

THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) PROGRAMMES

1.0 The recent legislation

- 1.1 Section 9B(3) of the Law Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2011 (Act No. 30 of 2011) provides for a mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme for every law practitioner and legal officer.
- 1.2 “law practitioner” is under section 2 of the Law Practitioners Act 1984 as amended by Act No. 30 of 2011 a barrister, an attorney or a notary whose name has been entered on and not erased from the Roll.
- 1.3 “legal officer” is under section 2 of Act No. 30 Of 2011, an officer who holds an office at the Attorney General’s Office or the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

2.0 To whom is Section 9B(3) applicable?

- 2.1 Under section 9B(3), the CPD programme is applicable to all law practitioners and legal officers and makes no provision for any exemption although for reasons of age or ill health, a law practitioner and legal officer may be excused from following the CPD programme by the Chief Justice. For obvious reasons, law officers holding acting appointments as Magistrates will be exempted from CPD. By the combined effect of Section 9B(3) of Act No. 30 of 2011 and Section 2 of the Law Practitioners Act 1984, all law practitioners whose names are on the Roll and have not been erased from it, must fulfil the CPD requirements.
- 2.2 The attention of all law practitioners is drawn to the fact that pursuant to section 10(1) of the Law Practitioners Act, a Roll of law practitioners is kept by the Master and Registrar of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also issues annually an updated list of practicing law practitioners. The annual list of practicing law practitioners is not to be confused with the Roll referred to in the Law Practitioners’ Act.

3.0 The CPD Requirements

- 3.1 The Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (Continuing Professional Development Programme) Regulations 2012 provide that every law practitioner and legal officer shall, for not less than 12 hours in every year, participate in such CPD programme as may be devised, organized and conducted by the Institute.
- 3.2 Law practitioners and legal officers are hereby informed that out of the 12 compulsory CPD hours, they must complete at least 2 CPD hours on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.
- 3.3 In line with section 9(2) of the Law Practitioners (Amendment) Act, law practitioners and legal officers may meet one third of the CPD requirements i.e. 4 hours by taking part in activities that relate to the practice of law and which are

approved by the Institute. Requests for approval of such lectures, workshops or seminars that have been attended by law practitioners should be addressed to the Accreditation Committee of the Institute which will be chaired by Mr. Justice Benjamin Marie Joseph and will consist of Mr. B. Madhub, Deputy Solicitor-General, the Chairman of the Bar Council, the President of the Law Society and the Président of the Chambre des Notaires.

4.0 **CPD Programmes for Calendar Year 2012/2013**

The CPD Programme for the calendar year 2012/2013 will start on 03 September 2012 and the programme will be delivered at the seat of the Institute on Level 7 Happy World House Port Louis. Click [here](#) to view the list of programmes to be offered.

5.0 **Mode of Application**

5.1 **Application Form**

Interested members of the legal profession may enrol for the CPD programmes by filling the application forms which may either be downloaded [[PDF](#)] [[DOC](#)] or collected from the seat of the Institute.

Members may apply for up to 3 courses at any one time.

5.2 **Submission of Application Form**

The duly filled application form should be submitted to the Ag. Director of the Institute **by the specified closing date** either by calling in person or by post at the following address:

Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies,
Level 7, Happy World House,
Sir William Newton Street,
Port Louis.

The application forms may also be submitted by e-mail on the following address:

ijls@mail.gov.mu

6.0 **Selection Process for CPDs**

6.1 The number of seats available for each programme is limited to 75. Selection will accordingly be based on a 'first come first serve' basis.

- 6.2 Members should also ensure that payment of their yearly fees in respect of the CPD programmes has been effected to the Institute prior to enrolling for the programmes.*

*Note: Since the CPD programmes will start on 03 September 2012 and collection of yearly fees will also start on that date, condition at paragraph 6.2 will exceptionally be waived for CPD programmes being held during the month of September. Members should however ensure that they effect their payment before enrolling on programmes to be held after September 2012.

7.0 Mode of Payment of Fees

- 7.1 Payment may be effected by way of bank cheque or crossed cheque issued to the order of the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies at latest by 31 December every year.
- 7.2 Cheques may be sent by post to the Ag. Director of the Institute or deposited in person at the following address:

Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies,
c/o Finance Section,
Level 7, Happy World House,
Sir William Newton Street,
Port Louis.

- 7.3 A receipt shall be issued to the payee in return for each payment effected to the Institute.

8.0 Compliance and Audit

All law practitioners and legal officers shall submit at latest 15 days after the end of the CPD year, a written declaration together with a certificate from the Institute that they have complied with the prescribed CPD requirements. The attention of law practitioners and legal officers is kindly drawn to section 9B(4) of the Law Practitioners Act pursuant to which the Chief Justice may suspend the right to practice not exceeding one year for non compliance with the CPD requirements.