

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



THE LAW SOCIETY  
OF SINGAPORE

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## OUR MISSION

To serve our members and the community by sustaining a competent and independent Bar which upholds the rule of law and ensures access to justice.

## OUR PEOPLE

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# OUR PEOPLE



1995-1997 MR. GEORGE LI  
1998-1999 MR. PALAKRISHN  
2000-2002 MRS. AREAT SELVA  
2003-2005 MR. PHILIP JEYARE  
2006-2008 MR. MICHAEL HWANG  
2009-2011 MR. WONG MENG M  
2012-2014 MR. LOK VI MING S  
2015-2017 MR. THIO SEEN Y  
2018-2020 MR. GREGORY V





# THE COUNCIL



*(Seated L to R): Lisa Sam Hui Min, Dhillon Dinesh Singh, Kuah Boon Theng (Vice-President), Gregory Vijayendran (President), Tan Gim Hai Adrian (Vice-President), Lim Seng Siew, Anand Nalachandran*

*(Standing L to R): Michael S Chia, Chia Boon Teck, Tito Shane Isaac, Sui Yi Siong, M Rajaram, Ng Lip Chih, Tan May Lian Felicia, Ng Huan Yong, Low Ying Li, Christine, Tan Beng Hwee Paul*

*Not in main picture:*



*Thio Shen Yi, SC (Immediate Past President)*



*Yeo Chuan Tat*



*Simran Kaur Toor*



*Tien De Ming Grismond*

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



(L to R): Dhillon Dinesh Singh, Lisa Sam Hui Min, Kuah Boon Theng, Gregory Vijayendran, Tan Gim Hai Adrian, Lim Seng Siew, Anand Nalachandran

*Not in main picture:*



*Simran Kaur Toor*



# COUNCIL REPORT

## Outgoing Council Members for 2016

The term of the following Council members ended on 31 December 2016:

Kelvin Wong  
Sunil Sudheesan  
Chung Ka Kay Katie  
Lin Weiqi Wendy  
Arvindran s/o Manoosegaran

## Council Members for the Period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

### *Senior Category (not less than 15 years' standing)*

Gregory Vijayendran (President)  
Kuah Boon Theng (Vice-President)  
Tan Gim Hai Adrian (Vice-President)  
Dhillon Dinesh Singh (Treasurer)  
Thio Shen Yi, SC (Immediate Past President)  
M Rajaram  
Lim Seng Siew  
Chia Boon Teck  
Tito Shane Isaac  
Ng Lip Chih  
Lisa Sam Hui Min  
Anand Nalachandran

### *Middle Category (5 to 15 years' standing)*

Yeo Chuan Tat  
Tan May Lian Felicia  
Tan Beng Hwee Paul  
Simran Kaur Toor

### *Junior Category (less than 5 years' standing)*

Tien De Ming Grismond  
Low Ying Li, Christine  
Sui Yi Siong (Xu Yixiong)  
Ng Huan Yong

The following members of Council 2017 are Statutory Members appointed by the Minister of Law to serve on the Council:

Kuah Boon Theng  
M Rajaram  
Ng Lip Chih

The following members of Council 2017 are Statutory Members appointed by Council to serve on the Council:

Dhillon Dinesh Singh  
Lim Seng Siew  
Tito Shane Isaac

The following members of Council 2017 are Members appointed by Council to serve on the Council:

Yeo Chuan Tat  
Low Ying Li, Christine

## Council Meetings

There were 4 ordinary meetings of the Council from September 2016 to December 2016. The attendance of members was as follows:

Member	Present	Absent
Thio Shen Yi, SC (President)	3	1
Gregory Vijayendran (Vice-President)	4	0
Kuah Boon Theng (Vice-President)	4	0
Tan Gim Hai Adrian (Treasurer)	3	1
Lim Seng Siew	4	0
Dhillon Dinesh Singh	3	1
Chia Boon Teck	3	1
Tito Shane Isaac	4	0
Kelvin Wong	1	3
Lisa Sam Hui Min	0	4
Anand Nalachandran	3	1
Sunil Sudheesan	4	0
Yeo Chuan Tat	2	2
Chung Ka Kay Katie	1	3
Lin Weiqi Wendy	1	3
Tan May Lian Felicia	4	0
Tan Beng Hwee Paul	2	2
Arvindran s/o Manoosegaran	1	3
Simran Kaur Toor	1	3
Tien De Ming Grismond	1	3
Low Ying Li, Christine (from September 2016)	3	0

There were 8 ordinary meetings from January 2017 to August 2017. The attendance of members was as follows:

Member	Present	Absent
Gregory Vijayendran (President)	8	0
Kuah Boon Theng (Vice-President)	7	1
Tan Gim Hai Adrian (Vice-President)	5	3
Dhillon Dinesh Singh (Treasurer)	5	3
Thio Shen Yi, SC (Immediate Past President)	3	5
M Rajaram	4	4
Lim Seng Siew	7	1
Chia Boon Teck	7	1
Tito Shane Isaac	7	1
Ng Lip Chih	5	3
Lisa Sam Hui Min	6	2
Michael S Chia	6	2
Anand Nalachandran	5	3
Yeo Chuan Tat	4	4
Tan May Lian Felicia	6	2
Tan Beng Hwee Paul	4	4
Simran Kaur Toor	5	3
Tien De Ming Grismond	3	5
Low Ying Li, Christine	7	1
Sui Yi Siong (Xu Yixiong)	7	1
Ng Huan Yong	6	2

# THE SECRETARIAT



(L to R): Daniel Tan, Michael Ho, Sharmaine Lau, Delphine Loo Tan, Jasmine Liew, Rajvant Kaur, Jean Wong, Shawn Toh, Clifford Hang, K Gopalan

Not in picture: Kenneth Goh

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Zaid Hamzah

(until 1 November 2016)

Delphine Loo Tan

(from 7 December 2016)

## COMPLIANCE

Daniel Tan, Assistant Director, Department Head

## CONDUCT

Ambika Rajendram, Director, Department Head

(until 2 August 2017)

Rajvant Kaur, Assistant Director, Acting Department Head

(from 1 February 2017)

## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Kenneth Goh, Director, Department Head

## REPRESENTATION & LAW REFORM

Delphine Loo Tan, Director, Department Head

(until 6 December 2016)

K Gopalan, Director

(from 7 December 2016)

## ADMINISTRATION

Clifford Hang, Director, Department Head

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Sharmaine Lau, Director, Department Head

## COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS

Shawn Toh, Director, Department Head

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jean Wong, Director, Department Head

## FINANCE

Jasmine Liew, Director, Department Head

Clifford Hang, Director

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Michael Ho, Director, Department Head

## PUBLICATIONS

Sharmaine Lau, Director, Department Head

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Society has come a considerable distance from its inception in 1967. This golden jubilee is a year that we will understandably feel a little wistful and celebratory. I gave a snapshot of our history in my OLY speech. We look back this year to triumphs but also trials that we experienced as a Bar. Through it all, we have been resilient as a profession. Yet, we should never rest on laurels (despite some fine achievements in the past e.g. the birth of CLAS, one of our crown jewels through the trailblazing efforts of Harry Elias SC and his team) nor languish in false nostalgia. While appreciative of the past legacies, our eyes gaze forward to what the future brings and what we bring to that future.

First and foremost, let me express my heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers and staff of Secretariat who undertake the daily activities of the Law Society. The powerful altruistic volunteer energy of our members who give their time, talent and treasure catapulted us to where we are today. Without each and every one of you, we can do nothing. As for the Secretariat, as my predecessor Thio Shen Yi SC pithily said, they are both institutional memory and nerve centre. It is a continuing privilege and joy to work with staff whose spirit and sinew exemplifies service and stewardship at its best.

This message should be read in conjunction with our CEO's report as the details of events covered there will not be visited here.

## Secretariat Changes

Our new CEO, Delphine Loo Tan, has shown intelligent and effective operational leadership. She began her appointment this year and blazed a new trail in helping oversee some of the more prominent initiatives of the Law Society this year including Tech Start for Law in February.

## Technology Boost

That may be a good place to start. We completed the Eden Study that we had collaborated on with the Ministry of Law last year to understand the business models and level of technology adoption by those firms. We received the study report from our consultants, Eden Strategy Institute, towards the end of last year. The study involved 6 participatory focus group discussions and 59 in depth, face to face interviews. The sample population covered the range of small and medium sized law firms' perspectives across different size and practice area demographics. Some of the findings of the Eden Study report are in the CEO's report.

Together with our consultants, we drew up an Action Plan supported by Ministry of Law and SPRING. We shortlisted IT solutions that our members from small and mid-sized law firms could adopt with attractive financial support from SPRING. This was Tech Start for Law. We held a legal technology roadshow on 27 and 28 March 2017 to showcase these applications for our members. The Law Society managed the whole SPRING application and grant process for our members as a one-stop centre to ensure a hassle-free experience. The newly formed Legal Productivity and Innovation ("LPI") Department (referred to in CEO's report) played the valuable gatekeeper role on this. The LPI positions us better for the technological changes we are grappling with against the broader backdrop of the Smart Nation initiatives by the Singapore Government. Closer to our own ecosystem, the Legal Technology Vision was unveiled by our Chief Justice during the OLY this year.



## Pastoral Care for Profession/MACH

Pastoral Care for the Profession was undoubtedly the main focus of the year for this Council. We took the opportunity to consolidate existing pastoral care schemes under the Society and launched a new members' hotline in March 2017. The Members' Assistance and Care Helpline ("MACH") is aimed at being the first port of call for members for a variety of members' needs including practice mentorship, confidential counselling, defence assistance for disciplinary proceedings, mediation of disputes between law practices and welfare funding for hardship cases. For cases that fell through the cracks in terms of existing care and assistance, they were escalated to Vice-President Boon Theng or myself. We personally attended to some lawyers in real time difficulties to offer practical tips and pointers.

## Young Lawyers

Related to that is our work with young lawyers. Although our youngest internal stakeholders, they constitute a sizable demographic of about one-third of our membership. We held a forum this year on 19 July. An important feedback shared during this event by young lawyers was the need for relational mentorship. At the time of writing, we are gearing up for a roll out of a relational mentorship scheme to complement our existing Prac Mentor scheme.

## Mediation

Picking up the threads from Shen Yi's message last year, the Law Society Mediation Scheme ("LSMS") was launched by the Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon on 10 March 2017. This was driven by a combination of creating new "blue ocean" areas of work as well as developing niche specialization for our lawyers in mediation. We hope to create more awareness in future about LSMS. Don't miss this the momentum built by both LSAS (Law Society Arbitration Scheme) and LSMS as complementary dispute resolution avenues facilitated by the Law Society. Our aspiration is for many more lawyers among you to join us on this mediation journey.

## Mission to Myanmar and International Relations

The Law Society organised its much awaited legal mission to Myanmar from 20 to 23 August 2017. I believe we found a winning formula in doing this in collaboration with Singapore Business Federation. The combination of SBF and Law Society team members trying to go regional (especially in the construction sector) saw interesting links and connections being forged between our Law Society members and the businessmen delegates. There were combined seminars (to enable better understanding of the business environment and Myanmar laws) and networking with Myanmar companies in the construction sector. The Law Society also specially organised a visit by our lawyers to the Myanmar courts and Independent Lawyers Association of Myanmar.

This legal/trade mission trip is a potential prototype for future mission trips planned in 2018 and 2019. Next month, in 17 and 18 November, we will have our Malaysia-Singapore summit hosted by the Malaysian Bar in Kuala Lumpur.

Important MOUs were also signed to build bilateral relationships between the Law Society of Singapore and other foreign Bars with a view to catalyse meaningful business opportunities for our lawyers. The key ones in this period were a One Belt One Road MOU signed in Hong Kong on 13 May and a refreshed MOU with the Law Council of Australia on the sidelines of the Presidents of Law Associations in Asia Summit in Sri Lanka on 23 July.

## Legislative Amendments

Our Muslim Law Practice Committee and Cybersecurity Committee crafted gold standard submissions, in my view, for Public Consultation in respect of the AMLA (Amendment) Bill and Cybersecurity Bill.

This year, the Law Society was also invited to a private consultation, and made well thought out submissions on potentially sweeping changes to the CPC despite the time crunch. This was principally crafted by the brains and hands in our own CPC (Criminal Practice Committee) spearheaded by Wendell Wong and Shashi Nathan. I would especially acknowledge the vital role played by our Criminal Bar juniors in authoring these submissions.

## CPD

CPD Secretariat (under Jean's leadership) continue to provide steady, solid support to anchor our marquis conferences. We are also privileged to have a wealth of experienced volunteer hands helming our conference organisations.

The additional menu of offerings that CPD has rolled out, and will continue to roll out, caters to increased demand. Senior practitioners now have mandatory CPD. The imbibing, refreshing and (in some cases) imparting of knowledge also keeps us on the top of our game in our chosen areas of practice specialization.

## ICC and Conduct

Although the Inappropriate Conduct in Court regime was rolled out, we received no ICC complaints this year. The work done by Conduct Department supporting the Council underpins the valuable self-regulation role that the Society plays (which is critical to independence of the Bar).

Sadly, we lost one of the pillars of our Law Society Secretariat this year. The late Ambika Rajendram was a font of wisdom and an invaluable guiding hand behind the scenes. Ambika's legacy will live on in the inspirational spirit of sacrificial service she left behind for her Secretariat colleagues.

## Search for New Premises

The essentials are covered in CEO's report. I record my appreciation to Adrian and the Premises Committee for their dedication in sussing out and shortlisting for Council's and ultimately the members' consideration. We are grateful to members at the specially convened EOGM for expressing their sentiments and views and giving us this increased mandate of S\$15.5 million for additional premises.

## Corporatization of Pro Bono/Just Jubilee

We had to navigate major change management this year. The Law Society's Pro Bono Services Office (a Law Society Department) morphed into the Law Society Pro Bono Services ("LSPBS") (a Law Society subsidiary). This structural reorganisation rationalises, streamlines and enhances oversight of the Law Society's access to justice mission. In short, the aim is to do good better as we uphold the highest standards of charities governance via LSPBS. LSPBS is essentially a CSR foundation for our Law Society that enables better stewardship of the time, talent and treasures dedicated for pro bono. This also allows LSPBS to develop its own distinctive branding. Pro bono is still part and parcel of our unique (LS) identity. Lawyers who carry out pro bono services via LSPBS are part of the outstretched helping hand of the Law Society. I am grateful to Allen & Gledhill and Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC in doing pro bono for our pro bono by playing a midwifery role for LSPBS.

The official launch of LSPBS will be on Saturday, 7 October, during the Just Jubilee ("JJ") Carnival. JJ spearheaded by Tito Isaac will be our high water mark for fundraising and awareness for the cause of LSPBS.

## Golden Jubilee

The Golden Jubilee celebrations were officially launched on 10 February 2017. Apart from the details of the launch as per the CEO report and unveiling of our logo, we took the opportunity to honour our pioneers in practice. There are 5 lawyers who have practised for 50 years. Two of them who attended our event (Andrew Ee and V Ramakrishnan) were honoured with a certificate. Andrew was also interviewed for our special commemorative 50th anniversary issue of the Singapore Law Gazette in May.

## Fiat Justitia

"Fiat Justitia" is a labour of love by author Professor Kevin Tan whom we specially commissioned. The manuscript proved a captivating read of our history (warts and all) over 5 decades. This commemorative coffee table book will be launched during our D&D and a copy will be given to all members. Kudos

to members and law firms who gave generously (even up to the eleventh hour) in a unique piece of profession “crowd-funding”. Donors will have their names memorialized for posterity in this keepsake. I am especially grateful to Shen Yi for conceptualizing this idea and his powers of persuasion to kickstart the crowd-funding

## Members Engagement

We continued with our social media engagement with members to share news, events and updates of what my Council and I have been up to. Separately, the Council Luncheons and State Courts Committee Luncheons have proven wonderful settings to meet with different ones of you and understand your world of practice better.

## Conclusion

Finally, it has been a privilege and joy for me to serve the Law Society together with colleagues in Council 2017. I have been blessed with an incredible team whose heart of care and concern for the profession inspired and encouraged me.

I would also place on record my sincere appreciation to Exco Members who served alongside me with diligence and dedication.

May we as a legal profession continue to learn from the past, stay grounded and blessed by the relationships we have in the Bar at present and be filled with hope for a brighter future that we share together as a Law Society community.

**Gregory Vijayendran**  
President



# CEO'S REPORT

The Law Society has been kept very busy in 2016 and 2017 with various new initiatives and programmes. Key activities and initiatives of the Law Society carried out during the period from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 are outlined as follows.

## 1 Law Society's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

The Law Society celebrated our Golden Jubilee in February 2017 with the unveiling of a logo specially designed for the occasion and the revamp of our website. Red packets bearing the Law Society logo were distributed to members during the Chinese New Year period. Later in the year, collar pins of the 50th anniversary logo as well as Ezlink cards printed with the 50th anniversary logo and containing \$5 load value each were distributed to members to mark our 50th anniversary.

In May 2017, the Law Society published a commemorative 50th anniversary issue of the Singapore Law Gazette, giving the reader a front-row view of the last 50 years of Singapore's rich legal history, as told by the lawyers involved in some of the cases.

Fiat Justitia, our 50th anniversary coffee table book will be launched shortly and I would like to express our gratitude to our members who donated generously towards the publication costs of the book. The book is a precious record of both the glorious and gory past of the Law Society and is a must-read!

"Just Jubilee", a fun-filled carnival suitable for all ages which will be held on 7 October 2017 from 3pm to 10pm at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus, Upper Quadrangle, is our marquee fundraising event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Law Society as well as the 10th anniversary of our pro bono efforts (read more below).

The Law Society has indeed come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1967, with a mere 259 lawyers, to having more than 5,500 members today.

## 2 Search for New Premises

Over the decades, the Law Society has grown in size and functions in tandem with the increase in our membership. Today, we provide a wide range of services to our members such as helping them keep current with their legal knowledge, acquire practice management skills and bring their practice overseas. We are also committed to advance the cause of justice and the rule of law.

At the Annual General Meeting last year, we obtained a mandate to purchase additional premises for up to \$9 million. We notified our members on 18 August 2017 that an extraordinary general meeting ("EGM") will be held on 4 September to seek members' approval for the sale of our current premises at South Bridge Road and the purchase of larger premises.

79 members attended the EGM on 4 September 2017. A vote was carried out at the meeting and the results were as follows:

- Resolution A was not passed. 33 for and 38 against, with 1 abstaining.
- Resolution B, as modified, was passed. 50 for and 16 against, with 2 abstaining.

The modified Resolution B which was passed at the meeting was as follows:

"To authorise Council to purchase new premises for the general use and/or benefit of the Law Society and its members at an outlay of up to S\$15.5 million (including stamp duty, legal fees, renovations and incidental expenses), and that such acquisition would be funded by utilizing reserves in the General/ Compensation Funds and/or a bank loan provided always that no new building levy is to be imposed on the Law Society's members."



### 3 Incorporating Law Society Pro Bono Services ("LSPBS") as a Subsidiary

The Law Society has established its first wholly-owned subsidiary, known as the Law Society Pro Bono Services Ltd ("LSPBS"). While the Society previously provided pro bono legal aid through the Pro Bono Services Office ("PBSO"), all of PBSO's activities were transferred to LSPBS with effect from 1 April 2017. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC and Allen & Gledhill LLP for their invaluable pro bono assistance in this corporatisation exercise.

PBSO was established 10 years ago in August 2007 following a comprehensive review of the legal aid regime in Singapore, to manage and coordinate all of the Law Society's pro bono initiatives. PBSO's key initiatives include:

- (a) law awareness initiatives;
- (b) legal clinics;
- (c) Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS"); and
- (d) help for non-profit organisations and social enterprises.

It is hoped that setting up LSPBS as a subsidiary will facilitate the distinct branding of the Law Society's access-to-justice initiatives, through a clearer separation from the Law Society's other core functions of regulation, representation and law reform.

### 4 Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS")

CLAS was established in September 1985 to provide legal representation to needy persons facing non-capital criminal charges, and continues to grow from strength to strength. It remains the main body in Singapore providing criminal legal aid to needy persons facing non-capital criminal charges. The scheme was enhanced in May 2015 to enable it to serve up to 6,000 accused persons each year.

CLAS is currently staffed by CLAS Fellows, who are usually lawyers whose law firms second or sponsor to work full-time at LSPBS on CLAS cases. On top of the existing five CLAS Fellows, CLAS expanded again in January 2017 with the hiring of 2 full-time criminal lawyers ("CLAS Advocates"), made possible with funding from the Ministry of Law.

The CLAS Advocates will take on more high stakes cases, such as those heard in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. They will also mentor the Fellows and other CLAS volunteers, as well as come up with ideas to further improve access to justice.

CLAS will continue to be run by LSPBS, with the government providing the bulk of the funding to cover operational costs, honoraria and disbursements. LSPBS will continue to raise funds to cover the rest of the costs.

### 5 Law Awareness Initiative

The Law Society, through its Law Awareness Committee, organises Law Awareness Projects to reach out to the community and increase public understanding of the law.

In 2015, the Law Society collaborated for the first time with the 5 Community Development Councils ("CDCs") of Singapore to host Law Awareness Week 2015 @ CDC ("LAW") to introduce a series of law talks to residents in the public and private estates across the five CDC districts. Building on the success of the event in 2015, LAW @CDC 2016 was launched on 3 September 2016. Law students from the National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University, and pupils from Hwa Chong Institution were involved in the planning and organisation of the launch. The Guest-of-Honour at the launch was Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean. In total, there were 75 legal talks covering 15 different topics and 37 volunteer lawyers were involved in LAW @ CDC 2016. For 2017, the Law Awareness Week will be held in September.

### 6 One-Stop Helpline for Pastoral Care – 6530 0213

The Law Society has established numerous pastoral care schemes over the years to assist members. Existing schemes include **PracMentor** for young lawyers seeking guidance on practice areas from senior lawyers; **LawCare** which provides confidential counselling services for members facing personal problems; **Defence Assist** to assist members facing disciplinary proceedings; **SCMediate** to mediate disputes between law practices; and the **Welfare Fund** to assist members, former members and their dependants in financial hardship.

As part of its efforts to enhance pastoral care for members, the Law Society launched a new members' helpline in March 2017. The Members' Assistance and Care Helpline ("MACH") provides members with a one-stop forum for help with ethical issues or any problems which affect their work.

MACH makes the process of seeking assistance much easier for members of the Law Society. Members will be referred to the appropriate Law Society scheme, or to the committee dealing with ethical issues.

## 7 Technology Adoption

In 2016, the Law Society collaborated with the Ministry of Law to embark on a detailed half-year industry study to understand the business models and level of technology adoption by small law practices. One of the key findings is that there are good technology practices with proven impact. For example, going paperless and running a virtual office reduced 66% of the operating costs; and a shared database of precedents and past case knowledge brought about a 40-50% time saving for the lawyers concerned.

Recognising the need for dedicated Secretariat staff to help law firms ease into the process of technology adoption and to better understand the technology needs of the law firms in addressing practice concerns, a new Legal Productivity and Innovation ("LPI") department was set up in December 2016.

The Law Society launched 3 schemes in March 2017 to encourage more law practices to embrace technology:

- (a) **Tech Start for Law:** This programme was launched together with the Ministry of Law and SPRING Singapore on 1 March 2017. Singapore law practices looking to adopt technology to improve their productivity will receive funding support of up to 70% of the first-year's cost for technology products in practice management, online research and online marketing. We received 71 applications as of 31 August 2017. The scheme will end on 28 February 2018.
- (b) **SmartLaw Assist:** SmartLaw Assist offered subsidies for legal research tools which are not covered by the Tech Start for Law. In partnership with our professional indemnity insurer brokers Lockton, we used the Law Society's

Education Fund to subsidise 70% of the first-year subscription costs of an online knowledge database from Singapore Academy of Law, Lexis Nexis or Thomson Reuters for at least one user. This scheme ended on 30 June 2017 and we received 82 applications.

- (c) **SmartLaw Certification:** This certification scheme aims to recognise law practices which have adopted technology to improve productivity and increase business capabilities. Law practices which have 1) adopted a practice management or accounting software, 2) an online knowledge database, and 3) have an online presence (whether through a marketing portal or their own dedicated website) will be able to display a "SmartLaw" logo on their websites and marketing materials. At our Legal Technology Roadshow in March 2017, the first 10 awardees of the SmartLaw certification went up on stage to receive their certificates from President of the Law Society, Mr Gregory Vijayendran.

To supplement these schemes, we held the following training sessions for our members:

Vendor(s)	Title of Training	Date/Venue
Thomson Reuters	"Westlaw Asia and ProView"	7 April 2017/ Amicus room at 39 South Bridge Road office
Lexis Nexis	"Singapore Court Practice and Practical Guidance"	26 May 2017/ Amicus room at 39 South Bridge Road office
AsiaLawNetwork and Business Network Solutions	1. "Supercharge Your Legal Practice with Asia Law Network" by <i>Asia Law Network</i>  2. "Equipping Your Law Practice with Modern Cloud Solutions" by <i>Business Network Solutions</i>	18 July 2017/ Amicus room at 39 South Bridge Road office
Lexis Nexis	"Achieving More (Revenue) with Less (Time)"	14 August 2017/ Amicus room at 39 South Bridge Road office

Vendor(s)	Title of Training	Date/Venue
Bizibody and Intelllex	1. "Using Technology to Improve the Efficiency, Profitability and Enjoyment of Your Law Practice" by Bizibody	29 August 2017/ Amicus room at 39 South Bridge Road office
	2. "Let Your Knowledge Work for You" by INTELLLEX	

Title of Bill	Date Submitted	Committee(s) Involved	Nature of Consultation
Draft Vulnerable Adults Bill 2016	23 August 2016	Family Law Practice, Muslim Law Practice and Probate Practice & Succession Planning Committees	Public
Administration of Muslim Law Act (Amendment) Bill	13 April 2017	Muslim Law Practice Committee	Public
Cybersecurity Bill	24 Aug 2017	Cybersecurity Committee	Public

## 8 Representation and Law Reform

At the request of the Law Society, the Legal Profession Act was amended with effect from 1 August 2016 to allow members to vote via the Internet and the Law Society conducted its first Council election via online voting on 24 October 2016. The Law Society's "i-voting" system was developed by our own in-house IT team and enables members to cast their votes from anywhere in the world, so long as there is Internet access. The implementation of i-voting enhances service delivery by the Law Society to our members and demonstrates our continuing efforts to support the Smart Nation initiative in Singapore.

The membership categories for the Law Society under the Legal Profession Act were amended so that the junior category now consists of members with less than 5 years' standing, the middle category consists of members with less than 15 years' standing but not less than 5 years' standing and the senior category consists of members with not less than 15 years' standing. The elected members of Council will now make up of 7 senior category members, 4 middle category members and 4 junior category members.

The Law Society also provided feedback in relation to the following consultations:

## 9 Expansion of Mandatory Continuing Professional Development ("CPD")

In January 2017, the Mandatory CPD scheme was expanded to cover all lawyers, including those with 15 or more years of practice experience and foreign lawyers registered to practise Singapore law. The scheme was originally implemented in 2012 for lawyers with 0-5 years of practice experience, and expanded in January 2015 to include lawyers with up to 15 years of practice experience.

## 10 Key CPD Activities

The Law Society organises seminars and conferences for our members to deepen their skills and expertise. In particular, key conferences are spearheaded by the respective practice committees of the Law Society. Some of the signature conferences organised by the Law Society during the reporting period are:

### 10.1 Litigation Conference 2017 (20 & 21 April 2017)

Spearheaded by the Civil Practice Committee, the theme for this year's conference was "50 years on – Thinking Forward" in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Law Society. Topics included the changing landscape of litigation and what the future holds for litigation lawyers, both the young and the senior. The conference attracted over 290 participants with over 40 local and international speakers.

## 10.2 Future Lawyering Conference (20 & 21 July 2017)

Organised by the Law Society with the Ministry of Law as a supporting partner, the conference was organised to help members understand and respond to the evolving legal landscape. Topics concerned globalisation, technology, evolving client expectations, and competition from non-traditional service providers. Over 300 people registered for the conference.

## 10.3 3rd Regional Insolvency Conference (24 & 25 August 2017)

This bi-annual conference was spearheaded by the Insolvency Practice Committee and attracted over 400 participants from both Singapore and around the region. International and local speakers from both the Judiciary and the Bar were invited to speak during the conference.

## 11 Launch of Law Society Mediation Scheme ("LSMS")

The Law Society's Mediation Scheme ("LSMS") was soft-launched on 31 October 2016 and officially launched on 10 March 2017 by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon. The LSMS provides a cost-effective and timely dispute resolution mechanism as an alternative to litigation or arbitration. It complements the existing Law Society Arbitration Scheme ("LSAS"). All types of civil disputes are suitable for mediation under the LSMS and there is no monetary limit for a civil dispute to be mediated under the LSMS.

## 12 Globalisation Push and Showcase of Expertise

We will step up on mission trips and country-focused CPD seminars to help members expand their legal practice overseas. For instance, on 25 October 2017, we will be conducting a seminar titled "Seminar on Myanmar: New Investment Law & New Companies Law". We are currently working with various government agencies to see if they can provide support for our programmes.

We went on a mission trip to Myanmar from 20 to 23 August 2017 with 17 lawyers from 15 law firms in collaboration with Singapore Business Federation (SBF). Our lawyers attended a workshop with SBF members from the construction sector to learn more about issues such as:

- Construction Industry in Myanmar and its outlook for 2017
- Myanmar Business Culture and Critical Market Entry Strategies/Requirements
- Overview of Major Infrastructure/ Construction Projects, Investment Policies and Opportunities
- Policy, Practices and Issues for Labour Hiring in Construction Sector in Myanmar
- Trends, Prevailing practices and Challenges
- Our lawyers also had the opportunity to network with Myanmar companies in the construction sector, visited the Independent Lawyers Association of Myanmar ("ILAM"), the Yangon High Court and were hosted by Keppel to a tour of their new Junction City Tower office.

We are also exploring deeper collaborations with conference organisers and other trade associations to provide a platform for our members to showcase their expertise and work with other professionals in complementary areas.

## 13 Law Society Publications

The **Singapore Law Gazette** will see its last hard copy edition in December this year. Secretariat is in the midst of preparing for the launch of the new online edition of the Singapore Law Gazette to bring members greater convenience and more up-to-date news.

Recently we started publishing **JusNewSG**, a monthly e-newsletter to connect with bar associations and lawyers outside Singapore with news concerning the Law Society and Singapore's legal services sector, as well as **Snippets**, which contains local and foreign legal news, once every 2 weeks. You can access the latter via our Jus News emails.

The **Practice Management Guide**, which was based on the previous Primelaw Manual, was published in July 2017 and can be found at the Members' Library.

You can also find **guidance notes** on Cloud Computing and Third-Party Funding in the Members' Library.



## 14 Anti-Money Laundering ("AML") Inspections

Council decided to enhance the volume of AML inspections for 2016 and beyond to do our part to help support Singapore's national interests, bearing in mind our government's robust stand against money laundering activities. The increase in inspections is also consistent with the approach taken by other regulatory bodies which are stepping up their regulatory checks in this area.

AML inspections were carried out at 50 law practices at the end of 2016, which included for the first time a number of foreign law practices which came under the same AML regulatory framework as Singapore law practices in mid-2015 with the implementation of the Legal Profession (Prevention of Money laundering and Financing of Terrorism) Rules.

Overall, the results of the inspections were encouraging. Close to 95% of the law practices inspected were accorded a positive assessment, as they were found to have proper internal controls and processes to minimise the threat of money laundering.

Apart from the increase in inspections, the Law Society also increased its efforts to enhance awareness of the new AML regulatory framework by covering the subject in greater depth at bar room luncheons as well as for the Legal Practice Management Course for new partners, directors and sole proprietors.

**Delphine Loo Tan**  
Chief Executive Officer



# TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial year ended 31 March 2017 has been another busy year for the Law Society. The year has seen the continued increase in the scope of activities undertaken by the Society in terms of continuing professional development and pro bono work. Prudence in cost control continues to be one of the core values of the Society, and this has enabled the Society to maintain a healthy surplus this year.

The Finance Committee is a standing committee of the Council of the Law Society of Singapore. Our principal functions include:

- Working with the Secretariat to prepare the Society's overall budget for Council's approval;
- Working with the respective Committees to prepare detailed annual work plan budgets for Council's approval;
- Developing the financial and investment policies and guidelines for the Society;
- Reviewing the Society's financial investments and appointment of bankers;
- Reviewing financial protocols and internal controls of the Society;
- Ensuring financial accountability to Council, the Society and its members;
- Generally aligning the Society's financial resources and procedures with the overall objectives and goals of the Society.

The Finance Committee comprises the Treasurer and 4 other members. The members are Kuah Boon Theng, Adrian Tan, Gary Pryke, and Michael S. Chia. We are assisted in the discharge of our work by the Chief Executive Officer and Finance Department of the Secretariat. The Finance Committee meets at least once a month.

This report covers the main highlights of the financial performance of the Society during the financial year ended 31 March 2017 (**Current Financial Year**).

## Income and Expenditure - General Fund

The General Fund reported a before-tax surplus of \$1.28 million for the Current Financial Year (cf a before-tax surplus of \$0.99 million for the financial year ended 31 March 2016 (**Previous Financial Year**)). Total income in the Current Financial Year increased by 11% to \$6.8 million whilst total expenditure increased to \$5.5 million.

### Income

One of the factors which contributed to the 11% increase in income was the increase in subscriptions received from practising members which increased by about 4.4% to \$5.07million, in line with an increase in the total number of practising members from 5,328 to 5,599.

Net surplus (before overheads allocation) from Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") programmes and conferences increased to \$872,699 (cf \$771,709 in the Previous Financial Year) due to more conferences held during the financial year.

Investment income, income from fixed deposits increase by 29% with a spite in interest rates for a short period before rates started decreasing in line with the slower economy environment. Revenue from advertisements in the Society's directory and classifieds increased about 22% or about \$35,962 to \$199,270.

Other income and grants increased to \$355,754 from \$110,169 due mainly to the grant from Ministry of Law for the Legal Industry Study Needs.

### Expenditure

The following were the main reasons for the increase in total expenditure to \$5.5 million, an increase of 7.6% or \$390,943:

- Increase in the Society's mandatory contribution to the SILE, from \$519,260 in the Previous Financial Year, to \$539,300, in line with the increase in ordinary members;
- Increase in personnel expenditure from \$2.99 million to \$3.51 million representing an increase of \$0.52 million or 17 % as staffing increased to meet the demands of the enlarged scope of activities; and
- Increase in the Society's donation to support the activities of Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services, from \$519,260 in the Previous Financial Year, to \$539,300.

Partially offset by a decrease in expenditure from the following:

- Decrease in administrative expenses from \$0.79 million to \$0.71 million, with the decrease due partially to the decline in one off expense in relation to the recruitment expenditure in the previous financial year;
- Expenditure for Council's activities (including meetings and special projects) decreased from \$174,740 in the Previous Financial Year, to \$166,380; and
- Expenditure on regulatory matters decreased to \$17,580 compared to Previous Financial Year of \$96,457.

### Income and Expenditure - Compensation Fund

The decrease in net overall surplus, from \$941,484 in the Previous Financial Year, to \$830,243 was due largely by the unclaimed moneys transferred under the Legal Professional Act First Schedule Part II Section 11(3) amounting to \$182,058 in the Previous financial year.

The decrease in surplus was partially offset by increase in investment income by \$53,405 or 19% to \$330,333. Due to the amendments in LPA in 2016, the amount of \$330,333 which represented the accretions of capital arising from the Compensation Fund was transferred to the "Compensation Fund - Library".

### Income and Expenditure - Pro Bono Learning and Support Services Fund

There was an overall surplus of \$911,622 for the Current Financial Year, compared to a surplus of \$994,528 in the Previous Financial Year.

Key highlights are as follows:

- Increase in income by 8% to \$4.99 million resulting from an increase in the donations and grants received, including the following:

Proceeds from Just Sing fund raising event	increase of \$768,720
Contribution to the CLAS fellowship	increase of \$126,618
Amortisation of deferred capital grant	increase of \$77,084
The Law Society of Singapore – General Fund	increase of \$13,786

Partially offset by a decrease in income from the following:

Contribution from NCSS (Care & Share matching grant)	decrease of \$486,219
Ministry of Law	decrease of \$31,195
Just Walk (Jan 2015)	decrease of \$50,973
Singa adoption & donation	decrease of \$23,445

- Increase in expenditure of 13% or \$0.46 million to \$4.08 million, attributable to:
  - Increase in administrative expenditure of \$274,316 to \$1,326,670 (cf \$1,052,354 for the Previous Financial Year), due to disbursements and enhanced honorariums charged by volunteer lawyers, in line with the needs of enhanced CLAS.
  - Increase in personnel cost including CLAS fellows and advocates of \$ 0.2million

## Other Funds

- Other Funds comprises the Sports Meet Fund, Welfare Fund, Library Fund, Jus Curio Fund and Pastoral Care Fund;
- Overall, there was a surplus of \$12,111 for the Other Funds (cf a deficit of \$19,323 in the Previous Financial Year). This was mainly due to the reduced expenditure as the hosting of Bench and Bar was in Malaysia.

## Balance Sheet

The key highlights of the balance sheet of the Society as at 31 March 2017 are as follows:

- General Fund reserves stood at \$18.98 million, an increase of about 8%, principally from the surplus for the Current Financial Year;
- General Fund total assets amounted to \$21.17 million, including \$8.23 million being held as fixed deposits, cash at bank and in hand, and \$5.34 million being held as bonds and equity investments;
- Compensation Fund total assets amounted to \$14.07 million, including \$7.54 million being held as fixed deposits, cash at bank and in hand, and \$6.37 million being held as bonds and equity investments;
- General Fund total liabilities stood at \$2.19 million, partly in relation to advance payment of the application fees for the practicing certificates for FY2017/2018, which were received prior to 31 March 2017;
- The Society had no external borrowings;

- The Society continues to invest in blue-chip securities and bonds which provide a conservative yet steady return to keep up with inflation. The average yield derived from bonds is about 3.3% per annum. The net income from investments was \$446,138 (cf \$355,865 in the Previous Financial Year). There was a surplus of \$573,528 in the fair value reserve of the Society's investments (representing the increase in the market value as at 31 March 2017 over the historical transacted price. As at 31 March 2017, the Society had invested in the following bonds and equities in addition to a \$2 million discretionary portfolio management sum placed with BNP Paribas.

### Bonds and Bonds Funds

- » ABN Amro Bank
- » Asceit trust
- » Ascendas Hospitality Trust
- » Ascott Capital
- » Ascott Capital
- » CDL APR
- » CWT
- » FCL Treasury PT
- » First Reit May
- » Franklin Templeton
- » Fullerton bond Fund
- » Gucoland
- » Gucoland
- » HDB
- » Hotel Properties
- » HPL
- » Keppel Corporation
- » Lend Lease
- » LMRTSP
- » LTA
- » Malayan Banking Notes
- » morgan
- » NOL
- » OUE
- » Perennial
- » SIA
- » Suntec
- » UOL



## Equities

- » Ascendas REIT
- » Capitaland Ltd
- » ComfortDelgro Corp Ltd
- » ComfortDelgro Corp Ltd
- » DBS
- » DBS Bank 4.7% NCPS
- » Frasersct
- » HYFLUX
- » Kep REIT
- » Kep REIT
- » Parkway Life Reit
- » SATS
- » Sembcorp Industries
- » SGX
- » Singapore Post Ltd
- » Singapore Press Holdings Ltd
- » Singapore Telecommunications Ltd
- » SPH
- » STARHUB
- » Suntec REIT
- » UOB
- » Venture
- » Venture Corporation Ltd

## Conclusion

The Society's strong financial performance despite the increased activities and costs challenges during the Current Financial Year is in no small part due to the vigilance, controls and efforts of the Society's Chief Executive Officer, Delphine Loo Tan, and its Finance Department. I record my sincere appreciation for their sustained hard work throughout an extremely busy year.

I also wish to thank each member of my Finance Committee – Boon Theng, Adrian, Gary, and Michael, for their unwavering support, counsel, guidance and contributions. The Finance Committee needs to be mindful of the financial needs of the Society, and at the same time, exercise prudent financial direction and controls in overseeing the funds of the Society. It is not always an easy balance.

The coming year will be an even busier one, with the projected increase in the activities of the various sub-committees, the expansion and advancement of the Society in the Technology space. The Society will also work hard to contain costs despite the expansion of activities and Secretariat staff with the aim to add value to its members, and this will be one of the main challenges for the coming year.

**Dhillon Dinesh Singh**  
Treasurer



# AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Michael Hwang, SC, Chairperson

The members of the Audit Committee are:

Adrian Chan  
Patrick Ang  
Robson Lee

The external auditors, Baker Tilly TFW LLP issued a clean Audit Opinion on the financial statements of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2017.

During the reporting year, the Committee appointed Crowe Horwath First Trust Risk Advisory Pte Ltd as the Internal Auditors to review the corporate governance practices of the Society. The scope of review included Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services ("PLSS") on governance review, payments and petty cash as well as receipt of donations/ Grants and Fund Raising. The Internal Auditors did

not uncover in the course of their review any material weaknesses in internal controls or processes and did not highlight any improvements required in the level of internal controls, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, reliability of accounting records or compliance with policies.

The Secretariat continues with its ongoing efforts to evaluate and improve internal controls across all operational and financial processes. Greater emphasis will continue to be placed on raising the awareness of the management team and other support staff to improve internal controls and financial protocols across the Society to support the Society's continuing goals of financial discipline, efficient processes and robust governance framework from an audit perspective.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## September 2016

3

Launch of Law Awareness Week@  
CDC 2016



6

Basic Written Advocacy Workshops (Module 2)

7, 8 &amp; 9

Seminar - Mediation: Strategic Conflict  
Management for Professionals (Module 2)

7, 13, 21 &amp; 28

Introductory Course to Arbitration

8

Small Law Firms and State Courts & Family  
Justice Courts Luncheon

15 - 16

3rd Regional Insolvency Conference



19 - 20

Seminar - Developing Personal Effectiveness  
for Legal Practitioners  
(2nd Run)

20

Dialogue Session with the Family Bar on the  
Dispute Resolution Schemes and Court-related  
Programmes in the Family Justice Courts

22

Annual Lawyer-Doctor Networking Session  
2016

27

Seminar - Ethics in Family Law: Right and  
Wrong, and Being Strong

27

Basic Written Advocacy Workshop (Module 3)

28

LawWorks Legal Primer on Employment  
Contracts

29

Seminar - Anti-Money Laundering

# October

## 2016



Singapore-Malaysia Summit 2016

7

Seminar - Cyber Security: Why Law Firms are Prime Targets for Cyber-Attacks

7

Series of Probate Seminars - New Standards of Care in Probate Practice - Potential Pitfalls for Probate Practitioners (Part 2)

11

Annual General Meeting



14

14

Seminar - Legal Issues in Nursing Homes

18

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Law Society of Singapore and Osaka Bar Association

19

Seminar - Company's Constitution

21

Series of Probate Seminars - Rectification of Wills (Part 3)

20 & 26

Certificate in Paralegal Skills

24

Annual Election of Council

27

DeepaRaya cum Council Luncheon 2016

31

Invitation to Soft Launch of the Law Society Mediation Scheme



# November

## 2016

1

Annual CPD Day 2016

1, 10 &amp; 17

Certificate in Paralegal Skills

2

Seminar - Day of Conveyancing Highlights

3

LawWorks Legal Primer on  
Workplace Injuries

8

Seminar - Brexit – Impact on ASEAN and  
Singapore: How Might it Affect the Work of  
Singapore Lawyers?

