

# 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.



 1	OUR People
<u>6</u>	THE COUNCIL

. .

- <u>7</u> <u>THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u>
- 8 COUNCIL REPORT
- 11 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE SECRETARIAT

19 CEO'S REPORT

<u>18</u>

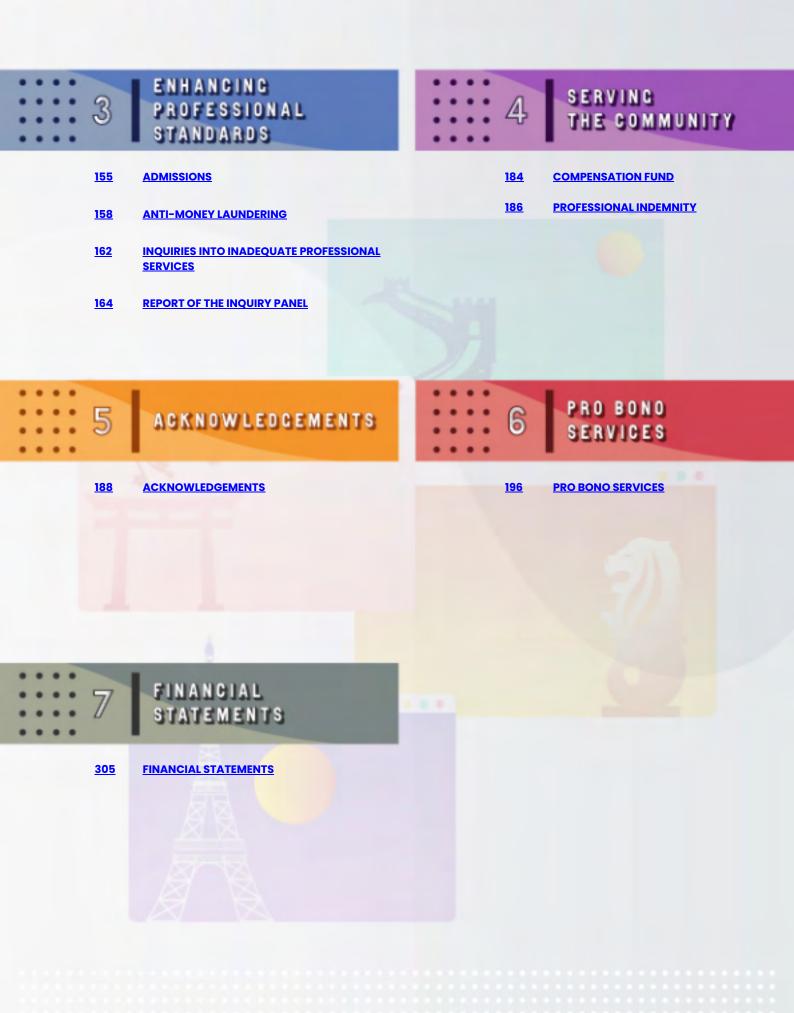
- 38 TREASURER'S REPORT
- 47 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT
- 48 YEAR IN REVIEW
- 57 STATISTICS



## 2

## CROWING OUR PRACTICE

<u>59</u>	ADVOCACY		
<u>62</u>	ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION		
<u>65</u>	CIVIL PRACTICE		
7 <u>0</u>	CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
<u>74</u>	CONVEYANCING PRACTICE		
<b>77</b>	CORPORATE PRACTICE		
<u>79</u>	COURT PRACTICE CHAIRPERSONS		
<u>83</u>	CRIMINAL PRACTICE		
<u>87</u>	CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PROTECTION		
<u>90</u>	FAMILY LAW PRACTICE		
<u>94</u>	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
<u>97</u>	INSOLVENCY PRACTICE		
<u>100</u>	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PRACTICE		
<u>103</u>	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS		
<u>107</u>	MEDIATION		
<u>110</u>	MUSLIM LAW PRACTICE		
<u>113</u>	PERSONAL INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE		
<u>117</u>	PROBATE PRACTICE		
<u>121</u>	PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW		
<u>124</u>	PUBLICATIONS		
<u>129</u>	SMALL LAW FIRMS		
<u>132</u>	SOCIAL AND WELFARE		
<u>135</u>	SOLICITORS ACCOUNTS RULES		
<u>139</u>	<u>SPORTS</u>		
<u>142</u>	TAX AND TRUST		
<u>145</u>	WOMEN IN PRACTICE		
<u>149</u>	YOUNG LAWYERS		



4



A DA

K G T

6

11

9

2

2

A lost

0

.....

OUR PEOPLE

(From L to R)

## THE COUNCIL



















Tan Beng Hwee Paul (Treasurer) **M** Rajaram **Chan Pengee Adrian** 

**Gregory Vijayendran, SC (President)** Lisa Sam Hui Min (Vice-President)

Chan Tai-Hui Jason, SC (Vice-President)

Manimaran Arumugam TAMIL Koh Choon Guan Daniel Chia Boon Teck

**Tito Shane Isaac** Ng Lip Chih **Michael S Chia** 

Seah Zhen Wei Paul (Until 14 March 2021) Nicholas Narayanan (From 15 March 2021) Sunil Sudheesan

**Tan May Lian Felicia** Simran Kaur Toor Low Ying Li, Christine

Yeoh Jun Wei Derric Marshall Lim Yu Hui

Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin

Abhinav Ratan Mohan









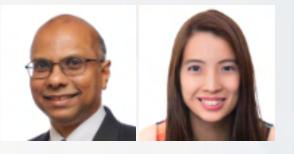
• • •

-

OUR PEOPLE

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

#### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



(From L to R) Gregory Vijayendran, SC

Lisa Sam Hui Min





Chan Tai-Hui Jason, SC Tan Beng Hwee Paul



Koh Choon Guan Daniel Tito Shane Isaac



Tan Lay Lian Felicia Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin



OUR PEOPLE

## COUNCIL REPORT

#### **Outgoing Council Members for 2020**

The term of the following Council members ended on 31 December 2020:

Tan Gim Hai Adrian

Lim Seng Siew

Md Noor E Adnaan

Ng Huan Yong

#### Council Members for the Period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

<u>Senior Category (not less than 15</u> <u>years' standing)</u>

Gregory Vijayendran, SC (President)

Lisa Sam Hui Min (Vice-President)

M Rajaram

Adrian Chan Pengee

Manimaran Arumugam TAMIL

Koh Choon Guan Daniel

Chia Boon Teck

Tito Shane Isaac

Ng Lip Chih

Michael S Chia

Nicholas Narayanan (from 15 March 2021)

Sunil Sudheesan

Middle Category (5 to 15 years' standing)

Seah Zhen Wei Paul (until 14 March 2021)

Tan May Lian Felicia

Tan Beng Hwee Paul (Treasurer)

Chan Tai-Hui Jason, SC (Vice-President)

Simran Kaur Toor

Low Ying Li, Christine

Junior Category (less than 5 years' standing)

Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin

Yeoh Jun Wei Derric

Marshall Lim Yu Hui

Abhinav Ratan Mohan

The following members of Council for 2021 are Statutory Members appointed by the Minister of Law to serve on the Council:

M Rajaram

Ng Lip Chih

Seah Zhen Wei Paul

The following members of Council for 2021 are Statutory Members appointed by Council to serve on the Council:

Adrian Chan Pengee

Sunil Sudheesan

Low Ying Li, Christine

#### **Council Meetings**

There were 4 ordinary meetings of the Council from September 2020 to December 2020. The attendance of members was as follows:

Member	Present	Absent
Gregory Vijayendran, SC (President)	4	0
Tan Gim Hai Adrian (Vice- President)	4	0
Tito Shane Isaac (Vice- President)	4	0
Koh Choon Guan Daniel (Treasurer)	4	0
M Rajaram	4	0
Lim Seng Siew	4	0
Adrian Chan Pengee	3	1
Chia Boon Teck	3	1
Ng Lip Chih	2	2
Lisa Sam Hui Min	4	0
Michael S Chia	3	1
Seah Zhen Wei Paul	4	0
Tan May Lian Felicia	4	0
Tan Beng Hwee Paul	4	0
Chan Tai-Hui Jason, SC	4	0
Simran Kaur Toor	4	0
Low Ying Li, Christine	4	0
Md Noor E Adnaan	2	2
Ng Huan Yong	3	1
Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin	4	0
Yeoh Jun Wei Derric	4	0

There were 8 ordinary meetings from January 2021 to August 2021. The attendance of members was as

#### follows:

Member	Present	Absent
Gregory Vijayendran, SC (President)	8	0
Lisa Sam Hui Min (Vice-President)	8	0
Chan Tai-Hui Jason, SC (Vice-President)	7	1
Tan Beng Hwee Paul (Treasurer)	8	0
M Rajaram	6	2
Adrian Chan Pengee	7	1
Manimaran Arumugam TAMIL	1	7
Koh Choon Guan Daniel	6	2
Chia Boon Teck	7	1
Tito Shane Isaac	8	0
Ng Lip Chih	3	5
Michael S Chia	8	0
Seah Zhen Wei Paul (until 14 March 2021)	2	0
Nicholas Narayanan (from 15 March 2021)	6	0
Sunil Sudheesan	7	1
Tan May Lian Felicia	8	0

Simran Kaur Toor	7	1
Low Ying Li, Christine	7	1
Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin	8	0
Yeoh Jun Wei Derric	8	0
Marshall Lim Yu Hui	7	1
Abhinav Ratan Mohan	7	1

OUR PEOPLE

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COVID-19 Our challenges are continuing. As I type this message, the sobering truth is that 1,939 new COVID-19 cases have been reported<sup>1</sup> with the grim truth of deaths every day. The "crisis of a generation" as our Prime Minister called it continues to wreak havoc on life as we know it - on the economy, socially, psychologically, financially and of course, physically to our person.

Yes, this is the time that we spur each other in solidarity to surmount these various obstacles. Together, we can see this through the end even if the end is nowhere in sight yet.

In this succinct message, I shall touch on 3 facets of our work. High Tech, High Touch and High Trust. Our CEO Delphine has covered the programmes and services in great detail, and we need not reinvent the wheel. Facts, figures, programme ups and services write (many brilliant volunteer through the energy of our lawyers on committees

or projects or the dedication of our Secretariat stalwart staff) can be gleaned by reading the tome that follows.

#### **High Tech**

On High Tech, CEO Delphine in Paragraph 11 of her report (Boosting Technology Adoption and Building Business Capabilities) has covered the essentials. I make 3 observations on High Tech.

The Law Society is committed to bring on board as many of the members who are ready, able and willing to adopt and adapt tech to their practice by advocating for reduced pain points in costs and tech navigation. Plans are afoot to build on Tech Start for law (launched in March 2017) and Techcelerate for Law (launched in May 2019) with another level of publicprivate partnership with Ministry of Law and other agencies to build an integrated tech platform. Gratitude is insufficient on this score for the

giving on the part of the Government for a select group of professionals to harness tech; thereby keeping us relevant to the market and the disruptive forces at work. The pandemic of course has undoubtedly increased the appetite for more tech offerings<sup>2</sup> as lawyers pivot into the new normal of working from home and seek more of the same.

Beyond technology adoption, the future of the legal profession lies in its ability to transform. Our COVID-19 Impact Survey showed that 44% redesigned processes and workflows. To aid in that process and to encourage the legal profession to continue to reinvent themselves, we have planned a business transformation programme, Raising the Bar, for the last quarter on developing and implementing firmspecific strategies and accelerating the firm's business journey. It is a 4month acceleration programme customised help law to firms compete and thrive in a digital first with focus world, a on digital transformation, business strategy, business process re-engineering, digital marketing and branding. It was with business transformation in

mind, and in tandem with an (EAC) Council Economic Action recommendation, that we organised a well-received inaugural Business Development Day on 25 May 2021. aimed at This was socializing concepts of branding and marketing to our lawyers to help coach on such as unique value areas proposition, harnessing social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn tools and effective use of websites. The hope is to raise the levels of business acumen and branding which are no longer "nice to have" but a "must have" in today's day and age. That it took a pandemic to bring us to some of these bitter truths to swallow is fine for better late than never.

Thirdly, we must cater and catalyse innovation in the profession. Last year, I touched on one of these. How our Law Society Mediation Services pivoted on online modalities. Critical to the equation for us was to suss out the profession's appetite for change and innovation. To that end, we conducted a survey<sup>3</sup> to gather feedback from the Bar on the current law practice structures, delivery of legal services and the concept of alternative legal service providers (ALSPs)<sup>4</sup>. The majority of those polled stated that they did not develop or develop intend to innovation delivery for solutions of legal services. The main entry barriers were costs and lack of technical expertise. A striking statistic is that close to three quarters were for law firms being permitted to deliver legal services entirely online without the need for a physical office. This is a point that the EAC is acting on as well. The EAC is examining other findings in the survey including multidisciplinary practices and reforming Singapore Group practices.

#### **High Touch**

This is a time for High Touch too. The COVID-19 Survey results reported in The Straits Times (27 September 2021 edition) revealed that of the 1,000 respondents polled, 76% felt sad and depressed and 65% felt lonely. This was what I was alluding when earlier referred to to psychological harm posed by a prolonged pandemic with considerable uncertainty on short term measures deployed from time to time and long-term prognosis.

practitioners' virtual The huddle sessions that CEO Delphine touched apart from quite curating on garnerina relevant topics and feedback are also invaluable times to (as its name implies) huddle together in a closer bond within the boundaries of safety and health constraints. We stay connected together and linked up despite not connecting in a whole-of-person way the way an in-person meeting allows. But this is the next best alternative. Practice Bar leaders have heeded the call that I have made in the past to view their role with a pastoral outlook for members in their practice community who do need a listening ear and a helping hand.

Some need more. Our Relational Mentorship Scheme and Career Path without are vibrant and vital, oversimplifying, to build relationship offer and career counselling respectively. As a measure of how important our confidential counselling is to the law practitioner, we have doubled the port of call and set aside the budget as shared by CEO. Legal care to community begins with law care to our community.

Our mental wellness resources have also proven impactful. I am grateful to Peggy Yee, Wong Siew Hong, Nicholas Aw and others who have stepped forward to share practice coping tips for mental wellness and wellbeing. While there are general offerings which apply across the board to all of us, the practitioner tips offered by these practitioners transparently shared from their own journeys of overcoming are deeply impactful, give practical qood handles and come from an empathetic core. My Council Colleague, Derric Yeoh has also actively championing the been Mindful Business Charter initiative despite his youth. Practitioner Susan de Silva has left us with a wealth of wisdom from her penmanship of articles that are worth their weight in gold. Just after the Reporting Period, an exciting collaboration with Law Council of Australia on a mental wellness webinar was slated given the shared passion of the two Presidents.

High Touch also comes through financial aid. One of the most exciting initiatives that we partnered with SBF Foundation to incept was the Law Soc-SBF Foundation Compassion Fund. Compassion will always lead you to action. It is never passive. The fuller details on genesis and disbursement are set out in CEO's report. We will proactively unlock more of the Compassion Fund giving opportunities to help more persons in the legal fraternity.

We need to also have high touch with our brothers and sisters in law internationally. These proactive fostering of international relations at a time of restricted or no travel are a tribute to our International Relations Department spearheaded by Shawn Toh. As an illustration, quoting from my speech at the French Embassy 30 April this year which on showcased a hybrid conference and unique, collaborative a crossjurisdictional pro bono legal clinic between Singapore and France: "By mutually encouraging one another during the dark days last year, we have been privileged to stand together in solidarity with our French brothers and sisters in law. Slowly but surely, we have built trust and confidence over time ... The time is now right for us to emerge out of the shadows cast by COVID-19 to

tangibly collaborate with one another". A summary of our crossborder interactions has been set out in Paragraph 9 of CEO's report (Globalisation and International Relations). One of the most exciting innovations that have been immensely proud about is the innovative virtual law mission to Shanghai from 25 to 27 August 2021. This will be a beacon to the rest of the globe of the power of creativity and potential. The journey of a miles can thousand sometimes begin with a single digital footstep. This formula could be replicated elsewhere. A way to be both an armchair traveller, start, continue and resume links as well as open up new markets.

#### **High Trust**

And finally, it is about High Trust. For lawyers to sustain a high trust as a trusted legal advisor of their clients and Singapore society, 2 things are of paramount importance: competence and ethics. On the former, you can read from the Continuing Professional Development component of CEO's report a high-level summary of what we have done in the Reporting

Period. I would especially emphasise that in our commitment to ensure that our lawyers upskill and reskill to ensure ongoing relevance, practical acquisition of CPD points and ensure that they remain on the cutting edge of their practice, we took a major step, that cost our coffers, of rolling out 55 free webinars over a time period of close to a year that drew more than 18,000 attendees. Quite apart from the efficiencies and accessibility of the online modality, the CPD Committee, Civil Practice Committee and CPD Directorate magnificent also organised a marquee event in the form of the Litigation Conference Workshop 2021 which was the Society's first ever hybrid event in April 2021. Kudos to them for a great beachhead which effective skills-based was as training such as advocacy require a hands-on approach as well as the cost-efficient zooming in of overseas trainers including English silks. I am glad to see the ondemand e-Learning programmes that was a fruit of our tie up with the College of Law as CEO has noted in her report.

Ethics is within the DNA of every

lawyer who recognises that we are part of a noble calling. The Professional Ethics Digest 2020 and Conflict of Interest Toolkit were curated and developed respectively earlier this year. To accentuate the Conflict of Interest learnings, we profession-wide organised a webinar on 27 July 2021. I also wrote about this intentionally in the July Singapore Law Gazette message.

While capability/competence and ethics are vital to maintain high trust as a lawyer and legal profession, dignity is pivotal to our Bar. The Society made a strong statement against bullying and harassment as the largest employers joined hands to sign a pledge on 9 October 2020 (details of which are set out in CEO's report). Likewise, we continue to respect and honour the dignity of our female talent and some of the unique challenges they face at different stages of their career through the fine work of the Women in Practice Committee spearheaded by my Council colleagues, Felicia and Simran.

For our Society to continue to thrive despite the dark hours or even

darkest hour, we need to continue to grow a high trust for each other across the board and proactively nurture the high trust levels among the stakeholders of the legal profession including the judiciary, AGC and Ministry of Law. Come what may, this is a time for all of us at the Bar to believe the best in each other, look out for the ones who are falling in their calling and live out our lives in law at noble and worthy standards higher than they have ever been at any previous stage of history. On behalf of the serving Council members, thank you to all members for lifting my team and I up in our spirits because of the high trust you placed in us to serve you.

I am deeply grateful to the high trust mutually shared by my committed Council colleagues and the stellar Secretariat team headed by Delphine. The only reason for us to achieve anything we did is because of the mutual trust and confidence we had with one another even if there were difficult moments at times in a difficult year. But we never stopped believing. May that high trust in one another to believe and build together for a better future for the profession remain high and grow higher despite challenges hurled and hurtling at us at times.

I did not cover all the programmes services the Society did and because (i) they do not fall neatly within the three focus facets I have touched on; and (ii) to have done so, would have led to writing a chapter! cannot single the also L out numerous volunteers, to whom the Society is indebted, to thank all of you here. Your names are more than a lined entry in the pages that follow. Some of you have gone way past the call of duty and then some. But to each and every one of you, the Law Society exists because of you. The power of your self-sacrificing service to the Society and society at large was the first thing that struck me about Law Soc even before I served on Council. It will remain the abiding memory I will take with me when I finish my stint of service here.

#### <sup>1</sup>As at 26 September 2021

<sup>2</sup> See last year's COVID-19 Impact Survey on Law Society's Members conducted at the end of the Circuit Breaker Period ("COVID-19 Impact Survey") polling 777 member representatives across gender, seniority and law firm sizes on how close to 40% of the profession purchased and deployed additional IT hardware.

<sup>3</sup> between 1 October to 13 November 2020 (1.5 months).

<sup>4</sup> A total of 399 respondents responded which saw a relatively even mix of respondents with different years of PQE as well as different law firm sizes with a slight skewing in favour of dispute resolution.



Gregory Vijayendran, SC President

Warmest Regards, Greg • • •

OUR PEOPLE

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

## THE SECRETARIAT

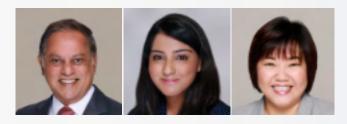


**Delphine Loo Tan** Chief Executive Officer



(From L to R)

Rejini Raman | Assistant Director & Department Head (Compliance and Representation) Delphine Loo Tan | Department Head (Legal Policy and Research)



**K Gopalan** | Director & Department Co-Head (Regulatory)

**Anamika Bagchi** | Assistant Director & Department Co-Head (Regulatory)

**Jean Wong** | Director & Department Head (Continuing Professional Development)



Pearlyn Quek | Director & Department Head(Finance)Stefanie Lim | Director & Department Head (LegalProductivity and Innovation)Shawn Toh | Director & Department Head(Membership and External Relations)



Goh Wan Cheng | Director (Membership and External Relations) Sharmaine Lau | Director & Department Head (Publications)

#### CEO'S REPORT

The key activities and initiatives of the Law Society of Singapore during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (the Reporting Period) are outlined as follows.

#### 1. Membership and Member Care

As at 31 August 2021, the Society had Practitioner 6,333 Members, 15 210 Associate Members, Non-Practitioner Members, 13 and Honorary Members. In addition, 457 lawyers were called to the Bar during Mass Call this year.

## (a) Practitioners' Virtual Huddle Sessions

During the Reporting Period, a total of 8 virtual huddle sessions were organised. This follows the success of virtual huddle sessions organised in the preceding reporting period in place of in-person lunchtime talks previously held at the State Courts bar room. The topics for the sessions were selected based on relevance and importance to members' practice areas.

#### (b) Member Support Schemes

The Law Society been has administering a number of schemes to provide assistance and support for members. Pastoral care schemes that provide counselling and mentorship have been well received members. by the During the Reporting Period, 8 matches were made under the Relational Mentorship scheme while 15 matches under the Career Path scheme were made.

The reporting period also saw the Law Society widening the avenues that provide support for members' welfare and well-being. Under the LawCare scheme where members may obtain consultations with a professional counsellor, Counseling Perspective was appointed in May 2021 as the second counselling provider. In August 2021, the Society worked with the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE) to expand LawCare scheme the further, ensuring that Part A and Part B candidates as well as Practice would also Trainees have free access to professional counselling. The Law Society set aside a budget of \$60,000 for FY2021/2022 for such counselling fees. These moves Law underscored the Society's commitment to protect legal practitioners' wellbeing, even as the pandemic continues COVID-19 unabated.

Apart from administering member support schemes, the Law Society also sought to provide members with useful mental wellness resources. Between December 2020 and January 2021, the Society

collaborated with the Singapore Psychological Society to deliver 2 free lunchtime talks on working from home and managing mental wellness at the workplace. In addition, several webinars were also organised under the banner of our Practice Well initiative during which some members shared their work from home and practice experience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## (c) LawSoc-SBF Foundation Compassion Fund (the Fund)

The unexpected occurrence and prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to personal difficulties and financial crises for many of us. In September 2020, the Law Society joined the Singapore Business Federation Foundation (SBFF) to establish an industry-led fund, the LawSoc-SBF Foundation Compassion Fund, to support lawyers and law firm employees. With generous donations from the members of the Law Society and the

wider legal fraternity, a sum of \$150,000 was raised, with SBFF matching dollar for dollar, bringing it to a total of \$300,000. The Fund provides a one-time financial assistance of \$500 to each eligible lawyer or law firm employee in need.

The eligibility criteria for applying to the Fund are:

• Monthly gross salary not more than \$3,400;

• Experiencing hardships due to sudden or unexpected crisis at personal or family level;

 Sudden or expected crisis directly or indirectly due to COVID-19 pandemic;

• Applicant must be a lawyer (whether self-employed or as a director, partner or in other categories of employment) of a Singapore law practice or an employee (including support staff) of a Singapore law practice either at the time of application or not more than 12 months before the date of application

- Applicant is currently not receiving any support from government or community agencies for daily expenses e.g. transport, meals; and
- Priority will be given to Singaporeans and PRs, and to applicants who have not accessed same or similar support from Law Society and other trade associations.

At the end of the Reporting Period, a total of \$19,000 had been disbursed to 38 lawyers and law firm employees, leaving a balance of \$281,000 in the Fund.

#### (d) Women in Practice

Following the August 2020 release of the inaugural report, *Levelling the Playing Field*, on the state of gender diversity and inclusion within the Singapore legal profession, the Women in Practice Committee held a webinar on 9 September 2020 titled Gender Diversity: Levelling the Playing Field. The speakers at the webinar shared their experiences surrounding mentorship and flexible sponsorship, work arrangements, unconscious bias, and sexual harassment and bullying. These were areas that the report had highlighted as key for law firms in their practices structuring to enhance gender diversity, and for younger lawyers to be aware of to improve their experiences in legal practice.

The Women in Practice Committee continues to publish a series of interviews featuring successful women in practice from different background in the Law Gazette to inspire younger women lawyers.

## (e) Anti-Workplace Bullying and Harassment Pledge

In a move signaling a strong stand

to combat the hidden scourge of workplace bullying and harassment, the Law Society on 9 October 2020 led 21 law firms that represented some of the biggest employers in the legal profession to sign a pledge ensuring that law firm staff and colleagues would be treated with courtesy, respect, dignity and fairness.

The Law Society of Singapore's Law Firm Pledge on Preventing Bullying and Harassment in Singapore's Legal Profession (the Pledge) sought to:

1. promote and maintain professionalism;

2. respect human dignity; and

3. respect the inviolability of every employee's person and privacy.

By signing the Pledge, the signatories committed to implementing the Law Society's

recommendations to maintain a work environment free from the toxic culture of bullying and harassment. These include:

1. availing or accessing the Law Society's Workplace Harassment in the Legal Profession: A resource guide for members (June 2020) to all staff;

2. informing lawyers and staff of the signatory law firm's bullying and harassment policy and workplace grievance handling procedures;

3. providing training for staff; and

4. ensuring appropriate training for senior management and executive law firm leadership.

## 2. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The Law Society offers a wide range of ADR schemes with an aim to facilitate public access to good quality justice at affordable rates. The ADR schemes offered are:

- Law Society Mediation Scheme (LSMS)
- Law Society Arbitration Scheme (LSAS)
- Law Society Neutral Evaluation and Determination Scheme (LSNEDS)
- LSMS/LSNES for Family Law
   Disputes

To improve access to information on the Law Society's various ADR schemes, a new website at <u>adr.lawsociety.org.sg</u> was launched on 15 June 2021. The website provides information such as rules, panellists, fees, application forms and more.

During the Reporting Period, the LSAS received one request for arbitration while LSMS received 51 requests for mediation. Out of the 51 cases, 27 cases were successfully resolved, while 4 cases are still ongoing at the time of this report.

In June 2021, the Family Law Practice Committee introduced the LSMS/ LSNES for Family Law Disputes offer affordable to scheme mediation and neutral evaluation for divorces. The panel of mediators and neutral evaluators consist of 50 experienced family law practitioners. This scheme has been endorsed by the Family Justice Courts with its inclusion as an option to parties under Court Ordered Private Mediation starting 15 June 2021. As at the time of this Report, this scheme three received mediation has requests.

In addition, the Law Society also assisted the Ministry of Law in providing low-cost mediation in relation to the ministry's COVID-19 relief schemes as follows:

 Mediation of disputes between small- and micro-businesses that had been significantly impacted by COVID-19 under the Re-Align Framework scheme (December 2020 and June 2021); and

 Mediation of disputes between wedding couples and vendors, as well as parties to other eventrelated contracts, who had been impacted due to the tightened restrictions imposed to curb community transmission.

#### 3. Economic Action Council (EAC)

The EAC, co-chaired by President Gregory Vijayendran SC and Immediate Past President Thio Shen Yi SC, held a virtual town hall on 9 September 2020 where it shared its findings, short-term and long-term goals, and the proposed measures to improve the economic health of Singapore law firms.

The EAC also conducted a survey on multi-disciplinary practices and

alternative legal service providers, between October to November 2020, to gather feedback from the Bar on the current law practice structures, the delivery of legal services, and the concept of alternative legal service providers. A total of 399 members responded to the survey.

#### 4. Professional Ethics

The Professional Ethics Digest 2020 (the Digest) was published and complimentarily availed to in members the Law Societv Members' Library in March 2021. The Digest contained 27 anonymised guidance rendered by the Advisory Committee of the Professional Conduct Council between May 2018 and December 2019 which are of general application and interest to legal practitioners. The top 5 most common issues brought to the Advisory Committee during May 2018 and December 2019 were:

- 1. Former client conflicts of interest
- 2. Executive appointments
- 3. Personal conflicts of interest
- 4. Courtesy and fairness between legal practitioners
- 5. Touting and publicity

further support members To in managing conflicts of interest that may arise in their practice, the Law Society launched the Conflict of Interest Toolkit (the Toolkit) in April practical 2021. The quide was designed to help legal practitioners better recognise, avoid and manage conflicts of situations interest commonly encountered in practice. The Toolkit contained 8 checklists to assist legal practitioners in navigating the challenging terrain of conflicts of interest. The checklists included:

- 1. Managing conflicts of interest in practice;
- 2. Conflicts of interest systems,

policies and controls for law practices;

3. Should you advise or act for a family member or a friend?;

4. Dealing with an unrepresented person or other third party;

5. Conflicts of interest in court or tribunal proceedings;

- 6. Acting for multiple clients;
- 7. Acting against a former client; and
- 8. Personal interest conflicts.

On 27 July 2021, the Law Society organised a webinar titled Managing Conflict of Interests for Legal Practitioners and Law Practices to provide practical advice on how to handle conflicts of interest by:

a. providing a useful framework to analyse common situations arising in legal practice that can give rise to conflict of interests;

b. sharing best practices for

detecting and handling potential conflict of interests; and

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

c. managing specific conflict issues that might arise in legal practice, including conflict of interests specific to different practice areas.

Our article in the August 2021 issue of the Law Gazette, *Risky Business*: *What Young Lawyers Should Know About Ethics and Risk Management* <u>https://lawgazette.com.sg/practice/</u> <u>ethics-in-practice/risky-business/</u> provides further guidance and comes with a handy infographic.

## 5. Feedback to Consultations and Law Reform

continues The Law Society to maximise the opportunities that it is given provide constructive to feedback on behalf of the legal profession to the Judiciary, the Ministry of Law, the AttorneyGeneral's Chambers, and other government bodies and stakeholders. We have advanced the interests of the profession through public consultations and closed-door consultations. Some examples of feedback given during the Reporting Period include:

14 September 2020 Submission to the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore on the Public Consultation on the Changes to Simplify Intellectual Property Processes and Improve Experience User with Digital (Intellectual Property Initiatives Practice Committee).

 2 October 2020 - Submission to the Ministry of Law on the Public Consultation on Copyright (Excluded Works) Order
 (Intellectual Property Practice Committee).

 18 November 2020 –
 Submission to the Ministry of Social and Family Development on the Public Consultation on the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill (**Probate Practice Committee**).

 21 March 2021 - Submission to the Ministry of Social and Family Development on the Public Consultation on the Adoption of Children in Singapore (Family Law Practice Committee).

 8 April 2021 - Submission to the Ministry of Law on the Public Consultation on the Proposed Copyright Bill (Intellectual Property Practice Committee).

 5 May 2021 - Submission to the Singapore Exchange on the Public Consultation on the Proposed Listing Framework for Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (Corporate Practice Committee).

The Law Society also regularly engaged in dialogue meetings with the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts. Issues relating to the Court Practice Chairpersons, Civil Practice, Family Law Practice, PIPD (Personal Injury and Property Damage), Probate Practice and Small Law Firms Committees were raised with the courts on a regular basis. These channels of communication enabled us to address a wide range of issues with the courts in a timely and ensured that manner our members' viewpoints were represented properly and persuasively.

#### 6. Anti-Money Laundering

Due to the safe management measures introduced last year to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual anti-money laundering inspections of law practices scheduled for October and November 2020 were carried out only in January and February 2021.

Two recurring events in the antimoney laundering annual calendar were held during the reporting period, namely the *Anti-Money Laundering*  Responsibilities of Lawyers: An Introduction and the popular Anti-Money Laundering Seminar. With greater awareness of the risks of money laundering, members have become more knowledgeable about the regulatory framework surrounding money laundering and terror financing.

#### 7. Thought Leadership

To promote thought leadership on significant issues for the legal profession, the Law Society had launched its Legal Profession Research Portal (the Portal) in March 2020. In April 2021, the Portal was merged with the Law Society's main website and continued to serve as a one-stop facility and first port of call for all research papers and articles relating to issues concerning the legal profession. These papers and articles included content published in the Law Gazette on various topics pertinent to legal practitioners, such as legal professional privilege, design thinking and commercial awareness.

#### 8. New Online Services

#### (a) Professional Notices

Professional Notices is a complimentary service provided by the Law Society that allows law firms and lawyers to announce professional moves, such as the change of firms, change of designation, resignation and retirement. Designed to help with cross-referral work, a section for lawyers to indicate their practice areas is also included.

## (b) Directory of Lawyers Offering Commissioning and Notary Public Services

Lawyers can advertise on the Law Society directory of commissioners for oaths and notaries public. Not only can lawyers have their names listed, the directory includes other pertinent information, such as languages spoken, and the date and time of availability (including video conferencing).

## 9. Globalisation and International Relations

Due to border restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, physical missions were put on hold during the Reporting Period. However, the Lawyers Go Global team continued its work of preparing lawyers for regionalisation in a post-COVID world by organising various virtual events.

To sustain relationships with overseas bar associations, virtual networking events were held with Guangdong Lawyers Association (30 November 2020), Daini Tokyo Bar Association (26 February 2021) and Aichi Bar Association (1 April 2021). A webinar titled *Economic and Legal*  Trends in ASEAN Post-Pandemic was organised on 29 July 2021.

With the experience gained from organising the various virtual networking events, the Lawyers Go Global team organised our virtual mission to inaugural Shanghai, China, from 25 to 27 2021. Twenty-six (26)August members participated in this virtual Mission, which was led by the President of Law Society. As travel restrictions continue to be eased, albeit cautiously, the Lawyers Go Global team will explore alternative avenues and platforms to continue building relationships with overseas counterparts.

On 9 March 2021, during Phase 3 of Singapore's Safe Reopening, the Law Society had the privilege to host His Excellency Kakhramon Shakirov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Singapore, in person at the Law Society's premises.

#### (a) Virtual Exhibitions

During the Reporting Period, the Law participated in the Society 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), held virtually from 27 to 30 November 2020. CAEXPO is a flagship trade platform for enhancing cooperation between China and ASEAN with the aim of promoting trade and investment, and driving bilateral as as multilateral collaboration. well The Law Society will also be participating in the 18th CAEXPO 2021 slated for 10 to 13 September 2021.

In addition, the Law Society showcased the Singapore Lawyer brand at the FutureChina Global Forum 2021 exhibition organised by Business China on 12 to 13 July 2021. The theme for 2021 was Elevating ASEAN-China Economic Collaboration in the "Newer Normal". The forum featured trends, growth opportunities and lessons drawn from ASEAN and China. (b) Collaborations with Paris Bar Association

Following signing of a a Understanding Memorandum of with the Paris Bar Association on 17 January 2020, the Law Society has held discussions with the Paris Bar explore Association to mutually beneficial collaborative projects. On 30 April 2021, a hybrid conference was held at the Embassy of France to showcase joint bilateral projects. One of the joint projects was a collaborative cross-jurisdictional bono legal clinic between pro Singapore and France, established for women victims of violence with a link to the French community in Singapore. Plans in other areas such as joint webinars are currently underway.

## (c) Welcome Pack for Professional Services

The Law Society is presently working with Enterprise Singapore (ESG) and

the inter-agency Professional Services Programme Office (PSPO) to launch a Professional Services Welcome Pack (Welcome Pack) - a listing of Singapore professional services firms such legal, as secretarial, accounting, corporate human resource and real estate firms aimed at profiling their services and expertise to international clients.

The pilot edition of the Welcome Pack will target China's small and medium enterprises, including technology start-ups, setting up in Singapore with the aim towards making Singapore the gateway for their future expansion into the wider Southeast Asia region.

## (d) Presidents of Law Associations of Asia Conference 2022

The Law Society will be hosting the Presidents of Law Associations (POLA) Conference in 2022. POLA is a gathering of leaders of bar associations in Asia to discuss issues pertinent to the legal profession.

## (e) International Young Lawyers' Congress

The Law Society is in discussions with the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) on hosting the 2022 Young Lawyers' Congress in Singapore.

## (f) MOU with Singapore Mentorship Committee

The Law Society will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore Mentorship Committee, a non-profit organisation voluntarily formed prominent business by leaders in China and Southeast Asia looking to build trade and cultural collaborations with Singapore, in September 2021. The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate more networking opportunities between lawyers and the business community, particularly the start-ups.

## 10. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The CPD Committee collaborated with several other committees of the Law Society to organise programmes to help members upskill and stay on top of legal developments through the disruption posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the Reporting Period, the CPD Committee engaged closely with the Singapore Institute of Legal Education to ensure that live webinars remained duly accredited with CPD points. From 1 September 2020 to 30 June 2021, a total of 55 free webinars were organised for members, attracting over 18,000 attendees.

In its effort to encourage more faceto-face CPD activities, the Law Society organised its first hybrid event in April 2021 – Litigation Conference Workshop 2021. A total of 112 participants attended the event physically at the Marina Bay Sands, while more than 950 participants were in virtual attendance.

#### (a) On-demand e-Learning

The Society its Law increased selection of on-demand e-learning programmes to assist members to broaden their learning journey while fulfilling their CPD requirements. In partnership with The College of Law, additional programmes were offered for the Law Society's Unlimited e-Learning Programme 2021 Legal Practice and the Management Course.

In January 2021, work started for the development of anti-money laundering e-learning programme for the legal profession. Working closely with our risk management consultant Ms Yasho Dhoraisingam and the Anti-Money Laundering Committee, the programme will feature 5 modules covering all aspects of the antimoney laundering regime. These modules form the foundation to understanding anti-money laundering for the Singapore legal profession, on top of the specialised antimoney laundering webinars that the Law Society organises on a yearly basis. This initiative is part of the Risk Management Framework managed by the CPD department.

#### (b) Practice Well

The Practice Well portal was launched in March 2020 in the previous Reporting Period to promote mental wellness among members. Members can access specially curated programmes and resources, including articles and CPD activities. Below were the key events organised under the Practice Well banner:

- Psychological First Aid on 24
   November 2020
- Building Blocks for Success:
   Wellbeing at the Heart of Your
   Practice on 11 March 2021
- Lawyers in COVID Times on 19
   May 2021

- Practice Well: BEHIND Beh A
  Capital Trial and the Lawyer on
  30 June 2021
- Recognising and Avoiding Burnout on 10 August 2021

## 11. Boosting Technology Adoption and Building Business Capabilities

#### (a) Tech-celerate for Law

Tech-celerate for Law, an initiative to accelerate technology adoption in the legal sector, was launched on 2 May 2019 to prepare Singapore Law Practices (SLPs) for future disruptions beyond baseline technology adoption. Eligible SLPs were able to adopt legal technology solutions from seven pre-scoped solution categories and receive up to 80% funding support in the first year of implementation under the scheme. The scheme ended on 15 January 2021 with a total of 275 successful applications.

During the Reporting Period, a technology sharing session, Achieving a Secure and Flexible Work Environment, was held in collaboration with Dropbox on 23 October 2020. This session explored some effective ways on handling sensitive while data working remotely and how to stay productive during work. A virtual networking session, Transforming Mindsets: How SmartLaw Guild Firms Are Embracing Technology, was also held on the first day of TechLaw.Fest 2020 on 28 September 2020. The session showcased the Society's efforts in promoting legal technology adoption and the support provided to law firms. During the session, 4 SLPs were invited as panelists to share their experience in transforming their practices through the adoption of technology solutions under Techcelerate for Law.

A video showcasing 5 SLPs' technology adoption journeys under

Tech-celerate for Law was released in September 2020 via our Legal Productivity and Innovation <u>microsite</u>. The video was also featured on Law Society's social media channels, events and TechLaw.Fest 2020.

#### (b) SmartLaw Certification

The aim of the SmartLaw certification scheme is to provide a marketing advantage for law firms which have adopted technology to their productivity improve and increase business capabilities. Such law firms which have adopted: (1) a practice management or accounting software; (2) an online knowledge database; and (3) an online presence (whether through a marketing portal or their own website), dedicated will be recognised by being allowed to specially display designed a "SmartLaw" logo on their websites and marketing collaterals. As at 31 August 2021, 81 law firms have been SmartLaw certified.

#### (c) SmartLaw Guild

The SmartLaw Guild, launched by the Law Society in May 2019, is an initiative to create a platform to share strategies, best practices, trends and resources to qear forwarding-looking law practices up for the future. It showcases the tech adoption journeys of forerunner law firms for other members of the profession and offers various technology trials and discount rates for third-party conferences as part of the Guild's membership privileges. The SmartLaw Guild membership comprises SmartLaw certified law firms well successful as as applicants of the Law Society's past present technology support and schemes. To date, over 340 of such law firms have adopted progressive technologies to keep themselves at the forefront of productivity and innovation.

During the Reporting Period, SmartLaw Guild members enjoyed an exclusive e-book and journal promotion of up to 20% discount from 11 November to 31 December 2020, and were offered complimentary tickets to attend a webinar How to Zoom Like a Pro on 24 June 2021. SmartLaw Guild members also enjoyed priority sign-up for our of business inaugural run a transformation programme, Raising The Bar, which will take place from September 2021 to December 2021. The programme is supported by Enterprise SG and participating law firms have the opportunity to work with a carefully curated group of industry experts to develop firmspecific strategies, implement such strategies efficiently and accelerate their firm's business journey.

#### (d) Gov Assistance Assessment Tool

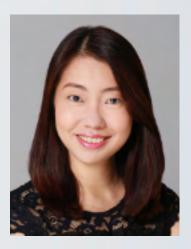
To facilitate the ease of navigating through the myriad of Government support schemes, a Gov Assistance Assessment Tool for members was designed and launched in

September 2020. This online selfassessment tool enables members to assess their firm's eligibility for and entitlement to the various Government support schemes. Such include assistance for schemes hiring, implementing flexible work arrangements, financing loans, technology and innovation and building business capabilities. This tool consists of no more than 10 questions and a report based on members' response is automatically generated at the end of the assessment. To date, more than 180 law firms have utilised the tool.

Regular updates on various technology solutions and Government Support Schemes have also been made available to members through the Legal Productivity and Innovation <u>microsite</u>.

(e) SGUnited Traineeships and Mid-Career Pathways Programme for Legal Sector The SGUnited Traineeships and Mid-Career Pathways Programme is an initiative by the Ministry of Law and Workforce Singapore in collaboration with the Law Society. The second iteration of the programme was launched on 7 June 2021, one year after its initial launch, to provide and support training opportunities within law practices. Training opportunities include practice training contracts for law graduates and for other roles, such as paralegals, legal secretaries and legal technologists.

Under the SGUnited Traineeships, the Government will fund 80% of the training allowance while the host organisation (i.e. the law firm) funds the remaining 20% for the programme duration. Under SGUnited Mid-Career Pathways, the Government will fund up to 90% of the training allowance while the host organisation funds the remaining 10% or 20% for the programme duration.



Delphine Loo Tan Chief Executive Officer

THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

OUR PEOPLE

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial year ending 31 March 2021 remained a challenging year for the Society, as Singapore (and the world) remain in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. While there are early signs of recovery, it is likely that our economy will continue on a "stop-start" journey, even if, one hopes, the overall trajectory is one of gradual but steady growth.

All this has had an impact on the Society's income as well. As detailed below, rebates on subscription fees have had a significant impact on the Society's income. The Society also continued measures instituted in the last FY to absorb the cost of webinars for the first half of this calendar year. Meanwhile, the cost of our regulatory function continues to rise. The overall balance is a slight negative. Fortunately, sufficient reserves mean that the Society does not need to borrow to continue funding its expenditure.

The Society is taking steps to try and address the sustainability of our finances in the long run. However, with the need to remain conservative in our investments because a significant part of it comprises the Compensation Fund, the Society will have to look elsewhere to shore up its income in order to meet the expected and inevitable rise in expenditure as we continue to invest in technology, and professionalise our Secretariat in order to operate Society efficiently. One key the initiative is to work with the CPD Committee to expand our offerings to regional audiences.

It is also important to record the Society's gratitude to the Secretariat in the last year. Due to our proactive management, the Society actually saw a decrease in personnel costs. This was the result of all members of our Secretariat accepting deferrals reductions or on promotions, increments and The bonuses. Society will have to reinstate some of these deferrals or reductions in order

to retain talented staff, and so we expect expenditure on this front to rise in the next FY.

As we work through the impact of the pandemic, we ask members to continue to support the Society and its efforts. We will have to be prudent with any further rebates or fee waivers going forward as there is a cost to providing many of our activities and platforms that is often unseen. A good example is webinars. Even for online webinars, the cost of providing the webinars over the year is approximately \$205,585. Through Economic Action the Council headed by our President Gregory Vijayendran and former Past-President Thio Shen Yi, the Society will continue monitor the to economic outlook for all law firms, and do our best to ensure that the Society remains relevant, responsive and self-sufficient.

In respect of this financial report, I also wish to acknowledge with thanks the support and efforts of the Finance Committee.

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;
- 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 overall objectives and goals of the Society.

The current Finance Committee comprises the Treasurer, Adrian Chan, Gary Pryke, Kuah Boon Theng SC, Daniel Koh, Michael S Chia, Lisa Sam, Felicia Tan and Simran Kaur Toor. We are assisted by the Chief Executive Officer and the Finance Department of the Secretariat. The Finance Committee generally meets once every three months by Zoom.

This report covers the main highlights of the financial performance of the Society during the financial year ended 31 March 2021 (Current Financial Year).

# A. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE GENERAL FUND

The General Fund reported a beforetax deficit of close to \$484,000 for the Current Financial Year. This is a decrease from a before-tax surplus of about \$166,000 for the financial year ended 31 March 2020. Total income in the Current Financial Year decreased by 9.3% from about \$8.15 million to about \$7.39 million whilst total expenditure decreased by about 2% from \$7.99 million to \$7.87 million.

#### Income

The major factor which contributed to the reduction in income was due to the rebate given to members in their contributions to subscription fees including associate members. Newly-called lawyers were given a full rebate of their subscription fees for the entire PC year, while all other practising lawyers were given a 25% rebate for the PC year. Subscriptions from members constitutes our primary source of income. As a result of the rebates given, our income subscriptions from recorded a decrease of 27% as compared to the

previous year from \$5.69 million to \$4.15 million.

The decrease was slightly cushioned by the fact that the number of practising members who applied for/renewed their practising certificates increased from 6,339 members to 6,429 members in the current year.

Another major reduction in income was the result of providing free webinars for the first 6 months of the year. Although the fees waived for online webinars were supported by drawn the interest from the Compensation Fund (approximately \$313,000), the fact that the Society could not charge fees for those webinars meant that surplus (before overheads allocation) from Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes and Conferences decreased 45% from \$1.07 million to \$0.59 million.

Our revenue from advertisements in the Society's directory, classified advertising and online Law Gazette decreased by \$48,000 or about 47% from \$151,000 to \$103,000. This was due to advertising fee rebates also given to members for basic job advertisements for a period of 6 months until 13 November 2020.

Investment income and income from fixed deposits decreased by about 28%. In part, our conservative investment strategy means that our investible income is subject to prevailing fixed deposit interest rates, which have been declining and low.

#### Expenditure

Overall expenditure decreased by 1.4% or \$111,000 from \$7.98 million to \$7.87 million due mainly to the following:

a. Decrease in the Society's mandatory contribution to the SILE, from \$589,000 in the Previous Financial Year, to \$441,000, in line with the decrease in collections from ordinary members.

b. Decrease in personnel
expenditure from \$4.94 million to
\$4.76 million, representing a
decrease of \$177,000 or 3.6% even though the number of
personnel remained the same as

in the previous FY. As explained above, this was largely due to the sacrifice of our Secretariat who accepted deferrals on or reductions in promotions, bonuses and increments.

c. Decrease in administrative expenses from \$1.89 million to \$1.65 million or about 12.7%, largely due to the reduction in the Right of use of assets and maintenance costs relating to the property at 39 South Bridge Road.

However, it should be noted that expenditure on regulatory matters increased to \$336,000 compared to Previous Financial the Year of \$198,000. A large part of this was due to the 14 cases that went to the Court of Three Judges in 2021, compared to 5 the previous year. Further, although the number of DT cases remained constant, they were longer and more complex. We do not that the expect necessary expenditure in this regard will fall in the next FY and may in fact continue to rise.

# B. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE · COMPENSATION FUND

The contributions received in the Current Financial Year decreased from \$628,150 to \$6,529 due to the full rebate given to all members. Interest income on fixed deposits also decreased from \$132,589 to \$33,869.

## C. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – LAW SOCIETY PRO BONO SERVICES

Law Society Pro Bono Services (the "Subsidiary" or "LSPBS") was incorporated on 4 January 2017 to take over the operations of Pro Bono Learning, and Support Services, a division of The Law Society of Singapore (the Division) as a going concern.

There was a surplus of \$51,423 for the Current Financial Year, compared to a deficit of \$155,347 in the Previous Financial Year.

Key highlights as follows:

a. Increase in income of 13% or \$447,813 to \$3.95 million due partially to the following:

- <u>Bicentennial Community Fund</u>
   \$400,000
  - Job Support Scheme
     \$367,211

b. Increase in expenditure of 7% or \$241,043 to \$3.90 million, partly attributable to:

<u>Salaries and Bonus</u>
 \$371,256

Society this FY, the In also contributed a total of \$38,000 for LSPBS. This comprised generous donations from law firms or lawyers who donated their fee rebates to (approximately LSPBS instead \$25,000) donations raised and through the Force Majeure Event, which was jointly organised with the SAL (approximately \$13,000).

#### **D. OTHER FUNDS**

Other Funds comprise the Sports Meet Fund, Welfare Fund, Library Fund, Jus Curio Fund, Pastoral Care Fund and Practice Resilience Fund.

Overall, there was a surplus of \$5,882 for the Other Funds (a deficit of \$65,635 in the Previous Financial Year).

### **E. BALANCE SHEET**

OUR PEOPLE

The key highlights of the balance sheet of the Society as at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

a. General Fund reserves stood at \$19.11 million, a slight decrease of about 6.2%.

b. General Fund total assets amounted to \$27 million, including \$11.53 million being held as fixed deposits, bank and cash balances.

c. Compensation Fund total assets amounted to \$15.55 million, including \$10.94 million being held as fixed deposits, cash at bank and in hand.

d. General Fund total liabilities stood at \$7.95 million, largely in relation to advance payment of application fees for practising certificates for FY2020/2021, which were received prior to 31 March 2021.

e. The Society had no external borrowings.

### **F. INVESTMENTS**

The Society has invested in bluechip securities and bonds which provide a conservative and steady return to hedge against inflation. The Society is grateful to the Investment Committee for their time and efforts in looking closely at our investments together with our financial advisers. As at 31 March 2021, the Society had invested in the following bonds and equities.

#### Bonds

- FCLTREA3.95% PS
- GLL IHT 4.6% PS
- GLLIHTN23021523
- LLC 3.28% 210903
- MAPLELOGT3.65%P
- MERCATUS N240726
- SIA N210408
- STARHUB PERSEC
- KEPCORP N231130
- SUNTEREITN230510
- RCS TRUST 050623

- FULLERTON SHT TRM INT
- Singapore Airlines Pte Ltd
- Jurong Shipyard Pte Ltd
- Oue Treasury Pte Ltd
- Thomson Medical Group
- Cathay Pac MTN FIN
- GLL IHT Pte Ltd
- Fullerton Ind Credit
- ARA Asset Mgt LTD
- STT GDC Pte Ltd
- FH Reit Treasury Pte
- Straits Trading Co Ltd
- Huarong Finance
- Shangril La Hotel
- Olam Intl
- ABN AMRO Bank
- Societe Generale
- Manulife Financial
- BPCE SA
- Frasers Prop Treasure
- Austt & NZ Banking Grp

- F&N Treasurry Pte Ltd
- Keppel Corp Lted
- LendLease Finance Ltd
- LB Baden-Wuerttemberg
- Capitaland Treasury Ltd
- Barclays PLC
- Surbana Jurong Pte Ltd
- Aviva Singlife Hldg
- Credit Agricolde SA
- Swiss Finance
- Mapletree Treasury
- Singapore Post Ltd
- Singapore Tech Telemedia
- Hotel Proprieties Ltd
- Singapore Press Holdings

#### **Equities**

- ASCENDAS REIT
- CAPITALAND
- COMFORTDELGRO
- FRASERS CPT TR
- HYFLUX6% CPS 10

- PARKWAYLIFE REIT
- SATS
- SGX
- SINGPOST
- SINGTEL
- SPH
- STARHUB
- SUNTEC REIT
- VENTURE
- FTIF TEMPLETON
- FULLERTON
- DBS
- KEPPEL REIT
- SEMBCORP IND
- SEMBCORP MARINE
- UOB
- AEM Holding Limited
- Ascendas Real Estate
- Ascott Trust
- CapitaLand Retail China Trust
- CapitalLand integrated Commer
- CDL Hospitality Trust

- DBS Group Holdings
- Frasers Centrepoint Trust
- Frasers Commercial Trust
- Keppel DC Reit
- Mapletree Industrial
- Mapletree Logistic Trust
- Mapletree North Asia
- Netlink NBN Trust
- Olam Intl
- Oversea Chines Banking Corp
- Parkway Life Real Estate Inv
- Sheng Siong Group Ltd
- Singapore Airlines Ltd
- Singapore Exchange Limited
- Singapore Technologies Engineering
- Singapore Telecommunications
- United Overseas Bank Limited
- Venture Corporation Limited
- Wilmar International
- Jardine Matherson Holdings Limited
- Manulife US Real Estate Inv Trust

## Conclusion

The Society's prudence through the years has allowed it to build strong reserves. These reserves in turn provided the Society with the financial ability to sustain a raft of provide financial measures to assistance to the members in the first half of 2021 as highlighted above. The Society is still in a strong position. However, financial the pandemic has shown that the Society is vulnerable to changes in subscription fees and income derived from its CPD programmes. In the meantime, we expect that expenditure may continue to rise in the forthcoming year. The Society will continue to monitor its finances carefully.

Finally, I sincerely thank the Society's Chief Executive Officer Delphine Loo Tan and the Finance Department led by the Finance Director Pearlyn Quek for their hard work throughout the year.



Paul Tan Treasurer THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

OUR PEOPLE

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

(AC) The Audit Committee is established by the Council. The members Chairperson and are appointed directly by the Council. The AC comprises Chairperson, Michael Hwang, SC and 4 other namely members, Patrick Ang, Robson Lee, Leon Yee and Jacqueline Loke.

The external auditors, Fiducia LLP has issued a clean Audit Opinion on the financial statements of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2021.

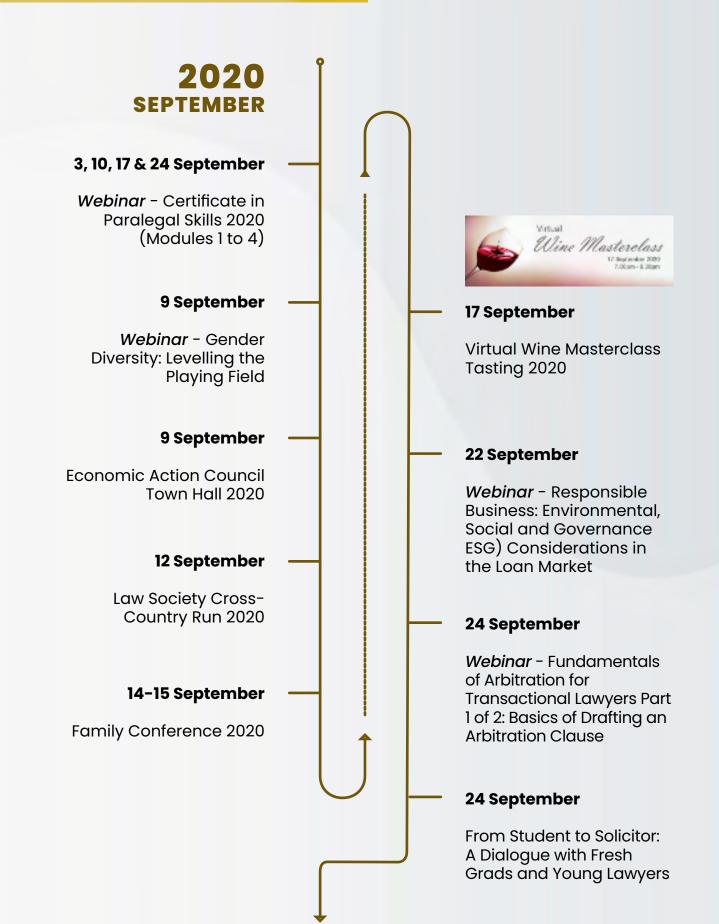
In Year 2020, Secretariat appointed an outsourced audit firm, RSM Risk Advisory Pte Ltd to conduct internal audit reviews on various work processes over a 3-year term.

