

[Webinar] Effective Submissions in the Age of Virtual Hearings



11 November 2021, Thursday
2.30pm – 4.30pm



*This programme is conducted as a live
webinar.*



No. of Public
CPD Points:
1.5

Practice Area:
**Others/Multi-
disciplinary**

Training Level:
General

About the Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic caused upheavals not only to personal lives, it also redefined our working lives. Overnight, droves of people were forced to work from home ('WFH') and set up virtual home-offices. Some did better than others, with glamorous virtual home-offices, replete with the latest tech gadgets that made the transition seamless. Still many others have struggled, with some working at their dining tables, or holding Zoom meetings with laptops propped on laps, trying to maintain professional decorum in the midst of the chaos that was surrounding us.

For lawyers, the transition to WFH was made even more challenging when trials and hearings were conducted virtually. Without the austere setting of the courtroom, litigators were faced with a battle of a different kind. How do you present a forceful point or project a confident tone through a computer screen or when eye contact is quite impossible? When your physical presence in the courtroom is not possible, what other new or novel tools can a litigator deploy in a virtual courtroom that will still make him an effective advocate?

At this webinar organised by the Publications Committee of the Law Society, we give you the perspective of what is effective and what should be avoided in virtual hearings and trials, from the perspective of both a practitioner and a judge, in the area of oral and written submissions. We predict that virtual hearings and trials will be here to stay in long run, even post-pandemic, hence we should equip ourselves with the requisite skills.

The Honourable Justice Aedit Abdullah of the Supreme Court will present the judge's perspective as he discusses what judges expect from counsel in remote advocacy, particularly what to refrain from and how best to assist the Court.

Senior Counsel Francis Xavier will discuss from the perspective of a practitioner, the different considerations that affect effective advocacy in a virtual setting and the tools that can be utilised in presenting your case persuasively.

Programme Outline

Time	Programme
2.00pm – 2.30pm	Registrants to log on
2.30pm – 3.15pm	The Judge's Perspective: What Judges expect from counsel in remote advocacy The Honourable Justice Aedit Abdullah – Supreme Court of Singapore
3.15pm – 3.25pm	Break
3.25pm – 4.10pm	The Practitioner's Perspective: Different considerations that affect effective remote advocacy and tools that can be utilised in presenting your case persuasively Francis Xavier, SC – Regional Head, Dispute Resolution Group, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
4.10pm – 4.30pm	Questions & Answer (Led by Debby Lim – Partner, Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP)
4.30pm	End

Speakers' Profile



The Honourable Justice Aedit Abdullah – Supreme Court of Singapore

Justice Aedit Abdullah was appointed Judicial Commissioner in 2014 and High Court Judge on 30 September 2017.

Justice Abdullah obtained a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1994, as well as a Bachelor of Civil Law (First Class) from the University of Oxford in 1998 and a Master in Public Management from NUS in 2007.

He joined the Singapore Legal Service in 1995 and began his career as a Justices' Law Clerk. He then taught at the Faculty of Law, NUS, before re-joining the Singapore Legal Service. He has held various appointments, such as Deputy Public Prosecutor, Deputy Senior State Counsel and District Judge of the Subordinate Courts (renamed as State Courts in 2014). He was appointed Chief Prosecutor (Economic Crimes and Governance Division), and subsequently Chief Prosecutor (Criminal Justice Division) at the Attorney-General's Chambers in 2011 and served as special counsel at the Monetary Authority of Singapore from January 2008 to June 2009. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2012.

He is the Judge in charge of Transformation and Innovation in the Judiciary, and is also Chair of the Technology Cluster of the Singapore Academy of Law.



Francis Xavier, SC – Regional Head, Dispute Resolution Group, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

Francis is Rajah & Tann's Regional Head of Disputes Group; he practises cross-border commercial litigation and international and treaty arbitration.

A veteran in the field, Francis has 32 years of legal practice and has a track record of being involved in novel and unprecedented cases. He has appeared before the SICC on numerous occasions (at both trial and appellate levels) and was in fact involved in the very first case heard before the SICC.

Francis is recognised as a leading disputes lawyer – Asia Law Profiles (2017-2021); Asia Pacific Legal 500 (2014-2019, 2021); Ranked Lawyers Chambers Global (2016-2021); Dispute Resolution Chambers Asia-Pacific (2016-2021); Best Lawyer in Litigation Practice, Best Lawyers International (2015-2020); Global Arbitration Review (2010); Best Litigation Lawyers in Singapore (2013); Asia Law Leading Lawyers (2009). He was recently named as one of Asia's Top 15 Litigators by Asian Legal Business (2021).