9

Forum: Family Mediation Advocacy – What's the  
Difference?

10

Seminar - Software Security Risks the Legal  
Professional Needs to Know

11

Annual Dinner &amp; Dance 2016

14

Seminar - New Legal Landscape: Effective  
Adoption of Disruptive Technology

16 &amp; 17

Seminar - Helping Clients Help Themselves  
– Interactive Workshop on Attending to an  
Emotional Divorce

18

Seminar - Joint Ventures, Shareholder Disputes  
and Valuations

22

Seminar - Getting It Right - Drafting Effective  
Submissions

29

Seminar - Natural Justice and Administration  
in Arbitration Law

*December*  
2016

7

Visit by the Attorney-General of Myanmar, Mr U Tun Tun Oo



*January*  
2017

9

Seminar - Recent Developments in International Commercial Litigation/ International Arbitration

*12 Jan - 31 Aug*

CLAS Criminal Law Training Programme

13

Seminar - Key Amendments to the Mental Capacity Act

18

1<sup>st</sup> Small Law Firms and State Courts & Family Justice Courts Luncheon

20

Seminar - Navigating Professional Burnout: Practical Strategies for Stress Management



20

Thank You Dinner for Volunteers

# February 2017

1

Lunar New Year Luncheon

7 &amp; 8

Seminar - Developing Personal Effectiveness  
for Legal Practitioners

10

Unveiling of 50th Anniversary  
Commemorative Plaque

13 - 14

Legal Practice Management Course (19th Run)

17

Networking Event @ TAG Heuer

27

Visit by Christopher Finlayson, QC,  
Minister and Attorney-General of New  
Zealand

# March 2017

7

Seminar - Understanding and Negotiating Cloud Contracts

8

Feedback Session on the Proposed Amendments to the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct) Rules 2015 (S 706/2015) and Development of a Best Practices Guide

10

Law Society Mediation Forum

16

Seminar - Business Simulation Workshop for Legal Practitioners (3rd Run)

17

Seminar - Best Practices in Dealing with Clients and Third Parties, and an Introduction to the Pre-Action ADR Scheme for NIMA Matters

22

2nd Small Law Firms and State Courts & Family Justice Court Luncheon

22

Seminar - Law Firm Branding and How to Do it Right

23

Seminar - Employment Claims Tribunal and the Tripartite Alliance for Dispute Management

27 & 28

Legal Technology Roadshow

31

LawWorks Legal Primer on Women at Work





# April 2017

**4 & 5**

Seminar - Talent Management and Succession Planning for Legal Practitioners

**11**

Seminar - Technology and the Law

**12**

Council Luncheon

**12**

Book-Keeping for Law Practices Course 2017

**20 & 21**

Litigation Conference 2017 - 50 Years On, Thinking Forward

**27**

Seminar - Financial Manipulation in Matrimonial Cases

**28 - 30**

Annual Malaysia/Singapore Bench & Bar Games 2017

# May 2017

8 & 9

Seminar - Mediation: Strategic Conflict Management for Professionals (Module 1)

15, 16 & 17

Seminar - Mediation: Strategic Conflict Management for Professionals (Module 2)

18

Seminar - Cybersecurity for Lawyers

4

Seminar - Business Simulation Workshop for Legal Practitioners (4th Run)

12

Seminar - Managing Fee Pressure: Harnessing Tools and Technology to Help You Manage Competitive Pressure

18

Basic Written Advocacy Workshops (Module 1)

22

Seminar - Networking Skills for Lawyers

23 & 24

Seminar - Talent Management and Succession Planning for Legal Practitioners

24

3rd Small Law Firms and State Courts & Family Justice Courts Luncheon

25

Committee Chairpersons' Luncheon

25

Networking Skills for Lawyers

29, 30 & 31

Law Society Trial Advocacy Course 2017

30

Seminar - Public Interest Lawyering



# June

2017



1

Seminar - Data Security in Law Firms: Enabling Secure File Sharing & Mobile Productivity

2

Media Engagement on Criminal Proceedings

6

Seminar - Share Purchase Agreements & Recent Amendments to Stamp Duties Act

28

Hari Raya cum Council Luncheon

*July*  
2017

5

Series of Probate Seminars - Problem-free Non Contentious Probate Applications: Steps Towards Making It Happen (Part 1)

12

Series of Probate Seminars - Statutory Wills/ AML/CFT Issues in Estate Practice (Part 2)

18

Tech Start for Law Training Session

19

Young Lawyers Lunch Forum

20 & 21

Future Lawyering Conference 2017

21

4<sup>th</sup> Small Law Firms and State Courts & Family Justice Courts Luncheon

25

Seminar - Guardianship Laws in the USA and Singapore

27

Seminar - Understanding Third Party Funding in Singapore





# August

## 2017

3, 17, 24 & 30

Legal Secretarial Course 2017 (Module 1 to 4)

14

Tech Start for Law Training Session (Session 1)

15 & 16

Seminar - Talent Management and Succession Planning for Legal Practitioners (2nd Run!)

17

Council Luncheon cum Townhall on Purchase of Premises

17

Public International Law Conference 2017



20 - 23

Legal Mission to Myanmar

21

Seminar - Challenging Clients, Challenged Lawyers

21 - 22

Workshop on How to Negotiate Effectively (and Not Feel like an A-Hole)



24 & 25

Singapore Insolvency Conference 2017



28 & 29

Mass Call 2017

29

Tech Start for Law Training Session (Session 2)

# STATISTICS

As at 31 August 2017

## ■ Comparison of Size of Law Practices in the Last Five Years

Year	1 to 5 lawyers	6 to 30 lawyers	> 30 lawyers
2013	710	108	20
2014	704	126	18
2015	729	128	22
2016	715	127	21
2017	720	140	21

## ■ Profile of Practitioners

### No. of Practitioners in Last Five Years

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of Practitioners	4,486	4,412	4,834	4,885	5,191

### Years in Practice Based on Date of Admission

Year	< 5 years	5 to 15 years	> 15 years
2017	1,825	1,045	2,321

### Gender

Year	Male	Female
2017	2,975	2,216

# PRO BONO SERVICES

legaleSE®  
A LEGAL HANDBOOK  
FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES



THE LAW SOCIETY  
PRO BONO AMBASSADORS

2009 MR GREGORY  
2010 MR N. SREENIVAS  
2011 MS MALA  
MR GEORGE  
MR T.



# PRO BONO, LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

## Vision and Mission

An important part of the mission of the Law Society of Singapore is to serve the community by facilitating access to justice.

The Law Society of Singapore actively promotes pro bono work to address the legal needs of those who cannot afford legal services. Over the years, it has initiated and implemented numerous pro bono programmes to provide comprehensive pro bono legal assistance for the most disadvantaged in our community as well as for organisations serving the needy.

## The Law Society of Singapore Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services

The Law Society of Singapore Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services ("PLSS") is the Law Society's charity which oversees the Law Society's pro bono initiatives.

PLSS was established by the Law Society to:

- (a) implement the Law Society's vision and initiatives as to the provision of pro bono legal services in Singapore;
- (b) coordinate the provision of civil, criminal and community pro bono work between the Law Society and other agencies;
- (c) conduct and coordinate, on an ongoing basis, volunteer recruitment drives for pro bono services, manage and monitor activities of volunteers, and organize and implement training initiatives for volunteers;
- (d) identify pro bono opportunities and
- (e) oversee all of the Law Society's pro bono initiatives.

Policies adopted by PLSS during the financial year in pursuance of the Charity's objectives have included policies to:

- (a) facilitate the recruitment and mobilization of volunteers for pro bono services through:
  - (i) the presentation of a range of pro bono volunteer opportunities catering to different interests, time commitments and legal/practice expertise; and
  - (ii) the transfer of skills, know-how and a positive pro bono spirit from senior volunteers to junior volunteers.
- (b) facilitate volunteer networking, the transfer and dissemination of information and ideas among volunteers and the organic development of pro bono initiatives to meet needs/gaps in the legal assistance framework.
- (c) encourage law practices to support their lawyers to volunteer for pro bono work.

The PLSS Management Committee comprises Arfat Selvam (Chairperson), George Lim SC, N Sreenivasan SC, Malathi Das, Kelvin Wong, Gregory Vijayendran, Adrian Tan and Dinesh Dhillon (Treasurer).

PLSS's IPC status was extended for a period of 3 years with effect from 1 April 2016.

## Thank you

PLSS expresses its heartfelt thanks to members and supporters for their unstinting support of the Law Society's pro bono initiatives.

The work of PLSS is supported by donations from members of the legal profession, the public and funding from:

- (a) The Law Society of Singapore's General Fund;
- (b) The Ministry of Law,
- (c) The Community Chest Care and Share Grant
- (d) The National Council of Social Services ("NCSS")
- (e) The Tote Board

In addition, the following law practices have pledged annual donations to support the Law Society's pro bono initiatives:

- (a) Allen & Gledhill LLP
- (b) Baker & McKenzie.Wong & Leow
- (c) Drew & Napier LLC
- (d) Linklaters Singapore Pte Ltd
- (e) Providence Law Asia LLC
- (f) Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
- (g) Rodyk & Davidson LLP
- (h) Straits Law Practice LLC
- (i) Tan Kok Quan Partnership
- (j) TSMP Law Corporation
- (k) WongPartnership LLP

### ■ CLAS Fellowship Scheme

The CLAS Fellowship Scheme, in its third year, has been established as a high profile and extremely prestigious programme that gives junior lawyers the unique opportunity to work on CLAS cases full-time for a year. Recognising that pro bono work alone, with all its best intentions, can only go so far in reducing the access to justice deficit, a number of law firms have generously sponsored the annual salaries of six lawyers who sit in the CLAS Office in the State Courts working full-time on the representation of CLAS applicants. This makes it possible to grant aid to far more applicants than would otherwise have been possible.

CLAS Fellowship Sponsors for 2017 are:

- (a) Allen & Gledhill LLP
- (b) Dentons, Rodyk & Davidson LLP
- (c) Drew & Napier LLC
- (d) Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
- (e) WongPartnership LLP

### ■ The Pro Bono Services Office

The Pro Bono Services Office ("PBSO") is the administrative and executive arm of PLSS.

PBSO coordinates and administers all of the Law Society's pro bono initiatives including the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, the Community Legal Clinics, Project Law Help and Law Awareness programmes. Website: <http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg>.

### ■ Incorporation of Law Society Pro Bono Services

As part of the Law Society of Singapore's 50th anniversary celebrations, PBSO in its 10th year this year, has been incorporated on 4 January 2017 as the Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS), a charity and Institution of Public Character. LSPBS is now a wholly owned subsidiary of the Law Society of Singapore.

With effect from 1 April 2017, PLSS has transferred the charitable undertaking to LSPBS. Thus, the reporting period for PLSS and the pro bono Standing Committees in this Annual Report is 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017 (unless otherwise stated).

LSPBS will continue the great work started by PBSO in 2007 of enhancing the legal fraternity's pro bono support of the most vulnerable, needy and marginalized members of our community.

### ■ Review of Activities

The Society's pro bono programmes provide:

- (a) pro bono legal assistance for the most disadvantaged in our community as well as for organisations serving the needy;
- (b) support for lawyers undertaking pro bono work; and
- (c) support for other organisations engaged in access to justice initiatives.



## Special Activities

Event	Description
Law Awareness Week ("LAW") @CDC - September 2016	<p>Annual collaboration with the five Community Development Councils ("CDCs"), supported by the People's Association, National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and Singapore Management University School of Law.</p> <p>LAW @CDC is a nationwide effort to promote awareness and understanding of the law in the community through a series of talks, so that Singaporeans may know their rights and be empowered when faced with common legal issues.</p> <p>For more information on LAW @CDC 2016, please refer to the Law Awareness Committee's report.</p>

## Main Pro Bono and Volunteer Support Programmes

The following table provides an overview of the Society's main pro bono and volunteer support programmes (number of beneficiaries attended to/served is for the period 1 April 2016-31 March 2017). For more information on these programmes, please visit the Pro Bono Services Office website (<http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg>). For a full review of the activities for the Community Legal Clinics, Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, Project Law Help, Law Awareness and Scholarship programmes please see the reports of the respective Committee Chairpersons/Director of Pro Bono Services in this annual report.

Legal Clinic Advice for Individuals		
Programme name	Need met	Remarks
Community Legal Clinics	General legal clinic advice on personal legal issues	<p>4 x per week, alternating between the North West, Central, South East and South West Community Development Councils</p> <p>[1845 registrants, 1716 attendees]</p>
Civil Legal Clinics	Specialist legal clinic advice on civil legal proceedings	<p>1 x per week at the State Courts</p> <p>[152 registrants, 123 attendees]</p>
Criminal Legal Clinics	<p>Specialist legal clinic advice on criminal legal proceedings</p> <p>(Criminal Legal Clinics ceased in Dec 2016.)</p>	<p>1 x per week at the State Courts</p> <p>[40 registrants, 35 attendees]</p>
Criminal Legal Remand Clinics	Specialist legal clinic advice on criminal legal proceedings for persons in remand	<p>Referred by the State Courts</p> <p>[5 referrals, 3 attendees]</p>
Family Legal Clinics	Specialist legal clinic advice on family legal proceedings	<p>2 x per week at the State Courts</p> <p>[411 registrants, 355 attendees]</p>
Law Works clinics	Legal clinics focusing on employment legal issues	<p>1 x month at the NTUC</p> <p>[130 registrants, 114 attendees]</p>
Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme	Civil or Criminal Legal representation for exceptional cases not covered by formal legal aid schemes	<p>By referral from social service or government agencies only.</p> <p>[56 applications, 37 assignments]</p>

Legal Clinic Advice for Individuals (cont.)		
Programme name	Need met	Remarks
Criminal Legal Aid Scheme	Criminal legal representation for applicants in person or referrals from the Community Court	Assignment upon successful application by individual or Court referral.  [please see CLAS report for no. of cases processed/ assignments]
General Legal Awareness for Individuals		
Project Schools	Legal awareness programme for secondary school students on youth centric legal issues	Ongoing
Law Cares	Legal awareness programme for the elderly and their care givers on end of life legal issues	Ongoing
Law Works	Legal awareness programme for workers on employment issues	Ongoing
Know the Law Now!	Legal awareness publication to inform members of the public on common areas of the law. The latest version was published in July 2015 through the kind sponsorship of Portcullis Trust (Singapore) Ltd.	Free download from PBSO website.  English version: <a href="http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/know-the-law-booklet.aspx">http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/know-the-law-booklet.aspx</a>
General Legal Awareness for Non-profit Organisations and Social Enterprises		
Online Guide for Community Organisations	This section of the Pro Bono Services Office website is a project by the Law Society to provide legal information for Singapore non-profit community organisations. The content is contributed by members of the Project Law Help Committee and its working sub-committee including students from the NUS Faculty of Law.	<a href="http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Charity-Information-Portal-Home.aspx">http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Charity-Information-Portal-Home.aspx</a>
LEGALESE, a legal toolkit for Community Organisations (made possible with donations from DBS Foundation, SBF Foundation and Withers Khat-tarWong LLP)	<p>LEGALESE is a publication which aims to provide bite-sized pieces of information to the general public on the various legal aspects of setting up and running a social enterprise or non-profit entity.</p> <p>Published in December 2013, the first edition of Legalese focused solely on social enterprises. In this second edition of Legalese, the scope of the toolkit was expanded to support not only social enterprises but also non-profit organisations.</p> <p>The revised Legalese was launched on 1 July 2016.</p>	The LEGALESE toolkit can be downloaded for free from PBSO website <a href="http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/LegaleSE.aspx">http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/LegaleSE.aspx</a>

Legal Assistance for Community Organisations		
Programme name	Need met	Remarks
Community Organisation Clinics	General legal advice for community organisations	Held at a time that matches Applicant and volunteer law practice @ PBSO offices.  [please see PLH report for no. of enquiries / registrations]
Project Law Help	Match-up service for local community organisations undertaking community work within Singapore and law firms to provide pro bono corporate legal assistance.	Assignment of volunteer law practice upon successful application.  [please see PLH report for no. of requests / match-ups]
Joint International Pro Bono Committee	Match-up service for international community organisations based in Singapore (undertaking community work outside of Singapore) and law firms to provide pro bono corporate legal assistance.	Assignment of volunteer law practice upon successful application.
Volunteer Support		
Ad Hoc Pro Bono Assessment Scheme	Assists practitioners who are planning to do ad hoc pro bono work for needy persons by conducting an assessment of the prospective client's suitability for pro bono assistance.	Upon request.
Mentor/Specialist Resource Guidance	Matching of junior pro bono lawyers with a mentor/ practice specialist to provide practice guidance.	Upon request.
Paralegal Support for criminal trials	Paralegal trial support for pro bono lawyers undertaking criminal legally aided cases.	Upon request.
Briefings for law practices on pro bono Opportunities	On site pro bono briefings on volunteer opportunities for law practices.	Upon request.
Pro Bono Guide for Law Practices	Guide for law practices on providing structured support for lawyers to engage in pro bono, available in hard and soft copy.	Free download from PBSO website. <a href="http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Volunteer-Schemes.aspx">http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Volunteer-Schemes.aspx</a>
Pro Bono Guide for Volunteers	Guide for volunteers on pro bono opportunities in Singapore, available in hard and soft copy.	Free download from PBSO website. <a href="http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Volunteer-Schemes.aspx">http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Volunteer-Schemes.aspx</a>
Pro Bono Networking Sessions	Regular networking sessions to connect new volunteers with pro bono programmes.	Quarterly.
Pro Bono Research Initiative	Research support for pro bono lawyers undertaking cases involving complex issues of law.	Upon request.

Volunteer Support (cont.)		
Programme name	Need met	Remarks
Pro Bono Week	A week of special events to raise pro bono awareness within the legal profession.	Annually.
Volunteer Initiative Support Scheme	Assistance for practitioners involved in regular pro bono work for particular group of persons or community in need.	Upon request.
Volunteer Management Portal	An online portal for volunteers to track the number of pro bono hours they have expended in a year and to register to volunteer for pro bono programmes.	Hosted on PBSO website.

### Special/Ad Hoc Projects

The following table provides an overview of the Society's special or ad hoc access to justice projects:

Project name	Need met	Remarks
Early Intervention Initiative (Pilot programme) – from December 2016	<p>Provide support to social workers in a variety of ways (including capacity building talks, case management, legal clinics, etc) through contact sessions.</p> <p>The aim is to equip social workers with basic knowledge of common legal issues so that they are able to identify potential cases that may be suitable for early legal intervention, as well as to answer any legal queries they may have.</p>	<p>Collaboration with South West CDC, Social Services Office @ Taman Jurong and Fei Yue Family Service Centre.</p> <p>Session 1: Family Law (9 Dec 2016)</p> <p>Session 2: Advance Planning (17 Mar 2016)</p>
Assisting the Intermediate to Long Term Care (ILTC) sector	Raising awareness on advance planning issues (e.g. Mental Capacity Act, Lasting Powers of Attorney, etc) and providing legal assistance to the sector, including the elderly, medical social workers and ILTC sector leaders.	<p>Oct 2016: Organized seminar and panel discussion on Advance Planning issues, attended by more than 100 representatives from various eldercare organisations attended.</p> <p>Feb 2017: Organized focus group discussion in collaboration with Agency for Integrated Care and ILTC sector leaders to identify gaps in the system where assistance is required.</p>

## Collaborations

The following table provides an overview of PBSO's collaborations/support of other organisations engaged in access to justice initiatives:

Project name	Need met	Remarks
Community Justice Centre	<p>The Community Justice Centre seeks to assist litigants in person with the following pro bono services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Information services;</li> <li>(b) Practical support services;</li> <li>(c) Referral services;</li> <li>(d) Lay Assistance Scheme;</li> <li>(e) Legal clinics; and</li> <li>(f) Public outreach services</li> </ul>	<p>The Law Society through PBSO is supporting the Community Justice Centre initiative (CJC), a new collaboration with the State Courts, the Ministry of Law, MCYS and the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation.</p> <p>A duty officer from PBSO is stationed at CJC to take in and process registrations for the Criminal, Family and Civil legal clinics run at the State Courts.</p>
Migrant Worker Centre (MWC)	Legal clinics for foreign workers (inaugural session held on Saturday 18 January 2014)	<p>PBSO provides the following support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the sharing of PBSO materials including the Community Legal Clinic manual and our clinic forms for the use/adaptation by the MWC;</li> <li>(b) technical assistance including the training/attachment stints of MWC staff on legal clinic administration and procedures;</li> <li>(c) highlighting to our volunteer practitioner pool legal clinic volunteer opportunities with MWC; and</li> <li>(d) volunteer mobilisation and coordination.</li> </ul>
F.A.S.T. (Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training)	Legal clinics for foreign domestic workers (inaugural session held on Sunday 23 November 2014)	PBSO provides the same scope of support as outlined above for the Migrant Worker Centre.
U-Care Centre	<p>Legal clinics for low wage workers (inaugural session held on 29 April 2015)</p> <p>The U-Care Legal Clinic is a collaboration between PBSO and U-Care Centre ("UCC"), an initiative by the National Trade Union Congress ("NTUC") to support low wage workers in Singapore. As a one-stop centre, UCC provides low-wage workers with guidance on work-related issues and opportunities to help them earn a better living.</p> <p>The U-Care Legal Clinic ceased in Dec 2016.</p>	PBSO provides the same scope of support as outlined above for the Migrant Worker Centre.



Project name	Need met	Remarks
Project X	Part of our Street Smart collaboration providing sex workers with legal advice and awareness (inaugural session held on 1 April 2015).	
Aware's Sexual Assault Care Centre	Legal clinic advice to victims of sexual abuse attending Aware's Sexual Assault Care Centre for counselling.	PBSO supports the collaboration with volunteer mobilisation and coordination.
Singapore Management University School of Law Pro Bono Centre	The work of the SMU Pro Bono Centre includes the facilitation of access to justice via its campus legal clinics for indigents and the sensitization of law students to social justice issues.	PBSO provides the same scope of support as outlined above for the Migrant Worker Centre.

## Outreach Talks and Events

PBSO organised or supported 93 outreach talks and events between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017:

S/N	Organisation / Address	Date	Outreach / Topic
1.	West Coast Wellness Centre	1-Sep-16	Family Law
2.	Cheng San CC	2-Sep-16	Cyberbullying
3.	Cheng San CC	2-Sep-16	Social Enterprises
4.	Pasir Ris Zone 11 RC	3-Sep-16	Advance Planning
5.	WaterWay Point	3-Sep-16	Cyber Bullying
6.	WaterWay Point	3-Sep-16	Advance Planning
7.	Tampines Terrace RC	3-Sep-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
8.	Blk 792A Choa Chu Kang North 6 Multi-purpose Hall Singapore 681792	3-Sep-16	Advance Planning
9.	Fengshan Community Club	3-Sep-16	Advance Planning
10.	Blk 792A Choa Chu Kang North 6 Multi-purpose Hall Singapore 681792	3-Sep-16	Advance Planning
11.	Clementi Community Centre	3-Sep-16	Family Law
12.	Blk 478 Sembawang Drive, RC Centre Singapore 750478	4-Sep-16	Family Law
13.	Sunlove Hougang Senior Activity Centre	7-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law
14.	Alexandra Hospital	7-Sep-16	Advance Planning
15.	Church of Singapore	7-Sep-16	Family Law (Maintenance of Parents' Act)
16.	Friends @ St Hilda's Link	7-Sep-16	Family Law (Maintenance of Parents' Act)
17.	North East CDC	9-Sep-16	Cyber Bullying (Targeted to youths from Hougang Sheng Hong FSC)
18.	Cheng San CC	9-Sep-16	Employment Law
19.	Cheng San CC	9-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law

S/N	Organisation / Address	Date	Outreach / Topic
20.	Pasir Ris East CC	10-Sep-16	Advance Planning (with focus on LPAs)
21.	Woodlands CC Theatrette	10-Sep-16	Family Law
22.	Changi Simei Community Club	10-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law
23.	Siglap Community Centre	10-Sep-16	Family Law
24.	Fengshan Community Club	10-Sep-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
25.	Blk 358 Admiralty Drive, Linkhouse Singapore 750358	11-Sep-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
26.	Blk 411 Sembawang Drive #01-01 (RC Centre) Singapore 750411	11-Sep-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
27.	Tampines Parkview RC Block 857 Tampines St 83	13-Sep-16	Credit Management / Personal Insolvency (targeted to FSC social workers)
28.	Blk 334 Sembawang Close #01-443 Singapore 750334	14-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law
29.	Cheng San CC	16-Sep-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
30.	Cheng San CC	16-Sep-16	Family Law
31.	Blk 411 PCF Centre, Choa Chu Kang Ave 3 #01-359, Singapore 680411	17-Sep-16	Cyberbullying
32.	Toa Payoh East CC	17-Sep-16	Credit Management / Personal Insolvency
33.	Ci Yuan CC	17-Sep-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
34.	Tampines Grove RC	17-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law
35.	Kampong Ubi Community Centre	17-Sep-16	Cyberbullying
36.	Fengshan Community Club	17-Sep-16	Protection from harassment, nuisance and defamation
37.	Bukit Merah CC	18-Sep-16	Cyberbullying
38.	Blk 483 Admiralty Lane (RC Centre) Singapore 750483	18-Sep-16	Family Law
39.	Blk 411 Sembawang Drive #01-01 S(750411) (RC Centre)	18-Sep-16	Personal Data Protection
40.	Blk 411 Sembawang Drive #01-01 (RC Centre) Singapore 750411	18-Sep-16	Personal Data Protection
41.	Blk 462 Sembawang Drive (RC Centre) Singapore 750411	18-Sep-16	Protection from Harrassment Act
42.	Business Enterprise Centre, School of Business, Temasek Polytechnic	19-Sep-16	Infringement of Copyright Laws
43.	Friends @ St Hilda's Link	19-Sep-16	Advance Planning
44.	Compassvale Villa RC	21-Sep-16	Employment Law
45.	Lion Befrienders AMK Senior Activity Centre	22-Sep-16	Advance Planning
46.	Bukit Batok East Blk 268 Residents' East Ave 4 #01-250, Singapore 650268	22-Sep-16	Family Law

S/N	Organisation / Address	Date	Outreach / Topic
47.	Cheng San CC	23-Sep-16	Advance Planning
48.	Cheng San CC	23-Sep-16	Buying / Selling residential property
49.	Pasir Ris Zone 11 RC	24-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law
50.	Pasir Ris Zone 11 RC	24-Sep-16	Community Dispute Resolutions Act
51.	Toa Payoh East CC	24-Sep-16	Advance Planning
52.	Townsville Primary School	24-Sep-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
53.	HCA Hospice Care Auditorium	24-Sep-16	Advance Planning
54.	Clementi Community Centre	24-Sep-16	Advance Planning
55.	Rivervale Spring RC	25-Sep-16	Advance Planning
56.	Blk 417 Canberra Road #01-365 Singapore 750417 (RC Centre)	25-Sep-16	Advance Planning
57.	Hwi Yoh Ville RC	25-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law
58.	HDB	27-Sep-16	Consumer Protection Law
59.	Tampines Polyview RC	28-Sep-16	Advance Planning
60.	NTUC Centre, 1 Marina Boulevard	28-Sep-16	My First Job
61.	Bukit Batok East Blk 268 RC East Ave 4 #01-250, Singapore 650268	29-Sep-16	Advance Planning
62.	Cheng San CC	30-Sep-16	Right to privacy / personal data protection
63.	Ci Yuan CC	30-Sep-16	Cyberbullying
64.	Nee Soon South CC	1-Oct-16	Cyberbullying
65.	300 Bedok North Ave 3, Singapore 469717	4-Oct-16	Protection from Harassment Act
66.	Cheng San CC	7-Oct-16	Gangs, Vandalism, and Shoplifting
67.	Changi Simei Community Club	8-Oct-16	Credit Management / Personal Insolvency
68.	Jurong Spring Community Centre	9-Oct-16	Advance Planning
69.	300 Bedok North Ave 3, Singapore 469717	18-Oct-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
70.	Greendale Secondary School	21-Oct-16	Cyber Bullying - Targeted to Sec 2 Express Students
71.	Changi Simei Community Club	22-Oct-16	Advance Planning
72.	Greendale Secondary School	24-Oct-16	Cyber Bullying - Targeted to Sec 2 NA/NT students
73.	Changi Simei Community Club	29-Oct-16	Community Disputes Resolutions Act / Alternative Dispute Resolution
74.	300 Bedok North Ave 3, Singapore 469717	15-Nov-16	Advance Planning
75.	All Saints Home	14-Oct-16	Legal issues that Nursing Homes Face
76.	NUS	20-Oct-16	Laws Impacting the Elderly
77.	Pacific Healthcare	31-Oct-16	Advance Planning
78.	German European School	1-Nov-16	Alcohol/Drug Abuse in Singapore
79.	LawWorks - Injured at Work	3-Nov-16	Injured at work
80.	Ngee Ann Polytechnic	22-Nov-16	Legal Implications on the Nursing Career

S/N	Organisation / Address	Date	Outreach / Topic
81.	UWCSEA	29-Nov-16	Advance Planning / Crime in Singapore
82.	Hong Lim Specialist CC	10-Jan-17	Employment Law
83.	Ang Mo Kio Secondary School	20-Jan-17	Legal Career Talk
84.	Toa Payoh South CC	11-Feb-17	Syariah Law
85.	SilverACE SAC, Taman Jurong	23-Feb-17	LPA (Mandarin)
86.	SilverACE SAC, Taman Jurong	23-Feb-17	LPA (Malay)
87.	Hong Lim Specialist CC	28-Feb-17	PDPA
88.	SilverACE SAC, Henderson	9-Mar-17	LPA
89.	ITE College Central	10-Mar-17	Cyber Bullying and Social Media
90.	CDAC	11-Mar-17	Advance Care Planning (Mandarin)
91.	Hong Lim Specialist CC	28-Mar-17	IP Law
92.	Temasek Secondary School	31-Mar-17	Legal Career Talk
93.	LawWorks Primer 1 of 2017	31-Mar-17	Women At Work

## Media

Media coverage during the reporting period included:

- Feature of Law Awareness Week in Lianhe Zaobao and Lianhe Wanbao
- Feature of CLAS Advocates in TODAY, Lianhe Zaobao and Capital 958
- Report on CLAS in various media outlets

## Annual Pro Bono Hours Survey of Practising Lawyers

New practice rules were introduced from 1 March 2015 providing for the mandatory reporting of pro bono hours for lawyers applying for a practising certificate (Legal Profession Mandatory Reporting of Specified Pro Bono Services Rules 2015). The data is captured by the Supreme Court in the application by solicitors for a practising certificate.

## Additional Charity Information

<b>Instrument setting up the Charity</b>	Pro Bono Learning and Support Services Governing Instrument
<b>Unique Entity Number of the Charity</b>	T07CC2064L
<b>Institution of a Public Character No.</b>	000571
<b>Registered Address</b>	39 South Bridge Road Singapore 058673
<b>Board Constitution – name, occupation, designation in charity and date of appointment.</b>	Arfat Selvam, Advocate and Solicitor, (Chairperson, w.e.f. 1 Jan 2008) George Lim, SC, Advocate and Solicitor (w.e.f. 1 Jan 2008) N Sreenivasan, SC, Advocate and Solicitor (w.e.f. 1 Jan 2008) Malathi Das, Advocate and Solicitor (w.e.f. 1 Jan 2008) Kelvin Wong, Advocate and Solicitor (w.e.f. 1 Jan 2012) Gregory Vijayendran, Advocate and Solicitor (w.e.f. 1 Jan 2013) Adrian Tan, Advocate and Solicitor (w.e.f. 1 January 2016) Dinesh Dhillon, Advocate and Solicitor (w.e.f. 1 January 2017, member and Treasurer)
<b>Key Position Holder</b>	Lim Tanguy Yuteck, Director of Pro Bono Services (w.e.f. 1 August 2007)
<b>Principal Bankers</b>	OCBC Bank, Bank of East Asia
<b>Independent Auditor</b>	Baker Tilly TFW LLP
<b>Related Entity particulars</b>	The Law Society of Singapore (LSS). (1) Mr Gregory Vijayendran (President, LSS Council) (2) Mr Dinesh Dhillon (Treasurer, LSS Council)
<b>Principal Funding Sources of the Charity</b>	The Law Society of Singapore's General Fund The Ministry of Law The National Council of Social Services (NCSS) Tote Board
<b>Reserves Policy</b>	To achieve a reserve that will be able to sustain operations for a 3 year period in the event of a decline in donations.
<b>Conflicts of Interest Policy</b>	The Charity has documented procedures for Board members to declare actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Board at the earliest opportunity. In particular members of the Management Committee sign a conflict of interest policy declaration form upon appointment to the Committee and a conflict of interest disclosure statement in the event of a conflict. In the event that a conflict of interest situation arises there are procedures for the abstention from discussion and decision-making on the matter by the member concerned.



# COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS

Chua Yeow Hooi, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Chua Yeow Hooi ..... Chairperson

Hany Soh Hui Bin ..... Vice-Chairperson

Low Ying Li (Liu Yingli) .. Council Representative

Amira Nabila Budiyo

Choy Wing Kin Montague

Elaine Jia Ni Ho

Gino Hardial Singh

Halijah Binte Mohamad

Hewage Ushan Saminda Premaratne

Ho Mingjie Kevin

Lam Kuet Keng Steven

Lee Terk Yang

Mary Magdeline Pereira

Sean Francois La'Brooy

Seet Pek Hian Harold

Tan Wei Ming

## Secretariat Representative

Lim Tanguy

The Community Legal Clinic Committee was formed in August 2014 to oversee the implementation of the Community Legal Clinics' Expansion Plan. The members of this Committee include volunteer lawyers who have been and/or who are still actively volunteering with the Community Legal Clinics.

## 1 Clinic Expansion

Since the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the Mayor's Committee and the Law Society of Singapore was signed on 12 September 2014, legal clinics have been held every night from Mondays to Thursdays (excluding the eve and public holidays) at the North West, South East, Central Singapore and South West Community Development Councils ("CDCs").

From April 2016 to March 2017, we received 1,845 registrations, of which 1,716 attended the clinics. During the same period, we also saw a 6% increase in the number of lawyers (i.e. 26) volunteering at our clinics.

Besides the CDC clinics administered by the Law Society, there are over 50 "satellite" clinics held at CCs/Community Clubs around the island. To date, 18 of these clinics have joined our network and benefited from insurance coverage for their volunteer lawyers, shared resources and access to a wide pool of volunteers, amongst other benefits, with 6 more clinics having expressed an interest in joining the network.

The Committee will continue to reach out to other clinics to inform them of the perks and bring them into the network.

Visits were made to various network clinics for the Office to better understand how they were run, as well as to share experiences and best practices.

## 2 Volunteer Clinic Manager Training Programme

The Committee piloted the Volunteer Clinic Manager Training Programme, which aims to train volunteers, including law students, foreign qualified lawyers and in house counsel, as Clinic Managers to assist with administrative and operational duties at the legal clinics.

Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the information accessible by the Clinic Managers, the volunteers are carefully selected and usually have some legal background or experience dealing with such information (e.g. law firm support staff).

Often, these are volunteers who are not qualified to give legal advice but are interested to help out at the clinics. Once the volunteers have received the necessary training, they can also be deployed to help out at Network Clinics where required.

### 3 Pro Bono Services Office ("PBSO") Monthly Newsletter

Through the PBSO monthly newsletter, the Committee provides clinic volunteers with information about new initiatives and/or new legislation to keep them up to date on the latest developments.

In addition, the Committee also helps with resource needs of Network Clinics by recruiting volunteer lawyers for specific clinics via the newsletter.

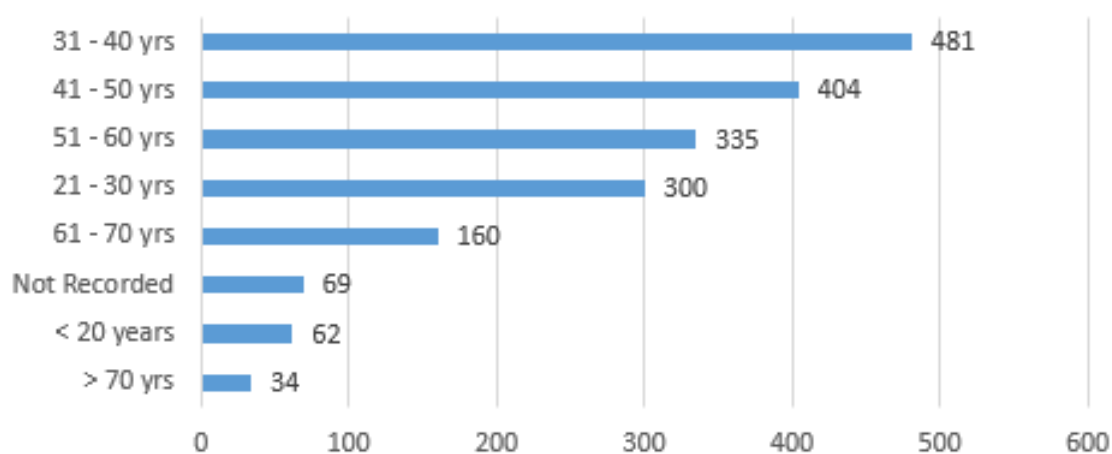
### 4 Specialised Legal Clinics

The Committee collaborates with specialised organisations to provide targeted advice to specific segments of the community that frequently encounter legal issues. Through these collaborations, we have been able to reach out to marginalized populations such as foreign workers, sex workers and victims of sexual abuse.

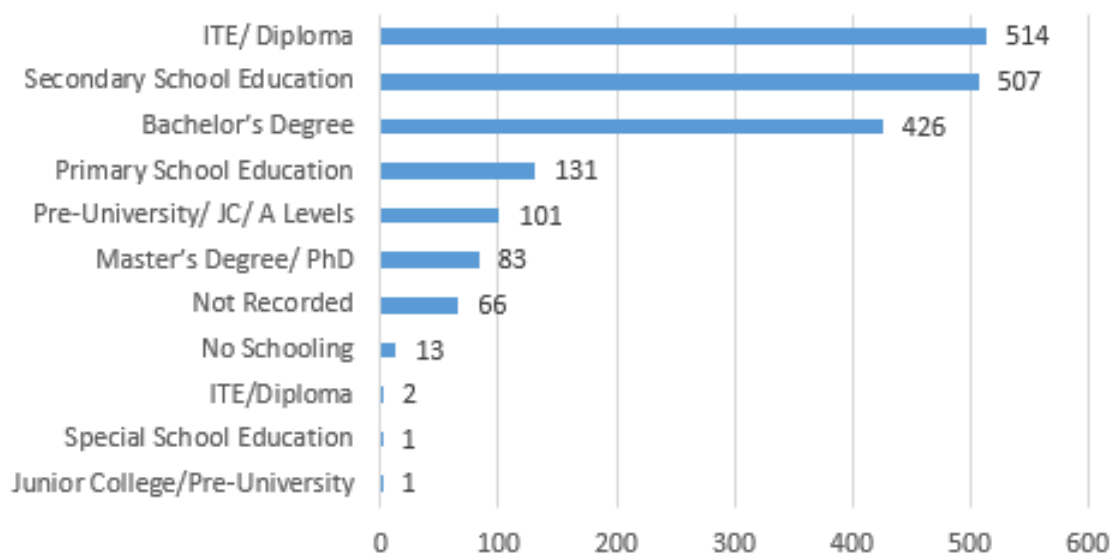
We will continue to support new initiatives where there is a real need that cannot be met by the existing network of clinics. Conversations are also ongoing with voluntary welfare organisations assisting with human trafficking victims, those suffering from various addiction issues as well as the creative industries sector.