The audit work scope covered the following:

FY	Review Areas
2020	Procurement, Expenditure, Payment & Banking, Fixed Assets (Renovation), Financial Reporting
	HR & Payroll
2021	Membership Administration, Revenue & Receipts, E-Shop
	Personal Data Protection Management
2020	Investments
	GST Controls Review

During the reporting year, the Committee assisted in reviewing a new Whistle Blowing Policy as well as helped put in place a Tender Policy to facilitate large purchases where applicable. Secretariat will continue to implement, monitor, evaluate and improve internal controls in both procurement and financial processes. YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR PEOPLE



THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

OUR PEOPLE

# 2020 OCTOBER

#### 1 October

Webinar - Fundamentals of Arbitration for Transactional Lawyers Part 2 of 2: Key Considerations in Drafting Arbitration Clauses

#### 1, 8, 15 October

1, 8 & 15 October Hybrid Webinar -Certificate in Paralegal Skills 2020 (Modules 5 to 7)

#### **5 October**

Young Lawyers' Forum 2020

#### **6 October**

Webinar - Public International Law & COVID-19 Webinar 4: International Trade & Commerce

#### 7 October

Webinar - Day of Conveyancing Highlights 2020 - Day 2

#### 8 October

Webinar - e-Masterclass: Engaging and Retaining Top Talent



#### 9 October

Preventing Bullying and Harassment in Singapore's Legal Profession - Pledge Signing Ceremony

#### **12 October**

Small Law Firms Committee Practitioners' Virtual Huddle Session

#### 16 October

Webinar - Balancing Accused's Rights with Complainant's Rights in Sexual Assault Trials

#### 23 October

Webinar - e-Masterclass: Intellectual Property Issues Across ASEAN+6

#### 23 October

Webinar - Achieving a Secure and Flexible Work Environment

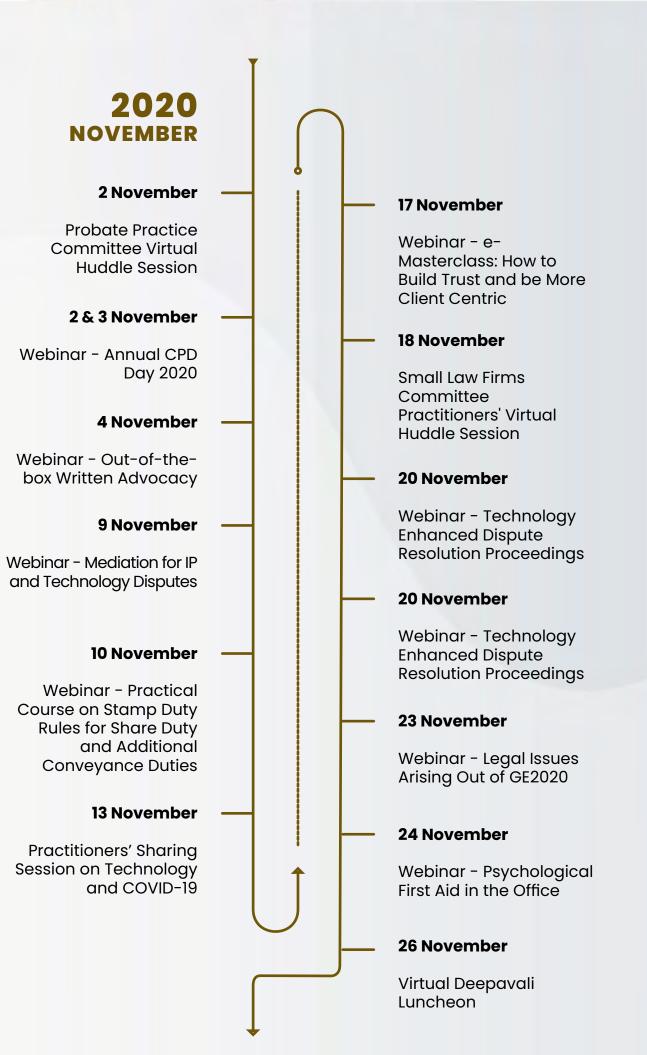
#### 27 October

Annual General Meeting

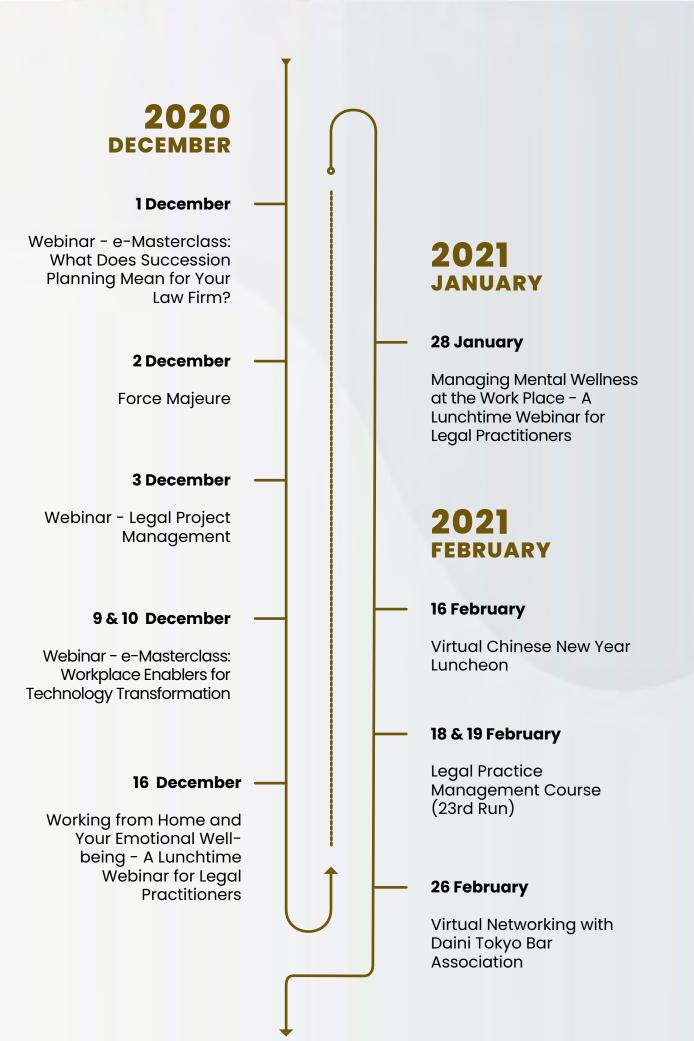
#### **30 October**

Annual Election of Council

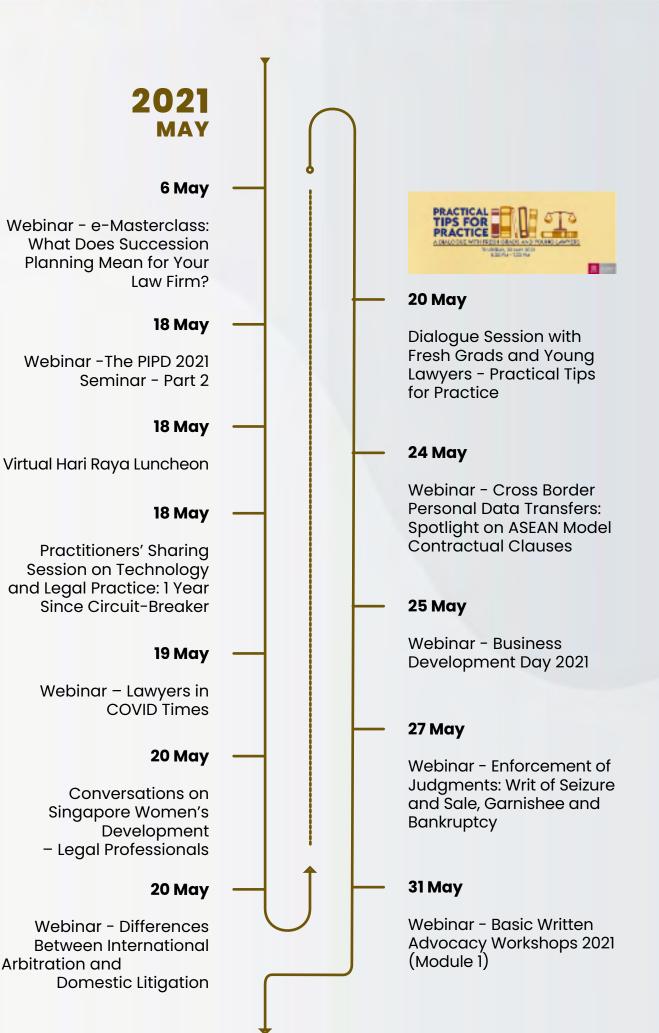
OUR PEOPLE



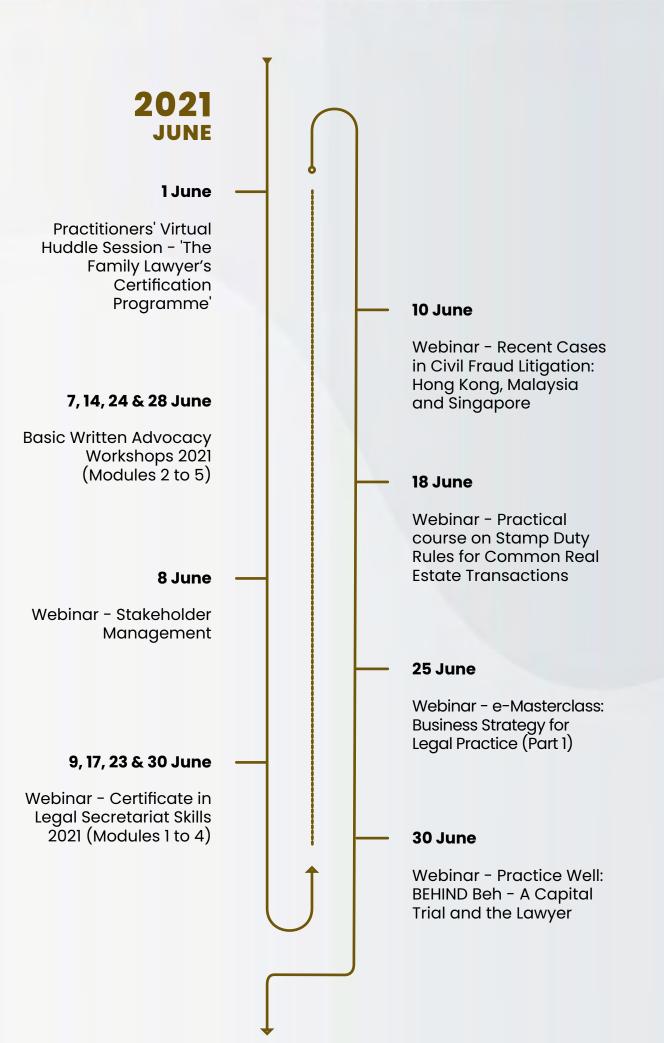
OUR PEOPLE

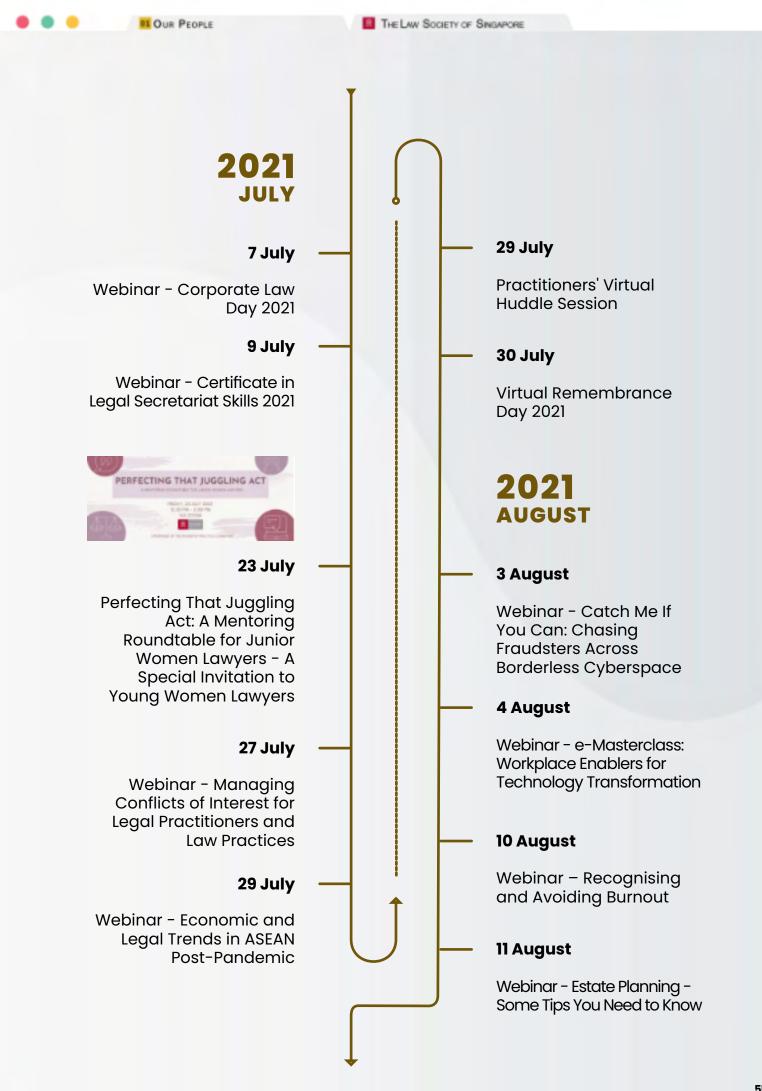


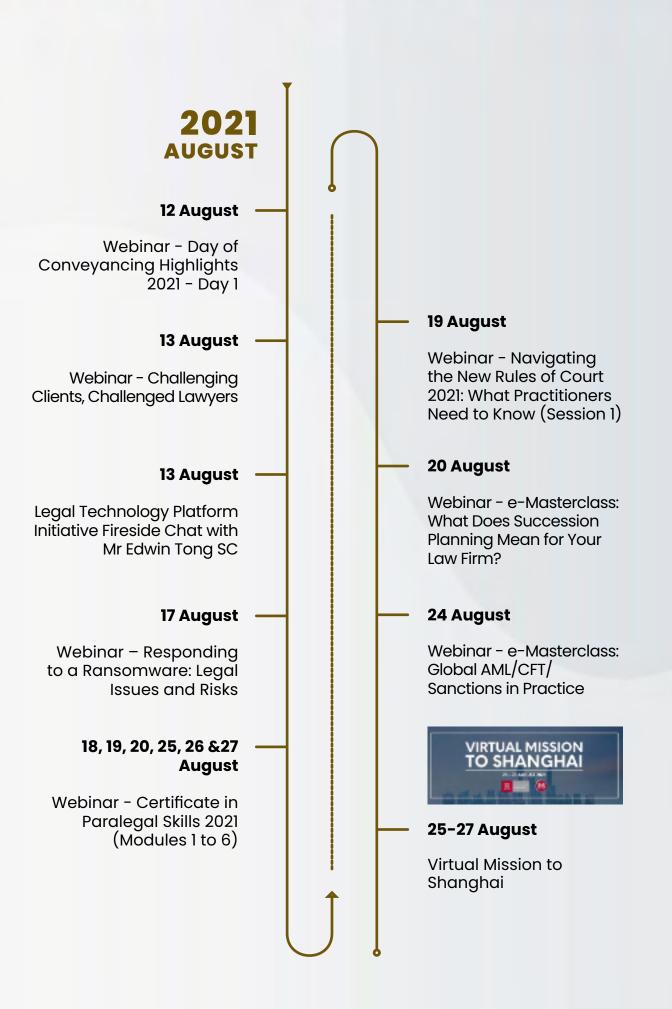


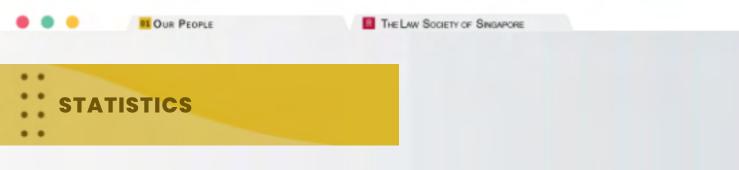












## As at 31 August 2021

## **Profile of Practitioners**

## No. of Practitioners in Last Five Years

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. Of Practitioners	5,191	*5,365	5,920	5,955	6,333

## Years in Practice Based on Date of Admission in 2021

Year	< 5 years	5 to 15 years	> 15 years
2021	2,214	1,690	2,429

## Gender

Year	Male	Female
2021	3,595	2,738

## \*Corrigendum:

Our Annual Report 2018 listed the number

of male and female lawyers as at 31 August 2018 as follows:

Male: 2,274

Female: 3,062

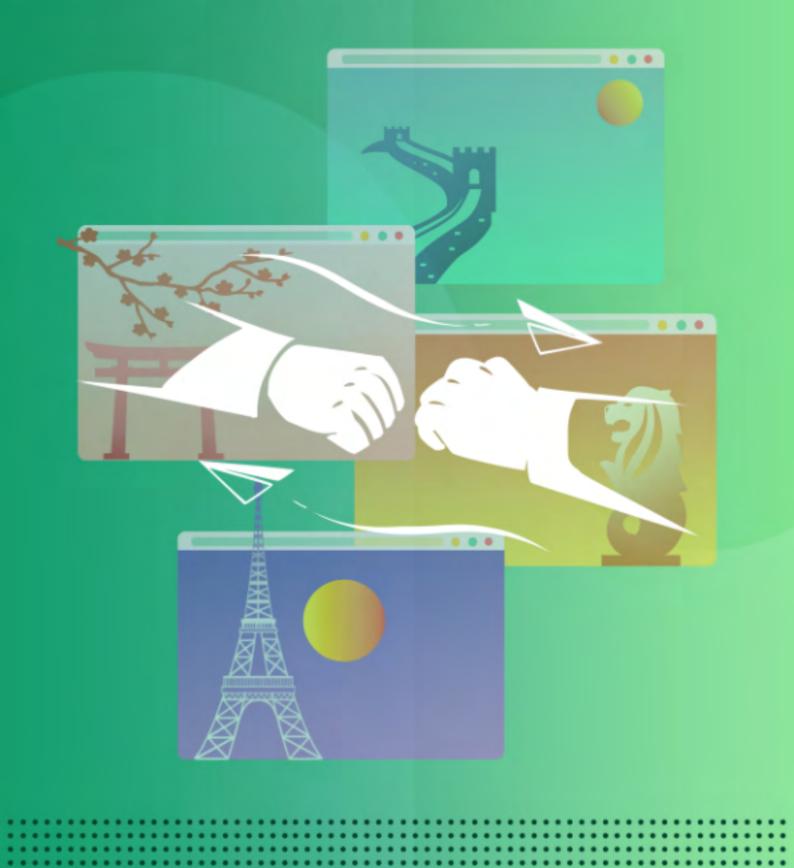
This was an error. The accurate figures as at 31 August 2018 are:

Male: 3,071

Female: 2,294

We apologise for the error.

# **2 CROWING OUR PRACTICE**



# ADVOCACY

#### Samuel Chako, Chairperson

The Advocacy Committee of the Law Society of Singapore consists of 21 members drawn from the junior, middle and senior categories of the profession. Its primary focus is to provide advocacy training for practitioners.

# Hybridization of Part B Advocacy Workshops

Continuing to utilize technology for advocacy teaching of Part B students.

With a pool of over 100 trainers, the Committee conducts the Advocacy Workshops for law graduates undertaking the Part B course held by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education. The advocacy trainers are either practising lawyers or judicial officers with at least 5 years of active advocacy experience.

As a result of the pandemic, part of the Advocacy Workshops were held

Persuasion	2015
What is the story you are intending to tell?     Master your facts	
Consider the evidence     How are you going to tell your story?	
Organisation of facts     Witness line up	
Plan the Examination-In-Chief     Plan the Cross-Examination	
<ul> <li>Consider the points for Re-Examination</li> </ul>	

Co-Vice Chairperson of the Advocacy Committee, Mr Darrell Low, speaking during the Part B Advocacy Lecture 2020

on the Zoom platform. These workshops involved applications for or the discharge of an injunction, summary judgment as well as pleas in mitigation.

Alongside integrating virtual advocacy into the Part B Advocacy Workshops, we have also continued to add to our pool of trainers and ran an intensive 1.5 day training programme for new advocacy trainers at end-May 2021.

To ensure consistency and quality in the teaching of advocacy, the Committee also conducted the yearly Advocacy Teachers' Refresher Course in July 2021 with a focus on teaching advocacy through online platforms.

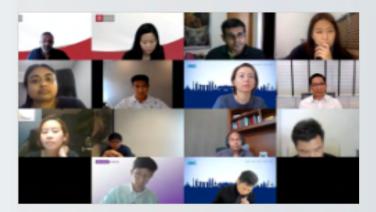
# Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – Advocacy Training

Maintaining local and international training standards and enhancing advocacy skills

As part of the Committee's CPD efforts, a range of training programmes were held aimed at enhancing both the oral and written advocacy skills of practitioners. The Basic Written Advocacy Workshops 2021 consisted of five modules held across 4 weeks and was well attended with over 400 participants per module.

#### **CPD – Advocacy Trainers**

Since 2017, 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 and the Bar Council of Malaysia. In 2021, we were invited to send a few of our senior trainers to teach on these overseas advocacy programmes through



One of the breakout rooms during the Advocacy Teachers Training Course 2021

online platforms. This is a continued testament to the teaching expertise of our advocacy trainers and their standing in the international legal community.

This expertise is built upon through sending a number of our senior trainers to attend advanced advocacy courses conducted in Australia and actively ensuring that our trainers are kept up to date on any developments in teaching methodology.

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

Khelvin Xu Cunhan

#### **Committee Members**

Samuel Chacko -Chairperson

Goh Siong Pheck Francis – **Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Liow Wang Wu Joseph – Co-Vice-Chairperson

Darrell Low Kim Boon – **Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Koh Choon Guan Daniel – **Council Representative** 

Amardeep Singh s/o Gurcharan Singh Anthony Yvette Loretta Chelva Retnam Rajah, SC Chenthil Kumar Kumarasingam Harish Kumar s/o Champaklal Kim Shi Yin Kyle Gabriel Peters Lam Kuet Keng Lim Lei Theng Nair Suresh Sukumaran Narayanan Sreenivasan @ N Sreenivasan, SC Ramesh Bharani s/o K. Nagaratnam Samuel Wee Choong Sian Tan Yi Yin Amy Teng Po Yew

Secretariat Representative Jean Wong

#### ALTERNATIVE

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Chong Yee Leong, Co-Chairperson Chia Chor Leong, Co-Chairperson

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADR Committee) presents its report for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (Reporting Period). Information regarding the ADR Committee's key activities and projects during the Reporting Period is as follows:

# Law Society Arbitration Scheme (LSAS) and Law Society Neutral Evaluation and Determination Scheme (LSNEDS)

The ADR Committee comprises 2 Sub-LSAS/Arbitration Committees, Sub-Committee **LSNEDS** and Sub-Committee, each focusing on different initiatives. The LSAS/Arbitration Sub-Committee is planning to collaborate with arbitral institutions to organise arbitration courses. In addition, the Sub-Committee is reviewing and updating the protocols and/or rules for LSAS.

The LSNEDS Sub-Committee is part of a working group to establish Law Society Neutral Evaluation Scheme (LSNES) in Family Law matters. The advantages of the neutral evaluation process under the LSNES are that parties are provided with a neutral assessment of the merits of their legal position while not permanently saddled with the result. This, hopefully, would facilitate an amicable settlement of the disputes. Alternatively, the parties also have the option of asserting their rights through the formal dispute resolution processes. Additionally, the Sub-Committee is reviewing and updating the protocols and/or rules for LSNEDS.

The Sub-Committees (together with Mediation Committee) are planning to co-organise a webinar on virtual hearing advocacy in the fourth quarter of 2021. The webinar will feature the different approaches in a virtual arbitration or mediation. The Sub-Committees are working to finalise the details of the Webinar during the Reporting Period and publicity materials will be circulated in due course.

# 2) Fundamentals of Arbitration for Transactional Lawyers (Webinar)

The Webinar was divided into 2 on parts; Part l was held 24 September 2020 and Part 2 was held on 1 October 2020. In Part 1, the speakers critiqued and commented arbitration several sample on provisions to illustrate the basic principles of drafting an arbitration clause and key issues to consider. In Part 2, the speakers covered issues such as arbitrability and multi-tiered dispute resolution clauses.

# 3) The Future of Successful Alternative Dispute Resolution depends on Online Dispute Resolution (SCW Webinar)

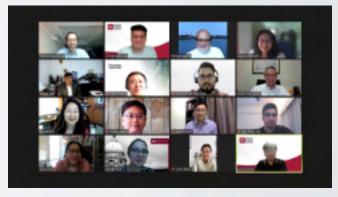
The SCW Webinar is jointly organised by the ADR Committee and Mediation Committee. The SCW Webinar will be held on 9 September 2021, in conjunction with the Singapore Convention Week (SCW). The SCW is a series of events related to dispute resolution to be held from 6 to 10 September 2021. This includes the inaugural UNCITRAL Academy, which is jointly organised by the Singapore Ministry of Law and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and various events organised by the supporting organisations. The publicity materials will be circulated in due course.

# 4) Dialogue Session with Family Justice Courts (FJC) and State Courts

The ADR Committee attended dialogue sessions with the FJC in March and April 2021 to discuss and fine-tune the processes for LSNES. Additionally, the ADR Committee had a dialogue session with the State Courts to present on LSNEDS and proposed for the LSNEDS to be included in the State Courts' Practice Directions.

## 5) Other Initiatives

The ADR Committee continues to promote and develop the LSAS and LSNEDS. The ADR Committee also continues to engage with various stakeholders to explore the opportunities to collaborate. The ADR Committee is excited to share that the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) microsite featuring the various ADR schemes under the Law Society has been launched.



Members of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

## **Committee Members**

Chong Yee Leong -Co-Chairperson

Chia Chor Leong -**Co-Chairperson** Syahrul Bahiah Binti Jamaludin -**Vice-Chairperson** 

Ng Lip Chih -Council Representative

Arul Andre Ravindran Saravanapavan Chan Min Jian Choo Hao Ren, Lyndon Chui Lijun Farrah Joelle Isaac Heng Gwee Nam Henry Kenneth Koh Tze Wei Kimarie Cheang Xiao Pin (Zheng Xiao Pin) Koh Boon Hao, Samuel (Xu Wenhao)

Lai Ying Ling, Jenny

Lee Wei Han Shaun

Lin Shumin

Margaret Joan Ling Wei Wei (Margaret Leng Wei Wei)

Mubin Shah Ramazan

Rengarajoo s/o Rengasamy Balasamy

Tan Pang Leong, Nicholas

Tan Wei Ming

Teh Guek Ngor Engelin, SC

Wong Soon Peng Adrian

Yong Ying Jie

Secretariat Representative

Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

## **CIVIL PRACTICE**

Kronenburg Edmund Jerome, Co-Chairperson Tan May Lian Felicia, Co-Chairperson

The Civil Practice Committee (the Committee) presents its report for the period of 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (the Reporting Period). In addition to its regular ongoing work, the Committee's key activities and projects during the Reporting Period were as follows:

### 1. Litigation Conference Workshop 2021

The Litigation Conference was held in a hybrid event format this year on 22 and 23 April 2021 with more than 100 participants attending in person at the Marina Bay Sands and about 1000 participants attending remotely. This was the Law Society's first in-person CPD event since the COVID-19 pandemic began. It was part of a conference series organised by the Committee since 2013, which alternates between workshop and conference formats each year. This year's workshop event looked ahead at the imminent changes to the legal landscape in light of the Civil Justice Reforms and provided participants with opportunities to hone their litigation skills and engage in robust debate. The President of the Law Society, Gregory Vijayendran SC, welcomed participants to the conference, and Minister for Community, Culture and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Edwin Tong SC, delivered the keynote address. In his address, Minister Edwin Tong SC announced updates on the status of the Civil Justice Reforms and highlighted developments in litigation financing as well as the creation of a Legal Technology Platform to support Singapore law practices.

Key topics covered during the two-day conference included the following:

a. Summary of Proposed Changes;

b. Approach to Successful
 Transitioning;

c. Modern (Online) Litigation Practice: Collecting and Organising Evidence;

d. Modern (Online) Litigation Practice: Understanding, Preparing and Presenting Your Case Part 1&2;

e. The Single Interlocutory Application: New Considerations;

f. Expert Evidence: Party, Joint and the Future; and

g. Trial and Appellate Advocacy

The conference comprised general sessions consisting of a panel discussion or lecture and in-person workshop sessions. The speakers and trainers comprised Supreme Court Judges, Senior Counsel and other senior members of the Singapore Bar.

Overall, the Conference was a resounding success.

# 2. Webinar Series in August and September 2021 on the New Rules of Court

Further to the success of the Litigation Conference Workshop 2021 and the impending implementation of the new Rules of Court in end-2021, the Committee is working with the CPD Committee in organising further training sessions for the legal profession in relation to the new Rules of Court in August and September 2021.

A series of 6 webinars (details below) organised under the banner "Navigating the New Rules of Court 2021: What Practitioners Need to Know" track the chapter numbers in the 2018 draft of the new Rules of Court, with an added focus on one or more chapters within each group of chapters. The final webinar is essentially a Q&A session.

The webinars are being conducted by volunteer trainers (Senior Counsel and experienced litigation practitioners) largely based on the draft 2018 Rules of Court as amended or clarified by announcements and reports since that draft was released, including material from the latest Civil Justice Commission report and speeches given by Minister Edwin Tong SC. This is because the final version of the new Rules of Court has not been released to-date.

Session	Date
Webinar #1 - Chap 1-4 (Overview)	Thursday, 19 August 2021
Webinar #2 – Chap 5-8 (Case Conference/ Discovery)	Friday, 27 August 2021
Webinar #3 – Chap 9-12 (Evidence)	Friday, 3 September 2021
Webinar #4 - Chap 13-15 (Appeals)	Friday, 10 September 2021
Webinar #5 – Chap 16 – Annex 1 (Wrap Up)	Friday, 17 September 2021
Webinar #6 - Any Burning Questions?	Friday, 24 September 2021

# 3. Dialogues and Engagements with the Courts

The Committee continues to engage with the Supreme Court Registry, the Ministry of Law and other key stakeholders in dialogue sessions to further the interests of the Civil Bar.

During the Reporting Period, the Committee attended regular dialogues with the Supreme Court and the State Courts Civil Registries either in person or remotely, to discuss topics relating to Civil Practice (including the Civil Justice Reforms), the remote hearing initiatives, the asynchronous paper hearing processes, and also to exchange feedback about court practice in general.

# 4. Feedback and Consultations with Stakeholders

# Pre-Action Protocol for Businessto-Business Debt Claims (the Protocol)

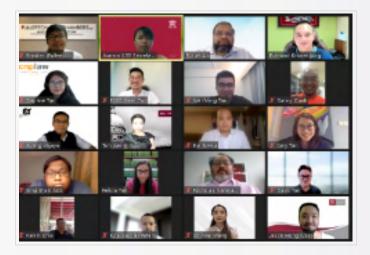
The Protocol was first published as an amendment to the State Courts Practice Directions on 26 August 2019 and revised on 27 March 2020 to take into account the feedback provided by Law Society through consultations and via a written submission to the State Courts on 28 January 2020. In June 2021, the Law Society submitted further feedback on the Protocol based on user experience since its implementation. The Law Society's further feedback advocating for the abolishment of the Protocol (with inputs from the Civil Practice Committee, along with

other Committees) was submitted to the State Courts on 26 July 2021.

On 29 July 2021, the State Courts issued Practice Directions Amendment No. 5 of 2021, stating that with effect from 2 August 2021, the Practice Directions will be amended to effectively abolish the Protocol.

#### **5. Other Consultations**

The Committee has also continued to engage with the relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Law and the Supreme Court in consultation sessions to provide feedback on Civil Practice Matters on a regular basis.



Members of the Civil Practice Committee

## **Committee Members**

Kronenburg Edmund Jerome -Co-Chairperson

Tan May Lian Felicia -**Co-Chairperson** 

Ang Hsueh Ling Celeste -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Yeoh Kar Hoe Richard -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Nicholas Jeyaraj s/o Narayanan -Council Representative (March to August 2021)

Seah Zhen Wei Paul -Council Representative (September 2020 to March 2021)

Allister Brendan Tan Yu Kuan

Ashok Kumar Rai

Brinden Anandakumar

Chan Hian Young

Chia Swee Chye Kelvin

Daphne Francesca Tan

Davis Tan Yong Chuan

Eusuff Ali s/o N B M Mohamed Kassim

Hsu Sheng Wei, Keith

Joanna Seetoh Wai Lin

**Kyle Gabriel Peters** 

- Lim Wei Loong lan
- Michelle Lee Ying-Ying
- Nirmala Ravindran
- Quah Wei Sheng, Danny
- Siraj Shaik Aziz
- Suang Wijaya
- Tan Wee Kio Terence
- Tan Wei Ming
- Tan Yi Yin, Amy
- Toh Wei Yi
- Wang Shi Mei
- Yeo Teng Yung, Christopher
- Yeoh Jun Wei, Derric

## **Secretariat Representative**

Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL

• DEVELOPMENT

#### Raeza Ibrahim, Chairperson

Over 70 programmes were organised by the Society from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, attracting over 19,500 participants.

In view of the COVID-19 situation and safe attendant distancing SILE the measures, extended claiming of Public CPD Points via webinars until 31 December 2021. With this in mind, the Society began planning for CPD activities to be delivered via webinar, face-to-face and hybrids of the two. While risky, there is a need to start taking small steps towards resuming form of face-to-face activities. Law Society's first ever hybrid event - Litigation Conference Workshop, was organised in April 2021.

However, the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation caused much disruption for planned in-person workshops. As of the time of this report, all CPD activities planned for 2021 will be delivered via webinar to ensure minimal disruption to members' CPD journey.

#### **COVID-19 Response**

Free webinars for all Law Soc Members to upskill for the upturn.

As part for the Law Society Extraordinary Relief Package, the period for waiver of registration fees for webinars was extended from 15 Feb to 30 June 2021. Webinars held during this period (where applicable and relevant) were with Public CPD Points, allowing members to fulfil their requirements for CPD Year 2021.

#### **Programme Highlights**

The CPD Committee, alongside the various practice committees, continues to develop and deliver a diverse range of programmes to cater to the different categories of our members. In light of the mental health focus for this year, work is in progress for an on-demand Well-Being programme, jointly developed with College of Law, Australia. Risk Management continues to be a key area of training for our members and adding on to the existing programmes will be the on-demand AML e-learning programmes.

Some programme highlights include:

#### **Topical Programmes:**

- Balancing Accused's Rights with Complainant's Rights in Sexual Assault Trials on 16 October 2020
- Out-Of-The-Box Written
   Advocacy on 4 November 2020
- Directors' Responsibilities and Climate Change under Singapore Law on 14 April 2021
- To Arbitrate or Litigate, That is the Question! on 20 May 2021
- Cross Border Personal Data
   Transfers: Spotlight on ASEAN
   Model Contractual Clauses on 24
   May 2021
- Catch Me If You Can on 3 Aug 2021

### **Practice Well Programmes:**

- Psychological First Aid on 24 November 2020
- Building Blocks for Success:
   Wellbeing at the Heart of Your
   Practise on 11 March 2021
- Lawyers in COVID Times on 19
   May 2021
- Practice Well: Behind Beh A
  Capital Trial and the Lawyer on
  30 June 2021
- Recognising and Avoiding Burnout on 10 August 2021



Participants' view during plenary session for the programme, "Annual CPD Day" on 2 & 3 November 2020



Plenary session during Litigation Conference Workshop on 22 & 23 April 2021 at Marina Bay Sands

#### Marquee CPD Programmes:

- Family Conference on 14 & 15 September 2020
- Day of Conveyancing Highlights on 7 October 2020
- Annual CPD Day on 2 & 3
   November 2020
- Litigation Conference Workshop 2021 on 22 & 23 April 2021
- PIPD Seminar on 28 April and 18 May 2021
- Basic Written Advocacy Programme in June 2021

## **Moving Forward**

### The New Normal

Working with the practice committees of the Law Society, the Committee will continue to develop and roll out inperson and online programmes of relevance to our members. The Committee will also 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 high quality and cost effective services to our members, to meet the demands of the mandatory CPD scheme and to encourage the development and diversity of every members' professional development journey.

Raeza Khaled Salem Ibrahim -Chairperson

Malcolm Tan Ban Hoe – Vice-Chairperson

Abhinav Ratan Mohan – Council Representative

Ang Leong Hao (Hong Lianghao) Angela Lim Ai Lian Chan Chee Yin Andrew Chng Jiahui, Audrey Edward Stanley Tay Wey Kok Gregory Xu Weicheng Lee Seungmin Loo Chuan Shen, Don Mary-Anne Shu-Hui Chua Mohamad Rizuan Bin Pathie Pang Keep Ying, Joey (Peng Jirong) Rai Vijay Kumar Ramachandran Doraisamy Raghunath Song Ruoh Jin Tan Guan Ling, Charlotte Thanjit Kaur Sekhon Wong Li Ming Rachel **Secretariat Representative** Jean Wong

#### **CONVEYANCING PRACTICE**

#### Lee Liat Yeang, Chairperson

This report is for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

The Conveyancing Practice Committee (the Committee) presents its report for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (Reporting Period). The Committee's key activities and projects for the Reporting Period are set out below:

# 1) Requests to the Committee for Guidance, Direction or Ruling

In accordance with the Law Society's Practice Direction 2.1.3 (formerly PDR 2013, para 62), the Committee continues to assist members in disputes settling in respect of conveyancing transactions and/or providing guidance on customary conveyancing practice which may be unclear. The Committee established a Queries Panel (comprised of 5 senior conveyancing practitioners) to review the queries received and to provide timely response to the members. Within the first half of year 2021, 10 queries were referred to (and responded by) the Queries Panel while the Secretariat assisted to respond to 13 queries.

# 2) The Law Society of Singapore's Conditions of Sale 2020

In line with the Law Society's initiatives to promote mediation and following the introduction of the Insolvency, **Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018** (IRDA), the Committee undertook the initiative to review the Conditions of 2012. The edition Sale new of Conditions of Sale, known as "The Law Society of Singapore's Conditions of Sale 2020" (COS 2020) was published in November 2020. The amended conditions are as follows:

i. Condition 9.5 – include reference to loss of mental capacity;

ii. Condition 9.6 – increase the notice period to "at least 7 clearBusiness Days";

iii. Condition 10.2 – reflect the changes brought about by the IRDA in respect of the relevant time period; and

iv. Condition 16 – include a new condition to encourage parties to resolve disputes through mediation (Law Society Mediation Scheme).

On 15 December 2020, the Committee issued an explanatory note on Condition 10.2 of COS 2020 that was circulated via Jus News.

# 3) Day of Conveyancing Highlights2021 (Webinar)

As part of the Committee's annual flagship event, the Committee had organised the "Day of Conveyancing Highlights 2021" for the 10th consecutive year. The Webinar was held via 2 halfday sessions on 12 August 2021 and 1 September 2021, and aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge on the latest developments in conveyancing practice.

# 4) Practical Course on Stamp Duty Rules for Common Real Estate Transactions (Course)

The Committee jointly organised the Course with the Stamp Duty Branch of Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS). The Course was conducted as a webinar on 18 June 2021. The Course equip aimed to conveyancing with practical professionals and applicable stamp duty knowledge so that they can navigate today's increasingly complex stamp duty landscape with greater confidence.

#### 5) Dialogue Sessions and Consultations

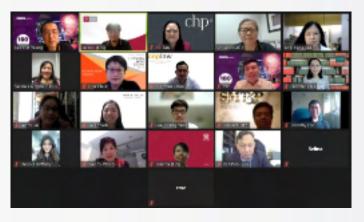
On 3 November 2020, the Committee together with representatives from the Family Law Practice Committee attended a dialogue session with the Housing and Development Board to discuss practice issues affecting the Conveyancing Bar. On 1 June 2021, the Committee together with construction specialist lawyers attended a feedback session with Urban Redevelopment Authority's Controller of Housing (COH) on the proposed amendments to Part 8C of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act.

Between December 2020 and January

2021, the Committee shared its views on Singapore Land Authority's consultation on the removal of voids in the calculation of strata area in a strata unit. In March 2021, the Committee provided feedback to COH's consultation on the timeline for purchasers to pay the instalments of purchase price due under the Sale and Purchase Agreement for uncompleted properties. In April 2021, the Committee provided response to Council for Estate Agencies' consultation on contract templates for rental and resale transactions.

#### 6) Other Initiatives

During the Reporting Period, a dispute was referred to the Law Society Expedited Adjudication Scheme. After reviewing the parties' submissions, the Adjudicator issued a determination in December 2020.



Conveyancing Practice Committee 2021

#### **Committee Members**

Lee Liat Yeang - Chairperson

Selina Chin Bau Tze -Vice-Chairperson

Chan Pengee Adrian -Council Representative

Ang Keng Lee Chew Mei Choo Chia Hsien Lin Jennifer Chua Lei Kwan Lina Mary Chua Shang Chai (Cai Shang Cai) Chuang Keng Chiew Haryadi Hadi Lai Ying Ling Jenny Lee Lai Yong Ivan Athanasios Lee Pin Wen Karin Loh Kent Shin, Timothy Tan Ching Chern Tan-Goh Song Gek Alice **Teo Eng Thye** Vivian Kuok Ming Koong Wong Mei Yoke Wendy Nee Leong Yeoh Oon Weng Vincent Yeo Hoon Gek @ Yang Bisuen **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

## **CORPORATE PRACTICE**

### Low Kah Keong, Chairperson

During the reporting period of 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, the Corporate Practice Committee's (the Committee) activities included the following:

#### **1. Courses and Seminars**

On 7 July 2021, the Committee jointly organised the Corporate Law Day 2021 with the Singapore Academy of Law. The webinar addressed two main themes: (1) how technology might transform legal practice and (2) the relevance of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) to corporate lawyers. The aim of this landmark CPD event was to equip corporate law practitioners with the relevant knowledge and skillset to live and work in these volatile times. The webinar was graced by The Honourable Judge of Appeal Steven Chong with a keynote address from

Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Mr Edwin Tong, SC.

#### 2. Feedback and Consultations

The Committee has provided feedback to the Singapore Exchange Regulation (SGX) in May 2021 on its public consultation exercise pertaining to the proposed introduction of a primary listing framework for Special Acquisition Companies (SPACs) in Singapore, to list on the Mainboard of Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX-ST).

#### 3. Dialogues

The Committee attended dialogue sessions with ACRA on 4 September 2020 and 27 July 2021 to discuss issues encountered in the area of corporate law and to be apprised of the new initiatives and policies introduced by ACRA. The Committee also actively supports ACRA on an ongoing basis by providing feedback on corporate law and policy changes.



Members of the Corporate Practice Committee

Low Kah Keong -Chairperson

Farhana Ahmed Sharmeen -Vice-Chairperson

Chan Pengee Adrian -Council Representative

Abdul Jabbar Bin Karam Din Chen Jianhao Kennedy Denise Sara Bryan Huang Yen San Petrus Jeremiah Huang WeiQuan Kao Kwok Weng Jonathan Kwok Shuhui Lau Yan Wai Sarita Misir Sharon Wee Hsu Oon Sing Faith Joy Tong Wei Min Raymond William John Jamieson Wong Li Ming Rachel Yuen Pei Lur Perry **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021)

#### COURT PRACTICE CHAIRPERSONS

Lim Seng Siew, Co-Chairperson Michael S Chia, Co-Chairperson

The Court Practice Chairpersons' Committee (the Committee) coordinates the work of practice committees involved with the State Courts and Family Justice Courts. During the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (the Reporting Period), the Committee was involved in the following key activities and projects:

#### **1. Practitioners' Virtual Huddle Sessions**

In view of the COVID-19 situation, the Committee co-organised virtual huddle sessions (to replace the regular luncheon sessions held at the State Courts Bar Room) with the Small Law Firm Committee on 12 October 2020, 18 November 2020, 1 March 2021, 1 June 2021 and 29 July 2021. These sessions enabled members to interact virtually with fellow members, and discuss the latest practice developments and issues that impact the profession.

Some of the topics discussed include the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act and developments in restructuring and insolvency the sphere; litigation financing: legalities and commercials; changes to the Lasting Power of Attorney forms and practices and the first reported Vulnerable Adults Act case; practice and procedure of filing a Judicial Management application and the issues that commonly arise in the Judicial Management application and process; and the Family Law Therapeutic Justice Certification Programme.

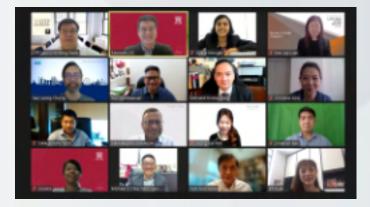
#### 2. Dialogue Meetings with the Courts

A key part of the Committee's role is to engage the Courts to ensure an open line of communication between the judiciary and members of the profession. During the Reporting Period, the Committee attended a total of 4 dialogue sessions with the State Courts and the Family Justice Courts (on 13 January, 1 March, 29 March and 27 April 2021). Topics discussed include feedback on court protocols and practices arising out of the changing circumstances presented by COVID-19 as well as opportunities for collaboration with the Courts on and promotion of the Law Society's Arbitration, Mediation and Neutral **Evaluation Schemes.** 

After a year-long engagement with the Family Justice Courts, on 15 June 2021, the Law Society Mediation Scheme was included into the Family Justice Courts Practice Directions and post-writ cases could referred to the Law Society.

The Committee also met with the Supreme Court twice (on 3 March and 7 April 2021) to explore President's suggestion on creating "a list of green-lighted jurisdictions" regarding the permissibility of videolinked evidence being taken from different jurisdictions. An internal working group has been formed and continues to review the suggestion to create a proposed list of greenlighted jurisdictions.

The Committee is also reviewing and preparing a Position Paper on the jurisdictional issue of overlaps between the Civil Courts and Family Justice Courts' jurisdictions where there was a potential third party's claim to an alleged matrimonial asset such that a separate set of proceedings may have to be commenced in the Civil Courts while the matrimonial proceedings were stayed.



Members of the Court Practice Chairpersons Committee

Lim Seng Siew -Co-Chairperson

Michael S Chia -Co-Chairperson

Chia Boon Teck -

**Council Representative** 

Sunil Sudheesan -Council Representative

Samuel Chacko -Chairperson, Advocacy Committee

Chia Chor Leong -Co-Chairperson, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

Chong Yee Leong -Co-Chairperson, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

Edmund J Kronenburg -Co-Chairperson, Civil Practice Committee

Tan May Lian, Felicia -Co-Chairperson, Civil Practice Committee

Wong Hin Pkin Wendell-Co-Chairperson, Criminal Practice Committee

Kee Lay Lian -

Co-Chairperson, Family Law Practice Committee and Co-Chairperson, Probate Practice Committee

Wong Kai Yun -Co-Chairperson, Family Law Practice Committee Jonathan Kao -

Chairperson, Information Technology Committee

Kuah Boon Theng SC -

**Co-Chairperson, Mediation Committee** 

Lim Tat -

**Co-Chairperson, Mediation Committee** 

K Anparasan -

Chairperson, PIPD Committee

Renuka Chettiar -Chairperson, PIPD Committee

Goh Kok Yeow -

Chairperson, Probate Practice Committee

Dierdre Grace Morgan -

Chairperson, Young Lawyers Committee

Tham Keng Yue Gerald -

Chairperson, Young Lawyers Committee

**Secretariat Representative** 

Ting Lim (until March 2021)

Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### **CRIMINAL PRACTICE**

#### Wendell Wong, Chairperson

This report for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

The Criminal Practice Committee (the Committee) received heartening feedback that members of the Criminal Bar continued to adapt to changes in the mode of conduct of trials, hearings and mentions. The courts understood ability to take that counsel's instructions from clients may also be affected at times when clients are physically present in court but counsel was attending the said hearings (for example, "Plead Guilty" Mentions or Appeals) via videoconferencing. Post-sentence issues also arose when imprisonment terms were meted out or if appeals were being considered. The courts understood that the inability of lawyers to be physically present with their clients could affect the taking of instructions and have a bearing on perceptions of the administration of justice. In some instances, the courts allowed counsel's request to be physically present with their client.

In the reporting period, the Committee continued its engagement with stakeholders from the courts and government agencies, addressing matters of concern to criminal practice and various issues affecting criminal practitioners.

#### 1) Committee Meetings

In view of the public health situation in the country, all Committee meetings during the reporting period were conducted via video-conferencing.

On 7 December 2020 the Committee held its year-end meeting for 2020, looking back on an eventful year and gearing up for its 2021 projects. Among other matters, the Committee discussed the proposed Office of the Public Defender and the sentencing document the Ministry of Home Affairs intended to release to the general public in 2021. The Committee held its kick-off meeting for 2021 on 19 February 2021 and considered urgent matters facing the Criminal Bar such as updates to the Criminal Case Disclosure Conference procedure and allegations made by clients against defence counsel handling LASCO cases.

On 27 May 2021, the Committee held its midyear meeting and addressed the prospect of joint training with DPPs, the announcement by the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) that DPPs will no longer cite unreported cases and the subcommittee set up to draft a paper on the death penalty.

#### 2) Meetings and Dialogues

29 September 2020: The Committee held a fruitful dialogue with the State Courts bench to highlight issues to facilitate the smooth conduct of trials, such as witnesses giving evidence via video-link, transparency of sentencing tariffs and access to counsel in the midst of a pandemic.

21 January 2021: The Committee held a dialogue session with the AGC on the conduct of prosecution, disclosure obligations under both case law and the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as confidentiality of solicitor-client correspondence with accused persons in prison. In light of the Ministerial Statement on Parti Liyani, the Committee suggested a "circuit breaker" if matters became heated in court, a suggestion which was favourably received by the AG.

**1 February 2021:** A Tripartite Crime Dialogue was held among the Committee, the High Court bench and the AGC on proposed updates to the CCDC timelines and the Judges Pre-Trial Conference checklist. In addition, the Committee requested that to ensure the current batch of trainees received the real court experience, the court could consider relaxing the 2-counsel rule. The Court said it might be possible in larger courtrooms.

<u>5 February 2021</u>: The first dialogue of the year with the State Courts bench was a productive one with the Committee and the State Courts bench discussing operational issues such as the efficient handling of PG cases, the appropriate time to fix an adjournment if an accused person has applied for Criminal Legal Aid and the recent involvement of Senior Prosecuting Officers to assist at PTCs.

30 July 2021: The third dialogue with the State Courts falling within the reporting period was constructive, with the Committee updating the State Courts bench about procedural developments in the conduct of criminal cases and the sharing State Courts feedback about logistical issues during Zoom.

Aside from the above, the held Committee several Zoom meetings for the Committee's subcommittee work and other closed discussions door session with stakeholders.

#### 3) Town Halls

**24 November 2020:** At a virtual town hall for the Criminal Bar, the Committee Chair updated defence lawyers on the various dialogue sessions the Committee held with the judiciary, Prisons and the AGC. The Committee Chair also updated the Defence Bar on the proposed Criminal Procedure Rules, the updated CCDC process and the JPTC checklist.

11 March 2021: During the reporting period, a second town hall was held for the Criminal Bar. Among the items discussed were the Criminal Bar's views on the CCDC flowchart and the JPTC checklist, an update on the judiciary's comments on how the Defence may conduct its mitigation in sexual offences and allegations made by some accused persons on defence counsel's conduct of LASCO matters.

### Adjusting to Practice in the Time of COVID-19

<u>Surveys on practice</u>: During the reporting period, the Committee participated in several surveys including a questionnaire from the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers as well as a survey from the Singapore Judicial College on how to improve court hearings during COVID-19 and beyond.

Internships: The Criminal Bar continued its Crim Bar Internships programme within the constraints of the safe management measures imposed by the government. The Committee received a record number of applications during the current reporting period. The Committee looks forward to a greater number of offering practices internship law places for students.

<u>Social events</u>: There were no social events during the reporting period as the Committee made sure to abide by the social distancing rules in place.

#### **Committee Members**

Wendell Wong -Chairperson

Suresh Damodara -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Chenthil Kumar Kumarasingam -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Ng Huiling Cheryl -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Simran Kaur Toor -Council Representative

Sunil Sudheesan -**Council Representative** Ashwin Ganapathy Chia Ru Yun Megan Joan Derek Kang Yu Hsien **Eoon Zizhen Benedict** Gopinath s/o B Pillai Harjeet Kaur Dhaliwal Ho Jun Yi J Jayaletchmi Johannes Hadi Josephine lezu Costan K Nair Chandra Mohan Lam Kuet Keng Steven John Lulla Ammar Khan Malcolm Tan Ban Hoe Muntaz binte Zainuddin Navin Shanmugaraj Thevar Nakoorsha bin Abdul Kadir Paul Cheong Yuen **Raphael Louis** Siraj Shaik Aziz Sui Yi Siong Tham Lijing

Secretariat Representative Rejini Raman

#### CYBERSECURITY

AND DATA PROTECTION

#### Lim Sui Yin Jefferey, Chairperson

The reporting period (1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021) was another busy period for the Committee.

The Committee spearheaded various timely initiatives to promote greater cybersecurity resilience and improved data protection practices within the profession.

1) In September 2020, the Committee contributed to the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore's (IMDA) celebration of the Privacy Awareness Week (PAW) 2020, by holding a webinar focussed on data breach notifications, data portability and enhancements to the consent regime. The webinar was attended by Data Protection Officers (DPOs) and in-house counsel as well as members of the Law Society.

2) In 2021, the IMDA brought the annual PAW event forward in the calendar year to May 2021. The Committee contributed to PAW 2021 by organising a joint webinar on "Cross Border Personal Data Transfers: Spotlight on ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses". The webinar was held on 24 May 2021 with speakers, Yeong Zee Kin' and Daniel Choo<sup>2</sup> as well as the Chairperson of Cybersecurity and the Data Protection Committee, Jeffrey Lim. Co-Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Amira Nabila Budiyano (Associate Director, Gateway Law Corporation) moderated the panel discussion.

3) The Committee remains conscious of the need for data protection and cybersecurity mechanisms to be updated, particularly as members are continuing to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, the Committee continues to consider additional topics to be included in the next iteration of the cybersecurity guide following the launch of the first edition of the guide in mid-2020.

4) With the rise in incidences relating to ransomware affecting members of the Singapore legal profession, the Committee, in late 2020, in collaboration with the Information Technology Committee, commenced a research project on ransomware the issues faced by legal and practices. As a result of the research, the Committees organised and held a webinar on 17 August 2021 on Responding to Ransomware: Legal Issues and Risks.

Speakers for the webinar included Veronica Tan<sup>3</sup> and Glenn Seah<sup>4</sup> as well as Benjamin Gaw, member of the Information Technology Committee and Jansen Aw, member of the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Committee. Co-Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Jeremy Lua (Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright (Asia) LLC), moderated the panel discussion.

An article will be published in the Law Gazette in September 2021 following the webinar. The Committee wishes to express its gratitude towards the various government agencies and other organisations partner for their continued support. With the advice of Council and the support of the Committee will Secretariat, the continue to look into initiatives to support Law Society members.

<sup>1</sup> Yeong Zee Kin is Assistant Chief Executive (Data Innovation and Protection Group), Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA); Deputy Commissioner, Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC).

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Choo is Senior Legal Counsel and Privacy Responsible (Asia Pacific), Bruker Singapore Pte Ltd, Treasurer and Director, Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Limited (SCCA).

<sup>3</sup> Veronica Tan is Director, Cybersecurity Agency of Singapore

<sup>4</sup> Glenn Seah is Managing Director and Head (Legal, Compliance and Corporate Secretariat), Singapore Exchange Limited (SGX).

Lim Sui Yin Jeffrey -Chairperson

Amira Nabila Budiyano – **Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Lua Limain Jeremy – Co-Vice-Chairperson

Pang Keep Ying Joey (Peng Jirong) – **Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

David Nesaratnam Alfred – Co-Vice-Chairperson

Ng Lip Chih – Council Representative

Avinderjit Singh Aw Jansen Chiam Zhi Wen, Nick Chui Lijun

Goh Chee How, Lanx Kao Kwok Weng Jonathan (Gao Guorong) Lee Kher Sheng Leow Jiamin Lim Kian Kim Lim Seng Siew Maheswari Rani d/o Krishna **Os Agarwal Ow Shi Jack** Tay Yew Choon **Toh Angyan Alex** Yeo Nadia **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### **FAMILY LAW PRACTICE**

Kee Lay Lian, Co-Chairperson Wong Kai Yun, Co-Chairperson

For the reporting period of 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, the Family Law Practice Committee (the Committee) had 10 monthly Committee meetings and has been involved in the following activities:

#### 1. Task Groups

In the spirit of an all-inclusive approach to participation in the work of the Society, Committee members were assigned to task groups and worked on various projects. Some of the key tasks were to provide feedback to:

i. the Law Society Pro BonoServices on the Family JusticeSupport Scheme;

ii. the Ministry of Social and

Family Development (MSF) on adoption policies and processes, and pre-divorce support portal;

iii. the Ministry of Law on the Legal Tech Platform Focus Group;

iv. the Courts' Transformation and Innovation Office on their proposed technological initiatives;

v. the High Court on Third-Party Rights (i.e. proposed simplification of the process when starting concurrent suits in the Family Justice Courts and the High Court); and

vi. the Family Justice Courts (FJC) on Therapeutic Justice, Lit-Assist, Codified Orders Repository, revamp of the Family Justice Rules, remote hearing measures, and pre- and post-writ ADR options (i.e. the expansion of the Law Society Mediation and Neutral Evaluation schemes to cover Family cases).

#### 2. Member Engagement

The Committee sought to promote member engagement, through the following:

i. created the Family Law Byte e-Newsletter and dedicated Family Law mailing list to keep the Family Bar informed on the latest updates related to Family Law;

ii. organised 3 virtual engagementsessions with the Family Bar onTherapeutic Justice in December2020; and

iii. co-organised a virtual huddlesession with the Small Law FirmsCommittee on "TJ Certification"on 1 June 2021.

#### 3. Dialogue Meetings with the FJC

The Committee continues to engage in regular dialogue meetings with the FJC to receive updates and to provide feedback on matters pertaining to practice, procedure and access to justice. During the reporting period, the Committee participated in 6 dialogue meetings.

#### 4. Consultations

On 30 March 2021, the Committee provided a submission to MSF's Public Consultation on the "Amendment to Adoption of Children Act" the Currently, the Committee is preparing its response to another MSF consultation on "How to Better Support Children and Divorcees, and Reduce Acrimony in Divorce".

#### 5. Legal Assistance

Committee members continue to provide free legal advice at various venues/occasions/organisations, including:

1. Catholic Lawyers Guild Pro Bono Legal Clinic;

2. Community Club Management Committee;

- 3. Community Justice Centre;
- 4. Law Society Pro Bono Services' Law Awareness Week;
- 5. Legal Aid Bureau;

- 6. SAFRA Legal Clinic;
- 7. Singapore Council of Women's Organisations;

GROWING OUR PRACTICE

8. The Family Court Legal Clinic; and

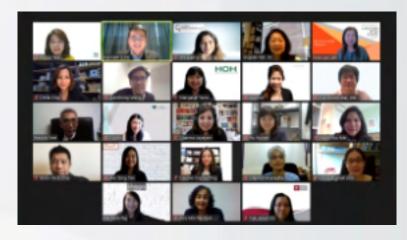
9. Within the constituencies, such as the Ayer Rajah-West Coast Constituency and Toa Payoh-Bishan Constituency, in the likes of West Coast Meetthe-People Sessions.

#### **6. Family Conference**

Following the successful Family Conferences in 2018, 2019 and 2020, the Committee is co-organising the fourth Family Conference on 28 and 29 September 2021 together with the Probate Practice Committee and the Muslim Law Practice Committee of the Law Society.

This year's Family Conference, themed "Big Questions in a Small World: International in Issues Singapore Family Practice", organised in a live webinar format, seeks to

explore the multi-faceted challenges posed by the cross-border issues presented in family law practice. The Conference also aims to delve into the unique challenges and opportunities presented to the family lawyer in Singapore today in the pursuit of the ongoing pivotal therapeutic justice in family disputes. These include exploring whether and how this translates to new mindsets and enhanced skillsets in separate sessions focusing on courtroom advocacy, mediation advocacy and the crafting of nuptial agreements and settlements respectively; and giving a bird's eye view of the various alternative dispute resolution options available for family disputes in various jurisdictions compared to the offerings in Singapore.



Family Law Practice Committee 2021

Kee Lay Lian -Co-Chairperson

Wong Kai Yun -**Co-Chairperson** Mirchandani Poonam Lachman -**Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Teh Guek Ngor Engelin, SC -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Chia Boon Teck -Council Representative

Anuradha d/o Krishan Chand Sharma Chan Yu Xin Cheong Zhihui Ivan Debbie Ooi Yu Ting Dharmambal Shanti Jayaram Gill Carrie Kaur Halijah Binte Mohamed

Hoon Shu Mei, Sumanthi (Hong Shumei) Hu Huimin Hui Choon Wai Kannan Nadarajan Kanyakumari d/o Veerasamy Lai Ying Ling Jenny Linda Joelle Ong Ng Yu Hui Michelle Seet Pek Hian Harold Shereen Hergobind Goklani Tan Hui Qing Wang Liansheng Yee May Kuen Peggy Sarah Yeow Tin Tin Margaret **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY

# Kao Kwok Weng Jonathan (Gao Guorong), Chairperson

The reporting period (1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021) was another busy period for the Committee.

During the reporting period, the Committee focussed on better supporting members on IT-related issues and engaged in the following key activities:

In 2020, the TechLaw.Fest ran from 28 September 2020 to 2
October 2020. The Committee contributed to the TechLaw.Fest by organising a networking session held on 28 September 2020. The session was titled "Transforming Mindsets: How SmartLaw Guild
Firms are Embracing
Technology". There were 94
attendees during the session with Vice-Chairperson of the Committee Heng Jun Meng acting as emcee.

 On 13 November 2020 and 18 May 2021, the Committee held virtual practitioner sharing sessions with about 10 to 15 members in attendance. The sessions were 45 minutes in length and groups were kept small to ensure each participant was able to feel comfortable sharing their experiences. The subject of sharing during the sessions related to how members were coping with the remote working arrangements brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee plans to hold further sharing sessions in the course of 2021.

After a long period of discussion and drafting in 2020, on 15 February 2021, Committee published The Law Society of Singapore's Guidance Note 3.15.1 on the "Use of E-Mail Correspondence".

• On 21 April 2021, members of the Committee participated in a consultation discussion organised by the Ministry of Law regarding their Legal Technology Platform.

 With the rise in incidences relating to ransomware affecting members of the Singapore legal profession, the Committee, in late 2020, in collaboration with the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Committee, commenced a research project on ransomware and the issues faced by legal practices. As a result of the research, the Committees organised and held a webinar on 17 August 2021 on "Responding to Ransomware: Legal Issues and Risks".

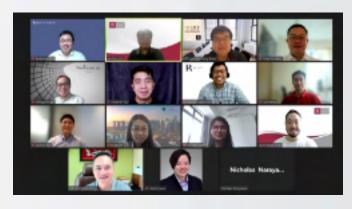
Speakers for the webinar included Veronica Tan<sup>1</sup> and Glenn Seah<sup>2</sup> as well as Benjamin Gaw, member of the Information Technology Committee and Jansen Aw, member of the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Committee. Member of the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Committee, Jeremy Lua (Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright (Asia) LLC), moderated the panel discussion.

An article will be published in the Law Gazette in September 2021 following the webinar.

