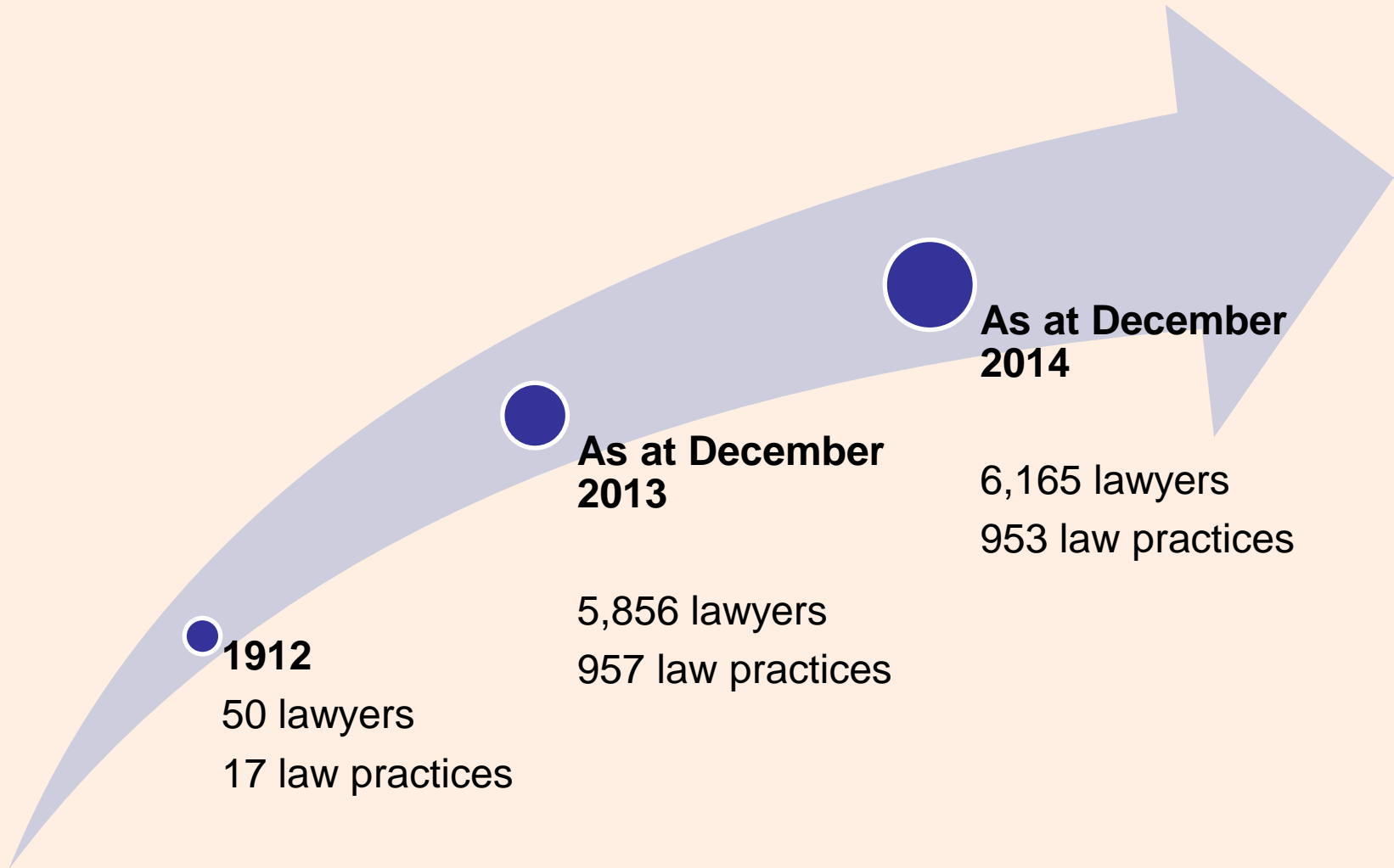


BUILDING A REGULATOR – THE SINGAPORE EXPERIENCE

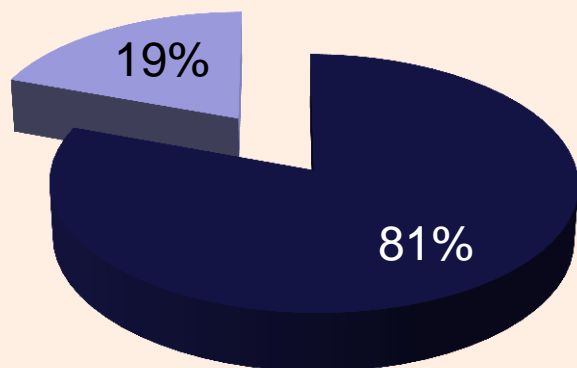
**Joan Janssen, 2 Director-General, Legal Group, Ministry of Law,
Singapore**

Backdrop of Legal Landscape



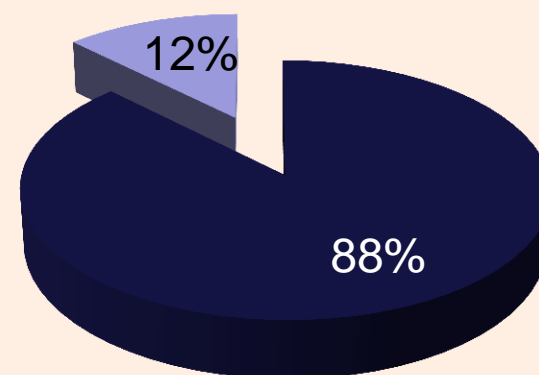
Lawyers in Singapore

- Singapore-qualified lawyers ("SLs")
- Foreign-qualified lawyers ("FLs")



Law Practices in Singapore

- Singapore law practices ("SLPs")
- Foreign law practices ("FLPs")



- FLs make up approximately 20% of total lawyer population in Singapore
- Singapore is a hub for FLPs to service Southeast Asia and South Asia

Blurring of the traditional lines between SLs and FLs

- Liberalisation of the practice of Singapore law
- Increasingly international nature of legal practice

Modernisation of law practices and their business structures

- Variety of practice vehicles
- Development of alternative business structures (“ABSes”) internationally

Key recommendations of the Committee to review the regulatory framework of the legal services sector (“Regulatory Committee”)

- Set up a new entity regulator, the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (“LSRA”)
- Have a single disciplinary regime for all lawyers in Singapore

