

PART I

CITATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Citation

These rules may be cited as the Trainee Solicitors Rules.

2. Interpretation

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires-

"company" means -

- (a) a company within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32);
- (b) a company registered under Part XI of that Ordinance; or
- (c) a corporation established by or under any other Ordinance.

"prescribed fee" means such fee as may be prescribed by rules made under section 72 of the Ordinance;

"principal" means the solicitor or qualified person who employs a trainee solicitor or acts as his principal under a trainee solicitor contract;

"Secretary General" means the Secretary General of the Society;

"trainee solicitor" means a person who has entered into a contract in writing under which he is employed as a trainee solicitor.

PART II

(Repealed)

PART III

TRAINEE SOLICITOR CONTRACTS

6. Period of trainee solicitor contract

- (1) Except as is provided by rules 9, 9A and 20, no person shall be admitted as a solicitor by virtue of section 4(1)(a) of the Ordinance unless he has been employed as a trainee solicitor under one or more trainee solicitor contracts for a total period of 2 years.
- (2) If the period of 2 years referred to in paragraph (1) is not a continuous period of 2 years, it is effective employment as a trainee solicitor if the trainee solicitor has been employed under one or more trainee solicitor contracts for periods equal in total to 2 years during the 3 years, or such further period as the Council may allow, immediately preceding his application for admission as a solicitor.

6A. (Repealed)

6B. (Repealed)

7. Examinations

- (1) A person may only enter into a trainee solicitor contract if he -
 - (a) has passed or received a certificate of completion or a certificate of satisfactory completion as the case may be in -
 - (i) the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws and such other examination or course as the Society may require and set or approve; or
 - (ii) such other examination or course as the Society may require and set or approve; or
 - (b) has been granted total exemption by the Society from the requirements in paragraph (a).

8. Registration of trainee solicitor contract

- (1) A trainee solicitor contract shall be in a form prescribed by the Society and shall be produced to the Secretary General for registration by the trainee solicitor within 1 month after execution and shall be accompanied by -
 - (a) an application for registration in a form approved by the Society completed by the trainee solicitor as the applicant and his principal;
 - (b) a copy of the trainee solicitor contract for retention by the Society;
 - (c) if applicable, the agreement for mutual release of a previous trainee solicitor contract;
 - (d) such evidence as the Society may reasonably require as to the trainee solicitor's character, fitness and suitability to be a trainee solicitor; and
 - (e) the prescribed fee.