

SAL to launch national training programme for junior lawyers

New Junior Lawyers Professional Certification Programme aims to tackle attrition and AI disruption with structured training and mentorship

SINGAPORE, 22 April 2025 — The Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) will launch the Junior Lawyers Professional Certification Programme (JLP) on 21 May 2025. This industry-wide initiative is designed to support the professional development of early-career lawyers. The programme aims to address key challenges facing the legal industry, including high attrition rates, limited practical training, and the growing impact of generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) on legal work.

The launch will take place at a full-day opening conference, featuring the opening lecture and a fireside chat by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, who has endorsed the JLP as a timely and much-needed investment in the future of the profession. As legal practice evolves rapidly with shifting workplace expectations and increasing client demands, the JLP offers junior lawyers structured guidance, hands-on learning, and mentorship during the critical early years of their careers.

SAL Chief Executive Yeong Zee Kin said: “The JLP reflects our continued commitment to strengthening Singapore’s legal ecosystem. With technology reshaping legal practice and clients demanding more complex, high-value work, it’s essential that our junior lawyers are equipped to meet these challenges.

“This initiative goes beyond acquiring technical skills. It is about building a culture of continual learning and development. Through the JLP and a new training commitment pledge¹, we are encouraging law firms and in-house teams to take an active role in nurturing the next generation of legal talent.”

¹ By signing the pledge, law firms and in-house legal teams commit to investing in the professional development of their lawyers.

A Structured Path for Professional Growth

Designed and delivered by SAL, the voluntary programme targets lawyers with five or fewer years of post-qualification experience. It combines legal, technological, and professional training, offering contents such as:

- Ethics of Generative AI
- Prompt Engineering for Legal Professionals
- Cross-border Contract Drafting
- Oral and Written Advocacy
- Leadership and Business Development

Attendance at the opening conference on 21 May is one of the requirements for the JLP qualifications and participants can hear from the Chief Justice himself and also attend one of three legal masterclasses led by experienced practitioners on topics such as Gen AI ethics, lifelong learning agility and crisis communications.

The conference held at PARKROYAL COLLECTION Marina Bay will also feature panel discussions with global experts and legal educators.

Certification, Accreditation, and Funding

To be certified, participants must attend the Opening Conference and a minimum of 11 other modules (from a choice of 20 modules) over a two-year period.

Course fees may be self-funded or sponsored by law firms, and SAL is working with SkillsFuture Singapore to secure funding of up to 70% for eligible individuals and SMEs.

All JLP modules have been accredited with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE). Relevant portions of modules that meet the criteria will also count towards mandatory Ethics CPD points. JLP certification will also position participants to develop specialisation in niche practice areas and to apply for SAL Specialist Accreditation in the future.

To further strengthen its role in legal education, SAL has established a full-time faculty and has worked with judges and senior members of the profession to develop curriculum and training materials.

Registration Now Open

Registration for the opening conference and the JLP is now open. Priority enrolment will be given to Singapore-qualified lawyers who are members of SAL.

For more information and to sign up, please visit:

<https://store.lawnet.com/events/lecture/junior-lawyers-professional-certification-programme-jlp.html>

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About the Singapore Academy of Law

SAL's mission is to enable future-ready, trusted legal professionals. The statutory body works with members and stakeholders to set new precedents of excellence in Singapore law through developing legal thought leadership, world-class legal technology infrastructure and legal solutions to support our members. As a body established by statute, SAL also undertakes statutory functions such as the Wills Registry, stakeholding services and appointment of Senior Counsel, Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public. For more information, please visit www.sal.org.sg.

The SAL Group comprises the Singapore Academy of Law, the Singapore Mediation Centre, the Asian Business Law Institute and LawNet Technology Services.