Current Regulatory Framework

Supreme Court of Singapore

Issuance of **practising certificates** for SLPs

Oversees **disciplinary framework** for SLPs

Law Society of Singapore

Approval of **SLP names**

Approval to **share premises**

Discipline of SLPs

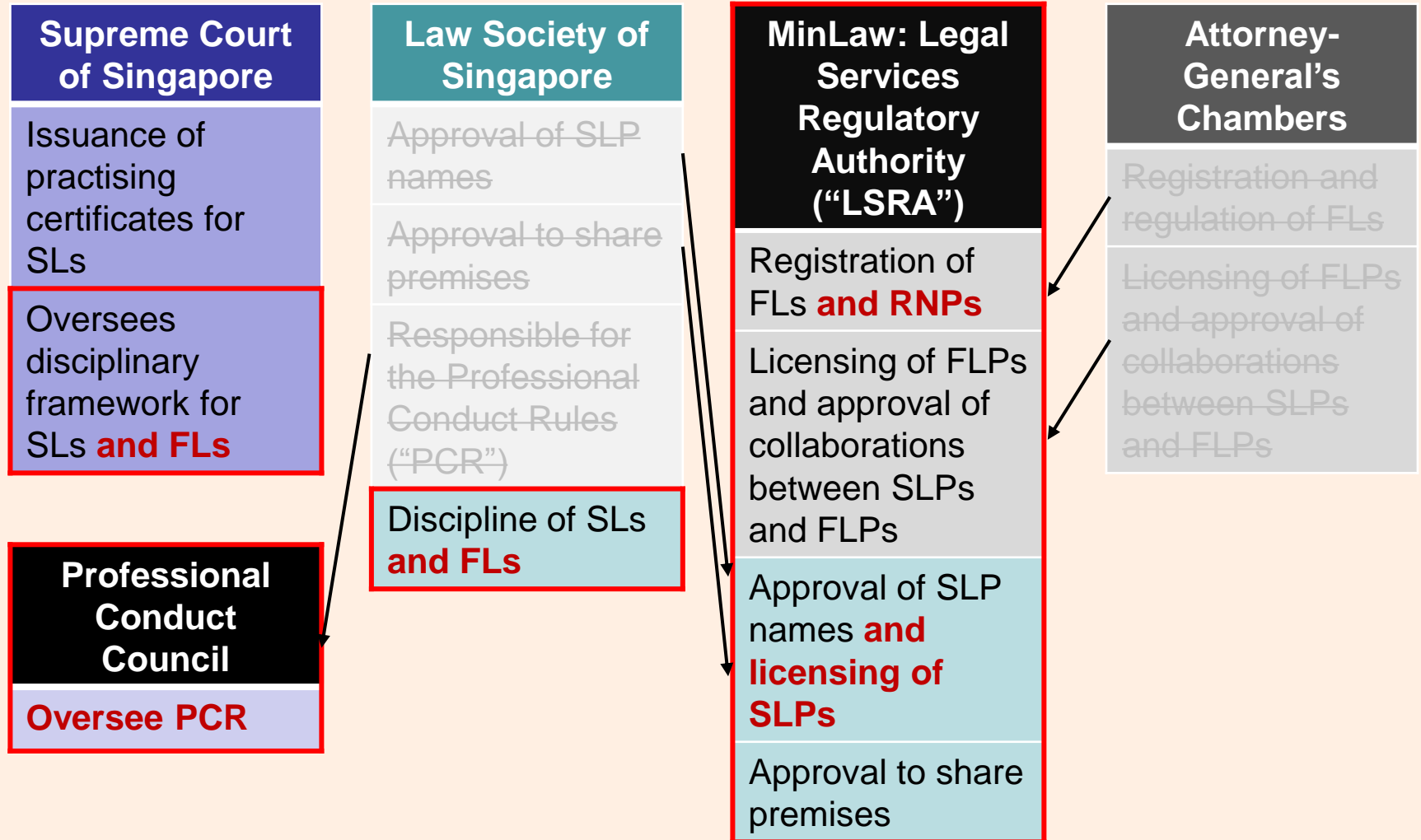
Responsible for the **Professional Conduct Rules ("PCR")**

