

1 NOVEMBER 2014

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES AT THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

1. The Attorney-General's Chambers' (AGC) Economic Crimes and Governance Division will be re-designated as the Financial and Technology Crime Division (FTCD) under the leadership of Chief Prosecutor Mavis Chionh, while the AGC's Criminal Justice and State Prosecution Divisions have merged into one Criminal Justice Division headed by Chief Prosecutor Tai Wei Shyong. The Legislation and Law Reform Division will be renamed as the Legislation Division and remains helmed by Chief Legislative Counsel Mrs Owi Beng Ki.
2. These organisational changes take effect from 1 November.
3. The new Criminal Justice Division will deal with serious Penal Code Offences, offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act and other laws. The merger will facilitate the efficient deployment of prosecution resources in both the Supreme Court and State Courts. AGC officers will also be given greater exposure to different areas of work. The CJD comprises six litigation directorates and a Legal Research, Policy and Advisory directorate. The litigation directorates will undertake prosecutions of capital, non-capital and specialised crimes cases in the High Court and offences under various Statutes including the Penal Code in the State Courts, while the Legal Research, Policy and Advisory directorate will render legal advice to Ministries, Governmental departments and agencies on criminal matters. It will also examine crime trends to identify possible issues for review and propose possible reforms to improve the criminal justice system in the long run.
4. The re-designation of the Economic Crimes and Governance Division as the Financial and Technology Crime Division brings the prosecution of cybercrimes under the division's purview. It recognises that many financial crimes in today's tech-savvy, inter-connected world involve cross-border transactions and the use of sophisticated technology. For example, online business activity such as electronic commerce and electronic banking is now ubiquitous. As a specialist division, the Financial and Technology Crime Division focuses on financial crimes ranging from securities fraud and money laundering to corruption and criminal breach of trust, as well as a broad range of cybercrimes. Prosecutors who deal with such cases require deep and up-

to-date knowledge of business organisations, markets, banking practices, financial and other commercial transactions in order to successfully prosecute white collar criminals.

5. The Legislation and Law Reform Division is renamed “Legislation Division” to better reflect the Division’s focus on law drafting, and its ceasing to carry out law reform projects of its own.

6. A strong and effective rule of law¹ underpins Singapore’s global reputation as a safe and secure nation and a top financial hub. The changes to AGC’s criminal prosecution divisions will ensure it optimise its resources to fairly and efficiently administrate justice in the public interest, to better serve Singapore. AGC’s previous re-organisation was in 2011.

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¹ In the World Justice Project’s Rule of Law Index 2014, Singapore was ranked 10th overall, compared to 21 in the 2012-2013 report. The WJP Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool that measures how the rule of law is experienced by ordinary people in 99 countries, based on over 100,000 household and 2,400 expert surveys worldwide. The 2014 Index comprised nine aggregate factors which include criminal justice. Singapore ranked second, after Finland for effective criminal justice in the 2014 rankings. http://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/files/wjp_rule_of_law_index_2014_report.pdf