



Legal Services Act 2007

2007 CHAPTER 29

PART 8

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ABOUT LAWYERS ETC

Other lawyers

185 Patent attorneys

- (1) The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (c. 48) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 274 (persons permitted to carry on business of a patent agent) in subsection (1) after “this Part” insert “ and to the Legal Services Act 2007 ”.
- (3) For section 275 (the register of patent agents) substitute—

“275 The register of patent attorneys

- (1) There is to continue to be a register of persons who act as agent for others for the purpose of applying for or obtaining patents.
- (2) In this Part a registered patent attorney means an individual whose name is entered on the register kept under this section.
- (3) The register is to be kept by the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys.
- (4) The Secretary of State may, by order, amend subsection (3) so as to require the register to be kept by the person specified in the order.
- (5) Before making an order under subsection (4), the Secretary of State must consult the Legal Services Board.
- (6) An order under this section must be made by statutory instrument.
- (7) An order under this section may not be made unless a draft of it has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Legal Services Act 2007, Section 185. (See end of Document for details)

275A Regulation of patent attorneys

- (1) The person who keeps the register under section 275 may make regulations which regulate—
 - (a) the keeping of the register and the registration of persons;
 - (b) the carrying on of patent attorney work by registered persons.
- (2) Those regulations may, amongst other things, make—
 - (a) provision as to the educational and training qualifications, and other requirements, which must be satisfied before an individual may be registered or for an individual to remain registered;
 - (b) provision as to the requirements which must be met by a body (corporate or unincorporate) before it may be registered, or for it to remain registered, including provision as to the management and control of the body;
 - (c) provision as to the educational, training and other requirements to be met by regulated persons;
 - (d) provision regulating the practice, conduct and discipline of registered persons or regulated persons;
 - (e) provision authorising in such cases as may be specified in the regulations the erasure from the register of the name of any person registered in it, or the suspension of a person's registration;
 - (f) provision requiring the payment of such fees as may be specified in or determined in accordance with the regulations;
 - (g) provision about the provision to be made by registered persons in respect of complaints made against them;
 - (h) provision about the keeping by registered persons or regulated persons of records and accounts;
 - (i) provision for reviews of or appeals against decisions made under the regulations;
 - (j) provision as to the indemnification of registered persons or regulated persons against losses arising from claims in respect of civil liability incurred by them.
- (3) Regulations under this section may make different provision for different purposes.
- (4) Regulations under this section which are not regulatory arrangements within the meaning of the Legal Services Act 2007 are to be treated as such arrangements for the purposes of that Act.
- (5) Before the appointed day, regulations under this section may be made only with the approval of the Secretary of State.
- (6) The powers conferred to make regulations under this section are not to be taken to prejudice—
 - (a) any other power which the person who keeps the register may have to make rules or regulations (however they may be described and whether they are made under an enactment or otherwise);
 - (b) any rules or regulations made by that person under any such power.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Legal Services Act 2007, Section 185. (See end of Document for details)

(7) In this section—

“appointed day” means the day appointed for the coming into force of paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 to the Legal Services Act 2007;

“manager”, in relation to a body, has the same meaning as in the Legal Services Act 2007 (see section 207);

“patent attorney work” means work done in the course of carrying on the business of acting as agent for others for the purpose of—

(a) applying for or obtaining patents, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, or

(b) conducting proceedings before the comptroller relating to applications for, or otherwise in connection with, patents;

“registered person” means—

(a) a registered patent attorney, or

(b) a body (corporate or unincorporate) registered in the register kept under section 275;

“regulated person” means a person who is not a registered person but is a manager or employee of a body which is a registered person.”

(4) In section 276 (persons entitled to describe themselves as patent attorneys)—

(a) in subsection (2)—

(i) after “partnership” (in the first place) insert “ or other unincorporated body ”, and

(ii) for “all the partners” to the end substitute “ the partnership or other body is registered in the register kept under section 275 ”, and

(b) in subsection (3) for “all the directors” to the end substitute “ the body corporate is registered in the register kept under section 275. ”

(5) Omit section 279 (power to prescribe conditions etc for mixed partnerships and bodies corporate).

(6) In section 280 (privilege for communications with patent agents), in subsection (3), at the end of paragraph (b) insert—

“(ba) an unincorporated body (other than a partnership) entitled to describe itself as a patent attorney, or”.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Legal Services Act 2007, Section 185.