Attorney-General's Chambers

Licensing of FLPs and approval of **collaborations** between SLPs and FLPs

Registration and regulation of **FLs**

New Regulatory Framework



Oversight Bodies for Professional Standards

Current

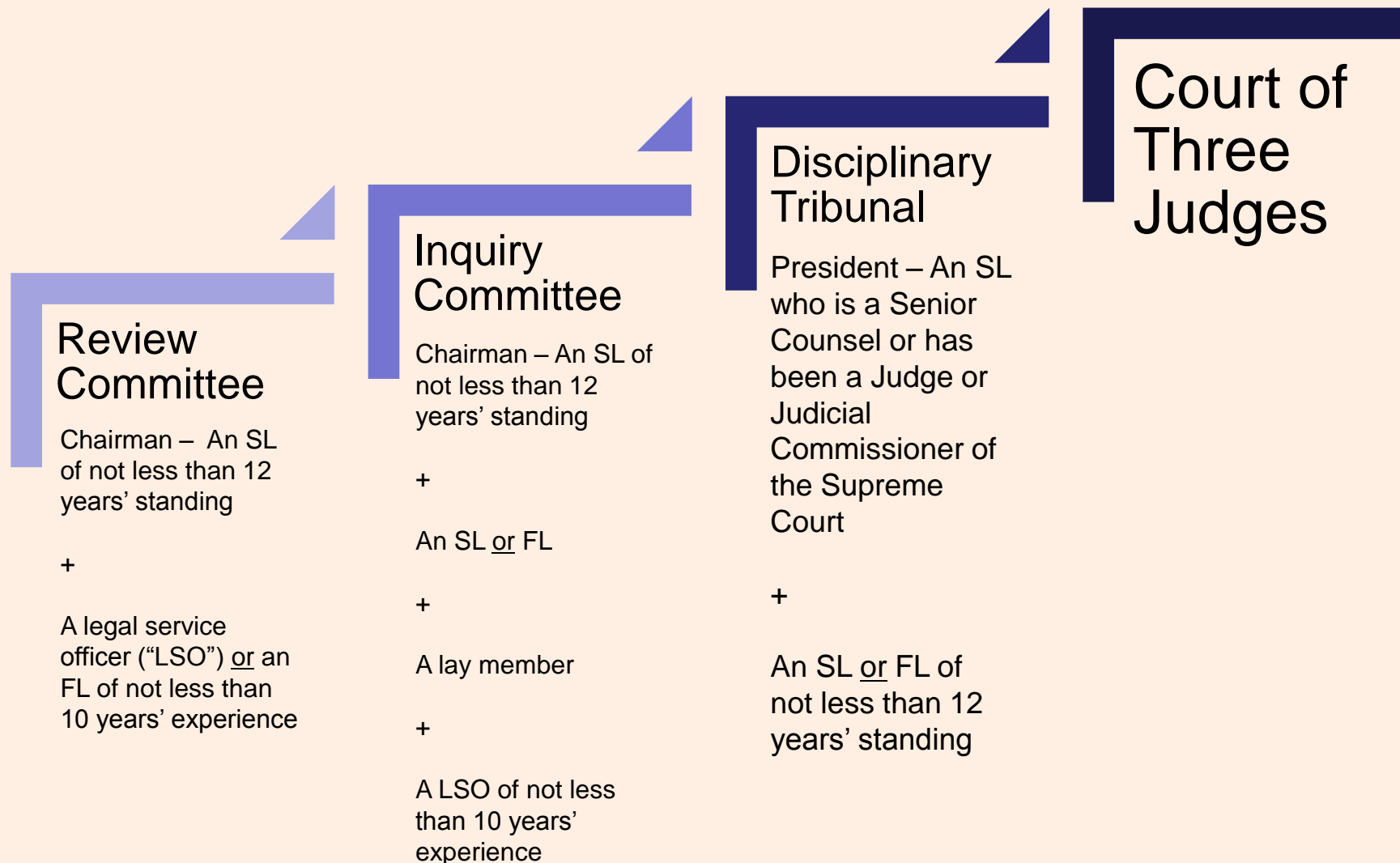
- PCR laid down by the Law Society, with the approval of the Chief Justice
- Law Society's Ethics Committee provides guidance on various aspects of professional conduct



New

- PCC to oversee the new PCR
- A new Working Group to periodically review and work out detailed revisions to the new PCR
- A new Advisory Committee to give advice to both SLs and FLs on ethical issues