## Appendix A: Charts on Profile of Applicants

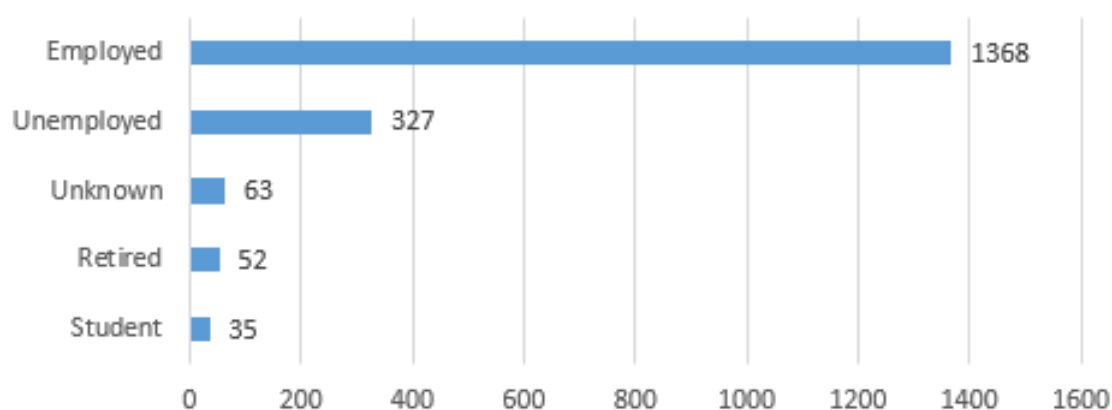
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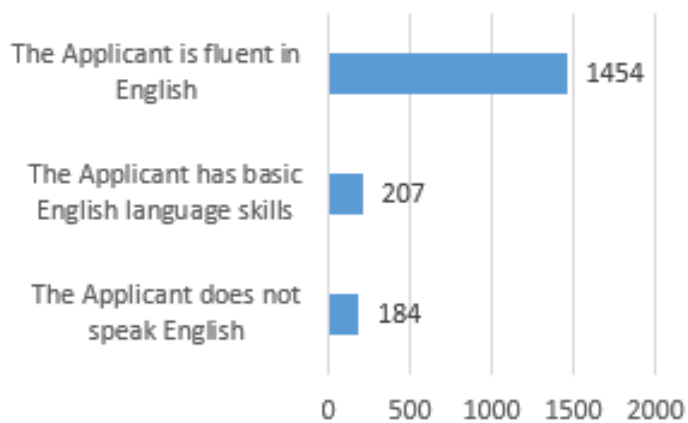
Education



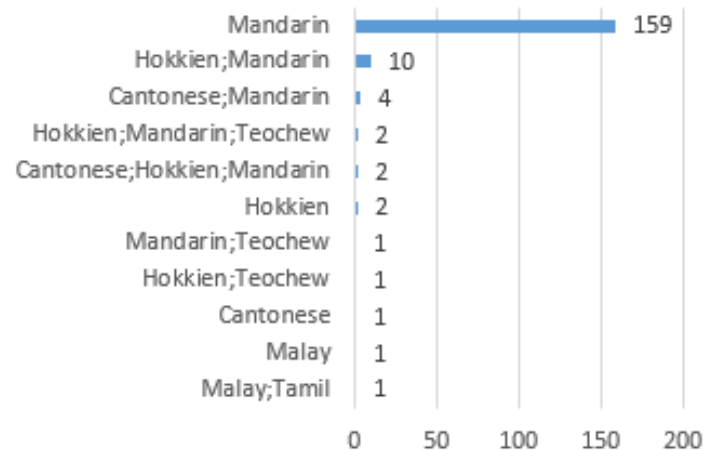
Employment Status



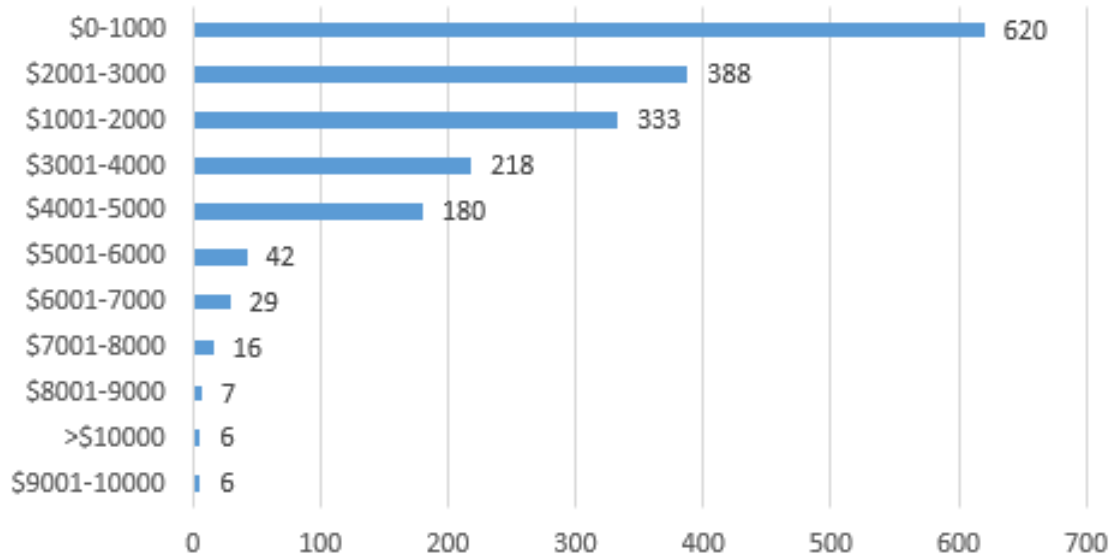
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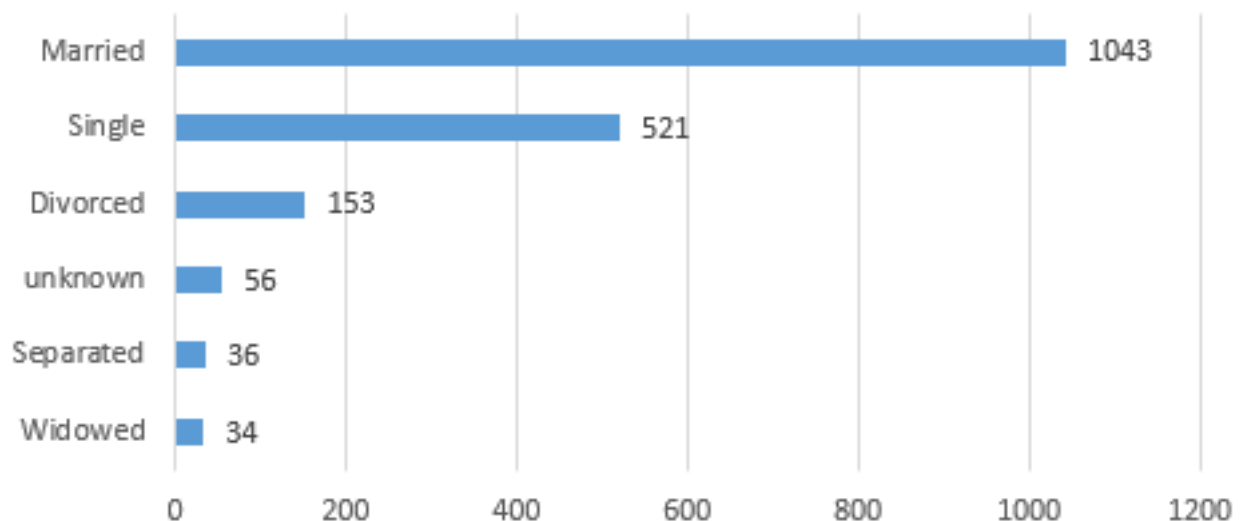
## Spoken Language other than English



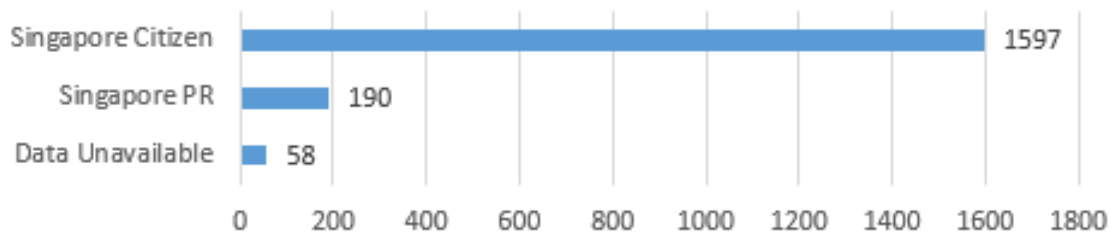
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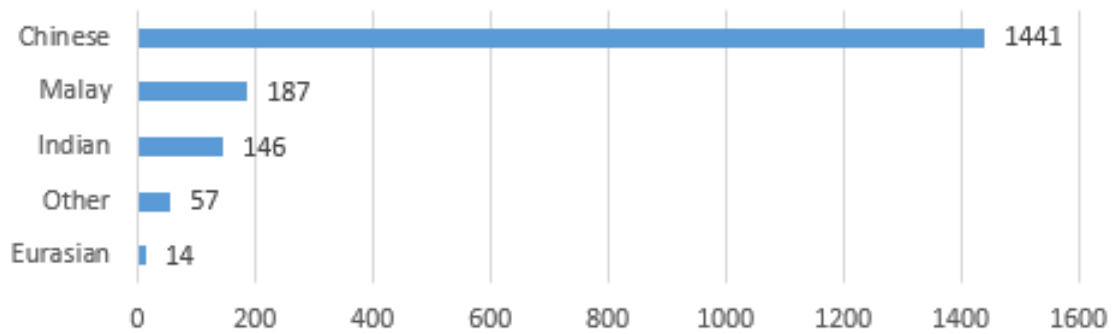
## Marital Status



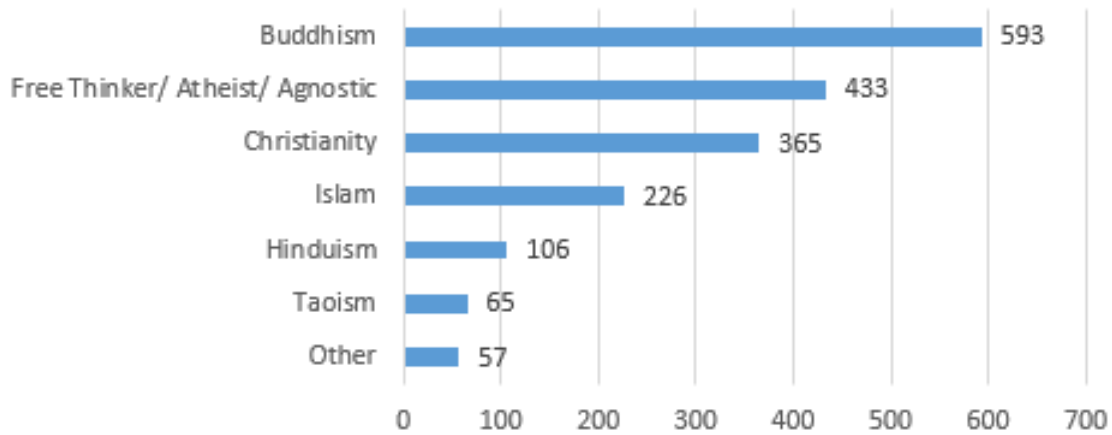
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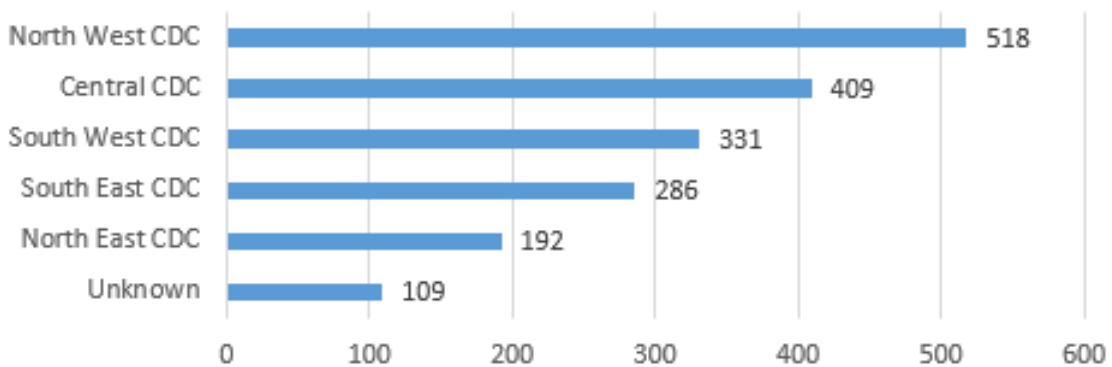
### Ethnicity



### Religion

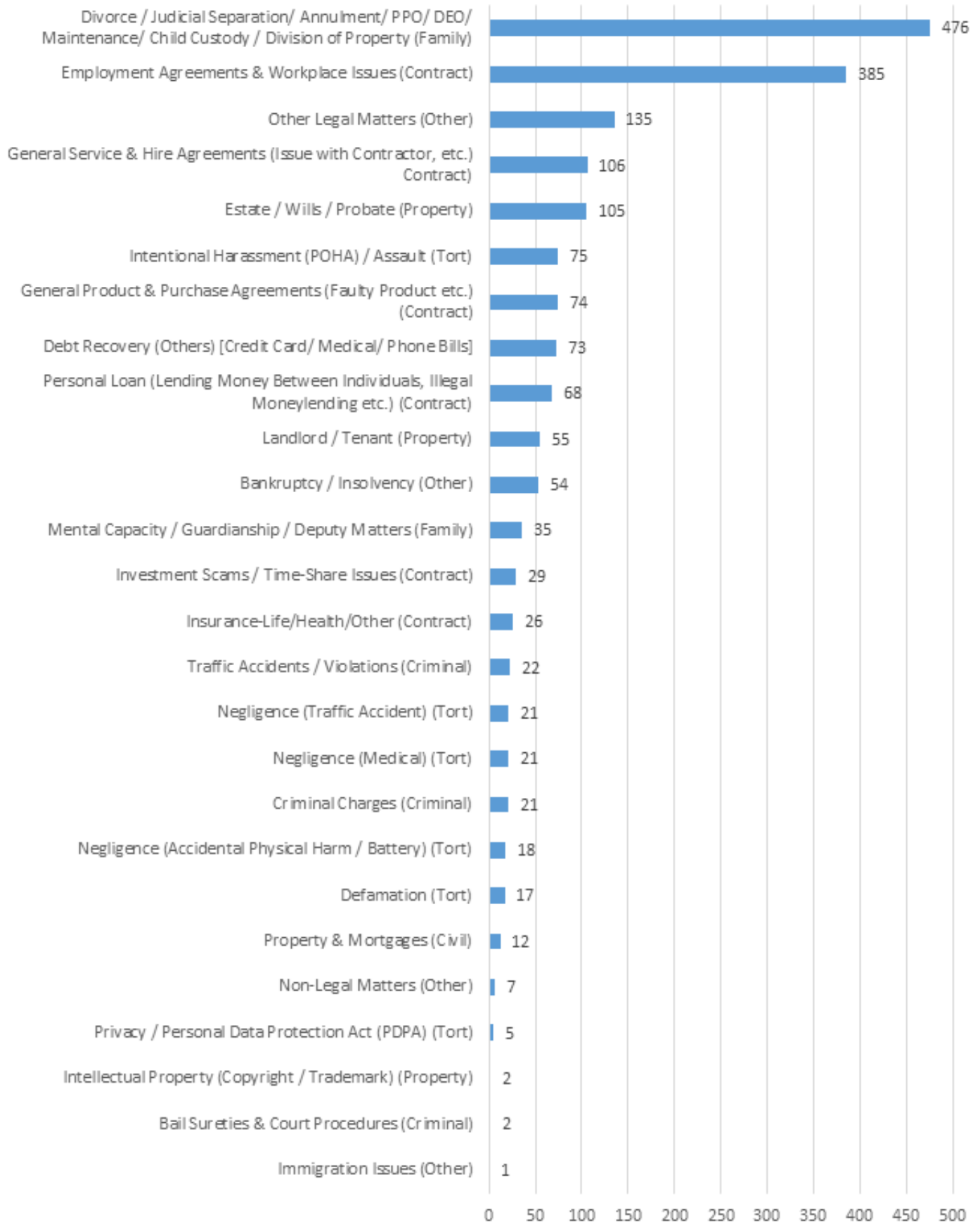


### Applicant CDC

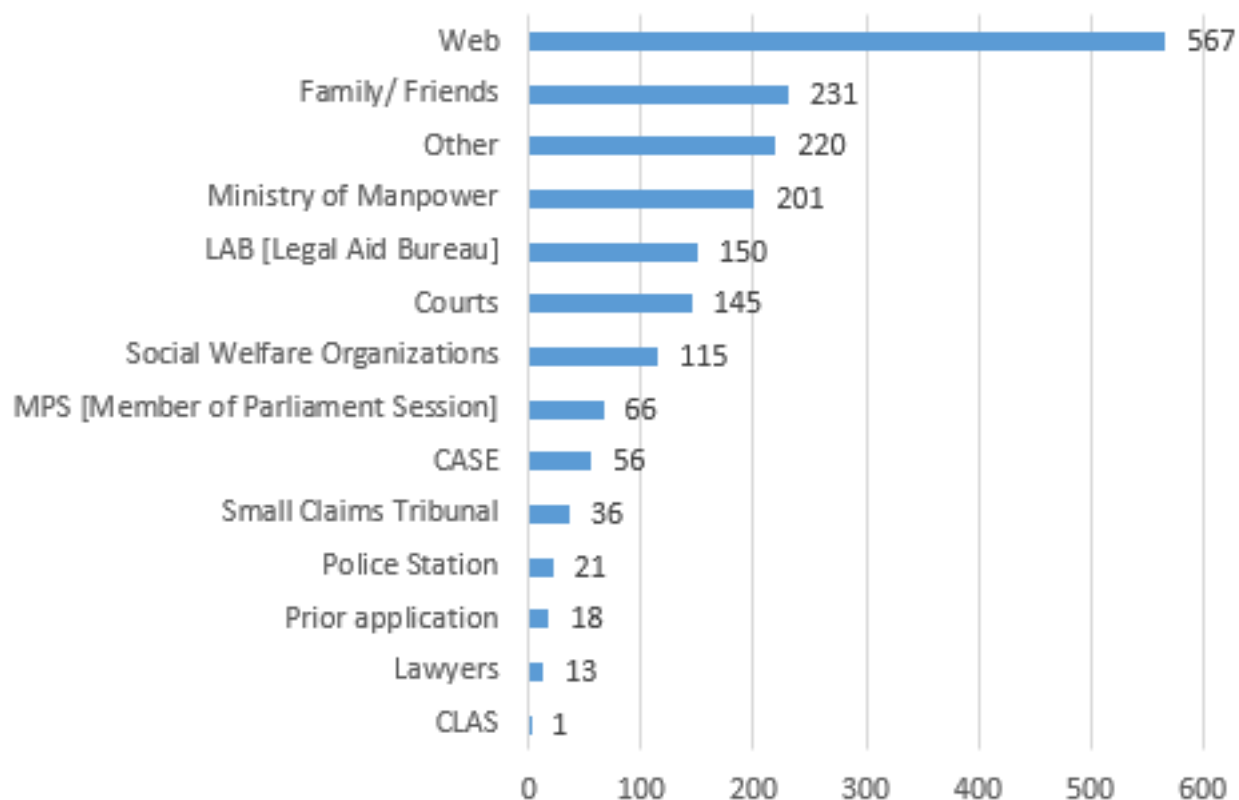




## Case Type



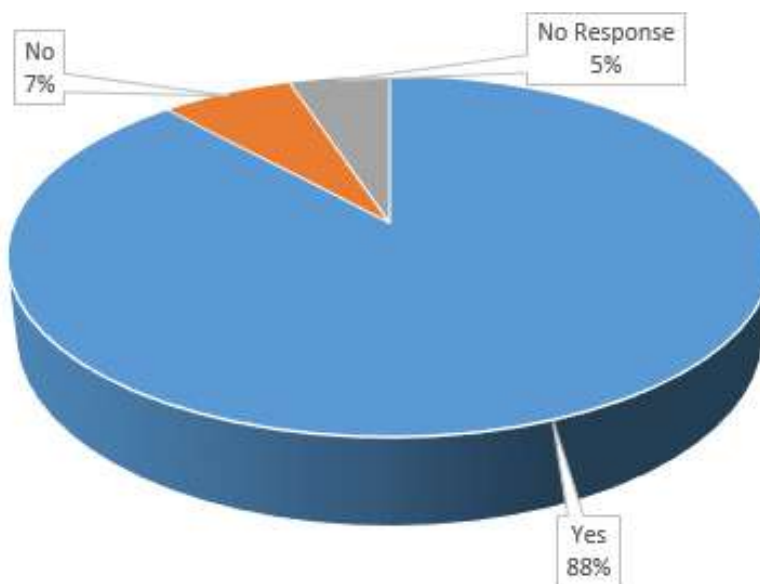
## From Where Did You Hear About the Community Legal Clinic?



## Appendix B: Community Legal Clinic Satisfaction Survey Results

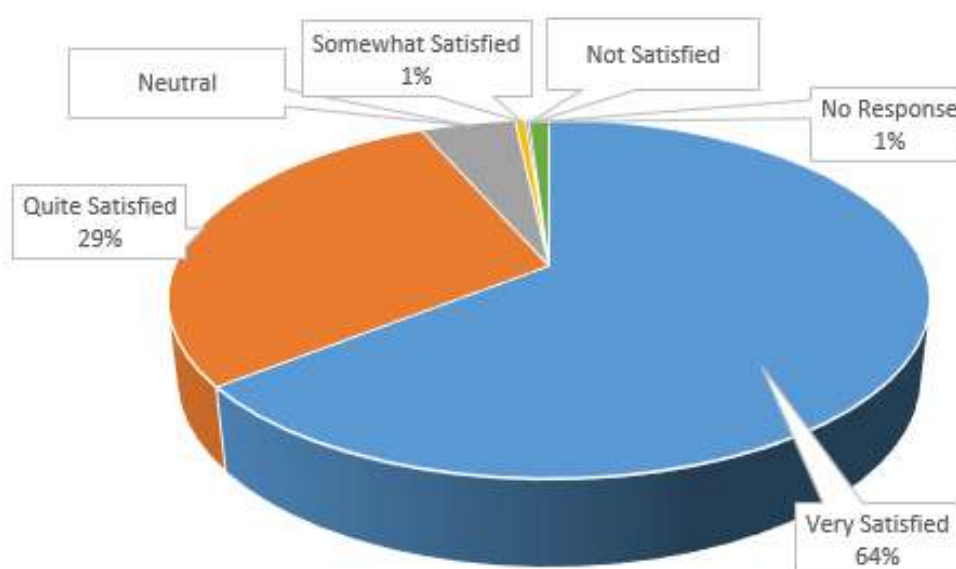
Data collected was from a sample size of 580 attendees at our Community Legal Clinics during the reporting period April 2016-March 2017.

### Is This Your First Time to the Community Legal Clinic?

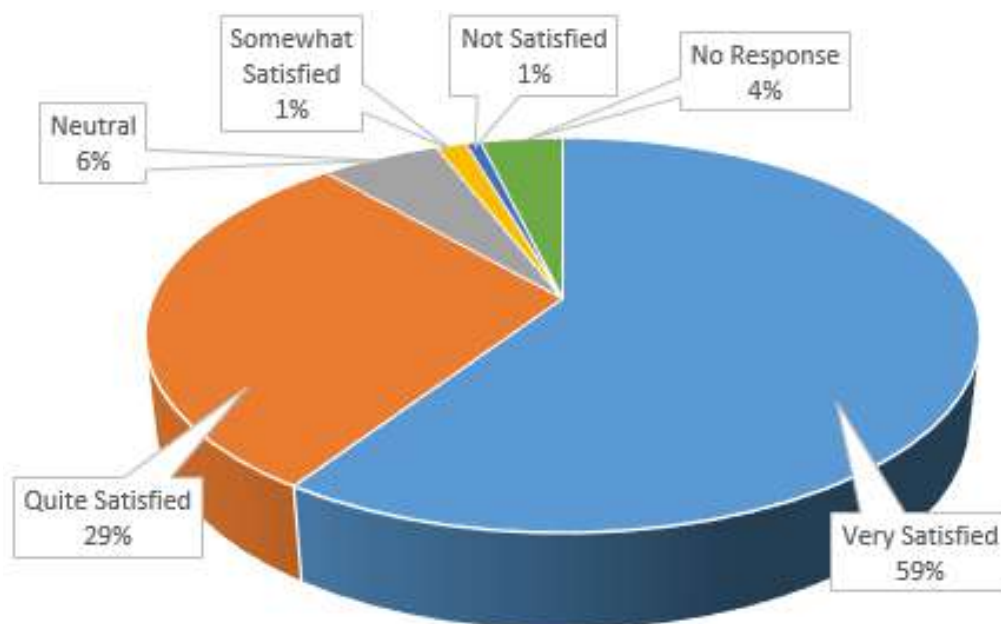


### How Satisfied were You with:

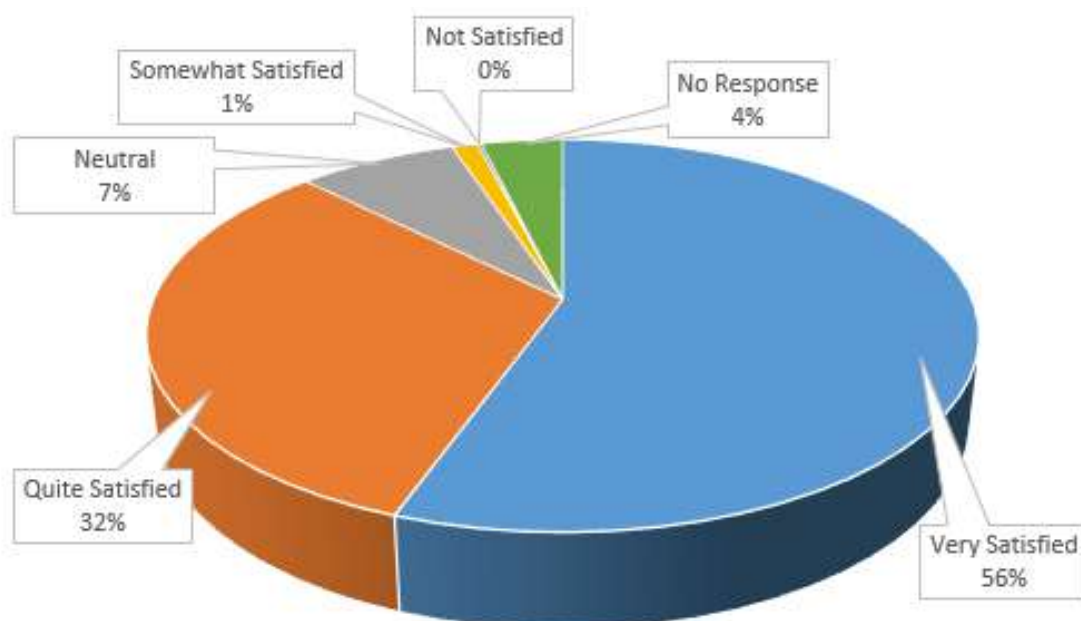
#### i. Friendliness of Legal Clinic Staff



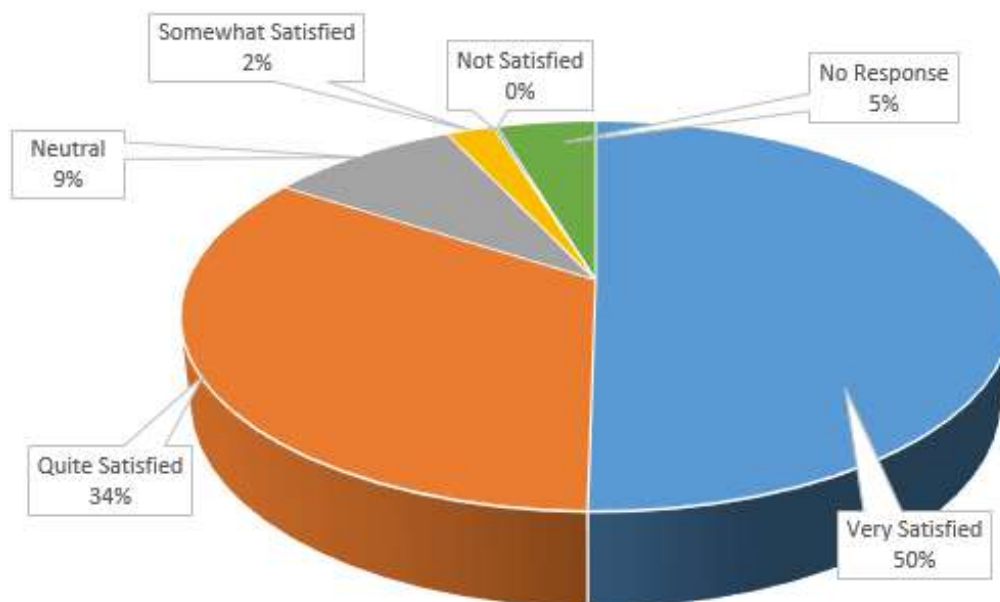
## ii. Efficiency of Legal Clinic Staff



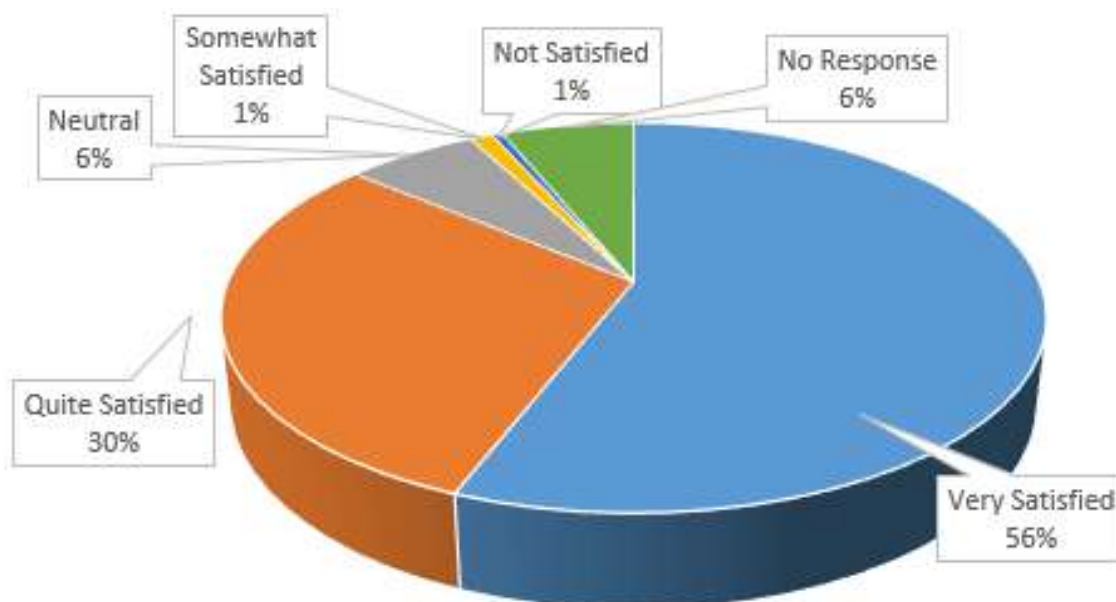
## iii. Operating Hours



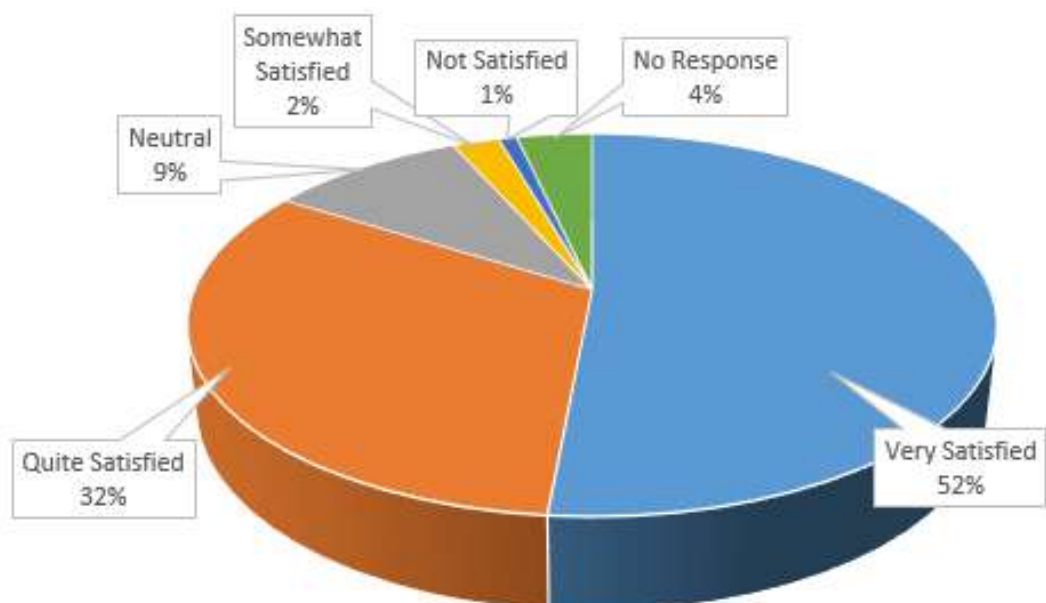
#### iv. Ease of Finding Venue



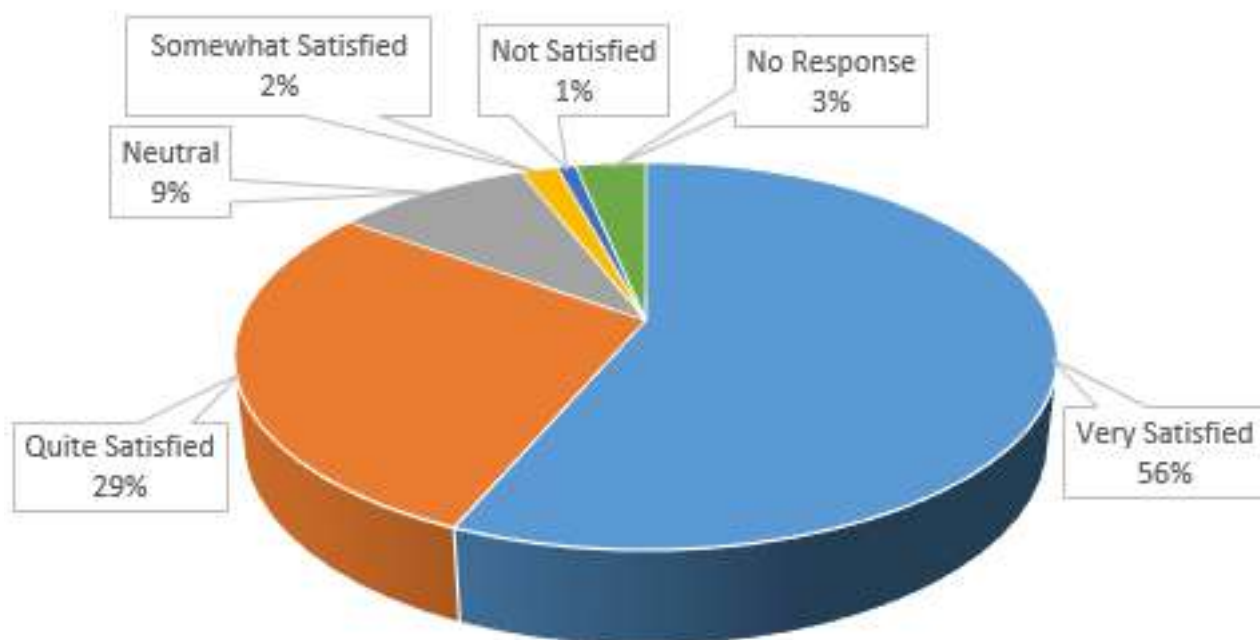
#### v. Consultation Room



### vi. Length of Session with Lawyer

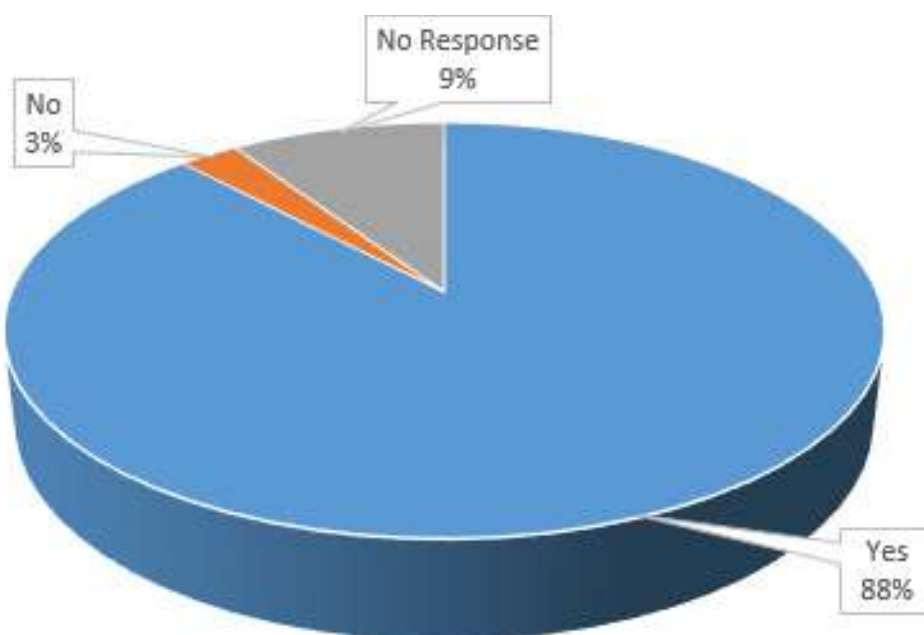


### vii. Helpfulness of Advice

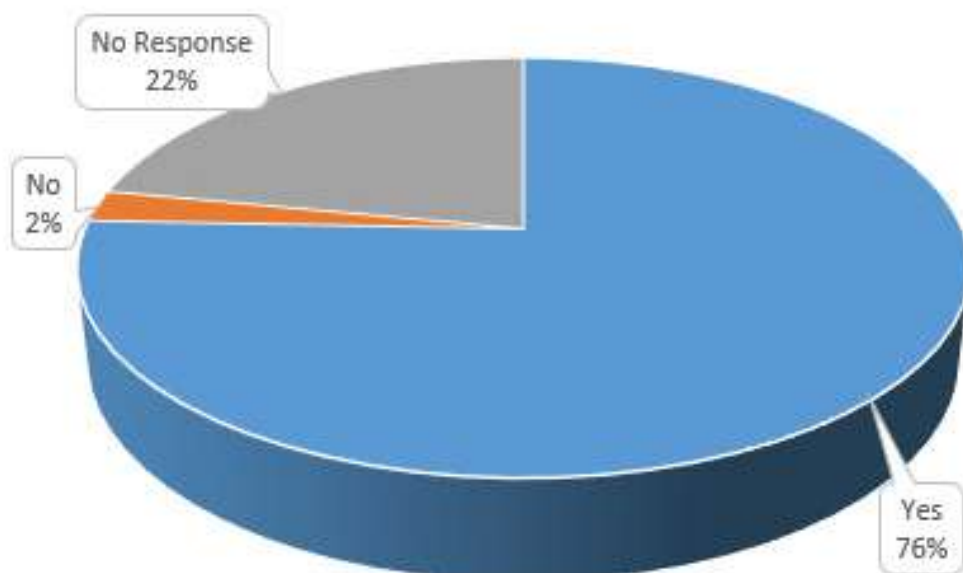




### Will You Return to Our Clinic if You have New Legal Issues?



### Will You Recommend Our Community Legal Clinic to Others Who Need Legal Advice?



# CRIMINAL LEGAL AID SCHEME

Derek Kang Yu Hsien, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Derek Kang Yu Hsien ..... Chairperson  
 Anand Nalachandran ... Council Representative  
 Amogh Nallan Chakravarti  
 Gino Hardial Singh  
 Dennis Chua Soon Chai  
 Hany Soh Hui Bin  
 Lim Pei Ling June  
 Mahesh Rai s/o Vedprakash Rai  
 Lim Wee Hao Wilbur  
 Malcolm Tan Ban Hoe  
 Pardeep Singh Khosa  
 Mumtaj Banu d/o Abdul Kalam Azad  
 Sheik Umar Bin Mohamed Bagushair  
 Suresh s/o Damodara  
 Tan Chor Hoon Alice  
 Tan May Lian Felicia

## Secretariat Representative

Lim Tanguy  
 Gopinath Pillai

## 1 Applications for Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS")

From 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 a total of 2,327 applications for aid were received under CLAS. Aid was granted for the said period for a total of 1,477 applications.

Annual Report Year	Cases Processed	Aid Granted	Percentage of Cases Aid was Granted Against Number of Applications
2017	2,327	1,477	62%
2016	2,361	1,777	75%

## 2 Volunteers

167 CLAS volunteer lawyers had taken up at least 1 case thus far this year.

CLAS's other volunteers include law undergraduates from the National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University and various overseas universities continue to volunteer their time to assist CLAS counsel with research.

In addition to our interpreters who assisted CLAS on a pro bono basis, we also continued to receive support from our panel of volunteer psychiatrists and psychologists.

## 3 CLAS Expenditure

Please refer to the financial statement in this Annual Report for complete information regarding CLAS's expenditure and income. CLAS's expenditure for Annual Report Year 2017 has been S\$2,665,152. Below is a table of comparison in terms of CLAS's expenditure since 2015.

Year	Expenditure (S\$)	Income (S\$)	Surplus/Deficit (S\$)
2017	2,665,152.00	2,066,957.00	(598,195.00)
2016	2,467,994.00	1,947,161.00	(520,833.00)

## 4 CLAS Advocates

In December 2016, the senior role of CLAS Advocate was created. Two Advocates were hired to enhance the Fellowship's legal practice and operations.

From a practice perspective, the Advocates perform a dedicated mentoring and leadership role to the Fellows, and also junior external CLAS volunteers. The Advocates take on more complex matters as lead counsel, in both the State Courts and the High Court.

From an operational perspective, the Advocates serve to smoothen the transition between the batches of Fellows. In particular, they provide supervision for on-going matters that the out-going Fellows are unable to complete before the end of their Fellowship tenure. The Advocates also assist the CLAS Directorate generally in its pro bono programs, perform community outreach as ambassadors, conduct research relating to the legal profession (with an emphasis on criminal defence work), and performing other duties or roles designated by the Directorate.

The profiles of the 2 Advocates are:

» **Ng Shi Yang**

Shi Yang was seconded from WongPartnership LLP to join the inaugural cohort of CLAS Fellows in 2015. In December 2016, Shi Yang was offered the newly-created role of CLAS Advocate. As part of his legal practice, Shi Yang advises and acts for under-privileged accused persons in a range of white-collar and blue-collar offences, both at the State Courts and High Court. He actively supervises and mentors CLAS Fellows in their legal practice, and junior volunteer lawyers, interns and undergraduates during their tenure at CLAS.

Shi Yang is also engaged in policy work to shape the criminal pro bono landscape through the CLAS Steering Committee. He also approves aid for CLAS applicants.

Shi Yang is actively engaged in outreach work to enhance awareness and access to law. He speaks regularly with educators, students at secondary and tertiary levels, and vulnerable groups, on legal topics, and also career guidance. Shi Yang appears regularly on Chinese press. He also speaks live monthly on a Chinese radio show, on criminal law topics and processes, and to increase awareness of CLAS.

» **Sadhana Devi d/o Daevnrd Rai**

Sadhana Rai started her legal career at Drew and Napier LLC in 2013. Sadhana joined the inaugural batch of CLAS Fellows (a pro bono outfit aimed at providing legal aid to underprivileged accused persons run by the Law Society of Singapore) halfway through 2015, and stayed on as a Fellow in 2016.

In December 2016, Sadhana was offered, and accepted the role of CLAS Advocate.

As a CLAS Advocate, Sadhana now supervises and mentors the CLAS Fellows, junior lawyers, interns, and young students looking to experience pro bono criminal work. Sadhana also is involved in the approval of aid applications, steering committee meetings, and other high-level policy work.

Sadhana continues to represent her clients and conduct trials of her own in the State and Supreme Courts. She is also involved in pro bono and community outreach programs, and volunteers to give talks on a grassroots level and at schools.

## 5 CLAS Fellowship 2017

### The CLAS Fellowship Team 2017

In January 2017, a new set of CLAS Fellows were inducted under the fellowship. They are:

» **Foo Yu Kang Wilson**

Wilson was previously from Lexcompass LLC, where he volunteered actively for CLAS and LAB matters while gaining litigation experience. Wilson joined the CLAS Fellowship to pursue his interest in pro bono work full-time. Wilson also enjoys computer programming, and has successfully coded programs to assist in some of the administrative matters in the office.

» **Khadijah Binte Yasin**

Khadijah is a double degree holder who worked primarily on intellectual property matters prior to joining the CLAS Fellowship. Since joining the Fellowship, she has gained extensive court experience, effectively representing clients at both the State Court and High Court. She now wishes to pursue criminal legal work, and pro bono work after her stint at the Fellowship.

» **Lim Huimin Ariel**

Ariel made a jump from intellectual property to criminal law when she entered the CLAS Fellowship. She has grown through the pro bono criminal litigation experience and is motivated to continue in similar endeavours after the Fellowship.

» **Sherrie Han Su Li**

Sherrie was called to the Bar in 2016 after training at Eldan Law LLP. She has long-held a keen interest in pro bono work, and was President of the NUS pro bono group in her undergraduate days. Since joining the CLAS Fellowship, she has since gained much experience in criminal representation including trial work.

» **Wong Su-Jin**

Having volunteered twice a week as an intern at CLAS while in law school, Su-Jin was excited to join CLAS as a Fellow after her training at the Matrimonial department of Harry Elias Partnership. Her passion for community law continues to motivate her at CLAS, which has provided her with rare and valuable opportunities to hone her advocacy as a junior lawyer.

## 6 CLAS Criminal Law Training Programme

CLAS launched its third run of the Criminal Law Training Programme on 12 January 2017. As with other years, the programme consists of 31 modules on various criminal law topics delivered by senior practitioners, academics, experts, including psychiatrists as well as representatives of the various stakeholders in the criminal justice system including a District Judge and representatives from the Probationary Service. The programme included lessons at varying levels of complexity to cater to practitioners at all levels of seniority and with a view to substantially progressing a junior practitioner's competence in criminal practice at an accelerated rate. With the commencement of the CPD requirements for those in the senior category, the training programme saw the participation of more senior members of the Bar which often led to insightful sharing of experiences during the question and answer sessions.

Registrants are able to choose to sign up for individual modules or for the entire programme at a discounted price. The programme is open to all and significant discounts are available for active CLAS volunteers. All modules are conducted at the State Courts Bar Room on Thursdays at 5pm.