In addition to the Committee activities, the Committee engages with stakeholders such as the Singapore Academy of Law, the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University, on an ongoing basis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Veronica Tan is Director, Cybersecurity Agency of Singapore

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Glenn Seah is Managing Director and Head (Legal, Compliance and Corporate Secretartiat), Singapore Exchange Limited (SGX)



Information Technology Committee 2021

Kao Kwok Weng Jonathan (Gao Guorong) -**Chairperson** 

Heng Jun Meng – Co-Vice-Chairperson

Kelly Ho Chye Hoon – Co-Vice-Chairperson

Seah Zhen Wei Paul – Council Representative (1 September 2020 – 14 March 2021)

Nicholas Narayanan – Council Representative (15 March 2021 – 31 August 2021)

Benjamin Cheong Mun Khein

Chan Yu Meng

Gaw Ying Charn Benjamin

Hwang Soon Ae

Kronenburg Edmund Jerome

Kylie Peh Ying Zhi
Leow Jiamin
Lim Mingguan
Lim Seng Siew
Lim Sui Yin Jeffrey
Lim Tianjun
Os Agarwal
Pang Keep Ying Joey
Peh Nam Chuan Adrian
Pranay Arvind Suryavanshi
Sadasivan, Dharma Yongwen
Foo Yu Kang, Wilson (Fu Yukang)
Wong Hur Yuin
Yau Yin Ting Xenia
Zachary Cher-Ping Ng

#### **Secretariat Representative**

Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### **INSOLVENCY PRACTICE**

# Sushil Sukumaran Nair, Chairperson

The Insolvency Practice Committee was constituted on 26 February 2021. During the reporting period of 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, the Insolvency Practice Committee (the Committee) sought to advance the practice area of insolvency law.

1) Involvement in INSOL Virtual Conference 2021: The second INSOL Virtual Conference 2021 by INSOL International was held on 8 to 10 June 2021. Members Patrick Ang and Ashok Kumar were speakers in the sessions on "When the well runs dry - A look at directors' and officers' duties and liabilities in COVID", and "Day to day -What's affecting the Asia Pacific" respectively. The Conference brought senior practitioners from together across the insolvency and restructuring sector to discuss, exchange knowledge, share insights and allowed participants to connect with other attendees on topics of interest.

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.

3) Meeting with the Supreme Court and IPAS: Chairperson Sushil Nair, Vice-Chairperson Sim Kwan Kiat, members Patrick Ang, Ashok Kumar and Andrew Chan attended a Zoom meeting with Judges from the Insolvency docket and representatives of IPAS on 27 August 2021, as part of Supreme Court's continuing conversations with insolvency practitioners and stakeholders.

4) Sharing at the Small Law Firms Committee's Practitioners Virtual Huddle Sessions: Member Ashok Kumar shared on the following at the virtual huddle sessions organised by the Small Law Firms Committee on 12 October 2020, 18 November 2020 and 29 July 2021 respectively:

 Highlights of the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act (IRDA) and developments in the Restructuring and Insolvency Sphere;

• Litigation Financing: Legalities and Commercials; and

 Practice and procedure, issues that commonly arise in a Judicial Management application and the positions that can and are typically taken by different stakeholders in a judicial management situation.

**5) Consultations:** Chairperson Sushil Nair, members Patrick Ang, Ashok Kumar and Manoj Pillay who are representing the Law Society on IPAS Board of Directors, were consulted on the guide for the conduct of applications for moratoria under the IRDA 2018 issued by the Supreme Court.

### 6) Ministry of Law Simplified Insolvency Programme: Chairperson Sushil Nair and

some members were consulted on the Simplified Insolvency Programme, established to assist eligible micro and small companies to restructure their debts or wind up the company in an orderly manner and commenced on 29 January 2021.



Members of the Insolvency Practice Committee

Sushil Sukumaran Nair -Chairperson

Sim Kwan Kiat -Vice-Chairperson

Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin -Council Representative

Ang Peng Koon Patrick

Ajinderpal Singh

Balakrishnan Ashok Kumar

Chan Chee Yin Andrew

Cheng Yu Ning Teri

Kenneth Koh Tze Wei

Kenneth Lim Tao Chung (Kenneth Lin Daocong)

Manoj Pillay Sandrasegara

Mohan Gopalan

Ng Hui Ping Sheila

Quah Wei Sheng, Danny

Tay Yu Xi (Zheng Yuxi)

Tham Wei Chern

Tiong Yung Suh Edward

Secretariat Representative Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

- INTELLECTUAL
- PROPERTY PRACTICE

# Foong Yew Cho Jonathan, Chairperson

The Intellectual Property Practice Committee (the Committee) focuses on supporting Intellectual Property (IP) practitioners in the different areas of IP practice. The Committee is divided into 5 subcommittees as follows:

- i. Trade Marks;
- ii. Patents;
- iii. Enforcement;
- iv. Design and Copyright; and
- v. Emerging Issues.

For the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (the Reporting Period), the Committee engaged in the following activities:

#### 1) Feedback and Consultations

The Committee has, through the course of the Reporting Period, actively participated in consultations to provide feedback on various initiatives. The Committee has, in consultation with its Design and Copyright, Trade Marks and Patents Sub-Committee, provided feedback on the following Ministry of Law (MinLaw) and Intellectual Property Office of Singapore's (IPOS) public consultations:

i. Proposed Changes to Simplify and Streamline IP Processes and Improve User Experience with Digital Initiatives (September 2020);

ii. Copyright (Excluded Work) Order (October 2020); and

iii. Proposed Copyright Bill (April 2021).

# 2) Webinar on Mediation for IP and Technology Disputes

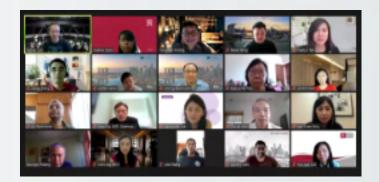
On 9 November 2020, the Committee jointly organised a webinar on Mediation for IP and Technology with the Mediation Disputes Committee and the World Intellectual Property Organisation Arbitration and Mediation Center (WIPO ADR). The webinar had discussed how alternative dispute resolution could assist in resolving IP disputes and provided an overview of mediation in the new normal as well as WIPO ADR for IP and technology disputes.

# issues that affect the practice in general. The Chairperson of the Committee had attended the IPOS Roundtable in October 2020 to discuss the promotion of Singapore as a preferred venue for the resolution of international IP and Technology, Media and Telecommunications disputes.

While many of the Committee's proposed dialogue sessions with external stakeholders have been placed on hold due to the COVID-19 situation, the Committee remains committed to resuming regular dialogue sessions as soon as practicable once conditions improve.

#### 3) Dialogue Meetings

The Committee aims to contribute towards the development of the legal regime and practice of IP law in Singapore by engaging in regular dialogues with the Courts, MinLaw, IPOS and other stakeholders, either through informal tea sessions or correspondence on hot-button



Intellectual Property Practice Committee

Foong Yew Cho Jonathan -Chairperson

Boo Yee Swan -Vice-Chairperson Koh Choon Guan Daniel -Council Representative

Cheng Xin En, Mark Chew Heng Hwang (Zhou Henghuang) Ferzana Fareen Haq George Bonaventure Hwang Jevon Louis Kang Poh Sing Jason Lam Chung Nian Lee Su Yee Leow Jiamin Lim Ying Sin Daniel

Meryl Koh Junning Moi Sok Ling Murgiana Haq Ng Chee Weng Max Pang Sze Ray, Melvin Ravindran s/o Muthucumarasamy Samuel Wee Choong Sian See Siew Heok Jo-Ann Soh Kar Liang Tan Kee Leng Tan Lin Yin, Gladys Teng Hin Weng, Mark Wang Zheng, Just **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

# **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

# Thio Shen Yi, SC Chairperson

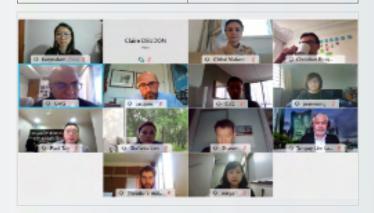
During the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, the Law Society hosted a visit by the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Singapore – His Excellency Kakhramon Shakirov on 9 March 2021.

# Fostering Relationships with Overseas Bar Associations

To promote and strengthen the relationship with the overseas bar associations during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Law Society organised and participated in the following events:

Date	Event
23 October 2020	Meeting with Paris Bar Association
27 to 30 November 2020	17th China- ASEAN Expo (online)

1 December 2020	Meeting with Sabah Law Society
22 to 23 April 2021	Tashkent Law Spring
30 April 2021	Conference: Unveiling of new collaboration projects between Singapore and Paris Bars
4 June 2021	Meeting with Paris Bar Association
12 to 13 July 2021	Virtual Exhibition at the FutureChina Global Forum 2021
8 July 2021	Meeting with International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA)



Meeting with Paris Bar Association

#### Lawyers Go Global and COVID-19

Launched in April 2018, Lawyers Go Global (LG2) is an initiative aimed at connecting Singapore legal expertise with overseas opportunities, through overseas missions, trainings as well as branding and marketing. The Committee regularly gives inputs to the LG2 team, and many members of the committee participated in the overseas Missions.

Members who are interested in participating in "Lawyers Go Global" programme can contact the Law Society's LG2 team at goglobal@lawsoc.org.sg for more information.

Despite the pandemic, the LG2 team continued its work of preparing lawyers for regionalisation in a post-COVID world. A webinar on Economic and Legal Trends in ASEAN Post-Pandemic was organised.

In lieu of physical missions, virtual networking events with foreign bar associations were organised. As travel restrictions continued to be in force at the time of writing this report, the team will explore organising virtual missions for members to build and sustain relationships with the counterparts in foreign Bars. For the virtual mission, Shanghai had been selected. The events planned are set out below:

Date	Event
30 November 2020	Virtual Networking with Guangdong Lawyers Association, China
26 February 2021	Virtual Networking with Daini Tokyo Bar Association, Japan
1 April 2021	Virtual Networking with Aichi Bar Association, Japan
25 to 27 August 2021	Virtual Mission – Shanghai, China



Virtual networking with Daini Tokyo Bar Association

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

The Committee also assisted Council to plan and coordinate the OLY programme, including the Presidents' roundtable dialogue.



Presidents' Roundtable

#### 2022

As we look forward to 2022 to a new post-pandemic normalization, the Committee is pleased to inform that Law Society will be hosting the "Presidents of Law Associations of Asia" Conference (POLA). POLA is a gathering of leaders of bar associations in Asia to discuss issues pertinent to the legal profession.

In 2020, Law Society forwarded a letter of support to International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) to host its 2022 Congress in Singapore. The Committee is pleased to report that AIJA had decided to host its 2022 Congress in Singapore. IRC will be working with our Young Lawyers Committee to support AIJA during the event.

#### **Committee Members**

Thio Shen Yi, SC -Chairperson

Kronenburg Edmund Jerome -Vice-Chairperson

Yeoh Jun Wei Derric -Council Representative

Anthony Yvette Loretta Chen Chi Denise Sara Bryan

Farrah Joelle Isaac

Gloria James-Civetta

Hsu En Chieh @ Annia Hsu

Jeremiah Huang WeiQuan

K Nair Chandra Mohan

Lam Ghin-Hoe Joel

Leo Zhi Wei (Liang Zhiwei)

Nanthini d/o Vijayakumar

Raeza Khaled Salem Ibrahim

Ramachandran Doraisamy Raghunath

Rengarajoo s/o Rengasamy Balasamy

Shenn Tan

Sing Faith Joy

Tan Kee Ming, Glen

Tan Pang Leong, Nicholas

Tang Si Yin Cynthia Elizabeth (Chen Siyin)

Tham Wei Chern

Thanjit Kaur Sekhon

Tran Le Luu Phuong

Yap Chin Choo Juliana

Yee May Kuen Peggy Sarah

Yee Mun Howe Gerald

Yuen Pei Lur Perry

**Secretariat Representative** 

Shawn Toh

# MEDIATION

# Kuah Boon Theng, SC Co-Chairperson Lim Tat,

Co-Chairperson

The Mediation Committee (the Committee) is focused on the promotion of mediation as an expedient and efficient form of alternative dispute resolution as well as the provision of training and guidance to mediators. The Committee comprises 2 Sub-Committees: Activities and Law Society Mediation Scheme (LSMS).

For the period of 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (the Reporting Period), the Mediation Committee engaged in the following key activities and projects:

#### 1) Law Society Mediation Scheme

The Committee is tasked with oversight and promotion of the LSMS, which has seen steady growth in take-up since its launch in 2017 and received a surge of applications subsequent to the signing of the Singapore Convention on Mediation on 7 August 2019.

Reporting During the Period, the Committee has continued to pursue opportunities to raise the profile of the cross-committee working LSMS. Α group was also formed with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADR Committee) and Family Law Practice Committees to work towards including the specialist family law Panel of Mediators as one of the service providers for Court directed private mediation in the Family Justice Courts (FJC). On 2 June 2021, the FJC issued Practice Direction Amendment No. 1 of the 2021, which included the LSMS as a private mediation option (alongside the Singapore Mediation Centre) for parties in proceedings that meet the FJC's criteria.

The Committee is pleased to report that the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) microsite featuring the various ADR schemes (including schemes for family disputes) under the Law Society has also been launched. The Committee is also actively engaged in internal discussions to streamline the LSMS process and operations.

# 2) Law Gazette Article on Mediations conducted via Video-conference (Article)

One of the key findings of a survey conducted by the Law Society of Singapore from 15 to 31 July 2020 showed that more than 77% of lawyers prefer to have mediations conducted in-person. At the same time, less than 2% of the lawyers polled preferred to have mediations conducted in a hybrid mode (i.e. a mix of in-person video-conference). and via The Committee reviewed the survey results and subsequently an Article reporting on the findings was finalised and published in the Iaw Gazette (September 2020 edition).

# 3) Webinar on Mediation for Intellectual Property Disputes

The Committee has engaged with representatives of the Intellectual Property Practice Committee and World Intellectual Property Organization to collaborate on a webinar discussing mediation in the context of intellectual property disputes. The webinar was held on 9 November 2020.

# 4) Singapore Convention Week Webinar on 9 September 2021 (Webinar)

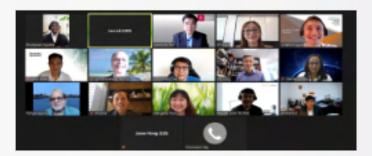
The Committee is working with the ADR Committee to organise this Webinar, in conjunction with the Singapore Convention Week (from to 10 6 September 2021). The Webinar will be conducted in a debate format where the debaters will put forth their arguments for and against the proposition that the "Future of Successful ADR depends on Online Dispute Resolution".

## 5) Collaboration with the ADR Committee on a Virtual Hearing Advocacy Webinar

The Committee has engaged with the ADR Committee to co-organise a webinar on virtual hearing advocacy that is to be held on 21 October 2021. The webinar will serve to act as a training platform for members, but also to showcase the Law Society's ADR schemes, including the LSMS.

### 6) Dialogues

Co-Chairpersons Kuah Boon Theng and Lim Tat represent the Committee on the Law Society Court Practice Chairpersons' Committee, which plays an important role in engaging with the Courts to maintain an open line of communication between the judiciary and members of the profession. During the Reporting Period, the Co-Chairpersons participated in dialogue sessions with the State Courts and the Courts discuss Family Justice to opportunities for the provision of mediation services under the LSMS, as well as to provide feedback on court protocols and practices arising out of the changing circumstances presented by COVID-19.



Members of the Mediation Committee

#### **Committee Members**

Kuah Boon Theng, SC -Co-Chairperson

Lim Tat -Co-Chairperson

See Chern Yang -Vice-Chairperson

Low Ling Yi, Christine -Council Representative

Arul Andre Ravindran Saravanapavan Bhargavan Sujatha Charmaine Yap Yun Ning Chettiar Kamalarajan Malaiyandi Chia Chor Leong Goh Choong Sien, Aloysius Kwek Yiu Wing, Kevin Liew Yik Wee Rengarajoo s/o Rengasamy Balasamy Renuka Chettiar Sandhu Viviene Kaur Sundareswara Sharma Tan Shien Loon Lawrence Yeow Tin Tin, Margaret Yuen Djia Chiang, Jonathan **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### **MUSLIM LAW PRACTICE**

Ahmad Nizam Bin Abbas, Co-Chairperson Abdul Rahman Bin Mohd Hanipah, Co-Chairperson

For the reporting period of 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, the Muslim Law Practice Committee (the Committee) was active in the following initiatives:

#### **1. Family Conference**

Building on the success of past Family Conferences, the Committee with Family together the Law Practice Committee and the Probate Practice Committee co-organised the third Family Conference in the form of webinar on 14 and 15 September 2020. Co-Chairperson Abdul Rahman and member Norhakim were members in the Organising Committee of the Conference. The fourth Family Conference was scheduled for 28 and 29 September 2021.

## 2. Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) Monthly Legal Clinics

Members of the Committee continue to volunteer and assist in the provision of legal advice to members of the public at the SCWO's monthly legal clinics, with the sessions conducted via Zoom during the COVID-19 situation.

## 3. Dialogues and Engagement with the Syariah Court

Some Committee members participated and attended the following sessions organised by the Syariah Court:

a. Syariah Court's system
design validation workshops on
27 October 2020, 24 November
2020, 6 January 2021 and 23 April
2021 to provide inputs for
refinements to its new system.

b. Sharing session organised on
4 December 2020 via Zoom
where the Syariah Court shared
on its recent and upcoming
developments.

c. Stakeholders' engagement, as part of the Syariah Court's service transformation of revamping its website.

d. Virtual Hari Raya gathering, in conjunction with a briefing on the new Syariah Court Portal and the new Inheritance Certificate e-Service on Syariah Court's website on 20 May 2021.

The Committee continues to engage in dialogues with the Syariah Court to share concerns of practitioners.

## 4. Engagement with Majlis Ugama Islam Singapore (MUIS)

Some Committee members attended the following sessions:

a. Consultation session on WakafMasyarakat Singapura (WMS) on11 September 2020 to provide inputs

and suggestions on MUIS's initiative of creating an endowment fund for the community's reserves for future generations.

b. In view that the Special Needs Trust Company (SNTC) is working with MUIS to encourage Muslim clients with dependants with special needs to set up trusts, the SNTC organised a lunchtime seminar on 25 March 2021 to introduce its work and explore possible avenues for collaboration.

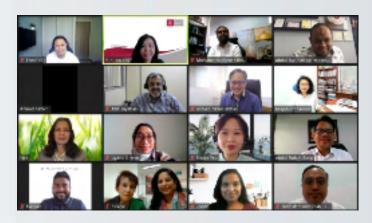
The Committee continues to work with MUIS to identify legal issues on the ground surrounding inheritance of Muslim estates and recommending practical solutions through the harmonisation of Muslim Law with other laws of the land.

### 5. Letter to the Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM)

The Committee received feedback from members and wrote to the ROMM to seek clarification to the law and practice surrounding marriage conditions.

#### 6. Others

In conjunction with the "Conversations on Women's Development" dialogue series by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Committee members Mumtaj Banu and Noor Syuhada were nominated to attend a closed door roundtable discussion with Parliamentary Secretary Rahayu Mahzam on 31 January 2021 to discuss women-related issues specific to the Malay/Muslim community.



Members of the Muslim Law Practice Committee

#### **Committee Members**

Ahmad Nizam Bin Abbas -Co-Chairperson

Abdul Rahman Bin Mohd Hanipah -Co-Chairperson

Norhakim Bin Md Shah -Vice-Chairperson

Abdul Rohim Bin Sarip

Ferzana Fareen Haq

Halijah Binte Mohamad

Haryadi Hadi

Hussein Bin Abdul Latiff

Kannan Nadarajan

Mohamed Fazal Bin Abdul Hamid

Mohammad Rizuan Bin Mohammad Yasin Murgiana Haq Noor Syuhada Mohamad Rafeek Nur Liyana Binte Mohamed Sinwan Renaro Daniel Ezra Bunyamin Saburabi Nila Ibrahim Shabira Banu d/o Abdul Kalam Azad Tayabali Aziz Samiwalla Yeo Nadia

Secretariat Representative Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### PERSONAL INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE

Anparasan s/o Kamachi, Co-Chairperson Renuka d/o Karuppan Chettiar, Co-Chairperson

The Personal Injury and Property Damage Committee (the Committee) presents its report for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. Information regarding the Committee's key activities and projects for the reporting period is as follows:

1. Briefing Session on the Actuarial Tables for Use in Personal Injuries and Death Claims (Actuarial Tables)

The Committee hosted a webinar for the Honourable Justice Quentin Loh to conduct a briefing session that was aimed to assist members' with the familiarisation of the concepts and use of Actuarial Tables to ascertain appropriate multipliers in assessment of damages proceedings. President, Mr Gregory Vijayendran, SC together with the Co-Chairpersons of the Committee delivered the opening address for the webinar. About 730 participants attended the webinar.

#### 2. PIPD Virtual Huddle Session

On 24 March 2021, the Committee organised a PIPD Virtual Huddle Session (Virtual Huddle) which aimed to be an information exchange and feedback session for the PIPD Bar. President, Mr Gregory Vijayendran, SC attended the Virtual Huddle and delivered the opening remarks.

# 3. The PIPD 2021 Seminar (in webinar format)

The seminar was conducted in 2 parts on 28 April 2021 and 18 May 2021 which enabled participants:  to appreciate the usage of technology to make work more efficient;

ii. to better understand what to
look out for when calculating
future loss of earnings, loss of
dependency and inheritance
claims;

iii. to examine, understand and discuss the rationale of the processes, application and advantages of asynchronous hearings and how they could possibly fit in with the new Rules of Court; and

iv. to understand the history leading to the Actuarial Tables in Singapore, its application and the legal issues to consider on its application.

The seminar was graced by the Honourable District Judge Chiah Kok Khun of the State Courts.

#### 4. Dialogues and Consultations

In November 2020, the Committee formed a sub-committee to review the Personal Injury (Claims Assessment) Review Committee report. Following this, the subcommittee provided its provisional feedback to the Court.

In October and December 2020, the Committee attended dialogue sessions with the State Courts and provided feedback on the Registrar's Circulars 11 and 13 of 2020. The Committee also provided feedback on the asynchronous Court Dispute Resolution (aCDR) e-mail templates that the State Courts Centre for Dispute Resolution (SCCDR) (now known as the Court Dispute Resolution Cluster)(CDRC) developed for lawyers' use. These e-mail templates were thereafter circulated to lawyers in January 2021.

On 20 May 2021, members of the

Committee met with the CDRC to exchange feedback on practice issues affecting the PIPD Bar and it was mutually agreed that this will be a continuous engagement. The members also attended a follow-up meeting with the CDRC on 16 July 2021.

On 10 June 2021, the Committee (together with Civil Practice Committee and Small Law Firms Committee) engaged with the SCCDR and Civil Justice Division to exchange feedback on current arrangements and changes in court practice.

In addition to the above, the Committee is also in engagement with the Singapore Academy of Law on:

i. the Intelligent Case RetrievalSystem pilot testing; and

ii. the enhancement of the LawNet subject tree.

#### 5. Other Key Initiatives

The Committee initiated the discussion on the issues relating to giving evidence via video link and these issues were referred to the Council. Following this, a special working group was formed by the Council.

As part of the Committee's appreciation for its members, the Committee started an initiative to purchase birthday gifts for Committee members.

115



Members of the Personal Injury and Property Damage Committee

#### **Committee Members**

Anparasan s/o Kamachi -**Co-Chairperson** 

Renuka d/o Karuppan Chettiar -**Co-Chairperson** Subir Singh Panoo -**Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Teo Weng Kie -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Lisa Sam Hui Min -Council Representative

Abdul Halim Bin Rosalan

Abdul Salim Ahmed Ibrahim

**Constance Margreat Paglar** 

Chee Hui Yen Charlene Clara

Dean Salleh

Jogesh s/o Kantilal Doshi

Kok Yee Keong (Guo Yiqiang) Lim Chui Ling, Catherine **Raj Singh Shergill** Sandhu Viviene Kaur Sekhon Gurdeep Singh Shabira Banu d/o Abdul Kalam Azad Soh Kian Wah, Derrick Tay Boon Chong, Willy Vinodhan Gunasekaran Yek Nai Hui, Roger **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021)

Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

### **PROBATE PRACTICE**

Goh Kok Yeow, Co-Chairperson Kee Lay Lian, Co-Chairperson

The Probate Practice Committee (Committee) has, for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, been actively involved in a variety of activities relating to its remit of being the voice of the Law Society in probate, wills administration as well as succession planning matters. The main activities which the Committee is engaged are as follows:

#### 1) Family Conference

Building on the success of past Family Conferences, the Committee continued its collaboration with the Family Law Practice Committee and Muslim Law Practice Committee to co-organise the Family Conference on 14 and 15 September 2020. Cochairperson Kee Lay Lian and Covice-chairpersons Kanyakumari and Chong Yue-En were members in the Organising Committee of the Conference 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Family Conference 2020 was held in the form of 8 webinars. This year's Family Conference is scheduled for 28 and 29 September 2021 and will also be held in the form of webinars.

#### 2) Webinar

The Committee organised a webinar "Estate Planning – Some Tips to Know" on 11 August 2021. Co-Chairperson Goh Kok Yeow, Co-Vice Chairperson Kanyakumari, members Lim Kian Kim and Tan Shen Kiat were speakers of the seminar together with psychologist(s) from the Singapore Psychological Society.

## 3) Dialogue Meetings with the Family Justice Courts (FJC) and the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)

The Committee continues to engage the FJC through dialogue meetings on 23 November 2020 and 17 May 2021 on matters relating to Rules and Practice Directions with regards to proceedings under the Probate and Administration Act, Mental Capacity Act, Wills Act, and other related

#### legislations.

The Committee also engaged the OPG regarding issues pertaining to the Mental Capacity Act.

### 4) Practitioners Virtual Huddle

The Committee organised its first virtual huddle on 2 November 2020 where attendees were briefed on the work of the Committee, updated on clarifications provided by the FJC relating to Deputyship applications, discussed the new CPF nomination online procedure and provided feedback pertaining to FJC practices, forms and processes.

Co-chairperson Goh Kok Yeow and Co-vice-chairperson Chong Yue-En gave a presentation on the "Changes to Lasting Power of Attorney forms and practice, and the first reported Vulnerable Adults Act case – will our vulnerable elderly be now better safeguarded from the Yang Yins out there?" at the Small Law Firms Committee virtual huddle on 1 March 2021. Representatives from the OPG were also in attendance to present and answer queries on its new OPG Online System (OPGO).

## 5) Meeting with the Singapore Psychological Society

Co-Chairpersons Goh Kok Yeow and Kee Lay Lian, Co-vice-chairpersons Kanyakumari and Chong Yue-En, and member Lim Kian Kim had a meeting with 2 representatives from the Singapore Psychological Society on 14 April 2021 to explore opportunities for possible collaboration between lawyers and psychologists.

### 6) Articles in the Law Gazette

The Committee planned to publish articles in the Law Gazette to remind lawyers of the things that they should or should not do in relation to wills and Lasting Power of Attorney with special consideration on mental capacity. An article on will writing by Co-chairperson Kanyakumari was published in the July issue of the Law Gazette.

## 7) Consultations

The Committee provided feedback for the following:

a. Certificate Issuer Guide for the Lasting Power of Attorney Form 1 (2020) in September 2020, a guide developed by the OPG to improve the service delivery and user experience when making a Lasting Power of Attorney.

 b. Ministry of Social and Family Development's public consultation on the Mental Capacity (Amendment)
 Bill 2020 in November 2020. Following the submission, the Committee was invited to a further discussion with the OPG in January 2021.

## 8) Letter to the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) on Feedback to the Wills Registry

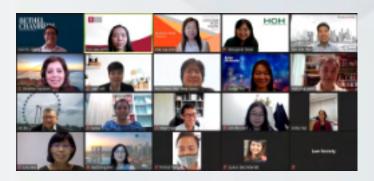
The Committee received feedback from members and wrote to the SAL to provide feedback and made recommendations to the Wills Registry to waive the lodgement fees for registering wills.

## 9) Proposed Meeting with the Association of Banks, Singapore

The Committee has collated a list of issues faced by members for purposes of obtaining Grants of Probate and Deputyship orders, with inputs from the FJC, Legal Aid Bureau and the Insolvency and Public Trustee Office and would be arranging a meeting to discuss the issues with the Association of Banks, Singapore.

## 10) Other Initiatives

- a. National Silver Academy e-Nuggets
   Series Co-vice-chairperson Chong
   Yue-En and member Patrick Tan
   participated in the e-Nuggets series
   live talk on "The Importance of Having
   a Will" on 26 January 2021, which was
   part of the Council for Third Age's
   ongoing efforts to promote e-learning
   for seniors aged 50 and above.
- b. Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) Ask the Expert 6-Part Series to address concerns and queries related to dementia and caring for persons living with dementia – Co-vice-chairperson Chong Yue-En participated in the second episode of the interview: "Planning Ahead – Finances and Legal".



Members of the Probate Practice Committee

Lim Kian Kim

#### **Committee Members**

Goh Kok Yeow – Co-Chairperson

Kee Lay Liani – **Co-Chairperson** 

Kanyakumari d/o Veerasamy – **Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Chong Yue-En – Co-Vice-Chairperson

Marshall Lim Yu Hui – Council Representative

Dharmambal Shanti Jayaram

Hui Choon Wai

Jaclyn Nadine Toh Kar Hing (Du Jiaxin) Lim Shu Fen Loh Qing An Joel Sim Bock Eng Tan Shen Kiat Tan Tse Chia, Patrick Wong Soo Chih Yap Lan Hiang, Vicky Yeo Poh Choo Lisa Yeow Tin Tin, Margaret **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### **PUBLIC AND**

INTERNATIONAL LAW

#### Prakash Pillai, Chairperson

This report is for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

In keeping with this year's Annual Report theme, "Distanced but Connected", the Public and International Law Committee embraced the video-conferencing mode of events, drawing high attendance and receiving very positive feedback from participants and panellists alike.

For the reporting period, the committee organised several important events.

## 1. Public International Law and COVID-19 Webinars

The Committee planned a series of 4 webinars exploring the public international law aspects of the COVID-19 global health situation. The first three webinars were held in the last reporting period. The final webinar, "International Trade &

Commerce" fell during the current reporting period and was held on 6 October 2020. The webinar considered how governmentimposed COVID-19 measures have impacted international trade and commerce in both public and private international law. The speakers were Professor Locknie Hsu from Singapore Management University's School of Law; Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck, SC of TSMP Law Corporation and also Adjunct Professor at the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Law; Minn Niang Oo Managing Director & Partner, Allen & Gledhill (Myanmar); and the Committee's own Matthew Koh, from Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP. The webinar examined whether COVID-19 measures could lead to a State being in breach of its international trade obligations, and how these could in turn lead to trade disputes and dispute settlement proceedings before the World Trade Organisation. The analysed webinar also how

government-imposed COVID-19 measures could impact the ability of private parties to fulfil trade obligations, as well as approaches to resolve such disputes between governments and private individuals.

## 2. Webinar on Legal Issues Arising from GE2020

This webinar took place on 23 November 2020 and examined the constitutional and legal issues arising from Singapore's 2020 General Election, held on 10 July 2020. Dr Kevin YL Tan, Adjunct Professor from the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore and Visiting Professor at Rajaratnam School of the S International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, delivered the keynote address and discussed various issues such as the extension of time to vote, electoral boundaries, the office of the Leader Opposition and of the the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act, or POFMA. Other speakers included Professor Eugene Tan from the School of Law, Singapore Management University; Choo Zheng Xi (Remy) from Peter Low & Choo LLC; and Eugene Thuraisingam from Eugene Thuraisingam LLP. The government participated in the webinar as well with both Minister Edwin Tong and Deputy Attorney-General Hri Kumar contributing actively. The webinar drew a good turnout of over 200 attendees.

## 3. Webinar on Directors' Responsibilities and Climate Change under Singapore Law

On 14 April 2021 the Commonwealth Climate and Law Initiative (CCLI) launched legal opinion a on directors' responsibilities and climate change under Singaporean law (the Singapore Opinion). A panel of legal and business experts discussed the legal opinion drafted by a team of independent counsel led by Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck, SC. The webinar was jointly organised with the National University of Singapore EW Barker Centre for Law & Business and the Law Society of Singapore. The speakers were

Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck, SC; Dilhan Pillay Sandrasegara, Executive Director & CEO, Temasek International; Dr Michael Hwang, SC of Michael Hwang Chambers LLC; Dr Ernest Lim, Associate Professor from the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Law; Sarah Barker, Partner & Head of Climate Risk Governance, MinterEllison; and Ellie Mulholland Director, CCLI.

#### **Committee Members**

Prakash Pillai -Chairperson

Hwang Sydney Michael, SC -Vice-Chairperson

Yeoh Jun Wei Derric -Council Representative

Anthony Cheah Nicholls Chan Min Jian Chan Wah Teck Jeffrey, SC Chang Jun Siang, Aloysius David Isidore Tan Huang Loong Koh Junxiang Lee Soong Yan, Kevin Lim Si Cheng Pang Yi Ching, Alessa Peh Kai Sen, Eli Tan En Pin Charis Victor David Lau Dek Kai Wee Howe Min Yvonne Mak Hui-Lin

#### **Secretariat Representative**

Rejini Raman

#### PUBLICATIONS

#### Vincent Leow, Chairperson

The Publications Committee (the Committee) comprises the following Sub-committees: (1) Mass call magazine (chaired by Fong Wei Li), (2) Annual report (chaired by Kishan Pillay) and (3) Legal writing seminar (chaired by Debby Lim) and it generally oversees 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 Law Gazette) which is available online at www.lawgazette.com.sg. The Committee assists in the commissioning, writing and proof-reading of each issue and also periodically curates special thematic issues. During the reporting period, the Committee produced a thematic issue on Community Law in July 2021. The Law Gazette presently averages 18,000 page views per month.

#### 2. Law Gazette Awards

The Law Gazette Awards were introduced in 2013 to recognise our writers for their contributions to the Law Gazette, and to encourage the writing of good quality articles. We awarded 2 prizes last year for best feature; one by Gan Jhia Huei for the article "Much Ado About Nothing: The Civil Procedural and Ethical Perils of Inaction" and the other by Ronald JJ Wong for the article Dismissal, "Wrongful Disability Discrimination and Mental Illness". Apart from receiving book vouchers as prizes, the Committee also specially commissioned a plaque in the shape of a book for each of the winners.

At the time of writing of this report, the Committee is undertaking nominations for the 2021 awards. The Awards are judged by a panel of experienced volunteers from the judiciary, legal profession and academia.



#### Much Ado About Nothing: The Civil Procedural and Ethical Perils of Inaction

To its anticle uses the venters UK care of Wandwards V Provenic Healthcare Distribution (DDNR) FARS for a carding point to require the inter of electric legal practicitients are oblight to point a article opponential error on a mater of pile provides and legal professional while, and considers what the position is Dispace relations.

#### Introduction

Mission by counsel, big and small, are simply a reality of ibigation. While most mission are ubinately of lists or no consequence so parties, a small mission of them swate exploitable opportunities for the opponents of the empirical is that should opposing counsel do in such a staudish — (a) tay nothing and capitalise on the opportunity preserved by the error, or (b) point cauto the lawyer might be obliged to do (b) instead a mission? More importantly, what are the documentation in which a lawyer might be obliged to do (b) instead of (a)? To see the amount of these questions by exploring the question of when a lawyer, when preserved with an error made by higher opponent, might have a patible due to point out to higher opponent that height had the error. Put differently, could a lawyer breach wishout procedural and/or with all due to be proceeding the error.

Article on Much Ado About Nothing in December 2019 issue of the Law Gazette

#### 3. Mass Call Magazine

Each year, the Committee publishes a magazine for newly-called lawyers in August to coincide with the annual mass call. This year's theme is "Mind Matters" which focuses on the mental well-being of lawyers. We commissioned a range of articles including: 1. Mentoring by Aurill Kam

2. Being a person-centred lawyer by Sin Chei Liang

3. Finding your purpose by Timothy Khoo

4. It's ok to not be ok by Alexis Fosler

5. Choosing a practice area by Cameron Ford

6. Knowing yourself by Rajan Chettiar

7. Diary of a busy practitioner by Kannan Nadarajan

8. The art of working with bosses and senior colleagues by Crystal Tan

9. Surviving your first year in practice by Sharmaine Chan

10. Managing your mental wellness by Nicholas Aw

11. Networking for lawyers by Harjeet Kaur

12. Marketing your law practice by

Sarah-Mae Thomas and Daphne Tay

13. Pro bono work and access to justice by Riyach Hussain

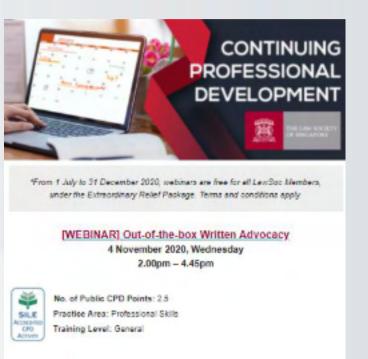
14. What young lawyers should know about ethics and risk management by Angeline Poon and Nisha Rajoo

15. Navigating legal tech for young lawyers by Serena Lim

#### 4. Legal Writing Seminar

The Committee conducted a webinar titled "Out of the box written advocacy" on 4 November 2020. The speakers were Wayne Martin AC QC, Rodman Bundy, Cameron Ford, and Monica with Sonita Chong, moderator Jeyapathy. The webinar was well received with a turnout of 345 participants.

At the time of writing, the committee is in the midst of organising our 2021 seminar on the topic "Effective Submissions in the Age of Virtual Hearings". It is slated to be held on 11 November 2021.



#### About the Programme

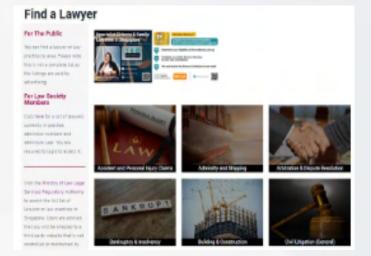
The topic for this webinar proce out of a realization that written advocacy in Singapore is often conducted in a "aafe" mannet, in accordance with precedents and templates. For example, statements of claim often lead with routine descriptions of who the parties are and what they do. Written submissions adopt the same structure in their introductions, and often move into setting out a chronological nerration of the facts at hand.

These "tried-and-tested" structures depart quite significantly from styles of written advocacy in other jurisdictions, e.g. the United States, where atomeys are observed to be a little bolder and experimental in drafting their briefs. e.g. leading with emotive statements

CPD seminar circular on [Webinar] -Out-of-the-box Written Advocacy

## 5. Online Directory of Law Practices and Lawyers

The online directory which carries paid advertising from law firms has consistently been among the top 5 most visited sections of the Society's website, offering advertising in 15 practice areas. GROWING OUR PRACTICE



CPD seminar circular on [Webinar] -Out-of-the-box Written Advocacy

#### 6. Specialist Services Directory

The Committee produces the online specialist services directory which carries advertisements by legal support services providers including specialist witnesses. We hope this 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 noncontentious matters.

#### 7. Annual Report

This year's Annual Report with the tagline "Distanced But Connected" reflects the continuing difficulties in

lawyering at a time of COVID. The cover of the Annual Report depicts the Law Society continuing to collaborate and connect with its counterparts and bars overseas in countries such as China, France and Japan. We strive to remain connected even when international travel is challenging.

My appreciation goes to my three co vice-chairs, advisors and members of the Committee for their creativity, enthusiasm, feedback, contributions and hard work in serving on this Committee especially given the difficulties in only having online meetings and discussions.

I would also like to put on record my gratitude to the ever present support of the Law Society's Publications Department, especially the tireless Sharmaine Lau and Shirin Kamsir. Anything we do is only possible because we stand on their shoulders.

#### **Committee Members**

Vincent Leow-Chairperson

Debby Lim -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Fong Wei Li -**Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Kishan Pillay -**Co-Vice-Chairperson** 

Benjamin Foo -Council Representative

Cameron Ford -Advisor

Professor David Tan -Advisor

Malathi Das -Advisor

Dr William Wan -Advisor Adrian Wong Soon Peng Amanda Goh Denyse Yeo Su-En Eva Teh Jing Hui Glen Tan Kee Ming **Janelene** Chen Joyce Magdalena Li Yan Marcus Yip Tai Meng Matthew Lim Enwei Naomi Ho Zhiwen Sharon Ki Su Jon Suang Wijaya Tan Shen Kiat

Secretariat Representative
Sharmaine Lau

#### **SMALL LAW FIRMS**

## Lim Seng Siew, Co-Chairperson Low Ying Li, Christine, Co-Chairperson

The Small Law Firms Committee presents its report for the period of 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (Reporting Period). The Committee had 4 meetings and information regarding the Committee's key activities and projects during the Reporting Period is as follows:

## Practitioners' Virtual Huddle Sessions

In view of the COVID-19 situation, the Committee organised a series of virtual huddle sessions to replace the regular luncheon sessions held at the State Courts Bar Room. These sessions enabled members to interact virtually with fellow members, discuss the latest practice developments and issues that impact the profession. Volunteer speakers shared information on topics such as, highlights of the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act (IRDA) and developments in the restructuring and insolvency sphere, litigation financing: legalities and commercials, changes to the Lasting Power of Attorney forms and practices and the first reported Vulnerable Adults Act case, practice and procedure of filing a Judicial Management application and the issues that commonly arise in the Judicial Management application and process. The Committee also coorganised a virtual huddle session on "The Family Certification Programme" with the Family Law Practice Committee in June 2021.

The well-attended virtual sessions were held on 12 October 2020, 18 November 2020, 1 March 2021, 1 June 2021 and 29 July 2021.

#### 2) Meeting with the State Courts

Co-Chairperson Seng Siew, together with representatives of the Civil Practice and the Personal Injury and Property Damage Committees met with members of the State Courts on 10 June 2021 to exchange feedback on current arrangements and changes in court practice.

3) Ministry of Law's Legal Tech Platform Initiative

Some members of the Committee participated in the Ministry of Law's engagement session on 29 April 2021 to provide feedback on its proposed initiative.

## 4) Letter to the Council for Estate Agencies

The Committee received feedback from members and wrote to the Council for Estate Agencies to seek its views on the concerns raised.

## 5) Networking Session with Other Organisations

Following previous networking co-organised sessions with the Singapore Institute of Chartered Accountants, Institution of Engineers, Singapore, Land Surveying division of the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers (SISV), the Committee was planning to organise a virtual

networking session with the Valuation and General Practice division of the SISV.



Members of the Small Law Firms Committee

#### **Committee Members**

Lim Seng Siew – Co-Chairperson

Low Ying Li – Co-Chairperson

Michael S Chia – Council Representative

Anuradha d/o Krishan Chand Sharma Bhargavan Sujatha Chia Swee Chye Kelvin Daljit Kaur d/o Harbans Singh Edward Stanley Tay Wey Kok Eugene Jedidiah Low Yeow Chin Kelly Ho Chye Hoon (from 1 June 2021) Kenji Ong Shao Qiang Lee Shen Han (Li Shangheng) Lim Pei Ling June

Maheswari Rani d/o Krishna Mubin Shah Ramazan Muthu Kumaran s/o Muthu Santhana Krishna Ong Min-Tse, Paul Raj Hasmukh Barot Ramachandran Doraisamy Raghunath Saburabi Nila Ibrahim Tan Aye Cheng Tan Heng Khim Tan Tse Chia, Patrick Tang Jin Sheng Teng Hin Weng, Mark Woo Mei Yi Angeline **Secretariat Representative** Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

### SOCIAL AND WELFARE

### Hewage Ushan Saminda Premaratne, Chairperson

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 schemes of the Law Society.

Highlights of the SWC's work for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 are as follows:

#### 1. Organising Force Majeure

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Law Society co-organised Force Majeure with the Singapore Academy of Law in lieu of the traditional Annual Dinner.

The virtual get-together was attended by 250 members of the legal profession on 2 December 2020 to demonstrate that COVID-19 has not dented the profession's solidarity and



Emcee Adrian Tan, raising a **virtual toast** at Force Majeure



Dialogue between the Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and the President of the Law Society, Mr Gregory Vijayendran

camaraderie. Force Majeure was also attended by leaders of the organising bodies: The Honourable The Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, in his capacity as President, Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) and Mr Gregory Vijayendran SC, President of the Law Society of Singapore, as well as other distinguished guests including Judges and Judicial Commissioners.

The event was hosted by Mr Adrian Tan, Vice-President of the Law Society. Highlights of the evening included a dialogue between the Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and the President of the Law Society, Mr Gregory Vijayendran, a quiz, and the Food Court of Appeal – Judges judged a dish made by Mr Willin Low, a celebrity chef at Roketto Izakaya.

Force Majeure also raised close to \$65,000 for two charities: the Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF) – STAR (Skills Training Assistance to Restart) Bursary for the rehabilitation and education of ex-offenders, and the Law Society Pro Bono Services' Harry Elias SC CLAS Fellowship Fund to further render pro bono criminal legal aid to vulnerable groups.

#### 2. Awards

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 3 awards typically presented in-person at the Annual Dinner were presented to the awardees separately - the C C Tan Award, Pro Bono Ambassador Award and the Sports Personality Award. The C C Tan Award for 2020 was conferred on Mr Philip Jeyaretnam, SC, while the Pro Bono Ambassador Award 2020 presented was to Mr Eugene Thuraisingam. The recipient of the Sports Personality of the Year Award was Ms Lisa Sam Hui Min.

## 3. Organising Festive Luncheons 2020/21

Luncheons were organised via Zoom to celebrate various festive holidays such as Lunar New Year, Hari Raya and Deepavali. The virtual luncheons were well attended by more than 80 members at each session, and attendees were able to enjoy bentos featuring traditional festive cuisine delivered to their homes or offices.



Law Society members gathering virtually for the Chinese New Year Luncheon 2021



Law Society members coming together to celebrate Hari Raya at the Virtual Hari Raya Luncheon

#### **Committee Members**

Hewage Ushan Saminda Premaratne -Chairperson

Ho Wei Liang, Sherman -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Yvonne Mak Hui-Lin -Co-Vice-Chairperson

Marshall Lim Yu Hui -Council Representative

Akesh Abhilash Balachandran Suren Jaesh Chua Sin Yen Jacqueline Johannes Hadi Lee Shuian Chii Mannar Rajkumar Neo Shi Mei Amanda **Ong E-Wei Patrick** Oon Pei Yi Fiona Sasha Anselm Gonsalves Shenn Tan Siow Ying Yi Tan Kee Ming Glen Verna Goh Shilei Vinodhan Gunasekaran **Secretariat Representative** Shawn Toh

#### SOLICITORS

ACCOUNTS RULES

#### Chew Kei-Jin, Chairperson

In the year under review the Solicitors' Accounts Committee (the Committee), has received several queries for guidance on issues arising from the Legal Profession (Solicitors' Accounts) Rules (SAR) and for views on the interpretation of the SAR, which the members have responded to. The queries include:

## Query on whether crypto-currency falls within the definition of money in the SAR

This presents a novel issue for consideration as to how to apply the SAR in response to technological innovations such as crypto-currencies. The law practice posing this query (the law practice) has received queries from clients as to whether deposits with the firm can be made with cryptocurrency in lieu of cash. The therefore whether issue is any cryptocurrency received from a client as a deposit, is also to be similarly treated by as 'client's money' as defined under the SAR and be paid into the Clients' Account.

The law practice notes that the Singapore government does not issue cryptocurrency and cryptocurrency is not legal tender or "money". Section 2(1) of the Payment Services Act 2019 provides a definition of "money" and it expressly excludes any digital payment token, such as any cryptocurrency.

In light of the provisions of the SAR (including definitions of "client money" and "client account") and that cryptocurrency is not legally considered as "money", it appears to the law practice states that it would not be appropriate to treat any cryptocurrency which they may receive as a deposit for work to be done as solicitors, as "client money" to be paid into a "client account" as required under the SAR.

On the acceptance of payment of cryptocurrency, the law practice

notes that earlier guidance by the SAR Committee on the directions and quidelines set out in Law Society's PDR 5.1.1 dated 31 January 2019 on "Equity in Lieu of Fees" (formerly PDR 2013, para 103) should be heeded along with "Know Your Client" and "Anti Money Laundering" obligations given the anonymous nature of cryptocurrency. Further the law practice sought clarification based on a scenario where the client pays to them as "deposit" for fees, an amount of cryptocurrency and whether they are to account for it as a form of "client's money" in a "client's account" pursuant to the SAR. Such a deposit would not be payment for our fees since the law practice would not have issued a bill to the client at that juncture.

With reference to Law Society's PDR 5.1.1 on "Equity in Lieu of Fees", the law practice's understanding is that the Law Society accepts that cryptocurrency in the same category as "equity". "Equity" is taken to mean "shares" or "share options" in the client company itself or in any other company owned by the client'. On the basis that cryptocurrency is tantamount to "equity", the law practice's queried if cryptocurrency would therefore not be considered to be client's money under SAR and they would not need to account for any cryptocurrency to be paid into a "client account" as required under the SAR.

#### Committee's views

On the basis that cryptocurrency is tantamount to "equity", cryptocurrency would therefore not be considered to be client's money under SAR and law practices would not need to account for any cryptocurrency to be paid into a "client account" as required under the SAR.

While crypto-currency may not be money. within the definition of "client's money" in the SAR, if such assets are held for a client measures should be put in place to ensure that:

a. the assets are segregated from the assets of the solicitor his firm or partners and are clearly identified as the property of the client;

b. assets are subject to proper internal controls within the firm so that they can only be dealt with on the authority of the partners with the necessary responsibility; and

c. the client or the Law Society would be able to obtain control of the assets where necessary, e.g., in the event of the death or insolvency of the solicitor or firm or where the Law Society intervenes in the practice.

## 2) Query on withdrawal of funds from client account

A client of the law practice (the law practice) posing the query, has paid by bank transfer, the sum of around \$145,000.00 in settlement of a bill into their clients' account instead of into our office account, despite asking the client to make payment directly into the office account. The query from the law practice is how the transfer of the monies from the clients' account to the office account?

The law practice states that if can only think of the following ways to effect such a transfer:

- a. to appoint a second solicitor signatory; or
- b. pay 4 cheques of \$30,000.00 each and 1 cheque of \$25,000.00 from clients to office account; or
- c. apply to Council for approval under Rule 8(1) of the Legal Profession (Solicitors Accounts) Rules.

The law practice does not have a second signatory for amounts over \$30,000.00 and the bank will not allow a bank transfer or issue a cashier's order for the amount in question. The law practice therefore poses the query on whether an application to Council under Rule 8(1) of the SAR is the only option left.

#### Committee's views

Under Rule 8(2)(b) of the SAR, the law practice can transfer the sum \$145,000 from its client account into its office account for the purpose of payment of the law practice's invoice as per Rule 7(1)(a)(iv) of the SAR.

In so far as using cheques to draw out the said sum from the client account for payment into the office account for this purpose is concerned, the splitting up of the \$145,000 into multiple cheques of \$30,000 is not an acceptable solution as it defeats the rationale for fixing a limit of \$30,000 under Rule 8(6)(b) of the SAR. It would make the stipulated limit redundant.

If the law practice's bank is not allowing a transfer from the client account to the office account, this is a matter between the law practice and the bank but it should not change the meaning and effect of the provisions under Rule 8 of the SAR. Therefore, if the law practice cannot resolve this matter with its bank, then the law practice have to make an application to Council for the withdrawal.

#### Conclusion

A representative of the Committee was a panel speaker in the Society's annual mandatory book-keeper's course as well as a Small Law Firms Committee-State Courts and Family Justice Courts Committee Luncheon talk held under the review period.

**Committee Members** Chew Kei-Jin - Chairperson Michael S. Chia -**Council Representative** Balakrishnan Chitra Lim Hui Bian Vivienne Low Chai Chong Nair Suresh Sukumaran Oh Kim Heoh Mimi **Pryke Gary Allen** Tan Tse Chia Patrick Tham Lijing **Secretariat Representative** K Gopalan

#### SPORTS

#### Tan Xu Teng, Chairperson

The Sports Committee aims to cultivate harmonious relations, promote good teamwork and strengthen the camaraderie amongst members of the Bar and the legal fraternity which includes the Judiciary, legal officers, academia as well as undergraduates, through social networking and interaction at various sporting activities.

The following event was organised by the Sports Committee for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

#### Law Society Virtual Cross Country 2020

With the COVID-19 pandemic in full swing in 2020, our Law Society's Annual Cross Country was organised as a virtual event. This first-ever virtual run that the Sports Committee organised, took place between



Winners proudly posing with their medals and cookbooks and once again, the Challenge Shield went to Rajah & Tann making them winners for 2 consecutive years.

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 2020. Impressively, close to 200 took part in the noncompetitive category and amongst this 200, 10 legally qualified teams decided to challenge themselves in the 42km marathon relay run, in the competitive category. Overall, the competitive team category was hotly contested with many teams posting strong timings. Teams from Rajah & Tann put up a particularly strong show with their 2 teams finishing in podium positions. They emerged victorious and also placed third. Rajah & Tann have now won the Team Challenge Shield 2 years in a row. Allen & Gledhill Team 1 put up a strong fight for the top spot but eventually placed second.

#### **Committee Members**

Tan Xu Teng -Chairperson (Tennis Convenor)

Valmiki C Nair – Vice-Chairperson (Touch Rugby Convenor)

Lisa Sam Hui Min – Council Representative

Ahmad Zaki Bin Iskandar (Hockey Convenor)

Amerjeet Singh s/o Jaswant Singh (Darts Co-Convenor)

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

Chan Lai Foong (Golf Co- Convenor)

Chen Yixin Edith (Floorball Convenor)

Chua Yeow Hooi (Chess Convenor)

Chung Weijian Brandon Ian (Badminton Convenor)

Darren Chua Nam Fei (Handball Convenor)

Felix Lee Shih Yang (Basketball Co-Convenor)

Hannah Cheang Hui-Fen (Ladies Soccer Convenor) Lee Koon Foong Adam Hariz

Lee Terk Yang (Premier Soccer Convenor)

Lim Siew Kuan (Golf Co-Convenor)

Lim Yue Tao, Joey (Volleyball Convenor)

Liow Wang Wu Joseph

Moiz Haider Sithawalla (Cricket Convenor)

Muhammad Imaduddien Bin Abd K

Nakoorsha bin Abdul Kadir (Darts Convenor)

Ng Pei Tong (Table Tennis Convenor) Nurul Nordin (Netball Convenor)

Ong Shu-Wen

Ramesh s/o Selvaraj (Cross Country Convenor)

Ravin Periasamy

Tan Cheow Hung (Pool Co-Convenor)

Wong Foong Wee (Basketball Co- Convenor)

Yap Kim Wee Ivan (Squash Convenor)

Yeo Javier (Bowling Convenor)

Secretariat Representative

Shawn Toh

#### TAX AND TRUST

Leow Hock Meng, Edmund, SC, Co-Chairperson Lim Yew Nghee (Eugene), Co-Chairperson

The Tax and Trust Committee (the Committee) focuses on developing more interest and growing the specialisation of tax and trust law in the Singapore legal profession. The Committee is divided into 3 subcommittees as follows:

- 1. Singapore Tax Developments;
- 2. International Tax Developments; and
- 3. Private Wealth.

For the period I September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (the Reporting Period), the Committee engaged in the following activities:

#### **Courses and Seminars**

On 9 March 2021, the Committee organised its inaugural CPD webinar "Singapore's titled Role as an International Trade Wealth and Management Centre: A Tax and Trust Perspective". The webinar was well-attended with 700 over attendees and consisted of 3 separate sessions on trust, international tax and Singapore tax which gave a flavour of various tax and trust issues that lawyers should be aware of. Many of the Committee members played active roles as speakers and panellists for the webinar.

#### **Feedback and Consultations**

The Committee provided regular feedback to external stakeholders such as the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Ministry of Law (MinLaw) on pertinent issues relating to the practice of tax and trust law. In particular, the Committee made proposals to the MOF to improve the publicity of tax boards of review cases such that these decisions would be more accessible to the legal community and the public. accepted the Committee's MOF proposals and would work with the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) and the boards of review to operationalise the publication of written decisions issued by the tax boards of review on Singapore Law Watch.

## (IRAS) on industry-wide issues pertaining to tax and trust, such as the accreditation of tax lawyers. The Committee has plans to establish a regular forum of exchange and dialogue to share knowledge and build camaraderie among members of the Singapore Tax and Trust Bar as well as to conduct outreach events to university students to introduce them to tax and trust practice as soon as practicable.

In the meantime, the Committee remains committed and looks to identify possible areas of reform in tax and trust laws.

#### Dialogues

The Committee engaged in regular dialogues with external stakeholders including MinLaw, SAL and the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore



Members of the Tax and Trust Committee

#### **Committee Members**

Leow Hock Meng, Edmund, SC -Co-Chairperson

Lim Yew Nghee (Eugene) -Co-Chairperson

Yeoh Jun Wei, Derric -Council Representative

Deepak Raja

Han Junwei

Hsu En Chieh @ Annia Hsu

Huang Junli, Christopher

Jaclyn Nadine Toh Kar Hing (Du Jiaxin)

Kenji Ong Shao Qiang

Leon Kwong Wing

Li Weiming Mark Lim Zi Hui, Alicia Liu Hern Kuan Quah Wei Sheng, Danny Sundareswara Sharma Szeto Yu Hwei, Benjamin Tan Shao Tong Vikna Rajah s/o Thambirajah

Wu Siyue

Yang Shi Yong

Secretariat Representative Ting Lim (until March 2021) Rejini Raman (from April 2021)

#### WOMEN IN PRACTICE

# Simran Kaur Toor, Co-Chairperson Tan May Lian Felicia, Co-Chairperson

The Women in Practice Committee presents its report for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 (Reporting Period). As a significant part of this period was affected by safety concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of planned events had to be adapted, postponed or cancelled. The Committee has been exploring ways to conduct its business and events virtually, including by encouraging members to sign up for relevant online mentoring sessions, webinars and talks.

During the Reporting Period, the Committee held 3 meetings and the information regarding the Committee's key activities and projects is as follows:

#### **Gender Diversity Webinar**

Following the launch of the "Levelling the Playing Field: Report on Gender Diversity in the Singapore Legal August 2020, the Profession" in Committee organised a webinar "Gender Diversity: Levelling the Playing Field" on 9 September 2020. Co-Chairpersons Simran and Felicia, and members Shobna, Jennifer, Michelle and Debby shared their experiences surrounding the 4 distinct areas which would be useful for law firms to structure their practices to enhance gender diversity, as well as insights for younger lawyers on how to improve their experiences in legal practice. The 4 distinct areas were:

- a. The need for mentorship and sponsorship;
- Balancing family responsibilities and the need for flexible work arrangements;

- c. Addressing the pervasive issue of unconscious bias; and
- d. Addressing sexual harassment and bullying.

## Series of Interviews in the Singapore Law Gazette

The Committee conducted a series of interviews with women in law from different backgrounds to challenge typical notions of what constitutes "success" for a female lawyer, and to provide a source of inspiration to younger female members of the Bar. The second interview of the ongoing series, titled "Coffee with Sadhana Rai", was published in the October 2020 issue of the Singapore Law Gazette.

#### **Mentoring Roundtable Session**

More than 35 attendees participated in the lunchtime mentoring roundtable, titled "Perfecting That Juggling Act", on 23 July 2021. Targeted at junior women lawyers between 0 to 5 years of PQE,

this mentoring roundtable focused on issues relating to career development management, managing the expectations of clients, superiors and peers, as well as work-life balance. The aim of the roundtable was to create a platform for women lawyers, as a community of practitioners, to encourage and mutually learn from one another. The Committee moderators candidly shared the challenges faced, obstacles overcome and strategies that others have employed to address their issues. On their end, participants shared the challenges they face and brought up many issues of interest or concern they wished to seek guidance on.



Mentoring Roundtable Session 2021

#### International Women's Day

The Co-Chairpersons published a joint statement on 8 March 2021 setting out the Co-Chairpersons' views on the triumph of women lawyers in the past year, whilst wishing women lawyers continued success in the coming year.

To mark International Women's Day, Co-Chairperson Simran also gave an interview to CNA938 on 9 March 2021 to discuss on the issues raised in the "Levelling the Playing Field: Report on Gender Diversity in the Singapore Legal Profession".