Single Disciplinary Framework



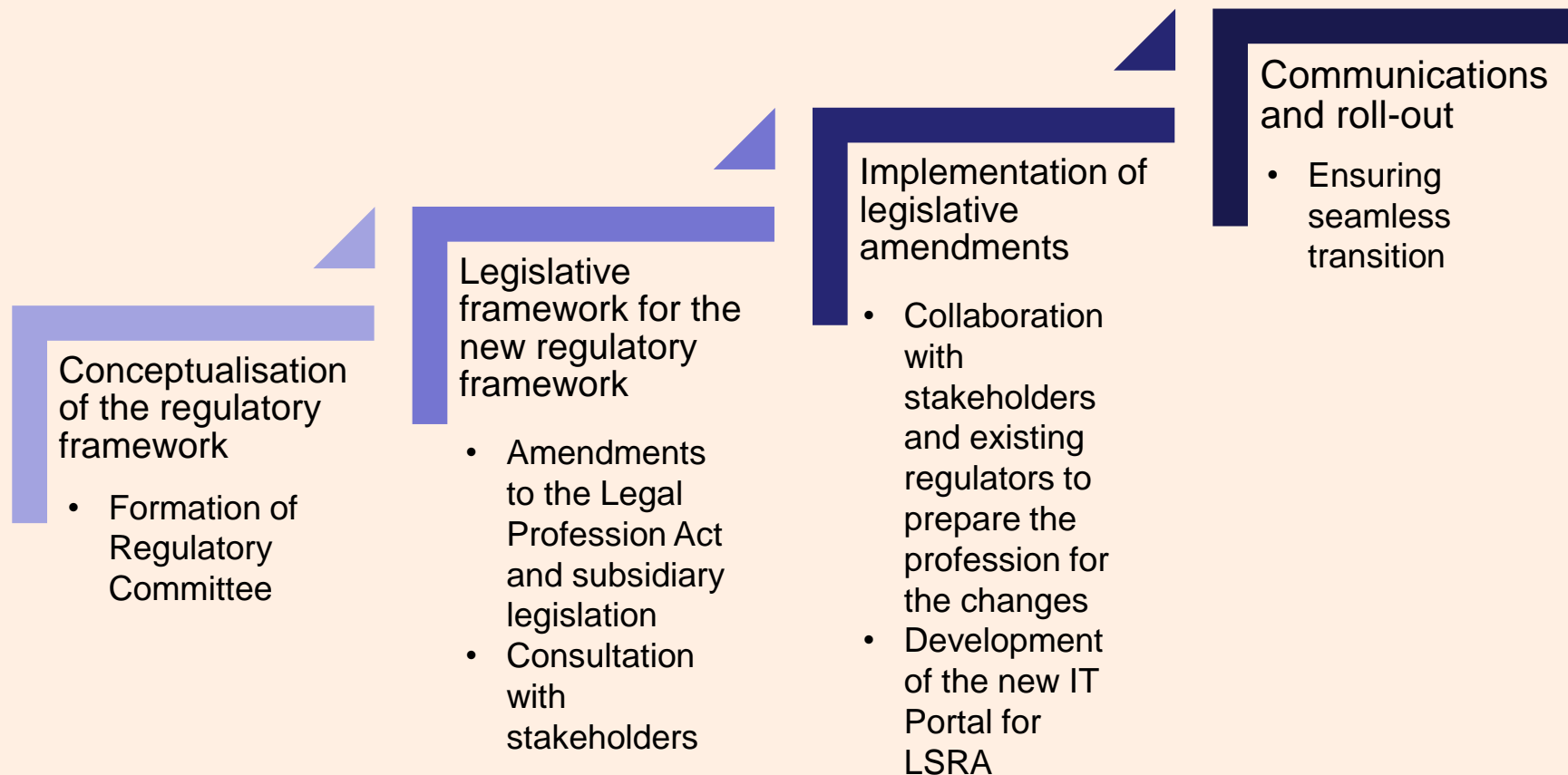
Entity regulator

- Register and oversee regulation of all law practices (SLPs and FLPs), including ABSes
- Register FLs and RNPs
- Investigate and sanction law practices for breaches of business criteria

Streamlined process

- Law practices are able to apply for all required approvals for registration through a newly developed IT Portal

Stages of Establishment of the LSRA



Involvement of stakeholders

- Get their “buy in”
- Preparing the profession for the reforms
- Collaboration with existing regulators

Communications

- Positioning of the reforms

Phased / calibrated approach to reform

- Diversity of constituents

Maximising the opportunity to enact reforms

- Making a difference despite the complexity
- Using IT to improve the experience for law practices