CLAS Fellows 2017 ►

Details of the modules conducted are as follows:

Module	Lesson	Date
Module 1:	Overview of the Criminal Justice Process	12 January 2017
Module 2:	Role of Criminal Defence Counsel	19 January 2017
Module 3:	Managing Your Caseload	26 January 2017
Module 4:	Representing Young Clients	2 February 2017
Module 5:	Interviewing the Client and other Defence Witnesses	9 February 2017
Module 6:	Dealing with Difference	16 February 2017
Module 7:	Arrest and Intake	23 February 2017
Module 8:	Securing Bail	2 March 2017
Module 9:	Interactions with Police and Prosecutors	9 March 2017
Module 10:	Theory of the Case	16 March 2017
Module 11:	Investigation	23 March 2017
Module 12:	Pre-trial Discovery Practice	30 March 2017
Module 13:	Competence to Stand Trial	6 April 2017
Module 14:	Evidence and Objections	20 April 2017
Module 15:	Trial Preparation Masterclass	27 April 2017
Module 16:	Cross-Examination	4 May 2017
Module 17:	Challenging Client Statements	11 May 2017
Module 18:	Direct Examination and the Defence Witness	18 May 2017
Module 19:	Dealing with Forensic Evidence	25 May 2017
Module 20:	Impeachment	1 June 2017
Module 21:	Guilty Pleas	8 June 2017
Module 22:	Experts	15 June 2017
Module 23:	Immigration Consequences	24 August 2017

Module	Lesson	Date
Module 24:	Sexual Offences	29 June 2017
Module 25:	Drug Cases	6 July 2017
Module 26:	Military Prosecutions	13 July 2017
Module 27:	Speech Crime	20 July 2017
Module 28:	No Case to Answer and Closing Submissions	27 July 2017
Module 29:	Sentencing Advocacy	3 August 2017
Module 30:	Understanding Probation	10 August 2017
Module 31:	Appeals	17 August 2017

## 7 Acknowledgements

The CLAS Committee wishes to record its gratitude to all volunteer lawyers, psychiatrists, psychologists, interpreters and CLAS staff for their continued support and generous service.

The Committee also wishes to record its appreciation to the following for their support of CLAS:

- (a) The Honourable The Chief Justice;
- (b) The Ministry of Law;
- (c) The Honourable The Attorney-General;
- (d) The Honourable Judges of the Supreme Court;
- (e) The State Courts;
- (f) Singapore Academy of Law;
- (g) MOU Firms;
- (h) Singapore Tote Board.



# LAW AWARENESS

Toh Wei Yi, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Toh Wei Yi ..... Chairperson  
 Josephus Tan Joon Liang .... Vice-Chairperson  
 Low Ying Li Christine ... Council Representative  
 Boxall Lynette Maureen  
 Fong Wei Li (Kuang Weili)  
 Ho Jia Ni Elaine  
 Hugh Turnbull  
 Kamalarajan Malaiyandi Chettiar  
 Koh Kia Jeng  
 Lee Jia En Gloria  
 Lim Pei Ling June  
 Saburabi Nila Ibrahim Beazer  
 Sarita Misir  
 Siaw Kin Yeow

## Secretariat Representative

Lim Tanguy

The mission of the Law Awareness Committee (the "Committee") is to coordinate and implement activities that serve to increase public awareness of the law and legal rights, with the ultimate objective of empowering the layperson with basic legal knowledge and ensuring access to justice for all.

## 1 Law Awareness Week @ CDC 2016

Started in 2015, Law Awareness Week ("LAW") @ CDC is a collaboration between Law Society Pro Bono Services and the five Community Development Councils ("CDCs"), supported by the People's Association, National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and Singapore Management University School of Law.

Volunteer lawyer Ms Low Seow Ling, receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from DPM Teo Chee Hean.

(Left to right: Ms Lim Kar Yee (Group Director, People's Association), Mr Teo Ser Luck (Mayor of North East District and Minister of State, Ministry of Manpower), Ms Low Seow Ling, DPM Teo Chee Hean, Mr Thio Shen Yi SC (President, Law Society of Singapore))

LAW @CDC is a nationwide effort to promote awareness and understanding of the law in the community through a series of talks tailored to address the common legal issues that members of the public encounter.

LAW @CDC 2016 was launched on 3 September 2016 at Punggol Waterway Point by Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Mr Teo Chee Hean, the Mayors of the 5 CDCs and then President of the Law Society of Singapore, Thio Shen Yi SC. At the launch event, top Community Clinic volunteers, anchor law firms and speakers for the LAW @CDC 2016 talks received Certificates of Appreciation from DPM Teo, in recognition of their generous contribution and support toward this cause. Volunteer lawyers and students present also had the opportunity to interact with DPM Teo and the Mayors during the networking session after the launch.

Building on the success of the inaugural Law Awareness Week in 2015, a total of 59 talks were held during LAW @CDC 2016, allowing us to reach almost 2,500 residents, more than twice the number in the previous year.

	2015	2016
Number of talks conducted	26	59
Number of lawyers involved	18	33
Number of students involved	150	203
Number of topics covered	7	11
Number of participants	1,187	2,428





*Panel discussion on cyberbullying held after the launch of LAW @ CDC 2016. Speakers: Mr Fong Wei Li (Kel LLC) and Mr Yao Weixiong Shem (TOUCH Cyber Wellness).*



## 2 Law Works

Launched in 2013, Law Works is a partnership between the Law Society of Singapore and NTUC which aims to educate workers on their legal rights, particularly, with respect to employment issues.

In the period 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017, a total of 3 legal primer talks were held, covering the following topics: My First Job, Workplace Injury and Women at Work.

The pocket series booklet on the topic, "Women At Work" was produced. This booklet, together with the other pocket series booklets produced in the past years can be downloaded from <http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Law-Works.aspx>

In addition, legal clinics are also held on a monthly basis.

## 3 Know The Law Update

"Know The Law NOW!" is the Law Society's publication that is intended to serve as an easy-to-use, basic introduction to the law in Singapore and an initial reference point on legal issues, as well as a guide on the avenues to seek legal help.

"Know The Law NOW!" answers in laymen's terms, commonly asked questions on areas of the law ranging from the Singapore Court system, to lodging civil claims as well as family and matrimonial matters.

The Committee reviews the publication periodically to incorporate amendments to the law, in order to ensure that the content stays relevant and up to date. Based on feedback received, the Committee has also been working to further simplify the language in the upcoming edition to make the publication as accessible to members of the public as possible.

## 4 Project Schools

Project Schools was launched in July 2012 with the objective of promoting a greater level of civic-mindedness amongst youth and enabling them to better protect themselves from the consequence of crime. The close collaboration between school teachers and the volunteer lawyers has enabled the success of Project Schools, which has engaged over 20,000 youths from the various schools which participated in this program.

This year, we have completed the materials for the second phase of this program which has added 3 more topics to the initial 5 topics. We have received increased interest from school counsellors and we have also been engaging the School Guidance Branch of the Ministry of Education on the promotion of this programme. In the period between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017, a total of 3 teacher training workshops were conducted, in addition to talks that were conducted at various schools.

More information on Project Schools is available at: <http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/Pages/Project-Schools.aspx>

# PROJECT LAW HELP

Lim Sui Yin Jeffrey, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Lim Sui Yin Jeffrey ..... Chairperson  
 Juliana Yap Chin Choo ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Sui Yi Siong ..... Council Representative  
 Boxall Lynette Maureen  
 Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin  
 Hugh Turnbull  
 Kang Poh Sing  
 Lim Shu Xian Eunice  
 Magdalene Teo-Yong Siew Lee  
 Marini Marin Vincent  
 Phang Min Nyuk Elaine  
 Raimundo Rhudilyn April Bumatay  
 Sarita Misir  
 Subramaniam s/o Ayasamy Pillai  
 Tan Ming Kirk Richard  
 Tham Keng Yue Gerald  
 Thenuga Vijakumar  
 Toh Jun Yong Alex  
 Usha Chandradas  
 Yuen Wei Loon Samuel  
 Whalen Bridge Helena Mildred

## Secretariat Representative

Lim Tanguy

The Project Law Help Committee's ("PLH Committee") mission is to provide pro bono corporate transactional legal advice and assistance to community organisations, i.e. charities, non-profit organisations and social enterprises. This is done through 2 main schemes: (a) Community Organisations Clinic; and (b) Project Law Help.

## Community Organisations Clinic ("COC")

COC provides free basic legal advice and information to community organisations through a 45-minute consultation session. COCs are very useful for community organisations seeking legal advice and would like to speak to a lawyer, but do not need anything drafted or legal representation.

## Project Law Help ("PLH")

PLH matches community organisations which qualify for assistance with law firms willing to provide free non-litigation commercial legal services. Examples of such legal services include corporate law, employment law, intellectual property law and other legal matters not involving court litigation advice or representation. Successful applicants work directly with the law firm assigned.

### 1. Community Organisations Helped (between 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017)

#### a. COC

Number of Enquiries	17
Number Registered	12

#### b. COC

Number of Applications	8
Number of Successful Match-ups	6

### 2. Singapore Social Enterprise Conference 2016 (25–26 October 2016)

The Singapore Social Enterprise Conference 2016 was held on 25-26 October 2016 by the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise ("raiSE") at The Star Performing Arts Centre. The Guest of Honour was Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister & Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies.

The 2-day Conference focused on exploring how businesses can be agents of change and a force for social good through a series of expert lectures, insightful discussions, networking opportunities and more. The Conference served as the main convening platform to engage and share knowledge across raiSE's diverse network of partners and members. The list of speakers was impressive and included, amongst many others, Mr Manoj Kumar (Senior Advisor, Tata Trusts), Mr Seah Kian Peng (CEO, NTUC Fairprice Co-operative), Ms Melissa Kwee (CEO, National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre) and

- ▼ Seminar on "Data Protection – What it means for a Social Enterprise" by Mr Benjamin Cheong (Partner, Rajah & Tann). Participants taking photos of the slides to make sure they do not miss out any useful information.



Mr Sim Gim Guan (CEO, National Council of Social Service).

The Committee supported an Expert Series Session on "Data Protection – What it means for a Social Enterprise". The seminar was given by Benjamin Cheong (Partner, Rajah & Tann) who kindly volunteered to speak on behalf of the Committee.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants, who found the seminar extremely informative and useful as it gave them an overview of the data protection laws in Singapore and learnt practical tips on how to design an effective PDPA policy and compliance programme.



- ▲ Mr Tan Shen Kiat (FortisLaw LLC) speaking on behalf of the Law Society of Singapore to a large audience comprising of medical social workers and senior staff of nursing homes and eldercare institutions.

### 3. Seminar on Legal Issues in Nursing Homes

In collaboration with the Agency for Integrated Care ("AIC"), the Committee jointly organised a half-day seminar and panel discussion on common legal issues in nursing homes on 14 October 2016, supported by All Saints Home.

The panel consisted of representatives from the Law Society of Singapore (Mr Ng Bin Hong, Peter Low LLC and Mr Tan Shen Kiat, Fortis Law Corporation), Office of the Public Guardian (Mr Khoo Aik Yew), and Legal Aid Bureau (Ms Rachel Gan).

The seminar was attended by close to 120 medical social workers and senior staff from different nursing homes and eldercare institutions. Participants benefitted greatly from the holistic sharing by the various stakeholders and clarified legal queries that they frequently encounter in the course of their work.

The Committee looks forward to stepping up efforts to reach out to and equip community organisations with relevant legal knowledge to enable them to perform more effectively.



- ▲ Discussion of case studies identified based on a survey amongst the medical social workers conducted by AIC. Panellists on the far right: Mr Ng Bin Hong (Peter Low LLC), Ms Rachel Gan (LAB) and Mr Tan Shen Kiat (FortisLaw LLC).



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
CARRY  
ON  
ACTISING

# GROWING OUR PRACTICE



To: Mr Tan  
In consideration of the sum of S\$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars) the Purchaser the following offer which shall be valid for a period of 4 days hereinafter stated until 4.00pm on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_  
The Vendor offers to sell to the Purchaser the Property on the following terms:  
**TERMS OF SALE**  
**THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE'S CONDITION**  
The sale is subject to the Law Society of Singapore's Co



Society of Singapore  
Terms of Sale 2

# ADVOCACY

Samuel Chacko, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Samuel Chacko ..... Chairperson

Joseph Liow ..... Vice-Chairperson

Gregory Vijayendran ..... Council Representative

Sant Singh Tulsi, SC

Chelva Retnam Rajah, SC

N. Sreenivasan, SC

Dr Colin Ong, QC

Sushil Sukumaran Nair

Harish Kumar S/O Champaklal

Francis Goh Siong Peck Daniel

Koh Choon Guan Chenthil

Kumar Kumarasingam Darrell

Low Kim Boon

Hing Shan Shan Blossom

Moiz Haider Sithawalla

Ong Tun Wei Danny

Senthil Dayalan

Raeza Khaled Salem Ibrahim

Teng Po Yew

Tan Yi Yin Amy

Lim Wee Hao Wilbur (Lin WeiHao)

## Secretariat Representative

Jean Wong

The Advocacy Committee of the Law Society of Singapore consists of 21 members, with a good mix of junior, middle and senior members of the profession. The main focus of the Committee is to provide advocacy training for members of the profession.

The Committee is involved in training prospective advocates and solicitors, through the delivery of the Advocacy Workshops for law graduates undertaking the Part B course conducted by the Singapore

Institute of Legal Education. This personalised advocacy coaching to trainee lawyers involves a full-day workshop on a Saturday with a further 2-hour workshop on a Monday evening which runs from July to October. The Advocacy Committee maintains a pool of over 120 advocacy trainers who are practising lawyers and judicial officers with at least 5 years of experience in active practice. To ensure consistency and quality in the teaching of advocacy, the Committee conducted 2 teacher training workshops to train our trainers on the teaching methodology.

As part of the Committee's continuing professional development efforts, the Committee has developed a range of training programmes specifically aimed at enhancing both the oral and written advocacy skills of practitioners. Since 2015, the Committee has conducted the Basic Written Advocacy Workshop as well as the Trial Advocacy Course (intermediate) yearly.

A new advanced programme, "Handling Financial Experts in Court" was conducted in September 2017. Malaysian Judges, silks and practitioners who are senior advocacy trainers from Australia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Malaysia formed the international teaching faculty, whilst our local senior advocacy trainers formed the local teaching faculty. The case material was specially developed with Deloitte Southeast Asia for the course. In this regard, the Advocacy Committee would like to express its gratitude to the international faculty for volunteering their time to assist with the programme: Y.A. Justice Dato' Mary Lim (Malaysia), YA Dato' Vazeer Alam bin Mydin Meera (Malaysia), Simon de Quidt (Europe), Alistair Wyvill, SC (Australia), Janet McCurdie, SC (South Africa), Liza Jane Cruden (Hong Kong), Grace-Marie Goedhart (South Africa) and Brendan Navin Siva (Malaysia).

The teaching expertise of our advocacy trainers is well sought after by the overseas legal community. This year, our senior trainers have been invited to teach at advocacy courses conducted by the Australian Bar Association, the General Council of the Bar of South Africa, the Hong Kong Bar Association and the Bar Council Malaysia.

In order to ensure that our trainers are kept up to date on any developments in teaching methodology, a number of our senior trainers are sent each year to attend various advanced advocacy courses conducted in Australia and the United States.

The Committee wishes to thank all trainers, the Judiciary and the Attorney-General's Chambers for their support of the advocacy programmes and looks forward to their continuing support in the year ahead.

▼ At the "Advocacy Teacher Training Course" (May 2017) - Our senior trainers with the international teaching faculty and participants





# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Lawrence Teh Kee Wee, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Lawrence Teh Kee Wee ..... Chairperson  
 Chong Yee Leong ..... Co-Vice-Chairperson  
 Samuel Chacko ..... Co-Vice-Chairperson  
 Paul Sandosham ..... Co-Vice-Chairperson  
 Ng Lip Chih ..... Council Representative  
 Aziz Tayabali Samiwalla  
 Bhargavan Sujatha  
 Chia Chor Leong  
 Emmanuel Chua  
 Farrah Joelle Isaac  
 Han Shanru Gloria Bernadette  
 Ho Chye Hoon  
 Ho May Kim  
 John Robert Huntley  
 Kamalarajan Malaiyandi Chettiar  
 Kimarie Cheang Xiao Pin (Zheng Xiao Pin)  
 Lee Hui Yi  
 Lee Ying-Ying Michelle  
 Rengarajoo s/o Rengasamy Balasamy  
 See Chern Yang  
 Sundareswara Sharma  
 Syahrul Bahiah binti Jamaludin  
 Tan Kai-Lit Melvin  
 Thenuga Vijakumar

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (the "ADR Committee") is divided into 3 sub-committees that focus on different areas of alternative dispute resolution. The sub-committees are: Law Society Arbitration Scheme, Mediation, and International Arbitration.

For the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the ADR Committee has actively been involved in a variety of activities set out as follows:

## 1 The Law Society Mediation Forum and the Launch of the Law Society Mediation Scheme ('LSMS')

Launched on 10 March 2017 by the Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon during the Law Society Mediation Forum ("Forum"), certificates of appointment were presented to the Senior and Associate Mediators appointed to the inaugural LSMS Panel of Mediators. Key individuals from Singapore's mediation scene were also invited to share their academic and practice insights on developments in mediation, both locally and internationally, to attendees of the Forum.

## 2 Courses and Seminars

The International Arbitration ("IA") sub-committee organised a seminar on "Understanding Third Party Funding in Singapore" on 27 July 2017. The seminar provided attendees with an overview of the effect of the amendments and as well as an opportunity to hear first-hand from a Funder and Practitioner about third party funding.

Following the success of the inaugural course in 2016, the IA sub-committee decided to hold a second run of the course in September 2017. It is targeted at young practitioners or practitioners looking to get started on arbitration work and is designed to provide attendees with an overview on arbitration and learn about fundamental concepts and principles in arbitration, arbitration agreements, the role of arbitration institutions, arbitral tribunals and national courts, and the setting aside and enforcement of arbitral awards. The course will be held over 4 sessions, on 7, 13, 20 and 27 September 2017. There are 70 registrants to date.

The IA sub-committee is also organising a seminar on multi-tiered dispute resolution clauses. This seminar will be led by our distinguished speakers, Paul Key QC and Thio Shen Yi SC, who will highlight the different approaches that have been adopted by the

courts in England and Singapore and explore the impact of the Asian culture on the treatment of such clauses. This will be followed by a panel discussion with our speakers and Cameron Ford, who will each provide their unique perspectives based on their experiences as counsel, arbitrator and user of such clauses. The seminar will be held on 20 September 2017 and the team is presently working with Law Society's CPD department on the logistics.

### 3 Law Society Arbitration Scheme ("LSAS")

In light of the launch of the LSMS, the LSAS sub-committee had taken on the task of reviewing the existing LSAS procedures and rules in an effort to promote better synergy between the schemes. This has led to the introduction of a new arbitration-mediation-arbitration process into the LSAS to better cater to the needs of the users. These efforts culminated in the publication and release of the 2017 version of the LSAS Rules.

To promote wider use of the LSAS, the ADR Committee is also exploring the possibility of working with mediation institutions such as the Singapore Mediation Centre ("SMC") to have the LSAS implemented as the "to go to" scheme for the arbitration leg of their mediation-arbitration process.

### 4 Law Society Mediation Scheme ("LSMS")

Following the launch of the LSMS, the Mediation sub-committee, with the support of some of the other Committees of the Law Society, has been approaching various bodies such as the State Courts and Family Justice Courts to promote the use



▲ Launch of the Law Society Mediation Scheme on 10 March 2017

of the LSMS. The responses have been encouraging and one of the results of these endeavours is the formation of a specialist Family Panel under the Panel of Mediators of the LSMS with a specialist Probate Panel in the works.

### 5 Interaction with the Delegation from the Turkish Ministry of Justice

Representatives of the ADR Committee met with a delegation of 4 officials from the Turkish Ministry of Justice. The visitors were looking to discuss the use of alternative dispute resolution in Singapore and the support given by the Law Society. The meeting, which took place on 16 February 2017 at the Law Society, saw the Committee members sharing their own experiences in ADR as well as introducing the LSAS and LSMS as some of the means by which the Law Society supports the use of ADR.



◀ Members of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

# CIVIL PRACTICE

Ian Lim Wei Loong, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Ian Lim Wei Loong ..... Chairperson

Tan May Lian Felicia ..... Vice-Chairperson &  
Council Representative

Ang Hsueh Ling Celeste

Chan Ming Onn David

Davis Tan Yong Chuan

Dennis Chua Soon Chai

Han Guangyuan Keith

Henry Heng Gwee Nam

Kelvin Koh Li Qun

Kronenburg Edmund Jerome

Lim Chen Thor Jason

Michelle Woodworth

M K Eusuff Ali

Rengarajoo s/o Rengasamy Balasamy

Ramesh s/o Selvaraj

Sheik Umar bin Mohamed Bagushair

Sngeeta Rai

Terence Tan Wee Kio

Tham Lijing

Yeoh Kar Hoe Richard

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

Home Affairs and Minister for Law, shared insights on various Government initiatives which would impact the practice of law in Singapore in the coming years. Panel discussions featuring international, regional and Singapore law experts provided perspectives on a wide range of topics.

Key topics covered during the 2-day conference included the role of lawyers and the business of law, changes in the alternative dispute resolution landscape, harmonisation of substantive and procedural laws in ASEAN jurisdictions, modernisation of legal firms, and third party funding of litigation.

Panellists fielded questions from the floor via electronic platform pigeonhole. This enabled the distinguished panellists, comprising members of the judiciary, senior Singapore lawyers, foreign lawyers, and corporate counsels to engage in robust discussion and debate.

With 298 registrants consisting of both local and overseas delegates and all-round positive feedback from the participants, the Conference was a resounding success.

## 2 Dialogues and Engagement with the Courts

The Committee continues its involvement with the Supreme Court and State Courts in furthering the interests of the Civil Bar.

The Committee was involved in a dialogue with the State Courts in May 2017, where the Committee gave feedback on a variety of matters, such as feedback regarding Order 108 Rules of Court on the simplified process for proceedings in the Magistrate's Court and suggestions to align the State Courts and Supreme Court Practice Directions for certain procedural matters.

During the reporting period, the Civil Practice Committee (the "Committee") made several notable contributions to the legal profession and the Civil Bar. These are set out below.

## 1 Litigation Conference Workshop 2017

The Litigation Conference 2017, part of a conference series organised by the Committee since 2013, was held on 20 and 21 April 2017. To commemorate the Law Society's 50th Golden Jubilee, the conference was themed "50 Years On – Thinking Forward". Keynote speaker, Mr K. Shanmugam, Minister for




The Committee was involved in a dialogue with the Supreme Court in September 2016, where the Committee conveyed feedback from lawyers on, inter alia, their experiences with the Singapore International Commercial Court and the docket system. Highlights of the dialogue were reported in the December 2016 issue of the Singapore Law Gazette. Further dialogues with the Supreme Court and State Courts are expected in the latter half of 2017.

Article by the Committee published  
in the Singapore Law Gazette

Columns

Spotlight on Committees

40



## Civil Practice Committee Dialogue with the Supreme Court

**The Civil Practice Committee of the Law Society ("CPC")** had one of its regular dialogues with the Supreme Court recently. The dialogue was attended by the Honourable Registrar, Mr Vincent Hoong together with several Senior Assistant Registrars/Legal Officers. The CPC members attending the dialogue were led by its Chairman, Mr M K Eusuff Ali. The following is a highlight of some of the key areas discussed.

**Singapore International Commercial Court ("SICC")**

A total of eight cases have gone before the SICC since its inception in 2015. The SICC has to date released five judgments.

The CPC informed the Supreme Court that it had carried out its own survey of the SICC through the Lead Counsel who had conducted the matters before the Court. The feedback received was generally positive with support from members on the SICC processes.

**Civil Justice Commission ("CJC")**

The setting up of the CJC was announced by the Honourable the Chief Justice in his opening of the legal year address in 2015. The CJC has been tasked to examine the rules of civil procedure and to review the existing Rules of Court with a view to simplicity and efficiency.

The CPC was given a brief update on the work of the CJC. The CJC is currently reviewing and debating a preliminary set of proposed rules, which are likely to adopt a very different outlook after this rigorous exercise. The CPC will update members when the rules are more crystallised. The CJC's work also has to keep in tandem with the policy reform proposals from the Ministry of Law's Civil Justice Review Committee, which will set out the overarching policy framework for the civil justice system. In the meantime, the CJC has reiterated that it is prepared to continue to consider any recommendations and suggestions that the CPC may have on civil justice reforms.

**Feedback on Docket System**

Based on general feedback received, the CPC informed the Supreme Court that members were generally supportive of the docket system as they welcomed the trial Judge's involvement in the proceedings in the lead up to the trial which allowed trials to proceed more smoothly. The CPC, however, pointed out that some members had expressed concerns over delays in fixing trial dates. The Supreme Court explained that it is not their practice to double fix trials and therefore dates are only fixed when it is clear that parties are ready. The time interval given also takes into account the need for parties to prepare for trial and even mediate if necessary. Another issue raised by the CPC was the long waiting time for Pre-Trial Conferences ("PTC"). This could be up to three hours or more. The Supreme Court is looking at staggered timing as well as long term solutions using technological tools.

It was also discussed that in complex multi-party matters, the Supreme Court is prepared to fix PTCs at a specific time for all parties to attend. The CPC also takes this opportunity to remind members to attend all Court hearings including PTCs on time.

**Mediation**

The CPC shared feedback that mediation, while now an accepted part of the process, be attempted slightly later in the proceedings such as after discovery rather than immediately after the close of pleadings. The discovery stage can often lead to a need for reassessment of the parties' respective cases and can be an appropriate time to mediate.

The Supreme Court clarified that mediation was a consensual and voluntary process and it is for parties to assess and inform the Court when mediation would be appropriate. Mediation may be suggested early on in the proceedings in cases where the matter turned largely on oral evidence. Practitioners were, however, reminded of their professional duty under paragraph 35B of the Supreme Court Practice

Singapore Law Gazette December 2016



▲ Members of the Civil Practice Committee

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Daniel Koh, Co-Chairperson & Wong Li Kok, Alex, Co-Chairperson

## Committee Members

Daniel Koh Choon Guan ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Wong Li Kok Alex ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Mohamad Rizuan Bin Pathie .. Vice-Chairperson  
 Yeo Chuan Tat ..... Council Representative  
 Andrew Chan Chee Yin Chen  
 Cuiying Janelene Edward  
 Stanley Tay Wey Kok  
 Kimarie Cheang Xiao Pin (Zheng Xiao Pin)  
 Lee Shen Yang  
 Malcolm Tan Ban Hoe  
 Raeza Khaled Salem Ibrahim  
 Song Ruoh Jin  
 Vijay Kumar Rai  
 Koh Swee Yen  
 Tan Tiaw Kheng Allen  
 Foo Fei Ying Sandy  
 Chen Jianhao Kennedy  
 Martin Marini Vincent

## Secretariat Representative

Jean Wong

- 3rd Regional Insolvency Conference organised by the Insolvency Practice Committee on 15 & 16 September 2015
- Workshop on Developing Personal Effectiveness for Legal Practitioners on 19 & 20 September 2016
- Annual CPD Day 2016 by the CPD Committee on 1 November 2016
- Brexit – Impact on ASEAN and Singapore: How might it affect the work of Singapore lawyers? on 8 November 2016
- Navigating Professional Burnout: Practical Strategies for Stress Management on 20 January 2017
- Workshop on Talent Management & Succession Planning on 7 & 8 February 2017
- Business Simulation Workshop for Legal Practitioners on 16 March 2017
- Branding Workshop for Law Firms on 22 March 2017
- Litigation Conference 2017 organised by the Civil Practice Committee on 20 & 21 April 2017
- Networking Workshop (inclusive of networking event with accountants) for Legal Practitioners on 22 & 25 May 2017
- Future Lawyering Conference on 20 & 21 July 2017
- Seminar on Third Party Funding by ADR Committee on 27 July 2017
- Public & International Law Conference by PIL Committee on 17 August 2017
- Singapore Insolvency Conference by Insolvency Practice Committee from 24-25 August 2017

The Law Society's CPD programmes continued to perform well this past year. Over 70 seminars, workshops and conferences were organised and supported by the Society from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, which attracted more than 5,000 registrations from both members and non-members.

With the implementation of Mandatory CPD Scheme for lawyers with up to 15 years of practice experience, the CPD Committee, together with the various practice committees reviewed and designed diverse range of programmes to cater to the different category of our membership. Some highlights of the CPD calendar this year include:



▲ Microsite of the Singapore Insolvency Conference

Some upcoming events on the CPD calendar include:

- Annual CPD Day cum Biennial Lecture from 31 October to 1 November 2017
- Litigation Conference Workshop in April 2018 (dates to be confirmed)

Moving forward, the Committee will continue to develop and roll out programmes of relevance to our members and at the same time, continue to work closely with practice committees of the Law Society. The Committee will continue to work closely with SILE and to strengthen our collaborations with our partners, i.e. the Judiciary, Attorney-General's Chambers and Singapore Academy of Law.

We will continue to focus on how we can deliver more quality and cost effective services to our members to meet the demands of the mandatory CPD scheme over the next few years.



◀ Mr Yeong Zee Kin at the Annual CPD Day held on 1 November 2016



# CONVEYANCING PRACTICE

Lee Liat Yeang, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Lee Liat Yeang ..... Chairperson

Selina Chin Bau Tze ..... Vice-Chairperson

Sui Yi Siong ..... Council Representative

Ang Keng Lee

Chew Mei Choo

Chua Lei Kwan Lina Mary

Chuang Keng Chiew

Gan Hiang Chye

Haryadi Hadi

Jenny Lai Ying Ling

Lee Lai Yong Ivan Athanasios

Loh Kent Shin Timothy

Ong Yee Lon Elson

Sim Rui Ying

Tan Ching Chern

Teo Eng Thye

Vincent Yeoh Oon Weng

Vivian Kuok Ming Koong

Wong Mei Yoke Wendy Nee Leong

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

A workgroup (comprising of members of the Committee, i.e., Liat Yeang, Selina, Lina and Timothy) was also formed to consider updates to the Practice Circulars in response to recent changes made by Singapore Land Authority with regards to digital signatures on discharge documents and also the verification of client's identity and instructions with reference to a recent High Court case.

## 2 Day of Conveyancing Highlights

The Committee organised the "Day of Conveyancing Highlights 2016" ("DCH 2016"). This event was held on 2 November 2016 for the fifth consecutive year. Speakers at this event included members of the management and legal counsel from both public and private sector entities, namely the Singapore Land Authority, Landmark Architects Associates, Maples and Calder (Singapore) LLP, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, Lockton Companies (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Singapore Management University.

A range of relevant topics for real estate practitioners was presented at DCH 2016, with speakers discussing topics such as "Perspectives on the Legal and Procedural Principles of Compulsory Acquisition in Singapore", "Legal and Procedural Principles of Strata Title Survey and Subdivision of Title in Singapore; Perspective on the Issue of 'Void Space'" and "Restrictions on Foreign Ownership of Residential Properties in Singapore". Practitioners were also given a legal update on recent case law relating to real estate and the common pitfalls in conveyancing.

The DCH 2016 was well-attended, with a healthy distribution of practitioners ranging from the junior to the senior category. As the annual "Day of Conveyancing Highlights" series continues to receive much attention from the members of the Bar, the Committee is now preparing the programme for the "Day of Conveyancing Highlights 2017" ("DCH 2017"), which is scheduled to take place on 3 November 2017. DCH 2017 will also feature a broad range of topics which are of interest to real estate practice.

The Conveyancing Practice Committee presents its report for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. Information regarding the Committee's key activities and projects for the reporting period is set out as follows:

1

## Requests by Members for the Committee's Ruling, Direction or Guidance on Conveyancing Practice Issues

The Committee continues to assist members by providing, if possible, rulings/guidance on various conveyancing practice issues that are encountered by conveyancing practitioners.

### 3 Consultations

The Committee provided valuable feedback to the Urban Redevelopment Authority on the Housing Developers Rules (Appendix 1) which were provisions relevant and effective to protecting buyer's interests and also proposed updates to the Home Buyers Guide. The Committee also met up with the Singapore Land Authority for 2 dialogue sessions during the reporting period to provide feedback on the e-Lodgement of instruments, paperless titles and proposed an enhancement to the system to reflect the date after digital signing.

### 4 Committee Meetings

The Committee held a total of 6 meetings in the reporting period, and discussed various issues via e-mail correspondence as and when the need arose. In addition, the Committee attended informal feedback sessions between Singapore Land Authority and Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore.



▲ Members of the Conveyancing Practice Committee

# CORPORATE PRACTICE

Chan Pengee Adrian, Co-Chairperson & Kelvin Wong, Co-Chairperson

## Committee Members

Chan Pengee Adrian ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Kelvin Wong ..... Co-Chairperson  
 M Rajaram ..... Council Representative  
 Abdul Jabbar Bin Karam Din (from May 2017)  
 Farhana Siddiqui  
 Ferzana Fareen Haq  
 Koh Hui Xiang  
 Lee Kay Swee Chris  
 Lim Wei Jun Janus  
 Lo Kim Seng  
 Low Kah Keong  
 Mark Jalen Tan Junxiang  
 Nigel Yeoh Lian Chuan  
 Phang Min Nyuk Elaine  
 Sarita Misir  
 Sundareswara Sharma  
 Tham Yong-Qiang Tyron Luke  
 Tong Wei Min Raymond  
 William John Jamieson

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

During the reporting period from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the Corporate Practice Committee (the "Committee") has been involved in the following activities:

### 1 Meeting with IRAS on the Stamp Duties Amendment Act

The Committee met with representatives from IRAS and the Ministry of Finance on 24 April 2017 to seek clarifications on some changes to the Stamp Duties Amendment Act, i.e. in relation to the deletion of the words "stocks and shares" from section 22(1)(b) of the Stamp Duties Act with effect from 11 March 2017, and the stamp duty treatment of sales and purchase agreements ("SPAs") for stocks and shares.

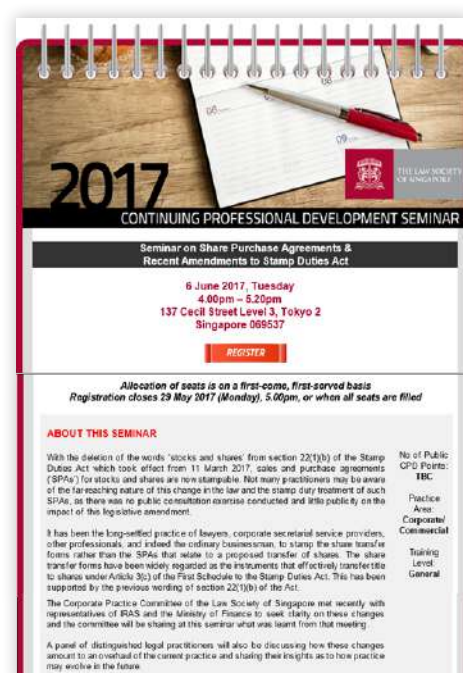
### 2 Meeting with the Ministry of Manpower ("MOM")

The Committee met with representatives from MOM on 5 June 2017 to seek clarification on the Ministry's policy and approach with respect to the practice of applying for and the issuance of letters of consent for Employment Pass holders to act as directors of companies within the same group.

### 3 Seminar on Share Purchase Agreements & Recent Amendments to Stamp Duties Act

Following the meeting that the Committee had with IRAS, the Committee organised a seminar on 6 June 2017 to share with practitioners about the discussion at the meeting. Committee Chairperson, Adrian Chan started the seminar with a presentation on the stamping of share purchase agreements and the effect of the recent amendments to section 22(1)(b) of the Stamp Duties Act followed by a panel discussion involving Committee members Bill Jamieson, Yeoh Lian Chuan and Low Kah Keong.

#### Agreements & Recent Amendments to Stamp Duties Act





#### 4 Consultation

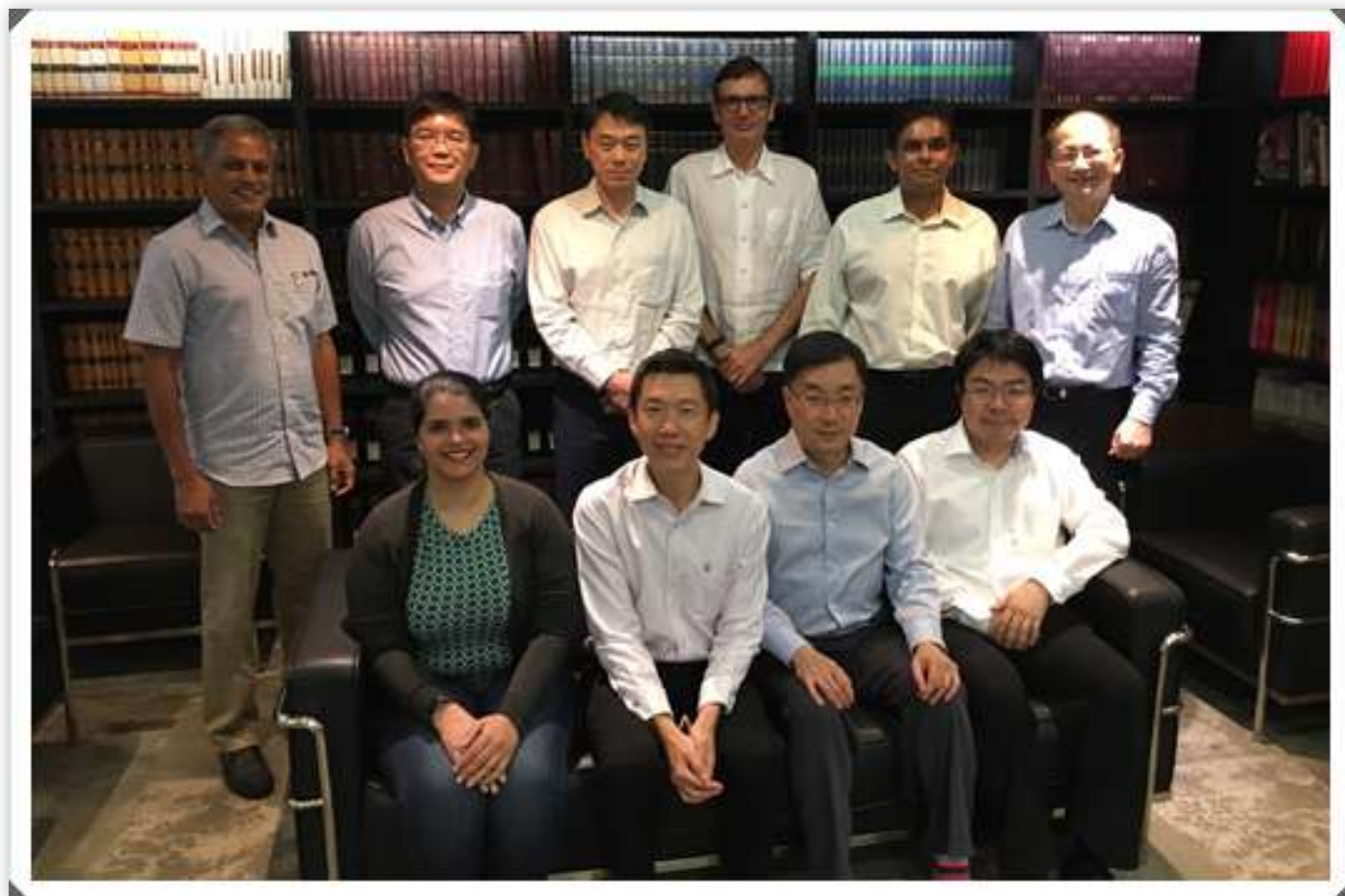
The Committee provided views on consultation relating to the proposed legislative changes to introduce an inward re-domiciliation regime in Singapore.

#### 5 Dialogues

The Committee has regular dialogue sessions with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority ("ACRA") to discuss issues encountered in the practice area and to be apprised of the new initiatives and policies rolled-out by ACRA. The Committee also actively supports ACRA on an ongoing basis by providing feedback on corporate law and policy changes.

#### 6 Representative on the IRAS's Committee – Study of the Tax Ecosystem and Practices in Singapore

Sharma, as the Law Society's representative on the IRAS Committee to participate in the study of the tax ecosystem and practices in Singapore, has been engaged in meetings and matters relating to this study.



▲ Members of the Corporate Practice Committee

# CRIMINAL PRACTICE

Wendell Wong Hin Pkin, Co-Chairperson & Shashidran Nathan, Co-Chairperson

## Committee Members

Wendell Wong Hin Pkin ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Shashidran Nathan ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Amolat Singh ..... Co-Vice-Chairperson  
 Ramesh Chandr Tiwary ... Co-Vice-Chairperson  
 Simran Kaur Toor ..... Council Representative  
 Abdul Salim Ahmed Ibrahim  
 Adrian Wee Heng Yi  
 Chenthil Kumar Kumarasingam  
 Chia Boon Teck  
 Chin Li Wen Tania  
 Choo Zhengxi  
 Derek Kang Yu Hsien  
 Eoin O Muimhneachain  
 Gloria James-Civetta  
 Josephus Tan Joon Liang  
 Kalidass s/o Murugaiyan  
 Lam Kuet Keng Steven John  
 Malcolm Tan Ban Hoe  
 Muntaz Binte Zainuddin  
 Nadia Ui Mhuimhneachain  
 Navin Shanmugaraj Thevar  
 Ng Huiling Cheryl  
 Prof. Walter Woon  
 Rajan Sanjiv  
 Raphael Louis  
 Siaw Kin Yeow (Richard)  
 Sunil Sudheesan  
 Suresh s/o Damodara  
 Tan Chor Hoon Alice  
 Terence Tan Li Chern  
 Tham Lijing  
 Thong Chee Kun  
 Vikram Ranjan Ramasamy

## Secretariat Representative

Daniel Tan

This report is for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017.

This year, the Criminal Practice Committee (the "Committee") continued to be involved in numerous projects and dialogue sessions with the various key stakeholders in the government agencies. It has been yet another extremely busy but meaningful year of engagement and activity.

We have been honoured to be able to expand our pool of consultants to include Associate Professor Goh Yi-han from the Singapore Management University. There were also several events hosted by the Committee to mark another memorable year.

1. The Committee held main committee meetings on the following dates:
  - (a) 28 September 2016 – update on progress of various subcommittees' initiatives
  - (b) 7 December 2016 – wrap-up meeting for 2016
  - (c) 6 February 2017 – kick-off meeting for 2017
  - (d) 23 May 2017 – mid-year progress report meeting
2. This is an overview of the activities of the various sub-committees:
  - (a) Paper on protocols for interviewing young persons – Put together a paper proposing best practices for interviewing young persons who are detained, taken into custody or arrested. The paper was sent to the AGC, the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Home Affairs in March 2017.
  - (b) Media protocol – Proposed a protocol to help the Law Society respond to media statements made about the Criminal Bar.

