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Fourth Session Twelfth Parliament Republic of  
Trinidad and Tobago

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REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## **Act No. 14 of 2024**

[L.S.]

AN ACT to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; the Judicial and Legal Service Act, Chap. 6:01; the Children Act, Chap. 46:01; the Patents Act, Chap. 82:76 and the Legal Profession Act, Chap. 90:03 with respect to the administration of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and for related matters.

*[Assented to 23rd September, 2024]*

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Enactment  
follows:

Short title	1. This Act may be cited as the Miscellaneous Provisions (Judicial and Legal Service) Act, 2024.
Commencement	2. This Act shall come into operation on such date as is fixed by the President by Proclamation.
Alteration of the Constitution	3. This Act alters the Constitution.
Section 111 of the Constitution amended	4. Section 111(2) of the Constitution is amended by deleting the words “Chief State Solicitor” and substituting the words “Chief State Attorney”.
Chap. 6:01 amended	5. The Judicial and Legal Service Act is amended— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) in section 2, in the definition of “Chief Legal Officer” by inserting after the words “Solicitor General”, the words “, Registrar General”;</li> <li>(b) in section 8A, by inserting after the words “written law,”, the words “a Chief Judicial Officer or”;</li> <li>(c) by inserting immediately after section 8A, the following section:           <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> <p style="margin: 0;">“Tenure of Chief Legal Officers and Chief Judicial Officers</p> <p style="margin: 0;">8B. (1) A Chief Legal Officer or Chief Judicial Officer shall vacate office on attaining the age of sixty-five years.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">(2) Nothing done by a Chief Legal Officer or Chief Judicial Officer shall be invalid by reason only that the officer has attained the age at which the officer is required under this section to vacate office.”;</p> </div> </li> <li>(d) in section 12—           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) in subsection (1) by—               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) inserting after the words “Legislative Drafting”, the words “, Registrar General”; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- (B) inserting after the words “Chief Parliamentary Counsel”, the words “, the Registrar General”;
- (ii) by repealing subsection (2) and substituting the following subsections:
- “(2) Subject to subsection (2A), the Department of Civil Law shall be responsible for such functions and duties with respect to civil proceedings and other civil law matters, which—
- (a) immediately before the commencement of the Miscellaneous Provisions (Judicial and Legal Service) Act, 2024, a Solicitor General or Chief State Solicitor was entitled to perform by virtue of law or practice;
  - (b) are conferred or assigned to a legal office set out in Part I of the First Schedule; or
  - (c) are assigned by the Attorney General.
- (2A) Nothing in subsection (2) shall be construed as affecting any law or the exercise of any authority which assigns responsibility for a specific duty or function in relation to any civil law matter to a particular office, office holder, Department or statutory body.”; and
- (iii) by inserting immediately after subsection (4), the following subsections:
- “(4A) There shall be a Chambers Manager who shall, in accordance with the general or specific directions of the Solicitor General,

provide general administration support, including strategic and operational planning, to the Department of Civil Law.

(4B) The office of Chambers Manager shall be held by a suitably qualified person who—

- (a) is engaged on contract for a period up to five years; and
- (b) may be eligible for re-engagement.”;

(e) by inserting after section 17, the following section:

“Change of office title

18. A reference in any written law, contract or other document to an office in the First Column shall be construed as a reference to the corresponding office, as renamed, in the Second Column:

<i>First Column</i> Former Title of Office	<i>Second Column</i> New Title of Office
Chief State Solicitor	Chief State Attorney
Deputy Solicitor General	Deputy Chief State Attorney
Deputy Chief State Solicitor	Deputy Chief State Attorney
Assistant Solicitor General	Assistant Chief State Attorney
Assistant Chief State Solicitor	Assistant Chief State Attorney
Senior State Counsel	Senior State Attorney I
Senior State Solicitor	Senior State Attorney II
State Counsel III	State Attorney III
State Counsel II	State Attorney II
State Solicitor II	State Attorney II
State Counsel I	State Attorney I
State Solicitor I	State Attorney I”;

(f) in the First Schedule—

(i) by repealing Part I and substituting the following Parts:

“PART I

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL LAW

Solicitor General

Chief State Attorney

Deputy Chief State Attorney

Senior Children’s Attorney

Assistant Chief State Attorney

Senior State Attorney II

Senior State Attorney I

State Attorney III

Children’s Attorney

State Attorney II

State Attorney I

PART IA

REGISTRAR GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT

Registrar General

Deputy Registrar General

Assistant Registrar General

Senior Assistant Registrar General

Examiner of Title

Specialist Legal Officer”; and

(ii) in Part V by inserting the following offices:

“Controller of the Intellectual Property Office

Deputy Controller of the Intellectual  
Property Office

Assistant Controller of the Intellectual  
Property Office”.

Chap. 46:01  
amended

6. The Children Act is amended—

- (a) in section 3, by deleting the definition of “Children’s Attorney” and substituting the following definition:

““Children’s Attorney” means—

- (a) a person appointed in accordance with section 88(1);
- (b) a legal officer who is assigned to perform the functions of a Children’s Attorney under section 88(4A); or
- (c) a person engaged on contract under section 89;”;
- (b) in section 88, by inserting after subsection (4), the following subsection:

“(4A) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), a person who holds an office in the Department of Civil Law, as set out in Part I of the First Schedule to the Judicial and Legal Service Act, may be assigned to perform the functions of a Children’s Attorney and when performing such functions, shall be deemed to be a Children’s Attorney.”;

- (c) by inserting after section 88, the following section:

“Additional  
qualifications

88A. In addition to the qualifications required for appointment, engagement on contract or assignment of functions as a Senior

Children’s Attorney or a Children’s Attorney under section 88, a person shall be required to possess training related to family or children matters and a suitable temperament for dealing with children.”; and

(d) in section 89(1)—

- (i) by deleting the word “The” and substituting the words “Notwithstanding section 88(1), the”;
- (ii) by deleting the words “section 88(4)” and substituting the words “section 88(3) and (4) and section 88A”; and
- (iii) by inserting after the words “functions of a”, the words “Senior Children’s Attorney or”.

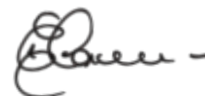
7. The Patents Act is amended in section 3, by inserting Chap. 82:76 amended after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(3A) The other officers referred to in subsection (3) and the Examiners in section 5 may be—

- (a) appointed as a public officer; or
- (b) engaged on contract by the Permanent Secretary on the advice of the Controller for a period of five years or less but may be eligible for re-engagement.”.

8. The Legal Profession Act is amended in section Chap. 90:03 amended 26(4), by inserting after the words “Solicitor General,” the words “the Registrar General,”.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 3rd day of July, 2024.



*Clerk of the House*

Passed in the Senate this 9th day of September, 2024.



*(Acting) Clerk of the Senate*