

**SOLICITORS ADMISSION AND TRAINING (QUALIFICATION OF MASTERS)**  
**REGULATIONS 1988**

The Council of the Law Society of Northern Ireland, in exercise of the power conferred on it by Articles 6 and 74(1) of the Solicitors (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, and with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, hereby makes the following Regulations:

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Solicitors Admission and Training (Qualification of Masters) Regulations 1988 and shall come into force on the 1st day of September 1988.
2. These Regulations are supplemental to the Solicitors Admission and Training Regulations 1988 (the Principal Regulations) and shall be interpreted and construed accordingly.
3. No solicitor shall be regarded as acceptable for the purposes of Regulation 7(iii) of the Principal Regulations unless he shall have
  - (a)
    - (i) practised as a solicitor for at least seven years prior to the date of the petition in relation to which the Committee's decision is to be made; and
    - (ii) practised in private general practice as a partner or sole practitioner for at least three years prior to such date; or
  - (b) practised as a solicitor in the public service for at least ten years prior to such date; and
  - (c) in either case satisfied the Committee that his practice or the public service department in which he practises provides satisfactory opportunities for the adequate training of a registered student.
4. In considering whether or not a solicitor is acceptable for the purposes of Regulation 7(iii) of the Principal Regulations the Committee shall have regard to the following factors inter alia;
  - (a) any complaints which may have been made to the Society at any time in relation to such solicitor;
  - (b) any admonishment, reprimand or other sanction at any time imposed by the Society upon such solicitor;
  - (c) any order or finding made against such solicitor at any time by the Disciplinary Committee;
  - (d) the standard of proficiency of such solicitor in the operation of his own

practice including the management of his office and the performance of his professional work;

- (e) the aptitude of such solicitor to provide satisfactory and adequate training to a registered student;
  - (f) the manner in which such solicitor may have conducted himself as a Master under any previous Articles of Apprenticeship;
  - (g) the nature and manner of operation of the practice of such solicitor including such matters as the range of work undertaken, the number and standard of staff employed in such practice and the nature and standard of the premises in which such practice is carried on;
  - (h) any other circumstance of whatever nature which might, in the opinion of the Committee, affect the suitability of such solicitor to act as the Master of a registered student.
5. In Regulation 13 of the Principal Regulations the following proviso shall be inserted namely: "provided however that it shall be permissible for an individual solicitor to have two apprentices at any one time so long as
- (a) both apprentices are registered students of the Society under Regulation 8(1)(a) or (b); and
  - (b) one of the said students is in the first year of his apprenticeship and the other is in the second year of his apprenticeship".