- (c) Criminal bar internships – The sub-committee held a Meet & Greet tea session at Drew & Napier on 8 September 2016 to conclude the 2016 internships. Interns had the chance to meet Judicial Commissioner Hoo Sheau Peng, who shared some valuable insights and words of wisdom with them. In April 2017, the sub-committee started the third run of the always-oversubscribed Criminal Practice Internships, placing 15 students with 9 law firms.
  - (d) Remand paper – Proposed improvements to the bail system, such as electronic tagging and greater use of personal bonds, in order to reduce the number of people held in remand. This paper was forwarded to the AGC on 24 July 2017.
  - (e) Criminal bar charity gala – Commenced planning for a marquee event in April 2018 to celebrate the Criminal Bar in conjunction with the Law Society's 50th anniversary. The Committee decided to adopt Yellow Ribbon as its charity, and all proceeds from the gala dinner will go to them. The Committee will also be compiling a book of short stories contributed by criminal law practitioners based on their own experience of a case they handled which had special significance to them. The book will be sold as part of fund-raising efforts for the 2018 charity gala.
  - (f) Review of proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act – A sub-committee was formed to look into the Ministry of Law's public consultation on proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act. The sub-committee will be studying the proposed amendments and giving its views to Council to forward on to the Ministry of Law for consideration.
3. The Committee held town halls with the Criminal Bar on the following dates:
- (a) 29 September 2016 – The Committee updated members of the Bar on its dialogue with the AGC, regarding the press statement for Kho Jabing's case.
  - (b) 16 January and 11 April 2017 – These two town halls were held to solicit feedback on creating a sample template for psychiatric expert evidence. Private psychiatrists were invited to attend the 11 April town hall to share their views.
  - (c) 2 August 2017 – This town hall was held to discuss the proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code. As one can imagine, this town hall session was well-attended and generated a very lively discussion.
4. The Committee hosted the Criminal Bar Get-together on 25 November 2016 and 31 March 2017 at McGeddigons and Charlie's respectively. These informal get-togethers have been a signature event on the calendar for members of the Criminal Bar to build camaraderie.
5. The Committee continues to stay in touch with key stakeholders through luncheons and meetings. Our engagement efforts include:
- (a) Farewell lunch for Attorney-General V K Rajah on 5 December 2016 at Grillery Singapore.
  - (b) Dialogue Session with the AGC on 16 January 2017 at Shahi Maharani North Indian Restaurant, Raffles City.
  - (c) Lunch with members of Council and the Association of Criminal Lawyers on 21 March 2017 at Rajah & Tann.
  - (d) Tripartite lunches with AGC and the judiciary – on 3 November 2016, hosted by the Committee at the Padang Café, and on 7 April 2017, hosted by AGC at the Supreme Court Viewing Gallery.
  - (e) Lunch dialogue with the Chief Justice on 17 July 2017 at Supreme Court Viewing Gallery.
  - (f) Regular meetings with the Integrated Case Management System ("ICMS") Steering and Operations Committees.



- (g) Regular meetings with the State Courts, through the State Courts and Family Justice Courts Committee.
  - (h) Appointing a representative to the Singapore Accreditation Council Working Group for the Accreditation of Anti-Bribery Management System Certification.
6. Finally, in November 2016 the Committee had a special dialogue with the Law Society of Hong Kong to better understand each other's criminal justice regimes. Members of the Criminal Bar also visited Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC") to learn about the use of video recording during interrogations.
  7. The Committee continues to be involved in numerous projects and dialogue sessions with various key stakeholders.



▲ *Members of the Criminal Practice Committee*

# FAMILY LAW PRACTICE

Michelle Woodworth, Co-Chairperson & Yeo Khee Chye Raymond, Co-Chairperson

## Committee Members

Michelle Woodworth ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Raymond Yeo Khee Chye ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Rajan Chettiar ..... Co-Vice-Chairperson  
 Amolat Singh ..... Co-Vice-Chairperson  
 Chia Boon Teck ..... Council Representative  
 Anuradha d/o Krishan Chand Sharma  
 Belinda Ang Choo Poh  
 Bhatt Chantik Jayesh  
 Cheong Zhihui Ivan  
 Dorothy Chai Li Li  
 Ellen Lee Geck Hoon (Consultant)  
 Halijah Binte Mohamad  
 Kee Lay Lian  
 Lai Ying Ling Jenny  
 Malathi Das (Consultant)  
 Mirchandani Poonam Lachman  
 Muntaz Binte Zainuddin  
 Seet Pek Hian Harold  
 Tan Hui Qing  
 Teh Guek Ngor Engelin, SC  
 Wong Kai Yun  
 Wong Soo Chih  
 Yap Teong Liang (Consultant)

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

## 2 Dialogues with the Family Justice Courts ("FJC")

The Committee continues to engage in regular dialogues with the FJC to receive updates and provide feedback pertaining to practice, procedure and access to justice.

## 3 Dialogue Session with the Family Bar

A dialogue session was organised for the Family Bar on 20 September 2016. Representatives from the FJC and the Ministry of Social and Family Development ("MSF") addressed attendees on various schemes, programmes and services available.

*Circular on Dialogue Session with the Family Bar on the Dispute Resolution Schemes and Court-related Programmes in the Family Justice Courts*



## 4 Ethics Workgroup

An ethics workgroup comprising members of the Committee, i.e. Michelle Woodworth, Raymond Yeo, Yap Teong Liang, Malathi Das, academics and members of the Judiciary was formed to consider ethical issues faced by family law practitioners. The scope included conducting a consultation on proposed amendments to the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct) Rules ("PCR") and developing a Best Practices Guide for family law practitioners.

For the reporting period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the Family Law Practice Committee (the "Committee") has been involved in the following activities:

### 1 Sub-committees

In the spirit of an all-inclusive approach to participation in the work of the Society, members were assigned to sub-committees to contribute to various projects.

## 5 Consultation

The Committee provided its thoughts on a consultation relating to proposed amendments to the PCR after a feedback session was organised by the Committee on 8 March 2017 to gather views from the Family Bar. The Committee also provided feedback on the Checklist for Consent Orders to the CPF Board and on the Child Maintenance table to the FJC.

## 6 Legal Clinics

Committee members continue to provide free legal advice every Wednesday at legal clinics held at FJC.

## 7 Seminars

The Committee organised/co-organised the following:

- (a) Ethics and Family Law Seminar on 27 September 2016. One of the speakers was Professor Nahum Mushin, a retired Judge of the Family Court of Australia, now Adjunct Professor teaching at Monash University.
- (b) The International Family Law Conference 2016 co-organised by the FJC, the Law Society and Singapore Academy of Law on 29 and 30 September 2016. Michelle Woodworth, Raymond Yeo and Yap Teong Liang were involved as speakers.



▲ International Family Law Conference held on 29-30 September 2016



▲ Members of the Family Law Practice Committee

- (c) Together with the Society of Mediation Professionals (Singapore), the Committee organised a forum "Family Mediation Advocacy – What's the Difference?" with faculty members from Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution Pepperdine School of Law, Hon. Irwin Joseph (retired) and Dr. Donald T. Saposnek.
- (d) Training session on basic counselling and empathy skills by the Eagles Mediation & Counselling Centre for family law practitioners was held on 16 and 17 November 2016.
- (e) The Family Justice Practice Forum 2017 – Family Justice 2020: "Through the Right Doors" co-organised by the FJC, the Law Society and the MSF was held on 14 July 2017.
- (f) In collaboration with Associate Professor Joel Lee, the Committee conducted a workshop on "Understanding Personality Preferences and Conflict for Legal Practitioners" on 4 August 2017.

## 8 Tea Session with Students from the Faculty of Law, NUS

As a tradition of the Committee, members met with final year students on 4 April 2017 for a tea session to share their experience as family law practitioners.

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Elaine Tan Ee Lian, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Elaine Tan Ee Lian ..... Chairperson  
 Ho Chye Hoon ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Lim Seng Siew ..... Council Representative  
 Anil Narain Balchandani  
 Bryan Manaf Ghows  
 Kao Kwok Weng Jonathan (Gao Guorong)  
 Kok Jia An Alwyn  
 Kronenburg Edmund Jerome  
 Kyle Leslie Sim Siang Chun  
 Lauw Yu An Nicholas Lynwood  
 Lee Lai Yong Ivan Athanasios  
 Leow Jiamin  
 Pang Keep Ying Joey  
 Peh Nam Chuan Adrian  
 Shaun Wong  
 Tan Ngee Wee Ervin  
 Tan Wee Kio Terence  
 Wun Rizwi  
 Yong Jia-An Ira

## Secretariat Representative

Michael Ho

The remits of the Information Technology Committee (the "Committee") include assisting members on matters relating to information technology in legal practice and liaising with government agencies and statutory bodies on matters relating to information technology.

The Legal Technology Vision document envisages that law firms and law practices in Singapore shall adopt of baseline level of technological products and solutions in the coming years to meet the Government's move towards a digital economy, including in the areas of legal practice and legal services.

In line with the objective of helping law practices and lawyers achieve a baseline level of technological adoption, the Committee supported the efforts of the Legal Productivity and Innovation Department

in its Tech Start for Law programme by assisting to identify solutions in three main areas: practice management, online research and knowledge management, and online marketing.

In addition, members of the Committee also assisted by speaking at the Legal Technology Roadshow and at various conferences and seminars throughout the year on matters such as:

- Adopting a paper-less or paper-lite document and practice management system
- Using cloud solutions in the practice of law
- Experiences in e-litigation
- Technological disruption to legal practice
- Challenges to the future of lawyering in the digital economy

The firms in which some Committee members practice are also early adopters of the SmartLaw certification.

The Committee is also involved in consultations and dialogues with various statutory bodies and government agencies on matters relation to data protection in the digital economy and provided feedback on the online portals and tools used or offered by such statutory boards and government agencies.

▼ Legal Technology Roadshow held from 27 to 28 March 2017





# INSOLVENCY PRACTICE

Sushil Sukumaran Nair, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Sushil Sukumaran Nair ..... Chairperson  
 Manoj Pillay Sandrasegara .. Vice-Chairperson  
 Thio Shen Yi, SC ..... Council Representative  
 Ajinderpal Singh  
 Andrew Chan Chee Yin  
 Balakrishnan Ashok Kumar  
 Chan Ming Onn David  
 Hing Shan Shan Blossom  
 Ho Mingjie Kevin  
 Lim Hui Li Debby  
 Mohan Gopalan  
 Ng Hui Ping Sheila  
 Ong Tun Wei Danny  
 Peh Nam Chuan Adrian  
 Sim Kwan Kiat  
 Smitha Rajan Menon  
 Tang Yuan Jonathan  
 Tay Kang-Rui Darius  
 Tiong Yung Suh Edward  
 Tong Chun Fai Edwin Charles

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

During the reporting period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the Insolvency Practice Committee (the "Committee") actively sought to advance the practice area of insolvency law by co-organising the flagship Singapore Insolvency Conference 2017 with the Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore on 24 and 25 August 2017.

### 1 Flagship Insolvency Conference

Following the success of the past 5 annual National and Regional Insolvency Conferences, the Committee organised the flagship Singapore Insolvency Conference 2017. The conference provided practitioners with a more interactive and personal learning experience and a greater exchange of ideas. With the shipping, oil and marine sector remaining weak, an increased need for restructuring to have regards to laws and practices in multiple jurisdictions, practitioners were provided with a

forum to exchange and share on the many latest cutting edge views.

The conference started with a session covering the latest development in Singapore law concerning restructuring and insolvency and tools available to effect restructuring in and outside of Singapore. Judges from multiple jurisdictions also shared their thoughts on various issues and offered a rare insight into the judicial mind during the Judicial Colloquium. One new feature for the conference was the master classes that allowed practitioners to choose 2 sessions (one session for each day) that they would like to attend. The master classes were related to cross-border restructuring in Indonesia and Singapore's role, restructuring of bond debt, Chapter 11 and Chapter 15 proceedings and Singapore's approach towards recognition of foreign insolvency proceedings and others.

The keynote address was delivered by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam. The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Aedit Abdullah chaired the Judicial Colloquium session on Day 2 of the conference. The welcoming address and closing address were delivered by the Committee Chairperson, Sushil Sukumaran Nair and the Chairman of the organising committee, Andrew Chan respectively.

### 2 Representative on IPAS

Chairperson Sushil Nair, as the Law Society representative on the Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore ("IPAS"), has been actively engaged in meetings and matters relating to IPAS.



▲ Singapore Insolvency Conference held on 24-25 August 2017



# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PRACTICE

Jo-Ann See Siew Heok, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Jo-Ann See Siew Heok ..... **Chairperson**  
 Jonathan Foong Yew Cho .... **Vice-Chairperson**  
 Tien De Ming Grismond . **Council Representative**  
 Anil Narain Balchandani  
 Boo Yee Swan  
 Boxall Lynette Maureen  
 Elaine Lew Yee Wen  
 Elaine Tan Ee Lian  
 George Hwang  
 Jevon Louis  
 Kang Poh Sing  
 Lam Chung Nian  
 Lauw Yu An Nicholas Lynwood  
 Lim Sui Yin Jeffrey  
 Lim Ying Sin Daniel  
 Moi Sok Ling (Mei Shuling)  
 Murgiana Haq  
 Ng Chee Weng Max  
 Ravindran s/o Muthucumarasamy  
 Samuel Wee Choong Sian  
 Soh Kar Liang  
 Tan Kee Leng  
 Tang Li Ling Yvonne  
 Tasneem Rehena Haq  
 Teng Hin Weng Mark

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

The Intellectual Property Practice Committee (the "Committee"), which is further divided into 5 sub-committees, focuses on supporting IP practitioners in the different areas of intellectual property practice. The sub-committees are: Trademarks, Patents, Enforcement, Design and Copyright, and Emerging Issues.

For the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the main activities engaged by the Committee are set out as follows:

## 1 Feedback and Consultations

The Committee has, through the course of the year, been active in participating in Consultations by providing valuable feedback on various initiatives. This includes the Committee's response to the Ministry of Law on feedback sought on the proposed changes to the local patents regime and the Copyright Act. The Committee has also from time to time voluntarily furnished feedback to the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore ("IPOS") on issues of concern to the practice for response, further action and/or resolution.

## 2 Courses and Seminars

The Design and Copyright and Enforcement Sub-Committees are in the midst of planning talks and seminars touching on their respective areas of practice, details of which will be announced at a later date.

## 3 Dialogues

The Committee aims to contribute towards the development of the legal regime and practice of intellectual property in Singapore by engaging in regular dialogues with the Courts, Ministry and IPOS either through the form of informal tea sessions or correspondence on hot-button issues that affect the practice in general.

▼ *Members of the Intellectual Property Practice Committee*



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Thio Shen Yi, SC, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Thio Shen Yi, SC ..... **Chairperson**  
 Kronenburg Edmund Jerome . **Vice-Chairperson**  
 Anand Nalachandran .... **Council Representative**  
 Alexander Ressos  
 Andre Ravindran Saravanapavan Arul  
 Ang Hsueh Ling Celeste  
 Aw Chee Yao (Hu Zhiyao)  
 Chen Cuiying Janelene  
 Chew Wan Yin Michelle  
 Chia Xin Hui  
 Darshini d/o Yoganathan  
 Gloria James-Civetta  
 Helen Yao Huang  
 Hewage Ushan Saminda Premaratne  
 Koh Hui Xiang  
 Koh Li Quan Kelvin  
 Kok Jia An Alwyn  
 Kong Yin Cheong Jared Andrew (Kaung Yanzhang)  
 Koong Len Sheng  
 Kor Wan Wen Melissa  
 Liam Yang Ming Alex  
 Lim Wei Jun Janus  
 Lim Wenying Amanda  
 Lisa Farrah Ho

Magdalene Teo – Yong Siew Lee  
 Mahesh Rai s/o Vedprakash Raj  
 Ong E-Wei Patrick  
 Pradeep Singh Khosa  
 Peter Ong Lip Cheng  
 Prasad s/o Karunakarn  
 Raimundo Rhudilyn April Bumatay  
 Rajan Supramaniam  
 Ramachandran Doraisamy Raghunath  
 Rengarajoo s/o Rengasamy Balasamy  
 Samuel Wee Choong Sian  
 Syahrul Bahiah binti Jamaludin  
 Tan Eu Shan Kevin  
 Tan Zheng Xian Jordan  
 Tang Yuan Jonathan  
 Tay Hui Shan  
 Tay Kuan Seng  
 Tham Keng Yue Gerald  
 Tseng Zhi Cheng Sean Douglas  
 Wong Yi  
 Yvonne Mak Hui-Lin

## Secretariat Representative

Shawn Toh

During the period of reporting, the Law Society hosted the following:

6 October 2016	Visit by Daini Tokyo Bar Association.
4 November 2016	Visit by Houyou-Zenkikai, a cross-factional group of the Tokyo Bar Association, Japan.
22 November 2016	Visit by Aichi Bar Association of Japan.
7 December 2016	Visit by Mr U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney-General, Myanmar.

27 February 2017	Visit by H.E. the Hon. Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney General of New Zealand.
2 May 2017	Visit by Mr Hiromu Kurokawa, Deputy Minister of Justice, Japan.
16 May 2017	Visit by Ms Fatima Abdulaziz Bilal, Director of the Centre of Legal and Judicial Studies, Ministry of Justice, Qatar.
17 July 2017	Visit by Mr Dasho Rinzin Gyaltsen, Vice President of the Bar Council of Bhutan.

## Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU")

To promote and strengthen the cooperation of the Law Society of Singapore and overseas bar associations and the exchanges between Singapore lawyers and lawyers in overseas jurisdictions, the Law Society signed the following MOU:

- 23 July 2017 with the Law Council of Australia; and
- 18 October 2016 with Osaka Bar Association, Japan.

The Law Society, represented by the President, also signed the "Hong Kong Manifesto" - promoting legal cooperation between lawyers from the "Belt and Road" while attending the Belt and Road Conference on 12 May 2017 organised by the Law Society of Hong Kong.

## Overseas Missions

### Myanmar

Following the successful Mission to Myanmar in 2014, the Society partnered the Singapore Business Federation to organise another Mission to Myanmar from 20 to 23 August 2017 with a focus on the construction sector.

### Japan

The Committee also organised a Mission to Japan from 17 to 20 October 2016, to both cities of Tokyo and Osaka. While there, the committee co-organised a seminar in both Tokyo (with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations) and Osaka (with the Osaka Bar Association).

## Opening of the Legal Year ("OLY")

The Committee assisted the Council to plan an OLY programme during the OLY, including the President's dialogue.



▲ Visit by His Excellency The Honourable Christopher Finlayson QC, Attorney General of New Zealand

▼ Legal Mission to Myanmar from 20-23 August 2017



# MUSLIM LAW PRACTICE

Ahmad Nizam Bin Abbas, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Ahmad Nizam Bin Abbas ..... Chairperson  
Abdul Rahman Bin Mohd Hanipah .....

..... Vice-Chairperson

Simran Kaur Toor ..... Council Representative

Aishah Winter

Aziz Tayabali Samiwalla

Ferzana Fareen Haq

Halijah Binte Mohamad

Mohamed Fazal Bin Abdul Hamid

Murgiana Haq

Norashikin Binte Kamal

Nur Liyana Binte Mohamed Sinwan

Yasmeen Jamil Marican

Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

For the reporting period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the Muslim Law Practice Committee (the "Committee") was active in the following initiatives:

### 1 Seminars

Chairperson was invited by Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura ('MUIS') to speak at its Inheritance, Estate Planning Seminar on 18 March 2017. Several members of the MPLC then took part in a consultation clinic with the audience after the seminar. The Committee also supported the inaugural Syariah Law Forum organised by a group of NUS Law students on 13 May 2017. Members of the Committee worked closely with the students not only on the forum itself but also contributed towards the publication of a handbook on *Navigating Syariah Law* in Singapore, which was launched by Speaker of Parliament Mdm Halimah Yacob. Chairperson and Halijah were speakers for the forum and engaged participants on the history of Syariah and its modern application as Muslim Family Law within Singapore's legal framework.

### 2 Consultation

The Committee submitted a written paper in response to the Public Consultation on the draft Administration of Muslim Law Act (Amendment) Bill ("AMLA") 2017 conducted by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth ("MCCY"). Members of the Committee were then invited to present their views to the MCCY and relevant bodies where they shared their recommendations on possible review of legislation on matters affecting the divorces in the Syariah Court and inheritance in general. At the second reading of the AMLA Bill in Parliament on 1 August 2017, the MLPC was mentioned by the Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, in his speech. While not all of the Committee's suggestions were taken up at this time, the Minister gave the assurance that the government will continue to study our proposals to find the best way forward.

### 3 Hosting the Syariah Committee of Johore Bar

Chairperson hosted a group of Johore lawyers to a networking and sharing session on Muslim Law in Singapore on 20 January 2017.



▲ Committee members with participants of the Asatizah Executive Programme



#### 4 Discussion Meeting with Syariah Court and MUIS on "Certificate on the Practice of Muslim Law in Singapore"

Two members of the Committee were invited to a discussion with Syariah Court and MUIS Academy on 9 February 2017 to provide views and ideas on a proposed programme focused on providing a new area of learning to legal practitioners on issues and aspects of the practice of Muslim Law in Singapore. A further session with young practitioners was also organised on 3 March 2017 to receive feedback on what might be useful for the practice of Muslim Law among younger practitioners.

#### 5 Meeting with Council and Representatives of the Association of Muslim Lawyers

Members of the Committee, together with Council members met up with representatives of the Association of Muslim Lawyers on 30 March 2017 for an informal update session and to discuss possible collaborations between both organisations.

#### 6 Monthly Pre-Divorce Briefings at Syariah Court ("Projek Iltizam")

Members of the Committee continue to volunteer at the Syariah Court's monthly pre-divorce briefings held on the last Saturday of each month. These volunteers explain the divorce processes and proceedings to the participants, focusing mainly on the forms and details to be completed.

#### 7 Singapore Council of Women's Organisations ("SCWO")

Monthly Legal Clinics Members of the Committee continue to volunteer to give legal advice to members of the public at the SCWO's legal clinics every month.

#### 8 Dialogues with the Syariah Court

The Committee has been engaging in dialogues with the Syariah Court to share concerns of practitioners there.

Members of the Muslim Law Practice Committee ▼





# PERSONAL INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE

Willy Tay Boon Chong, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Willy Tay Boon Chong ..... Chairperson  
 Constance Margreat Paglar .. Vice-Chairperson  
 Ng Huan Yong ..... Council Representative  
 Abdul Halim Bin Rosalan  
 Abdul Salim Ahmed Ibrahim  
 Anjalli d/o Muniandy  
 Bhargavan Sujatha  
 Catherine Lim Chui Ling  
 Gangadharan Prasanna Devi  
 Hoon Ang Ping  
 Lin Hui Yin Sharon  
 Namasivayam Srinivasan  
 Nirmala Ravindran  
 Pak Waltan  
 Paul Yap Tai San  
 Renuka d/o Karuppan Chettiar  
 Roger Yek Nai Hai  
 Shahira Binte Mohd Anuar  
 Siow Jit Thong  
 Subir Singh Panoo  
 Vivienne Kaur Sandhu

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

The Personal Injury and Property Damage ("PIPD") Committee presents its report for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. Information regarding the Committee's key activities and projects for the reporting period is set out as follows:

### 1 PIPD Pre-Action ADR Scheme

The PIPD Committee plans to introduce an Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") scheme to specially cater to this area of legal work. The PIPD Committee continues to work with the ADR Committee as to the details and implementation.

### 2 PIPD Seminar

The PIPD Committee conducted a half-day seminar on "Best Practices in Dealing with Client and Third Parties, and an Introduction to the Pre-Action ADR Scheme for NIMA Matters" on 17 March 2017 which aims to, inter alia, educate both young and senior practitioners on the pitfalls to be wary of when dealing with both personal injury and non-injury motor accident cases. The speakers also discussed 2 recent decisions with regard to commencement of personal injury and property damage suits and issues pertaining to adverse inference and litigation privilege.



*CPD seminar circular on Best Practices in Dealing with Client and Third Parties, and an Introduction to the Pre-Action ADR Scheme for NIMA*

### 3 Dialogues with Stakeholders

The PIPD Committee continues to engage with the Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office on the review of the Public Trustee's role in assessing the solicitor and client costs under the Motor Vehicles (Third-Party Risks and Compensation) Act (Cap 189).

The PIPD Committee had two dialogue sessions with the State Courts during the reporting period to discuss and provide feedback on:

- (a) the increase in civil District Courts' monetary jurisdictional limit for PIPD claims;
- (b) anchor tenant slots at the State Courts;
- (c) the amended non-injury motor accident ("NIMA") Protocol, personal injury ("PI") Protocol and simplified Magistrate Court suits process;
- (d) single joint experts ("SJE");
- (e) review of PIMA costs; and
- (f) the introduction of the Liability Indication Form for Industrial Accident Cases (Form 9A(A)).

#### 4 Other Key Initiatives

The PIPD Committee continues to engage with the General Insurance Association of Singapore ("GIA"). In particular, the PIPD Committee is planning an event with members from GIA's Motor Committee so as to continue the good relationship with GIA.

*Members of the Personal Injury and Property Damage Committee ▼*



# PROBATE PRACTICE AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

Goh Kok Yeow, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Goh Kok Yeow ..... Chairperson  
 Leon Kwong Wing ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Tito Shane Isaac ..... Council Representative  
 Ashok Kan Chugani  
 Haryadi Hadi  
 Joel Wee Tze Sing (Joel Huang Zhixing)  
 Kee Lay Lian  
 Lee Chiwi  
 Lee Lai Yong Ivan Athanasios  
 Quek Gou Jun  
 Ramachandran Doraisamy Raghunath  
 Sheik Umar bin Mohamed Bagushair  
 Tan-Goh Song Gek Alice

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

The Probate Practice and Succession Planning Committee (the "Committee") has, for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, been actively involved in a variety of activities relating to its remit of being the voice for the Law Society of Singapore in probate and administration as well as succession planning matters. The main activities engaged in by the Committee are set out as follows:

### 1 Probate/Succession Planning Seminars

The Committee organised 2 Probate/Succession Planning Seminars for the current year, both of which saw over 110 attendees signing up:

- 5 July 2017 – "Problem-free Non Contentious Probate Applications: Steps towards making it happen", conducted by Goh Kok Yeow;



▲ Members of the Probate Practice and Succession Planning Committee

- 12 July 2017 - Statutory Wills/ AML/CFT issues in Estate Practice – conducted by Peter Doraisamy and Goh Kok Yeow respectively

In addition, the Committee had the honour and pleasure of co-organising with the Singapore Management University a seminar on “Guardianship Laws in the USA and Singapore” held at the SMU on 25 July 2017, at which the internationally-renowned expert on Elder Law, Professor David English, who is W.F.Fratcher and Earl. L. Jenkins Professor of Law, University of Missouri in Columbia, spoke on current US Guardianship law, and Goh Kok Yeow had discussed the draft Voluntary Adults Bill.

## 2 Visit of Chairpersons of Law Society Committees to Hong Kong – 29 November 2016

Goh Kok Yeow represented the Committee during a trip of Chairpersons of Practice Committees of the

Law Society to Hong Kong on 29 November 2016 during which we met with our counterparts from the Law Society of Hong Kong. Goh Kok Yeow had a fruitful discussion with Mr Billy Ma, the Chairperson of the Law Society of Hong Kong’s Probate Practice Committee, and 4 other members of the Hong Kong Probate Committee, which will in due course enable closer co-operation between lawyers in both jurisdictions to work more closely and seamlessly in probate matters.

## 3 Quarterly Dialogues with the Family Justice Courts

The Committee continues to engage the Family Justice Courts in regular dialogues on matters relating to Rules and Practice Directions with regards to civil proceedings under the Probate and Administration Act, Mental Capacity Act, Wills Act, and other related legislation as well as probate, succession, wills and related matters.



# PUBLICATIONS

Malathi Das, Chairperson

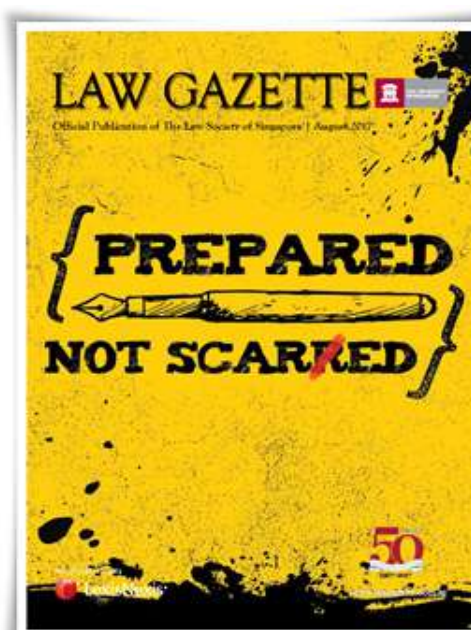
## Committee Members

Malathi Das	Chairperson
Rajan Chettiar	Co-Vice-Chairperson
Marcus Yip	Co-Vice-Chairperson
Simran Kaur Toor	Council Representative
Cameron Ford	Advisor
Associate Professor David Tan	Advisor
Dr William Wan	Advisor
Aileen Chua	
Alex Liam	
Benjamin Teo	
Celeste Ang	
Debby Lim	
Evans Ng	
Fong Wei Li	
Janelene Chen	
Kishan Pillay	
Lee Hui Yi	
Suang Wijaya	
Vincent Leow	

## Secretariat Representative

Sharmaine Lau

The Society will be concluding its publishing agreement with LexisNexis to publish hard copies of the Law Gazette after 2 decades of partnership. To keep up with the times and for environmental reasons, the Law Gazette will be published solely online from January 2018. The Committee is currently working closely with a web developer to develop a new, forward looking online version which will be launched in the new year.



◀ Law Gazette

The Publications Committee (the “Committee”) is charged with overseeing the following publications and projects of the Law Society:

### 1 Singapore Law Gazette

The Committee publishes the official monthly magazine of the Law Society, the Singapore Law Gazette. The Committee not only assists in the commissioning, writing and proof-reading of each issue but also curates special thematic issues and comes up with the cover design and tagline for each issue. In the reporting period, we published a themed issue in November 2016 on family law and in July 2017 on entertainment law. The Committee also put together a special issue in May this year to commemorate the Society’s golden jubilee and several of the articles were highlighted in the Straits Times.

### 2 Law Gazette Awards

The Singapore Law Gazette Awards were introduced in 2013 to recognise our writers for their contributions to the Singapore Law Gazette, and to encourage the writing of good quality articles. We awarded 2 prizes last year for best feature article, including an award for the best feature by a young lawyer. The Committee, at the time of writing of this report, is undertaking the nominations for the 2017 awards. The Awards are judged by experienced volunteer judges from the judiciary, legal profession and academia.



### 3 Mass Call Supplement

Each year, the Committee publishes a supplement for newly-called lawyers which is given out at the annual Mass Call event. This year, we devoted the August issue of the Singapore Law Gazette to the newly called and young lawyers with a specially put together edition titled "Be Prepared, Not Scarred" with articles by both young and senior lawyers who shared tips on surviving and thriving in practice. We are grateful to Law In Order for sponsoring an additional 1,000 copies of this issue for distribution to the newly called lawyers at the Mass Call.

### 4 Legal Writing Seminar

The Committee organised a seminar titled "Getting it Right – Drafting Effective Submissions" on 22 November 2016. The speakers were Tan Chuan Thye, SC from Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP and Edmund Koh of Intelllex. We had a good turnout of about 70 participants. The next seminar will be held on 15 November 2017 on the topic of persuasive ADR statements.

### 5 Online Directory of Law Practices and Lawyers

The online Directory has consistently been among the top 3 most visited sections of the Society's website. We are grateful to the law practices that have purchased advertisements in the Directory for their support.

### 6 Specialist Services Directory

The Committee produces the online Specialist Services Directory which carries advertisements by legal support services providers including specialist witnesses. The inaugural issue in 2012 carried 10 advertisements and the number of advertisers has steadily grown, with over 20 advertisers in 2017. We hope the Directory will continue to be a useful and valuable resource for lawyers seeking specialist opinions or perspectives, procuring a specialist report or consulting or instructing a specialist in both contentious and non-contentious matters.



▲ Committee gathering held at NUS - Suntec City Guild House

## 7 Annual Report

This year's Annual Report features iconic photographs of the Society, its members and past events to commemorate the Society's 50th anniversary.

## 8 Jus News

The Committee continues to oversee the weekly e-bulletin, Jus News, which brings the latest and most current practice information, news and related matters to the attention of members.

## 9 Firm Closure Dissemination Service

The Committee continues to provide a service to assist law practices to disseminate their notices of holiday/office closures to third party organisations (such as the Courts and government ministries) for a small fee. The service was introduced in January 2013 and has been well received by law practices.

## 10 Law Society's 50th Anniversary Publication

The Committee was tasked by the Council to oversee the publication of a special 50th anniversary

commemorative coffee table book titled "*Fiat Justitia: Fifty Years of the Law Society of Singapore*". The Society commissioned Dr Kevin Tan to write the book which will be launched on 10 November 2017. All practising members will be given a copy of the book. It was immensely satisfying for the Committee to work with Dr Tan to see the book to fruition as Dr Tan weaved the highs and lows of the Society's history into a compelling read. We hope that all members will find the story of our Society interesting and appreciate how far the Society has come in 50 years. I particularly wish to thank the President and the Council as well as our members for their generous support of this milestone publication in terms of funding and contribution of ideas. I also pay tribute to our Panel of Advisors for their advice and good counsel.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to my Co Vice-Chairs, advisors and members of the Committee for their creativity, enthusiasm, feedback, contributions and hard work in serving on this Committee. I am also grateful to our Publications Department comprising Sharmaine Lau and Shirin Kamsir, without whose meaningful and tireless service and support this Committee will not be able to carry out all that we do.

# PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Prakash Pillai, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Prakash Pillai ..... Chairperson  
 Michael Hwang, SC ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Paul Tan Beng Hwee .... Council Representative  
 Debby Ratnasari  
 Koh Junxiang  
 Kor Wan Wen Melissa  
 Lim Wei Jun Janus  
 Lisa Farrah Ho  
 Jaclyn L Neo  
 Suang Wijaya  
 Tan Shihao Sean  
 Tang Yuan Jonathan  
 Yeo Kok Quan Nigel  
 Yeoh Jun Wei Derric (Yao Junwei)

## Secretariat Representative

Daniel Tan

Between 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the Public and International Law Committee (the "Committee") organised the following events:

## 1 Seminar on Natural Justice and Administration in Arbitration Law

The seminar, held on 29 November 2016, was presented by an esteemed panel including Dr. Jack Tsen - Ta Lee and Alvin Yeo, SC. The speakers focused on the following topics:

- a) Actual and Apparent Bias  
 To understand the doctrine of bias in administrative law; and how bias in arbitration law and practice may differ from administrative law
- b) Fair Hearing  
 To understand principles of fair hearing in arbitration law and practice; and how fair hearing in administrative law may differ from arbitration law and practice.

This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Cavinder Bull, SC where the panellists provided their unique perspectives based on their experiences with the various processes.



▲ Mr Prakash Pillai speaking at the seminar on Natural Justice and Administration in Arbitration Law

## 2 Seminar on Public Interest Lawyering

This seminar was held on 29 March 2017 and the speakers were Eugene Thuraisingam and Remy Choo Zheng Xi. Assistant Professor Jaclyn Neo of NUS moderated the session.

Eugene Thuraisingam spoke on the following 4 cases of public interest:

- a) *James Raj s/o Arokiasamy v Public Prosecutor* [2014] 3 SLR 750  
The Court of Appeal was asked to re-consider its previous position that the right to counsel provided for in the Constitution cannot be immediately exercised.
- b) *Vijaya Kumar s/o Rajendran & Ors v Attorney-General* [2015] SGHC 244  
This case involved an application for leave to apply for a Mandatory Order to mandate the commissioner and/or the police officer granting the permit in respect of the Thaipusam procession of 2016 to authorise the playing of musical instruments during the Thaipusam procession of 2016.
- c) *Prabakaran a/l Srivijayan v Public Prosecutor and other matters* [2017] 1 SLR 173  
The Court of Appeal was asked to consider the important Constitutional Law issue of whether the Public Prosecutor in deciding whether or not to grant a certificate of cooperation to a convicted drug trafficker, after conviction (which would result in the Court hearing the matter having the discretion to sentence the offender to life imprisonment as opposed to death) was in substance performing a judicial function which offends against the constitutional provision reserving judicial functions to the Judiciary.
- d) *Attorney-General v Ting Choon Meng and another appeal* [2017] 1 SLR 373  
This case dealt with the fundamental liberty of free speech. Eugene represented the Singapore current affairs website, *The Online Citizen*, in responding to the Government's appeal to the Court of Appeal that the government is a "person" under the Protection of Harassment Act and was therefore entitled to bring the *Online Citizen* to Court to seek a declaration that certain statements made by the Online Citizen about MINDEF were false

Remy shared his background as one of the founders of The Online Citizen back in 2006, and his first "public interest" case" on the SMRT bus strike. He also spoke on the section 377A Penal Code challenge, the trial of The Real Singapore for Sedition, Alex Au's contempt of Court proceedings and the case on *AG v Ting Choon Meng*.

## 3 Public International Law Conference

The Committee also organised the Public International Law Conference on 17 August 2017 with speakers and moderators from the academia, private practice and the judiciary speaking on the following:

- a) The Basics of Public International Law
- b) International Law and the South China Sea Disputes
- c) Contracts by Sovereign States and State Owned Entities (and the problem of sovereign immunity)?
- d) Environmental Issues Posed by the Haze, and Extraterritorial Effect of Singapore Laws on Haze Prevention
- e) Panel Discussion: Hot Topics in International Law
  - Current debates relating to the use of force in international law
  - Transnational Business & Human Rights
  - Dispute Settlement Developments in New Investment Treaties – Implications for Singapore
  - Asean and Human Rights



▲ (left to right) Break-out session at the Public International Law Conference by Speaker Dr Tai-Heng Cheng and Dr Michael Hwang SC as Moderator



# SMALL LAW FIRMS

Lisa Sam Hui Min, Co-Chairperson & Michael S Chia, Co-Chairperson

## Committee Members

Lisa Sam Hui Min ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Michael S Chia ..... Co-Chairperson  
 Sunil Sudheesan ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Alvin Tan Kheng Ann  
 Anuradha D/O Krishan Chand Sharma  
 Ashok Kumar Rai  
 Aye Cheng Shone  
 Bryan Manaf Ghows  
 Chia Swee Chye Kelvin  
 Daljit Kaur d/o Harbans Singh  
 Deepak Raja  
 Edward Stanley Tay Wey Kok  
 Gloria James-Civetta  
 Ho Chye Hoon  
 Lim Joo Toon  
 Lim Wee Hao Wilbur  
 Mumtaj Banu d/o Abdul Kalam Azad  
 Ng Huiling Cheryl  
 Ng Keng Chye  
 Phang Min Nyuk Elaine  
 Tan Heng Khim  
 Tan Li-Chern Terence

## Secretariat Representative

K Gopalan

For the reporting period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the Small Law Firms Committee (the "Committee") has been involved in the following activities:

## 1 Series of Luncheons at the State Courts Bar Room

The Committee continued its collaboration with the State Courts & Family Justice Courts Committee to host a series of luncheons at the State Courts Bar Room. This series was initiated in 2014 and has been received favourably by members who practise in the State Courts. Members were updated on legal practice and practice management matters by volunteer speakers or Secretariat staff. External vendors were also involved in sharing their technology solutions and software to members.

The luncheon sessions were held on 8 September 2016, 25 November 2016, 18 January 2017, 22 March 2017, 24 May 2017 and 21 July 2017. The next 2 sessions have been scheduled for 15 September 2017 and 22 November 2017.

## 2 Seminars

The Committee, with the assistance of the Continuing Professional Development Department, organised a special intake of the Singapore Mediation Centre course on "Mediation: Strategic Conflict Management for Professionals" at a discounted rate for the benefit of small law firm practitioners. The first module of the course was conducted at Law Society from 8 to 9 May 2017 with the second module conducted from 15 to 17 May 2017.

## 3 Tea Sessions for Small Law Firm Practitioners

Following the first tea session in 2016, the Committee organised the second tea session for small law firm practitioners located in the vicinity of International Plaza, Maxwell House and Tras Street at The Marmalade Pantry at Oasis Hotel Downtown on 27 October 2016. This tea session aimed to reach out to small law firm practitioners and facilitate networking amongst small law firms as well as to provide the Law Society the opportunity to find out how greater assistance can be provided.



▲ Circular on Series of Luncheons at the State Courts Bar Room



Practitioners were updated on the Committee's initiatives, the various Law Society's welfare schemes and provided feedback on issues that they faced. The Committee will be organising one tea session in the last quarter of 2017 to further engage with the small law firm practitioners.

#### 4 Phase 2 of the Data Repository of Precedents

As a continuation of the Committee's initiative to provide small law firm practitioners with a resource database of sample precedents, the Committee expanded the scope and improved the pre-existing precedents currently in the member's library of the Society's website. Some of the precedents that were uploaded in the member's library in the last quarter of 2016 included the non-disclosure agreement, constitution of a society, cease and desist letter for defamation and copyright infringement.

#### 5 Networking Session with the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants ("ISCA")

The Committee is in the midst of co-organising a networking session in the last quarter of the year for the small and medium-sized law firms to enhance work referrals and further collaborations between the 2 professions.



▲ Brochure on Mediation: Strategic Conflict Management for Professionals

Members of the Small Law Firms Committee ▼



# SOCIAL AND WELFARE

Hewage Ushan Saminda Premaratne, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Hewage Ushan Saminda Premaratne .....

Chairperson

Koh Li Qun Kelvin .....

Vice-Chairperson

Ho Wei Liang Sherman .....

Vice-Chairperson

Yeo Chuan Tat (Yang Quanda) .....

Council Representative

Elizabeth Toh Guek Li

Kong Yin Cheong Jared Andrew  
(Kaung Yanzhang)

Lee Jia En Gloria

Ong E-Wei Patrick

Shae Calissa Teo

Shreyanka Mirchandani Changaroth

Tham Yong-Qiang Tyron Luke

Toh Jun Yong Alex

Yvonne Mak Hui-Lin

## Secretariat Representative

Shawn Toh

The Social and Welfare Committee (the "SWC") organises social activities and fosters camaraderie among Law Society members as well as reviews and administers the welfare programmes of the Law Society.

Highlights of the SWC's work for the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 are as follows:

### 1 Organising the Law Society Annual Dinner & Dance 2016

The Law Society held its Dinner & Dance cum Charity Gala at the Pan Pacific on Friday, 11 November 2016. The theme for the evening was "Masquerade" which The Law Society collaborated with Looms Workshop, a local social enterprise, to produce masks specially for the 500 guests, including Judges and Judicial Commissioners of the Supreme Court and other distinguished guests.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Rishi Budhrani and his wife. At the Dinner, two awards were presented – the C C Tan Award and Pro Bono Ambassador Award. The C C Tan Award for 2016 was conferred on Mr Chandra Mohan K Nair while the Pro Bono Ambassador Award for 2015/2016 was conferred on Mr Tan Cheow Hung. Recipients of other awards such as Volunteer of the Year, Contributor of the Year, Plaque of Appreciation and Friend of the Law Society were also invited to the dinner.

#### ▼ Annual Dinner & Dance 2016



Mr Chandra Mohan K Nair receiving the C C Tan Award from the President



▲ Mr Tan Cheow Hung was conferred Pro Bono Ambassador Award for 2015/2016



In line with the Masquerade theme, a live band with leading vocalist, Ywenna Carollin, belted out tunes for the evening

A booth was set up at the reception area by the Pro Bono Services Office to increase the collaboration and engagement between lawyers and the wider community. A silent ballot at the Dinner as well as sales of charity tables were held to raise funds for it.

## 2 Organising the DeepaRaya Luncheon 2016

In celebration of Deepavali and Hari Raya Haji, the DeepaRaya Luncheon 2016 was held on 27 October 2016 at the Bar Room of the State Courts and was well attended by more than 50 members.

## 3 Whisky Appreciation Event

Asher BWS and Audi co-organised a "Drink Glenmorangie, Drive Technology" event supported by SWC on 13 October 2016. There were showcases of Glenmorangie's exquisite range of whiskies including Signet, Glenmorangie's prestigious Highland single malt scotch and Audi's RS 6 Avant and R8 Coupé.

## 4 Organising the Lunar New Year Luncheon 2016

Members of the Bar gathered at the State Courts Bar Room on 15 February 2016 for the traditional "lo-hei" and sumptuous buffet lunch to celebrate and welcome the year of the Monkey.

## 5 Organising the Annual Dinner & Dance 2017

The annual Law Society Dinner & Dance will be held on Friday, November 10 at Ritz Carlton Singapore. SWC has put together exciting programmes for this anticipated event of the legal profession's social calendar, particularly in celebration of Law Society 50th Anniversary. Check this space next year for more updates!

## 6 Administering Applications to the Bar Memorial Scholarship and Welfare Schemes

The SWC continues to review applications received for the Bar Memorial Scholarship and makes recommendations to Council in relation to applications received. To-date, three applications have been received and considered. The SWC also continues to oversee the maintenance of the Bar Rooms of the Supreme Court and State Courts of Singapore.



Lunar New Year Luncheon ►

# SOLICITORS' ACCOUNTS RULES

Gary Pryke, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Gary Pryke ..... Chairperson  
 Chew Kei-Jin ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Chia Soo Michael ..... Council Representative  
 Lim Hui Bian Vivienne  
 Low Chai Chong  
 Oh Kim Heoh Mimi  
 See Chern Yang  
 Tan Tse Chia Patrick  
 Yap Teong Liang

## Secretariat Representatives

Ambika Rajendram  
 Rajvant Kaur

- The use of online banking facilities to manage escrow monies in such an account.
- Where the client for his own convenience instructs a solicitor in writing not to withhold paying money into a client account.
- Whether float money for last minute adjustments in a conveyancing transaction could be paid into a client account.
- Whether unutilised fees could be refunded to clients in cash where the client's bank accounts had been frozen due to ongoing investigations.
- A situation in which escrow monies were in a foreign currency and the bank informed the solicitor that negative interest was chargeable on deposits in that currency.

In the year under review the Solicitors' Accounts Committee (the "Committee") provided guidance in response to a number of queries. These included:

- Queries relating to how escrow monies received in connection with the surrender of a lease were to be dealt with.
- Whether escrow monies could be placed in a separate bank account that is not a client account.

A representative of the Committee was a panel speaker at the Society's annual mandatory book-keeper's course.

# SPORTS

Chan Lai Foong, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Chan Lai Foong ..... Chairperson  
Tan Xu Teng (Boat Race Convenor) .....

..... Vice-Chairperson

Lisa Sam Hui Min ..... Council Representative

Ashok Kumar Rai

Ho Wei Liang Sherman

Jispal Singh s/o Harban Singh

Lee Koon Foong Adam Hariz

Aylwin Tan Wee En

Bala Chandran s/o A Kandiah  
(Veterans Soccer Convenor)

Chen Yixin Edith (Floorball Convenor)

Chiam Tao Koon (Pool Co-Convenor)

Chung Weijian Brandon Ian  
(Badminton Convenor)

Felix Lee Shih Yang (Basketball Co-Convenor)

Gopal Shivanand (Pool Co-Convenor)

Jacintha Thannimalai

Joanne Nicole Wee (Netball Co-Convenor)

Lee Hock Yin Samuel (Bowling Convenor)

Lee Terk Yang (Premier Soccer Convenor)

Leeza Lee (Table Tennis Co-Convenor)

Lim Siew Kuan

Liow Wang Wu Joseph (Volleyball Convenor)

Moiz Haider Sithawalla (Cricket Convenor)

Muhamad Imaduddin Bin Abdul Karim

Nakoorsa Bin Abdul Kadir (Darts Convenor)

Ng Sook Zhen (Tennis Co-Convenor)

Norman Teo (Cross Country Co-Convenor)

Nurul Nordin (Netball Co-Convenor)

Ong Shu-Wen (Ladies Soccer Convenor)

Ravin Periasamy (Hockey Convenor)

Teng Zi Ping Kemmy

(Table Tennis Co-Convenor)

Toh Hui Lin Desiree

(Cross Country Co-Convenor)

Valmiki C Nair (Touch Rugby Convenor)

Wee Heng Yi Adrian (Golf Convenor)

Wong Foong Wee (Basketball Co-Convenor)

Wong Woon Kwong (Squash Convenor)

## Secretariat Representative

Shawn Toh

The Sports Committee strives to build good relations and promote camaraderie amongst members of the Bar and the legal fraternity including the Judiciary, legal officers, academia as well as undergraduates, through social interaction at sporting events.

For the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, the Sports Committee organised or participated in the following sporting events:

1. The Inter-Professional Games ("IPG") 2016 was held from August to 22 October 2016 with participation from Law Society of Singapore, Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants, Singapore Medical Association, Institution of Engineers, Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers and Singapore Institute of Architects.
2. The Annual Singapore–Penang Football Match took place in Chiang Mai on 1 October 2016. Team Singapore won with a score of 6–2.
3. The Law Society of Singapore Volleyball team emerged victorious in the third edition of the Tripartite Volleyball Game, which took place on 22 October 2016 in Hong Kong, with participation from the Law Society of Singapore, Bar Council Malaysia as well as Hong Kong Law Society.

The sports played were Badminton, Basketball, Bowling, Chess, Floorball, Golf, Netball, Pool, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis and Volleyball. The Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants emerged as the champion for IPG.



4. The Annual Piala Pala Bowling Tournament 2016 took place on 26 November 2016 at West Bowl. Team Pinkillers (Ron Alvin Soh, Er Ewen, Eudrina Yeo) emerged victorious whilst Team Judiciary 1 (Karen Lin, Ronald Lim, Phelycia Chan) and Team 36x (Dorothy Tay, Teo Keng Siang, Calvin Thean) came in second and third respectively.
5. The Law Fraternity Games comprising teams formed by members of the Law Society of Singapore and law students from National University of Singapore ("NUS") and Singapore Management University ("SMU"), took place from 7 to 21 January 2017. The Law Society hosted a buffet reception at the closing dinner of the Games at NUS BTC Upper Quadrangle. The Law Society emerged as the overall champion.
6. The 48th annual Malaysia-Singapore Bench & Bar Games was held from 28 April to 30 April 2017 in Singapore. A total of 19 sports (comprising of 16 competitive games, 2 non-competitive games and 1 exhibition game) were played between Team Singapore and Team Malaysia. On the occasion of the Law Society's 50th Anniversary, Team Singapore won the Judges' Cup with a score of 9.5 to 6.5.
7. The Law Society badminton team travelled to Osaka, Japan, and won the friendly matches played with the Osaka Bar Association on 28 May 2017. Singapore team won 4 games; Osaka won 2 games and 1 game was held to a draw.
8. The local Bench & Bar Games 2017 took place on 22 July 2017 at the Ministry of Manpower Services Center. The Bar team won with an overall score Bench 1.5 – 3.5 Bar.

▼ *Winners at the Annual Piala Pala Bowling Tournament 2016*



*Law Fraternity Games 2017* ▼



▲ *Singapore's Tennis Team*



▲ *Heads of Delegation (left to right) Justice Chao Hick Tin, Judge of Appeal, Singapore and Tan Sri Dato' Seri Zulkefli Bin Ahmad Makinudin, President, Court of Appeal, Malaysia*

# YOUNG LAWYERS

Wong Yi, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Wong Yi ..... Chairperson

Choo Zheng Xi ..... Vice-Chairperson

Ng Huan Yong ..... Council Representative

Alvin Ee Chin Liang

Chua Siew Ling, Aileen

Dierdre Grace Morgan

Fong Wei Li (Kuang Weili)

Goh Zhi Xian Mathias

Hany Soh Hui Bin

He Yanying Laurelle

Joel Wee Tze Sing (Joel Huang Zhixing)

Koh Yheoh Zhou Napoleon Rafflesson

Kor Wan Wen Melissa

Lee Tai-Hwa (from 6 April 2017)

Leong Hui Wen Rachel

Low Ying Li Christine

Mark Jalen Tan Junxiang

Meera Rajah

Mifiona Quah

Ngo Shuxiang Nicholas

Os Agarwal

Shreyanka Mirchandani Changaroth

Spencer Chew

Suang Wijaya

Tan Su Hui

Tay Hui Shan

Tham Keng Yue Gerald

Thng Shin Min

Vikram Ranjan Ramasamy

Yeo Kok Quan Nigel

Yeo Kuei Ya Cindy

Yeoh Jun Wei Derric (Yao Junwei)

## Secretariat Representative

Shawn Toh



Amicus Agony article in Singapore Law Gazette

The YLC continues to contribute a monthly column in the Singapore Law Gazette under "Amicus Agony" which addresses concerns of young practitioners in relation to the realities of legal practice as well as "The Young Lawyer" section which includes articles on topics outside of legal practice.

To continue the tradition of welcoming the newest members to the legal profession, YLC not only hosted the Mass Call Reception on 28 and 29 August 2017, it also sponsored a non-conventional photo booth as well as provided newly called lawyers with ice cream to commemorate Mass Call. Scream only for ice cream!



Ice cream booth at Mass Call 2017

The Young Lawyers Committee ("YLC") aims to address the needs and concerns of members in the Junior Category i.e. those with less than 5 years of experience in practice, which constitutes a large sector of the membership.

YLC continued to reach out to schools to create awareness on law as a career as law is one of the popular courses in universities. Between March to June 2017, members of YLC participated in career fairs at Hwa Chong Institution, Serangoon Junior College, Ximin Secondary School and Ace Your Econs. The YLC strives to broaden its outreach in 2018.

On 19 July 2017, President of the Law Society together with Council members organised a lunch forum on the basis of Chatham House Rules for young lawyers to better understand the issues, needs and concerns that young lawyers are facing. Feedback received would be used (on an anonymized basis) to develop an action plan.

To encourage more young lawyers to attend overseas conferences, Council of Law Society had in 2016 implemented a sponsorship scheme to sponsor up to 4 young lawyers per year to attend international legal conferences organised by the International Bar Association ("IBA"), Inter-Pacific Bar association ("IPBA") or LAWASIA. The next phase of applications will commence in 2018.

The annual lawyer-doctor networking event will be taking place on 28 September 2017. Check this space next year for more updates!

Last but not least, the YLC would like to express its gratitude to all who have been supportive of its initiatives.



◀ Circular on Young Lawyers Forum on 19 July 2017





**PRIMELAW**  
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

# ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

**STRENGTHENING ANTI-MONEY  
LAUNDERING ENFORCEMENT**

# ADMISSIONS

Christopher Anand Daniel, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Christopher Anand Daniel ..... Chairperson  
 Rajan Sanjiv Kumar ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Chia Boon Teck ..... Council Representative  
 Chan Hian Young  
 Cheong Zhihui Ivan  
 Davis Tan Yong Chuan  
 Nair Suresh Sukumaran  
 Pillai Pradeep G  
 Quek Hui Kee Jasmine  
 Saw Seang Kuan  
 Tan Teck San Kelvin  
 Tham Wei Chern

## Secretariat Representative

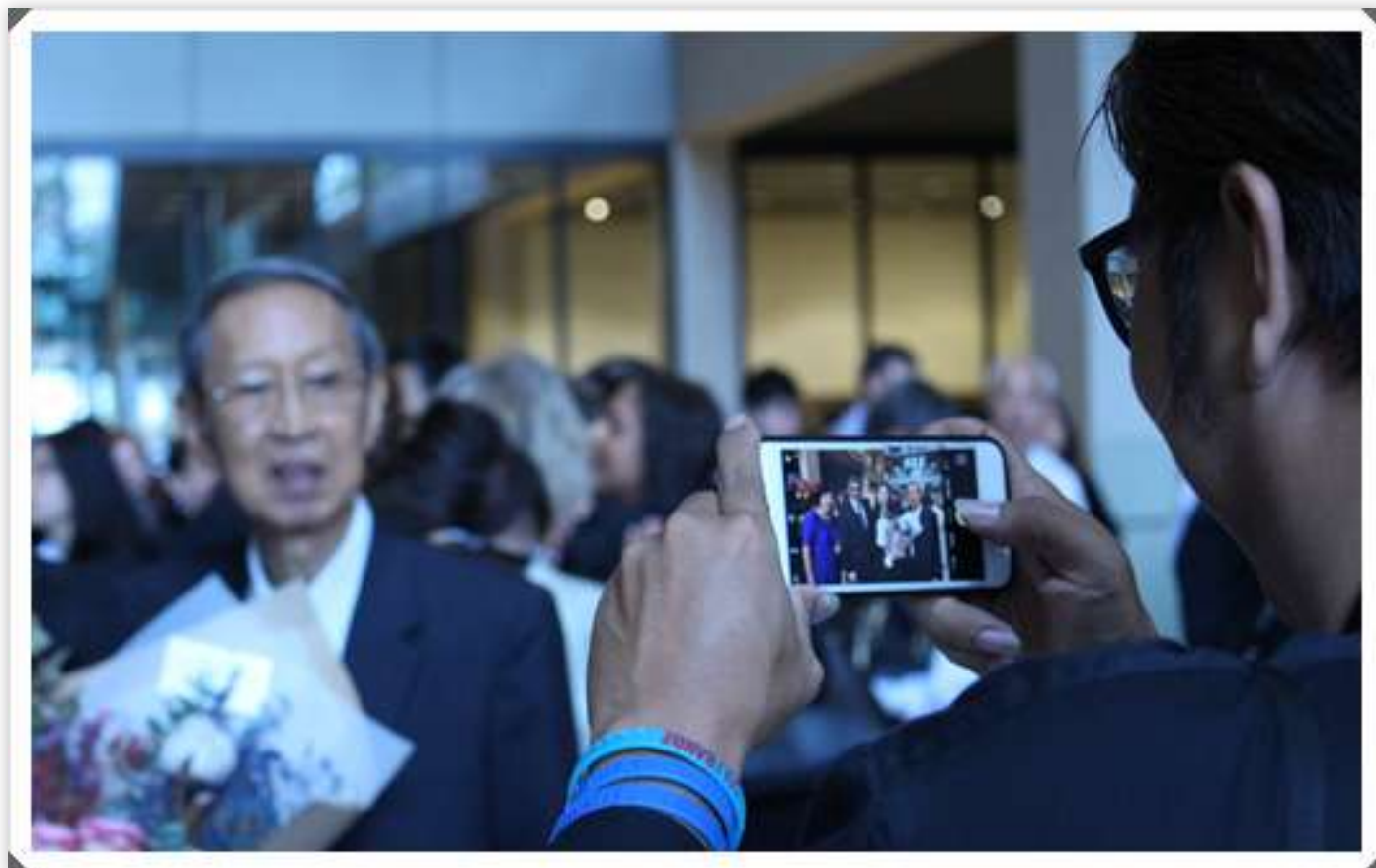
Daniel Tan

This report is in respect of the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017.

## 1 Admission of Advocates and Solicitors

A total of 644 applicants were admitted as advocates and solicitors of the Supreme Court of Singapore compared to 695 applicants who were admitted during the last reporting period. The Mass Call was held over 3 consecutive sessions on 28 August 2017 and 29 August 2017 at the Supreme Court Auditorium. 484 applicants were admitted. There were 509 applicants admitted in Mass Call 2016.

Mass Call 2017 ▼





## 2 Part-Call Applications

There were 46 applications for part-call for this reporting period, compared to 67 applications during the last reporting period. Out of the 46 applications, 42 were allowed and 4 were dismissed by the High Court. Some of the dismissals were due to the fact that the practice trainees' supervising solicitors were late for the hearing and some were due to the fact that the practice trainees' practice training period had concluded before the hearing.

## 3 Section 15(1) Legal Profession Act - Ad hoc Admissions of Queen's Counsel

In the present reporting period, the Committee has considered 2 applications for the ad hoc admission of Queen's Counsel ("QC") under the provisions of section 15(1) of the Legal Profession Act.

The first application was for the ad hoc admission of Harish Salve (OS No. 1114/2016 & OS No. 1115/2016), which was heard by Justice Steven Chong on 18 January 2017 and the application was dismissed on 17 February 2017.

The second application was for the ad hoc admission of Toby Thomas Landau (OS No. 752/2016), which was heard by Justice Steven Chong on 9 September

2016 and the application was dismissed on 28 November 2016. Thereafter, an appeal was submitted by the appellant which was subsequently withdrawn because Toby Thomas Landau was successfully called to the Singapore Bar on 11 May 2017.

## 4 Section 78(1) Legal Profession Act - Applications for Employment of Support Staff

In the present reporting period, the Committee has considered 3 applications made by law practices for consent of the High Court to employ support staff in view of their bankruptcy or suspension from practice, as required under the provisions of section 78(1) of the Legal Profession Act.

The hearing for the first application was heard by Justice Woo Bih Li on 10 April 2017 and the application was allowed.

The second application was withdrawn before being heard in Court.

The third application was heard by Justice Tan Siong Thye on 15 August 2017 and directions were given by Justice Tan for the Applicant to file a supplementary affidavit within 3 weeks from the initial hearing and a further hearing to be fixed 2 weeks thereafter.

# ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

Surenthiraraj s/o Saunthararajah, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Surenthiraraj s/o Saunthararajah .. **Chairperson**  
 Low Chai Chong ..... **Vice-Chairperson**  
 Ng Lip Chih ..... **Council Representative**  
 Alexander Ressos  
 Andy Yeo Kian Wee  
 Chia Boon Teck  
 Cheah Saing Chong  
 Gary Allen Pryke  
 John Robert Huntley  
 Leon Kwong Wing  
 Magdalene Teo-Yong Siew Lee  
 Yoga Vyjayanthimala

## Secretariat Representative

Daniel Tan

internal controls and processes to minimise the threat of money laundering were given time to address the weaknesses identified and will be re-inspected at a later date.

The Committee has engaged in further discussions with the Ministry of Law in respect of the 2017 inspections to be carried out.

## Outreach Efforts

Generating awareness of the AML regulatory framework is an important ongoing project of the Committee. The Committee conducts CPD seminars on AML for legal practitioners every year. A seminar was held in September 2016. Further talks were delivered by the Chairperson in February 2017 at the Legal Practice Management Course, a mandatory course for all new partners, directors and sole proprietors of law practices, and a presentation was organised for small law practices in May 2017 on Suspicious Transaction Reporting.

In addition, 2 comprehensive articles, "Reporting Suspensions – The Role of Lawyers in Singapore in the Fight Against Money Laundering" and "Setting the Tone – Policies to Prevent Money Laundering" were featured in the January 2017 and April 2017 editions of the *Singapore Law Gazette*.

## Anti-Money Laundering ("AML") Inspections

Pursuant to a dialogue with the senior management of the Ministry of Law, the AML Committee decide to enhance the volume of AML inspections for 2016 and beyond. The decision to significantly increase the number of inspections undertaken, compared to previous years, was made to support Singapore's national interests, bearing in mind our government's robust stand against money laundering activities.

The Committee decided to inspect 50 law practices which included large, medium and small practices, as well as foreign law practices for the first time. The inspections took place between October and November 2016 and the exercise was outsourced to a large audit firm known for engaging in major audits on a large scale.

Overall, the results of the inspections were encouraging, with the vast majority of the law practices inspected being accorded a positive assessment. The few law practices which were assessed to have inadequate



Articles by the Committee published in the Singapore Law Gazette

# INQUIRIES INTO INADEQUATE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This report covers the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017. During this period the Law Society ("Society") received 70 fresh complaints of inadequate professional services. These complaints come under section 75B of the Legal Profession Act (the "Act").

Of the fresh complaints, 2 were rejected because they did not fall within the relevant section as they originate from non-clients and relate to matters of conduct rather than inadequate professional services

Two complaints were withdrawn as the complainants since the clients had come to some settlement with their solicitors.

Six complaints were stayed as the complainants had made a complaint under section 85(1) of the Act as well. Current protocol requires that the complaint under section 85(1) of the Act be concluded before the complaint under section 75B of the Act be dealt with.

Of the remaining fresh complaints, 20 complaints were referred to Council whilst the remainder of the complaints are awaiting better particulars from the complainants. Such particulars are required to properly identify the breach of the standards of adequate professional service complained of and determine whether there has been any breach of that standard. Complainants are advised that a complaint made under section 75B of the Act is not intended to resolve disputes over client-solicitor's

costs. They are further advised that such disputes can be resolved through taxation, mediation using the Society's Cost Dispute Resolve Scheme or through mediation schemes run by the Singapore Mediation Centre.

The Committee has noted an increase of 10% in complaints that relate to personal injury claims. The complaints mainly concern unhappiness over solicitor's costs or the settlement quantum and allegations that the solicitor concerned did not adequately appraise them of the Insurer's offer.

Of the complaints referred to Council, 13 complaints were dismissed as they did not show any prima facie case of inadequate professional services. One complaint was withdrawn prior to being referred to Council as the Complainant reported that she and her solicitor had come to a settlement.

## Mediations Conducted from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017

For the relevant period, 2 mediations were scheduled but 1 had to be vacated till September 2017 as the complainant was stationed overseas.

## Investigative Tribunals Appointed from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017

Four Investigative Tribunals were appointed during the period under consideration and 2 inquiries are ongoing.

# REPORT OF THE INQUIRY PANEL

Philip Jeyaretnam, SC, Chairperson

This Report covers the period 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017.

Pursuant to section 84 of the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161, 2012 Revised Edition) (the "Act"), the Honourable the Chief Justice has appointed the following persons to be the members of the Inquiry Panel for a term of 2 years.

## Advocates & Solicitors

The following appointees' term will expire on 30 November 2017:

### Mr Philip Jeyaretnam, SC - Chairman, Inquiry Panel

- 1 Mr Francis Xavier, SC
- 2 Mr Joseph Grimberg, SC (passed away)
- 3 Mr Michael Khoo Kah Lip, SC
- 4 Mr Davinder Singh s/o Amar Singh, SC
- 5 Ms Engelin Teh Guek Ngor, SC
- 6 Mr Yeo Khirn Hai Alvin, SC
- 7 Mr Andre Yeap Poh Leong, SC
- 8 Mr Nehal Harpreet Singh, SC
- 9 Mr Cavinder Bull, SC
- 10 Mr George Lim Teong Jin, SC
- 11 Mr N. Sreenivasan SC
- 12 Mr Pathmanaban Selvadurai
- 13 Ms Oh Buong Yu May
- 14 Mr Ee Chong Nam, Andrew
- 15 Mr Woo Tchi Chu
- 16 Mr Tan Jin Hwee
- 17 Ms Maria Lam Sek Fah (Maria Tham)
- 18 Mr Sim Yong Chan
- 19 Mr Wee Chow Sing Patrick
- 20 Mr Prabhakaran Nair
- 21 Mr Ragbir Singh s/o Ram Singh Bajwa
- 22 Mr Tan Denis
- 23 Mr Chandra Mohan K Nair
- 24 Mr Madan Assomull
- 25 Mr Peter Chong Siong Siang
- 26 Mdm Ho Puck Chin Caroline
- 27 Mr Seah Teck Kim, Kim
- 28 Mr Bernard Doray
- 29 Ms Chew Gek Tee Sally
- 30 Mr Leng Siew Wei Aloysius

- 31 Ms Woon Lai Keng (Julie)
- 32 Mr Quek Mong Hua
- 33 Mr Sarjit Singh s/o Bhagwan Singh
- 34 Mr Yuen Simon
- 35 Mr Steven Seah Seow Kang
- 36 Mr Raymond Chan
- 37 Mr Tan Keok Heng George
- 38 Ms Teo Siew Kim Gwendoline
- 39 Mr Krishnan Sivanandam
- 40 Mr Chew Swee Leng
- 41 Mrs Gina Lee-Wan
- 42 Mr Tay Keow Ming
- 43 Mr Lee Han Tiong
- 44 Ms Tan Lay Keng
- 45 Mr Mahtani Naresh Murlidhar
- 46 Mr Yang Yung Chong
- 47 Mr John Ng Lee Chye
- 48 Mr Cheong Tuck Meng
- 49 Ms See Siew Heok Jo-Ann
- 50 Mr Lee Kuen Yip
- 51 Mr Koh Boon Hai
- 52 Mr Lim Chen Thor Jason
- 53 Mr Gill Dedar Singh
- 54 Mdm Susan Mary De Silva
- 55 Mr Alban Kang Choon Hwee
- 56 Ms Josephine Low Miew Yin
- 57 Mr Ong Kian Wei Timothy
- 58 Mr Chua Leong Hin
- 59 Mr Tan Kheng Ann Alvin
- 60 Ms Wong Lai Keen
- 61 Mr Tan Jee Ming
- 62 Mr David Yeow
- 63 Mr Selva Kumara Naidu
- 64 Mr Tan Lam Siong
- 65 Mr Phua Siow Choon
- 66 Mr Michael Moey Chin Woon
- 67 Mr Abdul Jalil Bin Muhammad Tahir
- 68 Mr Chuang Wei Ping
- 69 Mr Lee Teck Hai
- 70 Mr Adrian Ee Hock Hoe
- 71 Mr Herman Jeremiah
- 72 Ms Yip Wai Ping Annabelle
- 73 Mr Goh Kok Yeow
- 74 Mr Muthu Kumaran s/o Muthu Santhana Krishnan
- 75 Mr Ravindran s/o Muthucumarasamy
- 76 Mr Chan Hian Young

77	Mr Thomas Tan Boon Yong	132	Mr Parwani Vijai Dharamdas
78	Ms Yee May Kuen Peggy Sarah	133	Mr Soh Kar Liang
79	Mr John Ng Puay Hong	134	Mr Leck Kwang Hwee Andy
80	Ms Chen Wen Woan Angela	135	Mr Wai Chee Leong Ronnie
81	Mdm Sheena Rohini Jacob	136	Mr Abdul Salim Ahmed Ibrahim
82	Mr Lim Tat	137	Ms Lim Lay Choo Jennifer
83	Mr James Leslie Ponniah	138	Mr Loh Eu Tse Derek
84	Ms Lalita Chelliah	139	Mr Loke Siew Meng
85	Mr Lim Chong Boon	140	Mr Sandrasegara Manoj Pillay
86	Mr Lim Soo Peng	141	Mr Andrew Wu Chih Wei
87	Mr Ravendra Krishnasamy	142	Mrs Stefanie Yuen Thio
88	Mr Soh Leong Kiat Anthony	143	Ms Christine Sekhon
89	Mr Brown Anthony Pereira	144	Mdm Wong Su-Hsien Audrey
90	Mr Salem Bin Mohamed Ibrahim	145	Mdm Yeow Tin Tin Margaret
91	Mr Kok Hei Mun Jonathan	146	Mr Rajesh Sreenivasan
92	Mr Tan Lay Tiong Anthony	147	Mr Edwin Lee Peng Khoon
93	Mr Patrick Ang Peng Koon	148	Mr Low Cheong Yeow
94	Mr Chong Yee Leong	149	Ms Julia Yeo Heem Lain
95	Mdm Elaine Beh Pur-Lin	150	Mr Chen Nan Chung Burton
96	Mr Tan Kay Kheng	151	Mr Jonathan Lim Tiek Beng
97	Mr Tiwary Ramesh Chandr	152	Mr Renganathan Nandakumar
98	Mr Abdur Raheem Bin Mohd Iqbal	153	Mr Zaminder Singh Gill
99	Mr Yeo Chuan Seng Victor	154	Mr Christopher Anand s/o Daniel
100	Mdm Zahara Binte Bakar	155	Mr Tan Teck San Kelvin
101	Mr Surenthiraraj Sauntharajah	156	Mr Lawrence Tan Aik Leng
102	Mdm Teo Kwee Yee (Claudia)	157	Mr Thomas John
103	Mr Lawrence Lee Mun Kong	158	Ms Ho Kim Foong
104	Ms Yogarajah Yoga Sharmini	159	Ms Leow Tze Hoon Christabel
105	Mr Bernie Neo Ho Guan	160	Mr Philip Fong Yeng Fatt
106	Ms Lisa Theng Siew Lian	161	Mr Tang Chi Loong
107	Ms Marian Ho Wui Mee	162	Mr Chey Cheng Chwen Anthony
108	Mr Chan Wai Mun	163	Mr Cosmas Stephen Gomez
109	Mr Goh Siong Pheck Francis	164	Mr Nandakumar Ponniya
110	Mr Seah Eng Chee Rupert	165	Mr Lim U Wei Ralph Howard
111	Mr Chong Kuan Keong	166	Mr Bernard Chiu Hsu-Hwee
112	Mr P Padman	167	Mr Gong Chin Nam
113	Ms See Tow Soo Ling	168	Mr Ng Chee Weng, Max
114	Mr Christopher Woo Yin Loong	169	Mr Yeo Kim Hai Patrick
115	Ms Wong Hur Yui	170	Mr Goh Chye Hock Joseph
116	Mr Foo Maw Shen	171	Mr K Muralitharany
117	Mr Chandra Mohan Rethnam	172	Mr Ang Wee Tiong
118	Mr Chooi Yue Wai Kenny	173	Ms Lam Shiao Ning
119	Mr Yeo Soo Mong Tony	174	Mr Yeo Khee Chye Raymond
120	Ms Chan Shu Fung Elaine	175	Mr Michael Low Wan Kwong
121	Mr Lee Wei Yung	176	Ms Subashini d/o Narayanasamy
122	Ms Lee Mong Jen	177	Mr Siraj Omar
123	Mr Bernard Sahagar s/o Tanggavelu	178	Mr Khaira Akramjeet Singh
124	Ms Nirmala Ravindran	179	Mr Ng Kim Beng
125	Ms Kanyakumari d/o Veerasamy	180	Mr Gan Kian Koon Gerry
126	Mr Eu Hai Meng	181	Mr Henry Heng Gwee Nam
127	Mr Hue Kuan Chen Wilson	182	Mr Pillai Pradeep G
128	Mr Jason Chan Kwok Chuan	183	Mr Lim Choon How
129	Mr Amolat Singh	184	Mr Cheong Chee Min
130	Mr Liow Wang Wu Joseph	185	Ms Choo Poh Hua Josephine
131	Mr Anparasan s/o Kamachi	186	Mr Derek Tan Jet Wah



187	Mr Eusuff Ali s/o N B M Mohamed Kassim
188	Mr Lem Jit Min Andy
189	Mr Chen Chee Yen
190	Mr Samuel Seow Theng Beng
191	Mr Jeeva Arul Joethy
192	Mr Chan Kah Keen Melvin
193	Mr Namasivayam Srinivasan
194	Mr Say Chin Phang Sean
195	Mr Andrew Ho Yew Cheng
196	Mr Christopher Chong Chi Chuin
197	Mr Kendall Tan Chuan Bing
198	Ms Lau Yee Wan Sharon
199	Mdm Lee Su Yee
200	Mr Low Yew Shen
201	Mr Patrick Tan Tse Chia
202	Mr Chan Jin Han
203	Mr Adrian Wong Soon Peng
204	Mr Ong Sing Huat (Nick)
205	Mr Chia Peng Kiat Kenneth
206	Mr Chan Wei Meng
207	Mr Eugene Singarajah Thuraisingam
208	Ms Phang Sui Choon (Michelle)
209	Mr Yee Weng Wai Bernard
210	Ms Tsin Jenny
211	Mr Desmond Tan Yen Hau
212	Mr Raymond Lam Kuo Wei
213	Mr Sim Chong
214	Mr Melvin See Hsien Huei
215	Mr Ho Ying Ming
216	Mdm Cheng Su Yin Judy
217	Mr Edmund Eng Zixuan
218	Ms Loh Jen Wei
219	Mr Dennis Chua Soon Chai
220	Ms Lim Chen Chen
221	Mr Mark Jerome Seah Wei Hsien
222	Ms Rajan Menon Smitha
223	Ms Tay Hong Ling Mabel
224	Mr Arvind Daas Naaidu
225	Ms Lim Hui Ying
226	Ms Soh Ean Leng Angeline

The following appointees' term will expire on 17 August 2019:

1	Mr Tan Cheng Han, SC
2	Mr Andrew Chan Chee Yin
3	Ms Ang Hui Ming Vivian
4	Ms Ang Siok Hoon
5	Mr Bernard Tan Kim Swee
6	Ms Catherine Lim Chui Ling
7	Mr Chan Wai Kit Darren Dominic
8	Mr Chia Voon Jiet
9	Mr Chong Keen Loon David
10	Mr Choo Chih Chien Benjamin
11	Ms Corinne Taylor Lai Sze Huei

12	Mr Daniel Tay Yi Ming
13	Mr Darius Bragassam
14	Mr Daryl Ong Hock Chye
15	Mr Dayne Ho Chung Wei
16	Mr Derek Kang Yu Hsien
17	Ms Ellen Lee Geck Hoon
18	Mr Gaw Ying Charn Benjamin
19	Mr Goh Kok Leong
20	Ms Grace Kwek Joo Lee
21	Ms Jennifer Leong Pek Lin
22	Mr Joseph Lee Sien Liang
23	Mr Lam Chung Nian
24	Mr Lim Yee Ming
25	Mdm Linda Phua Mui Lu
26	Mr Ling Daw Hoang Philip
27	Ms Loh Wai Mooi
28	Mr Low Gin Inn Leon
29	Mr Mark Cheng Wai Yuen
30	Mr Mohamed Gul
31	Mr N K Rajarh
32	Mr Navin Joseph Lobo
33	Mr Peh Nam Chuan Adrian
34	Mr Ponnampalam Sivakumar
35	Mr Ramasamy s/o Karuppan Chettiar
36	Mr Richard Tan Kheng Swee
37	Mr Ricquier William John Munden
38	Mr Rodney Keong Kean Soon
39	Ms Salehah Bte Johari
40	Ms Selvam Arfat Nee Arfat Beebee Binte Noor Mohamed Abdul Latiff
41	Mr Sunit Chhabra
42	Mr Suresh Divyanathan
43	Mr Tan Hsuan Boon
44	Mr Tan Wei Shyan
45	Mr Tan Wen Cheng Adrian
46	Mr Teo Ke-Wei Ian
47	Ms Winnifred Gomez
48	Mr Wong Kin Kit Winston
49	Mr Yeo Kian Wee Andy

The following appointees' term expired on 17 August 2017:

1	Ms Audrey Ho Swee Lin
2	Mr Chandrayogan Yogarajah
3	Ms Lee Yuen Sum Patricia
4	Mr Lim Arthur Edwin
5	Ms Seah Geok Choo @ Seah Quee Choo Alice
6	Mr Tan Saey Chong Gadriel
7	Ms Ting Hi Keng

## Regulated Foreign Lawyers

The following appointees' term will expire on 17 November 2017:

1	Mr Alan Joseph Dickson
2	Mr Alexander George Shepherd
3	Mr Andrew Jonathan Brereton
4	Mr Andrew Robert Schleider
5	Mr Arnold Iur Gerscha
6	Mr Barry Lewis Irwin
7	Mr Barrye Langhorne Wall
8	Mr Benjamin Giaretta
9	Mr Benjamin Jonathan Rose
10	Mr Bruce Reid Schulberg
11	Mr Charles Douglas Ball
12	Mr David Harris Zemans
13	Mr David Lionel Barwise
14	Mr David William Platt
15	Ms Dominique Lucie Rondest Ép. Lombardi
16	Mr Fernando Gandioli
17	Mr Gregory Robert Salathe
18	Mr Henry David Nigel Goodwin
19	Mr Iain Melcolm Sharp
20	Mr Jai Pathak
21	Mr Jamie Edward Harrison
22	Mr Jay Frederick Krause
23	Mr John Nels Viverito
24	Mr Joseph He Jun
25	Mr Kai-Niklas Anton Schneider
26	Mr Kent Napier Phillips
27	Mr Kevin Robert Owen
28	Mr Khai Minh Dang
29	Mr Ko Hanamizu
30	Mr Marcus William Davidson Hinkley
31	Mr Michael Kelly Malone
32	Mr Nicholas Michael Benedict G Hanna
33	Mr Peter Megens
34	Mr Philip James Badge
35	Mr Philip Winston Lee
36	Mr Philippe Pierre Borens
37	Ms Peng Pheng Lim
38	Mr Rahul Guptan
39	Mr Rajiv Gupta
40	Mr Robert Thomas Palmer
41	Mr Rooman Richards Bundy
42	Mr Saugata Mukherjee
43	Mr Simon James Plowright Petch
44	Mr Stephen Palmer Adams
45	Mr Takeshi Komatsu
46	Mr William Richard Kirschner
47	Ms Yingying Li

## Lay Persons

The following appointees' term will expire on 14 December 2017:

1	Mr Ashvinkumar s/o Kantilal
2	Mrs Belinda Charles

3	Mrs Chew Kwee Tiang
4	Mr Chng Beng Guan
5	Mr Chris Liew Peng Fook
6	Dr Goh Chong Chia
7	Dr Goh Ngan Hong
8	Mr Jamshid Medora
9	Mr K C Ting, John
10	Dr Khoo Chong Yew
11	Mr Kwan Yew Huat
12	Mr Lai Hock Meng
13	Mr Lee Kut Cheung
14	Mr Lim Hon Chee Eric
15	Dr Lim Lan Yuan
16	Mr Loi Hwee Yong
17	Mr Michael Wong C K
18	Mr Mirza Iskander Namazie
19	Dr Ng Kheng Siang
20	Mrs Noor Quek
21	Mr Ong Ser Huan
22	Mr Ong Tze Boon
23	Mr Seah Choo Meng
24	Mr Tan Seng Chuan
25	Dr Tan Tiong Tee Clarence
26	Mdm Teo Meng Hua
27	Dr Teoh Hoon Cheow
28	Mr Tjio Kay Loe
29	Mr Willy Shee
30	Mr Yeo Boon Hon
31	Ms Yim Kam May

The following appointees' term will expire on 14 April 2018:

1	Mr Adrian Soh
2	Asst Prof Alvin See Wei-Liang
3	Mr Andy Tan Chye Guan
4	Ms Anju Patwardhan
5	Prof Chiew Sing Ping
6	Mr Chua How Kiat
7	Mr Clarence Ting
8	Assoc Prof Daniel William Puchniak
9	Mr Ding Hock Chai
10	Assoc Prof Gary Bell
11	Mr Han Liang Siew, Louis
12	Assoc Prof Henry Gao
13	Prof Ho Yew Kee
14	Prof James Ernest Penner
15	Ms Joanne Lim
16	Mr John Lim Geok Peng
17	Ms Kuan Li Li
18	Mr Lim Boon Cheng
19	Mr Lim Kim Cheong
20	Er. Lim Peng Hong
21	Mr Lim Thien Su Gerald
22	Dr Loke Chi Wei Peter

23 Mr Ooi Hoe Yang (Danny)  
 24 Mr Rohan Kamis  
 25 Ms Sirikit Oh  
 26 Assoc Prof Stephen Bull  
 27 Mr Tan Chor Sen (Christopher)  
 28 Mr Tan How Chuan (Sam)  
 29 Mr Tan See Chee  
 30 Dr Tan Teng Hooi  
 31 Dr Tan Yuen Lan, Diana  
 32 Prof Thio Li-ann  
 33 Mr Thomas Sit Kwok Wing  
 34 Er. Tong Chi Wai  
 35 Asst Prof Umakanth Varottil  
 36 Assoc Prof Wang Jiangyu  
 37 Mr Willie Cheng  
 38 Dr Wong Chiang Yin  
 39 Ms Wong Lai Ping  
 40 Dr Yeo Khee Quan

## Legal Officers

1 Mr Adam Nakhoda  
 2 Mr Anandan s/o Bala  
 3 Mr Andre Moses Tan Chang Ann  
 4 Mr Andy Sim Yock Ann  
 5 Ms Ang Ching Pin  
 6 Ms April Phang Suet Fern  
 7 Mr Benjamin Yim Geok Choon  
 8 Ms Brenda Chua Wei Ling  
 9 Ms Beverly Wee Ying Ling  
 10 Ms Carrie Chan Su-Lin  
 11 Mr Chan Wang Ho  
 12 Ms Charlene Tay Mei Woon  
 13 Ms Chong Chin Chin  
 14 Mr Chong Kah Wei  
 15 Mr Christopher Goh Eng Chiang  
 16 Mr Christopher Ong Siu Jin  
 17 Mr Christopher Tan Pheng Wee  
 18 Ms Chung Yoon Joo  
 19 Ms Cornie Ng Teng Teng  
 20 Ms Crystal Ong Wai Mun  
 21 Mr Daniel Koh Poh Leong  
 22 Ms Danielle Yeow Ping Lin  
 23 Mr David Lee Yeow Wee  
 24 Mr David Lim Hock Choon  
 25 Mr David Lim Jit Hee  
 26 Mr David Low Quan Ming  
 27 Ms Deena Bte Abdul Aziz Bajrai  
 28 Ms Diane Tan Yi-Lui  
 29 Mr Eddy Tham Tong Kong  
 30 Mr Edgar Foo Mau Peng  
 31 Mr Eugene Lee Yee Leng  
 32 Mr Eugene Teo Weng Kuan  
 33 Mr Gilbert Low Teik Seang

34 Mr Gnanasihamani Kannan  
 35 Ms Hamidah Bte Ibrahim  
 36 Mr Han Ming Kuang  
 37 Ms Hee Mee Lin  
 38 Mr Hon Yi  
 39 Mr Imran Bin Abdul Hamid  
 40 Mr Ivan Chua Boon Chwee  
 41 Mr James Elisha Lee Han Leong  
 42 Ms Janet Wang Lan Jee  
 43 Ms Janice Wong Shi Hui  
 44 Ms Jasbendar Kaur  
 45 Mr Jason Tan Theng Kok  
 46 Ms Jasvender Kaur  
 47 Ms Jean Chan Lay Koon  
 48 Mr Jeyendran s/o Jeyapal  
 49 Mr John Lu Zhuoren  
 50 Mr John Ng  
 51 Mr Joseph Yeo Swee Teck  
 52 Mrs Joyce Chao Suling  
 53 Ms Joyce Low Wei Lin  
 54 Ms Kamalambigai Ponnampalam  
 55 Ms Kan Shuk Weng  
 56 Ms Karen Ang Aiping  
 57 Ms Kathryn Low Lye Fong  
 58 Mr Kessler Soh Boon Leng  
 59 Mr Kevin Ng Choong Yeong  
 60 Mr Lau Wing Yum  
 61 Ms Laura Lau Chin Yui  
 62 Mr Lee Cheow Han  
 63 Mr Lee Chuan Huei  
 64 Mr Lee Jwee Nguan  
 65 Mr Lee Sing Lit  
 66 Ms Lee Ti-Ting  
 67 Ms Lee Yean-Lin  
 68 Mrs Lee-Khoo Poh Choo  
 69 Mr Leonard Goh Choon Hian  
 70 Ms Lim Jen Hui  
 71 Mr Lim Lian Yi  
 72 Mr Lim Keng Yeow  
 73 Mrs Lim Su Ching  
 74 Mr Lim Tse Haw  
 75 Mr Lim Yew Jin  
 76 Mr Louis Agnelo D'Souza  
 77 Mr Luke Tan Loke Yong  
 78 Mr Luke Tang  
 79 Ms Lynette Yap Beng Lyn  
 80 Mr Marcus Song Ee Pin  
 81 Ms Marie Christina Koh Sok Kheng  
 82 Mr Mark Anand Jayaratnam  
 83 Mr Marvin Bay Boon Teck  
 84 Ms May Lucia Mesenas  
 85 Ms Miranda Yeo Eng Joo  
 86 Mr Mohamed Faizal s/o Mohamed Abdul Kadir

87	Ms Natalie Yu-Lin Morris
88	Mr Ng Der Lim
89	Ms Nor'ashikin Bte Samdin
90	Mr Ong Chin Heng
91	Ms Ong Chin Rhu
92	Ms Ong Luan Tze
93	Mr Ow Yong Tuck Leong
94	Mr Paul Chia Kim Huat
95	Mr Peter Koy Su Hua
96	Mr Phang Hsiao Chung
97	Mr Phua Wee Chuan
98	Mr Ramu Miyapan
99	Ms Ravneet Kaur
100	Mr Reynard Cheok Yu-Liang
101	Mr Ronald Gwee Tiong Kee
102	Ms Salina Bte Ishak
103	Mr Samuel Chua Hwa Kuan
104	Ms Sandra Looi Ai Lin
105	Ms Sarah Lam Yan Xia
106	Mrs Shahla Iqbal
107	Mr Shaiffudin Bin Saruwan
108	Ms Sharon Ong Su Min
109	Mr Shawn Ho Hsi Ming
110	Ms Shobha Gopalakrishnan Nair
111	Mr Stanley Kok Pin Chin
112	Mr Soh Kee Bun
113	Mr Sunari Bin Kateni
114	Ms Suriakumari d/o Sidambaram
115	Mr Tan Jen Tse
116	Mr Teo Guan Siew
117	Mr Terence Chua Seng Leng
118	Mr Terence Ong
119	Ms Toh Hwee Lian
120	Mr Toh Shin Hao
121	Ms Toh Wee San
122	Mr Toh Yung Cheong
123	Mr Victor Yeo Khee Eng
124	Mrs Wendy Chang Mun Lin
125	Ms Wong Choon Ning
126	Mr Wong Kok Weng
127	Ms Wong Li Tein

### Active Review Committees Between 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017

As at 1 September 2016, there were 7 cases pending from previous review year and 101 Review Committees were appointed for each case referred during this review year. The Review Committee either directs dismissal of a complaint with reasons or refers the same to the Chairman of the Inquiry Panel for further investigation.

