore are not permitted as such publicity may reasonably be regarded as being misleading, deceptive, inaccurate or false publicity under rule 44(1) of the PCR 2015 read with rule 44(2) of the PCR 2015.

B. Bills, Notepaper, Faxes, E-mails, Brochures and Websites

Material other than a law practice's letterhead, such as its bills, notepaper, faxes, emails, brochures and websites, may describe the law practice's relationship with the individual foreign lawyer. The following wording would be the minimum necessary for this purpose:

"XYZ, qualified in [name of foreign jurisdiction] to practise [foreign law], not registered as a foreign lawyer practising in Singapore, not regulated by the Law Society of Singapore and not a member of the firm."

Contravention of this illustration may reasonably be regarded as being misleading, deceptive, inaccurate or false publicity under rule 44(1) of the PCR 2015 read with rule 44(2) of the PCR 2015.

Date: 1 June 2018

THE COUNCIL OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE