

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SINGAPORE**

**PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 2 OF 2001**

**PRECEDENCE AND PREAUDIENCE OF SENIOR COUNSEL**

According to the laws and customs of the Republic of Singapore, Senior Counsel have precedence and preaudience. The question of precedence is regulated by section 31 of the Legal Profession Act, Cap 161. The issue of preaudience is governed by existing custom or usage.

2. The Honourable the Chief Justice has directed that the principle of preaudience and precedence to Senior Counsel should be given substance in the reality of litigation practice.

3. As such, the Honourable the Chief Justice has directed that Senior Counsel who intend to appear at summonses in chambers for hearing by Judges or registrars and motions for hearing in open court should inform the Registrar by way of fax not later than two clear days before the scheduled hearing date, so that their matters are listed in order of precedence. If Senior Counsel do not appear at the time their matters come on for hearing, according to the list, they will have to wait for their matters to be heard after all other matters have been heard.

4. All other counsel, including those who appear on behalf of their Senior Counsel, will be heard in the order in which they appear on the list. Counsel who are not present when their matters come up for hearing according to this order will then be heard on a first come first served basis.

5. This practice direction should be included in *The Supreme Court Practice Directions (1997 Ed.)* immediately before the first page of the table of contents. Instructions for effecting the amendments to *The Supreme Court Practice Directions (1997 Ed.)* are contained in the Appendix hereto.

6. This practice direction will come into effect on 12 March 2001.

Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2001.

CHIAM BOON KENG  
REGISTRAR  
SUPREME COURT