## Conversations on Singapore Women's Development

As part of the ongoing engagement of women in Singapore by the Government, on 20 May 2021 and together with the Ministry of Law, Co-Chairpersons Felicia and Simran and the Law Society of Singapore helped to organise an interactive feedback session with Singapore lawyers entitled Conversations on Singapore

Women's Development. The event was hosted by the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Mr Edwin Tong SC. Co-Chairpersons Felicia and Simran co-facilitated the event, and many Committee members led discussions breakout with the participants in smaller groupings. The session allowed 180 attendees the opportunity to engage in direct conversations on issues relating to the development of women on both personal and professional planes. Feedback and ideas shared at the Conversation will be consolidated into a White Paper for submission to Parliament in the second half of 2021.

## Workplace Harassment Prevention Policy

The WIP Committee is collaborating with the Young Lawyers Committee to develop a workplace harassment prevention policy template for law firms. The policy is targeted for roll out by end of 2021.



Women in Practice Committee 2021

#### **Committee Members**

Simran Kaur Toor -Co-Chairperson

Tan May Lian Felicia -**Co-Chairperson** Sunil Sudheesan -**Council Representative** 

Ang Hsueh Ling Celeste Angela Lim Loke San Asiyah Binte Ahmad Arif Beitris Yong Pei Juan Cathryn Neo Mei Qin Chia Hsien Lin Jennifer Denyse Yeo Su-En Dierdre Grace Morgan Gloria James-Civetta Joanna Seetoh Wai Lin Kam Su Cheun Aurill Kelly Tseng Ai Lin

Kiranjit Kaur Dharsan Kuah Boon Theng Lim Hui Li Debby Lim Yanqing, Esther Candice Nanthini d/o Vijayakumar Sharon Ki Su Jon Shenn Tan Shobna d/o V. Chandran Syahrul Bahiah Binti Jamaludin Tan Qian Ni Roseanne Tan Yi Yin Amy Tay Eu-Yen Toh Jia Yi Yong Siow Hui Michelle **Secretariat Representative** Shawn Toh Goh Wan Cheng

## **YOUNG LAWYERS**

Dierdre Grace Morgan, Co-Chairperson Tham Keng Yue Gerald, Co-Chairperson

The Young Lawyers' Committee (YLC) endeavours to understand and address the needs and concerns of Bar members with less than 5 years of experience in practice.

The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally transformed the way we work as well as our way of traditional workplace life. The setting and structure have taken a back seat while we embraced working from home and relying on technology to facilitate daily work. Face-to-face interactions were drastically reduced as we moved our interactions and events online. Adopting to this new way of working, YLC continues to strive to be in touch with the developments and trends related to junior practitioners

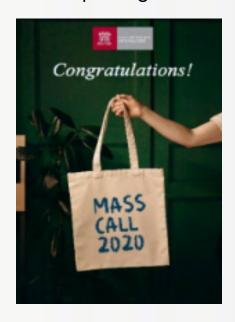
and seeks new ways to foster and maintain relationships with the Junior Bar.



Dialogue sessions with fresh graduates, trainees, and young lawyers.

The YLC initiated the Young Lawyers Law Mentors Scheme (Scheme) which began in August 2020. It is an

peer-to-peer support informal scheme that pairs up young in the YLC with Law lawyers Graduates & Newly Qualified Lawyers (NQLs). It aims to give informal support to law graduates and NQLs who are looking for direction or guidance before embarking on the next step of their legal aspirations and career. We believe that such a scheme is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been a time of grave uncertainty for many law graduates and NQLs. Since its inception, there have been 20 successful pairings.



First ever Mass Call virtual goodie bags giveaway.

The annual Mass Call hosted by the Supreme Court, which took place on 25 and 26 August 2020, was



A personalised video from the President of the Law Society, Gregory Vijayendran SC, to welcome the newly called lawyers.

conducted virtually for the first time due to the pandemic. To continue the tradition of welcoming the newest members to the legal profession, YLC gave complimentary virtual goodie bags to the newlycalled lawyers. The virtual goodie bag contained an array of F&B vouchers, discounted wellness and entertainment products and services, the Singapore Law Gazette Mass Call special edition eMagazine, complimentary eBooks from LexisNexis as well as information on the various support schemes and network provided by the Law Society. The President of the Law Society, Gregory Vijayendran SC, chipped in by giving a personalised welcome

speech video for the newly called lawyers.

On 5 November 2020, the YLC organised a Young Lawyers' Forum, on Chatham House Rules, touching on topics related to personal branding and marketing, which are essential for young lawyers in today's competitive economy. The forum aimed to provide young lawyers with vital tools and tips on how to successfully market oneself to employers and potential clients. The forum also looked at the various career options available for young lawyers today.

On 24 September 2020 and 20 May 2021, the YLC organised dialogue sessions catering to young lawyers, trainees, and law graduates. More than 50 participants attended each session. The dialogue session aimed to bring together younger members of the Bar as well as those who look to be admitted to the Bar in the future for a candid discussion on common concerns like hiring trends, firm retention and how one can actively distinguish oneself in an increasingly tough economic



Grace Morgan, Co-Chairperson of the YLC shared her experiences as a lawyer to students from Ang Mo Kio Secondary School.



Member of YLC, Kelley Wong, shared with Beatty Secondary School students at their Career Guidance Day on how they can achieve their aspirations of being a lawyer.

environment. Breakout sessions also saw participants sharing their challenges faced in law firms and ideas on how to address them.



Ezra Renaro, Member of YLC, shared with students of Marsiling Secondary School his experience working as a lawyer.

As part of YLC's ongoing efforts to raise awareness on law as a career, members of YLC participated in career talks at CHIJ Katong Convent, Ang Mo Kio Secondary School, Beatty Secondary School, Marsiling Secondary School and Yishun Town Secondary School. At the career talks, members of YLC shared with students the role of the Law Society, their personal experiences as young lawyers as well as answered questions raised by the students.

The YLC also remains active in contributing to a regular "Young Lawyer" column, which includes "Amicus Agony" in the *Singapore Law Gazette* that addresses the challenges faced by young practitioners in relation to the realities of legal practice, as well as contributing articles on topics related to and outside of the legal practice.

The YLC is collaborating with the Women in Practice Committee to develop a workplace harassment prevention policy template for law firms. The policy is targeted for roll out by end of 2021.

Last but not least, the YLC would like to express its appreciation to all who have been supportive of its initiatives. We look forward to planning more activities and initiatives for the junior Bar community!



Crystal Tan, Member of YLC, shared her experience and the academic requirements to become a lawyer at Yishun Town Secondary School.

#### **Committee Members**

Dierdre Grace Morgan -Co-Chairperson

Tham Keng Yue Gerald -Co-Chairperson

Rebecca Vathanasin -Vice-Chairperson

Abhinav Ratan Mohan -Council Representative

Yeoh Jun Wei Derric -Council Representative

Anita Binte Ahamad Benny Santoso Brinden Anandakumar Chen Jie'An Jared Gregory Xu Weicheng Johannes Hadi Joyce Magdalena Kannan Nadarajan Kelley Wong Kar Ee Pranay Arvind Suryavanshi Renaro Daniel Ezra Bunyamin Tan Shi Ying, Crystal Thong Ying Xuan Toh Jasmine Vinodhan Gunasekaran Wan Rui Jie, Erwin Zhou Shiyin

#### **Secretariat Representative**

Shawn Toh Goh Wan Cheng 3

# ENHANCING Professional Standards

#### **ADMISSIONS**

## **Christopher Anand Daniel,** Chairperson

This report is in respect of the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

After a historic Mass Call in 2020 where 528 applicants were admitted to the Supreme Court via videoconferencing, in-person hearings resumed in October 2020. The monthly admission hearings were conducted in-person until May 2021 when video-conference hearings resumed after the government announced the Phase 2 Heightened Alert measures on 4 May 2021.

In keeping with this year's Annual Report theme of "Distanced but Connected", movers, applicants representatives of the and 3 stakeholders turned up ready and prepared, embraced the virtual mode of the hearings and did their utmost to make it a memorable occasion for the applicants and their families.

#### Admission of Advocates and **Solicitors**

A total of 613 applicants were admitted as advocates and solicitors of the Supreme Court of Singapore compared 714 to applicants who were admitted during the last reporting period. The Mass Call was held via videoconferencing over 3 consecutive sessions on 23 August 2021 and 24 August 2021. Four hundred and fifty-(457)applicants seven were admitted during Mass Call 2021. There were 528 applicants admitted in Mass Call 2020.

#### **Part-Call Applications**

There were 21 applications for partcall for the reporting period compared to 12 applications for part-call during the last reporting period.

#### **Abridgement of Time Applications**

During this reporting period, there were 10 applications for abridgement of time. Five (5) applications were rejected and 5 applications were approved. The application which was rejected in September 2020 was eventually admitted in October 2020. One applicant was rejected in April 2021 and reapplied in May 2021. However, this was not approved either. Justice Choo Han Teck provided a hearing date in June (9 June 2021) for the 2 applications which were rejected in May 2021. One applicant was admitted on 9 June 2021. The other applicant, however, passed away before the hearing date. The application which was rejected in August 2021 was provided a hearing date in September 2021.

#### Section 15(1) Legal Profession Act -Ad Hoc Admission of Queen's **Counsel or Equivalent**

In the present reporting period, the Committee Admissions was not requested to consider any applications under section 15(1) LPA.

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

In the present reporting period, the Admissions Committee was not requested to consider any application made by a law practice 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) LPA.



This year's mass call was conducted via video-conferencing

#### **Committee Members**

Christopher Anand Daniel -Chairperson

Rajan Sanjiv Kumar – Vice-Chairperson

Chia Boon Teck – Council Representative

Brinden Anandakumar

Chan Hian Young

Cheong Zhihui Ivan

Davis Tan Yong Chuan

Gregory Xu Weicheng

Jaikanth Shankar

Kenneth Lim Tao Chung (Kenneth Lin Daochong)

Pillai Pradeep G

Quek Hui Kee, Jasmine

Saw Seang Kuan

Tan Teck San Kelvin

Tay Kang-Rui, Darius (Zheng Kangrui)

Tham Wei Chern

Yap Chin Choo Juliana

**Secretariat Representative** 

Rejini Raman

#### **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING**

## Surenthiraraj s/o Saunthararajah, Chairperson

This report is in respect of the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

#### 1) Anti-Money Laundering Seminars

An introductory Anti-Money Laundering (AML) seminar was conducted by Committee Chairperson Suressh via Zoom in April 2021. The seminar was introduced last year and is aimed at younger lawyers with less than 3 years PQE who want to familiarise themselves with the AML regulatory regime in Singapore. year's edition was particularly This successful with 800 participants who engaged is a lively discussion on the issues raised.

The Chairperson also lectured on the AML component in February 2021 at Legal Practice the Management Course, a mandatory course for all new partners, directors and sole proprietors of law practices.

Committee member, Sundareswara Sharma was a speaker and panellist at a webinar, "Singapore's Role as an International Trade and Wealth Management Centre: A Tax and Trust Perspective." The webinar which was held in March 2021, covered key issues in tax and trust law and practice.

In addition, Committee member, Grace Chong spoke at the following events this year:

i) FATF Travel Rule: Actions in Singapore and Beyond

ii) Managing Financial Crimes in the Age of Digital Banking

iii) Crypto and Compliance: How to Hold Your Licence to Operate (by Refinitiv)

iv) AML & Compliance Issues on CBDCs (Regulation Asia)

v) TBML Risk Indicators, Typologies & Prevention (Regulation Asia)

vi) Cryptos, CBDCs, A New Era for **Financial Crime** 

vii) Merkle Science RegWatch: Untangling Crypto, Defi & DOGE, What's new for FIs?

viii) Economic Sanctions Compliance& Enforcement (American Conferenceon Economic Sanctions)

ix) FATF Guidelines on Risk-Based Approach for Crypto Assets

x) Crypto Assets Webinar Series- Compliance and Regulation inAsia

In August 2021, an e-Masterclass: Global AML/CFT/Sanctions in Practice live webinar was jointly organised by the Law Society and College of Law, Australia. The programme provided a theoretical and practical foundation for those who wish to develop a best practice approach to preventing money laundering and terrorist financing.

#### 2) Anti-Money Laundering Inspections

Because of the COVID situation, the AML inspections of law practices for 2020 was delayed and were conducted in January 2021 through February 2021 by two appointed

audit firms. 50 practices were inspected. Most of the practices demonstrated a good awareness of AML/Counter-Terrorism Financing CFT) regulations. The few law practices that did not meet regulatory standards were given time to address the weaknesses identified and will be re-inspected at a later date.

## 3. Financial Action Task Force Mutual Evaluation

Ahead of the Financial Action Task Force or FATF's mutual evaluation in assessment of Singapore 2023/2024, Law Society Council representatives and the Committee working with have been the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Law and the Commercial Affairs Department to prepare for the assessment. This includes preparing a Supervisory Risk Assessment for the legal sector.

#### 4. Update of Council's Practice Direction

The updated Practice Direction 3.2.1 was released on 11 September 2020

and is available on the Law Society's AML webpage. The main changes include expanded guidance on the Risk-Based Approach for Client Due Diligence, sections dealing with the responsibilities of lawyers acting as trustees or as corporate service providers, expanded guidance on legal professional privilege, a new section on virtual assets as well as guidance on filing Suspicious Transaction Reports. Further updates to the Practice when Direction will made be circumstances warrant it.

#### **5. Outreach Efforts**

The Committee continued to enhance and advance its outreach efforts to promote the understanding and establishment of best practices to compliance with AML ensure obligations. Chairperson, Suressh was invited by the Malaysian Bar Council as a guest speaker and panellist to the AMLA<sup>1</sup> Compliance Challenge 2021 seminar in December 2020. The Committee also had a dialogue with Accounting the and Corporate Authority Regulatory on matters pertaining to AML compliance and areas for collaboration moving forward.

Last year, an article was published in the October issue of the Singapore Law Gazette to inform members about the updates to the Practice Direction. Further information sharing and updates was disseminated to through members Law Society's publication. online The news Committee published an article in February 2021 to draw members' attention to a bulletin available on the Transaction Suspicious Reporting Office website. The bulletin provides insights and trends observed in the Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) filed by legal practitioners.

The Committee will continue to work closely with key stakeholders to build processes for the exchange of information and increased collaboration to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> AMLA is Malaysia's Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act (2001). It is the primary statute governing the AML/CFT regime in Malaysia.

#### **Committee Members**

Surenthiraraj s/o Saunthararajah - **Chairperson** 

Chia Boon Teck-Vice-Chairperson

Ng Lip Chih – Council Representative

Akesh Abhilash

**Alexander Ressos** 

Amanda Goh Tsu-Yi

Amardeep Singh s/o Gurcharan Singh

Chan Ying Kuen Eric

Chew Ling Ying, Marianne (Zhou Lingying)

Chong Siew Lin Grace (Zhang Xiuling)

Ho Jun Yi (He Junyi)

Stephen Michael Revell

Sundareswara Sharma

Secretariat Representative

Rejini Raman

## **INQUIRIES INTO INADEQUATE**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This report covers the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. During this period the Law Society (Society) received 45 complaints of inadequate professional services under section 75B of the Legal Profession Act (the Act). The Society received fewer complaints during the continuing COVID-19 health crisis. This was particularly SO following the heightened measures announced on 14 May 2021.

As of June 2020, the Committee has (who invited solicitors are the complaints) Respondents to to submit their responses to the complaints levied against them to aid in the deliberation process. The heightened measures have impacted upon Respondents being able to submit their responses within the original timelines due to disruptions to their daily routines and access to their workplace. In this regard, the Committee was minded to grant the appropriate extension of time for the submission of responses.

Of the 45 complaints received, 3 were rejected as they did not fall within the ambit of an inquiry for a complaint under the Act as they originated from non-clients, relate to misconduct or were time-barred as the conduct complained of occurred more than 3 years from the date the complaint was made.

A total of 4 complaints were withdrawn as the complainants subsequently settled the matter with their solicitors, 2 of which were resolved at meetings facilitated by the Society.

Further, 4 complaints were stayed as complainants had the made a complaint under section 85(1) of the Legal Profession Act (LPA) and current protocol requires that any inquiry into a complaint under section 85(1) of the

LPA be concluded first before the complaint under section 75B of the Act is referred for inquiry.

Of the remaining complaints, 6 complaints were referred to Council and the remainder of the complaints are pending the receipt of further particulars from the Complainants. Owing to the heightened measures, 6 complaints remain to be referred to the Committee as the Respondents were only able to submit their responses in late July 2021 and early August 2021.

Of the 6 complaints referred to Council, 3 complaints were dismissed as there was no prima facie case of a breach of adequate professional services. Two complaints have been referred for further action (mediation). As for the remaining complaint, the Complainant has not confirmed if she wishes for her complaint to be resolved through mediation or referred for further inquiry by an Investigative Tribunal.

## **Mediations Conducted from 1** September 2020 to 31 August 2021

For relevant the period, 2 mediations were scheduled. One was resolved successfully whilst the other was vacated since the Respondent chose not to attend.

# **Investigative Tribunals Appointed** from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

One Investigative Tribunal was appointed during the period under consideration to inquire into the complaint that was unresolved as the mediation was vacated.

- **REPORT OF**
- THE INQUIRY PANEL

This Report covers the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

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 members of the Inquiry Panel for a term of 2 years.

#### **Advocates & Solicitors**

The following are the appointees during the reporting period:

Mr Francis Xavier, SC -

**Chairman, Inquiry Panel** 

Mr Siraj Omar, SC –

#### **Deputy Chairman, Inquiry Panel**

1	Mr Michael Khoo Kah Lip, SC
2	Ms Teh Guek Ngor Engelin, SC
3	Mr Davinder Singh s/o Amar Singh, SC
4	Mr Andre Yeap Poh Leong, SC

5	Mr N. Sreenivasan SC
6	Mr Siraj Omar, SC
7	Ms Oh Buong Yu May
8	Mr Woo Tchi Chu
9	Ms Maria Lam Sek Fah (Maria Tham)
10	Mr Ragbir Singh s/o Ram Singh Bajwa
11	Mr Chandra Mohan K Nair
12	Mr Peter Chong Siong Siang
13	Mr Seah Teck Kim, Kim
14	Mr Bernard Doray
15	Ms Chew Gek Tee Sally
16	Mr Leng Siew Wei Aloysius
17	Ms Woon Lai Keng (Julie)
18	Mr Quek Mong Hua
19	Mr Sarjit Singh s/o Bhagwan Singh
20	Mr Steven Seah Seow Kang
21	Mr Raymond Chan



22	Mr Tan Keok Heng George
23	Mrs Gina Lee-Wan
24	Mr Lee Han Tiong
25	Ms Tan Lay Keng
26	Mr Mahtani Naresh Murlidhar
27	Mr Yang Yung Chong
28	Mr John Ng Lee Chye
29	Ms See Siew Heok Jo-Ann
30	Mr Lee Kuen Yip
31	Mr Koh Boon Hai
32	Ms Josephine Low Miew Yin
33	Mr Ong Kian Wei Timothy
34	Mr Chua Leong Hin
35	Mr Tan Kheng Ann Alvin
36	Ms Wong Lai Keen
37	Mr Tan Jee Ming
38	Mr Tan Lam Siong
39	Mr Selva Kumara Naidu
40	Mr Adrian Ee Hock Hoe

41	Mr Herman Jeremiah
42	Mr Ravindran s/o Muthucumarasamy
43	Mr Chan Hian Young
44	Mr Thomas Tan Boon Yong
45	Ms Chen Wen Woan Angela
46	Mdm Sheena Rohini Jacob
47	Mr Lim Tat
48	Ms Lalita Chelliah
49	Mr Lim Chong Boon
50	Mr Lim Soo Peng
51	Mr Ravendra Krishnasamy
51 52	Mr Ravendra Krishnasamy Mr Soh Leong Kiat Anthony
52	Mr Soh Leong Kiat Anthony Mr Salem Bin Mohamed
52 53	Mr Soh Leong Kiat Anthony Mr Salem Bin Mohamed Ibrahim
52 53 54	Mr Soh Leong Kiat Anthony Mr Salem Bin Mohamed Ibrahim Mr Kok Hei Mun Jonathan
52 53 54 55	Mr Soh Leong Kiat Anthony Mr Salem Bin Mohamed Ibrahim Mr Kok Hei Mun Jonathan Mr Patrick Ang Peng Koon
52 53 54 55 56	Mr Soh Leong Kiat Anthony Mr Salem Bin Mohamed Ibrahim Mr Kok Hei Mun Jonathan Mr Patrick Ang Peng Koon Mr Chong Yee Leong



60	Mr Abdur Raheem Bin Mohd Iqbal
61	Mr Yeo Chuan Seng Victor
62	Mdm Zahara Bin <mark>t</mark> e Bakar
63	Mr Surenthiraraj Saunthararajah
64	Mdm Teo Kwee Yee (Claudia)
65	Mr Lawrence Lee Mun Kong
66	Ms Yogarajah Yoga Sharmini
67	Mr Neo Ho Guan Bernie
68	Ms Lisa Theng Siew Lian
69	Ms Marian Ho Wui Mee
70	Mr Chan Wai Mun
71	Mr Chong Kuan Keong
72	Mr P Padman
73	Ms See Tow Soo Ling
74	Mr Foo Maw Shen
75	Mr Chandra Mohan Rethnam
76	Mr Yeo Soo Mong Tony
77	Ms Lee Mong Jen
78	Mr Bernard Sahagar s/o Tanggavelu

79	Ms Nirmala Ravindran
80	Ms Kanyakumari d/o Veerasamy
81	Mr Eu Hai Meng
82	Mr Jason Chan Kwok Chuan
83	Mr Amolat Singh
84	Mr Liow Wang Wu Joseph
85	Mr Anparasan s/o Kamachi
86	Mr Parwani Vijai Dharamdas
87	Mr Soh Kar Liang
88	Mr Leck Kwang Hwee Andy
89	Mr Abdul Salim Ahmed Ibrahim
90	Ms Lim Lay Choo Jennifer
91	Mr Loh Eu Tse Derek
92	Mr Loke Siew Meng
93	Ms Christine Sekhon
94	Mdm Wong Su-Hsien Audrey
95	Mdm Yeow Tin Tin Margaret
96	Mr Rajesh Sreenivasan
97	Mr Edwin Lee Peng Khoon



ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

98	Mr Chen Nan Chung Burton
99	Mr Jonathan Lim Tiek Beng
100	Mr Renganathan Nandakumar
101	Mr Christopher Anand s/o Daniel
102	Mr Tan Teck San Kelvin
103	Ms Ho Kim Foong
104	Ms Leow Tze Hoon Christabel
105	Mr Philip Fong Yeng Fatt
106	Mr Chwen Anthony
107	Mr Cosmas Stephen Gomez
108	Mr Lim U Wei Ralph Howard
109	Mr Bernard Chiu Hsu-Hwee
110	Mr Gong Chin Nam
111	Mr Yeo Kim Hai Patrick
112	Mr Goh Chye Hock Joseph
113	Mr K Muralitherapany
114	Mr Ang Wee Tiong
115	Ms Lam Shiao Ning
116	Mr Michael Low Wan Kwong

117	Ms Subashini d/o Narayanasamy
118	Mr Khaira Akramjeet Singh
119	Mr Gan Kian Koon Gerry
120	Mr Henry Heng Gwee Nam
121	Mr Pillai Pradeep G
122	Mr Lim Choon How
123	Mr Cheong Chee Min
124	Ms Choo Poh Hua Josephine
125	Mr Namasivayam Srinivasan
126	Mr Derek Tan Jet Wah
127	Mr Eusuff Ali s/o N B M Mohamed Kassim
128	Mr Lem Jit Min Andy
129	Mr Chan Kah Keen Melvin
130	Mr Say Chin Phang Sean
131	Mr Christopher Chong Chi Chuin
132	Mr Tan Chuan Bing Kendall
133	Ms Lau Yee Wan Sharon
134	Mdm Lee Su Yee
135	Mr Low Yew Shen

136	Mr Chan Jin Han
137	Mr Adrian Wong Soon Peng
138	Mr Ong Sing Huat (Nick)
139	Mr Chia Peng Kiat Kenneth
140	Mr Chan Wei Meng
141	Ms Phang Sui Choon (Michelle)
142	Mr Yee Weng Wai Bernard
143	Ms Tsin Jenny
144	Mr Desmond Tan Yen Hau
145	Mr Raymond Lam Kuo Wei
146	Mr Sim Chong
147	Mr Melvin See Hsien Huei
148	Mr Ho Ying Ming
149	Mr Edmund Eng Zixuan
150	Mr Dennis Chua Soon Chai
151	Mr Mark Jerome Seah Wei Hsien
152	Ms Rajan Menon Smitha
153	Mr Arvind Daas Naaidu
154	Ms Lim Hui Ying

155	Ms Soh Ean Leng Angeline
156	Mr Ajaib Haridass
157	Mr Chia Ho Choon
158	Mr Andrew Yeo Khirn Hin
159	Mr Chai Ming Kheong Joseph
160	Mr Chai Ming Fatt James
161	Mr Chan Hock Keng
162	Mr Alvin Cheng Sun Cheok
163	Ms Ang Mei-Ling Valerie Freda
164	Mr Chia Peng Chuang
165	Ms Chiang Ju Hua Audrey
166	Mr Chan Ju-Lian
167	Mr Chia Jin Chong Daniel
168	Mr Chew Kiat Jinn
169	Mr Alvin Lim Jun Hao
170	Ms Aw Wen Ni
171	Mr Baldev Singh Bhinder
172	Mr Darrell Low Kim Boon
173	Ms Fu Simin Charmaine

174	Mr Chu Hua Yi
175	Ms Fong Lee Cheng Jennifer
176	Mr Chow Chao Wu Jansen
177	Ms Foo Yuet Min
178	Mr Adam Muneer Yusoff Maniam
179	Ms Charmaine Chan-Richard
180	Ms Chia Ru Yun Megan Joan
181	Mr Ho Mingjie Kevin
182	Mr Sarjit Singh Gill, SC
183	Mr Tan Tee Jim, SC
184	Mr Lee Kim Shin, SC
185	Mr Thio Shen Yi, SC
186	Mr Edmund Leow Hock Meng, SC
187	Mr Tan Kay Khai
188	Mr Khwaja Imran Hamid
189	Mr Harish Kumar s/o Champaklal
190	Mr Pateloo Eruthiyanathan Ashokan
191	Mr Lim Thian Song
192	Mr Tong Beng Teck Roland

193	Mr Ong Lee Woei
194	Mr Goh Keng Yeow Simon
195	Mr Anil Murkoth Changaroth
196	Mr Vincent Lim Bock Hui
197	Mr Mohamed Ibrahim s/o Mohamed Yakub
198	Mr Pan Xingzheng Edric
199	Ms Pua Lee Siang
200	Mr Oh Eng Bin
201	Mr Moiz Haider Sithawalla
202	Mr Ong Boon Hwee William
203	Mr Wong Hin Pkin Wendell
204	Mr Yap Ming Kwang Kelly
205	Mr Johnson Loo Teck Lee (Johnson Lu Deli)
206	Mr Yong Boon On
207	Ms Chui Lijun
208	Mr Ramesh s/o Selvaraj
209	Mr Chow Kar Wai, Alex
210	Ms Koh Swee Yen
211	Ms Chung Ka Kay Katie

212	Ms Lin Weiqi Wendy
213	Ms Wong Cui Chen Jacinda
214	Ms Koh En Ying (Xu Enying)
215	Ms Ong Pei Ching
216	Mr Vikna Rajah s/o Thambirajah
217	Ms Fong Shi-Ting Fay
218	Mr Kek Meng Soon, Kelvin
219	Mr Lee Wei Alexander
220	Mr Cai Zhenyang Daniel
221	Mr Chan Zijian Boaz (Chen Zijian Boaz)
222	Ms Chia Xin Ran Alina
223	Mr Jonathan Lim Shi Cao
224	Mr Khelvin Xu Cunhan
225	Mr Chan Cong Yen, Lionel (Chen Congren)
226	Mr Kang Kok Boon Favian (Jiang Guowen)
227	Mr Alfonso Ang Cheng Ann
228	Mr Andrew Chan Chee Yin
229	Ms Ang Hui Ming Vivian
230	Mr Bernard Tan Kim Swee

231	Ms Catherine Lim Chui Ling
232	Mr Chan Wai Kit Darren Dominic
233	Ms Chang Boon Ngee Laura
234	Mr Chen ChuanJian Jason
235	Mdm Chew Ming Hsien Rebecca
236	Mr Chia Voon Jiet
237	Mr Chong Keen Loon David
238	Mr Choo Chih Chien Benjamin
239	Ms Corinne Taylor Lai Sze Huei
240	Mr Daniel Tay Yi Ming
241	Mr Daryl Ong Hock Chye
242	Mr Dayne Ho Chung Wei
243	Mr Derek Kan Yu Hsien
244	Ms Ellen Lee Geck Hoon
245	Mr Gaw Ying Charn Benjamin
246	Mr Goh Kok Leong
247	Ms Grace Kwek Joo Lee
248	Ms Jennifer Leong Pek Lin
249	Mr Joseph Lee Sien Liang

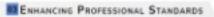
250	Ms Kang Yixian
251	Mr Lam Chung Nian
252	Mr Lim Yee Ming
253	Mdm Linda Phua Mui Lu
254	Mr Ling Daw Hoang Philip
255	Ms Loh Wai Mooi
256	Mr Low Gin Inn Leon
257	Mr Mark Cheng Wai Yuen
258	Mr Mohamed Gul
259	Mr N K Rajarh
260	Mr Navin Joseph Lobo
261	Mr Paul Wong Por Luk
262	Mr Peh Nam Chuan Adrian
263	Mr Ponnampalam Sivakumar
264	Mr Ramasamy s/o Karuppan Chettiar
265	Mr Richard Tan Kheng Swee
266	Mr Ricquier William John Munden
267	Mr Rodney Keong Kean Soon
268	Me Salehah Bte Johari

269	Mrs Selvam Arfat Nee Arfat Beebee Binte Noor Mohamed Abdul Latiff
270	Mr Sunit Chhabra
271	Mr Suresh Divyanathan
272	Mr Tan Hsuan Boon
273	Mr Tan Wei Shyan
274	Ms Winnifred Gomex
275	Mr Wong Kin Kit Winston

## **Regulated Foreign Lawyers**

The following appointees' term will expire on 13 September 2022:

1	Mr Alexander George Shepherd
2	Mr Andrew Jonathan Brereton
3	Mr Andrew Robert Schleider
4	Dr Arnold Iur Gerscha
5	Mr Barry Lewis Irwin
6	Mr Barrye Langhorne Wall
7	Ms Chen X
8	Mr Christopher James Paul Bradley
9	Mr David Harris Zemans



Mr David William Platt
Ms Dominique Lucie Rondest Ép. Lombardi
Mr George Matthew Sheridan
Mr Henry David Nigel Goodwin
Mr John Alexander Campbell Dick
Mr Joseph He Jun
Mr Kai-Niklas Anton Schneider
Ms Kana Manabe
Ms Kayane Helena Proudian
Mr Kent Napier Phillips
Mr Khai Minh Dang
Mr Ko Hanamizu
Mr Mark Alan Jacobsen
Mr Mark Errington
Mr Michael Kelly Malone
Mr Nicholas Michael Benedict G Hanna
Ms Peng Pheng Lim
Mr Philip James Badge
Mr Philip Winston Lee

29	Mr Rahul Guptan
30	Mr Rajiv Gupta
31	Mr Robert Charles John Foote
32	Mr Robert Thomas Palmer
33	Mr Rooman Richards Bundy
34	Mr Saugata Mukherjee
35	Mr Simon James Brown
36	Mr Simon James Plowright Petch
37	Ms Stephanie Jane Keen
38	Mr Stephen Begley
39	Mr Takeshi Komatsu
40	Mr Wade Matthew Coriell

## Lay Persons

The following appointees' term will expire on 13 September 2022:

1	Asst Prof Alvin See Wei-Liang
2	Mr Andy Tan Chye Guan
3	Ms Annie Lee
4	Mr Ashvinkumar s/o Kantilal

5	Mrs Chew Kwee Tiang
6	Prof Chiew Sing Ping
7	Mr Chng Beng Guan
8	Dr Chong Yeh Woei
9	Mr Chua How Kiat
10	Mr Clarence Ting
11	Assoc Prof Courtney Wayne Benjamin
12	Assoc Prof Daniel William Puchniak
13	Mr Ding Hock Chai
14	Mr Frankie Chia Soo Hien
15	Dr Goh Chong Chia
16	Mr Goh Kia Hong
17	Mr Han Liang Siew, Louis
18	Assoc Prof Helena Whalen-Bridge
19	Assoc Prof Henry Gao
20	Prof Ho Yew Kee
21	Prof James Penne
22	Mr Jamshid Medora
23	Ms Joanne Lim

24	Mr John Lim Geok Peng
25	Ms Junie Foo
26	Mr K C Ting, John
27	Ms Kuan Li Li
28	Mr Kwan Yew Huat
29	Mr Lai Hock Meng
30	Dr Lai Siang Hui
31	Assoc Prof Lan Luh Luh
32	Mr Lee Chong Kwee
33	Mr Lee Kut Cheung
34	Mr Lim Boon Cheng
35	Mr Lim Hon Chee Eric
36	Mr Lim Kim Cheong
37	Dr Lim Lan Yuan
38	Er. Lim Peng Hong
39	Mr Lim Thien Su Gerald
40	Mr Loi Hwee Yong
41	Dr Loke Chi Wei Peter
42	Dr Low Tchern Kuang Lambert

43	Mr Michael Wong C K
44	Mr Mirza Iskander Namazie
45	Dr Ng Chew Lip
46	Dr Ng Kheng Siang
47	Mrs Noor Quek
48	Er. Ong Ser Huan
49	Mr Ong Tze Boon
50	Mr Ooi Hoe Yang (Danny)
51	Mr Rohan Kamis
52	Dr Sandra Booysen
53	Mr Seah Choo Meng
54	Ms Sirikit Oh
55	Assoc Prof Stephen Bull
56	Mr Sunny Quek Ser Khieng
57	Mr Tan How Chuan (Sam)
58	Mr Tan Kuang Hui
59	Mr Tan See Chee
60	Mr Tan Seng Chuan
61	Dr Tan Teng Hooi

62	Dr Tan Tiong Tee Clarence
63	Dr Tan Yuen Lan, Diana
64	Mdm Teo Meng Hua
65	Dr Teoh Hoon Cheow
66	Prof Thio Li-ann
67	Mr Thomas Sit Kwok Wing
68	Mr Tjio Kay Loe
69	Er. Tong Chi Wai
70	Assoc Prof Umakanth Varottil
71	Dr Wong Chiang Yin
72	Dr Yeo Khee Quan
73	Mr Willie Cheng
74	Mr Willy Shee
75	Ms Wong Lai Ping
76	Ms Yim Kam May

## Legal Service Officers

1	Mr Adam Nakhoda
2	Mr Adrian Loo Yu Hao

3	Ms Agnes Chan Huseh Mei
4	Mr Alan Loh Yong Kah
5	Mr Anandan s/o Bala
6	Mr Andre Moses Tan Chang Ann
7	Mr Andrew Tan Shao Weng
8	Ms Ang Feng Qian
9	Ms April Phang Suet Fern
10	Ms Asanthi Shiyara Mendis
11	Mr Benjamin Yim Geok Choon
12	Ms Beverly Wee Ying Ling
13	Mr Bhajanvir Singh
14	Ms Brenda Chua Wei Ling
15	Ms Brenda Tan
16	Mrs Carol Chan
17	Ms Carolyn Woo Wai-Ling
18	Ms Carrie Chan Su-Lin
19	Mr Chan Wang Ho
20	Ms Charlene Tay Mei Woon
21	Ms Chee Min Ping

22	Ms Cheng Pei Feng
23	Ms Chong Chin Chin
24	Mr Chong Kah Wei
25	Mr Christopher Goh Eng Chiang
26	Mr Christopher Ong Siu Jin
27	Ms Chua Ying-Hong
28	Ms Chung Yoon Joo
29	Mr Colin Seow Fu Hong
30	Ms Constance Tay Woan Fen
31	Ms Cornie Ng Teng Teng
32	Ms Crystal Tan Yan Shi
33	Mr Darryl Soh Wen Yan
34	Mr David Lee Yeow Wee
35	Mr David Lim Jit Hee
36	Mr David Low Quan Ming
37	Mr Davyd Chong Wenquan
38	Ms Deena Bte Abdul Aziz Bajrai
39	Delicia Charmaine Tan Li Fang
40	Ms Diane Tan Yi-Lui

Mr Eddy Tham Tong Kong
Mr Edgar Foo Mau Peng
Mr Edwin San Ong Kyar
Ms Elaine Liew Ling Wei
Ms Elena Yeo Ju-Lan
Ms Elena Yip Luyang
Mr Elgin Tay Wei Xiong
Ms Elizabeth Chua Ming Ying
Ms Elizabeth Lee Liang Mae
Mr Eugene Lee Yee Leng
Mr Eugene Teo Weng Kuan
Ms Eunice Chong Miao En
Mr Fu Qijing
Ms Gay Hui Yi
Ms Geraldine Kang
Ms Germaine Boey Yi Ling
Mr Gilbert Low Teik Seang
Mr Gnanasihamani Kannan
Ms Goh Yi Ling

60	Mr Gordon Oh Chun Wei
61	Ms Grace Lim Seow Gek
62	Mr Han Ming Kuang
63	Ms Hee Mee Lin
64	Ms Ho Su-Lyn
65	Mr Hon Yi
66	Ms Hung Ning Shing
67	Ms Ilona Tan Lin Yen
68	Mr Imran Bin Abdul Hamid
69	Mr Ivan Chua Boon Chwee
70	Ms Jaime Tey Su Fung
71	Mr Jame <mark>s Elisha</mark> Lee Han Leong
72	Ms Janet Wang Lan Jee
73	Ms Janice Chia Yong Yong
74	Ms Janice Wong Shi Hui
75	Mrs Jasmine Chin-Sabado
76	Mr Jason Tan Theng Kok
77	Ms Jasvender Kaur
78	Mr Jay Lee Yuxian

79	Ms Jean Chan Lay Koon
80	Mr Jeremy Yeo Shengfong
81	Mr Jeyendran s/o Jeyapal
82	Mr Joel Chen Zhi'en
83	Mr John Lu Zhuoren
84	Mr John Ng
85	Mr Jordon Li Mingjie
86	Mr Joseph Yeo Swee Teck
87	Mrs Joyce Chao Suling
88	Ms Joyce Low Wei Lin
89	Mr Justin Yeo Rong Wei
90	Ms Kamalambigai Ponnampalam
91	Ms Kan Shuk Weng
92	Ms Karen Ang Aiping
93	Ms Karin Lai Yiling
94	Ms Karolyn Gin Hoey Kum Hoong
95	Ms Kathryn Thong Lijuan
96	Ms Kelly Ho Yan-Qing
97	Mr Kelvin Kow Weijie

98	Mr Kenny Kung Yong Jin
99	Mr Kevin Yong Ee Wen
100	Ms Kimberly Scully
101	Ms Kok Shu-En
102	Mr Koo Zhi Xuan
103	Mr Kumaresan s/o Gohulabalan
104	Mr Lau Wing Yum
105	Mr Lee Cheow Han
106	Mr Lee Sing Lit
107	Ms Lee Ti-Ting
108	Ms Lee Yean-Lin
109	Mr Lee Zu Zhao
110	Mr Leonard Goh Choon Hian
111	Mr Lim Jian Yi
112	Mr Lim Keng Yeow
113	Ms Lim Sai Nei
114	Mrs Lim Su Ching
115	Mr Lim Tse Haw
116	Mr Lim Yew Jin

117	Mr Loo Ngan Chor
118	Ms Lorraine Ho Yi May
119	Mr Louis Agnelo D'Souza
120	Mr Luke Tang
121	Ms Lynda Lee Gek Huang
122	Ms Lynette Yap Beng Lyn
123	Mr Ma Hanfeng
124	Ms Magdalene Huang Xin'en
125	Mr Marcus Song Ee Pin
126	Ms Marie Christina Koh Sok Kheng
127	Mr Mark Jayaratnam
128	Mr Mark Tay Swee Keng
129	Mr Marvin Bay Boon Teck
130	Ms Masayu Norashikin
131	Ms May Lucia Mesenas
132	Ms Miranda Yeo Eng Joo
133	Ms Natalie Yu-Lin Morris
134	Mr Navindaram Naidu
135	Mr Ng Der Lim

136	Mr Ng Yiwen
137	Mr Nicholas Khoo Tian Lun
138	Ms Nicole Loh Wern Sze
139	Ms Nor'ashikin Bte Samdin
140	Mr Norman Yew Li Chuen
141	Mr Ong Chin Heng
142	Ms Ong Chin Rhu
143	Ms Ong Luan Tze
144	Mr Ow Yong Tuck Leong
145	Ms P Arul Selvamalar
146	Ms Parveen Kaur Nagpal
147	Mr Paul Chan Wei Sern
148	Mr Paul Chia Kim Huat
149	Mr Paul Quan Kaih Shiuh
150	Mr Phua Wee Chuan
151	Mr Prem Raj s/o Prabakaran
152	Mr Quek Jing Feng
153	Ms Qiu Huixiang
154	Mr Ramu Miyapan



ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

155	Mr Reynard Cheok Yu-Liang
156	Mr Ronald Ang Ee Lin
157	Mr Ronald Gwee Tiong Kee
158	Ms Ruth Teng Xiaohui
159	Ms Sabrina Choo Wen Shan
160	Ms Salina Bte Ishak
161	Mr Samuel Chua Hwa Kuan
162	Ms Sandra Looi Ai Lin
163	Ms Sanjna Rai
164	Ms Sarah Lam Yan Xia
165	Ms Sarah Ong Hui'en
166	Ms Sarah Shi Pei-Yi
167	Mr Sellakumaran s/o Sellamuthoo
168	Mr Seow Zhixiang
169	Ms Seraphina Fong Mian Yi
170	Ms Serene Seet Lay Cheng
171	Ms Shahrinah Binte Abdol Salam
172	Mr Shaiffudin Bin Saruwan
173	Ms Sharmila Sripathy

174	Mr Shawn Ho Hsi Ming
175	Mr Sheik Mustafa Bin Abu Hassan
176	Ms Sherlyn Neo Xiulin
177	Ms Shobha Gopalakrishnan Nair
178	Mr Sunari Bin Kateni
179	Mr Stanley Kok Pin Chin
180	Ms Suriakumari d/o Sidambaram
181	Mr Tan Jen Tse
182	Ms Tan May Tee
183	Ms Tan Shin Yi
184	Mr Tan Wee Hao
185	Mr Tan Zhongshan
186	Mr Teo Guan Siew
187	Mr Terence Chua Seng Leng
188	Mr Terence Tan Zhong Wei
189	Ms Then Ling
190	Mr Thomas Mathew Koshy
191	Ms Toh Hwee Lian
192	Ms Toh Puay San

193	Mr Toh Shin Hao
194	Ms Vallathammai d/o Muthupalaniappan
195	Mr Victor Lim See Wai
196	Mrs Wendy Chang Mun Lin
197	Ms Wileeza Bte A Gapar
198	Mr Winston Man Kah-Soon
199	Ms Wong Choon Ning
200	Mr Wong Kok Weng
201	Ms Wong Li Tein
202	Mr Wong Woon Kwong
203	Mr Yang Ziliang
204	Ms Yau Pui Man
205	Ms Yvonne Poon Yirong
206	Mr Zhong Zewei

## Active Review Committees Between 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

A total of 103 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 investigations. Out of a total of 103 cases, the results are as follows:

 35 cases were dismissed completely;

48 cases were fully recommended
for further investigation by an
Inquiry Committee;

- 10 cases contained both a direction for dismissal for some complaints and a recommendation for further investigation for the rest by an Inquiry Committee;
- 2 complaints were withdrawn; and

• 8 cases are still pending as at 31 August 2021.

## Active Inquiry Committees Between 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

As at 1 September 2020, there were 22

cases pending from previous review year. These Inquiry Committees have completed their investigations and the results are as follows:

9 cases were dismissed; •

5 cases were recommended for warnings, reprimand or imposition of penalties;

cases were referred for 3 formal investigations the by Disciplinary Tribunal; and

5 cases are still ongoing.

During the current review year, 68 Inquiry Committees were constituted to look into the complaints which have referred Review been by the Committees during this review year. Forty-one (41) Inquiry Committees have completed their investigations and the results are as follows:

12 cases were dismissed;

15 cases were recommended for warnings, reprimand or imposition of penalties;

cases were referred for 9 investigations formal bv the Disciplinary Tribunal;

- 2 complaints were withdrawn; and
- 3 cases where the Inquiry Committees had recommended partial dismissals. As such, parts these either of cases were recommended for warnings, reprimand imposition of or penalties on the Respondents, or to be referred to the Disciplinary Tribunal.

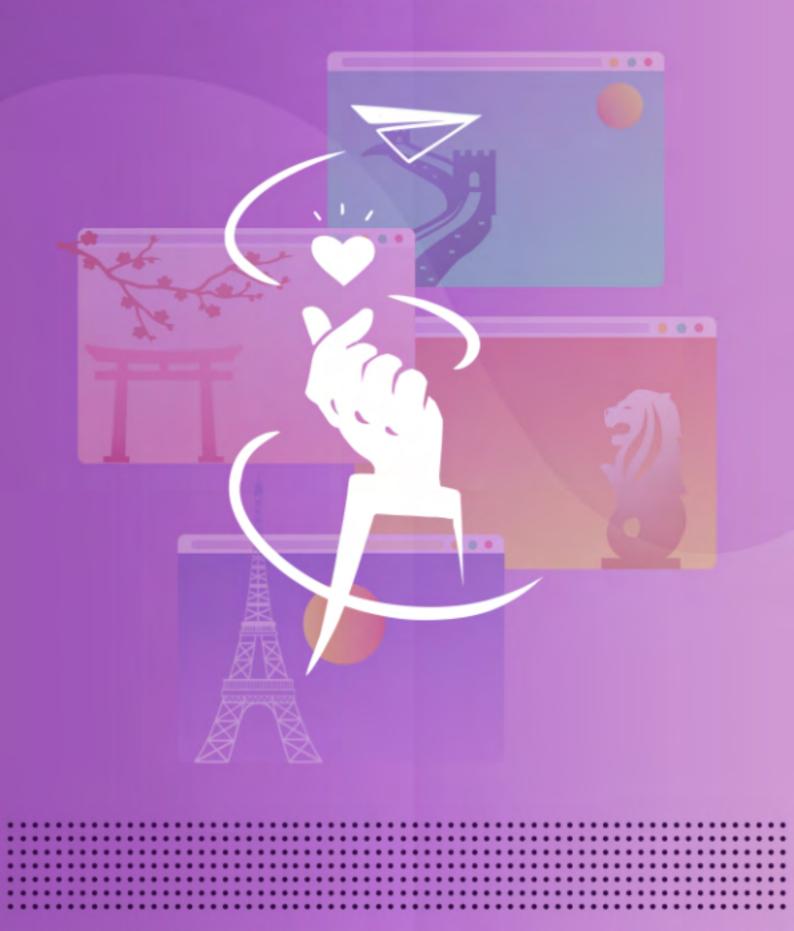
Extensions of time were granted in of several cases because the unavailability of either the Complainant or the Respondent and the difficulty in fixing dates suitable to all parties. In some cases, extensions were granted due to the complexity of the cases. Twenty-seven (27) cases are pending as at 31 August 2021.

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.

Dated this 31st day of August 2021

Francis Xavier, SC Chairman Inquiry Panel

### 4 SERVING THE COMMUNITY



### **COMPENSATION FUND**

### Aziz Tayabali Samiwalla, Chairperson

The Council administers the Compensation Fund (the Fund) that provides 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 Legal Profession Act and the (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 Certificate after 1 October contribute a sum of \$50 to the Fund.

Last year, the Committee resolved to only consider the applications after the inquiry into the complaint under section 85 (if any) of the Legal Profession Act has been concluded.

For the period under review from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, the Committee received 5 fresh applications for grants from the Compensation Fund. The Committee carefully considered all these applications and determined that in respect of 3 of these applications, they should be dismissed as they did not meet the criteria for payment out of the Compensation Fund, i.e. that the alleged losses were not sustained in consequence of dishonesty on the part of the solicitor or his staff. In respect of 2 other applications which have been received by the Society, the claimants did not provide sufficient particulars for the claim to be processed. The Secretariat is pursuing enquiries with the claimants for the necessary details.

### **Committee Members**

Aziz Tayabali Samiwalla -Chairperson

Tan Kay Kheng -Vice-Chairperson

Manimaran Arumugam Tamil -Council Representative

Tito Shane Isaac -Council Representative

**Chong Siong Siang Peter** 

Lam Kuet Keng

Lau Kah Hee

Sean Francois La'Brooy

Tan Jee Ming

Dr Qiu Yang Yap Chin Choo Juliana

### **Secretariat Representative**

K Gopalan Bagchi Anamika

### **PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY**

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

### Lok Vi Ming, SC, Chairperson

The Law Society's Compulsory Professional Indemnity Scheme (the Scheme) was renewed for a period of 12 months commencing from 1 April 2021.

The Professional Indemnity Committee (PI Committee) of the Law Society has extended the appointment of Lockton Companies (Singapore) Pte Ltd as the Scheme Broker for another year, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 in recognition of their efforts to maintain competitive premium for the renewal. They have successfully negotiated renewal of the Scheme with a 2% discount on the expiring premium despite terms unfavourable insurance market conditions marked by rising premiums. The Scheme Insurers for the 2021/2022 Policy Year and their participation shares are:

MS First Capital Insurance Limited (previously known as First Capital Insurance Limited)	Lead Insurer - 58%(increased from 50%)
India International Insurance Pte Ltd	Co-Insurer - 27%(increased from 20%)
QBE Insurance (Singapore) Pte Ltd	Co-Insurer - 15%

### **Committee Members**

Lok Vi Ming, SC -Chairperson

M Rajaram -Council Representative

Yeoh Jun Wei Derric -Council Representative

Darius Malachi Lim Wen Hong

Eusuff Ali s/o N B M Mohamed Kassim

Goh Keng Yeow Simon

Lin Hui Yin, Sharon

Mark Lewis Shan

Mohamed Ibrahim s/o Mohamed Yakub Ong Lee Woei

Pan Xingzheng Edric

Yap Chin Choo Juliana

**Secretariat Representative** 

K Gopalan



### ACKNOWLDEGEMENTS

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 C Shone & Co
- A L Hussien & Faizal Wahyuni
- A. Rohim Noor Lila LLP
- A. W. Law LLC
- Abdul Rahman Law Corporation
- Accounting and Corporate
   Regulatory Authority Achievers LLC
- Adsan Law LLC
- Advocatus Law LLP
- Aequitas Law LLP
- Agile Counsel (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.
- Allen & Gledhill LLP
- Allen & Overy LLP

- Amazon Web Services
   Singapore
- Pte Ltd Amica Law LLC
- Amicus Law Corporation
- Anderson Mori & Tomotsune
   (Singapore) LLP APAC Law
   Corporation
- Arbiters Inc Law Corporation
- Ark Law Corporation
- Arul Chew & Partners
- Ascendant Legal LLC
- Ashurst LLP
- Atlas Asia Law Corporation
- Aveva Group PLC (In-house counsel)
- Aziz Tayabali & Associates
- B Rengarajoo & Associates
- Baker & McKenzie.Wong & Leow LLC
- BC Lim & Lau LLC
- Beacon Law Corporation
- Belinda Ang Tang & Partners

- Bethel Chambers LLC
- Bih Li & Lee LLP
- Bird & Bird ATMD LLP
- Bishop Law Corporation
- Blackoak LLC
- BR Law Corporation
- Braddell Brothers LLP
- Breakpoint LLC
- C Paglar & Co
- Cairnhill Law LLC
- CapBridge Pte Ltd
- Catherine Lim LLC
- Cecil Law LLC
- Chia Wong Chambers LLC
- Chiu Cheong LLC
- CHP Law LLC
- Circular Law Chambers LLP
- Citibank Singapore Limited
- City Law LLC
- Clasis LLC
- Clifford Chance Pte Ltd
- Clifford Law LLP

Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore
 Pte. Ltd.

CMS Cameron McKenna
 Nabarro Olswang (Singapore) LLP

- CNPLaw LLP
- Collyer Law LLC
- Continental Law LLP
- Conyers Dill and Pearman Pte. Ltd.
- Cooma & Rai
- Covenant Chambers LLC
- Crocs Singapore Pte Ltd
- CrossBorders LLC
- CTLC Law Corporation
- Damodara Ong LLC
- Dan Tan Law Corporation
- David Lim & Partners LLP
- David Llewelyn & Co LLC
- David Nayar and Associates
- Davinder Singh Chambers LLC
- DBS Bank Ltd
- De Souza Lim & Goh LLP
- Deepak Raja & Associates
- Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP

- Deutsche Bank
- Dharma Law LLC
- Dharsan Seiter Law Corporation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Donaldson & Burkinshaw LLP
- Drew & Napier LLC
- Duane Morris & Selvam LLP
- Eden Law Corporation
- Edmond Pereira Law
   Corporation
- Eldan Law LLP
- Ella Cheong LLC
- Emerald Law
- Engelin Teh Practice LLC
- Equinix Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- Establishment Law LLC
- Ethos Law Corporation
- Eugene Thuraisingam LLP
- Eversheds Harry Elias LLP
- Farallon Law Corporation
- Flint & Battery LLP
- Focus Law Asia LLC
- Foo & Quek LLC

- Forte Law LLC
- Fortis Law Corporation
- Forward Legal LLC
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
   Singapore Pte Ltd FSLaw LLC
- Fullerton Healthcare
   Corporation Limited Fullerton Law
   Chambers LLC
- Gateway Law Corporation
- Gavan Law Practice LLC
- Genesis Law Corporation
- George Hwang LLC
- Ghows LLC
- Gloria James-Civetta & Co
- Godwin Campos LLC
- Halijah Mohamad & Co
- Haridass Ho & Partners
- Harold Seet & Indra Raj
- Harry Elias Partnership LLP
- Hogan Lovells Lee & Lee
- Hoh Law Corporation
- Holborn Law LLC
- hslegal LLP

- I.R.B Law LLP
- ICHX Tech Pte Ltd
- Incisive Law LLC
- Infinity Legal LLC
- Integro Law Chambers LLC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Intel Corporation
- Invictus Law Corporation
- Jacque Law LLC
- JC Law Asia LLC
- Jenny Lai & Co
- Jones Day
- Joseph Lopez LLP
- Joseph Tan Jude Benny LLP
- Joyce A. Tan & Partners LLC
- JS Law Chambers LLP
- JusJuris Law LLC
- Just Law LLC
- JWS Asia Law Corporation
- K L Tan & Associates
- K Ravi Law Corporation
- K&L Gates Straits Law LLC
- Kalidass Law Corporation

- Karuppan Chettiar & Partners
- Kennedys Legal Solutions Pte Ltd
- Keystone Law Corporation
- King & Spalding (Singapore) LLP
- Kith & Kin Law Corporation
- KSCGP Juris LLP
- Kumaran Law
- Latham & Watkins LLP
- Lavocat Law LLC
- Law Connect LLC
- Lawrence Chua Practice LLC
- Lee & Lee
- Lee Shergill LLP
- Legal Clinic LLC
- Legal Solutions LLC
- Legis Point LLC
- Linklaters Singapore Pte Ltd
- Lisa Sam & Company
- Loo & Partners LLP
- Lumen Law Corporation
- LVM Law Chambers LLC
- Malkin & Maxwell LLP

- Mallal & Namazie
- Mani & Partners
- Mayer Brown (Singapore) Pte
   Limited

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Michael Hwang Chambers LLC
- Mirchandani & Partners
- MOI Law Corporation
- Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC
- MSC Law Corporation
- N S Kang
- Nagashima Ohno &
   Tsunematsu Singapore LLP
   Nakoorsha Law Corporation
- Nicholas & Tan Partnership LLP
- Niru & Co LLC
- Norton Rose Fulbright (Asia) LLP
- National University of Singapore,
- School of Law OC Queen Street LLC
- Opal Lawyers LLC
- OTP Law Corporation
- Peter & Kim
- Peter Doraisamy LLC
- Peter Low & Choo LLC

- PK Wong & Nair LLC
- PKWA Law Practice LLC
- Premier Law LLC
- Prolegis LLC
- Providence Law Asia LLC
- PRP Law LLC
- PY Legal LLC
- Quahe Woo & Palmer LLC
- Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
- Rajan Chettiar LLC
- Ramana Law Corporation
- Ramdas & Wong
- Ravindran Associates LLP
- Ray Louis Law Corporation
- RBN Chambers LLC
- RedRock LLC
- Reed Smith Pte Ltd
- Regency Legal LLP
- Ressos Legal Pte Ltd
- RevLaw LLC
- RHTLaw Asia LLP
- Riaz LLC
- Robinson LLC

- RWONG Law Corporation
- Sabara Law LLC
- Sage Mediation Pte Ltd
- Salem Ibrahim LLC
- SC Wong Law Chambers LLC
- Sealmint Ltd
- Shook Lin & Bok LLP
- Silvester Legal LLC
- Sim Mong Teck & Partners
- Singapore Kindness Movement
- Squire Patton Boggs
- Stephenson Harwood LLP
- Sterling Law Corporation
- Sureshan LLC
- T L Yap Law Chambers LLC
- Tan Kok Quan Partnership
- Tan Peng Chin LLC
- Tan Rajah & Cheah
- Tang Thomas LLC
- Taxise Asia LLC
- Taylor Vinters Via LLC
- Templars Law LLC

- Tham Lijing LLC
- That.Legal LLC
- The Alternative Investment
   Management Association Limited
- TikTok Pte Ltd
- Tito Isaac & Co LLP
- Trident Law Corporation
- TSMP Law Corporation
- United Legal Alliance LLC
- Wave House Global Pte Ltd
- Wee Swee Teow LLP
- WhiteFern LLC
- Wilder Law Corporation
- Willy Tay's Chambers
- Winchester Law LLC
- Withers Khattarwong LLP
- Wong & Leow LLC
- Wong Alliance LLP
- Wong Partnership LLP
- Yuen Law LLC
- Yusarn Audrey
- ZICO Insights Law LLC

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

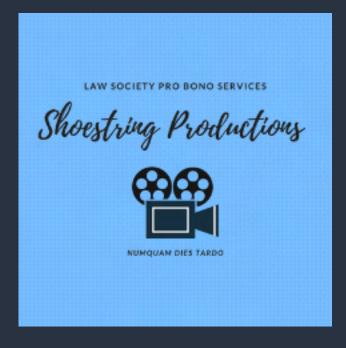
### 6 PRO BONO Services



# EPO\*T



law society PRO BONO SERVICES



This annual report was produced in-house.

### **CONTENT PAGE**

- 2 OUR OBJECTIVES
- **5** CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE
- 9 CEO'S MESSAGE
- **10** BOARD GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT
- **34** FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
- **38** SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR
- **42** CORE PROGRAMMES
- 80 HEROES IN LAW
- **94** IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- **98** APPENDICES



### CORPORATE INFORMATION

Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS) is a Singaporeregistered charity with an Institution of a Public Character (IPC)status.

We enable access to justice to the needy and vulnerable through legal awareness, advice and advocacy.

Formerly known as Pro Bono Services Office when we first launched as a department within Singapore'sbar association, The Law Society of Singapore (LSS), we were subsequently incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2017 with LSSas our sole member.

UEN No.: 201700430E Date of Charity Registration: 31 March 2017 IPC Period: From 31 March 2019 to 31 March 2022 NCSSFull Member since 1 April 2017 Auditor: Fiducia LLP Bankers: Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited and Bank of East Asia

Address: 1 Havelock Square, #B1-18 State Courts, Singapore 059724 Phone: 6536 0650 Email: enquiry@lawsocprobono.org Website: www.lawsocprobono.org



# OUR OBJECTIVES

### We work to:

- 1.develop and ensure a just and efficient system for the provision of pro bono legal services in Singapore;
- coordinate the provision of civil, criminal and community pro bono legal services with various agencies;
- 3. recruit, train and manage volunteers from the legal fraternity and beyond for the provision of pro bono services;
- 4. identify areas of need in the community for pro bono legal services; and
- 5. protect and assist the public on matters of the law relevant to their lives, particularly through programmes to develop public legal literacy.

