

Grads from third law school not second class

It would be “unfair” to brand graduates from Singapore’s third law school as “second class”, nor would they be restricted to practising community law.

So said Law Minister K. Shanmugam on his Facebook page yesterday.

He wrote: “Some have questioned how effectively this will meet our need for more community lawyers. There were also concerns that lawyers from the Third Law School will be perceived as ‘second class’. Others have raised the possibility that graduates from the Third Law School will not go into community law.”

The law school, which will be hosted by UniSIM, is expected to focus on family and criminal law.

It will offer an opportunity to do law to those “who did

not (for one reason or another) go into National University of Singapore or Singapore Management University law schools, and who did not go overseas either. It also offers a pathway to law to those who wish to study law, after they had gone into some other career”.

Added Mr Shanmugam: “It would not be accurate to say that graduates of the Third Law School are restricted to practising community law. Nor is it fair to brand them as ‘second class’. Students in the Third Law School will be equipped with the full range of skills expected of all lawyers – good analytical and research skills, good interpersonal and writing skills, logical thinking ability, perseverance, and creativity to think of innovative solutions.

“They can practise in any area of the law they wish.”