Out of a total of 108 cases, the results are as follows:

- 40 cases were dismissed completely;
- 49 cases were fully recommended for further investigation by an Inquiry Committee;
- 6 cases contained both a direction for dismissal for some complaints and a recommendation for further investigation for the rest by an Inquiry Committee;
- 1 case was withdrawn by the Complainant; and 12 cases are still pending as at 31 August 2017.

### Active Inquiry Committees Between 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017

As at 1 September 2016, there were 13 cases pending from previous review year. To date, 64 Inquiry Committees have been constituted to look into the complaints which have been referred by the Review Committees during this review year. 50 Inquiry Committees have completed their investigations and the results are as follows:

- 21 cases were dismissed;
- 13 cases were recommended for warnings, reprimand or imposition of penalties;
- 11 cases were referred for formal investigations by the Disciplinary Tribunal;
- 1 case was withdrawn by the Complainant; and
- 4 cases where the Inquiry Committees had recommended partial dismissals. As such, parts of these cases were either recommended for warnings, reprimand or imposition of penalties on the Respondents, or to be referred to the Disciplinary Tribunal.

Extensions of time were granted in several cases because of the unavailability of either the Complainant or the Respondent and the difficulty in fixing dates suitable to all parties. In some cases, extensions were granted due to the complexity of the cases. 27 cases are pending as at 31 August 2017.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Inquiry Panel for their valuable time and hard work put into handling the cases assigned to them. It is the willingness of members to take on these duties that ensures the integrity of the practising profession and upholds its independence.



# SERVING THE COMMUNITY

1967-1997



1986

LIST OF ADVOCATES AND SOLICITORS  
IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER  
as at 1st September, 1986



CELEBRATING  
10 YEARS  
OF SERVICE & LEADERSHIP



# COMPENSATION FUND

Peter Chong Siong Siang, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Peter Chong Siong Siang ..... Chairperson  
 Tan Kay Kheng ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 Kuah Boon Theng ..... Council Representative  
 Choy Wing Kin Montague  
 Lam Kuet Keng Steven John  
 Lek Siang Pheng  
 Sean Francois La'Brooy  
 Tan Jee Ming  
 Tayabali Aziz Samiwalla

## Secretariat Representatives

Ambika Rajendram  
 Rajvant Kaur

The Council administers the discretionary Compensation Fund (the "Fund") that can make grants to reduce or mitigate loss suffered by any person in consequence of dishonesty of a lawyer in connection with his/her practice in Singapore or any trust in Singapore of which the lawyer is a trustee. Such grants may also be made to compensate for loss as a result of the dishonesty of an employee of a law practice in the course of his/her employment. The Fund is administered under the terms of section 75 of the Legal Profession Act and the Legal Profession (Compensation Fund) Rules.

Every practising member of the Law Society contributes an annual sum of \$100 per year to the Fund when he/she renews his/her full-time practising certificate. Those applying for Practising Certificates after 1 October contribute a sum of \$50 to the Fund.

Three applications arising from the dishonesty of Zulkifli Bin Amin reported previously continue to remain pending as the claimants have yet to provide particulars of information requested to support these applications. To date, the claimants have not provided particulars of information requested, therefore Council has informed the claimants that we will close the files.

One pending application reported last year, arising from the dishonesty of Mustaffa Bin Abu Bakar was considered by the Committee when the applicant replied through her Member of Parliament. However, the claimant did not provide any supporting documents to her claim. After the matter was considered by the Committee, the Committee directed the Secretariat to make an enquiry from another law practice that was involved in the matter to try to obtain more information on the matter. The law practice informed that there were no supporting documents to prove the claim of the applicant.

As such, the matter has been put on hold until the claimant is able to provide supporting documents for the Committee to consider the application further. The claimant has been notified accordingly. However as of to-date, the claimant is still unable to provide the supporting documents requested.

For the period under review from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017, no application has been received by the Committee for review/consideration.

# PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY

Lok Vi Ming, SC, Chairperson

## Committee Members

Lok Vi Ming, SC ..... Chairperson  
 Pan Xingzheng Edric ..... Vice-Chairperson  
 M Rajaram ..... Council Representative  
 Eusuff Ali s/o N B M Mohamed Kassim  
 Goh Keng Yeow Simon  
 Mohamed Ibrahim s/o Mohamed Yakub  
 Ong Lee Woei  
 Pateloo Eruthiyanathan Ashokan

## Secretariat Representatives

Ambika Rajendram  
 Rajvant Kaur

## Two-Year Deal

### Premium Terms

Lockton has negotiated a fixed 2-year deal (2017/2018 and 2018/2019) at 19% reduction of the 2016/2017 Standard Primary Premium, which applies to the Limit of Indemnity of S\$1,000,000 each and every claim inclusive of costs and expenses (applicable to all types of Law Practices). The 2018/2019 Standard Primary Premium will be the same as 2017/2018. However, should the average loss ratio for the previous 6 complete years (2011 to 2016) not exceed 60%, then the 2017/2018 Standard Primary Premium will be reduced by 1% for the Policy Year 2018/2019.

### Enhancements

The definition of "Practice" in the Scheme Policy is expanded to include all incidental and other professional services normally provided by Law Practices. Should any dispute arise as to whether a particular professional service is normally provided by Law Practices, it will be referred to the President of the Society, whose ruling shall bind all parties.

The Scheme Policy coverage is extended to provide for costs and expenses necessarily incurred in respect of any action taken to mitigate a loss or potential loss that otherwise would be the subject of a claim for civil liability under the Policy (referred to as Mitigation Costs). This coverage is subject to the full terms and conditions of the Scheme Policy.

### Other Terms and Conditions

All other terms and conditions of the existing Policy(ies) except premium discount for PrimeLaw certified Law Practices (PrimeLaw is no longer in force), will continue to apply. These include:

Last year (2016), the Professional Indemnity Insurance Committee (the "PI Committee") of The Law Society of Singapore (the "Society") invited 6 major international insurance brokers to tender for appointment as the Broker for the Compulsory Professional Indemnity Scheme (the "Scheme"). The tender was conducted in 2 stages. The first stage related to Broker competency. All the Brokers, who submitted their competency reports were invited for a verbal presentation. After careful evaluation of their presentations, 2 of them, Lockton Companies (Singapore) Pte Ltd (the incumbent), and Willis Towers Watson were shortlisted to negotiate the best premium terms and coverage for the Scheme from the insurance markets.

Council, on the recommendation of the PI committee appointed Lockton Companies (Singapore) Pte Ltd ("Lockton") as the Scheme Broker for 2 years commencing 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. The appointment was based on Lockton's presentation of the most competitive premium terms and enhancements to the scheme policy as well as their continued dedication and high level of service to the insured members for the past 25 years.

### **Discount on Standard Premiums (Primary & Excess Layers)**

The existing discount of 7% on the Standard Primary and Excess Premiums is maintained for all Law Practices, which do not have any claim paid as detailed in Memorandum B of the Scheme Policy.

### **Premium Loading**

Premium loading will be applied to Law Practices whose loss ratio exceeded 50%. The loading percentages are as applied in the 2016/2017 policy period.

### **Scheme Insurers**

AIG Asia Pacific Insurance Pte. Ltd, who used to be one of the co-insurers, are not participating in the renewal because they are unable to support the premium reduction. In addition to the current lead insurer and the other 2 co-insurers, 2 other insurers who showed a keen interest in the Scheme and were

competitive are participating in the Scheme as set out below:

- i) First Capital Insurance Limited - lead insurer (50% participation share)
- ii) ERGO Insurance Pte. Ltd – new co-insurer (10% participation share)
- iii) India International Insurance Pte Ltd - co-insurer (15% participation share)
- iv) QBE Insurance (Singapore) Pte Ltd - new co-insurer (10% participation share)
- v) Zurich Insurance Company Ltd (Singapore Branch) – co-insurer (15% participation share)

#### **Note:**

*The PI Committee regrets the passing of Ambika Rajendram, head of Conduct, who was the Secretariat Representative to the Committee. The PI Committee wishes to record their thanks to Ambika for her contributions to the Committee through the years, and the friendship that she shared with the Committee members. Her loss is deeply felt.*

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Law Society is grateful for the support of the following law practices and organisations whose partners, directors, associates, legal officers and legal counsel have contributed their time and effort to carry out the work of the Law Society:

A Ang Seah & Hoe  
 A C Fergusson Law Corporation  
 A C Shone & Co  
 Abdul Rahman Law Corporation  
 Achievers LLC  
 Acies Law Corporation  
 Advent Law Corporation  
 Advocatus Law LLP  
 Aequitas Law LLP  
 Aldgate Chambers LLC  
 Allen & Gledhill LLP  
 Amica Law LLC  
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 Angeline Suparto Law Corporation  
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 Ari Goh & Partners  
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 Daisy Chua & Co  
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 David Lim & Partners LLP  
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 Deepak Raja & Associates  
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 Gurdaib Cheong & Partners  
 Halijah Mohamad & Co



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 Jenny Lai & Co  
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 RPC Premier Law Pte Ltd  
 S Skandarajah & Co  
 S T Chelvan & Company  
 Samuel Seow Law Corporation  
 Selvam LLC  
 Shell Singapore  
 Shook Lin & Bok LLP  
 Sim Mong Teck & Partners  
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 Singapore University of Social Sciences  
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 Wong Alliance LLP  
 Wong Thomas & Leong  
 WongPartnership LLP  
 Yeo-Leong & Peh LLC  
 Yuen Law LLC  
 Yusarn Audrey

The Law Society would also like to thank the following for their support of the work of the Society:

Supreme Court of Singapore  
 State Courts of Singapore  
 Syariah Court  
 Attorney-General's Chambers  
 Singapore Academy of Law  
 Singapore Institute of Legal Education  
 Ministry of Law  
 Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth  
 Ministry of Social and Family Development  
 Ministry of Home Affairs  
 Other Government Ministries and Statutory Boards

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED**  
**31 MARCH 2017**



**BAKER TILLY**  
**TFW**

Baker Tilly TFW LLP  
Chartered Accountants of Singapore

An independent member of Baker Tilly International

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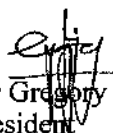
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**THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**  
**STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL**

In the opinion of the Council, the financial statements of The Law Society of Singapore (the “Society”) as set out on pages 5 to 42 are properly drawn up in accordance with the Legal Profession Act, Chapter 161 and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore so as to present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of the Society as at 31 March 2017 and of the financial performance, changes in accumulated funds and fair value reserve and cash flows of the Society for the financial year ended on that date.

On behalf of the Council

  
Mr Gregory Vijayendran  
President

  
Mr Dinesh Dhillon  
Treasurer

8 September 2017



## BAKER TILLY TFW

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### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

##### *Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Law Society of Singapore (the "Society") as set out on pages 5 to 42, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2017, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in accumulated funds and fair value reserve and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the Legal Profession Act, Chapter 161 (the "Act") and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore ("FRSs") so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at 31 March 2017 and of the financial performance, changes in accumulated funds and fair value reserve and cash flows of the Society for the year ended on that date.

##### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing ("SSAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities* (ACRA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### *Other Information*

The Management is responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is the Treasurer's Report, the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme Annual Report and the Statement by the Council as set out on page 1 but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.





**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE (cont'd)**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)**

***Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

The Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Act and FRSs, and for such internal control as the Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Management.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE (cont'd)**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)**

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (cont'd)***

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

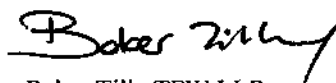
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Society have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

In respect of The Law Society of Singapore, Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (the "Division"), during the course of our audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that during the financial year:

- (i) the Division has not used the donation moneys in accordance with the objectives of the Division as required under Regulation 11 of the Charities (Institutions of a Public Character) Regulations; and
- (ii) the Division has not complied with the requirements of Regulation 15 (Fund-raising expenses) of the Charities (Institutions of a Public Character) Regulations.



Baker Tilly TFW LLP  
Public Accountants and  
Chartered Accountants  
Singapore

8 September 2017

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**As at 31 March 2017**

Note	General Fund		Other Funds		Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services		Compensation Fund		Monies held in Trust		Total	
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>												
<b>Non-current assets</b>												
Property, plant and equipment	2	5,287,403	5,645,300	—	—	124,001	193,035	—	—	—	5,411,404	5,838,335
Intangible assets	3	48,068	64,090	—	—	413,467	551,166	—	—	—	461,535	615,256
Available-for-sale financial assets	4	3,610,312	4,398,261	—	—	—	—	4,512,798	5,506,338	—	8,123,110	9,904,599
Funds placed with fund manager	5	1,042,104	1,014,807	—	—	—	—	1,042,104	1,014,807	—	2,084,208	2,029,614
		<u>9,987,887</u>	<u>11,122,458</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>537,468</u>	<u>744,201</u>	<u>5,554,902</u>	<u>6,521,145</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>16,080,257</u>	<u>18,387,804</u>
<b>Current assets</b>												
Available-for-sale financial assets	4	692,468	138,146	—	—	—	—	817,907	186,256	—	1,510,375	324,402
Inventories	6	—	—	44,925	51,106	—	—	—	—	—	44,925	51,106
Receivables	7	2,060,665	2,427,589	15,623	11,951	607,090	23,471	—	—	—	2,683,378	2,463,011
Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances	8	8,230,980	6,337,524	299,809	273,571	4,027,583	3,055,701	7,546,264	6,281,272	1,399,948	1,385,346	21,504,584
		<u>10,984,113</u>	<u>8,903,259</u>	<u>360,357</u>	<u>336,628</u>	<u>4,634,673</u>	<u>3,079,172</u>	<u>8,364,171</u>	<u>6,467,528</u>	<u>1,399,948</u>	<u>1,385,346</u>	<u>25,743,262</u>
Interfund - amount due from/(to)	28	201,510	16,387	(96,098)	(75,235)	(260,344)	(137,059)	154,932	195,907	—	—	—
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>21,173,510</u>	<u>20,042,104</u>	<u>264,259</u>	<u>261,393</u>	<u>4,911,797</u>	<u>3,686,314</u>	<u>14,074,005</u>	<u>13,184,580</u>	<u>1,399,948</u>	<u>1,385,346</u>	<u>41,823,519</u>
												<u>38,559,737</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

# THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

## BALANCE SHEET (cont'd) As at 31 March 2017

		General Fund		Other Funds		Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services		Compensation Fund		Monies held in Trust		Total	
Note		2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>LIABILITIES</b>													
<b>Non-current liability</b>													
Deferred capital grant	9	—	—	—	—	349,751	158,000	—	—	—	—	349,751	158,000
<b>Current liabilities</b>													
Fees received in advance		1,863,540	1,976,302	41,400	53,300	—	—	158,800	197,200	—	—	2,063,740	2,226,802
Payables and deferred income	10	327,694	453,600	12,016	9,361	1,342,083	1,219,973	300	1,300	—	—	1,682,093	1,684,234
Monies held in trust	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,399,948	1,385,346	1,399,948	1,385,346
Income tax payable		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2,191,234	2,429,902	53,416	62,661	1,342,083	1,219,973	159,100	198,500	1,399,948	1,385,346	5,145,781	5,296,382
<b>Total liabilities</b>		2,191,234	2,429,902	53,416	62,661	1,691,834	1,377,973	159,100	198,500	1,399,948	1,385,346	5,495,532	5,454,382
<b>Net assets</b>		18,982,276	17,612,202	210,843	198,732	3,219,963	2,308,341	13,914,905	12,986,080	—	—	36,327,987	33,105,355
Represented by:													
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	11 to 18	18,735,372	17,454,522	210,843	198,732	3,219,963	2,308,341	13,588,281	12,758,038	—	—	35,754,459	32,719,633
<b>Fair value reserve</b>		246,904	157,680	—	—	—	—	326,624	228,042	—	—	573,528	385,722
		18,982,276	17,612,202	210,843	198,732	3,219,963	2,308,341	13,914,905	12,986,080	—	—	36,327,987	33,105,355

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

		General Fund (Note 11)		Other Funds (Notes 14 to 18)		Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (Note 13)		Compensation Fund (Note 12)		Total before inter-segment elimination	
	Note	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>											
Subscriptions, Levy and Compensation Fund dues		5,073,853	4,857,944	—	—	—	—	555,600	529,550	5,629,453	5,387,494
Investment income and interest income from fixed deposits and current bank accounts		318,660	247,464	1,334	1,219	47,212	19,731	330,333	276,928	697,539	545,342
Income from operating activities		1,416,558	1,028,880	84,154	103,810	4,946,277	4,592,281	18,500	210,058	6,465,489	5,935,029
		<u>6,809,071</u>	<u>6,134,288</u>	<u>85,488</u>	<u>105,029</u>	<u>4,993,489</u>	<u>4,612,012</u>	<u>904,433</u>	<u>1,016,536</u>	<u>12,792,481</u>	<u>11,867,865</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>											
Expenditure from operating activities		4,392,996	3,957,002	73,377	124,352	4,081,867	3,617,484	74,190	75,052	8,622,430	7,773,890
Donations/Grants/Contributions to Singapore Institute of Legal Education/Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services		1,117,645	1,083,819	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,117,645	1,083,819
Disciplinary Proceedings costs		17,580	96,457	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,580	96,457
		<u>5,528,221</u>	<u>5,137,278</u>	<u>73,377</u>	<u>124,352</u>	<u>4,081,867</u>	<u>3,617,484</u>	<u>74,190</u>	<u>75,052</u>	<u>9,757,655</u>	<u>8,954,166</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before tax		1,280,850	997,010	12,111	(19,323)	911,622	994,528	830,243	941,484	3,034,826	2,913,699
Tax expense	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		<u>1,280,850</u>	<u>997,010</u>	<u>12,111</u>	<u>(19,323)</u>	<u>911,622</u>	<u>994,528</u>	<u>830,243</u>	<u>941,484</u>	<u>3,034,826</u>	<u>2,913,699</u>
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the financial year, net of tax</b>											
Fair value gain/(loss) on available-for-sale financial assets		89,224	(92,302)	—	—	—	—	98,582	(102,899)	187,806	(195,201)
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the financial year</b>		<u>1,370,074</u>	<u>904,708</u>	<u>12,111</u>	<u>(19,323)</u>	<u>911,622</u>	<u>994,528</u>	<u>928,825</u>	<u>838,585</u>	<u>3,222,632</u>	<u>2,718,498</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



**THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (cont'd)**  
**For the financial year ended 31 March 2017**

	Total before inter-segment elimination		Inter-segment elimination		Total after inter-segment elimination	
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>						
Subscriptions, Levy and Compensation Fund dues	5,629,453	5,387,494	—	—	5,629,453	5,387,494
Investment income and interest income from fixed deposits and current bank accounts	697,539	545,342	—	—	697,539	545,342
Income from operating activities	6,465,489	5,935,029	(576,245)	(562,459)	5,889,244	5,372,570
	<u>12,792,481</u>	<u>11,867,865</u>	<u>(576,245)</u>	<u>(562,459)</u>	<u>12,216,236</u>	<u>11,305,406</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>						
Expenditure from operating activities	8,622,430	7,773,890	—	—	8,622,430	7,773,890
Donations/Grants/Contributions to Singapore Institute of Legal Education/Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	1,117,645	1,083,819	(576,245)	(562,459)	541,400	521,360
Disciplinary Proceedings costs	17,580	96,457	—	—	17,580	96,457
	<u>9,757,655</u>	<u>8,954,166</u>	<u>(576,245)</u>	<u>(562,459)</u>	<u>9,181,410</u>	<u>8,391,707</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before tax</b>	<b>3,034,826</b>	<b>2,913,699</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,034,826</b>	<b>2,913,699</b>
Tax expense	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year</b>	<b>3,034,826</b>	<b>2,913,699</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,034,826</b>	<b>2,913,699</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the financial year, net of tax</b>						
Fair value gain/(loss) on available-for-sale financial assets	187,806	(195,201)	—	—	187,806	(195,201)
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the financial year</b>	<b>3,222,632</b>	<b>2,718,498</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,222,632</b>	<b>2,718,498</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

# THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND FAIR VALUE RESERVE

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	As at 1 April \$	Income \$	Expenditure \$	Net Change \$	Transfer of funds \$	As at 31 March \$
<b>2017</b>							
<i>Accumulated Funds</i>							
General Fund	11	17,454,522	6,809,071	5,528,221	1,280,850	—	18,735,372
Compensation Fund	12	12,758,038	904,433	74,190	830,243	(330,333)	13,257,948
Compensation Fund - Library	12	—	—	—	—	330,333	330,333
Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	13	2,308,341	4,993,489	4,081,867	911,622	—	3,219,963
<i>Other Funds</i>							
Jus Curio Fund	14	176,657	18,298	899	17,399	—	194,056
Library Fund	15	49,302	682	—	682	—	49,984
Pastoral Care Fund	16	(6,690)	—	4,860	(4,860)	—	(11,550)
Sports Meet Fund	17	(95,318)	66,508	66,638	(130)	—	(95,448)
Welfare Fund	18	74,781	—	980	(980)	—	73,801
		198,732	85,488	73,377	12,111	—	210,843
		32,719,633	12,792,481	9,757,655	3,034,826	—	35,754,459
<i>Fair value reserve</i>		385,722	187,806	—	187,806	—	573,528
		33,105,355	12,980,287	9,757,655	3,222,632	—	36,327,987
<b>2016</b>							
<i>Accumulated Funds</i>							
General Fund	11	16,457,512	6,134,288	5,137,278	997,010	—	17,454,522
Compensation Fund	12	11,816,554	1,016,536	75,052	941,484	—	12,758,038
Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	13	1,313,813	4,612,012	3,617,484	994,528	—	2,308,341
<i>Other Funds</i>							
Jus Curio Fund	14	158,481	18,952	776	18,176	—	176,657
Library Fund	15	48,734	568	—	568	—	49,302
Pastoral Care Fund	16	(6,690)	—	—	—	—	(6,690)
Sports Meet Fund	17	(59,993)	85,509	120,834	(35,325)	—	(95,318)
Welfare Fund	18	77,523	—	2,742	(2,742)	—	74,781
		218,055	105,029	124,352	(19,323)	—	198,732
		29,805,934	11,867,865	8,954,166	2,913,699	—	32,719,633
<i>Fair value reserve</i>		580,923	—	195,201	(195,201)	—	385,722
		30,386,857	11,867,865	9,149,367	2,718,498	—	33,105,355

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

# THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Surplus before tax		3,034,826	2,913,699
Adjustments for:			
Amortisation on intangible assets		154,370	153,814
Amortisation of deferred capital grant		(116,584)	(39,500)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	2	451,294	476,285
Interest income		(251,401)	(189,477)
Investment income		(446,138)	(355,865)
Intangible assets written off		2,134	–
Loss on disposal of available-for-sale financial assets		6,250	16,115
Operating cash flows before working capital changes		2,834,751	2,975,071
Fixed deposits and bank balances held in trust		(14,602)	(124,555)
Inventories		6,181	(22,482)
Receivables		(220,367)	(896,294)
Deferred capital grant received		308,335	197,500
Fees received in advance		(163,062)	862,961
Payables and monies held in trust		12,461	897,316
Cash from operations		2,763,697	3,889,517
Income tax paid		–	(16,988)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>2,763,697</b>	<b>3,872,529</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Additions of available-for-sale financial assets		–	(1,510,634)
Funds placed with fund manager		(34,302)	(2,000,000)
Proceed from disposal of available-for-sale financial assets		750,000	1,255,000
Purchase of intangible assets		(2,783)	(769,070)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	2	(24,363)	(67,687)
Interest received		258,181	189,477
Investment income received		446,138	355,865
<b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>1,392,871</b>	<b>(2,547,049)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>4,156,568</b>	<b>1,325,480</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year		15,948,068	14,622,588
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year</b>		<b>20,104,636</b>	<b>15,948,068</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents comprise:</b>			
Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances	8	21,504,584	17,333,414
Less: Monies held in Trust	8	(1,399,948)	(1,385,346)
		<b>20,104,636</b>	<b>15,948,068</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

	General Fund	Other Funds	Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	Compensation Fund	Monies held in Trust	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>						
Surplus before tax	1,280,850	12,111	911,622	830,243	–	3,034,826
Adjustments for:						
Amortisation of intangible assets	16,022	–	138,348	–	–	154,370
Amortisation of deferred capital grant	–	–	(116,584)	–	–	(116,584)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	377,205	–	74,089	–	–	451,294
Interest income	(114,802)	(1,334)	(47,212)	(88,053)	–	(251,401)
Investment income	(203,858)	–	–	(242,280)	–	(446,138)
Intangible assets written off	–	–	2,134	–	–	2,134
Loss on disposal of available-for-sale financial assets	2,604	–	–	3,646	–	6,250
Operating cash flows before working capital changes	1,358,021	10,777	962,397	503,556	–	2,834,751
Fixed deposits and bank balances held in trust	–	–	–	–	(14,602)	(14,602)
Inventories	–	6,181	–	–	–	6,181
Receivables	366,924	(3,672)	(583,619)	–	–	(220,367)
Deferred capital grant received	–	–	308,335	–	–	308,335
Fees received in advance	(112,762)	(11,900)	–	(38,400)	–	(163,062)
Payables and monies held in trust	(125,906)	2,655	122,110	(1,000)	14,602	12,461
Interfund - amount due from/(to)	(185,123)	20,863	123,285	40,975	–	–
Cash from operations	1,301,154	24,904	932,508	505,131	–	2,763,697
Income tax paid	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>1,301,154</b>	<b>24,904</b>	<b>932,508</b>	<b>505,131</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,763,697</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>						
Funds placed with fund manager	(17,151)	–	–	(17,151)	–	(34,302)
Purchase of intangible assets	–	–	(2,783)	–	–	(2,783)
Proceed from disposal of available-for-sale financial assets	312,525	–	–	437,475	–	750,000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(19,308)	–	(5,055)	–	–	(24,363)
Interest received	112,378	1,334	47,212	97,257	–	258,181
Investment income received	203,858	–	–	242,280	–	446,138
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>592,302</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>39,374</b>	<b>759,861</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,392,871</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,893,456</b>	<b>26,238</b>	<b>971,882</b>	<b>1,264,992</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4,156,568</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year	6,337,524	273,571	3,055,701	6,281,272	–	15,948,068
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year</b>	<b>8,230,980</b>	<b>299,809</b>	<b>4,027,583</b>	<b>7,546,264</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>20,104,636</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2016

	General Fund	Other Funds	Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	Compensation Fund	Monies held in Trust	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>						
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	997,010	(19,323)	994,528	941,484	—	2,913,699
Adjustments for:						
Amortisation of intangible assets	16,022	—	137,792	—	—	153,814
Amortisation of deferred capital grant	—	—	(39,500)	—	—	(39,500)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	381,987	—	94,298	—	—	476,285
Interest income	(88,603)	(1,219)	(19,731)	(79,924)	—	(189,477)
Investment income	(158,861)	—	—	(197,004)	—	(355,865)
Loss on disposal of available-for-sale financial assets	7,424	—	—	8,691	—	16,115
Operating cash flows before working capital changes	1,154,979	(20,542)	1,167,387	673,247	—	2,975,071
Fixed deposits and bank balances held in trust	—	—	—	—	(124,555)	(124,555)
Inventories	—	(22,482)	—	—	—	(22,482)
Receivables	(912,720)	24,155	(7,729)	—	—	(896,294)
Deferred capital grant received	—	—	197,500	—	—	197,500
Fees received in advance	779,416	15,745	—	67,800	—	862,961
Payables and monies held in trust	4,005	(4,784)	772,390	1,150	124,555	897,316
Interfund - amount due from/(to)	580,162	64,200	(540,249)	(104,113)	—	—
Cash from operations	1,605,842	56,292	1,589,299	638,084	—	3,889,517
Income tax paid	(16,988)	—	—	—	—	(16,988)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>1,588,854</b>	<b>56,292</b>	<b>1,589,299</b>	<b>638,084</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,872,529</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>						
Additions of available-for-sale financial assets	(671,760)	—	—	(838,874)	—	(1,510,634)
Funds placed with fund manager	(1,000,000)	—	—	(1,000,000)	—	(2,000,000)
Proceed from disposal of available-for-sale financial assets	564,608	—	—	690,392	—	1,255,000
Purchase of intangible assets	(80,112)	—	(688,958)	—	—	(769,070)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(67,159)	—	(528)	—	—	(67,687)
Interest received	88,603	1,219	19,731	79,924	—	189,477
Investment income received	158,861	—	—	197,004	—	355,865
<b>Net cash (used in)/from investing activities</b>	<b>(1,006,959)</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>(669,755)</b>	<b>(871,554)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,547,049)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>581,895</b>	<b>57,511</b>	<b>919,544</b>	<b>(233,470)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,325,480</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year	5,755,629	216,060	2,136,157	6,514,742	—	14,622,588
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year</b>	<b>6,337,524</b>	<b>273,571</b>	<b>3,055,701</b>	<b>6,281,272</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15,948,068</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



# **THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the financial year ended 31 March 2017**

These notes form an integral part of and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

### **1 Summary of significant accounting policies**

#### **(a) Basis of preparation**

The financial statements, expressed in Singapore dollar (“\$”), which is the Society’s functional currency, have been prepared in accordance with the Legal Profession Act, Chapter 161 and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore (“FRSs”). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as disclosed in the accounting policies below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRSs requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of income and expenditure during the financial year. These estimates and assumptions are assessed on an on-going basis and are based on experience and relevant factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

In the process of applying the Society’s accounting policies described below, management has made the following judgements that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

- (i) The Society classifies certain assets as available-for-sale financial assets and recognises changes in their fair value in other comprehensive income and accumulated in fair value reserve within funds. When the fair value declines, management exercises judgement based on the observable data relating to possible events that may have caused the decline in value to determine whether the decline in value is an impairment that should be recognised in profit or loss. The carrying amount of the Society’s available-for-sale financial assets at 31 March 2017 was \$11,717,693 (2016: \$12,258,615).
- (ii) The Society depreciates its property, plant and equipment based on a straight-line basis over their expected useful lives. The carrying amount of the Society’s property, plant and equipment at 31 March 2017 was \$5,411,404 (2016: \$5,838,335). Changes in the level of usage and market uses could impact the useful lives and residual values of these assets and hence future depreciation charges could be revised.

The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, other current receivables and payables approximate their respective fair values due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial instruments.

In the current financial year, the Society has adopted all the new and revised FRSs and Interpretations of FRSs (“INT FRSs”) that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current financial year. The adoption of these new and revised FRSs and INT FRSs did not have any material effect on the financial performance or position of the Society.

## **1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)**

### **(a) Basis of preparation (cont'd)**

New standards, amendments to standards and interpretations that have been issued at the balance sheet date but are not yet effective for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a significant effect on the financial statements of the Society except as disclosed below:

#### **FRS 109 Financial Instruments**

FRS 109 which replaces FRS 39, includes guidance on (i) the classification and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities; (ii) impairment requirements for financial assets; and (iii) general hedge accounting. Financial assets are classified according to their contractual cash flow characteristics and the business model under which they are held.

All recognised financial assets that are within the scope of FRS 39 are now required to be subsequently measured at amortised cost or fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL). Specifically, debt investments that are held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows, and that have contractual cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal outstanding are generally measured at amortised cost at the end of subsequent accounting periods. Debt instruments that are held within a business model whose objective is achieved both by collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets, and that have contractual terms that give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding, are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVTOCI). All other debt investments and equity investments are measured at FVTPL at the end of subsequent accounting periods. In addition, under FRS 109, entities may make an irrevocable election, at initial recognition, to measure an equity investment (that is not held for trading) at FVTOCI, with only dividend income generally recognised in profit or loss.

The impairment requirements in FRS 109 are based on an expected credit loss model and replace FRS 39 incurred loss model.

Management anticipates that the initial application of the new FRS 109 will result in changes to the accounting policies relating to available-for-sale financial assets and allowance for impairment loss on loans and advances. Additional disclosures will also be made with respect to available-for-sale financial assets and allowance for impairment loss on loans and advances, including any significant judgement and estimation made. Management is in the process of performing an assessment of the possible impact of implementing FRS 109. It is currently impracticable to disclose any further information on the known or reasonably estimable impact to the Society's financial statements in the period of initial application as the management has yet to complete its detailed assessment. The Society plans to adopt the standard when it becomes effective in financial year ending 31 March 2019.

#### **FRS 116 Leases**

FRS 116 replaces the existing FRS 17: *Leases*. It reforms lessee accounting by introducing a single lessee accounting model. Lessees are required to recognise all leases on their balance sheets to reflect their rights to use leased assets (a "right-of-use" asset) and the associated obligations for lease payments (a lease liability), with limited exemptions for short term leases (less than 12 months) and leases of low value items. The accounting for lessors will not change significantly.

The standard is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The standard will affect primarily the accounting for the Society's operating leases. At the balance sheet date, the Society has non-cancellable operating lease commitments of \$165,163 (2016: \$301,452) (Note 24). The Society will perform a detailed assessment of the impact and plans to adopt the standard on the required effective date.

### **(b) Income recognition**

Income comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the rendering of services, net of goods and services tax. Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Society, and the amount of income and related expenditure can be reliably measured.

## **1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)**

### **(b) Income recognition (cont'd)**

Subscriptions from members and contributions are recognised as income on a straight-line over the subscription period.

Revenue from sale of goods on credit is recognised when goods are delivered and in respect of cash sales, when goods are taken and paid for over the counter.

Interest income is recognised on a time proportion basis using the effective interest method.

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Income from self financing project is recognised in the period the event occurred.

### **(c) Government grants**

Government grants are recognised at their fair value where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with. Where the grant relates to an asset, the fair value is recognised in the deferred capital grant on the balance sheet and amortised to profit or loss over the expected useful life of the relevant asset by equal annual instalments.

When the grant related to expenditure item, it is recognised in profit or loss over the period necessary to match them on a systematic basis to the expenditure that it is intended to compensate.

### **(d) Employee's benefits**

#### *Defined contribution plans*

The Society makes contributions to the Central Provident Fund ("CPF"), a defined contribution plan regulated and managed by the Singapore Government. The Society's contributions to CPF are charged to profit or loss in the period in which the related service is performed.

#### *Employee leave entitlement*

Employee entitlements to annual leave are recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability for annual leave as a result of services rendered by employees up to the balance sheet date.

### **(e) Operating leases**

Leases where a significant portion of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are recognised in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

When an operating lease is terminated before the lease period expires, any payment required to be made to the lessor by way of penalty is recognised as an expenditure in the period in which termination takes place.

### **(f) Taxation**

Income tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Current and deferred tax are recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that they relate to items recognised outside profit or loss, either in other comprehensive income or directly in fund in which the tax is also recognised outside profit or loss (either in other comprehensive income or directly to the fund respectively).

# **1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)**

## **(f) Taxation (cont'd)**

Current tax is the expected tax payable or recoverable on the taxable income for the current year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable or recoverable in respect of previous years.

Deferred income tax is provided using the liability method, on all temporary differences at the balance sheet date arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the year when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on currently enacted or substantively enacted tax rates at the balance sheet date.

## **(g) Property, plant and equipment**

Property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost. Subsequent to initial recognition, property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

The cost of property, plant and equipment initially recognised includes its purchase price and any cost that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Dismantlement, removal or restoration costs are included as part of the cost of property, plant and equipment if the obligation for dismantlement, removal or restoration is incurred as a consequence of acquiring or using the asset.

On disposal of a property, plant and equipment, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and its carrying amount is taken to profit or loss.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of property, plant and equipment over their expected useful lives. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

	<b>Years</b>
Leasehold building	50
Renovation	5 to 10
Computer equipment	5
Office equipment	5
Furniture and fittings	10
Air-conditioners	3 to 5
Library books	5

The residual values, estimated useful lives and depreciation method of property, plant and equipment are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at each balance sheet date. The effects of any revision are recognised in profit or loss when the changes arise.

Fully depreciated assets are retained in the financial statements until they are no longer in use.

## **1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)**

### **(h) Intangible assets**

Computer software development costs are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. Direct expenditure, which enhances or extends the performance of computer software beyond its original specifications and which can be reliably measured, is recognised as a capital improvement and added to the original cost of the software. Costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as an expense as incurred.

Computer software development costs and acquired computer software licences are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. These costs are amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives of 5 years.

The amortisation period and amortisation method of intangible assets are reviewed at least at each balance sheet date. The effects of any revision are recognised in profit or loss when the changes arise.

### **(i) Impairment of non-financial assets**

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment at each balance sheet date or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal of impairment losses recognised in prior years is recorded when there is an indication that the impairment losses recognised for the asset no longer exist or have decreased. The reversal is recorded in profit or loss. However, the increased carrying amount of an asset due to a reversal of an impairment loss is recognised to the extent it does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of amortisation or depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised for that asset in prior years.

### **(j) Inventories**

Inventories comprising publication, gifts and souvenirs held for resale are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value with cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less selling expenses.

### **(k) Financial assets**

The Society classifies its financial assets in the following categories: loans and receivables and available-for-sale. The classification depends on the nature of the assets and the purpose for which the assets were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial assets at initial recognition.



## **1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)**

### **(k) Financial assets (cont'd)**

#### *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise when the Society provides money, goods or services directly to a debtor with no intention of trading the receivable. They are included in current assets, except those maturing later than 12 months after the balance sheet date which are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are presented as "Interfund-amount due from", "Receivables" (excluding prepayments) and "Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances" on the balance sheet.

Loans and receivables are measured at initial recognition at fair value plus transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

An allowance for impairment of loans and receivables is recognised when there is objective evidence that the Society will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments are considered indicators that the receivable is impaired. The amount of the allowance is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account, and the amount of the loss is recognised in profit or loss. When a receivable is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account for the receivables. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited in profit or loss.

If in subsequent periods, the impairment loss decreases, and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss to the extent that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed its amortised cost at the reversed date.

#### *Available-for-sale financial assets*

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the assets within 12 months after the balance sheet date.

Purchase and sales of investments are recognised on trade-date - the date on which the Society commits to purchase or sell the asset. Investments are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Society has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

Available-for-sale financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs and subsequently carried at fair value.

Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of investments classified as available-for-sale are recognised in the other comprehensive income and accumulated in fair value reserve within funds. When investments classified as available-for-sale are sold or impaired, the accumulated fair value adjustments in the fair value reserve are included in profit or loss.

## **1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont'd)**

### **(k) Financial assets (cont'd)**

#### *Available-for-sale financial assets (cont'd)*

The fair values of quoted financial assets are based on market price at the balance sheet date. If the market for a financial asset is not active, the Society establishes fair value by using valuation techniques. These included the use of recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, and option pricing models refined to reflect the issuer's specific circumstances.

The Society assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. In the case of equity investments classified as available-for-sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of the investment below its cost is considered in determining whether the investments are impaired. If any such evidence exists for available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss is measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in profit or loss, is removed from the fair value reserve within fund and recognised in profit or loss. Impairment losses recognised in profit or loss on equity investments are not reversed through profit or loss, until the equity investments are disposed of.

### **(l) Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities include interfund - amount due to, payables (excluding donations received in advance and grants received in advance) and monies held in trust. Financial liabilities are recognised on the balance sheet when, and only when, the Society becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instruments. Financial liabilities are initially recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is extinguished. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the liabilities are derecognised and through amortisation process.

### **(m) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Society has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, and it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the amount can be made. Where the Society expects a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain.

### **(n) Funds**

Unless specifically indicated, fund balances are not represented by any specific assets or liabilities but are represented by all assets of the Society.

### **(o) Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, deposits with financial institutions which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and excludes monies held in trust.

