



**Majlis Peguam
Bar Council Malaysia**

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To Members of the Malaysian Bar

Legal Profession (Group Law Practice) Rules 2018

The Group Law Practice (“GLP”) was established under the Legal Profession (Group Law Practice) Rules 2018 (“Rules”) that came into operation on 30 June 2018. The GLP was an initiative of the Bar Council Small Firms Practice Committee (“Committee”) to provide a new option for legal practice that enables small firms to work together as a group whilst maintaining their individuality and continue as separate entities.

Under the GLP, up to five small firms are allowed to operate as a group from a common office under a common “brand name” with shared facilities, resources, and infrastructure. By operating as a group, the small firms will be able to reduce their operating expenses, maximise their potential, and increase their competitiveness and marketability. A “small firm” — for the purposes of the GLP — is a firm with not more than five lawyers and that does not have a branch. Currently, there are 26 GLPs operating in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Johore, Kelantan, and Penang.

Over the last one year, the legal practice has also been affected by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is growing concern that small firms are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their operating expenses and managing their expenses in order to keep the practice economically viable.

Under this situation, the Committee would like to invite and encourage Members to consider the GLP as potential solution towards reducing operating expenses and costs. Shared premises, resources and infrastructures will result in significantly lower operating expenses for the firms, and in turn increase profitability. The Committee believes that the GLP is an attractive solution for small firms looking for means to reduce operating expenses and to remain competitive.

Click [here](#) to view the Legal Profession (Group Law Practice) Rules 2018.

An article on the Rules and features of the GLP entitled “Group Law Practice: A New Option now Available for Small Law Firms” is available on the Malaysian Bar website at this [link](#).

The application form to set up a GLP is available at this [link](#). Applications may be submitted to the Bar Council Secretariat by email to membership@malaysianbar.org.my.

The Committee is also ready to assist small firms that are interested to set up a GLP, join an existing GLP or are looking for “partner” firms in order to set up a GLP. Such firms may register their interest with the Committee.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Raz Ida Nadira Razali, Officer by telephone at 03-2050 2090, or by email at raz@malaysianbar.org.my.

Thank you.

**R Jayabalan
Chairperson
Small Firms Practice Committee**