## LEGAL PROFESSION ACT AMENDMENTS RELATING TO

## SINGAPORE AND FOREIGN GROUP PRACTICES

- This regulatory update is issued to draw attention to recent amendments to the Legal Profession Act and subsidiary legislation relating to the type of law practices that can form Singapore group practices and foreign group practices. These amendments have come into force as at 1 August 2018.
- 2. The group practice structure enables two or more law practices to collaborate as freestanding law practices with the benefits of co-branding, and sharing of office premises, resources and client information. Only Singapore law practices can form a Singapore group practice, while only foreign law practices can form a foreign group practice.
- 3. Previously, save for a small number of "grandfathered" group practices, only law practices structured as sole proprietorships and partnerships were eligible to form group practices. On 20 March 2018, the Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 2018 was passed and permits law practices structured as law corporations and limited liability law partnerships to form group practices.
- 4. The provisions bringing these amendments into force came into effect on 1 August 2018:
  - a. Legal Profession Act (Division 5 of Part IXA)
  - b. Legal Profession (Law Practice Entities) Rules, Part 5 and Division 6 of Part 6
- 5. For information about forming a group practice, please refer to:
  - a. Types of Licence or Registration
  - b. Apply for a Licence or Registration for a New Law Practice Entity
- 6. Should you have any questions or require more information, please submit an online enquiry at <u>Contact Us @ OneMinLaw</u>.

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