

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

SUPREME COURT PRACTICE DIRECTIONS 2021

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OF 2025

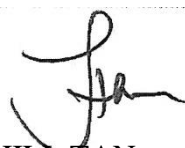
It is notified that amendments have been made to Part 11, Part 13, Part 14, Part 22 and Appendix C of the Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021. The amendments are summarised below:

- (1) amendments to paragraph 96: Submissions and examination by leading and junior assisting counsel;
- (2) introduction of new paragraph 112A: Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel;
- (3) introduction of new paragraph 117B: Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel;
- (4) introduction of new paragraph 168A: Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel in appeals under this Part;
- (5) amendments to Appendix C: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Senior Assistant Registrars, Divisional Registrars and Deputy Divisional Registrars.

2 Amendments corresponding to the amendments set out at (1) above have been made to the Singapore International Commercial Court Procedural Guide to encourage advocacy opportunities for junior assisting counsel. The amendments set out at (5) above relate to matters that took effect on 1 July 2025. The amendments set out at (1) to (5) above will be reflected at <https://epd2021-supremecourt.judiciary.gov.sg/> from 15 August 2025.

3 Please find attached a document reflecting the marked-up amendments to the Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021.

Dated this 5th day of August 2025.



JILL TAN
REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Practice Directions 2021 (Amendment No. 1 of 2025)

Part 11: Conduct of Court Proceedings

96. Submissions and examination by leading and **junior** assisting counsel

(1) ~~Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), in~~ In the event that a party is represented by more than one counsel at a hearing, whether in open court or in chambers, ~~more than one counsel (including junior assisting counsel) may undertake part of the oral advocacy including the making of submissions and the questioning of witnesses may be carried out by one counsel for each party only.~~

(1A) Lead counsel are strongly encouraged to give junior assisting counsel more opportunities for oral advocacy at a hearing. This contributes to their development as advocates and promotes renewal of the Bar. Lead counsel should apprise the client of the potential benefits of allocating certain advocacy tasks to junior assisting counsel, including reduced legal costs and increased focus by lead counsel on the main advocacy tasks, and to therefore obtain instructions to conduct the proceedings in accordance with sub-paragraph (2).

(2) If a party would like certain portions of the submissions, or examination, cross-examination or re-examination of witnesses to be conducted by different counsel in the same case, ~~an oral application for permission to do so should be made to~~ lead counsel should inform the Court as early as is practicable ~~at a Case Conference~~, and ~~in any event~~ by no later than the commencement of the trial or hearing. The following information should be provided to the Court ~~for the purposes of the application~~:

(a) the issues on which each counsel will be making submissions; and/or

(b) the witnesses to be examined, cross-examined or re-examined by each counsel, or the portions of their evidence for which each counsel will conduct the examination, cross-examination or re-examination.

~~Nothing in this paragraph detracts from the responsibility of lead counsel to ensure that all~~

~~counsel making submissions, or having conduct of any portion of the examination, cross-examination or re-examination of witnesses, are adequately supervised and able to handle the tasks assigned to them.~~

(3) If ~~permission has been granted~~ the Court has been informed of the allocation of oral advocacy tasks in accordance with sub-paragraph (2), ~~unless otherwise directed by the Court,~~

(a) counsel should ensure that he or she confines himself or herself to the issues or portions of evidence ~~in respect of which permission was granted~~ as allocated to him or her and that there is no overlap in the issues or the examination being dealt with by different counsel for the same party. ~~Further,; and~~

(b) counsel must not repeat, clarify or expand on any submissions that have been made by another counsel for the same party, or examine, cross-examine or re-examine witnesses on portions of their evidence dealt with by another counsel for the same party.

(4) ~~For civil proceedings, lead counsel are strongly encouraged to apprise the client of the benefits of allocating certain advocacy tasks to junior assisting counsel, including the potential benefits of reduced legal costs and increased focus by lead counsel on the main advocacy tasks, and to therefore consider obtaining instructions to make an application in accordance with sub-paragraph (2). In this regard, lead counsel are encouraged to consider that giving junior assisting counsel more opportunities for oral advocacy could potentially benefit the client and, at the same time, promote renewal of the Bar.~~

Nothing in this paragraph detracts from the responsibility of lead counsel to ensure that all counsel making submissions, or having conduct of any portion of the examination, cross-examination or re-examination of witnesses, are adequately supervised and able to handle the tasks assigned to them.

