

Third law school focused on lawyers interested in community law

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The Old Supreme Court is pictured in front of the current Supreme Court. A third law school that will cater to individuals interested in community law will be set up in Singapore, following recommendations from a committee formed to look into the supply of lawyers here. -- ST FILE PHOTO: TERENCE TAN

By Jalelah Abu Baker

A third law school that will cater to individuals interested in community law will be set up in Singapore, following recommendations from a committee formed to look into the supply of lawyers here.

Law Minister K. Shanmugam announced on Tuesday afternoon at a press conference that the school will focus on training those interested in practising family and criminal law to meet a shortage in the supply for such lawyers. The school will offer a part-time degree course and will take in mostly mature students, with limited spaces for GCE A-level graduates. It will take in 75 students for a start.

Mr Shanmugam said that the Ministry of Law is working with the Ministry of Education to find a suitable host institution, and has not decided on a timeline. The other two law schools in Singapore are hosted in the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University.

The new school was among six recommendations made by the 4th Committee on the Supply of Lawyers chaired by Justice V. K. Rajah. The other recommendations include increasing the intake of law students into the Singapore Management University from 120 to 180 over three years, regularly reviewing the list of approved overseas law schools, and improving work conditions to address the attrition in the legal industry here.