

# ENHANCED CRIMINAL LEGAL AID SCHEME



The Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) was set up by the Law Society of Singapore in 1985 to provide legal assistance to accused persons facing non-capital criminal charges and unable to afford their own lawyers. It is run by the Law Society and the legal representation is provided by volunteer lawyers and CLAS Fellows.

## What are the services provided under enhanced CLAS?

There are **4 tiers of assistance**, under enhanced CLAS. These aim to serve up to **6,000 accused persons annually**. This is a more than tenfold increase from what CLAS is currently serving.



Existing CLAS	Enhanced CLAS
Serves 400+ accused persons	Serves up to 6,000 accused persons
Provides aid only if you qualify for full representation	Also provides basic legal advice and unbundled services in addition to full representation
No plead guilty cases*	Plead guilty cases covered*
No honorarium provided	Honorarium provided
Basic means test	Enhanced means test# which will allow many more applicants to qualify
15 statutes covered	16 statutes covered
No co-payment	Co-payment
Volunteer lawyers, one MOU with Harry Elias Partnership	Volunteer lawyers, more MOU commitments, CLAS Fellows, Lead Lawyers
No direct Government funding	\$800,000 one-off funding and yearly funding of up to \$3.5 mil

\* Under existing CLAS, plead guilty cases are not allowed unless the defendant is under 18 years old or has a mental illness. Under enhanced CLAS, plead guilty cases will be supported where it can make a difference in the sentencing of the accused person.

# Persons with a disposable income of not more than \$10,000 per annum and a disposable capital of not more than \$10,000 may be granted aid