(5) ~~For civil trials:~~

(a) ~~notwithstanding sub-paragraphs (1) and (2), and save where lead counsel is a junior counsel, the junior assisting counsel must deliver the oral opening statement unless the Court otherwise orders; and~~

~~(b) lead counsel are to inform the trial Judge at the Judge Case Conference (“JCC”), or if a JCC has not been fixed, at the start of the trial, whether their client will be making an application pursuant to sub paragraph (2) above and, if so, the proposed division of advocacy tasks between lead counsel and junior assisting counsel.~~

[deleted]

(6) ~~Unless otherwise stated, this~~ This paragraph applies to both civil and criminal proceedings but does not apply to any proceedings for which specific directions are provided in Part 13, Part 14 or Part 22 of these Practice Directions.

Part 13: Civil Appeals before the General Division

112A. Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 96 of these Practice Directions, in the event that a party is represented by more than one counsel in the conduct of proceedings under this Part, junior assisting counsel are ordinarily expected to make part of the submissions at any oral hearing.
- (2) Lead counsel is to inform the Court at the start of the oral hearing which issues would be addressed by the lead counsel or the junior assisting counsel.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the Court,
 - (a) counsel should ensure that he or she confines himself or herself to the issues to be addressed and that there is no overlap in the issues being dealt with by different counsel for the same party; and
 - (b) counsel must not repeat, clarify or expand on any submissions that have been made by another counsel for the same party.
- (4) Nothing in this paragraph detracts from the responsibility of lead counsel to ensure that all counsel making submissions are adequately supervised and able to handle the tasks assigned to them.

Part 14: Proceedings before the Appellate Division, the Court of Appeal, the Court of 3 Supreme Court Judges under the Legal Profession Act 1966 and appeals to the General Division under the Medical Registration Act 1997

117B. Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 96 of these Practice Directions, in the event that a party is represented by more than one counsel in the conduct of proceedings under this Part, junior assisting counsel are ordinarily expected to make part of the submissions at any oral hearing.
- (2) Lead counsel is to inform the Court at the start of the oral hearing which issues would be addressed by the lead counsel or the junior assisting counsel.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the Court,
 - (a) counsel should ensure that he or she confines himself or herself to the issues to be addressed and that there is no overlap in the issues being dealt with by different counsel for the same party; and
 - (b) counsel must not repeat, clarify or expand on any submissions that have been made by another counsel for the same party.
- (4) Nothing in this paragraph detracts from the responsibility of lead counsel to ensure that all counsel making submissions are adequately supervised and able to handle the tasks assigned to them.

Part 22: Other Matters Specific to Criminal Proceedings

168A. Submissions by leading and junior assisting counsel in appeals under this Part

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 96 of these Practice Directions, in the event that a party is represented by more than one counsel in the conduct of appeals under this Part, junior assisting counsel are ordinarily expected to make part of the submissions at any oral hearing.
- (2) Lead counsel is to inform the Court at the start of the oral hearing which issues would be addressed by the lead counsel or the junior assisting counsel.
- (3) Unless otherwise directed by the Court,
 - (a) counsel should ensure that he or she confines himself or herself to the issues to be addressed and that there is no overlap in the issues being dealt with by different counsel for the same party; and
 - (b) counsel must not repeat, clarify or expand on any submissions that have been made by another counsel for the same party.
- (4) Nothing in this paragraph detracts from the responsibility of lead counsel to ensure that all counsel making submissions are adequately supervised and able to handle the tasks assigned to them.

Appendix C

Para. 10(4)

**Registrar, Deputy Registrar,
Senior Assistant Registrars,
Divisional Registrars and Deputy Divisional Registrars**

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DEPUTY DIVISIONAL REGISTRARS

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Deputy Divisional Registrar	Name	Appointment date
Singapore International Commercial Court	Mr James Low	1 July 2023
	Ms Li Yuen Ting	2 May 2024
	Mr Paul Tan Wei Chean Ms Lee Siew Hui Jacqueline	2 May 2024 1 July 2025