



IN THE SUBORDINATE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

REGISTRAR'S CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2010 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN DESIGNATIONS

The Subordinate Courts Act (Cap. 321, 2007 Rev. Ed.) provides for the President to appoint, upon the recommendation of the Chief Justice, a Senior District Judge, who has seniority over all other District Judges.

2 By an amendment to the Subordinate Courts Act via the Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2010 (No. 4 of 2010) which took effect on 17 February 2010, the title of the apex post in the Subordinate Courts has been changed from the “Senior District Judge” to “Chief District Judge”. The former title of “Senior District Judge” may not fully convey the leadership role of the apex judicial post in the Subordinate Courts. The new designation also carries the advantage of being a familiar designation within the Commonwealth. While there is a change in the *title* of the apex post, the *scope* of the role does not change.

3 Following the re-designation of the “Senior District Judge” to “Chief District Judge”, the title of “Senior District Judge” will, however, still remain. On 26 February 2010, the Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong announced at the Subordinate Courts Annual Workplan 2010 that the respective heads of the Criminal Justice Division, Civil Justice Division, Family and Juvenile Justice Division, as well as the Corporate and Court Services Division, have been re-designated as “Senior District Judges” instead of “Principal District Judges”.

4 The above re-designation recognises the pivotal role these Senior District Judges play following the reorganisation of the Subordinate Courts in September 2009. This reorganisation aims to empower the Senior District Judges to lead their Divisions, in order for the Subordinate Courts to provide an effective and accessible system of justice, inspiring public trust and confidence.

5 Following the changes, the relevant officers and their designations are:

- (i) Chief District Judge Tan Siong Thye;
- (ii) Senior District Judge Foo Tuat Yien, Family and Juvenile Justice Division;
- (iii) Senior District Judge See Kee Oon, Criminal Justice Division;

- (iv) Senior District Judge-Consultant Liew Thiam Leng, Criminal Justice Division;
- (v) Senior District Judge Leslie Chew Kwee Hoe, Civil Justice Division; and
- (vi) Senior District Judge Hoo Sheau Peng, Corporate and Court Services Division, and concurrently, Registrar Subordinate Courts.

Dated the 29th day of March 2010.



HOO SHEAU PENG
REGISTRAR
SUBORDINATE COURTS