### OUR VISION AND MISSION

We serve the community by facilitating accessto justice for the needy and vulnerable so that all may have accessto justice in Singapore.



### OUR YEARS AHEAD

We plan to achieve our mission and vision by focusing on the areas below for the next two years.

We will leverage on technology to ensure that our services reach the largest pool of beneficiaries possible and as part of business continuity planning and risk management.

Our services are continuing in a hybrid mode of physical and virtual outreach to ensure that access to justice will not be disrupted in the face of another crisis like COVID-19, and that those with no access to technology will continue to be served.

Plans are also in place to scale up our programmes through the implementation of a CRM system to efficiently match beneficiaries and volunteers to our services and to automate case management processes which would free up our team to focus on other strategic areas.

To this end, we have actively and successfully applied for various grants to build our digital capabilities through training, project consultancy and strategic hires.

We will continue to study and identify accessto justice gaps and to enhance legal aid in required areas in collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, particularly as new vulnerable groups continue to emerge in the aftermath of the pandemic.

We also plan to undergo a rebranding exercise, with the goal of communicating more effectively with our beneficiaries and supporters.

By keeping our finger on the pulse, we will ensure that we continue to deliver on our mission and vision where no one would be barred from accessto justice.

# **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

This is only the appetizer. The main course menu will be in the following pages you will leaf through. You will read facts, figures, summary reports of our committees' work in the last year and the nature and extent of our Law SocietyPro Bono Servicesimpact and outreach. As you read, you will discern that we were very much operating service as usual. Continuous despite pandemic pauses and uninterrupted despite disruption in meeting in person.

It was indeed a year that was not the quick rebound, phased in recovery or staged return to normalcy that we all hoped for. The new normal feels like the new abnormal to many of us – no greeting (with handshakes), no meeting (in numbers), no eating (in groups). And yet, at a time of the "crisis of a generation" as our Prime Minister called it with others comparing this era to The Great Depression or the 21st century's equivalent of last century's World Wars, this has also been a time when the twin bright lights of healing and hope have been incandescent and illuminating to the vulnerable and the new vulnerable. I shall outline some of these twin bright lights in the past year.

First, we continued to harness technology to ensure that we could leave digital touchpoints on the hearts and minds of the profession and the public. Last year despite COVID-19,we were simply blown away by the fact that our 117 law awareness talks happening onsite and online reached 13,002 participants, out of which 92 were talks attended by 7,661 members of the public. Though the number of talks was less compared to the year before when over 130 talks were organised and attended by more than 6,000 members of the public, our outreach increased surely but steadily. CEOTanguy has also touched on other aspects of our digital transformation as an organization.

Likewise, our legal clinics have pivoted to online consultations. This allows legal consultation on more sensitive and personal topics such as personal debt and divorce to reach participants in the privacy and comfort of their own homes. With this additional layer of comfort levels and confidentiality in virtual consults, anecdotally, we know that some are more willing to unload their tears and fears. These would otherwise have chosen to steer clear due to fears of stigmatization or being observed coming to an onsite legal clinic.

Secondly, the power of social media modalities for optimal outreach. Our webinars were uploaded onto LSPBS'YouTube channel post-event, making legal knowledge accessible 24/7 to people who did not, or could not, have the opportunity to attend it live. As an illustration, our LAW@CDC2020 webinars (our annual national legal literacy campaign) attracted a further 1,200 views on our YouTube channel and are still being publicised through various avenues.

The twin bright lights I referred to earlier continue to illuminate our way in FY2021/2022.

In April 2021, LSPBSinked a strategic and symbolic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MCCY'sSG Cares Office to signify our commitment towards supporting skills-based volunteerism in Singapore; in particular, the legal sector. Our volunteers (especially volunteer lawyers) have also unselfishly gone beyond the call of duty to contribute their time, talents and treasure to deserved but under-served and unserved individuals and communities with legal needs. Through this public-private partnership with MCCY'sSG CaresOffice, we aim to nurture both hard and soft skills among our volunteers in the legal community to sharpen their serve. Being identified by the Singapore Government as a key national intermediary is a fantastic tribute to the good work of our volunteers in doing good. We are deeply honoured and humbled to steward this governmental trust.

Following on from this year's launch of the Youth Community and Legal Clinics announced last year brilliantly envisioned by Minister of Community Culture and Youth and 2nd Minister of Law Edwin Tong SC, we served more than 200 applicants as of August 2021. The next frontier is to increase support for victims of online sexual harassment via these Clinics. This brainchild came from two young lawyers, Melody Lau and Kenneth Ng. Around August 2021, Melody and Kenneth stepped forward, offering to take on casesto represent youth victims of online sexual harassment needing urgent protection under the existing Protection from Harassment Act (POHA)regime, in particular injunctive remedies such as expedited and final protection orders. The two young volunteers responded with compassion to free these digital captives from their tears and fears and constraints. Within two weeks, a webinar was curated and conducted (in fact, on 14 September 2021) with Melody as the moderator. To upskill and build capability over 130 volunteer lawyers on how to advise victims of online harassment. A separate webinar for members of the public to learn more about legal remedies under POHA, and where to seek legal help, will take place on 16 October 2021 with Kenneth as a Speaker. The Youth Community and Legal Clinics is a valuable port of call that doubles up as a beacon of light for youths in distress. I cited this anecdotal example in some detail because it is an exemplar of groundup initiatives that LSPBSisopen to facilitate given its alignment with mission and vision.

Building on The Law Society of Singapore's MOU signing early last year, a piece de resistance in collaborative pilot projects announced in end April 2021 was initiated together with the Paris Bar Association. This is the first of its kind, compassionate, cross-jurisdictional project by French lawyers and Singapore lawyers facilitated by Law Soc'spro bono arm to provide access to justice to women in the French community in Singapore who are violence victims. If we do not care enough as a society about the committing of external violence, we commit internal violence to our own souls. This collaboration is the fruit of what caring lawyers in Franceand Singapore can do.

Another outstanding collaboration I had touched on in previous years' messages as well is the migrant worker/guest worker collaboration. In July 2021, we organized the muchawaited launch of the Migrant Workers' Group. This serves to foster greater alignment and collaboration in enhancing legal awareness and access to justice for the migrant worker community in Singapore as part of LSPBS'continued efforts in providing its three levels of services to all in Singapore – Awareness, Advice and Advocacy. It is inspiring to see the unity of purpose during our MWG Coalition meetings.

Finally, combining both healing and hope for Singapore residents with no means and low means is our work in CLASand FJSSthatcontinue to be lighthouses in family legal practice and criminal law practice to the distressed and desperate to prevent them being shipwrecked or all at sea. Their work is manifestly clear for all to see. They make a difference to the heart landers in particular and are vital pillars in the access to justice mission of LSPBS.

We remain deeply grateful for the support from our various partners which has enabled us to enhance our accessto justice initiatives. A strategic partner and our biggest benefactor for our CLASprogramme is the Law Ministry. We could only ensure the vision of accessto justice for the indigent accused because the Government of the day not only shared this vision but seeded it. Time will fail me to thank each and everyone of our invaluable partners such as MSF, MCCY, The Charity Council, SGCares Office, the People's Association, the five Community Development Councils and, all our Migrant Worker Coalition partners for not just giving us patronage and support but their unwavering partnership in affirming, building, contributing and developing our common accessto justice cause.

We are deeply grateful for the strong support of our donors and funders through what has been a very difficult year for the charity sector and the impact on donor dollar. Tanguy has added some colour on the schemes we tapped onto and sustainability steps. One inspirational memory was the setting up of the Harry Elias SCCLASFund in memory of a legend at law and the man who pioneered CLAS36 years ago. Another moment in time was incredibly generous gift from the Estate of Ng Hwee Cheng Doreen of \$100,000 that ramped up the funding of our Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund to help students pursuing law-related studies (including financially disadvantaged ones).

0

We remain heartened by the steadfast support of our volunteers drawn from both within and outside of the legal profession. One of the tangible ways that came to fruition was "JustLaugh" held in June 2021, our marquee fundraiser spearheaded by Board Members, Thio Shenyi SC and Adrian Tan. While we didn't laugh all the way to the bank, this event and the awareness and fundraising efforts put a smile on all our faces!

Finally, we can only do all that we did and more because of the power of unity of purpose (i) manifested by the outstanding teamwork and dedication of our Board of Directors; (ii) complemented by a supportive and professional management and Secretariat headed by our creative and committed leader, Tanguy Lim; and (iii) last but not least, a corpus of passionate and perseverant volunteers.

Everyone of you have gone beyond the call of duty and many into the call of sacrifice. Your commitment to do justice with compassion have impacted the landscape in ways that go beyond your stint of service in this charity. You have given lifechanging moments to our beneficiaries in accessto justice and changed their lives powerful purposively with a touch of your heart of love, your mind of wisdom and your will of intentional giving.

Each and every one of you are the bright lights in this charity. The shining rays of hope and healing that come from the power of our doing good in the darkest hour.

GREGORVIAENDRANSC

### **CEO'S MESSAGE**

The economic disruption and the isolation engendered from COVID-19 lockdowns have impacted so many in Singapore.

At a time when the most vulnerable are in need, invasive but necessary movement restrictions have fettered our usual legal assistance channels.

The cover of this year's annual report pays tribute to the role technology has played in enabling us to transcend the darkness of the pandemic and serve the needy with accessto justice.

If anything, LSPBS'COVID-19 silver lining has been our transformation into a digitally enabled charity with full remote functioning capabilities.

Our quick adaptation to technology was featured by the National Council of Social Services in a video to encourage Social Service Agencies to embark on their own digital transformation journey.

I am privileged to work with a great board, a wonderful team of colleagues and a pool of passionate and committed volunteers. Their adaptability and appetite for overcoming adversity for the sake of our mission have been immensely encouraging. The fruits from their "cando" spirit are on full display in the coming pages of this Annual Report. Please read in more detail on how LSPBSwas able to impact more lives during a pandemic year than the year before.

We are very grateful for the support from our various partners which has enabled us to enhance our access to justice initiatives. This includes the inking of a

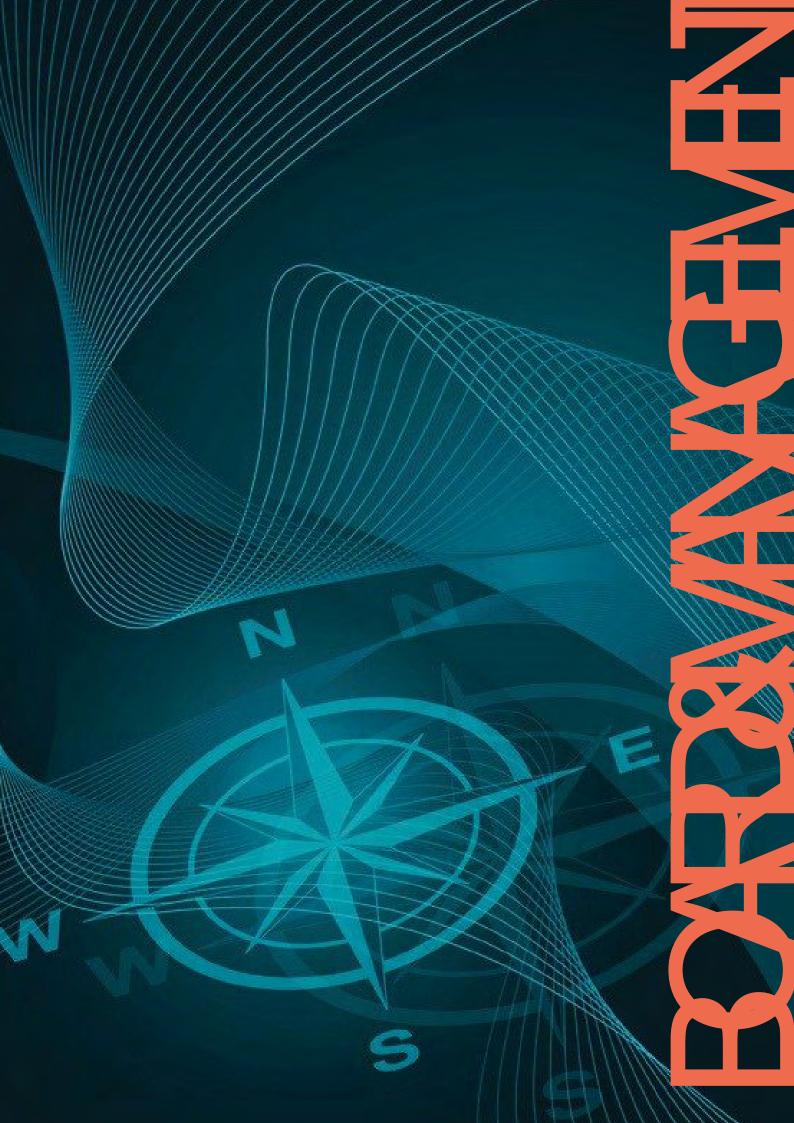
new memorandum of understanding with the People's Association to enhance support for legal clinics located at Community Clubs and Resident Committee Centres as well as the launch of Youth Community & Legal Clinics arising from our annual Law Awareness Weeks@CDCcollaboration with the five Community Development Councils. National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, Singapore University of Social Sciences School of Law, Singapore Management University School of Law, and the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Pro Bono Chapter, supported by the People's Association.

We are also very grateful for the support of our donors and funders through what has been a very difficult year for the charity sector. A series of COVID-19 impact grants and fund-raising initiatives to support charities were rolled out in quick succession. We were able to tap on these funds to significantly soften the pandemic's impact on our sustainability.

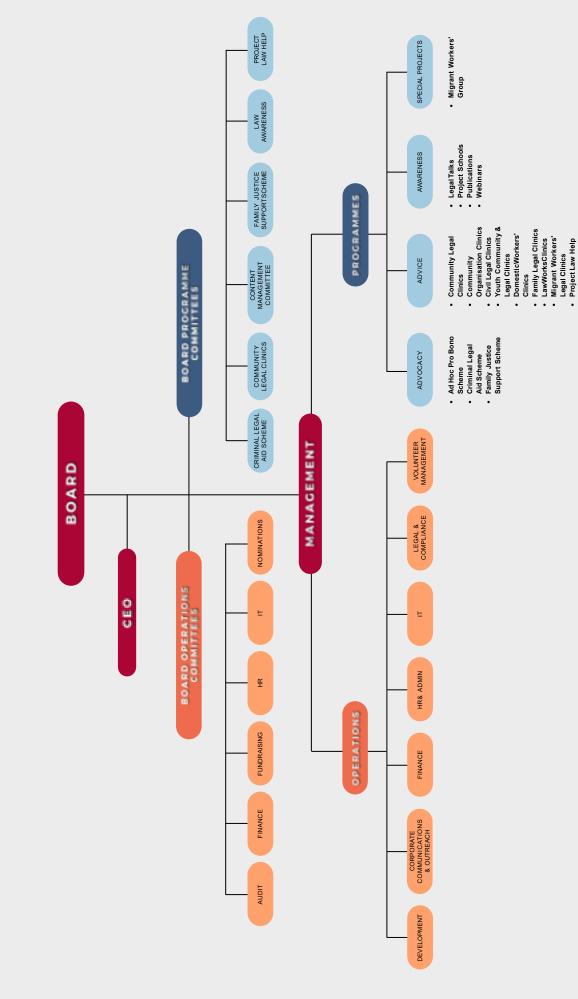
As we look ahead to what appears to be another difficult year with no return to the "old normal", we remain heartened by the steadfast support of our volunteers drawn from both within and outside of the legal profession.

Their passion for access to justice is the wind in our sails.





**ORGANISATION CHART** 





#### GREGORY VIJAYENDRAN, SC CHAIRMAN

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017

Gregory is a partner in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group in Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP. He serves as President of The Law Society of Singapore and Vice President of the Singapore Academy of Law.

Gregory was the inaugural Pro Bono Ambassador of The Law Society in 2009. He has been actively involved over the years in community-based legal clinics, as facilitator and volunteer as well as representing indigent clients.

In community service, Gregory has had a longstanding relationship with various charities and VWOs in aid of children and the elderly. He served as founding member and Vice President of the Children's Cancer Foundation (then known as Working in Aid of Leukaemic Kids) from 1992 - 1995, as Chairman of Camp Rainbow in 1994 -1995 and from late 1996 to early 2015, as President of Club Rainbow (Singapore) (serving families of children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses). He has served on the Board of Agency for Integrated Care Ltd (focusing on social care and health care for the disabled and elderly), was a founding Director of the Singapore Cord Blood Bank, chairs Rainbow Across Borders (catalysing awareness of chronic and life-threatening illnesses in Asia), and finally, serves as a Trustee of the National Youth Fund and the Rare Disease Fund and is Deputy President of the Tribunal of Maintenance of Parents. In 2020, Gregory was also appointed as board member of the National Council of Social Services.



#### KELVIN WONG DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017

Kelvin is Co-Headof the Corporate & Commercial Department of Allen & Gledhill LLP, and co-heads the Energy, Infrastructure and Projects Practice.

He also serves as an independent director on the boards of AETOS Holdings and Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association.



#### DINESH SINGH DHILLON TREASURER

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017 Appointment as Treasurer ceased on 24 February 2021

Dinesh is a Partner at Allen & Gledhill LLP. He is the Co-Head of the firm's International Arbitration practice and practises international arbitration and litigation. He is the President of The Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and Treasurer of the Asia Pacific Forum of the International Bar Association.

He was also previously Honorary Treasurer of The Law Society of Singapore. Dinesh has been a volunteer of Law Society Pro Bono Services'Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, a non-profit initiative to provide legal assistance to needy defendants in criminal cases, and Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme since 2015.

He was also previously Honorary Treasurer of The Law Society of Singapore. Dinesh has been a volunteer of Law Society Pro Bono Services'Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, a non-profit initiative to provide legal assistance to needy defendants in criminal cases, and Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme since 2015.



#### PAUL SEAH TREASURER

Appointed w.e.f. 1 February 2019 Appointment as Treasurer commenced w.e.f. 24 February 2021

Paul is a Senior Partner of Tan Kok Quan Partnership. Widely recognised as a leading practitioner by leading independent legal publications, Paul has acted as lead counsel in some of Singapore'smost important and high-profile litigation casesin recent years. Paul also has a speciality in insolvency and restructuring work, having advised on numerous well-publicised insolvencies. In addition, Paul writes on a wide variety of dispute resolution related topics and has contributed to important Singapore publications for litigators.

Outside of legal practice, Paul is the chairperson of the Living Waters Methodist Church and a board member of Metropolitan YMCA Singapore. Paul is a volunteer at Law Society Pro Bono Services' Community Legal Clinics where he dispenses free legal advice to the under-resourced on a regular basis.



#### **ARFAT SELVAM**

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017

Arfat is a Managing Director of Duane Morris & Selvam LLP and Selvam LLC. She practices in the area of corporate law. Arfat was the President of The Law Society of Singapore in 2003. Before that she had served as Council and ExcoMember of The Law Society of Singapore and as Chairman of its Inquiry Panel and Corporate Practice Committee. She was Chairman of the Law Society Pro Bono Management Committee for 10 years up to 2017.

In addition to being on the Board of Law Society Pro Bono Services, Arfat is currently a director of Jurong Health Fund Limited and Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation Ltd. In 2015, she was awarded the CC Tan Award for upholding the values of honesty, fair play and personal integrity by The Law Society of Singapore and was made Law Society Pro Bono Ambassador in 2017.



N SREENIVASAN, SC Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017

N Sreenivasanis the Managing Director and Managing Partner, Singapore at K&L Gates Straits Law LLC.He was previously a Council member, Excomember and Treasurer of The Law Society of Singapore. He has been actively involved in the pro bono activities of The Law Society of Singapore for over 25 years and has served as the Chairman of the Law Awareness Committee of The Law Society of Singapore and led various projects.

He was also a member of the Steering Committee of the Enhanced CLAS. He was Law Society Pro Bono Ambassador in 2010. He currently serves as a member of the board of the Singapore Business Federation Foundation and is chairman of its programmes committee. He was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2014.



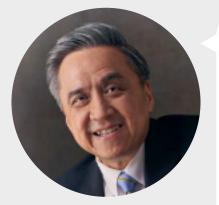
### TAN CHEOWHUNG

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017

Cheow Hung is a Director at Beacon Law Corporation. He has almost two decades of experience in private legal practice. The greater part of his experience has been in Dispute Resolution.

He has represented clients in a diverse range of civil and commercial disputes, including shareholders' and partnership disputes, employment disputes, defamation proceedings, construction disputes, banking disputes and tortious claims.

He was Law Society Pro Bono Ambassador in 2016.



ADRIAN TAN Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2019

Adrian is a partner at TSMPLaw Corporation, a director of Maxwell Chambers Pte Ltd and the Honorary Legal Counsel for the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped.

Adrian was the former general counsel at CrimsonLogic, a Singapore government technology company that provides network services in the legal, healthcare and trade sectors.

He has degrees in law as well as computer science and psychology.



THIO SHEN YI, SC Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017

A founding member of TSMPLaw Corporation and a leading figure in Singapore's legal community, Shen Yi served as the 25th President of The Law Society of Singapore from 2015 to 2016. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2008 and elected a Master Bencher of The Middle Temple in 2016. He specialises in corporate, commercial and financial litigation disputes.

Shen Yi is often cited as a leading individual in Dispute Resolution in many top international legal publications for his work in dispute resolution, primarily as counsel, occasionally as arbitrator.



#### DEREK KANG

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January2017

Derek is the Managing Director of Cairnhill Law LLC. He is a dispute resolution lawyer with a focus on commercial and civil litigation, as well as criminal matters and has conducted and won trials and appeals at all levels of the Singapore judicial system.

Derek represents and advises companies and individuals in a broad range of cases, including shareholders and directors' disputes, contractual and employment disputes and cases involving fraud.

He is currently the Chairman of the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme Committee and has also served on the Criminal Practice Committee of The Law Society of Singapore since 2006.



#### SUNIL SUDHEESAN

Appointed w.e.f. 1 February 2020

Sunil is the Head of Quahe Woo & Palmer LLC'sCriminal Department. Sunil'spassion is criminal law. He is currently the President of the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Singapore. Sunil is actively involved in pro bono work and attends regularly at various legal clinics. He is also a volunteer lawyer with the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme.

For his efforts, Sunil was awarded one of the two Subordinate Courts' Volunteer of the Year (Advocate and Solicitor category) awards in 2010.

Currently, Sunil is one of three criminal lawyers assisting in the Enhanced Guidance for Plea Scheme in the State Courts. Sunil sits on the CLAS Steering Committee and is the Vice-Chairperson of The Law Society of Singapore's Small Law Firms Committee.

He was Law Society Pro Bono Ambassador in 2019.

# EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



LIM TANGUY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Appointed w.e.f. 1 April 2017

Tanguy was a practising lawyer for 12 years before joining The Law Society of Singapore in 2007 to set up and run its Pro Bono Services Office. He served as The Law Society of Singapore's Director of Pro Bono Services until his appointment to Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS)in 2017 as its Chief Executive Officer.

He is a passionate advocate for encouraging pro bono service by the legal profession and is a frequent speaker at regional pro bono conferences. A Tote Board scholar, Tanguy has had more than a decade of non-profit leadership experience in working with public- private-people partnerships to enhance accessto justice in Singapore.



GOPINATH PILLAI DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL LEGALAID SCHEME Appointed from 1 April 2017 to 13 August 2021

Gopinath was the Director of the Criminal LegalAid Scheme (CLAS).Heoversaw the administration of CLAS,and the Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme (AHPBS).Whilst CLASprovides criminal defence representation to those who are unable to afford defence counsel in non-capital offences, AHPBS an initiative where people may be referred for assistancein situations where they are unable to obtain legal assistance anywhere else.

Gopinath supervised the CLASFellowship comprised of four to five lawyers, and two CLASAdvocates hired in 2016. Gopinath also worked with various other stakeholders in the office's collaboration, such as those involved in the migrant worker space. Prior to his joining the office, Gopinath was in private practice, an active CLASvolunteer since 1996 and also chaired the CLASsub-committee from 2005 to 2012.

Gopinath also supervised the IT department until April 2021.

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



### CLAUDINE TAN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OUTREACH, COMMUNICATIONS, HR & ADMINISTRATION

Appointed w.e.f. 1 April 2017

Claudine joined The Law Society of Singapore in August 2015 to head Outreach and Communications in the Pro Bono Services Office. Prior to that, Claudine had spent over 17 years in the education and hospitality industries. Since coming on board, she has been overseeing initiatives and programmes that (a) serve the community through the Community Legal Clinics, Law Awareness outreach programmes and Project Law Help initiatives that support community organisations (b) support volunteers (c) assist or collaborate on pro bono initiatives with other agencies and (d) fundraising. Claudine also oversaw Volunteer Management, HR and Administration until May 2021.



#### GOH PENG LEONG ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCE Appointed w.e.f. 1 April 2017

Peng Leong is responsible for all Finance functions. Prior to joining LSPBS,hehad more than 20 years of experience in finance across manufacturing, retail and hospitality industries. He had also several years of experience in managing supply chain, human resources, information technology as well as leading various projects in Business Processes Reengineering and Risk Management.

Peng Leong holds a Bachelor of Accountancy from Nanyang Technological University and is a Chartered Accountant, member of Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants as well as Chartered Global Management Accountant from Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, United Kingdom.

## EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



#### CAI CHENGYING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CEO'S OFFICE Appointed w.e.f. 24 February 2020

Chengying handles LSPBS'legal, compliance and development matters. She is LSPBS'Data Protection Officer and oversees board administration and risk management for the organisation.

Prior to joining LSPBS, Chengying practised in the litigation departments of two leading Singapore law firms. She volunteered with LSPBS'various legal aid programmes since getting called to the Bar and was seconded to the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme to do full time criminal defence work as a pioneer CLASFellow in 2015.

## **BOARD COMMITTEES**

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairperson Arfat Selvam

**Members** N Sreenivasan, SC Paul Seah

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Paul Seah

### Members

Cyril Chua Tan Cheow Hung Dinesh Singh Dhillon Usha Chandradas

#### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Thio Shen Yi, SC

> **Member** Adrian Tan

### **HR COMMITTEE**

Gregory Vijayendran, SC Kelvin Wong

### **IT COMMITTEE**

Kelvin Wong Paul Seah

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Gregory Vijayendran, SC Arfat Selvam

## **PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**

### **CRIMINAL LEGALAID SCHEMECOMMITTEE**

### Chairperson and Board Representative Derek Kang

Vice-Chairperson Chenthil Kumar Kumarasingam

### Members

Cheong Jun Ming Mervyn Amogh Nallan Chakravarti\* Balachandran Suren Jaesh\*\* Chia Ru Yun Megan Joan\*\* Chong Yi Mei (Zhang Yimei)\* Chooi Jing Yen Darrell Low Kim Boon\*\* David Nayar\* Dennis Chua Soon Chai\* Harjeet Kaur Dhaliwal\*\* Josephine lezu Costan Kawal Pal Singhs/o Amarjit Singh\*\* Lai Yan Ting\*\* Lau Wen Jin June Lim\* Lulla Ammar Khan Nanthini d/o Vijayakumar\*\* Paul Cheong Yuen\*\* Sim Bing Wen Siraj Shaik Aziz Suresh Damodara Tan May Lian Felicia Victor David Lau Dek Kai\*\* Wong Shoou-Huang Jonathan\*

### COMMUNITY LEGALCLINICSCOMMITTEE

**Co-Chairpersons** Cyril Chua Hany Soh Hui Bin

Vice-Chairpersons Choy Wing Kin Montague Yee May Kuen Peggy Sarah

### **Members** Amira Nabila Budiyano Cheong Bing Cheng, Ben Chester\*\* Ho Mingjie Kevin\* Hoo Ann Qi, Persis\*\* Kiraniit Kaur Dharsan\*\* Kok Yee Keong (Guo Yiqiang) Lai Yan Ting\*\* Lam Kuet Keng (Steven John) Lee Tai-Hwa Loh Guo Wei, Melvin Mohamed FazalBin Abdul Hamid\*\* Ong Boon Hwee William\*\* Priya Dharshini Pillay\*\* Sean Francois La'Brooy Tan Wei Ming (Wayne) Tran Le Luu Phuong\*\* Wong Kum Fu (Vincent)\*

## **PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**

### LAW AWARENESSCOMMITTEE

**Chairperson** Josephus Tan Joon Liang

Vice-Chairperson Elaine JiaNi Ho

### Members

Lyn Boxall Chen Chi\*\* Chia Ming Lee\* Chiam Zhi Wen, Nick Denyse Yeo Su-En\*\* Fong Wei Li Kamalarajan Malaiyandi Chettiar Kellyn Lee Miao Qian Koh Kia Jeng Lee Wei Han Shaun Lim Pei Ling June Lim Tong Jing\*\* Michelle Cheng Soo Yuen (Mrs Michelle Wong)\* Paul Cheong Yuen\*\* Sarita Misir Siaw Kin Yeow Soh Su Ming, Berlin Suresh Damodara Toh Wei Yi

### **PROJECTLAW HELP COMMITTEE**

**Co-Chairperson** Juliana Yap Chin Choo\* Tan Ming Kirk Richard\*\*

Vice-Chairpersons Tan Ming Kirk Richard\* Usha Chandradas\*\*

### **Members** Amarjit Kaur\* Anita Binte Ahamad\*\* Asiyah Binte Ahmad Arif\* Cai Tianjiao\* Chiam Zhi Wen, Nick Chrystle Kuek Ying Ching\*\* Debbie Lee\* Juliana Yap Chin Choo\*\* Lim Sui Yin Jeffrey Lo Yan Ning Jennifer Lvn Boxall Marini Martin Vincent Michelle Cheng Soo Yuen (Mrs Michelle Wong)\* Muhammad Taufiq bin Suraidi\*\* Nicole Carmen Tan Yi (Chen Yi) Sarita Misir Seet An Xiang Justin Tay Yew Choon\* Tham Keng Yue Gerald Toh Jun Yong (Alex) Usha Chandradas\* Whalen-Bridge Helena Mildred

\*1 April-31 December 2020 \*\*1 January-31 March 2021

## **PROGRAMME COMMITTEES**

### FAMILY JUSTICESUPPORTSCHEMECOMMITTEE

Chairperson June Lim

Vice-Chairperson and Board Representative Tan Cheow Hung

#### **Board Representative** Adrian Tan

### Members

Anuradha Sharma Dharma Jayaram Jeanny Ng Kanyakumari D/O Veerasamy Lai Ying Ling Jenny Lim Lei Theng Rebecca Vathanasin Seet Pek Hian Harold Amolat Singh\*\* Wong Soo Chih\*\* Yeow Tin Tin Margaret\*\*

### **CONTENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Usha Chandradas\*\*

Vice-Chairperson Hannah Lim\*\*

#### Members

AsiyahBinte Ahmad Arif\*\* Lyn Boxall\*\* Chiam Zhi Wen, Nick\*\* Helena Mildred Whalen-Bridge\*\*

We comply fully with the Code of Governance for Charities and Institutions of Public Character. We are committed to upholding the highest standards of transparency and accountability and believe that adopting the best governance practices will increase our effectiveness and instill public confidence in what we do.

Please refer to the Charity Portal for our Governance Evaluation Checklist.



### **1. BOARD GOVERNANCE**

LSPBSis governed by a Board of Directors ("the Board"). No Board member is paid any remuneration or fees for his services and no Board member is a staff of LSPBS.

### **Governing instruments**

The Constitution governs, amongst other matters, the following issues:

- a.LSPBS'objects;
- b.the Board's composition;
- c.the appointment, vacation and removal process of Board members;
- d the powers and duties of the Board; and
- e.the tenure of its office bearers.

As part of providing appropriate induction to incoming Board members, LSPBShasin place Board Administration Guidelines which aim to orient and guide Board members by providing reference information on matters including board responsibilities and governance, the conduct of board meetings, board selection and recruitment, training and evaluation of board effectiveness, strategic planning, programme management, financial management and internal controls and matters reserved for the Board's direction.

### **Board roles and composition**

It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that LSPBScomplies with the Constitution and all relevant laws and regulations, as well as to make sure LSPBS governed and managed responsibly and prudently to achieve organisational effectiveness, credibility and sustainability.

The majority of the Board shall as far as practicable be lawyers with a practicing certificate issued under Section 25 of the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161) in force. The Board endeavours to ensure there is an appropriate mix of core competencies and collective expertise to discharge its responsibilities.

### Term limits

Board members are appointed for a term of two years and may be re-appointed at the expiration of the term. To ensure succession planning and steady renewal in the spirit of sustainability of LSPBS, the Board has a term limit of ten years. No Board member shall serve as:

- Chairman for a continuous period of more than 10 years at any one time
- $\circ\,$  Treasurer for a continuous period of more than four years at any one time.
- Chairperson of a Committee for a continuous period of more than five years at any one time.

Reappointment of the same person to the above positions can only be considered after a lapse of at least two years.

The Board conducts regular self-evaluation to assess its performance and effectiveness once per term or every three years, whichever is shorter. Board members complete evaluation forms which are then provided to the Nominations Committee for their review and feedback.

The Nominations Committee takes the lead in the renomination and reappointment process and are guided by various considerations, including the skillsets and experiences useful and related to our services and operations and the outcome of the Board's evaluation of its performance and effectiveness.

#### **Board Committees**

The Terms of Referenceof our **six** Board Committees are set out below.

### <u>Audit</u>

The Audit Committee facilitates the external and internal audit of LSPBSfor the Board to obtain independent information about LSPBS activities. The Audit Committee's responsibilities include:

- To oversee the financial reporting and disclosure process, and monitor the choice of accounting policies and principles;
- To review the audit plans and reports of the external auditors and internal auditors, and considers the effectiveness of the actions taken by management on the auditors' recommendations;
- To conduct periodic internal checkson key processes to ensure compliance with the established procedures, and report to the Board on the findings and recommendations for improvements;
- $\circ\,$  To analyse and address the risks that are associated with the key processes;
- To oversee regulatory compliance and whistleblower guidelines;
- $\circ\,$  To report to the Board of any financial irregularities, concerns and opportunities; and
- To liaise with auditors on any significant matters arising.

### <u>Finance</u>

The Finance Committee provides financial oversight for LSPBS.The responsibilities of the Finance Committee include:

- To prepare LSPBS'sbudgetfor Board's approval;
- To develop coherent financial policies for LSPBSincluding investment policies and guidelines for the Board's approval;
- To review the various functions and activities of LSPBSwhich impact the finances of LSPBS;
- To ensure that the appropriate internal controls and risk management strategies (both operational and financial risks) are in place;
- $\circ\,$  To ensure accountability to the Board, LSPBS and its stakeholders; and
- $\circ\,$  To present financial reports to the Board on a quarterly basis.

### <u>Fundraising</u>

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for overseeing LSPBS'soverallfundraising and, in particular, the fundraising done by the Board. The Fundraising Committee's responsibilities include:

- To work with staff to establish a fund-raising plan that incorporates a series of appropriate vehicles, such as special events, direct mail, fundraising campaigns, etc;
- To work with fundraising staff in their efforts to raise money;
- To identify and solicit funds from external sources of support;
- To take the lead in certain types of outreach efforts, such as chairing a dinner/dance committee or hosting fund-raising parties, etc;
- To be responsible for involvement of all Board members in fundraising; and
- To monitor fundraising efforts to ensure that the fundraising activities are transparent and ethical, that donors are acknowledged appropriately, and that fundraising efforts are cost-effective.

#### Human Resource

The HR Committee provides oversight of the development and sound implementation of personnel policies and practices. The responsibilities of the HR Committee include:

- Reviewing job descriptions;
- Establishing a system for setting the remuneration of staff;
- Establishing a volunteer management system;

#### <u>Nominations</u>

The Nominations Committee is responsible for the general affairs of the Board. The Nominations Committee's responsibilities include the following:

- Reviews the structure, size and composition of the Board and Board Committees annually to ensure that the Board has an appropriate balance of independent Board Members and to ensure an appropriate balance of expertise, skills, attributes and ability among the Board Members;
- Identifies potential Board Member candidates and explores their interest and availability for Board service;
- Nominates individual to be appointed as Board Members;
- Takes the lead in succession planning for the Board Chairman, directors and CEO;
- Nominates Board Members for election as Board officers;
- Designs and oversees a process of Board orientation;
- Develops a transparent process for evaluating the performance of the Board, its Board Committees and directors;
- Reviewstraining and professional development programmes for the Board; and
- Identifies and nominates individuals to be appointed as Programme Committee Chairpersons.

### <u>|T</u>

The IT Committee reports to the Board on policies, acquisitions and matters related to LSPBS'IT assets, including

- Advising the Board on IT matters;
- Overseeing the procurement of IT systems and equipment; and
- Establishing appropriate policies on IT systems and use of software.

The IT Committee shall review and monitor:

- The on-going appropriateness and relevance of LSPBS'policy for the allocation of resources required to deliver both the short-term and long-term IT strategies;
- On-going appropriateness and relevance of LSPBS'information management and data governance framework and systems including those relating to compliance with the PDPA Regulations; and
- Any major IT projects requiring tender or which the Committee consider are important to LSPBS.

The IT Committee shall approve:

- Keyperformance indicators of IT services within the company; and
- IT policies, standards and procedures and any major changes in LSPBS'ITstrategies, priorities and/or structures.

The Committee shall seek to ensure, in conjunction with the Audit Committee, and with all other committees and the Board, as applicable, that information and technology risks are identified, assessed and managed in line with relevant frameworks and recommend actions.

#### **Board Meetings**

The Board meets at least once every four months with a quorum of four Board members. Executivemanagement is invited to attend board meetings to present updates and provide recommendations, ex-officio, but do not vote or participate in Board decision-making.

The following table sets out the individual Board member's attendance at the meetings for FY2020/2021.

Board Member	Designation	Board Attendance
Gregory Vijayendran, SC	Chairman	5 of 5
Kelvin Wong	Deputy Chairman	5 of 5
Dinesh Singh Dhillon	Treasurer (until 24/02/2021)	5 of 5
Paul Seah	Treasurer (w.e.f. 24/02/2021)	3 of 5
Arfat Selvam	Board Member	5 of 5
Derek Kang	Board Member	5 of 5
N Sreenivasan, SC	Board Member	2 of 5
Sunil Sudheesan	Board Member	4 of 5
Tan Cheow Hung	Board Member	5 of 5
Adrian Tan	Board Member	4 of 5
Thio Shen Yi, SC	Board Member	1 of 5

### 2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

LSPBShasin place protocols and procedures to manage and avoid conflict of interest. Upon appointment, the CEO, Board members, employees and committee members sign a declaration form confirming that they have read and understood the conflict of interest policy of LSPBSand that they will make full disclosure of the interests, relationships and holdings that could potentially result in a conflict of interest. They also confirm that they will notify the Board immediately when a conflict of interest situation arises. In addition, the CEO, Board members, employees and committee members sign a disclosure of interests statement each year.

Board members do not receiveremuneration and staff are not involved in setting their own remuneration.

### **3. STRATEGICPLANNING**

The Board periodically reviews and approves the vision and mission to ensure LSPBSstays relevant to its changing environment and needs. The Board also sets aside time to review and update the organisation's strategic roadmap.

### 4. PROGRAM M E M ANAGEM ENT

LPSBS'CommitteeAdministration Guidelines set out the procedures for the appointment of LSPBSprogramme committees, their work processes, and the respective responsibilities of committee members, committee chairpersons and committee secretariat representatives.

LSPBSensures that its operations and programmes are directed towards achieving its objectives through the preparation of annual work plans and budgets and regularly updating on the progress and outcome of programmes to the Board.

The terms of reference of our **<u>six</u>** Programme Committees are set out below.

### Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS)

The Terms of Reference of the CLASCommittee are:

- To co-ordinate and advise the Board on the administration of the Criminal LegalAid Scheme (the Scheme);
- To hold dialogue sessions, seminars, talks and visits relevant for volunteer lawyers and / or pupils of the Schemeon criminal law, practice and procedure;
- To publish relevant information to the public on the Schemeand on criminal law and procedure;
- To organise fund raising activities for the Scheme on behalf of LSPBS;and
- To keep the Board apprised of all such activities.

### Community Legal Clinics (CLC)

The Terms of Reference of the CLCCommittee are:

- To ensure that the proposed expansion plans are implemented effectively, efficiently and according to the timeline;
- To provide guidance to the Secretariat and oversee the implementation process;
- To co-ordinate and advise the Board on the administration of the Community Legal Clinics network;
- To hold dialogue sessions, seminars, talks and visits relevant for volunteer lawyers and / or pupils on Community Legal Clinics processes, practice and procedure;
- $\circ$  To publish relevant information to the public on the Community Legal Clinics network and the services provided;
- $\circ\,$  To organise fund raising activities for the Community Legal Clinicsnetwork on behalf of LSPBS;and
- To keep the Board apprised of all such activities.

### Content Management Committee

The Terms of Referenceof the Content Management Committee are:

- To support LSPBS'Secretariat and Programme Committees through overseeing the editorial content, design, publication and dissemination of LSPBS' external publications;
- To periodically review LSPBS'external publications to ensure that they remain relevant, serve the community, and are updated in a timely manner;
- To review publication standards and policies, with a view to ensuring LSPBS'external publications are of a high quality, in line with publishing best practices and ethics and compliant with the applicable laws and regulations;
- To maintain a central repository of legal knowledge and related materials and collaterals;
- To mobilise and develop a pool of competent editors and contributors to carry out the functions described above;
- To report to the LSPBSBoard on the contribution of publishing activities towards LSPBS'objectives.

### Law Awareness

The Terms of Reference of the Law Awareness Committee are:

- $\circ\,$  To assist the Board in its purpose to facilitate the acquisition of legal knowledge by members of the public;
- To recommend and implement law awareness projects and programmes for the public's benefit;
- To undertake fund raising projects on behalf of LSPBS for law awareness programmes; and
- To apprise the Board of all such activities.

### Project Law Help (PLH)

The Terms of Reference of the PLHCommittee are:

- To make provision for a scheme by which legal practices and advocates and solicitors can provide pro bono non-litigation commercial legal guidance to charities, non-profit organisations, social enterprises and voluntary welfare organisations; and
- To facilitate, promote, support and encourage a sustainable commitment to pro bono work within the legal profession in Singapore.

### Family Justice Support Scheme (FJSS)

The Terms of Reference of the FJSSCommittee are:

- $\circ\,$  To co-ordinate and advise on policy matters, protocols and processes concerning the FJSS;
- $\circ$  To liaise with stakeholders in the family justice system in relation to the administration of FJSS;
- $\circ\,$  Assist in mobilisation of volunteers and organising resources to support FJSS;and
- Assist in promoting awareness of FJSS.

### 5. HUM AN RESOURCEAND VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

LSPBSadministers a Code of Conduct applicable to all Board members, employees and volunteers, which require them to act lawfully, honestly, ethically and in the best interests of LSPBSwhenperforming their duties.

LSPBSalso has a series of human resource policies and SOPs that cover areas such as remuneration, promotions, benefits, training and development, reimbursement of expenses, performance appraisal, disciplinary action and cessation of employment.

LSPBSis a learning organisation committed to helping employees grow in their careers. In addition to making learning opportunities available, LSPBS has a fair and objective performance management process linked to measurable and clearly defined targets with regular performance appraisals, supervision and feedback systems.

LSPBSdisclosesthe annual remuneration of three highest paid staff for transparency:

Salary Bands (in bands of \$100,000)	Number of Staff
\$100,000 – \$199,999	2
\$200,000 - \$299,999	1

LSPBSdoes not have paid staff who are close members of the family of the Executive Head or Board members.

LSPBShas in place a Whistleblowing Policy that aims to deter wrongdoing and provide proper avenues for employees, volunteers, donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders to raise concerns about suspected improprieties in good faith to the Audit Committee.

LSPBS has in place a Volunteer Management Policy to provide guidance to staff and volunteers on volunteer administration and management. The policy includes information on:

- volunteer management procedures on matters concerning maintenance of records, conflict of interest, confidentiality, personal data protection;
- volunteer recruitment and selection processes;
- volunteer orientation, training and development;
- volunteer supervision and evaluation; and
- volunteer support and recognition.

### 6. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

Financial management policies in place include policies on fixed and intangible asset management, procurement, the management of gifts, receipting, payment procedures and controls and an approval matrix setting out delegation of approval authority and limits of approval. The annual accounts are audited by an external professional audit firm. LSPBS does not provide loans and donations to external parties.

LSPBShas a fixed asset register to account for all its fixed assets. LSPBSsafeguards the value of its assets by getting adequate insurance.

The Board approves an annual budget after considering, amongst other matters, the committee work plans and budgets for the respective Programme Committees' activities for the year. The Board also monitors regularly LSPBS'budget income and expenditure to ensure LSPBSoperates efficiently and adhere strictly to financial policies.

Our level and purpose of reserves, reserves ratio, purpose and amount of restricted funds are disclosed in our audited financial statements. Restricted funds are planned to be used for immediate operational needs, operational needs in the short term and/or in accordance with funding agreements. LSPBSdoesnot have endowment funds.

For long-term stability of the operations, it is the objective of LSPBSto achieve reserves that would be able to sustain operations for a 1-year period in the event of a decline in donations.

### 7. RISK MANAGEMENT

LSPBSmaintains a risk register in the format set out in the Enterprise Risk Management Toolkit for Charities and IPCs, jointly produced by the Charity Council, KPMG and National University of Singapore Business School. The risk register is updated periodically and as and when acute risks arise. The Audit Committee has oversight of the risk register, which is presented to the Board at least once a year.

### 8. FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

### **Conduct of fundraising**

LSPBSfundraises according to best practices and in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations. LSPBSdoesnot engage third party fundraisers.

### Accountability to donors

LSPBShas a Gift Policy in place to:

- Guide enquiries on gifts to LSPBSandthe administration of gifts;
- Identify circumstances under which the donor should seek independent advice;
- Ensure compliance with other relevant regulatory and compliance issues, including personal data protection and honoring requests for donor anonymity.

LSPBSalso has financial SOPsin place to ensure donations are properly accounted for and promptly deposited.

### 9. PUBLIC IM AGE

To ensure that LSPBSmaintains an image consistent with its objectives, LSPBShasin place a Communications Policy which sets out policies on the release of information to media and on social media, the designation of spokespersons and the use of LSPBS'name and logos.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Despite the shrinking economy due to the COVID-19pandemic, FY2020/2021ended with a positive note which resulted in a surplus of \$51,423 compared to FY2019/2020 deficit of \$155,347. We are thankful to our stakeholders for their ongoing support amidst this period of uncertainty.

Below is the summary of our Income and Expenditure as well as Balance Sheet:

#### **Income and Expenditure**

The General Fund reported a surplus of \$1.17 million for FY2020/2021, higher than the surplus of \$264,558 for FY2019/2020. The Restricted Funds reported a deficit of \$1.11 million for FY2020/2021 compared to a deficit of \$419,905 in FY2019/2020.

#### <u>Income</u>

Total income in FY2020/2021 increased by 13% to \$3.95 million from \$3.50 million of FY2019/2020.One of the factors which contributed to the 13% increase in income was the increase in donations and funding from \$3.00 million to \$3.62 million. The increase in donations was due to various successful campaigns - COVID-19Accessto Justice Response, Harry Elias SCCLASFellowship Fund and Inclusive Justice. The increase in funding was due to the Bicentennial Community Funding (\$400,000) and Job Support Scheme (\$367,211) received.

#### <u>Expenditure</u>

Total expenditure in FY2020/2021 increased by 7% to \$3.90 million from \$3.66 million of FY2019/2020, largely due to personnel costs.

#### a. Committee activities and projects

There was a slight reduction of expenses of \$47,575 for FY2020/2021 from \$517,918 to \$470,343 million mainly due to lower CLAScasesassigned.

#### b. Administrative expenses

There was a decrease of expenses of \$116,208 for FY2020/2021 from \$628,721 to \$512,513 mainly due to the fully amortised CLAS case management software. In addition, there was a write-off of property, plant and equipment of \$61,062 due to moving of office premises to State Courts in FY2019/2020.

#### c. Personnel costs

There was an increase of expenses of \$404,826 for FY2020/2021 from \$2.51 million to \$2.92 million mainly due to yearly average salary adjustment and increase in headcounts.



The key highlights of the balance sheet as at 31 March 2021 are as follows:

- Non-current assets decreased from \$802,650 to \$618,672 mainly due to depreciation and amortisation;
- Current assets increased from \$4.53 million to \$4.88 million mainly due to increase of cash and cash equivalent of \$481,161 as operating expenses are subsequently paid in FY2021/2022.
- Liabilities increased from \$1.37 million to \$1.49 million mainly due to the increase of payables of \$267,271 and contract liabilities of \$77,200. However, these increases were offset by the decrease of lease liabilities of \$120,168 and amortisation of deferred grants of \$112,278.

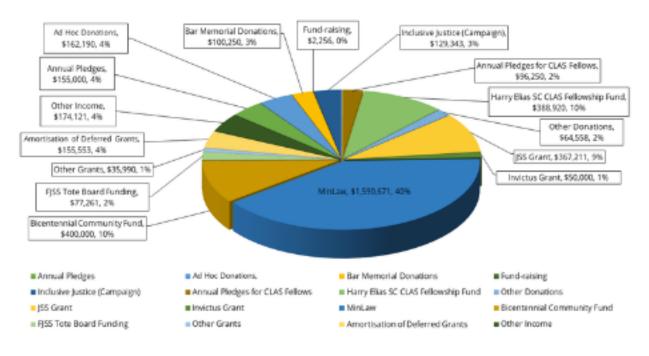
Overall, LSPBS ensures sustainability in our financial position through the continuous appeal of donations, application of grants and prudence in our expenditure.

I take this opportunity to thank Dinesh who has stepped down from being Treasurer since the inception of LSPBSand as he continues to volunteer as a Board member of LSPBSand in LSPBSFinanceCommittee. I also thank the other members of LSPBSFinanceCommittee -Cheow Hung, Cyril and Usha for their unwavering support, counsel and contributions as well as Board, Management and Financestaff in their cooperation and efforts in approving budget, implementing initiatives and controlling expenses.

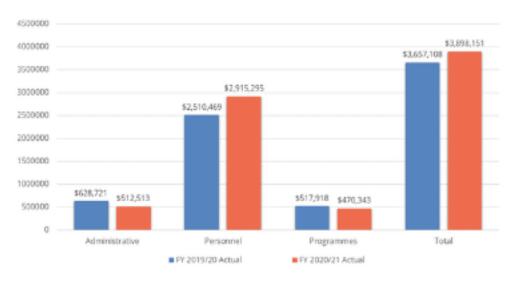
Lastly, I want to thank the Ministry of Law, National Council of Social Services, Tote Board as well as all donors and supporters of LSPBS. Ilook forward to your continuous support for LSPBStoward our vision and mission in allowing all to have access justice in Singapore.



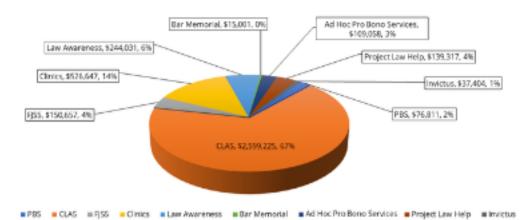
### FY2020/2021 INCOME (\$3,949,574)



### FY2020/2021 EXPENSESCOMPARED WITH LASTYEAR

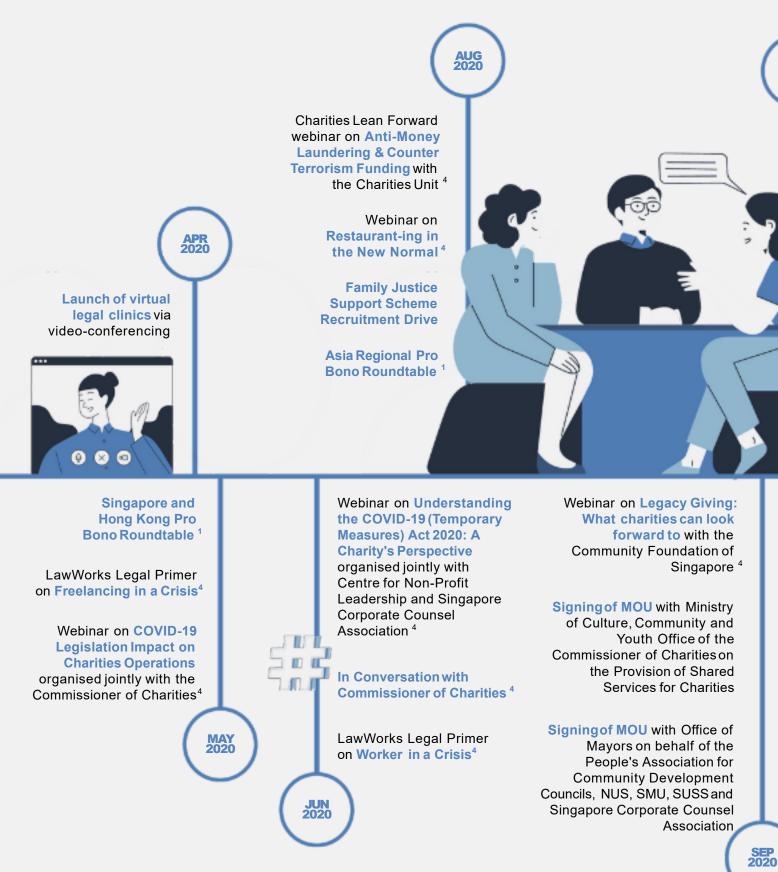


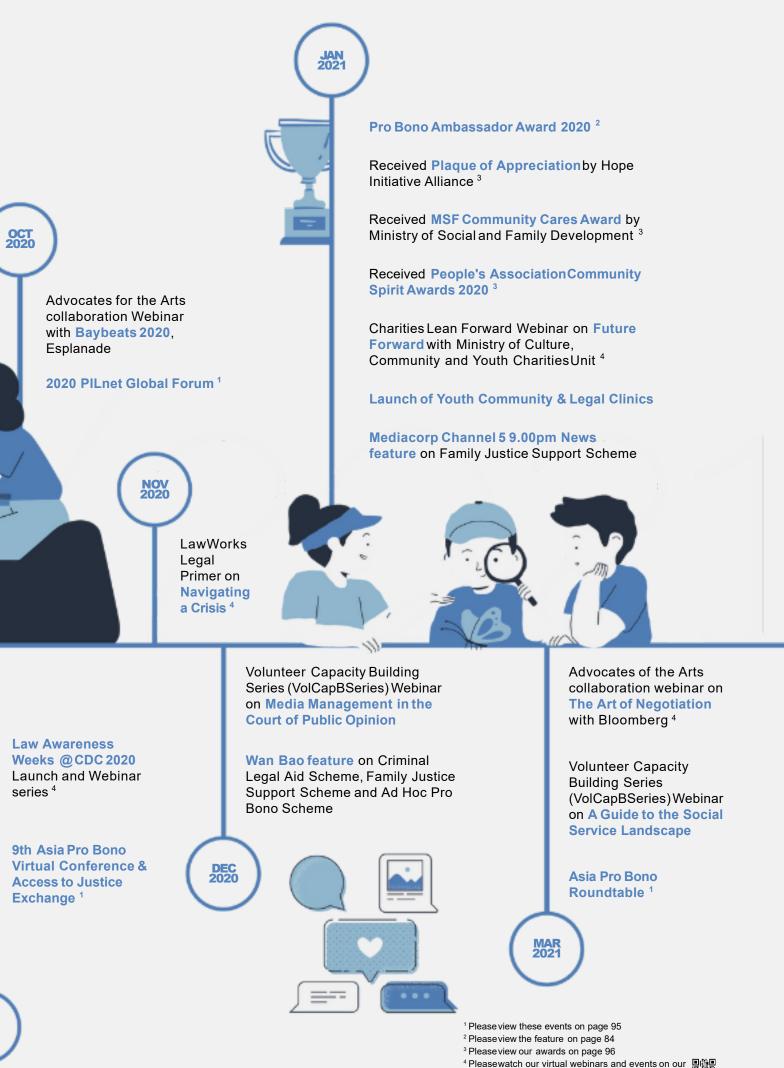
### FY2020/2021 FULL COSTBY PROGRAMME





### KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY2020/ 2021

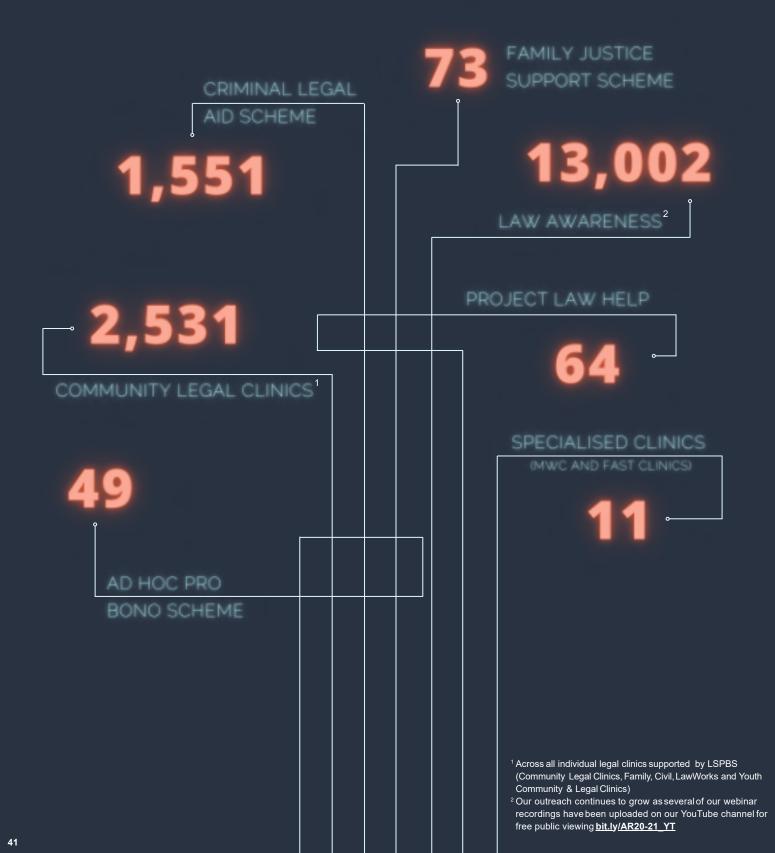




YouTube channel by visiting <u>bit.ly/AR20-21\_YT</u>

## OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

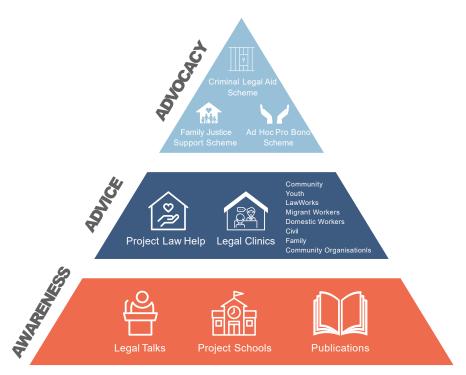
OVER 17,281 LIVES TOUCHED ACROSS ALL PROGRAMMES



# 

## OVERVIEW OF CORE PROGRAMMES

We enable access to justice for the needy and vulnerable through legal awareness, advice and advocacy. Through collaboration with our vast network of partners, we continuously identify and respond to emerging access justice needs. These treasured partnerships and the generosity of our supporters contribute towards envisioning a Singapore society where no one would be barred from access justice.



### AW ARENESS

### For Individuals

We run legal awareness programmes to reach out to members of the public and increase their understanding of how the law applies in their daily lives. The programmes include free talks, webinars and publications such as "Know the Law Now<sup>3</sup>", which focus on relatable topics such as employment, end of life planning, family law issues and cybercrimes.

Collaborations such as LawWorks with NTUC and annual Law Awareness Weeks@CDCwith Community Development Councils and the People's Association are hallmarks of the legal talk series.

Project Schools is a focused outreach effort which partners volunteer lawyers and organisations to deliver legal awareness talks and curriculum to participating schools, for the purpose of providing legal knowledge to students and informing them of the consequences of juvenile delinquency.



### For Community Organisations<sup>4</sup>

We run free legal awareness talks for community organisations to update:

- their frontline staff/social service workers on laws which may assist their beneficiaries; and
- their management staff/board members on laws concerning the operation/governance of their organisations.

Our free publication "Legalese<sup>5</sup>" equips management of community organisations with a broad understanding of legal issues relevant to setting up such initiatives, amongst other topics.