Francis was also recognised by Asia Business Law Journal 2018 as amongst Singapore's top lawyers and is the winner of a Business Excellence Award (2019) issued by Corporate Insider, the Gateway to the World of Business; named as a dispute resolution star by Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific (2019-2020). He was recently ranked as a leading disputes lawyer by Chambers Asia Pacific (2020); Labour, Employment & Benefits, Who's Who Legal (2016, 2018, 2019); Who's Who Legal : Thought Leaders – Labour & Employment (2020); Who's Who Legal : Arbitration (2020, 2021); The Best

Lawyers (2020 Editions) Singapore; the 5th Annual Global Business Edition of Best Lawyers (2020); Who's Who Legal : Litigation (2020).

He is the immediate past global President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and also the immediate Past President of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association. He is a Chartered Arbitrator and also a Past Chairman of the Singapore branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

He is the General Editor of two major publications - "Civil Litigation in Singapore" (Sweet & Maxwell, 2017) and "Arbitration in Singapore: A Practical Guide" (2nd Edition, Sweet & Maxwell, 2018).



Debby Lim – Partner, Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP

Debby focuses on all areas of contentious insolvency and asset recovery work (including major commercial disputes) and investigations. These often involve complex and multifaceted litigation in the aftermath of cross-border corporate collapses. Debby has recently appeared before the Singapore Court of Appeal (with a full bench of five Judges) in SK Engineering & Construction Co Ltd v Conchubar Aromatics Ltd and another appeal [2017] SGCA 51, Diablo Fortune Inc v Duncan, Cameron Lindsay and another [2018] SGCA 26 and AnAn Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd v VTB Bank (Public Joint Stock Company) [2020] SGCA 33, a trifecta of jurisprudentially significant insolvency-related appeals to confront the Singapore courts.

Her involvement in ground-breaking cases include the first "pre-packaged" scheme of arrangement and the first judicial management involving a foreign-incorporated entity.

Debby has been noted as a leading lawyer in many publications including Chambers Asia, Legal 500 and Who's Who in Legal Restructuring & Insolvency. Debby is the Immediate Past Chairperson of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (Singapore Network) and is also a founding member of the Law Society of Singapore's Women in Practice Task Force. She is a fellow of INSOL International and is one of the first three Singapore-qualified lawyers to have earned this recognition.

Admin Note to Singapore Practitioners and s36B Foreign Lawyers in relation to the Mandatory CPD Scheme:

No of Public CPD Points: 1.5
Practice Area: Others/Multi-disciplinary
Training Level: General

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes logging in at the start of the webinar and logging out at the conclusion of the webinar in the manner required by the organiser, and not being away from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <http://www.sileCPDcentre.sg> for more information.

Note: In the course of the event, photographs/videos/interviews of participants could be taken/conducted by the Law Society or parties appointed by the Law Society for the purpose of post event publicity, either in the Law Society's official publication/website, social media platforms or any third party's publication/website/social media platforms approved by the Law Society.

Registration Fees

Membership Category	Fees (Inclusive of 7% GST and course materials)
Law Society Member	\$21.40
SCCA Member	\$38.52
Non-Member	\$42.80

To register, please visit our website at: <https://www.lawsociety.org.sg/CPD-Portal/Law-Society-Events>. For enquiries, please contact us at cpd@lawsoc.org.sg or 6530-0255.

1. Terms and Conditions

- 1.1 Registration closes on the date as stipulated on the registration page or when all seats are filled.
- 1.2 The registration fee is due and payable upon registration and must be received prior to the programme.
- 1.3 Payment must be made by the closing date stated. Registration will only be confirmed upon receipt of full payment.
- 1.4 The Law Society reserves the right to refuse to register or admit any participant, and to cancel or postpone the programme.
- 1.5 If you are unable to attend, a substitute delegate is welcomed, provided that the Law Society is notified in writing of the name and particulars of the substitute delegate at least 3 working days before the programme.

2. Cancellation and Refund of Fees

- 2.1 Allocation of seats is on a first-come-first-served basis and limited seats for each programme.
- 2.2 Participant who cancels their registration before the commencement date shall be liable to pay the percentage of the registration fee set out as follows:
 - i. 20 calendar days before commencement date: 25% of registration fee.
 - ii. 8 to 19 calendar days before commencement date: 50% of registration fee.
 - iii. 7 calendar days or less before commencement date: 100% of registration fee.
- 2.3 Participants who cancel their registration without prior payment made shall also be liable to the cancellation fee set out in 2.2. In the event that the payment for cancellation fee is not received despite multiple chasers, a tax invoice will be issued and mailed to your law practice/organisation.
- 2.4 Participant who is unable to attend the programme due to medical exigencies will be subject to a cancellation fee of 50% of registration fee.