SINGAPORE: Six lawyers have been appointed Senior Counsel at the opening of the Legal Year 2008.

The appointment of Senior Counsel is a mark of eminence in the law profession, given to those with outstanding ability as advocates, extensive knowledge of law and the highest professional standing.

Such appointments began in 1997. The latest batch was selected by a panel comprising three High Court Justices and the Attorney-General.

Newly-appointed Senior Counsel Dr Jeffrey Dan Pinsler said: "This is something we will remember for all our lives and it makes us look back on the history of our careers to realise all the hard work that's been put in, especially for the court lawyers, has been worth it."

Another lawyer appointed as Senior Counsel is Hri Kumar. He said: "The only reason I am here is that I have had great teachers in the firm Drew and Napier, which I've been with for the whole of my legal career, and I don't think you can substitute something like that."

This year's appointments also include lawyers Sundaresh Menon, Thio Shen Yi, Lee Eng Beng and Cavinder Bull.

Mr Sundaresh Menon had recently completed a year's stint at the Supreme Court as a Judicial Commissioner.

Mr Thio topped the English Bar exam in 1992 and is a successful corporate lawyer.

Mr Lee was a former Supreme Court law clerk and he also taught law at the National University of Singapore.

Senior Counsel Mr Bull, at 39 years old, is the youngest among the six. He is also a director at Drew and Napier.

Mr Bull is the 10th lawyer to be made Senior Counsel before turning 40. - CNA/ir