### ADVICE

#### For Individuals

Through our **Community Legal Clinics**, Singaporeans and Permanent Residents who face personal issues and cannot afford legal advice can obtain free basic legal guidance, subject to eligibility criteria. Targeted legal clinics such as Youth Community & Legal Clinics for youths between 18 to 35 years old and Migrant Workers' Clinics for migrant workers are also available.

#### For Community Organisations

Recognising that community organisations often run on limited resources and may have difficulty affording legal advice, our **Community Organisation Clinics** offer free basic legal guidance on operational issues for community organisations in Singapore whose objectives meet community concerns or needs.

**Project Law Help** assists community organisations doing community work in Singapore by matching eligible organisations with volunteer law practices that provide pro bono non-litigation corporate legal assistance, such as transactional help and legal advice.

<sup>4</sup> Charities, voluntary welfare organisations, non-profit organisations and social enterprises

## **OVERVIEW OF CORE PROGRAMMES**

### ADVOCACY

**Criminal Legal Aid Scheme** offers pro bono criminal defence representation for needy accused persons facing non-capital charges, regardless of nationality.

**Family Justice Support Scheme** offers legal representation to litigants facing family law issues. Litigants who marginally fail Legal Aid Bureau's (LAB)means test, but are unable to afford lawyers at regular commercial rates are referred to panel lawyers who reduce their charges for pre-screened referrals. Foreign spouses with Singaporean children who satisfy LAB'smeans test, but do not qualify for aid due to their non-permanent resident status, are granted pro bono legal representation.

Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme offers legal representation to persons who are not eligible for existing legal aid schemes but nonetheless require legal aid due to exceptional circumstances.

#### Programmes to support volunteers

We have a number of programmes to support our volunteers, including:

- Capacity building and training talks;
- Screening and preparing suitability reports on the applicants for the Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme;
- Volunteer Initiative Support Scheme which assists practitioners undertaking their own pro bono initiatives with administrative support and volunteer coordination and mobilisation; and
- Social Service Agency referral service which helps practitioners search for relevant assistance schemes to help their clients.

### Programmes to assist or collaborate on access to justice initiatives with other organisations

We strive for synergy and an integrated approach in delivering accessto justice initiatives.

We have developed systems and procedures for the running of pro bono programmes, such as programme administration, volunteer mobilisation and volunteer support materials, which are valuable resources for other organisations seeking to start or develop their pro bono programmes.

We give ready accessto our resources to these organisations, assist agencies with volunteer recruitment by publicising their pro bono opportunities to our pool of volunteers and organise regular inter-agency networking sessions to share on new developments and needs within the pro bono landscape. For instance, the Joint International Pro Bono Committee assists community organisations based in Singapore but doing community work overseas with pro bono non-litigation corporate legal assistance.

We work closely with law faculties, pro bono law centres and law student pro bono groups such as the NUS Pro Bono Group, SMU Pro Bono Centre and the SUSSPro Bono Student Group to provide meaningful pro bono volunteer opportunities for law students.

### Please refer to page 93 for our list of partners.

## **COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS**



Legal clinic advice for the needy. Committee Report, Cyril Chua and Hany Soh Hui Bin, Co-Chairpersons

Formed in August 2014, the Community Legal Clinics Committee (CLCCommittee) oversees the implementation of the Community Legal Clinics (CLCs).

Members of the CLC Committee comprise lawyers who currently are or have previously volunteered at CLCs, lawyers who are actively volunteering, as well as lawyers who are interested in increasing accessto justice through Committee planning.

#### Impact of COVID-19

Pre COVID-19, CLCs were held physically in four different locations, in the offices of the Central Singapore, North West, South East and South West Community Development Councils (CDCs). These clinics served over 2,000 needy and vulnerable applicants annually on a range of personal legal issues. When there were increasing COVID-19 community cases in early 2020, LSPBS tarted putting in place new processes to comply with safe management measures as well as exploring running these clinics online.

The challenges faced were multifaceted, from equipping staff with laptops (which were in short supply) that could be used for virtual legal consultations to selecting a virtual meeting platform that was secure and reliable. Staff had to be trained to use the platform, as did volunteer lawyers and applicants, some of whom resisted the platform selected in favour of others. In addition, applicants who were not tech-savvywere unfamiliar and uncomfortable with this new mode.

Other challenges included the lack of support from interns who, up to that point, had helped to process around 2,000 applications annually manning the hotline, as the internship programme had to be suspended.

Notwithstanding these challenges, in a matter of days, CLCs successfully transitioned quickly and seamlesslyto:

- have an online registration form for clinic applicants to provide their case details as well as attach relevant documents along with other forms for the consultation proper; and
- run virtual legal clinics through a video-conferencing platform, subsequently adapting a hybrid model of both physical and virtual sessions when restrictions permitted.

The quick adaptation to technology was lauded by the National Council of Social Services, which featured CLCs as an example of how social service agencies could leverage on technology.<sup>6</sup>

To ensure applicants less familiar with technology are supported to receive legal advice virtually, trial sessions oguide them on using the video-conferencing platform earlier in the day of the consultation are available. For those who nevertheless prefer physical sessions (when restrictions permit), safe management measures continue to be strictly adhered to.

<sup>6</sup>Video: Beyond COVID-19:Adapting Digitally for Service Continuity bit.ly/AR20-21 BeyondCovid



## **COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS**

#### **Growth and Expansion**

### Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network

Following the renewal (and expansion of scope) of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Mayors' Committee and LSPBSin September 2017, legal clinics continue to be held almost every weeknight at the Central Singapore, North West, South East and South West CDCs. As of March 2021, over 13,835 needy and vulnerable Singaporeans and Permanent Residentshave benefited from this initiative which began in September 2014, to receive legal advice mainly on family, employment and estate matters. In furtherance of this successful partnership, the MOU was renewed in 2020. For FY2020/2021,1,867 applicants were served at the CLCs.

### MOU for Community Legal Clinics Network (Network Clinics)

A MOU between the People's Association and Law Society Pro Bono Services was signed in January 2019. With this, a common framework was established for CLCsat the Community Clubs and Residents' Committee Centres to assist with best practices for setting up legal clinics and continued support for existing Network Clinics. Network Clinics benefit from insurance coverage for their volunteer lawyers, best practices, tips and guidelines, shared resources and accessto a wide pool of volunteers.

The CLC Committee was happy to welcome a new legal clinic at the Frontier Community Club to the network in October 2020 and continues to reach out to other clinics to inform them of the benefits of joining the network.

#### Specialised Legal Clinics

The CLCCommittee collaborated with specialised organisations to provide targeted advice to specific segments of the community that encounter legal issues. Where gaps exist, new initiatives to meet these needs that cannot be met sufficiently by the existing network of clinics may be implemented. Conversations are also ongoing with partners to raise awareness on and provide legal recourse for workplace discrimination, sexual harassment and common issuesfaced by those in the creative industries sector.

### Introduction of Youth Community & Legal Clinics

The Youth Community & Legal Clinics were piloted for six months from January 2021, targeting applicants from 18 to 35 years old, to consult with volunteer lawyers 35 years old and younger. The pilot clinics were well-received and continue on the second, third and fourth Fridays of each month in the evenings via an online platform. These clinics receive support from Institutions of Higher Learning (NUS, SMU and SUSS) through students providing paralegal support. Speaking to lawyers of similar age demographics helps young applicants feel more at ease and better understood in the unique challenges they face. Similarly, being well-attuned to the sensitivities of young applicants' circumstances allows lawyers to render more personalised advice, which results in better reception by the applicants.

## STATISTICS

### Top 5 Case Profiles

#1	Family
#2	——— Employment and Workplace
#3	Criminal Charges
#4	
#5	Estate and Probate

### Applicants registered for legal clinics



### List of anchor firms

Allen & Gledhill LLP Baker & McKenzieWong & Leow Clasis LLC Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP Drew & Napier LLC Harry Elias Partnership LLP HFW AsiaLegal K&L Gates Straits Law LLC

66

Lexton Law Corporation Quahe Woo & Palmer LLC Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP Shook Lin & Bok LLP TSMPLaw Corporation Tan Kok Quan Partnership Tan Rajah & Cheah WongPartnership LLP

### Applicants' feedback

"I'm very much happy and relieved after this session. I have gotten more clarity about my employment contract."

"Very informative session. The lawyers are extremely helpful and friendly. Keep up the excellent work for the needy. Thank you so much!"

"Lawyer was friendly and to the point, and understands my circumstances well. Clinic Manager was helpful for the registration on the day of the video consultation."

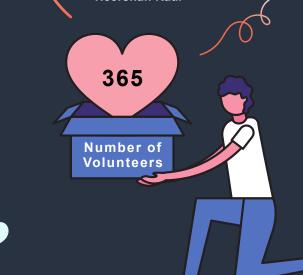
"The Pro bono lawyer is very helpful in giving advices and the Clinic Manager is prompt in doing their job as well. Thank you!"

"Deepest thanks to the lawyer for his succinct advisory, regarding the tenancy matters. It was very useful in my decision-making process & it has also addressed my financial concerns. I am utterly grateful to Law Society Pro Bono Services for the one-off free legal session with the legal professional."

### From our volunteers

"I smile when I can save a marriage and when ex-convicts whom I journey with tell me they will continue their rehabilitation and remember my kindness to them." – Jeanny Ng

> "No one knows that I took up pro bono work at the lowest point in my life – I had just been called to the bar and I had no offer of employment. Meeting people at pro bono lifted my spirits and made me feel important and useful. I felt like I was making a difference. Even though it was for no remuneration, I always left feeling lighter and more confident about myself."



## CRIMINAL LEGAL AID SCHEME



Providing pro bono criminal representation – for needy accused persons facing non-capital charges, regardless of nationality. *Committee Report, Derek Kang, Chairperson* 

Premised on the belief that accused persons should not have to navigate the criminal justice system alone on account of impecuniosity, the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS), often termed the "Crown Jewel" of the Law Society's access to justice initiatives was established as a ground-up initiative in 1985 to aid impecunious accused persons. CLASwas formally integrated into the Pro Bono Services Office (the predecessor of LSPBS) in September 2007.

The CLAS Committee comprises experienced criminal practitioners, many of whom are active volunteers of the Scheme and is passionate in ensuring the lost, the last and the least have a voice in Court.

#### Impact of COVID-19

2020 was a year of challenges, and happily we would say it was a year of challenges met and overcome. Whilst COVID-19presented challenges for face-to-face interaction, the CLAS team was quick to transition to a wholly online and remote application process, avoiding any gaps in service delivery. COVID-19did not prevent business as usual for us.



### Offences under the 5 most common statutes covered by CLAS:

Penal Code (Cap. 224) - 1342 charges

Misuse of Drugs Act (Cap. 185) - 666 charges

Moneylenders Act (Cap. 188) - 117 charges

Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act (Cap. 184) - 56 charges

Corrosive and Explosive Substances and Offensive Weapons Act (Cap. 65) - 47 charges

### 1,551 applications, of which 841 were granted aid and assigned counsel

### **Applicant's feedback**

"I was charged with hitting my passenger, who had started a fight by slamming the car door on my wrist. The passenger got angry when I refused to pick his family up as he did not have a car seat for his child and they exceeded the number of passengers allowed. The judge suggested that I apply for legal aid from the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme. My lawyers Mr Ng Shi Yang and Ms Goh Qian Hui helped me to get a Discharge Not Amounting to Acquittal after getting evidence on how the fight really started as well as my medical injuries." – Anonymous

281 volunteer lawyers

(excluding CLAS Advocates and Fellows)took up at least one case.

### **CLASVolunteer Lawyers**



### 20 law firms signed MOUs to take up CLASassignments.

"I had the privilege of acting for a young offender who faced numerous theft charges at the Youth Court. Although

under 16 years of age, I came to realise very quickly that the offender is a sensible and filial child who had put the interest of the family above all. On many occasions the offender skipped school so as to take care of the younger siblings at home, despite the fact that the offender had a positive attitude towards learning and enjoyed going to school. As for the offences, they were largely committed as a result of ostracism and the fact that the offender comes from an underprivileged family. Eventually, the offender was ordered to undergo probation and is currently residing in a rehabilitation institution which I believe can only help bring out the best in the kid. I learnt a lot about family ties and parental responsibilities from this assignment." - Alice Tan

"I was assigned an outrage of modesty case just a few days before the accused person's plea hearing. Briefly put, I managed to adjourn the PG hearing and eventually got the charge reduced. The client was a foreign worker from a very poor family background. It was a proud moment for me, to save an accused person from being convicted for the wrong offence." - Anand George

Firms which signed a Memorandum of Understanding to take up CLASassignments

- 1. Allen & Gledhill LLP
- 2. Harry Elias LLP
- 3.WMH Law Corporation
- 4. Damodara Ong LLP
- 5.TSMPLaw Corporation
- 6.Drew & Napier LLC
- 7. Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP
- 8.K&L Gates Straits Law LLC
- 9. Eldan Law LLP
- 10. Shook Lin & Bok LLP
- 11. Kennedys Legal Solutions Pte Ltd
- 12. Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC
- 13.Oon & Bazul LLP
- 14. Abbots Chambers LLC
- 15. Gloria James-Civetta & Co
- 16. Tembusu Law Corporation
- 17.Forte Law
- 18.PDLegal LLC / Peter Doraisamy LLC

50

- 19.WongPartnership LLP
- 20.Peter Low & Choo LLC

## ADVOCATES AND FELLOWS

In 2015, the CLASFellowship was launched to train junior lawyers to take up pro bono criminal defence work as a service vocation.

Every year, junior lawyers join our charity to pursue pro bono legal service as a full time calling. Known as CLASFellows, they represent needy and vulnerable individuals who are unable to afford lawyers in court through our schemes for criminal legal aid and other ad hoc pro bono services. The recruitment of CLASFellows is dependent on our fundraising efforts. The CLASFellows are only able to pursue their passion due to the generosity of our supporters. In particular, we wish to thank the founding donors Allen & Gledhill LLP, Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP, Drew & Napier LLC, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP and WongPartnership LLP.

The CLASFellows are mentored by our CLASAdvocates and other senior practitioners from the criminal bar. The CLAS Advocates are former CLAS Fellows, who have chosen to dedicate their professional careers to pro bono criminal defence and the mentorship of like-minded junior lawyers. We thank the Ministry of Law for their support of the CLAS Advocates programme since 2017.



CLASFELLOWSHIP 2021 Standing (left to right): Ng PeiQi and Kimberly Pah Wye Yan Not pictured together: Ng Shi Yang and Sadhana Rai

**CLASFELLOWSHIP 2020** 

Standing (left to right): VigneeshNainar, Pramnath Vijayakumar and Goh Qian Hui

Sitting (left to right): Sadhana Rai and Ng Shi Yang

### CLAS ADVOCATES 2020/ 2021

#### Ng Shi Yang

Shi Yang graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Birmingham in 2011. He trained at Rajah & Tann LLP and joined WongPartnership LLP upon admission to the Singapore Bar.

Shi Yang's disputes practice spanned commercial, medical negligence, insolvency matters, with particular interest in white-collared criminal and investigatory matters. He was seconded to the pioneer batch of the CLASFellowship. Later, Shi Yang re-joined the then Pro Bono Services Office in December 2016 as a CLASAdvocate.



A recent case of mine that left a deep impression concerned a young, accused person. We managed to obtain a non-custodial sentence for him. I kept in touch with him and his family after the case concluded. Some months later, I was notified by his family that he died in his sleep, due to a heart attack. This was unexpected as he was only in his 30s. We are sometimes told that our work we do (i.e., criminal defence) is similar to that of doctors treating dying patients – that by achieving sentences that reflect fairly their culpability, we help to buy time for them, thereby giving them back their lives. The circumstances of this case drew this comparison into sharp relief for me. I was glad we were able to assist him to have more time with his family, especially with his two young children aged 3 and 4 years old, who were his pride and joy.

#### Sadhana Rai

Sadhana was called to the Singapore Bar in 2013 after she graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the National University of Singapore. She then started her legal career at Drew & Napier LLCunder Mr Davinder Singh, SC.In June 2015, Sadhana joined the inaugural batch of the CLASFellowship as the sixth CLASFellow. She continued to work as a CLASFellow in 2016. In December 2016, Sadhana was offered the newly minted role of CLASAdvocate. In her six years at CLAS, Sadhana has appeared before the Supreme Court and the State Courts, secured acquittals and succeeded on appeals.

My first acquittal will always mean the most to me. My client felt like the whole world had given up on him. If my colleague, Yi Mei, had not had faith in him and roped me in at trial, he would have had to go through an intimidating trial alone. I will never forget when the Judgeannounced that he had been acquitted. He fell to the ground to thank God. His sheer relief, and anguish, is something I can empathise with. This was a man who had spent close to a year and eight months in remand.



This case reminds me daily that the work my colleagues and I do matter, and that sometimes, people need to be heard and acknowledged without judgment.

## ADVOCATES AND FELLOWS

### **CLAS FELLOWSHIP 2020**

### Goh Qian Hui (Term ended December 2020)

Qian Hui was an active volunteer for the underprivileged in Singapore and in the University of Nottingham's Pro Bono Society. She was called to the Singapore Bar in 2019 and joined the CLAS Fellowship in 2020, pursuing her interest in social services through her legal training. After her term ended in 2020, Qian Hui decided to continue to serve the community by joining us as Assistant Manager, Community Outreach.



A particularly memorable case for me is a 17-year-old boy who stole a motorcycle for a joyride. Growing up, he had always been a well-behaved boy who worked hard to contribute to his family's finances. However, he unexpectedly discovered he was adopted and struggled to cope with the news. Bullied by schoolmates and negatively influenced by a father figure, he was led astray. Thankfully, we managed to obtain a probation order which allowed his family and him to benefit from long-term rehabilitation, counselling and educational guidance. His parents learnt to communicate better with him and he managed to pursue his dream diploma.

As a freshly called lawyer and only two weeks into the CLASFellowship then, listening to this mild-mannered young boy tell his story really stuck with me. It was sobering to hear how quickly things can go south without the appropriate support and accentuated the importance of understanding context behind someone's actions.

### Pramnath Vijayakumar (Term ended February 2021)

Pramnath previously handled civil, commercial and criminal litigation matters in private practice. However, he found criminal law to enthrall him the most. He subsequently joined the CLASFellowshipin early 2019 and the practice of criminal law continues to intrigue him. Pramnath considers criminal law to be one of the most meaningful areas of the law that one could practice. Not only was his career switch from private practice an inspirational one, but he also encourages other fellow legal professionals to get involved in pro bono work.

CLAShas given me the platform and resources to further develop my advocacy and legal skills such as analysis of issues; legal research; processing and reviewing case law; statutory interpretation; identifying possible defences; assessing witnesses' credibility, etc. I have achieved this through the mentorship of a CLASAdvocate; the engagement in peer-learning with other Fellows, and the several programs and courses organised by CLAS...

Alongside such mentorship, I have also been given the independence to grow and to decide the type of advocate I wish to be. I run my own files, meet clients face-to-face, communicate one-on-one with the prosecution and address judges directly. I have been privileged to have had innumerable hours of airtime in the state and high courts. This independence has allowed me to figure out the type of lawyer I want to be, and the standards that I wish to hold myself to.

#### VigneeshNainar (Term ended December 2020)

Vigneesh graduated from the University of Manchester in 2014 and was called to the Singapore Bar in August 2016. Prior to joining CLASin January 2020, he gained experience in the practice of criminal, family and civil litigation.

Through the CLASFellowship program, Vigneesh has had the opportunity to hone many vital skills, grow as a lawyer, and most importantly, rejuvenate his passion of criminal work!



The opportunities that have been given to me in the course of the Fellowship have been nothing short of tremendous. From arguing a Magistrate's Appeal to moderating CLAS Training Programme webinars (a by-product of COVID-19) with some of the most experienced and well-respected members of the criminal bar, the last year has truly exceeded the expectations I had for myself. While these were some of the highlights, the numerous court hearings allowed to build on my advocacyand conducting merits tests for legal aid applicants grew my confidence in independently advising accused persons. All this, I could not have done without the CLASFellowship, nor without the help of the Advocates and my fellow Fellows, who not only have their own wealth of experience and a unique way of approaching a variety of issues but are always willing to spend the time to give conscientious and meaningful advice, regardless how minor the issue might be.

#### **CLAS FELLOWSHIP 2021**

#### **Kimberly Pah Wye Yan**

Kimberly graduated in 2019 with a double degree, Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from National University of Singapore and Yale-NUSCollege, respectively. She was then called to the Singapore Bar in August 2020, and joined Gurbani & Co LLC, where she completed her practice traineeship. Kimberly joined the CLAS Fellowship in January 2021.

The CLASFellowship has been an incredible opportunity for a freshly-called young lawyer such as myself. Not only has it given me professional exposure and confidence (e.g., from my first ever court appearance in February to arguing a Magistrate's Appeal in April), it has also given me great hope and expectation for the work I do moving ahead – the hope that what I do can matter, and therefore, the expectation that I must do what I can. For example, one of my most memorable experiences would be my first Discharge Not Amounting to an Acquittal (DNAQ), and then my first Discharge Amounting to an Acquittal (DATA) – both obtained after a set of representations to the Prosecution. Knowing that a perspective well-understood and well-told can make a huge difference in my clients' lives, how can I do any less? The possibilities that we carry as lawyers are a terrifying responsibility, and I am very grateful that I took my first steps here in CLAS:under the compassionate guidance of the advocates and directorate who are excellent in both work and mentorship, and with clients who have taught me and trusted me with so much. I am also hugely grateful to the donors who made it possible for young lawyers to be part of one of our Bar'sgreatest traditions – hearing and giving voice to the most silenced.



#### Ng Pei Qi

Pei Qi graduated from Singapore Management University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Laws (Cum laude). Before joining the CLASFellowship in January 2021, Pei Qi worked as a Legal Associate at WongPartnership LLP.



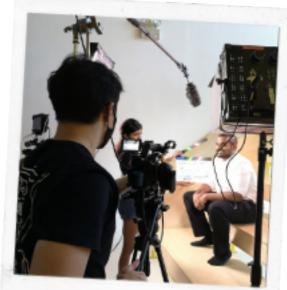
The CLASFellowship showed me the human aspect of criminal law. I will always remember my first PG mention. In the grand scheme of things, it wouldn't be considered a particularly memorable case. He had been a young offender, and pleaded guilty to trafficking drugs. I was mitigating his sentence on the basis that he had been coerced to do so. The Court eventually gave a sentence in the middle of what both parties submitted for. When he was sentenced, that was the first time it truly hit me that our job has a real impact. We become our client's voices, and every word matters in ensuring a fair outcome. It's our job to see beyond their alleged actions, to hear their stories, and tell it the best we can. Even that makes a huge difference to them.

### FIRST CLAS ACT

At the end of December 2020, when most companies were already closed for the year-end holidays, Weave was still hard at work. Diane Rozario and Lan Yu of Weave were developing the script for two animation videos for LSPBS'CLAScases.

After several discussions and brainstorming sessions with CLAS fellows Pramnath Vijavakumar and Vigneesh Nainar, whose cases and faces were to be featured in the animation video, the script was finally developed. The team at Weavetook the time off work to interview and film our CLASfellow at their premises.

The final docu-animation videos are available for viewing on our YouTube channel.<sup>7</sup>



Director DianeRozario opening with the slate



CLAS Fellow Vigneesh Nainar preparing for his shoot

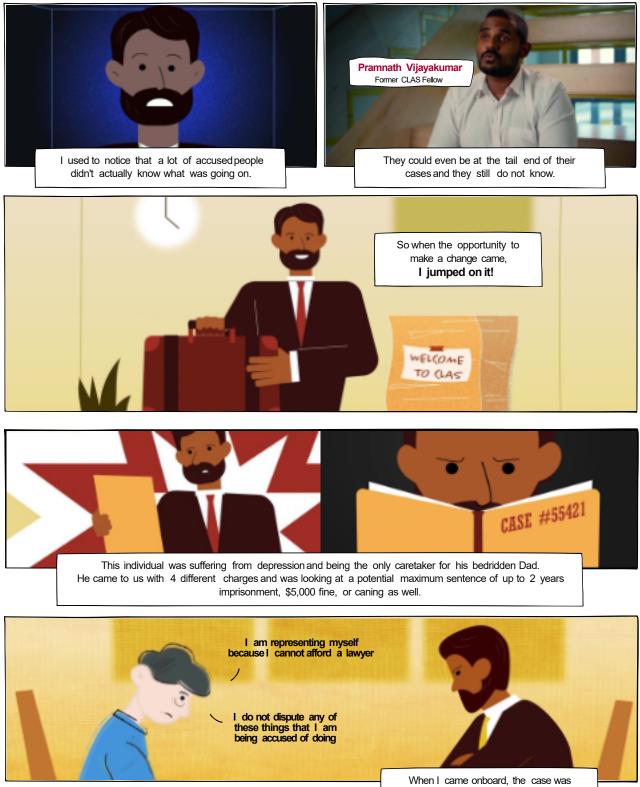


CLASFellow Pramnath Vijayakumar during his interview



during his interview

Here is a little teaser for Pramnath's docu-animation.



already active for about a year...

# FIRST CLAS ACT

I didn't actually have any evidence to rely on ...

The only thing that I can be guided by is what he tells me.

So we asked the prosecution to consider withdrawing the charges and giving a conditional warning instead.







He telt quite helpless and hopeless at that point of time. He did not want to go into jail...



because he was the only person who was able to take care of his bedridden father.



Weave was also featured in LSPBS'fundraiser JustLaugh's E-magazine.

LSPBSasked: If you can be a character in a comedy, what character will that be and why? Weave said: If Weave's a character in a comedy, we would be Phoebe from Friends. Our creatives sometimes have the strangestideas but you're always guaranteed a laugh! Like Phoebe, at the end of the day we aim to do right by the people around us.

LSPBSwould like to thank Diane, Lan Yu and their team at Weave for their pro bono support!



Empowering everyday people with legal awareness. Committee Report, JosephusTan, Chairman

The Law Awareness Committee (LA Committee) organises Law Awareness projects to reach out to the community and increase public understanding of the law in the daily lives of our citizens. Through the annual Law Awareness Weeks@CDC campaign with the People's Association, the Community Development Councils, the Institutes of Higher Education NUS, SMU and SUSS, and Singapore Corporate Counsel Association, free public education talks, seminars, webinars and legal clinics are run throughout the year. Recordings of webinars are also available on the LSPBSYouTube channel. In addition, information booklets on the law are made available for free download from our website.

Members of the LACommittee comprise lawyers who specialise in different areas of law, as well as in-house lawyers who are actively volunteering and who are interested in enhancing legal awareness and increasing accessto justice through Committee planning.

#### Impact of COVID-19

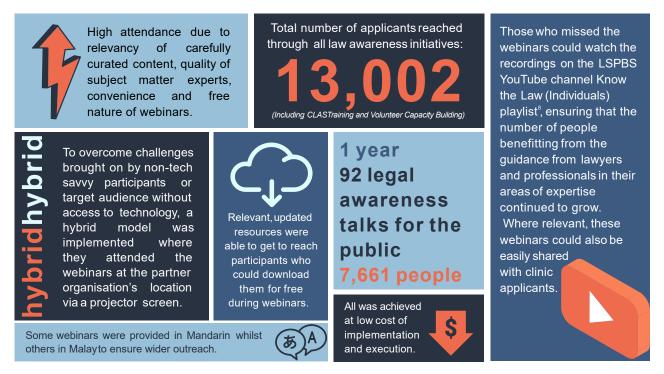
When Singapore was placed under a nation-wide lockdown between 7 April 2020 to 1 June 2020, LSPBSwas unable to continue providing free public legal education through physical events which typically numbered over 100 every year. Law awareness outreach in a pandemic and during a nation-wide restriction in physical movement, at a time when there was a significant gap in legal knowledge caused by the introduction of COVID-19legislation and when new vulnerable communities emerged or when vulnerable communities were placed even more at risk, was certainly a challenge.

LSPBS'response was a bold decision to quickly pivot physical talks to online webinars (despite having little knowledge and experience doing so) to continue creating relevant legal content to equip the general public and vulnerable communities with legal knowledge. The webinars were a crucial mode of enabling legal awareness especially as new legislation and regulations were introduced quickly and amended frequently.

In curating webinars for maximum impact, government agencies, social services agencies, charities, union as well as internet security experts were approached to collaborate, to ensure that key areas of concern, felt needs and pertinent issues faced by the general public/community organisations on the ground were covered. These partners generously recommended/provided the experts to be speakers and moderators for the webinars, bringing their insights and advice. In addition, they helped with the publicity of the webinars to their database and networks.

The webinars run during this time were very well-attended. Legal specialists and other subject matter experts came forward to educate the public on their legal rights, shared their professional expertise and tips. As the attendees could remain anonymous during a virtual event, they felt more at ease to participate in the Q&A session of the webinars freely, particularly on sensitive issues such as retrenchment and family violence. Strategic partners included the Commissioner of Charities and other government agencies, to ensure that the webinars were well-publicised within the relevant communities and addressed relevant access to justice gaps.

#### The results were noteworthy:



#### Law Awareness Weeks@CDC 2020

Law Awareness Weeks@CDC(LAW@CDC),an annual nationwide effort to promote legal awareness and understanding of the law in the community, is a collaboration between LSPBSand the five Community Development Councils (CDCs),supported by the People's Association (PA). In 2017, we welcomed the NUS Centre for Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education, the SMU Pro Bono Centre and the SUSSSchool of Law as partners in this outreach.

LAW@CDC2020 "The Law & Me: Stronger Together" was launched virtually on Monday, 28 September 2020 by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Edwin Tong, SC, the Mayors of the five CDCs and our Chairman, Gregory Vijayendran, SC.

LAW@CDCisa nationwide effort to promote awareness and understanding of the law in the community through a series of talks, so that people living and working in Singapore may know their rights and be empowered when faced with common legal issues. We were proud to have the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association join in this effort along with the Institutes of Higher Learning NUS, SMU and SUSS, where **13** law awareness webinars were aired 'live'online from 5 October - 13 November 2020.

These webinar topics were on issuesfaced in the day-to-day lives of Singaporeans including:

- Employment
- Family Violence
- Divorce and You (Civil)
- Divorce and You (Syariah)
- Advance Legal Planning

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we added topics in response to these challenges during this time:

- Small Businesses in a Crisis
- Dealing with Creditors (Individuals and Small Businesses)
- Freelancing in a Crisis
- Working from Home (PDPAconsiderations for Employees and Small Businesses)
- Landlord Tenancy Matters (Individuals/Small Businesses)

Over **1,500** attendees were reached during the 6-week long campaign.

Despite it being pandemic times and fewer talks being held (56 in 2019 pre-pandemic times, 16 in 2020 and 13 in 2021), the number of participants reached was very close to that in previous years. Conducting curated talks via a webinar format, on timely issues by expert speakers specially chosen have been very successful and this would continue to be the mode by which talks are conducted. With the recordings of the webinars on the LSPBS YouTube channel LAW@CDCplaylist<sup>9</sup>, greater outreach and awareness is made easily accessible to the general public.

#### LawWorks

LawWorks is an ongoing partnership between LSPBSand NTUC which aims to educate union members and workers on their legal rights, through Legal Primers of which there were three run, on employment issues. **Over 300** participants attended these webinars, recordings of which can easily and conveniently be accessed via the LSPBSYouTube channel LawWorks playlist<sup>10</sup>.

In addition, **120** applicants were served for the legal clinics which are held monthly, where they sought legal advice on a wide range of personal issues.

#### Advocates for the Arts

Following the launch of Advocates for the Arts (AfA) in 2018, LSPBShas been actively collaborating with various partners such as National Arts Council, Arts Resource Hub and the Esplanade, amongst others, to organise legal awareness talks for the creative industry.

**15 legal talks for 850 participants** in total were run during the year which were wellreceived. They provided freelancers with useful and practical legal knowledge to guide and/or risk manage their activities and protect their creative output.

In recognition that those in the creatives industry tend to face issues unique to their sectors such as intellectual property queries and a potential imbalance in their relationships with clients, our AfA clinics match eligible applicants to volunteer lawyers who have the expertise and interest in these areas, to provide free legal advice in a 45 to 60 minutes one-off session. **24** applicants for AFA clinics were served in the year.

<sup>9</sup>LAW@CDC2020 YouTube playlist <u>bit.ly/AR20-21\_LAW\_YT</u>



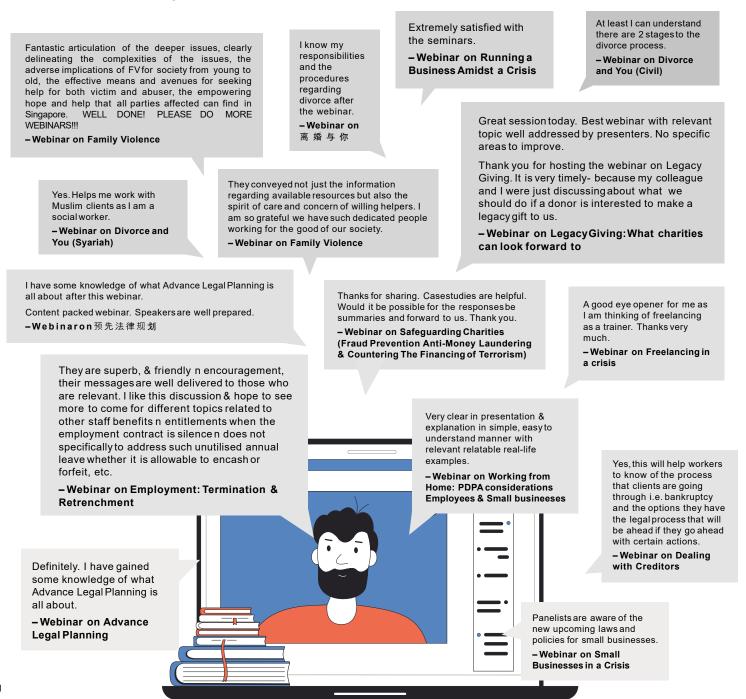
#### **Project Schools**

Project Schools was launched in July2012 with the objective of promoting a greater level of civic-mindednessamongst youth and enabling them to better protect themselves from the consequence of crime. With cyber crimes and cyber-bullying on the rise amongst this digitally savvy generation, the importance and relevance of Project Schools cannot be overstated. The close collaboration between school teachers and volunteer lawyers has enabled the success of Project Schools.

Talks during the year reached over **1,770** participants. We will continue to work towards expanding the reach of Project Schools.

#### **Feedback from Participants**

Feedbackreceived which came from different segments of the population showed that they felt empowered with legal knowledge and more confident about dealing with legal issues after participating in the webinars.



### **STATISTICS & MORE**

#### LAW@CDC 2020 LAWWORKS -**PROJECT SCHOOLS**

 13 webinars, 1,500 attendees 300 participants, 120 served ADVOCATES FOR THE ARTS \_\_\_\_\_ 15 talks, 850 participants, 24 served 1,770 participants

#### Partners' feedback

"In 2020, Singapore Corporate Counsel Association signed a MOU with Law Society Pro Bono Services, Community Development Councils and institutions of higher learning to promote greater legal awareness and access to justice in the community. This MOU resulted in the Law Awareness Weeks@CDC2020 the Law & Me: Stronger Together.

SCCA volunteers participated as moderators and speakers for webinars that helped over 1,500 attendees develop a better understanding of the laws on various topics from working from home, landlord and tenants, small businesses in crisis, family issues and more. The success of this event is testament to the hard work and collaboration of the wider legal community - law students, private practice lawyers and in-house counsels. It was also an opportunity for in-house counsels to meaningfully share their on-the-ground expertise of how corporations resolve certain issues.

It was a good experience collaborating with Law Society Pro Bono Services and we look forward to more joint initiatives with them in the future.'

- Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Pro **Bono Chapter** 

#### From our volunteers

"Knowledge is power - I would like to see Law Awareness brought to the masses so that they know their rights and are empowered to make better choices.'

– Francis Goh

"When I was still in private practice, I was assigned a pro bono civil litigation case representing a foreign construction worker who had been injured on the job and denied compensation. He was fired and sent home to China, and also required to pay an agent of his employer thousands of dollars in illegal kickbacks in order to work in the first place. I had stopped doing litigation work for almost 5 years by then, but I knew that I would dig up my old white shirt and black jacket for that case. After almost 2 years, we ended up settling the case. This was the experience that inspired me to start my journey as a volunteer raising awareness of employment law rights for workers, which I am still doing now with the LSPBS'Law Awareness Committee.

- Sarita Misir

"The Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW) is proud to have been able to collaborate with Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS) for A Guide to the Social Service Landscape webinar (24 March 2021), where our President, Ms Long Chey May, was able to share an overview of the social service eco-system, the roles of social workers, and the types of services and resources available where lawyers may tap on in their work with their clients who may need referrals and intervention. The webinar was wellreceived by the 384 participants, who were mostly lawyers.

It was a delight working with the very competent and dedicated LSPBS team. SASW looks forward to working closely with the team as we embark on a series of webinars targeted for the social service sector in 2021!"

- Singapore Association of Social Workers

I aw Awareness Volunteer Lawyeers

## LAW AWARENESS EVENTS

#### LSPBSEVENTS, PROGRAMMESAND CAMPAIGNS

Events	No. Of Events
General Legal Awareness Outreach Talks	22
LAW@CDC Talks	16
Advocates for the Arts Talks	15
Project Schools Talks	12
Media Outreach	9
Collaboration Talks with Partner Organisations	8
AssistNPOs Outreach Talks	7
LawWorks Primers	3
CLAS Training Programme/ Volunteer Capability Building Series	23
Total	115

### GENERAL LEGAL AW ARENESS OUTREACH TALKS THAT REACHED 700 PARTICIPANTS

Date	Торіс	Organisations	Audience
17 April 2020	Getting Handsy on Harassment	SUSS	
10 June 2020	Tenancy Agreements	AIC	
11 June 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	MINDS & SGEnable	Parents of clients in the adult disability services
18 June 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	MINDS & SG Enable	Parents of students in the graduating cohort
24 July 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	Metta School & SGEnable	Parents of students in the graduating cohort
27 July 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	MINDS	Parents of students in the graduating cohort
05 August 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	CPAS & SG Enable	Parents of students in the graduating cohort
15 August 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	Rainbow Centre & SGEnable	Parents of students in the graduating cohort
19 August 2020	Restuarant-ing in the New Normal		
01 September 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA (Mandarin)	CPAS & SGEnable	Parents of adult clients in the Day Activity Centre and Sheltered Workshop
24 September 2020	Wills & Deputyship	CPAS	Caregivers - parents and adult siblings
16 October 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	Pathlight & SGEnable	Parents of students in graduating cohort
24 October 2020	Deputyship	CPAS	Caregivers - mainly parents and adult siblings
21 November 2020	Wills/Trusts/Deputyship and LPA	Pathlight & SGEnable	Families of children with disabilities
08 January 2021	Employment	imPAct	PMEs
14 January 2020	LPA	Havelock View RC	Chinese speaking seniors aged 60- 89 yo
29 January 2021	Deputyship	Sheng Hong Welfare Services	Parents of graduating cohort
30 January 2021	LPA, Deputyship, Wills and Trust	MINDS	Parents, caregivers of MINDS Adult Sector
04 March 2021	Workplace Harrasment	LaSalle	Diploma and degree students
04 March 2021	LPA, Trusts & Wills (Mandarin)	Society of Sheng Hong Welfare Services	Parents of graduating cohort
06 March 2021	Deputyship Trusts & Wills	Society of Sheng Hong Welfare Services	Parents of graduating cohort
13 March 2021	LPA & Will	Jalan Kayu RC	Residents aged 30 yo and above
26 March 2021	Property right and obligation of tenants / landlords	imPAct@Hong Lim Green	SMEs, PMEs

## LAW AWARENESS EVENTS

LAW@CDC 2020 TALKS ANNUAL COLLABORATION WITH PA AND THE FIVE CDCSTHAT REACHED1,530 PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY MADE UP OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Date	Торіс
05 October 2020	Family Violence
07 October 2020	Employment
09 October 2020	Advance Legal Planning with Pioneer
12 October 2020	Freelancing in a Crisis
16 October 2020	Dealing with Creditors
19 October 2020	WFH (PDPA Considerations)
21 October 2020	Landlord Tenancy Matters
22 October 2020	网络研讨会 解雇和裁员有关的问题 (Employment)
26 October 2020	Divorce and You (Civil)
28 October 2020	Divorce and You (Syriah)
28 October 2020	Employment (Mandarin) Sengkang CC
29 October 2020	Employment (English) Sengkang CC
30 October 2020	预先法律规划 (Advance Legal Planning)
02 November 2020	Small Business in a Crisis
04 November 2020	Advance Legal Planning
06 November 2020	离婚与你 (Divorce)

#### PROJECTSCHOOLS TALKS THAT REACHED OVER <u>1,770</u> PARTICIPANTS

Project School Presentations	Location	Audience
20 August 2020	MOE North 5 Cluster	Student Management Teachers
9 September 2020	Cedar Girls School	Secondary school Discipline Masters and Mistresses
21 September 2020	St Andrew's Secondary School	
23 September 2020	MOE East 5 Cluster	HODs/Subject Heads
23 September 2020	MOE East 6 Cluster	HODs/Level Heads
15 October 2020	MOE South 6 Cluster	Student management (Primary)

Cyber Offences Talks	Location	Audience
14 September 2020	St Andrew's Secondary School	Secondary 3 students
21 October 2020	St Andrew's Secondary School	Secondary 1 and 2 students
24 March 2021	MOE South 3 Cluster	Principals and Vice Principals

Singapore Law	Location	Audience
28 October 2020	German European School Singapore	High school (Grade 9 to 11)
4 November 2020	German European School Singapore	High school (Grade 9 to 11)

Law and Order	Location	Audience
23 September 2020	Nan Chiau Secondary School	Secondary 2 students from SAP
		school

#### ADVOCATES FOR THE ARTS TALKS THAT REACHED 850 PARTICIPANTS

Date	Торіс	Organisations	Audience
22 May 2020	Navigating IP in the Digital Realm	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
27 May 2020	Navigating Contracts for Arts Freelancers	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
24 June 2020	Contracts and Dispute Resolution	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
22 July 2020	Intellectual Property	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
26 August 2020	Freelancer Contracts — Rights & Remedies in the Age of COVID-19	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
23 September 2020	The COVID-19 Act and How It Affects the Arts Industry	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
17 October 2020	Contracts and Intellectual Property	BayBeats 2020 with Esplanade	Bands
21 October 2020	How to set up an Arts business	LaSalle College of the Arts	Graduating students from BA (Hons) Arts Management
28 October 2020	Navigating IP in the Digital Realm	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
29 October 2020	Workplace Harassment	LaSalle College of the Arts	Arts management students
14 December 2020	Setting up an Arts Business	PA	
20 January 2021	Intellectual Property	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
09 March 2021	The Art of Negotiation (Webinar)	Bloomberg	Arts freelancers
17 March 2021	Setting up your own business as a freelancer	Art Resource Hub	Arts freelancers
23 March 2021	The Art of Negotiation (Workshop)	Bloomberg	Arts freelancers

## LAW AWARENESS EVENTS

#### LAWWORKS PRIMERSIN PARTNERSHIP WITH NTUC THAT REACHEDOVER <u>300</u> PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY FREELANCERS

Date	Торіс
15 May 2020	Freelancing in a Crisis (Part I)
26 June 2020	Worker in a Crisis
26 November 2020	Freelancers: Navigating a crisis (Part II)

#### TALKSIN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNER ORGANISATIONS THAT REACHED<u>870</u> PARTICIPANTS

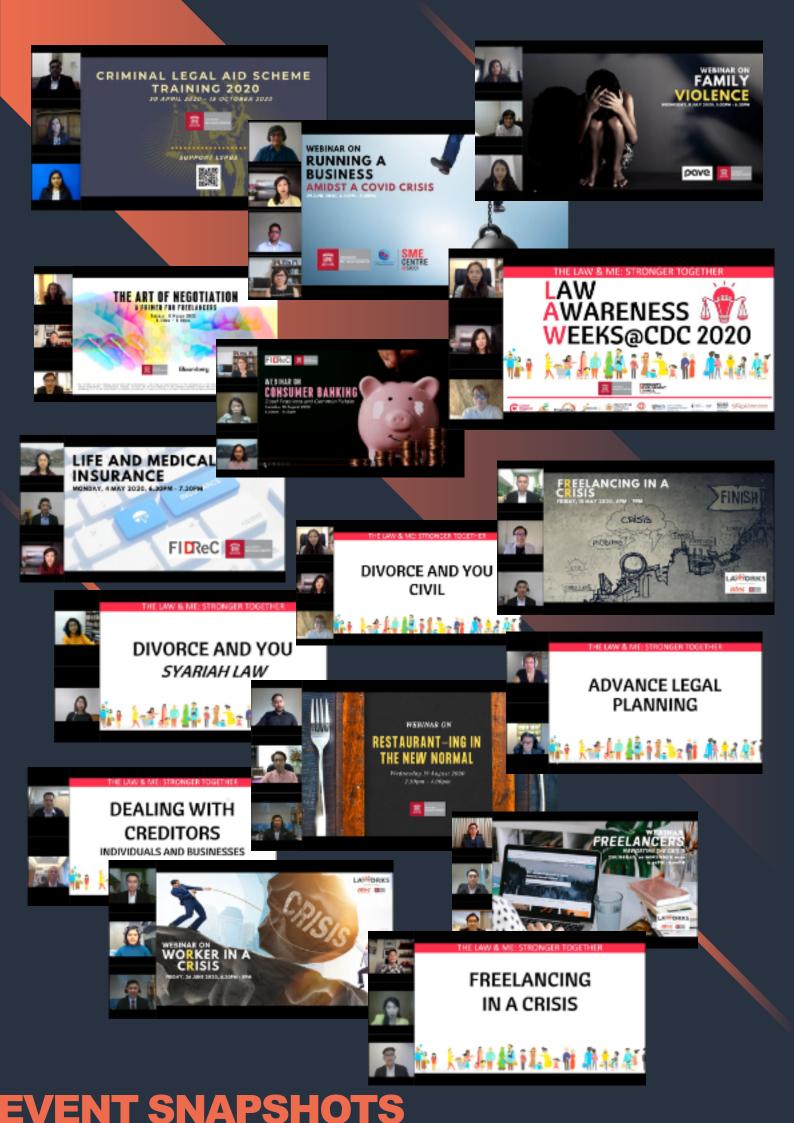
Date	Торіс	Partner Organisations
04 May 2020	Life & Medical Insurance	Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre Ltd (FIDReC)
12 May 2020	Singapore & HK Pro Bono Roundtable	PILnet
29 June 2020	Running a Business Amidst a Crisis	SME Centre
08 July 2020	Family Violence	PAVE
29 July 2020	Deputyship Duties (Mandarin)	MSF
18 August 2020	Consumer Banking	FIDReC
26 August 2020	Giving Well: Living and Leaving a Legacy	Community Foundation of Singapore

#### VOLUNTEER CAPABILITY BUILDING SERIESTHAT REACHED 550 PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

Date	Торіс
17 December 2020	Media Management in the Court of Public Opinion
24 March 2021	A Guide to the Social Service Landscape

### 

Date	Торіс
20 April 2020	Module 1: Overview of the Criminal Justice Process & the Role of
30 April 2020	Criminal Defence Counsel
14 May 2020	Module 2: Vulnerable Clients
28 May 2020	Module 4: Representations & CCMS
25 June 2020	Module 7: Pre-trial Discovery
02 July 2020	Module 8: Statements & Examination at Trial
09 July 2020	Module 9: Guilty Plea & Sentencing Options
16 July 2020	Module 10: Evidence & Impeachment
23 July 2020	Module 11: Drug Abuse Testing
30 July 2020	Module 12: Experts
06 August 2020	Module 13: Sexual Offences and Vulnerable Victims
13 August 2020	Module 14: Application for No Case to Answer & Closing Submissions
20 August 2020	Module 15: Cheating Offences
26 August 2020	Module 5: Theory of the Case 1: Developing Case Theory
27 August 2020	Module 16: Drug Cases in Light of the Amended MDA
02 September 2020	Module 6: Theory of the Case 2: Use of Case Theory During a Trial
03 September 2020	Module 17: The Window between Arrest and Charge
10 September 2020	Module 18: Appeals
24 September 2020	Module 20: Forensic Science in Criminal Cases
01 October 2020	Module 21: Understanding Probation
15 October 2020	Module 23: Interviewing the Client & Others
22 October 2020	Module 19: Post-Trial Matters



## **PROJECTLAW HELP**



Building capacity in the non-profit, charitable, and social enterprise sector. Volunteer firms share corporate advice so community organisations can flourish. *Committee Report, Tan Ming Kirk, Richard, Chairperson* 

The Project Law Help Committee (PLH Committee) serves community organisations (charities, non-profit organisations, social enterprises and social service agencies previously known as voluntary welfare organisations) by facilitating the provision of non-litigation commercial legal advice and transactional assistance to community organisations with the aim of supporting a sustainable commitment to pro bono work within the legal profession in Singapore.

The PLH Committee also keeps track of the various requirements and initiatives by the Charity Council. As the Charity Council promotes good governance standards and best practices, the PLH Committee strives to align its approach and position accordingly. This ensures that LSPBS is attuned to the latest developments in the charity sector and continues to effectively support community organisations.

Additionally, the PLH Committee engages in capacity building for community organisations by regularly collaborating with various partner organisations in seminars and outreach events.

#### Community Organisation Clinics (COCs)

COCs are 45-minute consultation sessions during which a volunteer lawyer provides free basic legal guidance to a community organisation. COCs are useful for community organisations that are exploring legal issues for the first time – for example, legal issues on setting up a non-profit organisation, registering as a charity, etc. COCsprovide community organisations with more clarity and guidance on the next steps they should take.

#### Project Law Help (PLH)

Under PLH, community organisations which qualify for assistance are matched with volunteer law firms that are willing to provide pro bono legal representation on matters such as drafting and reviewing contracts and policies, advising on compliance with charities governance issues, personal data protection laws, employment laws and intellectual property laws. Upon successful matching, the assigned volunteer law firm will work directly with the community organisation.

#### Impact of COVID-19

COCs in pre-COVID-19 times were held physically at the LSPBS office and Temasek Shophouse, under a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth as part of their Shared Services Initiative for Charities where legal clinics were conducted every last Friday of the month from January2020.

As a result of COVID-19however, COCswere moved to a virtual platform and legal clinics at the Temasek Shophouse were suspended.

### **PROJECTLAW HELP**

In response to the challenges brought on by COVID-19:

- COCsapplication form, PLH application form and other related documents such as terms and conditions and submission of attendance notes were digitised;
- COCswere run virtually through a video-conferencing platform; and
- NUS student volunteer programme providing paralegal support for COCs was suspended and subsequently resumed in August 2020.

Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic brought about unprecedented difficulties, the means test for PLH was suspended to offer free legal aid to all community organisations.

In FY2020/2021, a total of **eight** webinars were held in strategic collaboration with partners such as Charity Council, Centre for Non-Profit Leadership, Commissioner of Charities, Community Foundation of Singapore, Singapore Association of Social Workers and Singapore Corporate Counsel Association. Webinars were carefully curated for community organisations significantly impacted by the pandemic and covered related topics addressing new accessto justice gaps – topics included the impact of COVID-19legislation on non-profit organisations, work-from-home personal data security concerns and employment law issues.

These webinars were heavily publicised within relevant communities, attracting between **170 to 450 live viewers per webinar**. More than **2,000 live viewers** were reached in total, with many more tuning in to the recorded videos on LSPBSsocial media platforms after. The Know the Law (Community Organisations) playlist on the LSPBSYouTube channel<sup>11</sup> features some of these webinars for more to benefit from the advice and guidance from experts comprising lawyers and well-respected professionals in relevant fields.

There were positive knock-on effects on the community at large as many non-profit organisations benefitted, which in turn helped the vulnerable communities they work with. Another positive outcome of these webinars was greater awareness of LSPBS legal assistance schemes (e.g. pro bono corporate legal advice for community organisations). This was evidenced by the concomitant rise in number of applications from charities and other non-profit organisations seeking legal help during this period.

Other partners during the FY include the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), the Centre for Non-Profit Leadership (CNPL), National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) and Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, raiSE.

### STATISTICS

Community Organisation Clinics



#### 50 Applications, 40 SuccessfulMatches

#### Top 4 Case Types for COCs

Entity legal structure and corporate governance

Privacy, confidentiality and liability

Contracts and agreements

Intellectual property

#### Project Law Help



#### 14 Applications, 10 SuccessfulMatches

#### Top 4 Case Types for PLH

Entity legal structure and corporate governance

Privacy, confidentiality and liability

Employment

Grants, fundraising and revenue generation

#### Applicants' feedback

"Very helpful legal and practical advice from volunteer lawyer. Reallyappreciate this service!"

> "Fairlystraightforward and simple and excellent service!"

### 31 volunteers and 7 law firms

Assist Non-Profit Organisations Scheme comprises Community Organisation Clinics and Project Law Help

### **PROJECT LAW HELP** EVENTS

Date	Event/Webinar	Partner(s)	Live Viewers
20 May 2020	COVID-19 Legislation Impact on Charities' Operations	Charity Council	212
17 June 2020	Understanding the COVID-19 Centre for Non-Profit Le (Temporary Measures) Act 2020: A & Singapore Corporate Charity's Perspective Association		219
23 June 2020	In Conversation with COC	Charity Council	456
14 August 2020	Charities Lean Forward: Anti-Money Laundering & Counter Terrorism Funding	Charity Council	238
01 September 2020	Legacy Giving: What Charities Can Look Forward To	Community Foundation of Singapore	173
20 January 2021	Charities Lean Forward: Future Forward	Charity Council	397
24 March 2021	Volunteer Capability Building Series: A Lawyer's Guide to the Social Service Landscape	Singapore Association of Social Workers	384



SG Cares



23 JUNE 2020, TUESDAY 1.00PM - 5.00PM DATE TIME GUEST OF HONOUR Grace Fu Mension for Dature, Community and Youth

Access the divert Factor with existent changes brought about by COND.18. Now may charters continue to be relevant and impactual in meeting the evolving meeter. The third instantiation of the Constraints, will challenge charters are obtain their ward mode of operations are existent relevant distribution. One plot as in this wobing contrained for an emerge stranger point contraint.



Scan the QR code to REGISTER NOW





Johnly argonised by 🛛 🔀 💷 🚽 Commissioner of Charleins



CARD LANSING

EVENT SNAPSHOTS



CHARITY OPERATIONS

WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2020, 4.30PM - 6.00PM







### FAMILY JUSTICE SUPPORT SCHEME



Bridging existing service gaps by increasing accessto legal services to those facing family law issueswho fall through the cracks. JuneLim, Chairperson

Previously known as Project LEAF, the Family Justice Support Scheme (FJSS)now serves an even wider spectrum of beneficiaries facing matrimonial matters who fall through the cracks, namely:

- Litigants who marginally fail the Legal Aid Bureau (LAB)'smeans test but are unable to afford a lawyer at regular commercial rates. The objective is to assist this sandwich class by referring them to competent FJSSPanel lawyers who agree to reduce their charges for pre-screened referrals. ("Modest Means Clearinghouse")
- Foreign spouses with Singaporean children who would satisfy LAB'smeans test but do not qualify for legal aid due to their non-citizen / permanent resident status. Eligible applicants will be granted pro bono legal representation. ("Pro Bono Clearinghouse")

With the registration process conducted mostly online, beneficiaries have been able to receive assistance despite COVID-19restrictions. Less tech-savvy applicants have also been able to access help thanks to the kindness and hard work of social workers in bridging communications.



## STATISTICS

	Number of Applications	Number of Successful Referrals / Assignments to Panel Lawyers	Number of Referrals to Other Help Schemes
Modest Means Clearinghouse	27	2	13
Pro Bono Clearinghouse	46	18	8

#### **Applicant's feedback**

"My ex-husband was a drunkard and abusive. He even borrowed money I had saved up for the children's education to pay loansharks for his gambling debts. Once, he lost his temper at me at 5am in the morning. He carried the children outside the gate while they were sleeping and threw our clothes in the corridor. We had nowhere to go and the police brought us to a crisis shelter. Later, we changed crisis shelters several times to avoid my ex-husband, who kept stalking us. We had no home to call our own. Just as I was about to give up and return to Vietnam, the crisis shelter introduced me to my lawyer, Ms JuneLim. She helped me to divorce my husband. That allowed me to apply for a Long Term Visit Passand a rental flat. We finally have a place of our own to stay in."

– Kathy (not her real name)

#### Volunteers

In FY2020/2021,**18** volunteer lawyers took on at least **one** case under our Family Justice Support Scheme (FJSS).





#### From our vounteer:

"The cases from FJSS supports foreign spouses with local children and I have volunteered my services for mostly foreign spouses. It can be challenging because of the language difficulties I encountered when dealing with these foreign spouses. At times, I would enlist my Malay/Chinese staff to deal with those Applicants who are more conversant with their native language. Some of these cases are referred by social workers and besides having to explain the process to the Applicant, I have to brief the social worker too which means there is extra work and time required of me. I recognise that this is inevitable given his/her background.

However, it has been a gratifying and fulfilling journey with FJSS,andI hope to be more active. A word of thanks from the Applicant at the end of the day is all that matters."

– Jenny Lai

# AD HOC PRO BONO SCHEME

#### Providing pro bono legal representation to persons who are not eligible for existing legal aid schemes but nonetheless require legal aid due to exceptional circumstances

In line with our vision of access to justice for all, the Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme prevents persons in dire need of legal help from falling through the cracks in the justice system. Upon receiving an application, which is accepted on a referral-only basis (e.g. from the Courts, Social Service Agencies, government organisations, lawyers, etc), we conduct a full assessment of the applicant's suitability for legal aid and match eligible applicants with volunteer lawyers.

### **STATISTICS 49 APPLICANTS** 4 CIVIL CASES\* 13 CRIMINAL CASES 14 FAMILY CASES

\* Assistance provided to locals and migrant workers on legal issues arising from abuse and non-payment of salary

#### Applicant's feedback

"We were told that it would cost between \$3,000 to \$5,000 to hire a lawyer to apply for a guardianship order for our nephew, whose father is in prison. The fees were higher than usual because our nephew's mother is uncontactable. MSF recommended us to apply for legal aid with Law Society Pro Bono Services. We would not have become guardians without Mr Koh Tien Hua's pro bono help as my income is unstable as a home baker and my husband only earns \$1000 as a courier. We also have to support our own family." – Siti (not her real name)

### From our volunteer

"The applicants are a low-income couple living in a one room rental flat with their daughter. They sought legal assistance to become guardians of their nephew, whose father was incarcerated. Even though they are not well-off, they are generous of spirit and stepped up to become guardians. Not many would have done the same. My pro bono service grounds me in reality and opens my eyes to the issues faced by others in our community."

- Koh Tien Hua

### CONTENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Formed in January 2021, the Content Management Committee (CMC) supports the other programme committees through overseeing the editorial content, design, publication and dissemination of our publications. CMC was set up with the vision that all our publications will have the hallmarks of excellence, being relevant, accessible, current and in line with publishing best practices and ethics and compliant with the applicable laws and regulations.

Since its establishment, CMC has produced style and other publication guides for our content contributors on issues such as writing for the layman and managing publication timelines. In the coming year, CMC will work on several strategic projects related to the transformation of our communications platforms and digitalisation of our law awareness outreach initiatives.



The birth of the Content Management Committee is testament to the excellent sustained work carried out by the volunteers and staff of LSPBSover a number of years. We have seen so much growth in the pro bono content produced by LSPBSthanks to the hard work of our volunteers, that the formation of a separate committee has become necessary to assist in the nuts and bolts of content production and administration.

We hope to be able to align best practices across all kinds of LSPBScontent (whether in the form of digital publications or otherwise) and assist existing committees in creating a consistent and reliable 'one stop shop' for pro bono content — one that is technically sound and rigorous, as well as alive to the needs of beneficiaries in terms of both substance and form. We are fortunate this year to have onboard representatives from a legal publishing house, academia and a mixed pool of both younger and more experienced LSPBSvolunteers.

Usha Chandradas, Chairperson





## VOLUNTEERS

We are heartened by how our heroic volunteers stepped up during the COVID-19pandemic to selflesslyoffer their time and talent. Thanks to their fearless embrace of our new online service delivery across, the needy and vulnerable received legal aid without disruption.

We continued to host student volunteers to develop their conception of law as a service vocation, and to allow them to experience how the law works in real life. We believe that through their pro bono service, they will develop the knowledge and skills to become better lawyers. Some of our students participated in more than one scheme to gain a more holistic experience.