## 2 Property, plant and equipment

	Leasehold building \$	Renovation \$	Computer equipment \$	Office equipment \$	Furniture and fittings \$	Air- conditioners \$	Library books \$	Total \$
<b>2017</b>								
<b>Cost</b>								
At 1 April 2016	7,776,606	3,060,611	847,396	184,796	317	181,640	132,866	12,184,232
Additions	–	1,667	22,696	–	–	–	–	24,363
Written off	–	(157,143)	(96,615)	(3,256)	(317)	–	–	(257,331)
At 31 March 2017	7,776,606	2,905,135	773,477	181,540	–	181,640	132,866	11,951,264
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>								
At 1 April 2016	2,747,734	2,385,160	765,908	161,104	317	152,808	132,866	6,345,897
Depreciation charge	155,532	224,205	45,145	16,545	–	9,867	–	451,294
Written off	–	(157,143)	(96,615)	(3,256)	(317)	–	–	(257,331)
At 31 March 2017	2,903,266	2,452,222	714,438	174,393	–	162,675	132,866	6,539,860
<b>Net carrying value</b>								
At 31 March 2017	4,873,340	452,913	59,039	7,147	–	18,965	–	5,411,404
<b>Comprises:</b>								
General Fund	4,873,340	375,823	34,046	3,429	–	765	–	5,287,403
Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	–	77,090	24,993	3,718	–	18,200	–	124,001
	4,873,340	452,913	59,039	7,147	–	18,965	–	5,411,404
<b>2016</b>								
<b>Cost</b>								
At 1 April 2015	7,776,606	3,006,521	838,205	182,690	317	179,340	132,866	12,116,545
Additions	–	54,090	9,191	2,106	–	2,300	–	67,687
At 31 March 2016	7,776,606	3,060,611	847,396	184,796	317	181,640	132,866	12,184,232
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>								
At 1 April 2015	2,592,202	2,161,079	697,549	143,212	317	142,387	132,866	5,869,612
Depreciation charge	155,532	224,081	68,359	17,892	–	10,421	–	476,285
At 31 March 2016	2,747,734	2,385,160	765,908	161,104	317	152,808	132,866	6,345,897
<b>Net carrying value</b>								
At 31 March 2016	5,028,872	675,451	81,488	23,692	–	28,832	–	5,838,335
<b>Comprises:</b>								
General Fund	5,028,872	556,325	45,423	13,148	–	1,532	–	5,645,300
Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	–	119,126	36,065	10,544	–	27,300	–	193,035
	5,028,872	675,451	81,488	23,692	–	28,832	–	5,838,335
<b>Depreciation of property, plant and equipment is charged as follows:</b>								
General Fund (Note 11e)			377,205	381,987				
Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (Note 13)								
– General Pro Bono Services Office ("General PBSO")			20,555	41,775				
– Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS")			53,534	52,523				
			451,294	476,285				

### 3 Intangible assets

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Computer software development costs</b>		
<b>Cost</b>		
At the beginning of financial year	769,070	–
Additions	2,783	769,070
Written off	(3,556)	–
At the end of financial year	768,297	769,070
<b>Accumulated amortisation</b>		
At the beginning of financial year	153,814	–
Amortisation charge	154,370	153,814
Written off	(1,422)	–
At the end of financial year	306,762	153,814
<b>Net carrying amount</b>		
At the end of the financial year	461,535	615,256
Amortisation is charged as follows:		
General Fund (Note 11e)	16,022	16,022
Pro Bono, Learning and support services (Note 13)		
- Office fund	137,637	137,081
- CLAS	711	711
	154,370	153,814

The computer software development costs were mainly incurred for computerisation of General PBSO workflows for implementation of a customer relationship management system.

### 4 Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets comprise:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Interest bearing securities:</b>		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	8,128,629	7,958,930
Additions	–	1,505,750
Disposals	(756,250)	(1,271,115)
Fair value gain/(loss)	78,780	(64,936)
Balance at the end of financial year	7,451,159	8,128,629
<b>Accrued interest receivables</b>	66,915	73,695
<b>Equity instruments (quoted):</b>		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	2,026,677	2,182,560
Additions	–	3,996
Fair value gain/(loss)	88,734	(159,879)
Balance at the end of financial year	2,115,411	2,026,677
	9,633,485	10,229,001

Available-for-sale financial assets are analysed as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Non-current</b>		
General Fund	3,610,312	4,398,261
Compensation Fund	4,512,798	5,506,338
	8,123,110	9,904,599
<b>Current</b>		
General Fund	692,468	138,146
Compensation Fund	817,907	186,256
	1,510,375	324,402
	9,633,485	10,229,001

**4 Available-for-sale financial assets (cont'd)**

As at 31 March 2017, interest bearing securities earn interest at fixed rates from 2.73% to 6.00% (2016: 2.73% to 6.00%) per annum and the maturity dates of certain securities are due within 1 to 8 years (2016: 1 to 8 years) from the balance sheet date. The balances include perpetual bonds.

**5 Funds placed with fund manager**

Funds are placed with the professional fund managers at BNP Paribas Investment Management. The fund manager is given discretionary powers within certain guidelines to invest the funds.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Balance at the beginning of financial year	2,029,614	—
Funds placed	34,302	2,000,000
Fair value gain	20,292	29,614
Balance at the end of financial year	<u>2,084,208</u>	<u>2,029,614</u>

At the balance sheet date, the funds placed with fund manager comprise the following:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Quoted equities	523,847	408,464
Quoted interest bearing securities	1,503,229	1,472,380
Total investments	<u>2,027,076</u>	<u>1,880,844</u>
Bank balances	57,132	148,770
	<u>2,084,208</u>	<u>2,029,614</u>

**6 Inventories**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Publications, gifts and souvenirs (Note 14)	<u>44,925</u>	<u>51,106</u>

**7 Receivables**

	General Fund \$	Other Funds \$	Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
Subscription fees received by Supreme Court on behalf of the Society	1,563,435	—	—	1,563,435	2,031,605
Sundry receivables	283,653	5,418	560,771	849,842	170,022
Sundry deposits	195,090	7,296	5,560	207,946	235,318
Prepayments	18,487	2,909	40,759	62,155	26,066
	<u>2,060,665</u>	<u>15,623</u>	<u>607,090</u>	<u>2,683,378</u>	<u>2,463,011</u>



**8 Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances**

	2017			2016		
	Fixed deposits \$	Bank and cash balances \$	Total \$	Fixed deposits \$	Bank and cash balances \$	Total \$
General Fund	7,595,647	635,333	8,230,980	5,028,250	1,309,274	6,337,524
Compensation Fund	6,756,149	790,115	7,546,264	5,470,306	810,966	6,281,272
	<b>14,351,796</b>	<b>1,425,448</b>	<b>15,777,244</b>	<b>10,498,556</b>	<b>2,120,240</b>	<b>12,618,796</b>
<u>Other Funds:</u>						
Jus Curio Fund	42,519	108,177	150,696	41,867	82,345	124,212
Library Fund	39,812	10,000	49,812	39,130	10,000	49,130
Pastoral Care Fund	—	(11,550)	(11,550)	—	(6,690)	(6,690)
Sports Meet Fund	—	37,050	37,050	—	32,138	32,138
Welfare fund	—	73,801	73,801	—	74,781	74,781
	<b>82,331</b>	<b>217,478</b>	<b>299,809</b>	<b>80,997</b>	<b>192,574</b>	<b>273,571</b>
<u>Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services:</u>						
General PBSO	2,943,913	502,027	3,445,940	1,705,698	876,875	2,582,573
CLAS	—	463,676	463,676	202,698	153,879	356,577
Law Awareness Fund	—	75,544	75,544	—	74,311	74,311
Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund	15,762	26,661	42,423	15,530	26,710	42,240
	<b>2,959,675</b>	<b>1,067,908</b>	<b>4,027,583</b>	<b>1,923,926</b>	<b>1,131,775</b>	<b>3,055,701</b>
	<b>17,393,802</b>	<b>2,710,834</b>	<b>20,104,636</b>	<b>12,503,479</b>	<b>3,444,589</b>	<b>15,948,068</b>
Monies held in Trust (Note 19)	960,315	439,633	1,399,948	1,144,005	241,341	1,385,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,354,117</b>	<b>3,150,467</b>	<b>21,504,584</b>	<b>13,647,484</b>	<b>3,685,930</b>	<b>17,333,414</b>

The fixed deposits' interest rates as at 31 March 2017 are fixed and ranged between 0.25% to 1.75% (2016: 0.25% to 2.03%) per annum. The fixed deposits mature within 1 to 11 months (2016: 1 to 12 months) after the balance sheet date.

**9 Deferred capital grant**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<u>Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services</u>		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	158,000	—
Grant received from the Ministry of Law	—	197,500
Grant received from Singapore Totalisator Board	308,335	—
Amortisation	(116,584)	(39,500)
Balance at the end of financial year	<b>349,751</b>	<b>158,000</b>

The deferred capital grant was received from the Ministry of Law and Singapore Totalisator Board for the computerisation of General PBSO workflows for implementation of a customer relationship management system as mentioned in Note 3 and is amortised over their estimated useful lives of 5 years.

**10 Payables**

	General Fund \$	Other Funds \$	Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services \$	Compensation Fund \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
Sundry payables	214,115	9,343	128,713	300	<b>352,471</b>	390,351
Accrued expenses	113,579	2,673	—	—	<b>116,252</b>	158,809
Just Sing Fundraising Event	—	—	—	—	—	232,100
Donations received in advance from law firms under CLAS Fellowship Scheme	—	—	397,250	—	<b>397,250</b>	294,974
Grant received in advance from the Ministry of Law	—	—	699,000	—	<b>699,000</b>	608,000
Grant received in advance from Tote Board	—	—	100,000	—	<b>100,000</b>	—
Grant received in advance from NCSS	—	—	17,120	—	<b>17,120</b>	—
	<b>327,694</b>	<b>12,016</b>	<b>1,342,083</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,682,093</b>	<b>1,684,234</b>

**11 General Fund**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions from members	11a	<b>5,073,853</b>	4,857,944
Interest income on fixed deposits	11b	<b>114,802</b>	88,603
Investment income		<b>203,858</b>	158,861
Surplus from self financing projects	11c	<b>861,534</b>	755,403
Sundry income	11d	<b>555,024</b>	273,477
		<b>6,809,071</b>	<b>6,134,288</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administrative expenses	11e	<b>714,000</b>	789,212
Personnel expenses	11f	<b>3,512,616</b>	2,993,050
Donations/Grants/Contributions to Singapore Institute of Legal Education/Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services	11g	<b>1,117,645</b>	1,083,819
Meetings, events and other Council expenses	11h	<b>156,937</b>	181,300
Council budgets for special projects/expenditure	11i	<b>9,443</b>	(6,560)
Disciplinary Proceedings costs	11j	<b>17,580</b>	96,457
		<b>5,528,221</b>	<b>5,137,278</b>
Surplus before tax		<b>1,280,850</b>	997,010
Tax expense	20	—	—
Surplus for the financial year		<b>1,280,850</b>	<b>997,010</b>
Balance brought forward		<b>17,454,522</b>	16,457,512
Balance carried forward		<b>18,735,372</b>	<b>17,454,522</b>

# 11 General Fund (cont'd)

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>[Note 11a]</b>		
<b>Analysis of subscriptions from members</b>		
Subscriptions from Non Practitioners	54,253	49,694
Subscriptions from Practitioners	5,019,600	4,808,250
	<b>5,073,853</b>	<b>4,857,944</b>
<b>[Note 11b]</b>		
<b>Analysis of interest income on fixed deposits</b>		
Interest received on fixed deposits	114,802	88,603
<b>[Note 11c]</b>		
<b>Analysis of surplus/(deficit) from self financing projects</b>		
<u>Annual Dinner</u>		
Income	49,733	62,284
Expenditure *	(60,898)	(78,590)
Deficit	<b>(11,165)</b>	<b>(16,306)</b>
<u>Continuing Professional Development Programmes/Advocacy</u>		
Income	1,270,207	1,287,060
Expenditure *	(585,248)	(560,049)
Surplus	<b>684,959</b>	<b>727,011</b>
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Criminal Law Conference</u>		
Income	38,010	—
Expenditure *	(10,081)	—
Surplus	<b>27,929</b>	<b>—</b>
<u>Litigation Conference 2016</u>		
Income	237,974	—
Expenditure *	(137,373)	—
Surplus	<b>100,601</b>	<b>—</b>
<u>Administrative &amp; Constitutional Law Conference 2015</u>		
Income	—	—
Expenditure *	—	(570)
Deficit	<b>—</b>	<b>(570)</b>
<u>Litigation Conference 2015</u>		
Income	—	1,169
Expenditure *	—	(1,235)
Deficit	<b>—</b>	<b>(66)</b>
<u>National Insolvency Conference</u>		
Income	151,723	98,493
Expenditure *	(92,513)	(53,159)
Surplus	<b>59,210</b>	<b>45,334</b>
Total surplus	<b>861,534</b>	<b>755,403</b>

\* Relates to direct expenditure only and does not include secretariat staff or admin overheads.

# 11 General Fund (cont'd)

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>[Note 11d]</b>		
<b>Analysis of sundry income</b>		
Advertising - online directory	109,782	89,514
Classifieds advertising	89,488	73,794
Grant from the Ministry of Law (Legal Industry Needs Study)	262,108	—
Other income	93,646	110,169
	<b>555,024</b>	<b>273,477</b>

## [Note 11e]

### Analysis of administrative expenses

Advertising	16,253	65,088
Amortisation of intangible assets (Note 3)	16,022	16,022
Auditor's remuneration	16,000	16,000
Bank charges	3,602	3,088
Delivery charges	806	722
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (Note 2)	377,205	381,987
Miscellaneous	1,132	3,014
Newspapers, periodicals and binding services	1,302	1,193
Insurance	7,573	3,644
Pantry supplies	5,000	4,052
Photocopier metered charges and paper costs	13,258	11,323
Photocopier rental fees	53,090	61,440
Postage and courier charges	17,642	15,370
Printing and stationery	13,285	12,010
Professional fees	10,544	4,400
Repairs and maintenance		
- High Court bar room	5,491	4,491
- Premises at 39 South Bridge Road	72,979	85,255
- Secretariat equipment and website	24,961	36,619
- State (formerly Subordinate) Courts bar room	22,824	25,832
Staff resources	190	1,133
Storage charges	20,484	21,979
Telephone, facsimile and email broadcast charges	14,357	14,550
	<b>714,000</b>	<b>789,212</b>

**11 General Fund (cont'd)**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>[Note 11f]</b>		
<b>Analysis of personnel expenses*</b>		
Central Provident Fund and Skills Development Levy	454,848	399,214
Temporary staff and employment agency fees	41,000	18,694
Salaries (including temporary staff), bonuses and related expenses	2,921,998	2,491,800
Staff allowances	2,137	2,489
Staff fringe benefits	15,977	13,540
Staff medical fees and group hospital insurance	42,132	38,261
Staff training fees	34,524	29,052
	<u>3,512,616</u>	<u>2,993,050</u>
 * Personnel expenses	 4,157,644	 3,626,506
Less: allocation of common costs		
- General PBSO	(206,273)	(148,333)
- CLAS	(369,972)	(414,126)
- Compensation Fund	(68,783)	(70,997)
	<u>3,512,616</u>	<u>2,993,050</u>
<b>[Note 11g]</b>		
<b>Analysis of Donations/Grants/Contributions to Singapore Institute of Legal Education/Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services</b>		
Book prizes	2,100	2,100
Contributions to the Singapore Institute of Legal Education	539,300	519,260
Contributions to the Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (Just Jubilee Project/Annual Contribution)	576,245	562,459
	<u>1,117,645</u>	<u>1,083,819</u>
<b>[Note 11h]</b>		
<b>Analysis of meetings, events and other Council expenses</b>		
Annual General Meeting	1,950	1,780
Membership fees for international bar associations	5,029	5,239
Committee meetings	18,768	15,256
Council and committee work/activities	107,041	103,081
Legal mission/tours	9,231	12,220
Foreign travel/conferences	14,918	43,724
	<u>156,937</u>	<u>181,300</u>
<b>[Note 11i]</b>		
<b>Analysis of Council budgets for special projects/expenditure</b>		
Biennial Lecture	-	(6,186)
Law Society Arbitration Scheme	(187)	(374)
Law Society Mediation Scheme	(93)	-
Law Society 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	23,190	-
Legal Technology Roadshow	(13,467)	-
	<u>9,443</u>	<u>(6,560)</u>
<b>[Note 11j]</b>		
<b>Analysis of Disciplinary Proceedings costs</b>		
Expenses	138,538	152,056
Add: expenses relating to inquiry panel	7,955	7,916
Less: penalties collected	(18,000)	(33,500)
Less: costs recovered	(110,913)	(30,015)
	<u>17,580</u>	<u>96,457</u>



## 12 Compensation Fund

A Fund established to make grants for the purpose of relieving or mitigating loss for any person that has sustained loss in consequence of dishonesty on the part of any solicitor or any clerk or servant of a solicitor in connection with that solicitor's practice in Singapore.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions received	555,600	529,550
Interest income on fixed deposits	88,053	79,924
Investment income	242,280	197,004
Penalty under Section 50(2) of the Legal Profession Act	18,500	28,000
Unclaimed moneys transferred under the Legal Professional Act First Schedule Part II Section 11(3)	–	182,058
	<u>904,433</u>	<u>1,016,536</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank charges	50	–
Grants under Section 75(9) of the Legal Profession Act	–	1,000
Inspection of books of account pursuant to Rule 12 of the Legal Profession (Solicitors Account) Rules	5,357	3,055
Expenses relating to establishment, maintenance, administration and application of funds	68,783	70,997
	<u>74,190</u>	<u>75,052</u>
Surplus for the financial year	830,243	941,484
Transfer of fund to Compensation Fund - Library	(330,333)	–
Balance brought forward	12,758,038	11,816,554
Balance carried forward	<u>13,257,948</u>	<u>12,758,038</u>

### *Compensation Fund - Library*

The fund was set up during the year for the purposes of purchasing or maintaining a library for the use of the members and an amount of \$330,333 (2016: Nil) was transferred from the Compensation Fund to the Compensation Fund - Library.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Balance brought forward	–	–
Transfer from Compensation Fund	330,333	–
Balance carried forward	<u>330,333</u>	<u>–</u>

## 13 Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services

With the support of the Ministry of Law, the Society established the Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (the "Division"). The Division coordinates and administers all pro bono initiatives of the Society, including the General Pro Bono Services Office ("General PBSO"), Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS"), Law Awareness Fund and Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund ("BMSF"). The purpose of the Division is to implement the Society's vision and initiatives as to the provision of pro bono legal services in Singapore.

The Division is registered under the Singapore Charities Act (Charities Registration Number: 2064) and has been conferred the status of an approved Institution of a Public Character. It is exempted from income tax and its donors are granted tax deductions for the donations made to the Division. The amount of tax-deductible donations recognised for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 amounted to \$2,256,541 (2016: \$1,845,283).

**13 Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (cont'd)**

	General PBSO \$	CLAS \$	Law Awareness Fund \$	BMSF \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>						
Amortisation of deferred capital grant	116,584	—	—	—	116,584	39,500
Contribution from The Law Society of Singapore (Just Jubilee Project/ Annual Contribution)	576,245	—	—	—	576,245	562,459
Contribution from the Ministry of Law:						
- Operating costs	400,000	100,877	—	—	500,877	800,000
- Completed CLAS cases	—	885,000	—	—	885,000	685,000
- CLAS Advocates	—	67,628	—	—	67,628	—
Contribution from NCSS:						
- Appropriate Adult Scheme	36,653	—	—	—	36,653	23,837
- Care and Share grant	600,000	—	—	—	600,000	1,339,035
- President's Challenge	240,000	—	—	—	240,000	—
Contribution from SINGA Adoption	6,100	—	—	—	6,100	25,200
Contribution from SINGA Donation	260	—	—	—	260	4,605
Contributions/donations received from others	127,115	283,656	5,796	—	416,567	469,181
CLAS Fellowship	—	615,045	—	—	615,045	488,427
Donation from NVPC	4,880	—	—	—	4,880	4,168
Gross proceeds from Just Sing	768,720	—	—	—	768,720	—
Gross proceeds from Just Walk	—	—	—	—	—	50,973
Interest income on fixed deposits	43,946	3,033	—	233	47,212	19,731
PBSO Computerisation Project	—	—	—	—	—	38,601
Other income	—	111,718	—	—	111,718	61,295
	<b>2,920,503</b>	<b>2,066,957</b>	<b>5,796</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>4,993,489</b>	<b>4,612,012</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>						
Ad hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme	19,550	—	—	—	19,550	1,321
Amortisation of intangible assets	137,637	711	—	—	138,348	137,792
Appropriate Adult Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	108,821
Auditor's remuneration	4,801	—	—	—	4,801	4,000
Bank charges	1,867	1,472	50	50	3,439	3,142
Central Provident Fund and Skills Development Levy	106,995	164,327	—	—	271,322	202,710
Community legal clinics	29	—	—	—	29	237
Corporate and administrative support service	206,273	369,972	—	—	576,245	562,459
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (Note 2)	20,555	53,534	—	—	74,089	94,298
Disbursement charged by assigned lawyers	—	306,506	—	—	306,506	232,767
Enhanced CLAS (Honorariums)	—	561,494	—	—	561,494	356,386
Intangible assets written off	—	2,134	—	—	2,134	—
Just Sing expenses	65,197	—	—	—	65,197	—
Law Awareness projects	—	—	4,336	—	4,336	8,134
Legalese	12,833	—	—	—	12,833	—
Meeting expenses	627	385	145	—	1,157	952
Miscellaneous	2,056	2,106	—	—	4,162	1,484
Office rental	137,648	—	—	—	137,648	137,648
Other activities	3,684	—	—	—	3,684	5,660
Pantry supplies	1,927	1,596	—	—	3,523	3,245
PBSO IT project	22,342	19,761	—	—	42,103	—
Photocopier rental, metered charges and paper costs	10,390	15,620	—	—	26,010	27,606
Project schools	7,057	—	—	—	7,057	—
Resource materials	—	—	—	—	—	1,882
SINGA Fund Raising project	—	—	—	—	—	15,000
Volunteer engagement/recognition/ training	669	1,758	—	—	2,427	18,955

**13 Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (cont'd)**

	General PBSO \$	CLAS \$	Law Awareness Fund \$	BMSF \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE (cont'd)</b>						
Printing and stationery and postages	1,914	5,184	—	—	7,098	9,701
Repair and maintenance	9,394	12,467	—	—	21,861	24,629
Salaries and bonuses	563,729	1,109,405	—	—	1,673,134	1,588,362
Salaries and bonuses (Law Awareness Project Schools)	38,472	—	—	—	38,472	—
Staff allowance and transport	5,681	5,141	—	—	10,822	9,459
Staff medical fees and group hospital insurance	8,228	11,811	—	—	20,039	15,602
Staff training	9,209	8,706	—	—	17,915	20,228
Staff welfare	3,075	5,379	—	—	8,454	8,788
Telephone and facsimile charges	10,295	5,683	—	—	15,978	16,216
	<u>1,412,134</u>	<u>2,665,152</u>	<u>4,531</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>4,081,867</u>	<u>3,617,484</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	1,508,369	(598,195)	1,265	183	911,622	994,528
Balance brought forward	3,820,342	(1,555,080)	839	42,240	2,308,341	1,313,813
Balance carried forward	<u>5,328,711</u>	<u>(2,153,275)</u>	<u>2,104</u>	<u>42,423</u>	<u>3,219,963</u>	<u>2,308,341</u>

***Employees' Remuneration Bands***

The number of employees in Pro Bono Office whose remuneration exceeded \$100,000 in the year were as follows:

	2017	2016
<b><i>Number of employee in bands:</i></b>		
\$100,000 to \$200,000	3	2
\$200,000 to \$300,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

***Just Jubilee Project***

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Contribution from The Law Society of Singapore	<u>576,245</u>	<u>—</u>

***PBSO Computerisation Project***

The following Statement of Income and Expenditure on the PBSO Computerisation Project are prepared based on proper accounts and records; the expenditures are incurred for the project and in accordance with the terms and conditions; and the expenditures are properly authorised and supported by appropriate source documents.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Contribution from Singapore Totalisator Board and Ministry of Law	116,584	38,601
<b><u>Less expenditure</u></b>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Surplus</b>	<u>116,584</u>	<u>38,601</u>
<b>Capital expenditure during the year</b>	<u>2,783</u>	<u>685,402</u>

**13 Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (cont'd)****Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017**

	Note	General PBSO \$	CLAS \$	Law Awareness Fund \$	BMSF \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>							
<b>Non-current assets</b>							
Property, plant and equipment	2	14,805	109,196	—	—	124,001	193,035
Intangible assets		413,467	—	—	—	413,467	551,166
		<u>428,272</u>	<u>109,196</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>537,468</u>	<u>744,201</u>
<b>Current assets</b>							
Receivables	7	36,260	570,830	—	—	607,090	23,471
Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances	8	3,445,940	463,676	75,544	42,423	4,027,583	3,055,701
		<u>3,482,200</u>	<u>1,034,506</u>	<u>75,544</u>	<u>42,423</u>	<u>4,634,673</u>	<u>3,079,172</u>
Amount due from/(to) The Law Society of Singapore		240,839	(501,183)	—	—	(260,344)	(137,059)
Interfund - amount due from/(to)		1,659,050	(1,585,627)	(73,423)	—	—	—
		<u>1,899,889</u>	<u>(2,086,810)</u>	<u>(73,423)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(260,344)</u>	<u>(137,059)</u>
<b>Total assets/(liabilities)</b>		<u>5,810,361</u>	<u>(943,108)</u>	<u>2,121</u>	<u>42,423</u>	<u>4,911,797</u>	<u>3,686,314</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
<b>Non-current liability</b>							
Deferred capital grant	9	349,751	—	—	—	349,751	158,000
<b>Current liability</b>							
Payables	10	131,899	1,210,167	17	—	1,342,083	1,219,973
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>481,650</u>	<u>1,210,167</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,691,834</u>	<u>1,377,973</u>
<b>Net assets/(liabilities)</b>		<u>5,328,711</u>	<u>(2,153,275)</u>	<u>2,104</u>	<u>42,423</u>	<u>3,219,963</u>	<u>2,308,341</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>							
Accumulated Funds		<u>5,328,711</u>	<u>(2,153,275)</u>	<u>2,104</u>	<u>42,423</u>	<u>3,219,963</u>	<u>2,308,341</u>

It is the objective of the Division to achieve a reserve that would be able to sustain operations for a three years period in the event of a decline in donations.

While this is the objective, the current balance brought forward will cover slightly more than half year of operations.

The deficit in CLAS fund is funded by General PBSO fund.

**13 Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (cont'd)*****General Pro Bono Services Office***

An Office to coordinate and manage all pro bono initiatives of the Society (including the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, Law Awareness initiative, Project Law Help and the community legal clinics).

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Amortisation of deferred capital grant	116,584	39,500
Contribution from The Law Society of Singapore (Just Jubilee Project/Annual Contribution)	576,245	562,459
Contribution from the Ministry of Law:		
- Operating costs	400,000	400,000
Contribution from NCSS:		
- Appropriate Adult Scheme	36,653	23,837
- Care and Share grant	600,000	1,339,035
- President's Challenge	240,000	-
Contribution from SINGA Adoption	6,100	25,200
Contribution from SINGA Donation	260	4,605
Contributions/donations received from others	127,115	134,593
Donation from NVPC	4,880	4,168
PBSO Computerisation Project	-	38,601
Gross proceeds from Just Walk	-	50,973
Gross proceeds from Just Sing	768,720	-
Interest income on fixed deposits	43,946	16,698
	<b>2,920,503</b>	<b>2,639,669</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Ad hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme	19,550	1,321
Amortisation of intangible assets	137,637	137,081
Appropriate Adult Scheme	-	108,821
Auditor's remuneration	4,801	4,000
Bank charges	1,867	2,281
Central Provident Fund and Skill Development Levy	106,995	67,170
Community legal clinics	29	237
Corporate and administrative support service	206,273	148,333
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (Note 2)	20,555	41,775
Just Sing expenses	65,197	-
Legalese	12,833	-
Meeting expenses	627	620
Miscellaneous	2,056	595
Office rental	137,648	137,648
Other activities	3,684	5,660
Pantry supplies	1,927	1,588
PBSO IT project	22,342	-
Photocopier rental, metered charges and paper costs	10,390	11,083
Printing and stationery and postages	1,914	3,807
Project schools	7,057	-
Repair and maintenance	9,394	9,100
Salaries and bonuses	563,729	367,816
Salaries and bonuses (Law Awareness Project Schools)	38,472	-
SINGA Fund Raising project	-	15,000
Staff allowance and transport	5,681	3,280
Staff medical fees and group hospital insurance	8,228	8,798
Staff training	9,209	12,084
Staff welfare	3,075	4,138
Telephone and facsimile charges	10,295	11,355
Volunteer engagement recognition/training	669	893
	<b>1,412,134</b>	<b>1,104,484</b>
Surplus for the financial year	<b>1,508,369</b>	<b>1,535,185</b>
Balance brought forward	<b>3,820,342</b>	<b>2,285,157</b>
Balance carried forward	<b>5,328,711</b>	<b>3,820,342</b>



**13 Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (cont'd)*****Criminal Legal Aid Scheme***

A scheme providing legal representation to impecunious persons on non-capital criminal charges.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions received from the Ministry of Law:		
- Operating costs	100,877	400,000
- Completed CLAS cases	885,000	685,000
- CLAS Advocates	67,628	-
Contribution from others	283,656	309,588
CLAS Fellowship	615,045	488,427
Interest income on fixed deposits	3,033	2,851
Criminal Law Training Programme	31,993	21,645
Enhanced CLAS collection	79,725	39,650
	<b>2,066,957</b>	<b>1,947,161</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Amortisation of intangible assets	711	711
Bank charges	1,472	861
Central Provident Fund and Skills Development Levy	164,327	135,540
Corporate and administrative support service	369,972	414,126
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment (Note 2)	53,534	52,523
Disbursement charged by assigned lawyers	306,506	232,767
Enhanced CLAS (Honorariums)	561,494	356,386
Intangible assets written off	2,134	-
Meeting expenses	385	100
Miscellaneous	2,106	889
Pantry supplies	1,596	1,657
PBSO IT project	19,761	-
Photocopier rental, metered charges and paper costs	15,620	16,523
Printing and stationery and postages	5,184	5,894
Repair and maintenance	12,467	15,529
Resource materials	-	1,882
Salaries and bonuses	1,109,405	1,183,906
Staff allowance and transport	5,141	6,179
Staff medical fees and group hospital insurance	11,811	6,804
Staff training	8,706	8,144
Staff welfare	5,379	4,650
Telephone and facsimile charges	5,683	4,861
Volunteer engagement/recognition/training	1,758	18,062
	<b>2,665,152</b>	<b>2,467,994</b>
 Deficit for the financial year	 (598,195)	 (520,833)
 Balance brought forward	 (1,555,080)	 (1,034,247)
Balance carried forward	<b>(2,153,275)</b>	<b>(1,555,080)</b>

**13 Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (cont'd)*****Law Awareness Fund***

A public education initiative aimed at raising awareness of the law by conducting public education seminars, forums and exhibitions, and publication of legal information.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations received from others	5,796	25,000
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank charges	50	—
Printing of the “know the law” booklets	—	5,727
Law Awareness project - Project Schools	56	627
Law Awareness Weekend 2015	4,280	1,780
Meeting expenses	145	232
Salaries and bonuses*	—	36,640
	<u>4,531</u>	<u>45,006</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	1,265	(20,006)
Balance brought forward	839	20,845
Balance carried forward	<u>2,104</u>	<u>839</u>

\* The salaries and bonuses are related to those staff involved in the Law Awareness project - Project Schools.

***Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund***

A Fund established to award to any candidate who has obtained admission or who is taking any full time course of study in any institute of higher learning in Singapore. Other considerations being equal, preference will be given to an undergraduate pursuing a degree in law.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest income on fixed deposits	233	182
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank charges	50	—
Surplus for the financial year	183	182
Balance brought forward	42,240	42,058
Balance carried forward	<u>42,423</u>	<u>42,240</u>

***Amount due from/(to) The Law Society of Singapore***

	← 2017 →			← 2016 →		
	Amount due from \$	Amount (due to) \$	Total \$	Amount due from \$	Amount (due to) \$	Total \$
General PBSO	576,245	(335,406)	240,839	562,459	(200,931)	361,528
CLAS	—	(501,183)	(501,183)	—	(498,587)	(498,587)
Total	<u>576,245</u>	<u>(836,589)</u>	<u>(260,344)</u>	<u>562,459</u>	<u>(699,518)</u>	<u>(137,059)</u>

Relate to transactions/transfers between the different funds of the Society.

#### 14 Jus Curio Fund

A Fund established to maintain the operation of Jus Curio Shop. Jus Curio Shop offers an eclectic range of stocks from corporate merchandise to various publications.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sale of Publications	951	1,784
Sale of Gifts and Souvenirs	25,520	28,984
Sale of Consignment Items	3,121	1,549
	<u>29,592</u>	<u>32,317</u>
<b>LESS COST OF SALES</b>		
Opening inventories	51,106	28,624
Purchases and related costs	5,766	36,498
Closing inventories (Note 6)	(44,926)	(51,106)
	<u>11,946</u>	<u>14,016</u>
Gross surplus	17,646	18,301
Interest income from fixed deposits	652	651
	<u>18,298</u>	<u>18,952</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank charges	556	439
Delivery charges	—	20
Printing and stationery	6	—
Repair and maintenance	337	317
	<u>899</u>	<u>776</u>
Surplus for the financial year	17,399	18,176
Balance brought forward	176,657	158,481
Balance carried forward	<u>194,056</u>	<u>176,657</u>

#### 15 Library Fund

A Fund for the establishment of a library and the acquisition or rental of offices to house the library.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Interest income from fixed deposits	682	568
Balance brought forward	49,302	48,734
Balance carried forward	<u>49,984</u>	<u>49,302</u>

## 16 Pastoral Care Fund

A Fund established to promote pastoral care programs for practitioners.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Practice Consult fee expenses	(4,860)	—
Balance brought forward	(6,690)	(6,690)
Balance carried forward	<u>(11,550)</u>	<u>(6,690)</u>

## 17 Sports Meet Fund

A Fund established to promote good relations and social intercourse among members and between members, professional bodies of the legal profession in other countries and other persons, by means of sporting events.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Inter-professional Games refund	516	—
Other Golf Competition fees recovered	—	2,070
Singapore/Malaysia Law Games @	65,992	83,439
	<u>66,508</u>	<u>85,509</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank charges	17	21
Miscellaneous	522	665
Inter-Professional Games	5,016	2,132
Other games	3,336	13,045
Singapore/Malaysia Law Games @	57,747	104,971
	<u>66,638</u>	<u>120,834</u>
Deficit for the financial year	(130)	(35,325)
Balance brought forward	(95,318)	(59,993)
Balance carried forward	<u>(95,448)</u>	<u>(95,318)</u>

### SINGAPORE/MALAYSIA LAW GAMES @

<b>Income</b>		
Contributions/sponsorships received	65,800	71,900
Dinner and dance costs recovered	192	11,539
	<u>65,992</u>	<u>83,439</u>
<b>Less expenditure</b>		
Games' Day Expenses	2,517	12,331
Dinner and dance	6,685	42,453
Refreshments and receptions	—	21,355
Souvenirs and plaques	8,443	9,770
Transport and travelling	4,328	966
Training	18,092	18,096
Hotel accommodation	17,682	—
	<u>57,747</u>	<u>104,971</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<u>8,245</u>	<u>(21,532)</u>

**18 Welfare Fund**

A Fund established to afford pecuniary and other assistance to members or former members and to the wives, widows, children and other dependants, whether of members, former members or deceased members who are in need of any such assistance.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Miscellaneous expenses	(980)	(2,742)
Balance brought forward	74,781	77,523
Balance carried forward	<u>73,801</u>	<u>74,781</u>

**19 Monies held in Trust**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Pursuant to section 74 of the Legal Professional Act ("Section 74 money")	379,131	396,334
Education Fund under compulsory professional indemnity scheme	1,020,817	989,012
	<u>1,399,948</u>	<u>1,385,346</u>

Section 74 money comprises the following accounts:

	As at 1 April 2016 \$	Additions \$	Expenditure/ Transfers \$	Net change \$	As at 31 March 2017 \$
Jeffrey Soh & Co	21,067	—	(20,593)	(20,593)	474
S Uthuman Ghani & Co *	6,227	—	(25)	(25)	6,202
David Rasif & Partners	29,303	—	—	—	29,303
Chida Peri & Co	17,897	—	(26)	(26)	17,871
Ng Cher Yeow	2,554	—	—	—	2,554
Sadique Marican & Z M Amin	13,718	—	—	—	13,718
Boey Ng & Wan	269,194	3,861	—	3,861	273,055
TH Tan Raymond & Co	2,730	—	(420)	(420)	2,310
CM Chiong & Co	5,277	—	—	—	5,277
Christopher Yap & Co	111	—	—	—	111
H A Jalil & Associates	6,001	—	—	—	6,001
S Gunaseelan & Partners *	22,255	—	—	—	22,255
	<u>396,334</u>	<u>3,861</u>	<u>(21,064)</u>	<u>(17,203)</u>	<u>379,131</u>

\* Intervention of solicitor's practice upon death of sole practitioner.

## 20 Tax expense

The income tax expense on the results of the financial year varies from the amount of income tax determined by applying the Singapore statutory rate of income tax to surplus before tax due to the following factors:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Surplus before tax	3,034,826	2,913,699
Tax at statutory tax rate of 17%	515,920	495,329
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	46,741	46,908
Enhanced tax allowance	(71,922)	(50,010)
Income not subject to tax	(203,814)	(243,161)
Singapore statutory stepped income exemption and tax rebate	(23,092)	—
Utilisation of approved donations to the Division	(244,904)	(239,045)
Others	(18,929)	(10,021)
	—	—

## 21 General information

The Society was established in 1967 and took on the name of The Law Society of Singapore in 1970. The Society is managed by a body of persons called the Council of the Society which consists of 15 elected members, as well as 3 members nominated to serve by the Minister for Law. The Council may also nominate 3 further members to serve, if it so decides in the course of the year. Elections to the Council are held every year and all lawyers who hold practising certificates vote at the elections. The members of the Council elect from amongst themselves a President, two Vice Presidents and the Treasurer of the Society. The purposes of the Society and the powers of the Council are described in the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161).

The principal place of activities is at 39 South Bridge Road, Singapore.

## 22 Financial instruments

### (a) Categories of financial instruments

The following table sets out the financial instruments at their carrying amount at the balance sheet date:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<i>Financial assets</i>		
Receivables (excluding prepayments)	2,621,223	2,436,945
Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances	21,504,584	17,333,414
Loans and receivables	24,125,807	19,770,359
<i>Available-for-sale financial assets</i>		
Interest bearing securities	7,518,074	8,202,324
Equity instruments	2,115,411	2,026,677
Funds placed with fund manager	2,084,208	2,029,614
	11,717,693	12,258,615
<i>Financial liabilities</i>		
Payables	468,723	549,160
Monies held in trust	1,399,948	1,385,346
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	1,868,671	1,934,506



## **22 Financial instruments (cont'd)**

### **(b) Financial risk management**

The Society's activities expose it to minimal financial risk due to the nature of its activities and the overall risk management is determined and carried out by the Council of the Society.

#### ***Foreign exchange risk***

As the Society's transactions are all carried out in Singapore dollar, it is not exposed to any foreign exchange risk.

#### ***Interest rate risk***

The Society's income and operating cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates although it has significant interest-bearing deposits with financial institutions as the interest rates of these deposits are fixed. The Society has no interest-bearing liabilities.

#### ***Credit risk***

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Society.

The Society does not have any significant concentrations of credit risk exposure. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying values of each class of financial assets recognised in the balance sheet and comprised mainly of deposits placed with financial institutions.

#### ***Financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired***

Receivables that are neither past due nor impaired are creditworthy debtors with good payment record with the Society. Fixed deposits and bank balances that are neither past due nor impaired are placed with reputable financial institutions which are regulated and have good credit standing.

#### ***Financial assets that are either past due and/or impaired***

There are no financial assets that are either past due and/or impaired at the balance sheet date.

#### ***Market price risk***

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Society's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than interest or exchange rates). The Society is exposed to changes in equity price arising from its investment in quoted equity instruments. These equity instruments are quoted on SGX-ST in Singapore and are classified as available-for-sale financial assets.

As at 31 March 2017, the Society's investment in equity instruments amounted to \$2,115,411 (2016: \$2,026,677). A 10% increase/decrease in the underlying equity prices at the balance sheet date would increase/decrease by equity of \$211,541 (2016: \$202,667).

#### ***Liquidity and cash flow risk***

The Council of the Society exercises prudent liquidity and cash flow risk management policies and aims at maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and cash flows at all times.

The financial liabilities of the Society as presented in the balance sheet are due within twelve months from the balance sheet date and approximate the contractual undiscounted payments.

## 22 Financial instruments (cont'd)

### (c) Fair values

The Society classifies fair value measurement using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurement.

The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

Level 1 - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 - inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).

Level 3 - inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data.

The Society's available-for-sale financial assets are traded in an active market and are based on quoted market prices at the balance sheet date. These investments are included in the level 1 hierarchy.

The carrying amounts of the other financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximate their respective fair values due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial instruments.

## 23 Funds/reserves management policy

The Society's objectives when managing its funds are to safeguard and to maintain adequate working capital to continue as going concern and to develop its principal activities over the longer term.

No changes are made in the objectives, policies or processes during the financial years ended 31 March 2017 and 31 March 2016.

## 24 Lease commitments

The Society has operating lease commitments in respect of its office copier and office premise. Commitments in relation to the non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Not later than one financial year	165,163	182,172
Later than one financial year but not later than five financial years	–	119,280
	<u>165,163</u>	<u>301,452</u>

## 25 Capital commitment

Capital commitments contracted for at the balance sheet date but not recognised in the financial statements.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Computer software development costs	<u>49,218</u>	<u>57,977</u>

## 26 Events after the balance sheet date

- (a) On 1 April 2017, by virtue of the Transfer of Charitable Undertaking Agreement, the operations, activities, assets and liabilities of the Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services division is taken over as a going concern by Law Society Pro Bono Services Limited, a company limited by guarantee and which is also a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Law Society of Singapore.
- (b) Subsequent to 31 March 2017, the members of the Society have authorised the Council to purchase new premises for the general use and/or benefit of the Society and its members at an outlay of up to S\$15.5 million (including stamp duty, legal fees, renovations and incidental expenses), and that such acquisition would be funded by utilising reserves in the General Fund and Compensation Fund of the Society, and/or a bank loan provided that no levy is imposed on the Society's members to fund the acquisition.

## 27 Fee paid to Council Members

No fee is paid to any member of the Council.

## 28 Interfund - amount due from/(to)

	2017			2016		
	Amount due from \$	Amount due to \$	Total \$	Amount due from \$	Amount due to \$	Total \$
General Fund	933,119	(731,609)	201,510	778,013	(761,626)	16,387
Other Funds	330,764	(426,862)	(96,098)	3,260	(78,495)	(75,235)
Pro Bono Learning and Support Services	2,235,295	(2,495,639)	(260,344)	857,087	(994,146)	(137,059)
	3,499,178	(3,654,110)	(154,932)	1,638,360	(1,834,267)	(195,907)
Compensation Fund	154,932	-	154,932	195,907	-	195,907
Total	3,654,110	(3,654,110)	-	1,834,267	(1,834,267)	-

Relate to transactions/transfers between the different funds of the Society.

## 29 Relationship with Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore Limited ("IPAS")

IPAS is incorporated in Singapore and its principal activities are as follows:

- Provision of a corporate identity and organisation for insolvency practitioners
- Associate, Fellow and Student registration
- Support and advancement of the status and interest of insolvency practitioners
- Provision of recognised qualifications for persons engaged in the practice of insolvency
- Promotion of the technical competence of insolvency practitioners
- Provision of updates on developments in insolvency legislation and proposals and latest insolvency judgements by Singapore Courts and other jurisdictions

IPAS is a company limited by guarantee whereby every member of IPAS undertakes to contribute to meet the debts and liabilities of IPAS in the event of its liquidation to an amount not exceeding \$10 for each member. The members of IPAS are Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants and the Society.

**29 Relationship with Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore Limited (“IPAS”) (cont’d)**

The Society has 50% representation on the Board of IPAS. However the Society's relationship with IPAS is only to the extent of a loose affiliation and in the event that IPAS is wound up or dissolved and if there are any remaining assets in IPAS after the satisfaction of all IPAS's debts and liabilities, the Society's share of such remaining assets of IPAS as determined by the Board of IPAS will not be received by the Society but will be distributed to such institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of IPAS.

Consequently, IPAS is not as an associate, a joint venture or an investment of the Society and as such, it is not recognised in the financial statements of the Society.

**30 Authorisation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the Society for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Council dated 8 September 2017.

