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ACTS SUPPLEMENT

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 5 November 2019 and assented to by the President on 5 December 2019:—

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 40 of 2019.

I assent.

HALIMAH YACOB,

President.

5 December 2019.



An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Chapter 322 of the 2007 Revised Edition) to provide for the renaming of the High Court as the General Division of the High Court, to provide for the jurisdiction and powers of the Appellate Division of the High Court, to make amendments to provisions relating to the Court of Appeal, to make amendments relating to requirements for leave to appeal against decisions of the General Division of the High

Court and to make consequential and related amendments to certain other Acts.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act is the Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 2019 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

Amendment of long title

2. The long title to the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (called in this Act the principal Act) is amended by deleting the words “relating to the constitution” and substituting the words “to provide for the jurisdiction”.

Amendment of section 2

3. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting the words “unless there is something repugnant in the subject matter or context” and substituting the words “unless the context otherwise requires”;

(b) by deleting the definition of “court” and substituting the following definitions:

““Appellate Division” means the Appellate Division of the High Court;

“court” means the General Division, the Appellate Division, or the Court of Appeal;”;

(c) by deleting the definitions of “Judge” and “Judge of Appeal” and substituting the following definitions:

““General Division” means the General Division of the High Court;

“Judge” means a Supreme Court Judge, a Judicial Commissioner, a Senior Judge or an International Judge, and —

(a) in relation to the General Division, means a Judge sitting in that Division in accordance with the Constitution and this Act;

- (b) in relation to the Appellate Division, means a Judge sitting in that Division in accordance with the Constitution and this Act; and
 - (c) in relation to the Court of Appeal, means a Judge sitting in that Court in accordance with the Constitution and this Act;”; and
- (d) by deleting the full-stop at the end of the definition of “subordinate court” and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following definition:
 - ““Supreme Court Judge” means the Chief Justice, a Justice of the Court of Appeal, a Judge of the Appellate Division or a Judge of the High Court.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of sections 3 and 4

4. Sections 3 and 4 of the principal Act are repealed and the following sections substituted therefor:

“Superior courts

3. It is declared that the General Division of the High Court, the Appellate Division of the High Court and the Court of Appeal are superior courts of record.

Precedence

4. The Supreme Court Judges rank in the following order:
- (a) the Chief Justice;
 - (b) the Vice-Presidents of the Court of Appeal according to the order of their appointments;
 - (c) the Justices of the Court of Appeal (other than the Vice-Presidents of the Court of Appeal) according to the order of their appointments;
 - (d) the President of the Appellate Division (if the Chief Justice is not the President of the Appellate Division);

- (e) the Judges of the Appellate Division (other than the President of the Appellate Division) according to the order of their appointments;
- (f) the Judges of the High Court according to the order of their appointments.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of sections 5A and 6 and new section 7

5. Sections 5A and 6 of the principal Act are repealed and the following sections substituted therefor:

“International Judges

5A. An International Judge may only sit in the Singapore International Commercial Court, in an appeal from a decision of that Court, and in an application relating to such an appeal.

Seal

6. The Supreme Court is to have a seal or seals of such nature and pattern as the Chief Justice may, by notification in the *Gazette*, prescribe.

Vacations

7. The Chief Justice may specify vacations of the Supreme Court, which must not exceed 2 months in any year.”.

Deletion and substitution of heading to Part III

6. Part III of the principal Act is amended by deleting the Part heading and substituting the following Part heading:

“GENERAL DIVISION
OF HIGH COURT”.

Repeal of section 9

7. Section 9 of the principal Act is repealed.

Repeal of section 12

8. Section 12 of the principal Act is repealed.