### **339 NEWLY** REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS



**31** volunteers and **7** law firms – Assist Non-Profit Organisations Scheme comprising Community Organisation Clinics and Project Law Help

**18** volunteers – at least one case taken under Family Justice Support Scheme

We continue to strengthen our volunteers' capabilities and enhance their pro bono experience by providing training opportunities through the Volunteer Capacity Building Series (VolCapB Series) and CLASTraining (as described above). The VolCapB Series sessions conducted are set out below.

Date	Торіс	No. of Attendees
17 December 2020	Media Management in the Court of Public Opinion	162 attendees
24 March 2021	Social Service Landscape	384 attendees

We conducted our first Volunteer Orientation session on 20 January 2021 to share about the work we do and the available volunteering opportunities. Due to the overwhelming response received, the Volunteer Orientation sessions are now conducted regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of every month during lunch time to cater to our volunteers' busy schedules.

#### Attendees' feedback on the orientation session:

#### **66** —

"

"Informative, short and sweet"

"Sharing of statistics of the number of people who had benefitted from the pro bono service"

"It was simple and easy to understand about LSPBSand volunteer opportunities available"

#### Students' feedback on their volunteering experience:

"The attachment was eye opening for me as I am able to assistpeople from different walks of life who I may not come in contact if not for this internship. I was able to sit in for merits and means interviews whenever possible. The staff I came across were all very sweet and friendly. It was a very welcoming environment." – Claudia Lim Yu Ting

"The officers took good care of us, befriending us and treating us like family. They gave us role plays and scenarios to hone our research and oratory skills. We were also given accessto hear and speak to the applicants, conversing with them through phone calls and emails and helping them book appointments. I am privileged to be able to read each case of the applicants to understand the different types of legal problems there are. Through a few cases, I started researching on the different issues. For example, I never knew about the employment act and what it entails, that one could go to TADM to file a complaint or what to do in the case of a neighbour dispute. The fact that all these are real caseshelped me to open my eyes to the real issues people face in life. It gives me greater motivation to help these people in the future in whatever capacity I can, be it as a lawyer, as a neighbour or simply as a citizen of Singapore."

– Joshua Chan Zi En

82

99

99

### **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

We thank all our volunteers who supported us in the past year to serve the needy and vulnerable.

In particular, the volunteers listed below have gone beyond the call of duty when carrying out our pro bono mission. Their commitment to serve is the reason why we are able to reach out and touch many lives.

#### Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme

- Dawn Tan Si Jie
- Kamalarajan Malaiyandi Chettiar
- Lim Lei Theng

#### <u>AssistNon-Profit Organisations Scheme</u> (Individuals)

- Adrian Tan
- Deborah Koh
- Lee Ching Ling Yvonne

#### AssistNon-Profit Organisations Scheme (Firm) Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC

#### Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (Individuals)

- Anand George (Top Newcomer)
- Anil Narain Balchandani (Special Commendation)
- Lau Wen Jin(Special Commendation)
- Aaron Lee Teck Chye
- Chang Chih-Chao @Michael Chang
- Ronald Wong Jian Jie
- Tan Chor Hoon Alice
- Wong Shoou-Huang Jonathan

#### Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (Firms)

- Abbotts Chambers LLC
- Oon & Bazul LLP

#### Community Legal Clinics (Individuals)

- Tan Ming Kirk, Richard (Special Commendation)
- Elizabeth Wu
- Francine Lai Yan Ting
- Kyle Yew Chang Mao
- Lau Si Min, Jannelle
- Ler Kin Tuan
- Vincent Wong Kum Fu

#### Community Legal Clinics (Firms)

- Dentons Rodyk & Davidson LLP (Special Commendation)
- Baker & Mckenzie.Wong & Leow
- Harry Elias Partnership LLP
- K&L Gates Straits Law LLC
- TSMPLaw Corporation
- Wong Partnership LLP

#### Civil Legal Clinics (Individuals)

- Cheong Wei Yang, Daryl
- Lim Lay See
- Ng Aik Kai

#### Family Legal Clinics (Individuals)

- Lee Terk Yang (SpecialCommendation)
- Fong Mun Yong Gregory John
- Heershan Kaur
- Jeanny Ng
- Lim Lay See

#### Family Justice Support Scheme

- Lee Terk Yang
- Usha Rani d/o Sadasivam

#### Law Awareness

- Dharmambal Shanti Jayaram
- Ng Bin Hong
- Richard Siaw
- Sarita Misir
- Serene Gan
- Wang Liansheng

#### Law Awareness (Special Projects)

- Francis Goh
- Susan Tay
- Viviene Sandhu

#### Special Projects (Individuals)

- Abigail Lee
- Courtney Derera
- Ng Li Yen
- Patricia Caroline Mele

#### <u>Special Projects (Firm)</u>

Weave Pte Ltd

### **PRO BONO AMBASSADOR AWARD**

The Pro Bono Ambassador Award is an annual award conferred by the Council of The Law Society of Singapore to an individual in recognition of their established track record of providing pro bono services for a period of five or more years.

#### Eugene Thuraisingam, Pro Bono Ambassador 2020



EugeneThuraisingam shares with us his motivation, passion, and struggles behind all the pro bono work he does. How does he juggle all the different hats he wears? How does he deal with difficult situations that arise out of work? Watch his full interview on our YouTube channel.<sup>12</sup>

In previous years, the Pro Bono Ambassador Award had been presented at The Law Society of Singapore's Annual Dinner & Dance event. However, due to COVID-19, Chairman, Gregory Vijayendran, SC, presented the award to Eugene in person at an intimate ceremonial presentation held in Eugene Thuraisingam LLP'soffice.

Eugene has always been passionate about providing accessto justice to all. To him, "Justice means little if the man in the street, the ordinary person, cannot get representation from good lawyers, who want to do the best they can". Knowing where his passion lies made committing to pro bono work a natural choicefor him.

Much of his pro bono work is in the criminal field because he believes justice is for everyone, regardless of what someone has done. "For the system to work, regardless of what someone has done, he deserves a fair process, one that is available to everyone under the law, and for a lawyer to put his case forward in a cogent manner, so that the judge and the prosecution understand the full facts, and can come to a just decision, no matter what that may be", Eugenestated in the candid interview with Gregory.

With this award, we celebrate Eugene'ssustained and continuing efforts to improve access to justice and to promote the pro bono spirit.

<sup>12</sup> Mr Eugene Thuraisingam shares about his pro bono passion and difficulties faced | In Conversation bit.ly/AR20-21 PBAA

### DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW



\$1,098,767

FUNDS RAISED



\$12,582 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES INCURRED



1.15% FUNDRAISING EFFICIENCY RATIO

FY2020/2021presented new and serious challenges to fundraising for Law Society Pro Bono Services, as the COVID-19pandemic led to nation-wide restrictions on physical movement and economic hardship. We postponed our annual fundraiser "JustLaugh" to the next FY, in the hopes of being able to hold a physical event, and leveraged on digital fundraising platforms and dollar matching grants from the Tote Board to maximise our fundraising efforts.

Despite these trying times, many chose to stay as our supporters to ensure that the mission of access to justice for the least, the last and the lost will not be derailed. We are deeply appreciative of the generous spirit of our supporters, which has allowed us to better reach out to the indigent in our community.

#### Special acknowledgement goes to the following donors:

- Allen & Gledhill LLP for their contributions of over \$100,000, comprising donations to our various campaigns and honorarium donations from their significant volunteering efforts. We are especiallygrateful for the firm's steadfast support of the CLASFellowship since its inception in 2015, including donating as Gold Benefactor.
- Eugene Thuraisingam LLP for their strong support of each fundraising campaign listed below, and for fundraising over \$100,000 on our behalf with "Run For Justice", a virtual run/walk which took place in conjunction with the firm's 9th anniversary.
- The estate of Ng Hwee Cheng Doreen for the donation of \$100,000 to the Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- Clifford Chance Pte Ltd for their contributions of over \$50,000, comprising their firm's Annual Pledge, donation of The Law Society of Singapore's refund of their lawyers' Practising Certificate fees and others.
- Davinder SinghChambers for their contributions of over \$50,000, comprising their donations as Silver Benefactor to the CLASFellowship and to the Inclusive Justice campaign.
- **Drew & Napier LLC** for their contributions of **over \$50,000**, comprising their firm's Annual Pledge and their donation as Silver Benefactor to the CLASFellowship.
- Linklaters Singapore Pte Ltd for their contributions of over \$50,000, comprising their firm's Annual Pledge and donation of The Law Society of Singapore's refund of their lawyers' Practising Certificate fees.
- **GSJBallasTrust** for their donation of **\$50,000** to the CLASFellowship.
- **Singapore Institute of Legal Education** for their donation of **\$44,000** and facilitating donations of honorarium amounting to **almost \$130,000**.

# **KEY CAMPAIGNS**

#### **COVID-19 ACCESSTO JUSTICE RESPONSE**

We were classified as providing an essential service by the Ministry of Trade & Industry during the circuit breaker in 2020 and worked ceaselesslyto bring our access to justice programmes to the public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. With considerable effort, agility and resources, we moved our services online and equipped our staff to work remotely to ensure that access to justice was not obstructed by the nation-wide restriction in movement.

COVID-19 shown a spotlight on the plight of certain vulnerable communities, such as migrant workers, domestic violence victims, freelancers and other community organisations.

The funds raised from the campaign will go towards our existing programmes and to support initiatives to fill new accessto justice gaps caused by COVID-19.

Campaign duration: 26 March 2020 to 25 March 2021

**Funds raised across various platforms:** \$289,625.75 (of which \$289,275.75 was received in FY2020/2021)

#### Fundraising expenses: \$100

This campaign qualifies for dollar matching under Tote Board's Enhanced Fundraising Programme, subject to caps.

#### Top donors:

#### \$40,000 and above

Clifford Chance Pte Ltd Singapore Institute of Legal Education

**\$30,000 and above** Linklaters Singapore Pte Ltd

**\$20,000 and above** Cavenagh Law LLP K&L Gates Straits Law LLC

#### \$10,000 and above

Allen & Gledhill LLP Drew & Napier LLC Eugene Thuraisingam LLP Providence Law Asia LLC Rajah & Tann Foundation

#### \$5,000

Allen & Overy LLP Cavinder Bull, SC Lee Eng Beng, SC Lim Ming-hui Andrew

# **KEY CAMPAIGNS**

#### HARRY ELIAS SC CLAS FELLOWSHIP FUND

Campaign formerly known as "Restoring Lives Through Criminal Legal Aid"

The Harry Elias SCCLASFellowship Fund, was established to honour the life and legacy of Harry Elias, SC and to continue his visionary work rendering pro bono criminal legal aid to the needy and vulnerable in Singapore.

Known for his compassion and contribution to society, the late Harry Elias, SCspearheaded the setup of our Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) in 1985 to help the less fortunate obtain free criminal defence. CLASwent on to be the spark that set off a pro bono movement in Singapore.

36 years on, CLAS is still going strong. The CLASFellowship was birthed in 2015 to train passionate young lawyers to defend vulnerable accused persons as a full time calling with our charity.

The funds raised from the campaign will go towards all expenses arising from the CLAS Fellowship, to ensure that young lawyers will have a chance to follow in the footsteps of legal legends like Harry and blaze the trail to serve the last, the lost and the least.

Campaign duration: 29 April 2020 to 28 April 2021 Funds raised across various platforms: \$389,430 (of which \$388,920 was received in FY2020/2021)

Fundraising expenses: \$100

This campaign qualifies for dollar matching under Tote Board's Enhanced Fundraising Programme, subject to caps.

#### Top donors:

Gold Benefactor (\$100,000) Allen & Gledhill LLP

Silver Benefactors (\$50,000)

Davinder Singh Chambers LLC Drew & Napier LLC GSJBallas Trust

#### \$25,000

Sir Manasseh Meyer & Isaac Manasseh Meyer Trust Fund

#### \$10,000

Eugene Thuraisingam LLP Harry Elias Partnership LLP Rubina Watch Company (Private) Limited Thelma Elias

\$5,000 and above Lee Kim Tah Holdings Limited Matsushita Greatwall Corporation Private Limited Palmer Michael Anthony PDLegal LLC (formerly known as Peter Doraisamy LLC) Rahma Elias S Suressh

#### Virtual Memorial for Harry Elias,SC

A virtual memorial <sup>13</sup> was jointly organised by The Law Society of Singapore, the Jewish Welfare Board and Harry Elias Partnership LLP. The event was attended by around 1,900 guests physically and virtually.



"I trust that by the time this evening ends, the portrait we knew of the late great man will include lesser known sketches of the Harry we did not know so well. Or at all. Doyen of the bar, gentlemanly litigator, formidable cross examiner, legendary lawyer leader, affable mediator. These are only some, not all, of the epithets that come to mind when we remember Harry Elias."

- Chairman, Gregory Vijayendran, SC

"When we first heard the news of Harry's passing, it was repeatedly said that this marked the passing of a generation, and indeed it did. To many of us, Harry was a wise counsellor and mentor, a dear friend and colleague; to his clients, he was a fearless champion and a trusted advisor; and to all of us, he was a shining example of the very best qualities of our profession. He will be very dearly missed."

- Chief JusticeSundaresh Menon



Minister for Law and Home Affairs, K Shanmugam also paid his tribute to Harry Elias, SCat the virtual memorial.



"Harry was a culture builder. He saw that in order to make a lasting change, there was a need to bring people together and to build a culture of intangibles. This was slow [and] hard. It may only yield results in the long run. But to Harry, it was clear that was the only way to achieve lasting change. And, he was absolutely right. We come here to remember Harry, to cherish and celebrate him. A good man the likes of him are not many. A colourful lawyer, much loved. "

#### - Minister for Law and Home Affairs, K Shanmugam

# **KEY CAMPAIGNS**

#### **INCLUSIVE JUSTICE**

We believe that access to justice should be available to all, regardless of nationality, race, religion or financial ability.

We provide legal assistance to foreigners such as foreign spouses and migrant workers who are vulnerable and in need through the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, Family JusticeSupport Scheme and Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme. During the COVID-19pandemic in particular, we see and hear the hardships and sacrifices of such vulnerable communities even more clearly than before.

Eugene Thuraisingam LLP fundraised for this campaign on our behalf through a virtual run/walk, "Run For Justice", which took place in conjunction with Eugene Thuraisingam LLP's 9th anniversary. The staff of Eugene Thuraisingam LLP and LSPBS ran/walked the corresponding distance for various donation packages taken up. **\$103,400** was raised through Run For Justice, which concluded on 30 April 2021.

Campaign duration: 22 October 2020 to 21 October 2021

**Funds raised across various platforms:** \$206,543 based on receipts as at 31 March 2021 **Fundraising expenses:** Ongoing

This campaign qualifies for dollar matching under Tote Board's Enhanced Fundraising Programme, subject to caps.

#### **Top donors**<sup>14</sup>:

#### \$20,000

Linklaters Singapore Pte Ltd

#### \$5,000 and above

Audent Chambers LLC Chan Meng Yook Christine Davinder Singh Chambers LLC Dr Lai Tze Chang Stanley, SC Haridass Ho & Partners Lee Hwai Bin Leong Kah Wah Manas Tamotia Ng Yong Kiat Francis, SC Ong Jit Seng PDLegal LLC Providence Law Asia LLC Seah Zhen Wei, Paul Sim Kwan Kiat Yap Wai Ming Withers KhattarWong LLP

<sup>14</sup> Based on receipts as at 31 March 2021.

### JUSTLAUGH: STAND UP FOR JUSTICE



Just Laugh was repeatedly postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19 regulations, before it was held virtually on 25 June 2021. Attended by our Guest of Honour, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Edwin Tong, SC, we celebrated our outstanding volunteers and supporters for the sterling contributions to our cause and enjoyed stand-up comedy performances by Tris Xavier, Pam Oei and Hossan Leong.

In FY2020/2021, Agilent Technologies Singapore (International) Pte Ltd and Hong Leong Foundation each donated **\$10,000** to JustLaugh.

Pleaserefer to our earlier annual report for the list of top donors from FY2019/2020. A full list of the top donors who donated in FY2021/2022will be provided in our next annual report.

#### Other donations

Finally, we are grateful for:

- Kampung Spirit Fund's donation of **\$10,000** to Migrant Workers' Group.
- Norton RoseFulbright (Asia)LLP'sdonation of **over \$5,000** to our general fund.
- TSMP Law Corporation's donation of honorarium for their volunteering efforts amounting to **over \$5,000**, which were directed to our various campaigns.

<text>

## LIVING AND LEAVING A LEGACY

In memoriam of Lawyer Ng Hwee Cheng Doreen, who passed away peacefully at 77 on 10 October 2016, this page is dedicated to her and her unwavering passion and support for law and legal education.

One of Doreen's last wishes was to donate part of her estate to a law scholarship in memory of her mother. In September 2020, this wish materialised with a \$100,000 donation to the Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund (BMS), the largest fund injection since its founding.

BMS was founded by members of the Singapore Bar in memory of fellow members who perished in the First World War. The scholarship is an annual award of a maximum sum of \$5,000 and may be awarded to Singaporean students who have obtained admission to or are currently taking a course in subjects of study relating to law.

Doreen's sister, Doris Ng, remembers her as a kind, compassionate, unassuming and hardworking individual. Doreen's steadfast and single-minded passion for law helped her to persevere through a myriad of challengeswhile pursuing excellence in her academics and career concurrently. Despite heavy familial responsibilities and the hardships she had to overcome to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer, Doreen thrived and exemplified the tenacious spirit and unwavering pursuit of knowledge that all lawyers should strive for.

"As I come from a family of humble financial means, the full tuition fees for the JDProgramme were quite a hefty burden upon us," says Edward Ong, a BMS scholar attending the Doctor of Jurisprudence Programme at the Singapore Management University. "I am glad for this donation means that other students like myself would be allowed the chanceto pursue their dreams in a law-related field."

Wesley Poh, a BMS scholar studying Law at the University of Cambridge, says, "I am heartened to hear about the donation made by Mdm Doreen Ng's estate. I believe that the BMS is not just about the financial support offered; crucially, it is an investment into the lives of future batches of lawyers that stays with them even after they have graduated."



Doreen's legacylives on through the students that she will support and the great work these future lawyers will come to achieve. She has our heartfelt gratitude.

Read her awe-inspiring life story on Law Gazette at bit.ly/AR20-21\_Doreen



# **QUIRKY GIFT**

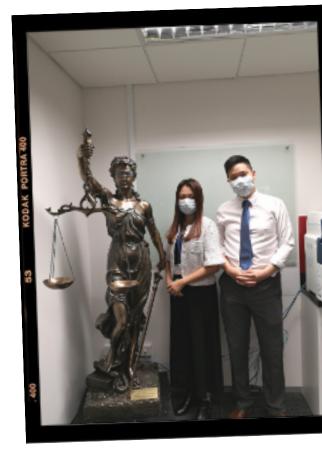
At the beginning of 2021, LSPBSreceived a unique offer of support – in the form of a lifesized statue of Lady Justice. We sat down with the donors, Eling and Augustine of Myths & LegendsCollection, to find out what drives them to do what they do.

## Q: How did you find out about us?Why did you decide to support us?

**Eling:** "During the circuit breaker last year, we saw many companies step up to help people in need by donating free food or free care packages. Although the pandemic actually hit us very badly last year, it actually inspired us to think beyond ourselvesand to do what we can to contribute back to the society. We are very thankful for the opportunities provided by Singapore when times were good. As a sculpture store, it was very hard for us to think about what we can do. Soone day last year, we saw news of your organisation on TV."

**Augustine:** "One of your lawyers represented someone and took a lot of effort to go through the details and logical analysis of all the evidence, and managed to convince the court to drop the charges. That was really very inspiring."

**Eling:** "So in that moment we did some research on your organisation. We were quite impressed by the service and efforts provided by your members. So we thought that the life-sized statue of Lady Justicewould be a lot more meaningful placed in your office than any corner in our stores. It is to thank your members for their contribution, and to remind them of why they wanted to become a lawyer in the first place."



Augustine: "And why they are working here in the first place."

Myths & Legends Collection is a home décor and gifts specialist shop that features over hundreds of unique and historical sculptures, homewares and fine art from all over the world.

We thank Myths & LegendsCollection for their kind and generous donation!



CANVA STORIES 400



# **OUR PARTNERS**

#### PARTNERS

Agency for Integrated Care Aidha Ltd Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People Arts Resource Hub Asian Women Welfare Association Association for People with Special Needs Association of Corporate Counsel Association of Women for Action and Research BABSEACAL Bloomberg CasaRaudha Women Home Catholic Lawyers Guild Centre for Domestic Employees Centre for Non-Profit Leadership Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore **Community Development Councils Community Foundation of Singapore** Community JusticeCentre Covenant Chambers **COVID-19Migrant Support Coalition** Daughter of Tomorrow **Enterprise Singapore** Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay, Singapore Family Justice Courts Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training **Global Pro Bono Bar Association** Good Shepherd Centre Ground Up Movement Hagar Singapore HealthServe Hope Initiative Alliance Humanitarian Organisation for Migration **Economics ItsRainingRaincoats** JusticeWithout Borders LaSalle School of Arts LEAP201 Legal Aid Bureau Legal Kakis Methodist Welfare Services Migrant Workers' Centre

Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Office of the Commissioner of Charities Ministry of Education Ministry of Law Ministry of Social and Family Development Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore National Arts Council National Council of Social Service National Trade Union Congress National University of Singapore National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre PAVE People's Association PILnet Project X Public Interest Law Network Rainbow Centre School of the Arts SGAccident Help Centre Sheng Hong Welfare Services Singapore Academy of Law Singapore Association of Social Workers Singapore Business Federation Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Singapore Council of Women's Organisations Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry Singapore Institute of Legal Education Singapore Management University Singapore University of Social Sciences Special Needs Trust Company Star Shelter State Courts Supreme Court T-Project The Office of the Public Guardian Thomson Reuters Foundation Transient Workers Count Too **Tripartite Alliance for Dispute Management** 

#### MEDIA & PR SUPPORT

Asia PR Werkz



## EVENTS

## Singapore and Hong Kong Pro Bono Roundtable, 12 May 2020

Jointly organised by Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS)and PILnet to share learning experiences, our CEOLim Tanguy presented on the accessto justice services which we provided to vulnerable communities which emerged during COVID-19, such as migrant workers and domestic violence victims.

#### Asia Regional Pro Bono Roundtable, 24 August 2020

Jointly organised by TrustLaw - Thomas Reuters Foundation, BABSEACLEand PILnet, and LSPBS, the Asia Regional Pro Bono Roundtable reached out to legal practitioners and other supporters of the Asia pro bono community to discuss cross-border collaborations and to share learning points and challenges. Our Assistant Director, Cai Chengying, shared how we successfully filled access to justice gaps caused by COVID-19.A spotlight was cast on the issue of in-house counsel pro bono participation, followed by an open discussion on the structure of the roundtable going forward.

## 9th Asia Pro Bono Virtual Conference & Access to Justice Exchange, 24 – 28 September 2020

The conference, organised by a network consortium from throughout Asia and globally, is the largest annual gathering of persons supporting and engaged in accessto justice, pro bono and public interest law in Asia, with over 990 registrants from 41 countries attending and 212,859 audiences reached via Facebook streaming.

The theme of the event was "Pro Bono in a Transitioning Environment".

We were well-represented at this conference with:

- CEO Lim Tanguy presenting at the open plenary
- Usha Chandradas and Hannah Lim of the Content Management Committee sharing best practices and standards at "Content Management for Justice Sector Organisations"; and
- CLAS Director, Gopinath Pillai sharing our successful experience moving access to justice services online during a pandemic in "Leveraging IT and online pro bono services in a transitioning environment".

#### 2020 PILnet Global Forum, 19 – 21 October 2020

PILnet held its first virtual Global Forum during which for the first time. 600 participants from 70 countries met to develop strategies for utilising the law to safeguard the communities they serve.

The Global Pro Bono Clearinghouse Lab offered an excellent opportunity to learn about pro bono efforts across the globe. Our CEO, Lim Tanguy, moderated the discussion on "State of Art: Pro Bono in Asia". The panel included Gabriela Christian-Hare, CEO, Australian Pro Bono Centre; Giana Lin, Director, Legal Centre for NGO and Meenakshi Menon, South Asia Program Analyst at iProbono.

## Asia Pro Bono Roundtable, 25 March 2021

Jointly organised by PILnet, BABSEACLE, iProbono, TrustLaw - Thomson Reuters Foundation and LSPBSand attended by over 50 participants, the roundtable focused explicitly on technology with discussion topics such as the provision of remote legal services, enabling better pro bono referrals through digital platforms, and using technology-based solutions.



## AWARDS

## Hope Initiative Alliance Award 27 January 2021

We received a Plaque of Appreciation from Hope Initiative Alliance for our work with the migrant worker community in Singapore. This plaque recognises our partnership and support for the community in 2020, through our migrant worker legal clinics and outreach efforts.



#### PA Community Spirit Awards 28 January 2021

We received the People's Association Community Spirit (PACS)Awards 2020 -Community Partnership Merit Award, which was given in recognition of our the five support of Community Development Councils and the long-term partnership to expand residents' access and understanding of the law. Our helped broaden legal commitment awareness in the community and made legal advice accessible to the community for a more caring and empowered society.





## MSF Community Cares Award 27 January 2021

The Ministry of Social and Family Development's MSF Community Cares Award was introduced in 2019 to recognise and appreciate organisations and individuals who passionately drive social change, strive to do good for society, and in so doing, inspire those around them. We received the award for our deputyship duties webinars organised in collaboration with the Office of The Public Guardian.

## SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

#### Date

Thursday, 9 April 2020 Monday, 27 April 2020 Tuesday, 28 April 2020 Tuesday, 2 June2020 Tuesday, 2 June 2020 Wednesday, 3 June 2020 Tuesday, 23 June 2020 Wednesday, 24 June 2020 Saturday, 27 June 2020 Saturday, 27 June2020 Thursday, 9 July2020 Monday, 13 July2020 Tuesday, 14 July2020 Tuesday, 14 July2020 Saturday, 1 August2020 Saturday, 4 August 2020 Saturday, August 15, 2020 Thursday, 27 August 2020 Friday, 28 August 2020 Friday, 4 September 2020 Monday, 7 September 2020 Friday, 11 September 2020 Saturday, September 12, 2020 Sunday, 13 September 2020 Monday, 14 September 2020 Saturday, 19 September 2020 Sunday, 20 September 2020 Sunday, 20 September 2020 Wednesday, 23 September 2020 Wednesday, 23 September 2020 Thursday, 24 September 2020 Thursday, 24 September 2020 Friday, 25 September 2020 Monday, 28 September 2020 Tuesday, 29 September 2020 Tuesday, 29 September 2020 Wednesday, 30 September 2020 Wednesday, 30 September 2020 Wednesday, 30 September 2020 Thursday, 1 October 2020 Friday, 2 October 2020 Friday, 2 October 2020 Sunday, October 4, 2020 Sunday, October 4, 2020 Monday, October 5, 2020 Thursday, 15 October 2020 Wednesday, 28 October 2020 Thursday, 29 October 2020 Monday, 2 November 2020 Thursday, 5 November 2020 Friday, 6 November 2020 Friday, November 6, 2020 Sunday, 8 November 2020 Friday, 11 December 2020 Tuesday, 15 December 2020 Monday, 21 December 2020 Wednesday, 30 December 2020 Wednesday, 30 December Friday, January 22, 2021 Sunday, January 24, 2021 Thursday, 4 February 2021 Sunday, 21 February 2021 Monday, 22 February 2021 Monday, 22 February 2021 Tuesday, 23 February 2021 Monday, 1 March 2021 Monday, 1 March 2021 Tuesday, 2 March 2021 Wednesday, 3 March 2021 Wednesday, 3 March 2021 Wednesday, 17 March 2021 Wednesday, 17 March 2021 Friday, March 26, 2021 Tuesday, 30 March 2021

Channel NewsAsia The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes Yahoo NewsSingapore The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes On Singapore, Weekend Life, CNA938 On Today, CNA938 TODAY Online Channel NewsAsia Yahoo! Singapore On Singapore, Weekend Life, CNA938 On Today, CNA938 The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes 联合早报 联合晚报 8 视 界 Yahoo NewsSingapore TODAY Online The StraitsTimes The Business Times AsiaOne The StraitsTimes Channel NewsAsia The StraitsTimes The New Paper The Business Times 联合早报 The StraitsTimes 联合早报 Channel NewsAsia Blog Seedly TODAY Online Singapore Press Holdings Channel NewsAsia 8视界 新明日报 新明日报 联合早报 联合早报 Channel NewsAsia Yahoo NewsSingapore AsiaOne The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes The Independent Singapore The StraitsTimes The New Paper TODAY Online The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes The New Paper 8 视 界 8 视 界 8 视 界 Mothership.sg The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes On Today, CNA938 On Today, CNA938 SPH96.3 The StraitsTimes Channel NewsAsia TODAY Online TODAY Online TODAY Online The New Paper Yahoo News 联合晚报 Singapore Business Review 联合早报 联合晚报 联合晚报 LSPBSYouTube Channel Channel NewsAsia TODAY Online The StraitsTimes The StraitsTimes Channel NewsAsia Channel NewsAsia Channel NewsAsia Mothership.sg Channel NewsAsia The StraitsTimes 8 视 界 8 视 界 The StraitsTimes 联合早报 TODAY Online Channel NewsAsia NCSSSingapore Facebook Page TODAY Online

Media Platform

Headlines S\$185,000mask cheatingcase:Accused remainsin remand after judge rejectsbail amendment request Lawyersreport surge in queriesrelated to issuestriggered by coronaviruspandemic Lawyerssee surge in queriesamid coronaviruspandemic Man, 21, pleadsguilty to committingloan-shark harassment duringcircuit breaker period COVID-19:Man admitsto loanshark offencesduringcircuit breake 21-year-old pleadsguilty to loan-shark harassment Grant for charitiesto adopt tech solutionsexpanded to cover more areas:Grace Fu Grant for charitiesto adopt tech to expand in scope Running a businessamidst a Covid Crisis Family Violence Man swungbeer bottle at NEA officer who caught him smoking, gets11 weeks' jail Man who broke COVID-19lawsto carry out loan shark harassment getsreformative trainingand drivingban Youth who flouted circuit breaker ruleswhile harassingloanshark'sdebtorsgiven reformative training Restaurant-ingin the New Normal Legacy Giving Webinar Legacy Giving Webinar Senior Counsel Harry Elias, who founded Law Society'sCriminal Legal AldScheme, diesat age 83 Harry Elias: Top legaleagiespay tribute to a law iconfor hiscontributions, character and courtcraft 刑事法律援助计划发起人高级律师伊莱雅士逝世 到事法律援助计划发起人高级律师伊莱雅士逝世 当年发起刑事法律援助计划高级律师伊莱雅士逝世 Top Singapore lawyer Harry Eliasdiesat 83 Harry Elia Jawyer and traibharer who holoned thousands in povorty accessional aid diesat 83 Harry Elias, lawyer and trailblazer who helped thousandsin poverty accesslegal aid, diesat 83 Harry Elias, lawyer and traibiazer who neiped thousandsin poverty accessiegal aid, diesat 83 From The StraitsTimesarchives:Legal eagle Harry Eliashasa soft spot for the needy Criminal Legal Aid Scheme founder Harry Eliasdies Senior Counsel Harry Elias, who founded Law Society'sCriminal Legal Aid Scheme, diesaged 83 Senior Counsel Harry Elias, who founded Law Society'sCriminal Legal Aid Scheme, dies Criminal Legal Aid Scheme co-founder Harry Elias, who 'gave justice to the weakest in society', diesat 83 Tributespour in for law icon Harry Elias, who diesat age 83 Law fraternity paysglowingtributesto Harry Elias Criminal Legal Aid Scheme founder Harry Eliasdies, aged 83 Criminal Legal Aid Scheme founder Harry Eliasdies, aged 83 3 5 年来为数干贫困者伸张正义"传奇律师"伊菜雅士病逝 Top legal eaglespay tribute to law icon Harry Elias,who died on Aug26 3 5 年来为数千贫困者伸张正义"传奇律师"伊莱雅士病逝 Do more for people with disabilities, essential workers;invest in technology and green living, say MPs Pro Bono LawyersWork Without Fee... Why Would Someone Take It Up? The BigRead in short:Migrant workers' accessto justice Weekends:Gregory Ujgendran on the need for pro bono lawyersand the Parti Liyani case Fewer people applyingfor free legal services 刑事法律援助计划申请人数减少四分之一 工程师出身辩护律师无偿服务获法官肯定 助保安洗麗 廖 文 良 前 女 佣 案 赃 物 首 度 曝 光 廖 文 良 前 女 佣 案 " 赃 物 首 度 曝 光 The BigRead:For migrant workersin trouble, navigatingSingapore'slegal system can be a challenge Pro-bono services in the spotlight: access to justice for the indigent Parti Liyani case:Improve accessto justice for the poor and needy, expertssay Improve accessto justice for those of lessermeans:Experts Charitiesto receive support to build digital capabilitiesand strengthen regulatory compliance Parti Liyani case highlightsneed for better accessto legal aid for migrant workers More help for charitiesto go digital, boosttransparency More help for charitiesto go digital, boosttransparency 10.5 years' jail for former teacher who sexually abused 8 boys,fied overseasfor 17 years New initiative unveiled to help youth understand legal rightsand get free legal advice New initiative to provide youth with free legalservices New clinicto help youngpeople with legal advice 苏 慧 敏 鼓 励 疫 情 期 间 以 社 区 法 律 诊 所 网 上 平 台 寻 求 法 律 援 助 苏 慧 敏 鼓 励 疫 情 期 间 用 社 区 法 律 诊 所 网 上 平 台 寻 求 法 律 援 助 の意味取回及同素的内容をなった。 【958日明徳意】が基敏鼓励疫情期间用社区法律诊所网上平台寻求法律援助 How are consumersprotected when shoppingonline?'& other law-related questionsthat you shouldknow Centre for Seniorsenhancesoutreach with FastJobstie-up; legal, employment servicescentre opensin Pioneer SMC Centre for Seniorsenhancesoutreach with FastJobstie-up;Pioneer residentscan get legal, employment servicesat new centre LAW@CDC2020 (Freelancing in a Crisis) LAW@CDC2020 (Work from Home: PDPA considerations) LAW@CDC2020 (Divorce and You Mandarin) Parti Liyani hasdecided to go ahead with complaint against 2 DPPsfor misconduct:NGO Woman testifiesabout her anger when her son told her hisstepfather abused him sexually from age 8 Woman testifiesabout her anger when her son told her hisstepfather abused him sexually from age 8 High Court acquitsdomesticworker of stealingfrom elderly employer through bank withdrawals Maid jailed for abandoningher newborn son in recyclingbin outside Upper Paya Lebar house Maid who abandoned baby son jailed five months Accessto justice: Lawyerswho help maidsin casesthrough CLAS 3 新 议员获总理点名 S 和 以 以 気 恋 年 点 石 Virtual law practice proving a challenge:Chief Justice 跃 大 法 学 院 夜 间 课 首 届 毕 业 生 提 前 完 成 司 法 考 试 特 特 写 写 侠 律 师 律 师 : 被 告 遭 覇 凌童 年 阴 影 熔 祸 根 Pro Bono Ambassador Award:Eugene Thuraisingam Interview New Law Societyscheme offerscheaper family law help for the lower-income Man fined S\$1,000 for destroying PAP poster bearing PM Lee'simage during GE2020 Lawyer Eugene Thuraisingam hailed for pro bono work Unmasked marvel in pro bono legal work Unmasked marvel in pro bono legal work Man getsjail for tryingto kill girlfriend, bitingoff her earlobe in 'vicious' publicattack Committee of Supply2021 debate, Day 2:Hany Sohon boostingthe public'slegal knowledge and access Committee of Supply2021 debate, Day 2:LeongMun Wai on legal aid for economically vulnerable S'pore enhancinglegal aid, may introduce a Public Defender'sOffice:Edwin Tong MinLaw plansbetter accessto civil and criminal legal aid:Edwin Tong Budget debate:New criteria to be introduced for criminal legal aid for those lesswell off [国会]陈振声:政府将通过三大策略助企业应对挑战掌握机遇 [国会]刑事法律援助计划今年起实施新评估标准 New criteria for assessingthose seekinglegal aid 刑事法援计划将实行新支付能力标准助简化申请程序 Former beauty salon manager jailed for cheatingwomen into payingS\$632,000 for fake packages Former beauty salon manager jailed for cheatingwomen into payingS\$632,000 for fake packages Beyond COVID 19: Adapting Digitally for Service Continuity Man jailed 5 monthsfor breakingwife'sarm, slappingher while she carried their infant son

97



### **INITIATIVES FOR INDIVIDUALS** (APPENDIX A)

Advice through legal clinics *During the COVID-19pandemic, some of the services at legal clinics are provided virtually.		
Advocates for the Arts (Individuals)	Legal advice to freelancers in the creative industry on a request basis.	
Civil Legal Clinics	Legal advice on civil legal proceedings held at the State Courts on a weekly basis.	
Community Legal Clinics	General legal advice on personal legal issues held at the North West, South East, South West and Central Singapore Community Development Councils during the evenings on Mondays to Thursdays excluding the Public Holidays and eve of Public Holidays.	
Family Legal Clinics	Legal advice on family legal proceedings held at the State Courts and Family JusticeCourts on a twice weekly basis.	
Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training Legal Clinic (FAST)	Legaladvice for foreign domestic workers on a monthly basis.	
LawWorks Clinics	Legal advice for NTUCmembers with personal legal issues on a monthly basis.	
Migrant Workers' Clinics	Legaladvice for migrant workers on a monthly basis.	
Onsite Legal Clinic	Legal advice for members of the public held daily at the State Courts and weekly at Supreme Court.	
Youth Community & Legal Clinics	General legal advice on personal legal issues for youths between 18-35 years old every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday of the month.	

#### Awareness through talks, events, webinars and publications

Advocates for the Arts (Individuals)	Legal awareness talks for the creative industry, especially freelancers.
General Legal Talks	Legalawarenesstalks for members of the public on different areas of the law.
Law Awareness Weeks@CDC (LAW@CDC)with the five CDCs, supported by the People's Association, Singapore Corporate Counsel Association and the National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University and Singapore University of Social Sciences.	Annual nationwide effort to promote awarenessand understanding of the law in the community through a series of talks.
LawWorks Legal Primer with NTUC	Quarterly legal primers for workers with a focus on employment issues.
Project Schools	Legalawarenessprogramme for students and first responders such as counsellors and teachers on youth centric legal issues.
Advocates for the Arts	Legal awareness publication focusing on the creative industries, particularly for freelancers.
Know the Law Now	Legalawarenesspublication to inform members of the public on common areas of the law.
LawWorks Pocket Guide Series with NTUC	Legal awareness publication on subjects pertaining to the workplace, which are relevant for employees, freelancers, job applicants and others.

Advocacythrough court representation schemes	
Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme	Legal representation for persons who are not eligible for existing legal aid schemes but nonetheless require legal aid due to exceptional circumstances
Criminal Legal Aid Scheme	Criminal defence for the poor and needy who are unable to afford a lawyer and are facing charges in a Singapore court for non-capital offences under certain statutes.
Family Justice Support Scheme	<ul> <li>Legal representation on family law matters for:</li> <li>1.Litigants who marginally fail the Legal Aid Bureau (LAB) means test – referral to Panel Lawyers who agree to reduce their charges for pre-screened referrals.</li> <li>2.Foreign Spouses with Singaporean children who satisfy the LAB means test – pro bono legal representation.</li> </ul>

### **INITIATIVES FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS** (APPENDIX B)

Legal	Support
-------	---------

Advocates for the Arts (Organisations) General legal advice for organisations in the creative industries.

Community Organisation Clinics	General legal advice for community organisations.
JointInternational Pro Bono Committee	Legaladvice and/or representation for corporate non-litigation matters/transactions for international community organisations that are based in Singaporeto meet community concerns or needs.
Project Law Help	Non-litigation corporate legal assistancefor community organisations undertaking community work in Singapore.

Capacity Building Programmes	
Assistingthe Intermediate to Long Term Care (ILTC)sector	Raising awareness on advance care planning issues (e.g. Mental Capacity Act, Lasting Power of Attorney, etc) and providing legal assistance to the sector, including the elderly, medical social workers and ILTC sector leaders.
"First Responder" support – Early Intervention Initiative to assist frontline workers providing social service assistance	Provide support to social workers in a variety of ways (including capacity building talks, legal input for case management discussions, legal clinics, etc). 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.
LEGALESE,alegal toolkit for Community Organisations	Legal publication which aims to provide bite-sized pieces of information on the various legal aspects of setting up and running community organisations.
Social Service Capacity Building Series (SSCapBSeries)	Equipping the social service sector with legal knowledge so that they may improve their servicesto the sector.

### **INITIATIVES FOR VOLUNTEERS** (APPENDIX C)

Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme	Assistpractitioners and firms who wish to undertake pro bono work for needy persons on an ad hoc basis by screening and preparing suitability reports on applicants.
Briefings for Law Practices on Pro Bono Opportunities / Volunteer Orientation Sessions	Briefings and orientation sessions on volunteer opportunities for law practices and other volunteers.
Criminal Legal Aid Scheme Training Programme	Practice refreshers and legal seminars for criminal law practitioners.
Mentor/Specialist Resource Guidance	Matching of junior pro bono lawyers with a mentor/ practice specialist to provide practice guidance.
ParalegalSupport for Criminal Trials	Paralegaltrial support for pro bono lawyers undertaking criminal legally aided cases.
Pro Bono Guide for Law Practices	Guide for law practices on providing structured support for lawyers to engage in pro bono, available online.
Pro Bono Guide for Volunteers	Guide for volunteers on pro bono opportunities in Singapore.
Pro Bono Research Initiative	Researchsupport for pro bono lawyers undertaking cases involving complex issues of law.
Pro Bono Roundtable Networking Sessions	Regularnetworking sessions to connect volunteers with pro bono programmes.
Singapore In-house Legal Counsel Pro Bono Guide	Guide highlighting opportunities open to individual in-house lawyers who wish to undertake pro bono legal work independent of their employers.
Volunteer CapacityBuilding Series (VolCapBSeries)	Practice refreshers and legal seminars/workshops to enhance the delivery of pro bono services by our volunteers.
Volunteer Initiative Support Scheme	Assistancefor practitioners involved in regular pro bono work for a group of persons or community in need.

### **PROGRAM MESFOR JUSTICE COLLABORATIONS** (APPENDIX D)

Partners/Project	Service Provided	Description
Aware's Sexual Assault Care Centre (SACC)	Legal clinic advice to victims of sexual abuse attending SACCfor counselling.	LSPBSoffers legal advice to victims referred by SACC.
Community Justice Centre (CJC)	CJCseeksto assist litigants in person with the following pro bono services: 1.Information services 2.Practical support services 3.Referral services 4.Laymen Assistance Scheme 5.Legal Clinics 6.Public outreach services	As part of the collaboration with the State Courts, the Family JusticeCourts, the Ministry of Law, the Ministry of Social and Family Development and the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, LSPBSsupports and assists CJC'sOn-site Legal Clinics (OSLAS),Family and Civil Legal Clinics.
Community Legal Clinics Network with the People's Association (PA)	Support for independent Community Club and Residents' Committee Centre legal clinics through the sharing of best practices, standard operating procedures, volunteer mobilisation, training and other technical support.	Independent Community Club and Residents' Committee Centre legal clinics join this network through to benefit from our know-how, experience and other resources.
LawWorks with NTUC	An ongoing collaboration with NTUC'sLegal Services Department and Industrial Relations Department, LawWorks aim to educate working people on their legal rights in Singapore.	LSPBSprovides the following support: 1.Organising legal primers 2.Developing and updating LawWorks pocket guides 3.Volunteer mobilisation and coordination for the LawWorks legal Clinics

### **PROGRAM MESFOR JUSTICE COLLABORATIONS** (APPENDIX D)

Partners/Project	Service Provided	Description
SMU School of Law Pro Bono Centre	Campus legal clinics by the SMU Pro Centre for indigents and the sensitisation of law students to social justice issues.	<ul> <li>LSPBSprovides the following support:</li> <li>1. The sharing of LSPBSmaterials including the Community Legal Clinic manual and forms/templates for the use/adaptation</li> <li>2. Technical assistance including the training/attachment stints of staff on legal clinic administration and procedures</li> <li>3. Highlighting to our volunteer practitioner pool legal clinic volunteer opportunities</li> <li>4. Volunteer mobilisation and coordination</li> </ul>
Specialised Clinics 1.Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) 2.Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training (FAST)	Legal clinics for foreign workers.	<ul> <li>LSPBSprovides the following support:</li> <li>1. The sharing of LSPBSmaterials including the Community Legal Clinic manual and forms/templates for the use/adaptation</li> <li>2. Technical assistance including the training/attachment stints of staff on legal clinic administration and procedures</li> <li>3. Highlighting to our volunteer practitioner pool legal clinic volunteer opportunities</li> <li>4. Volunteer mobilisation and coordination</li> </ul>



https://www.lawsocprobono.org

f in

https://www.youtube.com/user/ProBonoServices

1 Havelock Square B1-18 State Courts Singapore 059724 T: 6536 0650 E:enquiry@lawsocprobono.org



THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE



#### THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY

[UEN. T17GB0002A] [Established under The Legal Profession Act]

#### AUDI TED FI NANCI AL STATEMENTS FOR THE FI NANCI AL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

#### CONTENTS

Statement by the Council	2
Independent Auditor's Report	3
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	7
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position	11
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Funds and Fair Value Reserve	15
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	17
Notes to the Financial Statements	25

### Fiducia LLP

[UEN. T10LL0955L] Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants of Singapore

71 Ubi Crescent Excalibur Centre #08-01 Singapore 408571 T: (65) 6846.8376 F: (65) 6491.5218

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL

In the opinion of the Council, the financial statements of The Law Society of Singapore (the "Society") and its subsidiary (the "Group") are drawn up to present fairly, in all material respects, the state of affairs of the Group as at 31 March 2021 and the results, changes in funds and fair value reserve, and cash flows of the Group for the financial year then ended.

At the date of the statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Society will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Council, comprising the following as at the date of reporting, authorised the issues of these financial statements on 20 September 2021.

President Vice President Vice President Treasurer Member	Gregory Vijayendran Ganesamoorthy, SC Lisa Sam Hui Min Chan Tai-Hui Jason, SC Tan Beng Hwee Paul M Rajaram Chan Pengee Adrian Manimaram Arumugam Tamil Koh Choon Guan Daniel Chia Boon Teck Tito Shane Isaac Ng Lip Chih Chia Soo Michael Nicholas Narayanan Sunil Sudheesan Tan May Lian Felicia Simran Kaur Toor Low Ying Li, Christine Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin Yeoh Jun Wei Derric Marshall Lim Yu Hui
Member Member	Marshall Lim Yu Hui Abhinav Ratan Mohan

For and on behalf of the Council,

DocuSigned by: /yayundran Ganesamoorthy

Gregory Vijayendran Ganesamoorthy, SC President

Singapore, 20 September 2021

DocuSigned by:

Tau ALL.

Tan Beng Hwee Paul Treasurer

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

### Fiducia LLP

Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants of Singapore

71 Ubi Crescent Excalibur Centre, #08-01 Singapore 408571 T: (65) 6846.8376 F: (65) 6491.5218 Independent auditor's report to the members of:

#### THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY

[UEN. T17GB0002A] [Established under the Legal Profession Act]

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

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Law Society of Singapore (the "Society") and its subsidiary (the "Group"), which comprise the statement of financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2021, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in funds and fair value reserve and consolidated 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 provisions of the Legal Profession Act, Chapter 161 (the "Legal Profession Act"), Companies Act, Chapter 50 (the "Companies Act") and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore ("FRSs") so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the state of affairs of the Group and the Society as at 31 March 2021 and the results, changes in funds and cash flows of the Group 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 Group 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 Matters**

The financial statements of the Group for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 were audited by a firm of auditor other than Messrs. Fiducia LLP who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 14 October 2020.

#### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Statement by the Council (as set out on page 2), but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, and the annual report, which we expected to be made available to us after that date.

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

## Fiducia LLP

Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants of Singapore (CONT"D)

Independent auditor's report to the members of:

#### THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY

[UEN. T17GB0002A] [Established under the Legal Profession Act]

71 Ubi Crescent Excalibur Centre, #08-01 Singapore 408571 T: (65) 6846.8376 F: (65) 6491.5218

#### Other Information (Cont'd)

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, 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.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of the Legal Profession Act and FRSs, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that the assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition, and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair financial statements and to maintain accountability of assets.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group'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 management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group'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.

### Fiducia LLP

Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants of Singapore

71 Ubi Crescent Excalibur Centre, #08-01 Singapore 408571 T: (65) 6846.8376 F: (65) 6491.5218

#### (CONT"D)

Independent auditor's report to the members of:

#### THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY [UEN. T17GB0002A]

[Established under the Legal Profession Act]

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

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 Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of 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 Group'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 Group 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.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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.

## Fiducia LLP

Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants of Singapore

71 Ubi Crescent Excalibur Centre, #08-01 Singapore 408571 T: (65) 6846.8376 F: (65) 6491.5218 (CONT"D)

Independent auditor's report to the members of:

#### THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY

[UEN. T17GB0002A] [Established under the Legal Profession Act]

#### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required to be kept by the Society and by the subsidiary incorporated in Singapore of which we are the auditors have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Legal Profession Act and the Companies Act.

DocuSigned by: Fiducia UP A863FCC12BAB474

Fiducia LLP Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants

Singapore, 20 September 2021

Partner-in-charge:	Gan Chek Huat
PAB No.:	01939

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	General (Not 2021 S\$	Fund e 21) 2020 S\$	Compensatio (Note 2 2021 S\$		Pro Bono (Note 2021 S\$	Services 22.2) 2020 S\$	Other Fu (Notes 22.3 2021 S\$		Total before in elimir 2021 S\$	nter-segment nation 2020 S\$
Income											
Subscriptions and Compensation											
Fund dues		4,151,758	5,691,961	6,529	628,150	0	0	0	0	4,158,287	6,320,111
Surplus from self-financing											
projects	21.2	588,880	1,060,460	0	0	0	0	0	0	588,880	1,060,460
Contributions		0	0	0	0	1,098,766	1,131,000	0	600	1,098,766	1,131,600
Government grants	5	1,221,968	427,890	0	0	2,521,135	1,872,655	0	0	3,743,103	2,300,545
CLAS Co-Payment collection		0	0	0	0	67,489	69,979	0	0	67,489	69,979
CLAS Training Programme fee		0	0	0	0	0	8,865	0	0	0	8,865
Rental income		540,000	236,667	0	0	0	0	0	0	540,000	236,667
Income from operating activities		151,222	213,855	0	0	0	0	18,604	111,242	169,826	325,097
Amortisation of deferred grants		0	0	0	0	155,553	195,482	0	0	155,553	195,482
Other income	_	732,626	517,033	274,474	316,244	106,631	223,780	746	1,649	1,114,477	1,058,706
	_	7,386,454	8,147,866	281,003	944,394	3,949,574	3,501,761	19,350	113,491	11,636,381	12,707,512
Less: Expenditure											
Expenditure for operating activities		550,986	274,319	0	24,375	470,343	517,918	12,530	156,389	1,033,859	973,001
Administrative expenses		1,648,947	1,889,095	270,824	39,941	489,400	617,171	938	22,737	2,410,109	2,568,944
Personnel costs		4,763,886	4,941,165	57,420	54,269	2,915,295	2,510,469	0	0	7,736,601	7,505,903
Donations/Grants/Contributions to											
Singapore Institute of Legal											
Education/Pro Bono											
Services/SBF Foundation		471,735	599,050	0	0	0	0	0	0	471,735	599,050
Disciplinary proceedings costs		336,137	198,347	0	0	0	0	0	0	336,137	198,347
Interest on lease liabilities	-	98,711	79,912	0	0	23,113	11,550	0	0	121,824	91,462
	-	7,870,402	7,981,888	328,244	118,585	3,898,151	3,657,108	13,468	179,126	12,110,265	11,936,707
(Deficit)/surplus before tax	د <u>-</u>	(483,948)	165,978	(47,241)	825,809	51,423	(155,347)	5,882	(65,635)	(473,884)	770,805

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONT'D) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	General I (Note 2021 S\$		Compensati (Note 2021 S\$		Pro Bono S (Note 2021 S\$		Other Fi (Notes 22.3 2021 S\$		Total before int elimina 2021 S\$	5
(Deficit)/Surplus before tax Tax expense	(483,948) (65,972)	165,978 (3,647)	(47,241) 0	825,809 0	51,423 0	(155,347) 0	5,882 0	(65,635) 0	(473,884) (65,972)	770,805 (3,647)
Net (deficit)/ surplusfor the financial year	(549,920)	162,331	(47,241)	825,809	51,423	(155,347)	5,882	(65,635)	(539,856)	767,158
Othercomprehensivethe financial year, net of taxItems that will not be reclassifiedsubsequently to profit or loss:Financial assets at fair value through othercomprehensive income	loss for									
- Fair value loss – equity investments	(1,034,163)	(194,454)	(877,129)	(242,091)	0	0	0	0	(1,911,292)	(436,545)
Total comprehensive (loss)/										
income for the financial year	(1,584,083)	(32,123)	(924,370)	583,718	51,423	(155,347)	5,882	(65,635)	(2,451,148)	330,613

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

## CONSOLIDATEDSTATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONT'D)FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Total before in	5	<b>-</b>		Total after int	5
		elimir		Inter-segment		elimir	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	Note	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
I ncom e							
Subscriptions and Compensation Fund dues	4	4,158,287	6,320,111	0	0	4,158,287	6,320,111
Surplus from self-financing projects	4	588,880	1,060,460	0	0	588,880	1,060,460
Contributions		1,098,766	1,131,600	0	0	1,098,766	1,131,600
Government grants	5	3,743,103	2,300,545	0	0	3,743,103	2,300,545
CLAS Co-Payment collection	4	67,489	69,979	0	0	67,489	69,979
CLAS Training Programme fee	4	0	8,865	0	0	0	8,865
Rental income		540,000	236,667	0	0	540,000	236,667
Income from operating activities	4	169,826	325,097	0	(21,253)	169,826	303,844
Amortisation of deferred grants	13	155,553	195,482	0	0	155,553	195,482
Other income	6	1,114,477	1,058,706	(696)	0	1,113,781	1,058,706
		11,636,381	12,707,512	(696)	(21,253)	11,635,685	12,686,259
Less: Expenditure				_			
Expenditure for operating activities		1,033,859	973,001	0	(13,753)	1,033,859	959,248
Administrative expenses		2,410,109	2,568,944	(696)	0	2,409,413	2,568,944
Personnel costs		7,736,601	7,505,903	0	0	7,736,601	7,505,903
Donations/Grants/Contributions to Singapore Institute of							
Legal Education/Pro Bono Services/ SBF Foundation		471,735	599,050	0	(7,500)	471,735	591,550
Disciplinary proceedings costs		336,137	198,347	0	0	336,137	198,347
Interest on lease liabilities	20	121,824	91,462	0	0	121,824	91,462
		12,110,265	11,936,707	(696)	(21,253)	12,109,569	11,915,454
(Deficit)/Surplus before tax		(473,884)	770,805	0	0	(473,884)	770,805

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONT'D) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Total before intended of the second s	5	Inter-segmen	t elimination	Total after inte elimina	5
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	Note	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Surplus before tax		(473,884)	770,805	0	0	(473,884)	770,805
Tax expense	7	(65,972)	(3,647)	0	0	(65,972)	(3,647)
Net surplus for the financial year		(539,856)	767,158	0	0	(539,856)	767,158
Other comprehensive loss for the financial year,	net of ta	ax					
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to pro							
Financial assets, at FVOCI							
- Fair value loss – equity investments	_	(1,911,292)	(436,545)	0	0	(1,911,292)	(436,545)
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the fina	incial ye <u>a</u>	<b>r</b> (2,451,148)	330,613	0	0	(2,451,148)	330,613

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

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestric	ted fund		Restricted funds							Total	
		Genera	al fund	Compensa	ation Fund	Pro Bonc	Services	Other f	funds	Monies he	ld in Trust	10	la
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	Note	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
ASSETS													
Current assets													
Fixed deposits, bank and													
cash balances	8	11,530,207	12,440,830	10,935,720	10,329,728	4,421,582	3,940,421	318,843	292,841	6,834,434	6,766,376	34,040,786	33,770,196
Financial assets, at FVTPL	9	1,005,265	0	1,005,264	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,010,529	0
Financial assets, at FVOCI	10	2,513,518	969,794	3,411,757	1,257,543	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,925,275	2,227,337
Inventories	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	44,227	41,961	0	0	44,227	41,961
Trade and other receivables	12	3,770,716	4,846,284	0	600	188,277	307,020	43,585	(2,194)	0	0	4,002,578	5,151,710
Contract assets	4	0	0	0	0	223,720	194,020	0	0	0	0	223,720	194,020
Deferred expenditure	13	0	0	0	0	48,424	93,116	0	0	0	0	48,424	93,116
		18,819,706	18,256,908	15,352,741	11,587,871	4,882,003	4,534,577	406,655	332,608	6,834,434	6,766,376	46,295,539	41,478,340
Non-current assets													
Property, plant and equipment	14	3,808,760	4,644,760	1,949	2,393	518,506	669,191	0	0	0	0	4,329,215	5,316,344
Investment property	15	4,251,211	4,406,743	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,251,211	4,406,743
Intangible assets	16	50,800	48,260	0	0	100,166	133,459	0	0	0	0	150,966	181,719
Financial assets, at FVTPL	9	0	967,356	0	967,355	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,934,711
Financial assets, at FVOCI	10	0	2,475,228	0	3,112,044	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,587,272
		8,110,771	12,542,347	1,949	4,081,792	618,672	802,650	0	0	0	0	8,731,392	17,426,789
Interfund – amount due (to)/from	m 17	116,488	(922,318)	196,254	1,158,662	0	0	(312,742)	(236,344)	0	0	0	0
Total assets		27,046,965	29,876,937	15,550,944	16,828,325	5,500,675	5,337,227	93,913	96,264	6,834,434	6,766,376	55,026,931	58,905,129

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCI AL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

		Unrestric	ted fund		Restricted funds						Та	Total	
		Genera	al fund	Compensa	tion Fund	Pro Bond	Services	Other f	unds	Monies he	ld in Trust	10	tai
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	Note	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
LI ABI LI TI ES													
Current liabilities													
Contract liabilities	4	2,755,624	3,456,585	286,600	338,700	77,200	0	6,978	6,978	0	0	3,126,402	3,802,263
Trade and other payables	18	1,594,382	1,636,877	11,769	300	851,833	584,562	14,824	23,057	0	0	2,472,808	2,244,796
Monies held in trust	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,834,434	6,766,376	6,834,434	6,766,376
Deferred grants	13	111,986	277,587	0	0	149,736	262,014	0	0	0	0	261,722	539,601
Lease liabilities	20	710,392	848,951	0	0	101,040	117,366	0	0	0	0	811,432	966,317
Income tax liabilities	7	65,972	22,976	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65,972	22,976
		5,238,356	6,242,976	298,369	339,000	1,179,809	963,942	21,802	30,035	6,834,434	6,766,376	13,572,770	14,342,329
Non-current liabilities	;												
Deferred grants	13	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	0
Other payable	18	150,000	155,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150,000	155,000
Lease liabilities	20	2,452,984	3,101,633	0	0	306,914	410,756	0	0	0	0	2,759,898	3,512,389
		2,702,984	3,256,633	0	0	306,914	410,756	0	0	0	0	3,009,898	3,667,389
Total liabilities		7,941,340	9,499,609	298,369	339,000	1,486,723	1,374,698	21,802	30,035	6,834,434	6,766,376	16,582,668	18,009,718
NET ASSETS		19,105,625	20,377,328	15,252,575	16,489,325	4,013,952	3,962,529	72,111	66,229	0	0	38,444,263	40,895,411
<b>Represented by:</b>													
Accumulated funds	21, 22	20,115,762	20,353,302	16,096,820	16,456,441	4,013,952	3,962,529	72,111	66,229	0	0	40,298,645	40,838,501
Fair value reserve		(1,010,137)	24,026	(844,245)	32,884	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,854,382)	56,910
TOTAL FUNDS		19,105,625	20,377,328	15,252,575	16,489,325	4,013,952	3,962,529	72,111	66,229	0	0	38,444,263	40,895,411

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCI AL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021(CONT'D)

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCI AL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021(CONT'D)

		Total before in elimi	iter-segment nation	Inter-segment e	limination	Total after int elimi	er-segment nation
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	Note	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
ASSETS							
Current assets							
Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances	8	34,040,786	33,770,196	0	0	34,040,786	33,770,196
Financial assets, at FVOCI	10	2,010,529	2,227,337	0	0	2,010,529	2,227,337
Financial assets, at FVTPL	9	5,925,275	0	0	0	5,925,275	0
Inventories	11	44,227	41,961	0	0	44,227	41,961
Trade and other receivables	12	4,002,578	5,151,710	(1,324)	(514)	4,001,254	5,151,196
Contract assets	4	223,720	194,020	0	0	223,720	194,020
Deferred expenditure	13	48,424	93,116	0	0	48,424	93,116
	-	46,295,539	41,478,340	(1,324)	(514)	46,294,215	41,477,826
Non-current assets							
Property, plant and equipment	14	4,329,215	5,316,344	0	0	4,329,215	5,316,344
Investment property	15	4,251,211	4,406,743	0	0	4,251,211	4,406,743
Intangible assets	16	150,966	181,719	0	0	150,966	181,719
Financial assets, at FVTPL	9	, 0	1,934,711	0	0	, 0	1,934,711
Financial assets, at FVOCI	10	0	5,587,272	0	0	0	5,587,272
	-	8,731,392	17,426,789	0	0	8,731,392	17,426,789
Interfund - amount due (to)/from	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	-	55,026,931	58,905,129	(1,324)	(514)	55,025,607	58,904,615

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

		Total before in elimii	iter-segment nation	Inter-segment e	elimination	Total after int elimir	er-segment nation
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	Note	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
LIABILITIES							
Current liabilities							
Contract liabilities	4	3,126,402	3,802,263	0	0	3,126,402	3,802,263
Trade and other payables	18	2,472,808	2,244,796	(1,324)	(514)	2,471,484	2,244,282
Monies held in trust	19	6,834,434	6,766,376	0	0	6,834,434	6,766,376
Deferred grants	13	261,722	539,601	0	0	261,722	539,601
Lease liabilities	20	811,432	966,317	0	0	811,432	966,317
Income tax liabilities	7	65,972	22,976	0	0	65,972	22,976
		13,572,770	14,342,329	(1,324)	(514)	13,571,446	14,341,815
Non-current liabilities							
Deferred grants	13	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	0
Other payable	18	150,000	155,000	0	0	150,000	155,000
Lease liabilities	20	2,759,898	3,512,389	0	0	2,759,898	3,512,389
		3,009,898	3,667,389	0	0	3,009,898	3,667,389
Total liabilities		16,582,668	18,009,718	(1,324)	(514)	16,581,344	18,009,204
NET ASSETS		38,444,263	40,895,411	0	0	38,444,263	40,895,411
Represented by:							
Accumulated funds	20,21	40,298,645	40,838,501	0	0	40,298,645	40,838,501
Fair value reserve		(1,854,382)	56,910	0	0	(1,854,382)	56,910
TOTAL FUNDS		38,444,263	40,895,411	0	0	38,444,263	40,895,411

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCI AL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2021(CONT'D)

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

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS AND FAIR VALUE RESERVE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Balance at beginning of financial year	Net (deficit)/ surplus for the financial year	Transfers (from)/to	Balance at end of financial year
2021	Note	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Unrestricted fund General Fund	20	20,353,302	(549,920)	312,380	20,115,762
Restricted funds Compensation Fund Compensation Fund - Library Pro Bono Services Other funds - Jus Curio Fund - Pastoral Care Fund - Sports Meet Fund - Welfare Fund - Library Fund - Practice Resilience Fund	21	15,095,454 1,360,987 3,962,529 229,638 (15,870) (223,728) 22,263 51,926 2,000 66,229	(60,052) 12,811 51,423 13,799 0 (8,354) 0 437 0 5,882	(261,219) (51,161) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	14,774,183 1,322,637 4,013,952 243,437 (15,870) (232,082) 22,263 52,363 2,000 72,111
Total restricted funds		20,485,199	10,064	(312,380)	20,182,883
Total funds		40,838,501	(539,856)	0	40,298,645
Fair value reserve		56,910	(1,911,292)	0	(1,854,382)
		40,895,411	(2,451,148)	0	38,444,263

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS AND FAIR VALUE RESERVE (CONT'D) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Balance at beginning of financial year S\$	Net surplus/(deficit) for the financial year S\$	Transfers (from)/to S\$	Balance at end of financial year S\$
2020		·	·	·	
Unrestricted fund General Fund	20	20,190,971	162,331	0	20,353,302
Restricted funds Compensation Fund Compensation Fund - Library Pro Bono Services Other funds - Jus Curio Fund - Pastoral Care Fund - Sports Meet Fund - Welfare Fund - Library Fund - Practice Resilience Fund Total other funds	21	14,584,862 1,045,770 4,117,876 220,352 (15,870) (167,144) 41,941 51,185 1,400 131,864	805,400 20,409 (155,347) 9,286 0 (56,584) (19,678) 741 600 (65,635)	(294,808) 294,808 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	15,095,454 1,360,987 3,962,529 229,638 (15,870) (223,728) 22,263 51,926 2,000 66,229
Total restricted funds		19,880,372	604,827	0	20,485,199
Total funds		40,071,343	767,158	0	40,838,501
Fair value reserve		493,455	(436,545)	0	56,910
		40,564,798	330,613	0	40,895,411

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

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### CONSOLI DATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE FI NANCI AL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Cash flows from operating activities		÷+	C Ţ
(Deficit)/surplus before tax Adjustments for:		(473,884)	770,805
- Amortisation of intangible assets	16	43,108	171,457
- Amortisation of deferred grants	13	(155,553)	(195,482)
- Amortisation of deferred expenditure	13	44,692	8,998
<ul> <li>Depreciation of property, plant and equipment</li> </ul>	14	1,011,201	934,501
<ul> <li>Depreciation of investment property</li> </ul>	15	155,532	155,532
<ul> <li>Fair value loss on financial assets, at FVTPL</li> </ul>		119,002	77,736
- Interest income		(116,865)	(405,355)
- Interest on lease liabilities	20	121,824	91,462
- Investment income		(427,418)	(293,358)
<ul> <li>Gain on redemption of financial assets, at FVOCI</li> </ul>		0	(4,500)
- Waiver of rental – COVID-19		(30,225)	0
- Grant income for rental		(104,127)	(83,307)
<ul> <li>Property, plant and equipment written off</li> </ul>		871	173,967
- Right-of-use assets written off		0	94,640
Wavier of honorariums and disbursements charged by lawyer	rs	0	(150,470)
Operating cash flows before working capital changes		188,158	1,346,626
Changes in working capital			
- Fixed deposits and bank balances held in trust		68,058	5,623,658
- Inventories		(2,266)	6,656
- Receivables		1,162,987	(2,620,801)
- Deferred grants received		43,275	141,361
- Contract liabilities		(675,861)	1,607,390
- Deferred expenditure		0	(64,226)
- Payables and monies held in trust		(1,886,594)	(4,095,056)
Cash (used in)/generated from operations	_	(1,102,243)	1,945,608
Income tax paid	7	(22,976)	(112,671)
Net cash (used in) / generated of penating activit		(1,125,219)	1,832,937
Cash flows from investing activities			<i></i>
Purchase of intangible assets		0	(170,592)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	14	(39,343)	(1,019,537)
Adjustment due to changes in lease agreement		1,312	0
Purchase of financial assets investments			(287)
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets investments		1,695,075	1,757,894
Interest received		116,865	405,355
Investment income received		427,418	354,368
Net cash provided by investing activities		2,201,327	1,327,201

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (CONT'D) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Not	2021 e S\$	2020 S\$
	ς Οφ	ΟΨ
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest on lease liabilities	(121,824)	(91,462)
Repayments of lease liabilities	(751,752)	(562,623)
Net cash used in financing activities	(873,576)	(654,085)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of	202,532	2,506,053
financial year	27,003,820	24,497,767
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year	27,206,352	27,003,820
Cash and cash equivalents comprise:		
Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances 8	34,040,786	33,770,196
Less: Monies held in trust 8	(6,834,434)	(6,766,376)
	27,206,352	27,003,820

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

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### DETAI LED CONSOLI DATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE FI NANCI AL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted fund Restricted funds					
	(	Compensation	Pro Bono	l	Monies held in	
	General Fund	Fund	Services	Other Funds	Trust	Total
2021	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Cash flows from operating activities						
(Deficit)/surplus before tax	(483,948)	(47,241)	51,423	5,882	0	(473,884)
Adjustments for:						
- Amortisation of intangible assets	9,815	0	33,293	0	0	43,108
- Amortisation of deferred grants	0	0	(155,553)	0	0	(155,553)
- Amortisation of deferred expenditure	0	0	44,692	0	0	44,692
- Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	838,894	444	171,863	0	0	1,011,201
- Depreciation of investment property	155,532	0	0	0	0	155,532
- Fair value loss on financial assets, at FVTPL	59,501	59,501	0	0	0	119,002
- Interest income	(37,131)	(47,124)	(31,864)	(746)	0	(116,865)
- Interest on lease liabilities	98,711	0	23,113	0	0	121,824
- Investment income	(200,068)	(227,350)	0	0	0	(427,418)
- Waiver of rental – COVID-19	(16,743)	0	(13,482)	0	0	(30,225)
- Grant income for rental	0	0	(104,127)	0	0	(104,127)
- Property, plant and equipment written off	0	0	871	0	0	871
Operating cash flows before working capital changes	424,563	(261,770)	20,229	5,136	0	188,158

	Unrestricted fund		Restricte	d funds		
		Compensation	Pro Bono	1	Monies held in	
	General Fund	Fund	Services	Other Funds	Trust	Total
2021 (Cont'd)	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Operating cash flows before working capital changes	424,563	(261,770)	20,229	5,136	0	188,158
Changes in working capital						
- Fixed deposits and bank balances held in trust	0	0	0	0	68,058	68,058
- Inventories	0	0	0	(2,266)	0	(2,266)
- Receivables	1,590,921	(521,216)	89,043	4,239	0	1,162,987
- Deferred grants received	0	0	43,275	0	0	43,275
- Contract liabilities	(700,961)	(52,100)	77,200	0	0	(675,861)
- Payables and monies held in trust	(2,410,138)	306,184	267,271	18,147	(68,058)	(1,886,594)
Cash generated from/(used in) operations	(1,095,615)	(528,902)	497,018	25,256	0	(1,102,243)
Income tax paid	(22,976)	0	0	0	0	(22,976)
Net cash (used in)/generated from operating a	ctiviti <b>@\$</b> ,118,591)	(528,902)	497,018	25,256	0	(1,125,219)
Cash flows from investing activities						
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(9,100)	0	(30,243)	0	0	(39,343)
Adjustment due to changes in lease agreement	0	0	1,312	0	0	1,312
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets investments	834,094	860,420	561	0	0	1,695,075
Interest received	37,131	47,124	31,864	746	0	116,865
Investment income received	200,068	227,350	0	0	0	427,418
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing	activities062,193	1,134,894	3,494	746	0	2,201,327

	Unrestricted fund		Restricted	funds		
	General	Compensation	Pro Bono	Other	Monies held in	
	Fund	Fund	Services	Funds	Trust	Total
2021 (Cont'd)	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Cash flows from financing activities						
Interest on lease liabilities	(119,638)	0	(2,186)	C	) 0	(121,824)
Repayments of lease liabilities	(734,587)	0	(17,165)	C	) 0	(751,752)
Net cash used in financing activities	(854,225)	0	(19,351)	C	) 0	(873,576)
Net (decrease)/ increase in cash and cash equ	1	605,992	481,161	26,002	2 0	202,532
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of fina	ancial yle2a4r40,830	10,329,728	3,940,421	292,841	. 0	27,003,820
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial y	year 11,530,207	10,935,720	4,421,582	318,843	3 0	27,206,352

	Unrestricted fund		Restricted	funds		
	General	Compensation	Pro Bono	Other	Monies held in	
	Fund	Fund	Services	Funds	Trust	Total
2020	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Cash flows from operating activities						
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax	165,978	825,809	(155,347)	(65,635)	0	770,805
Adjustments for:						
- Amortisation of intangible assets	22,762	0	148,695	0	0	171,457
- Amortisation of deferred grants	0	0	(195,482)	0	0	(195,482)
- Amortisation of deferred expenditure	0	0	8,998	0	0	8,998
<ul> <li>Depreciation of property, plant and equipment</li> </ul>	183,204	1,027	45,220	0	0	229,451
- Depreciation of right-of-use assets	581,346	0	123,704	0	0	705,050
- Depreciation of investment property	155,532	0		0	0	155,532
- Fair value loss on financial assets, at FVTPL	38,868	38,868	0	0	0	77,736
- Interest income	(197,562)	(154,025)	(52,119)	(1,649)	0	(405,355)
- Interest on lease liabilities	79,912	0	11,550	0	0	91,462
- Investment income	(131,139)	(162,219)	0	0	0	(293,358)
- Gain on redemption of financial assets, at FVOCI	(2,198)	(2,302)	0	0	0	(4,500)
- Grant income for rental	(53,077)	0	(30,230)	0	0	(83,307)
- Property, plant and equipment written off	112,906	0	61,061	0	0	173,967
- Right-of-use assets written off	94,640	0	0	0	0	94,640
- Waiver of honorariums and disbursement charged by lawyers	0	0	(150,470)	0	0	(150,470)
Operating cash flows before working capital changes	1,051,172	547,158	(184,420)	(67,284)	0	1,346,626

	Unrestricted fund		Restricted	funds		
	General	Compensation	Pro Bono	Other	Monies held in	
	Fund	Fund	Services	Funds	Trust	Total
2020 (Cont'd)	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Operating cash flows before working capital changes	1,051,172	547,158	(184,420)	(67,284)	0	1,346,626
Changes in working capital						
- Fixed deposits and bank balances held in trust	0	0	0	0	5,623,658	5,623,658
- Inventories	0	0	0	6,656	0	6,656
- Receivables	(2,729,166)	(600)	70,896	38,069	0	(2,620,801)
- Deferred grants received	0	0	141,361	0	0	141,361
- Contract liabilities	1,466,989	179,100	0	(38,699)	0	1,607,390
- Deferred expenditure	0	0	(64,226)	0	0	(64,226)
- Payables and monies held in trust	1,461,341	0	57,983	9,278	(5,623,658)	(4,095,056)
- Interfund - amount due from/(to)	673,024	(739,998)	0	66,974	0	0
Cash generated from/(used in) operations	1,923,360	(14,340)	21,594	14,994	0	1,945,608
Income tax paid	(112,671)	0	0	0	0	(112,671)
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating acti	vities,810,689	(14,340)	21,594	14,994	0	1,832,937
Cash flows from investing activities						
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(888,929)	(3,420)	(127,188)	0	0	(1,019,537)
Purchase of intangible assets	(55,000)	0	(115,592)	0	0	(170,592)
Purchase of financial assets at fair value through other						
comprehensive income	(287)	0	0	0	0	(287)
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets at fair value through			0			
other comprehensive income	800,959	956,935	0	0	0	1,757,894
Interest received	197,562	154,025	52,119	1,649	0	405,355
Investment income received	158,879	195,489	0	0	0	354,368
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing active	vities 213,184	1,303,029	(190,661)	1,649	0	1,327,201

	Unrestricted fund		Restricted	funds		
	General	Compensation	Pro Bono	Other	Monies held in	
	Fund	Fund	Services	Funds	Trust	Total
2020 (Cont'd)	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Cash flows from financing activities						
Interest on lease liabilities	(79,912)	0	(11,550)	0	0	(91,462)
Repayments of lease liabilities	(492,484)	0	(70,139)	0	0	(562,623)
Net cash used in financing activities	(572,396)	0	(81,689)	0	0	(654,085)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equiva	lents 1,451,477	1,288,689	(250,756)	16,643	0	2,506,053
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of finar	ncial y1@a9989,353	9,041,039	4,191,177	276,198	0	24,497,767
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial ye	ear 12,440,830	10,329,728	3,940,421	292,841	0	27,003,820

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

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCI AL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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

# 1. 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 Society's principal place of activities is located at 28 Maxwell Road, #01-03 Maxwell Chambers Suites, Singapore 069120.

## 2. Significant accounting policies

### 2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore ("FRSs") and the disclosure requirements of the Legal Profession Act, Chapter 161. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as disclosed in the accounting policies below.

The individual financial statements of each entity in the Group are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (its functional currency). The consolidated financial statements of the Group and the statement of financial position of the Society are presented in Singapore Dollar (S\$), which is the functional currency of the Society and the presentation currency for the consolidated financial statements.

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with FRSs requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. It also requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and assumptions. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where estimates and assumptions are significant to the financial statements are disclosed in Note 3.

### 2.1.1 Interpretations and amendments to published standards effective in 2021

In the current financial year, the Group 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. Changes to the Group's accounting policies have been made as required, in accordance with the transitional provisions in the respective FRSs and INT FRSs.

Except for the adoption of amendment to FRS 116 Leases as described below, the adoption of these new or amended FRS and INT FRS did not result in substantial changes to the Group's accounting policies and had no material effect on the amounts reported for the current or prior financial year.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### 2.1 Basis of preparation

2.1.1 Interpretations and amendments to published standards effective in 2021 (Cont'd)

Early adoption of Amendments to FRS 116 Leases - Related Rent Concessions

The Group has elected to early adopt the amendments to FRS 116 which introduced a practical expedient for a lessee to elect not to assess whether a rent concession is a lease modification, if all the following conditions are met:

- (a) the change in lease payments results in revised consideration for the lease that is substantially the same as, or less than, the consideration for the lease immediately preceding the change;
- (b)any reduction in lease payments affects only payments originally due on or before 30 June 2021; and
- (c) there is no substantive change to other terms and conditions of the lease.

The Group has elected to apply this practical expedient to all property leases. As a result of applying the practical expedient, rent concessions of S\$30,225 was recognised as negative variable lease payments in the statement of comprehensive income during the year.

#### 2.1.2 Standards issued but not yet effective

The Group has not adopted the following relevant new/revised FRS, INT FRS and amendments to FRSs that were issued but not yet effective:

Description	Effective for annual periods beginning on or after
Amendments to:	
- FRS 109, FRS 39, FRS 107, FRS 104 and FRS 116	
Interest Rate Benchmark Reform - Phase 2	1 January 2021
- FRS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before	,
Intended Use	1 January 2022
- FRS 103 Reference to the Conceptual Framework	1 January 2022
- FRS 37 Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract	1 January 2022
- FRS 1 Classification of Liabilities as Current or	
Non-current	1 January 2023
- FRS 110 and FRS Sale or Contribution of Assets between	Date to be
an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture	determined
Annual Improvements to FRSs 2018 - 2020	1 January 2022

The Council expects that the adoption of the revised standards and interpretations will have no material impact on the financial statements in the year of initial application.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### 2.2 Group accounting

#### **Subsidiaries**

#### 2.2.1 Consolidation

Subsidiary is an entity over which the Group has power to govern the financial and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from its activities, generally accompanied by a shareholding giving rise to a majority of voting rights. The Group controls an entity when the Group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. Subsidiary is fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are deconsolidated from the date on that control ceases.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group entities are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated but are considered an impairment indicator of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries has been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

Non-controlling interests comprise the portion of a subsidiary's net results of operations and its net assets, which is attributable to the interests that are not owned directly or indirectly by the equity holders of the Group. They are shown separately in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, and consolidated statement of financial position. Total comprehensive income is attributed to the non-controlling interests based on their respective interests in a subsidiary, even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance.

#### 2.2.2 Acquisition

The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for business combinations entered into by the Group.

The consideration transferred for the acquisition of a subsidiary or business comprises the fair value of the assets transferred, the liabilities incurred and the equity interests issued by the Group. The consideration transferred also includes any contingent consideration arrangement and any pre-existing equity interest in the subsidiary measured at their fair values at the acquisition date.

Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred.

Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are, with limited exceptions, measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date.

On an acquisition-by-acquisition basis, the Group recognises any non-controlling interest in the acquiree at the date of acquisition either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets.

The excess of the consideration transferred, the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree and the acquisition-date fair value of any previous equity interest in the acquiree over the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

## 2.2 Group accounting (Cont'd)

Subsidiaries (Cont'd)

#### 2.2.2 Acquisition (Cont'd)

The merger method of accounting is used to account for all business combinations involving entities or businesses under common control. Under the principles of merger accounting, the combined entity recognises the assets, liabilities and equity of the combining entity prior to the common control combination with no fair value adjustments. No amount is recognised for goodwill, and merger reserve arises representing the difference between the carrying values of the net tangible assets of the subsidiaries acquired and the consideration paid as a result of the restructuring exercise.

#### 2.2.3 Disposal

When a change in the Group's ownership interest in a subsidiary results in a loss of control over the subsidiary, the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary including any goodwill are derecognised. Amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income in respect of that entity are also reclassified to statement of comprehensive income or transferred directly to retained earnings if required by a specific Standard.

Any retained equity interest in the entity is remeasured at fair value. The difference between the carrying amount of the retained interest at the date when control is lost and its fair value is recognised in statement of comprehensive income.

# 2.3 Subsidiary

A subsidiary is an investee that is controlled by the Group. The Group controls an investee when it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability affect those returns through its power over the investee.

The Group reassesses whether or not it controls an investee if facts and circumstances indicate that there are changes to one or more of three elements of control.

In the Society's separate financial statements, investment in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment losses.

### 2.4 Income recognition

Income is measured based on the consideration to which the Group expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer, excluding amounts collected on behalf of third parties.

Income is recognised when the Group satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good and service to the customer, which is when the customer obtains control of the good or service. A performance obligation may be satisfied at a point in time or over time. The amount of income recognised is the amount allocated to the satisfied performance obligation.

Income is recognised as follows:

2.4.1 CLAS Fellowship sponsorships

CLAS Fellowship sponsorships is recognised over the period the sponsorship relates.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### 2.4 Income recognition (Cont'd)

Income is recognised as follows: (cont'd)

2.4.2 CLAS Co-Payment collection

CLAS Co-Payment collection is recognised when service is rendered.

2.4.3 Fund-raising event, conference fees, CLAS Training programme fees and income from self-financing project

Fund-raising event, conference fees, CLAS Training programme fees and income from self-financing project are recognised when the event is held.

2.4.4 Interest income

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

2.4.5 Rental income

Rental income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2.4.6 Subscription from members and contributions

Subscription from members and contributions are recognised over the subscription period.

2.4.7 Donations

Donations are recognised when received in cash or the right to receive payment is established.

2.4.8 Dividend income

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

2.4.9 Sale of goods on credit

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.

2.4.10 Other income

Other income is recognised when received.

## 2.5 Governmentgrants

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 deferred grant on the statement of financial position and amortised to statement of comprehensive income over the expected useful life of the relevant asset by equal annual instalments.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

### 2.5 Government grants (Cont'd)

When the grant related to expenditure item, it is recognised in statement of comprehensive income over the period necessary to match them on a systematic basis to the expenditure that it is intended to compensate.

### 2.6 Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on accrual basis, aggregated under the respective areas. Direct costs are attributed to the activity where possible. Where costs are not wholly attributable to an activity, they are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### 2.7 Employee benefits

2.7.1 Defined contribution plans

Defined contribution plans are post-employment benefit plans under which the Group pays fixed contributions into separate entities such as the Central Provident Fund ("CPF"), on a mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis. The Group has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The Group's contribution to defined contribution plans are recognised as employee compensation expense when they are due.

2.7.2 Short-term employee benefits

Short-term employee benefit obligations are measured on an undiscounted basis and expensed as the related service is provided. A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid if the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee, and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

## 2.8 Leases

The Group assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

#### The Group as a lessee

The Group applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all contracts that are, or contain, a lease, except for short-term leases (i.e. for leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option) and leases of low-value assets. For these exempted leases, the Group recognises the lease payments as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease unless another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased assets are consumed.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### 2.8 Leases (Cont'd)

#### The Group as a lessee (Cont'd)

## 2.8.1 Right-of-use assets

The Group recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e. the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Group at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset. The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. The accounting policy for impairment is disclosed in Note 2.16. The Group's right-of-use assets are presented within property, plant and equipment as disclosed in Note 14.

#### 2.8.2 Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Group recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees. The lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Group and payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising the option to terminate. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as expenses (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Group uses its incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date because the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments (e.g. changes to future payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine such lease payments) or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

The Group's lease liabilities are disclosed in Note 20.

The Group has applied the amendment to FRS 116 Leases: Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions. The Group applies the practical expedient allowing it not to assess whether a rent concession related to COVID-19 is a lease modification. The Group applies the practical expedient consistently to contracts with similar characteristics and in similar circumstances. For rent concessions in leases to which the Group chooses not to apply the practical expedient, or that do not qualify for the practical expedient, the Group assesses whether there is a lease modification.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

### 2.8 Leases (Cont'd)

### The Group as a lessee (Cont'd)

#### 2.8.3 <u>Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets</u>

The Group has elected to not recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short term leases that have lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low value leases, except for sublet arrangements. Lease payments relating to these leases are expensed to the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## 2.8.4 <u>Variable lease payments</u>

Variable lease payments that are not based on an index or a rate are not included as part of the measurement and initial recognition of the lease liability. The Group shall recognise those lease payments in the statement of comprehensive income in the periods that triggered those lease payments.

#### The Group as a lessor

Leases for which the Group is a lessor are classified as finance or operating leases. Whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee, the contract is classified as a finance lease. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

When the Group is an intermediate lessor, it accounts for the head lease and the sub-lease as two separate contracts. The sub-lease is classified as a finance or operating lease by reference to the right-of-use asset arising from the head lease.

Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease. Initial direct cost incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

When a contract includes both lease and non-lease components, the Group applies FRS 115 Revenue from contracts with customers to allocate the consideration under the contract to each component.

## 2.9 Income taxes

Current income tax for current and prior periods is recognised at the amount expected to be paid to or recovered from the tax authorities, using the tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred income tax is recognised for all temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements except when the deferred income tax arises from the initial recognition of an asset or liability that affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss at the time of the transaction.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

### 2.9 Income taxes (Cont'd)

A deferred income tax asset is recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences and tax losses can be utilised.

Deferred income tax is measured:

- (i) at the tax rates that are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled, based on tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date; and
- (ii) based on the tax consequence that would follow from the manner in which the Group expects, at the reporting date, to recover or settle the carrying amounts of its assets and liabilities.

Current and deferred income taxes are recognised as income or expense in the statement of comprehensive income, except to the extent that the tax arises from a transaction which is recognised directly in reserve.

Pro Bono Services is a registered charity under the Charities Act since 31 March 2017. Consequently, the income of the Company is exempted from income tax under the provisions of Section 13 of the Income Tax Act Chapter 134.

## 2.10 Financial assets

2.10.1 Classification and measurement

The Group classifies its financial assets in the measurement categories:

- Amortised cost;
- Fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI"); and
- Fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL").

The classification depends on the Group's business model for managing the financial asset as well as the contractual terms of the cash flow of the financial assets.

The Group reclassifies financial assets when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes.

#### At initial recognition

At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial assets. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in statement of comprehensive income.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

### 2.10 Financial assets (Cont'd)

2.10.1 Classification and measurement (Cont'd)

## At subsequent measurement

(i) Debt instruments

Debt instruments include trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments), fixed deposits and bank and cash balances and investment in debt securities on the statement of financial position. The financial assets, depending on the Group's business model for managing the asset and cash flow characteristics of the asset:

- Amortised cost: Debt instruments that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest are measured at amortised cost. A gain or loss on a debt instrument that is subsequently measured at amortised cost is recognised in statement of comprehensive income when the asset is derecognised or impaired. Interest income from these financial assets is included in interest income using the effective interest rate method.
- FVOCI: Debt instruments that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows and for sale, and where the assets' cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, are classified as FVOCI. Movements in fair values are recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) and accumulated in fair value reserve, except for the recognition of impairment gains and losses, interest income and foreign exchange gains and losses, which are recognised in profit or loss. When the financial asset is derecognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in OCI is reclassified from reserves to profit or loss and presented in "Other income". Interest income from these financial assets is recognised using the effective interest rate method and presented in "Interest income".
- FVTPL: Debt instruments that are held for trading as well as those that do not meet the criteria for classification as amortised cost or FVOCI are classified as FVTPL. Movement in fair values and interest income is recognised in statement of comprehensive income in the period in which it arises and presented in "Other income".
- (ii) Equity investments

The Group subsequently measures all its equity investments at their fair values. Equity investments are classified as FVTPL with movements in their fair values recognised in statement of comprehensive income in the period in which the changes arise and presented in "Other income", except for those equity securities which are not held for trading. The Group has elected to recognise changes in fair value of equity securities not held for trading in other comprehensive income as these are strategic investments and the Group considers this to be more relevant. Movements in fair values of investments classified as FVOCI are presented as 'fair value gains/losses" in Other Comprehensive Income. Dividends from equity investments are recognised in statement of comprehensive income as "Dividend income".

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### 2.10 Financial assets (Cont'd)

2.10.1 Classification and measurement (Cont'd)

### At subsequent measurement (Cont'd)

#### (iii) Funds placed with fund managers

The Group classify a portfolio of financial assets that is managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Such portfolio of financial assets is neither held to collect contractual cash flows nor held both to collect contractual cash flows and to sell financial assets. The collection of contractual cash flows is only incidental to achieving the Group's objective. The Group's primary focus on a portfolio of financial assets is on the fair value information and uses that information to assess the assets' performance and to make decisions.

## 2.10.2 Impairment

The Group recognises an allowance for expected credit losses ("ECLs") for financial assets carried at amortised cost and debt instruments at FVOCI. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Group expects to receive, discounted at an approximation of the original effective interest rate.

The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk. For credit exposures for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12-months (a 12-month ECL). For those credit exposures for which there have been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the exposure, irrespective of the timing of the default (a lifetime ECL).

For trade receivables and contract assets that do not have a significant financing component, the Group applies a simplified approach to recognise a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Group has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted as appropriate for current conditions and forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

If the Group has measured the loss allowance for a financial asset at an amount equal to lifetime ECL in the previous reporting period, but determines at the current reporting date that the conditions for lifetime ECL are no longer met, the Group measures the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month ECL at the current reporting date.

The Group recognises an impairment gain or loss in statement of comprehensive income for all financial assets with a corresponding adjustment to their carrying amount through a loss allowance account, except for investments in debt instruments that are measured at FVOCI, for which the loss allowance is recognised in other comprehensive income, and does not reduce the carrying amount of the financial asset in the statement of financial position.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### 2.10 Financial assets (Cont'd)

#### 2.10.3 Recognition and derecognition

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade date - the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

On disposal of a debt instrument, the difference between the carrying amount and the sale proceeds is recognised in statement of comprehensive income. Any amount previously recognised in other comprehensive income relating to that asset is reclassified to statement of comprehensive income.

### 2.10.4 Offset

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented on the statement of financial position, when and only when the Group has a legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

### 2.11 Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances

Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances 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.

### 2.12 Property, plant and equipment

#### 2.12.1 Measurement

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.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

### 2.12 Property, plant and equipment(Cont'd)

## 2.12.2 Depreciation

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

	Years
Computer Office equipment Renovation Furniture and fittings Air-conditioners Library books	5 5 3 to 10 10 3 to 5 5
Right-of-use assets	Over the remaining lease term

The residual values, estimated useful lives and depreciation method of property, plant and equipment are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at each reporting date. The effects of any revision are recognised in statement of comprehensive income when the changes arise.

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

### 2.12.3 Subsequent expenditure

Subsequent expenditure relating to property, plant and equipment that have already been recognised is added to the carrying amount of the asset only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Other subsequent expenditure is recognised as "Repair and maintenance" expenses in the statement of comprehensive income during the financial year in which it is incurred.

2.12.4 Disposal

On disposal of a property, plant and equipment, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and its carrying amount is taken to statement of comprehensive income.

## 2.13 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 reporting date. The effects of any revision are recognised in statement of comprehensive income when the changes arise.

# 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

### 2.14 Investment property

Investment property comprises leasehold building that is held to earn rental income and/or for capital appreciation.

Investment property is initially recorded at cost and subsequently carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is calculated using a straight-line method to allocate the depreciable amounts over the estimated useful life of 50 years. The residual values, useful lives and depreciation method of investment property are reviewed and adjusted as appropriate, at reporting date. The effects of any revision are included in statement of comprehensive income when the changes arise.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the investment property. Investment property is subject to renovations or improvements at regular intervals. The cost of major renovations and improvements is capitalised as addition and the carrying amounts of the replaced components are written off to statement of comprehensive income. The cost of maintenance, repairs and minor improvement is charged to statement of comprehensive income when incurred.

On the disposal of an investment property, the difference between the disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is recognised in statement of comprehensive income.

# 2.15 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.

When necessary, allowance is provided for damaged, obsolete and slow moving items to adjust the carrying value of inventories to the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### 2.16 Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are tested for impairment whenever there is any objective evidence or indication that these assets may be impaired.

For the purpose of impairment testing, the recoverable amount (i.e. the higher of the fair value less cost to sell and the value-in-use) is determined on an individual asset basis unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets. If this is the case, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit ("CGU") to which the asset belongs.

If the recoverable amount of the asset or CGU is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount.

The difference between the carrying amount and recoverable amount is recognised as an impairment loss in the statement of comprehensive income.

An impairment loss for an asset is reversed only if, and only if, there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. The carrying amount of this asset is increased to its revised recoverable amount, provided that this amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of any accumulated depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of impairment loss for an asset is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

# 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

## 2.17 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual agreements of the instrument and are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. All interest related charges are recognised in statement of comprehensive income. Financial liabilities include "Interfund - amount due to", "Trade and other payables", "Monies held in Trust" and "Lease liabilities" in the statement of financial position.

Financial liabilities which are due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting date are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position even though the original term was for a period longer than 12 months and an agreement to refinance, or to reschedule payments on a long-term basis is completed after the reporting date and before the financial statements are authorised for issue. Other financial liabilities due to be settled more than12 months after the reporting date are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligations under the liability are discharged, cancelled or expired. When existing financial liabilities are replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms of an existing liability or are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability, and the difference in respective carrying amounts is recognised in statement of comprehensive income.

## 2.18 Trade and other payables

Trade payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of financial year, which are unpaid. They are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business if longer). Otherwise, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Other payables excluding accruals, are recognised at their transaction price, excluding transaction cost, if any, both at initial recognition and at subsequent measurement. Transaction costs are recognised as expenditure in the statement of comprehensive income as incurred. Accruals are recognised at the best estimate of the amount payable.

### 2.19 Provision for other liabilities and charges

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a 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 Group expects a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain.

## 2.20 Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs that are not directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset are recognised in statement of comprehensive income in the period in which they are incurred.

## 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### 2.21 Currency translation

#### 2.21.1 Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of each entity in the Group are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the "functional currency"). The financial statements are presented in Singapore Dollar ("S\$"), which is the functional currency of the Group.

#### 2.21.2 Translation and balances

Transactions in a currency other than the functional currency ("foreign currency") are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Currency exchange differences resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the closing rates at the reporting date are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Monetary items include primarily financial assets (other than equity investments), contract assets and financial liabilities. However, in the consolidated financial statements, currency translation differences arising from borrowings in foreign currencies and other currency instruments designated and qualifying as net investment hedges and net investment in foreign operations, are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the currency translation reserve.

When a foreign operation is disposed of or any loan forming part of the net investment of the foreign operation is repaid, a proportionate share of the accumulated currency translation differences is reclassified to profit or loss, as part of the gain or loss on disposal.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'finance costs'. All other foreign exchange gains and losses impacting profit or loss are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'other gains/losses'.

Non-monetary items measured at fair values in foreign currencies are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair values are determined. Currency translation differences on these items are included in the fair value reserve.

#### 2.21.3 Translation of Group entities' financial statements

The results and financial position of all the Group entities (none of which has currency of a hyperinflationary economy) that have functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

- (i) assets and liabilities are translated at the closing exchange rates at the reporting date;
- (ii) income and expenses are translated at the average exchange rates (unless the average is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction date in which case income and expenses are translated using the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions); and
- (iii)all resulting currency translation differences are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the currency translation reserve. These currency translation differences are reclassified to profit or loss on disposal or partial disposal with loss of control of the foreign operation.

# 2. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

## 2.22 Funds

Fund balances restricted by outside sources are so indicated and are distinguished from unrestricted funds allocated to specific purposes, if any, by action of the Council. Externally restricted funds may only be utilised in accordance with the purposes for which they are established. The Council retains full control over the use of unrestricted funds for any of the Group's purposes.

Unless specifically indicated, fund balances are not represented by any specific assets or liabilities but are represented by all assets of the Group.

## 2.23 Contingencies

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the financial statements. They are disclosed unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is remote. A contingent asset is not recognised in the financial statements but disclosed when an inflow of economic benefit is probable.

## 2.24 Events after the reporting period

Events after the reporting period that provide additional information about the Group's position at the reporting period (adjusting events) are reflected in the financial statements. Events after the reporting period that are not adjusting events are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements when material.

### 3. Critical accounting estimates, assumptions and judgements

Estimates, assumptions and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

## 3.1 Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

### Useful lives of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets

The Group reviews the useful lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets at each reporting date in accordance with the accounting policies in Note 2. The estimation of the useful lives and residual values involves assumptions concerning the future and estimations of the assets common life expectancies and expected level of usage. The net carrying amount of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets at 31 March 2021 and the annual depreciation/amortisation charges for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 are disclosed in Notes 14, Note 15 and Note 16, respectively. Changes in the level of usage and market uses could impact the useful lives and residual values of these assets and hence future depreciation/amortisation charges could be revised.

## 3. Critical accounting estimates, assumptions and judgements (Cont'd)

## 3.2 Critical judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies

The key critical judgement in applying the entity's accounting policies concerning the future at the reporting date, that has a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, is discussed below.

#### Government grants

Government grants to meet operating expenses are recognised as income in statement of financial activities on the accrual basis in the year these operating expenses were incurred and there is reasonable assurance that the Group will comply with the conditions attached to it. For certain grants, the government agencies reserve the right to withdraw, withhold or reduce the amount of any funds approved but not yet disbursed or to call for the refund of all funds which have been disbursed to the Group if the conditions are not met.

#### Income taxes

Significant judgement is required in determining the capital allowances and deductibility of certain expenses during the estimation of the provision for income taxes. There are many transactions and calculations for which the ultimate tax determination is uncertain during the ordinary course of business. The Group recognises liabilities for anticipated tax issues based on estimates of whether additional taxes will be due. Where the final tax outcome of these matters is different from the amounts that were initially recorded, such differences will impact the income tax and deferred income tax provisions in the period in which such determination is made.

#### Determining the lease term

In determining the lease term, management considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not to exercise a termination option. Extension options (or periods after termination options) are only included in the lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

For lease of office premises, the factor that is considered to be most relevant is that there will be costs and business disruption required to replace the leased asset if the Group were to relocate to another leased asset.

Management has included the lease payments for the extension period in the calculation of the lease liabilities and the right of use assets as management is reasonably certain that they will exercise the option to extend the lease on the due date.

As at 31 March 2021, included in lease liabilities and right of use assets are carrying amounts of S\$2,182,674 and S\$2,095,905, respectively, relating to the extension period of 3 years. The potential cash outflows in respect of the extension period is \$2,276,954.

The assessment of reasonable certainty to exercise extension options is only revised if a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment, and that is within the control of the lessee.

#### 4. Revenue from contracts with customers

(a) Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Revenue from:		
Subscriptions and Compensation Fund dues	4,158,287	6,320,111
Surplus from self-financing projects	588,880	1,060,460
CLAS Co-payment collection	67,489	69,979
CLAS Training programme fee	0	8,865
Income from operating activities Contributions	169,826	303,844
- Annual pledges and firms	155,000	105,000
- CLAS Fellowship	485,171	382,500
- Donations received	419,056	73,037
- Fund raising event	2,256	445,972
- Honorarium donations from others	27,708	99,061
- Honorarium donations to CLAS	9,575	19,130
<ul> <li>The Law Society of Singapore (Annual</li> </ul>		
Contribution)	0	7,500
Other income	49,564	221,492
	6,132,812	9,116,951
Timing of transfer of services		
- At a point in time	1,148,330	1,353,692
- Over time	4,984,482	7,763,259
	6,132,812	9,116,951
(b) Contract assets and contract liabilities		
	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$

Contract assets	223,720	194,020
Contract liabilities	3,126,402	3,802,263

Contract assets relate to the subsidiary's rights to consideration for services performed for CLAS cases not billed at the reporting date. Contract assets are transferred to receivables when the rights become unconditional. This usually occurs when the Ministry of Law acknowledges the claims.

Contract liabilities represent subscription fees paid in advance by members.

(i) Significant changes in the contract assets balances are explained as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Contract assets reclassified to trade receivables Services performed but not billed	194,020 223,720	125,000 134,000

(ii) Significant changes in the contract liabilities balances are explained as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Advances received during the year	3,126,402	3,802,263
Amounts recognised as revenue during the year_	3,802,263	2,194,873

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### 5. Governmentgrants

	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$
Bicentennial Community Fund	400,000	0
Jobs Support Scheme	1,166,593	0
Ministry of Law		
- Secretariat Grant	500,000	500,000
- CLAS Cases Grant	711,000	818,000
<ul> <li>CLAS Advocates Grant</li> </ul>	275,545	227,425
<ul> <li>Grant for rental at State Courts</li> </ul>	104,127	30,230
<ul> <li>Grant for rental at Maxwell Chambers Suites</li> </ul>	0	53,077
<ul> <li>Grant for Singapore Law Practices Project</li> </ul>	221,103	235,377
NCSS		
- Care and Share	0	297,000
- Invictus Fund	50,000	0
- Other grants	25,437	0
Tote Board - funding for FJSS	77,261	0
Singapore Tourism Board	17,465	0
National Heritage Board	44,888	0
Enterprise Singapore - Lawyers go global	139,130	139,436
Other grants	10,554	0
	3,743,103	2,300,545

## 6. Other income

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Investment income	427,418	293,358
Interest income	116,865	405,355
Donations by lawyers of honorariums and expenses	0	150,470
Rent concession – COVID-19	30,225	0
Property tax rebate	78,735	0
Certificate of good standing	49,564	71,022
Miscellaneous income	410,974	138,501
	1,113,781	1,058,706

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 7. Tax expense

#### 7.1 Income tax expense

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Current income tax - Current year	6,436	3,647
- Under-provision in prior year	59,536	0
	65,972	3,647

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 (deficit)/surplus before tax due to the following factors:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
(Deficit)/surplus before tax	(473,884)	770,805
Tax at statutory tax rate of 17% Compensation fund taxed at lower	(80,560)	131,037
concessionary rate	(4,505)	(7,999)
Deferred tax asset not recognised	30,028	0
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	82,273	74,085
Income not subject to tax	(8,742)	(177,912)
Singapore statutory stepped income exemption		
and tax rebate	0	(3,310)
Utilisation of approved donations to the Division	0	(1,913)
Utilisation of capital allowances	(5,999)	0
Under-provision in prior year	59,536	0
Others	(6,059)	(10,341)
	65,972	3,647

#### Unrecognised tax losses

Deferred income tax assets are recognised for tax losses carried forward to the extent that realisation of the related tax benefits through future taxable profits is profitable. The Group has unrecognised tax loss of approximately S\$176,000 (2020: S\$Nil) at the reporting date which can be carried forward and used to offset against total taxable income subject to meeting certain statutory requirements. The tax losses have no expiry date. At the reporting date, deferred tax assets were not recognised as the future profits which the unutilised losses and other future deductible temporary differences could be utilised against to are not foreseeable.

Pro Bono Services is a registered charity under the Charities Act since 31 March 2017. Consequently, the income of the Company is exempted from income tax under the provisions of Section 13 of the Income Tax Act Chapter 134.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 7. Tax expense (Cont'd)

# 7.1 Current income tax liabilities

The movement in the account is as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Beginning of financial year	22,976	132,000
Current income tax	6,436	3,647
Under-provision in prior period	59,536	0
Income tax paid	(22,976)	(112,671)
End of financial year	65,972	22,976

## 8. Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances

		Bank and	
	Fixed	cash	
	deposits	balances	Total
2021	S\$	S\$	S\$
General Fund	7,899,725	3,630,482	11,530,207
Compensation Fund	8,817,517	2,118,203	10,935,720
	16,717,242	5,748,685	22,465,927
Other Funds			
- Jus Curio Fund	45,133	145,039	190,172
- Library Fund	42,216	9,976	52,192
- Pastoral Care Fund	0	(15,870)	(15,870)
- Sports Meet Fund	0	59,917	59,917
- Welfare fund	0	30,432	30,432
- Practice Resilience Fund	0	2,000	2,000
-	87,349	231,494	318,843
Pro Bono Services			
- General PBSO	2,820,624	700,298	3,520,922
- CLAS	0	790,185	790,185
- FJSS	0	10,000	10,000
- Law Awareness Fund	0	5,138	5,138
- Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund	0	95,337	95,337
-	2,820,624	1,600,958	4,421,582
Subtotal	19,625,215	7,581,137	27,206,352
Monies held in Trust (Note 17)	1,226,507	5,607,927	6,834,434
Grand Total	20,851,722	13,189,064	34,040,786

# 8. Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances (Cont'd)

	Bank and Fixed cash			
	deposits	balances	Total	
2020	S\$	S\$	S\$	
General Fund	8,878,769	3,562,061	12,440,830	
Compensation Fund	8,770,393	1,559,335	10,329,728	
	17,649,162	5,121,396	22,770,558	
Other Funds				
- Jus Curio Fund	44,848	132,460	177,308	
- Library Fund	41,754	10,000	51,754	
- Pastoral Care Fund	0	(15,870)	(15,870)	
- Sports Meet Fund	0	55,386	55,386	
- Welfare fund	0	22,263	22,263	
<ul> <li>Practice Resilience Fund</li> </ul>	0	2,000	2,000	
	86,602	206,239	292,841	
Pro Bono Services				
- General PBSO	2,774,606	543,241	3,317,847	
- CLAS	0	602,252	602,252	
- FJSS	0	8,984	8,984	
- Law Awareness Fund	0	11,338	11,338	
- Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund	2,774,606	1,165,815	3,940,421	
Subtotal	20,510,370	6,493,450	27,003,820	
Monies held in Trust (Note 17)	768,289	5,998,087	6,766,376	
Grand Total	21,278,659	12,491,537	33,770,196	

Fixed deposits at the reporting date have tenures ranging from 1 to 6 months (2020: 1 to 7 months) and have interest rates ranging from 0.08% to 0.50% (2020: 0.25% to 2.00%) per annum.

Fixed deposits are included as cash and cash equivalents as these can be readily converted into cash without incurring significant penalty.

At the reporting date, the carrying amounts of fixed deposits, bank and cash balances approximate their fair values.

## 9. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial access managined at EVIDI	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<i>Financial assets measured at FVTPL</i> Funds placed with fund managers	2,010,529	1,934,711
Comprises:		
General Fund	1,005,265	967,356
Compensation fund	1,005,264	967,355
	2,010,529	1,934,711

## 9. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (Cont'd)

The fund managers are given discretionary powers within certain guidelines to invest the funds. The funds are primarily placed in quoted equity securities and debt instruments.

The fair values of the quoted equity investments and debt instruments are determined based on quoted market prices at the reporting date. These instruments are included in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

## 10. Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<b>Current</b> <u>Financial assets measured at FV</u> OCI Quoted debt instruments	3,068,059	2,227,337
<u>Equity investments designated at FVOCI</u> Quoted equity investments	2,857,216 5,925,275	0
<b>Non-current</b> <u>Financial assets measured at FV</u> OCI Quoted debt instruments	0	4,050,004
<u>Equity investments designated at FVOCI</u> Quoted equity investments in Singapore	<u>0</u>	<u> </u>
Comprises: Current		
General Fund Compensation Fund	2,513,518 3,411,757 5,925,275	969,794 <u>1,257,543</u> 2,227,337
Non-current		
General Fund Compensation Fund	0 0 0	2,475,228 3,112,044 5,587,272

Debt instruments earn interests at fixed rates from 1.85% to 4.6% (2020: 1.85% to 4.6%) per annum and the maturity dates of certain securities are due within 1 year (2020: 1 to 4 years) from the reporting date.

Equity investments are not held for trading. Accordingly, management has elected to designate these investments at fair value through other comprehensive income. It is the Group's strategy to hold these investments for long-term purposes for dividend income.

The fair values of the quoted equity investments and debt instruments are determined based on quoted market prices at the reporting date. These instruments are included in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 11. Inventories

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Publications, gifts and souvenirs	44,227	41,961

The cost of inventories recognised as an expenditure and included in "Expenditure for operating activities" amounted to S\$4,377 (2020: S\$23,292).

# 12. Trade and other receivables

2021	General fund S\$	Compensation Fund S\$	Pro Bono Services S\$	Other funds S\$	Total S\$
Trade receivables - Third parties	2,726,767	0	0	0	2,726,767
Third parties	2,720,707	0	0	0	2,720,707
Other receivables - Amount due from Pro Bono Services - Grant receivables	1,324	0	0	0	1,324
<ul> <li>FJSS Tote Board</li> <li>Jobs Support Scheme</li> </ul>	0 67,695	0 0	77,261 39,466	0 0	77,261 107,161
- NCSS	0	0	23,464	0	23,464
<ul> <li>National Heritage Board</li> </ul>	44,888	0	0	0	44,888
<ul> <li>Enterprise Singapore</li> <li>Singapore Tourism</li> </ul>	328,132	0	0	0	328,132
Board	15,148	0	0	0	15,148
- Interest receivables	0	0	12,133	0	12,133
- Prepayments	0	0	17,049	0	17,049
- Sundry deposits	222,936	0	0	0 42 E9E	222,936
- Sundry receivables - others	363,826	0	18,904	43,585	426,315
Total before inter-segment elimination	3,770,716	0 0	188,277 0	43,585	4,002,578
Inter-segment elimination Total after inter-segment	(1,324)	0	0	0	(1,324)
Total after inter-segment elimination	3,769,392	0	188,277	43,585	4,001,254
2020	General fund S\$	Compensation Fund S\$	Pro Bono Services S\$	Other funds S\$	Total S\$
Trade receivables					
- Third parties	3,562,856	0	98,000	0	3,660,856
Other receivables - Amount due from Law Society	0	0	514	0	514
- Grant receivables – Jobs	0	0	214	0	514
Support Scheme	277,587	0	144,038	0	421,625
- Interest receivables	0	0	26,287	0	26,287
- Prepayments	130,493	0	15,278	(200)	145,571
- Sundry deposits	220,481	0	22,903	172	243,556
- Sundry receivables - others	654,867	600	0	(2,166)	653,301
Total before inter-segment elimination	4,846,284 0	600 0	307,020	(2,194) 0	5,151,710
Inter-segment elimination Total after inter-segment	0	U	(514)	U	(514)
elimination	4,846,284	600	306,506	(2,194)	5,151,196

## 12. Trade and other receivables (Cont'd)

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are generally on 14 days (2020: 14 days) terms. They are recognised at their original invoice amounts, which represent their fair values on initial recognition.

Other receivables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are repayable on demand.

Receivable from Tote Board pertains to its funding support to the Family Justice Support Scheme programme of the subsidiary.

The Jobs Support Scheme (JSS) provides wage support to employers to help them retain their local employees (Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents) during this period of economic and pandemic uncertainty. JSS payouts are intended to offset local employees' wages and help protect their jobs.

Receivables from the National Council of Social Service pertains to the grants agreements related to Optimise HR Management Practices with High Impact Human Capital Strategy and Internal Audit Services projects of the subsidiary.

At the reporting date, the carrying amounts of trade and other receivables approximate their fair values.

## 13. Deferred expenditures and deferred grants

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Deferred expenditure Pro Bono Services - Just Laugh 2020	48,424	58,876
- NCSS project	48,424	<u>34,240</u> 93,116
Grants for project to be completed:		
- Within 12 months - Current	48,424	93,116
<b>Deferred grants</b> General fund		
- Grant for Jobs Support Scheme	111,986	277,587
- Grant for SBF Foundation	<u>100,000</u> 211,986	277,587
Pro Bono Services		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	262,014	316,135
- Grants received from National Arts Council	0	3,648
- Grants received from NCSS	43,275	996
- Grants refundable to Singapore Tote Board	0	(7,321)
<ul> <li>Grant for Jobs Support Scheme</li> <li>Amortisation</li> </ul>	0 (155,553)	144,038 (195,482)
Anortisation	149,736	262,014
Total	361,722	539,601

# 13. Deferred expenditures and deferred grant (Cont'd)

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<b>Deferred grants (Cont'd)</b> Grants for project to be completed:		
- Within 12 months - Current	261,722	539,601
<ul> <li>More than 12 months – Non-current</li> </ul>	100,000	0
	361,722	539,601

Deferred grants are grants received from various statutory bodies for the implementation of the various projects undertaken by the Group. Such grants which have been received are not recognised in statement of comprehensive income as the projects have not been completed and the terms and conditions relating to the grants have not been met. Similarly, expenses incurred for such uncompleted projects are deferred and not recognised in statement of comprehensive income.

The deferred grant income – Jobs Support Scheme (JSS) will be recognised as a grant income, on a systematic basis, over the estimated 17 months of economic uncertainty until August 2021 in which the entity recognises the related salary costs.

When the projects are completed and the terms and conditions have been satisfied, the deferred grants received and deferred expenditure will be recognised in statement of comprehensive income.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 14. Property, plant and equipment

Leasehold building Computer S\$ S\$	Office equipment S\$	Renovation S\$	Furniture and fittings S\$	Air- conditioners S\$	Library books S\$	Right-of-use assets S\$	Total S\$
Cost							
At 1 April 2019, as							
previously reported 7,776,606 976,59		3,112,780	0	206,678	132,866	0	12,387,782
Impact of FRS 116 0	0 0	0	0	0	0	428,150	428,150
Cost at 1 April 2019, restated 7,776,606 976,59		3,112,780	0	206,678	132,866	428,150	12,815,932
Additions 0 85,70		862,391	7,094	25,000	0	4,716,174	5,735,711
Writeoff 0 (896,99	(156,737)	(3,100,965)	(599)	(206,678)	(132,866)	(181,999)	(4,676,842)
Reclassification to investment							
property (Note 15) (7,776,606)	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	(7,776,606)
At 31 March 2020 0 165,30		874,206	6,495	25,000	0	4,962,325	6,098,195
Additions 0 22,20		2,354	0	0	0	6,994	39,343
Writeoff 0 (28,98	(3,832)	(1,433)	0	0	0	(123,816)	(158,067)
Reclassification to intangible		0	0	0	0	0	(0, 200)
assets (Note 16) 0 (9,30	08) 0	0	0	0	0	0	(9,308)
Adjustment due to changes in	0	0	0	0	0	(2, (2,4))	(2, (2,4))
lease agreement         0           At 31 March 2021         0         14921	0 0 7 68821	0 875127	0	0	0	(2,624)	(2,624)
AL 51 March 2021 0 14921	/ 00021	8/312/	6,495	25000	0	4,842879	5,967,539
Accumulated depreciation							
At 1 April 2019 3,214,331 818,90	161,147	2,950,598	0	192,073	132,866	0	7,469,916
Depreciation charge 0 78,30		129,802	599	7,089	152,000	705,050	934,501
Writeoff 0 (821,98		(3,017,231)	(599)	(196,245)	(132,866)	(87,359)	(4,408,235)
Reclassification to investment	(151,510)	(3,017,231)	(555)	(190,219)	(152,000)	(07,555)	(1,100,200)
property (Note 15) (3,214,331)	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	(3,214,331)
At 31 March 2020 0 75,21		63,169	0	2,917	0	617,691	781,851
Depreciation charge 0 2593		111,232	974	5,000	ů 0	858646	1,011,201
Writeoff 0 (2898)		(1,044)	0	0	Ő	(120,119)	(152,938)
Reclassification to intangible	-) (4)	(-/- / /	-	-	-	()	(,,
assets (Note 16) 0 (3,10)	2) 0	0	0	0	0	0	(3,102)
Adjustment due to changes in	,						
lease agreement 0	0 0	0	0	0	0	1,312	1,312
At 31 March 2021 0 69,06	64 29,482	173,357	974	7,917	0	1,357,530	1,638,324
	,	,		,		, ,	, ,
Net carrying amount							
At 31 March 2020 0 90,08	42,008	811,037	6,495	22,083	0	4,344,634	5,316,344
At 31 March 2021 0 80,15	3 39,339	701,770	5,521	17,083	0	3,485,349	4,329,215

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 14. Property, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

	Leasehold building S\$	Computer S\$	Office equipment S\$	Renovation S\$	Furniture and fittings S\$	Air- conditioners S\$	Library books S\$	Right-of-use assets S\$	Total S\$
Comprises:									
2020									
General fund	0	41,647	31,799	722,577	6,495	22,083	0	3,820,159	4,644,760
Compensation fund – library	0	2,393	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,393
Pro Bono Services	0	46,047	10,209	88,460	0	0	0	524,475	669,191
	0	90,087	42,008	811,037	6,495	22,083	0	4,344,634	5,316,344
2021									
General fund	0	31,426	26,714	634,724	5,521	17,083	0	3,093,292	3,808,760
Compensation fund – library	0	1,949	, 0	, 0	, 0	, 0	0	. , 0	1,949
Pro Bono Services	0	46,778	12,625	67,046	0	0	0	392,057	518,506
	0	80,153	39,339	701,770	5,521	17,083	0	3,485,349	4,329,215

#### Assets acquired under leasing arrangements

Right-of-use assets acquired under leasing arrangements are premises under the category of "Right-of-use assets". Details of such leased assets are disclosed in Note 20.

During the financial period, the Group acquired a ticket machine with an aggregate cost of S\$6,994 (2020: S\$Nil) by means of a lease agreement. The cash outflow on acquisition of property, plant and equipment amounted to S\$39,343 (2020: S\$1,019,537).

# 14. Property, plant and equipment (Cont'd)

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment is charged as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
General Fund Compensation Fund - Library	838,894 444	764,550 1,027
Pro Bono Services - General fund - Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS")	71,853 98,246	165,603 3,321
<ul> <li>Family Justice Support Scheme ("FJSS")</li> <li>Invictus fund</li> </ul>	203 1,561	0
	1,011,201	934,501

Write off of property, plant and equipment is charged as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
General Fund Pro Bono Services	0	112,906
- General fund - Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS")	871 0 871	57,995 3,066 173,967

## 15. Investment property

	General Fund		
	2021	2020	
	S\$	S\$	
Cost			
At beginning of financial year	7,776,606	0	
Reclassified from property, plant and equipment			
(Note 14)	0	7,776,606	
At end of financial year	7,776,606	7,776,606	
Accumulated depreciation		<u> </u>	
At beginning of financial year	3,369,863	0	
Reclassified from property, plant and equipment		0.044.004	
(Note 14)	0	3,214,331	
Depreciation charge	155,532	155,532	
At end of financial year	3,525,395	3,369,863	
<b>.</b> .			
Carrying amount	4,251,211	4,406,743	

The following amounts are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Rental income from investment property Direct operating expenses arising from investment property (including depreciation	540,000	236,667
charge)	288,948	436,124

## 15. Investment property (Cont'd)

As at 31 March 2021, the fair value of the investment property amounting to S\$23,500,000 (2020: S\$23,500,000) was valued by Jones Lang LaSalle Property Consultants Pte Ltd, a firm of independent professional valuers, on the basis of Market Value. The valuation is also based on direct comparison with recent transactions of comparable properties within the vicinity.

The fair value as at 31 March 2020 was also valued by Jones Lang LaSalle Property Consultants Pte Ltd, using the Market Value method.

#### 16. Intangible assets

	Computer software development costs S\$	Computer software S\$	Total S\$
Cost			
At 1 April 2019 Additions	765,862 170,592	48,094 0	813,956 170,592
Additions At 31 March 2020	936,454	48,094	984,548
Additions	6,149	40,07 0	6,149
Reclassification from property,	-,	-	-,
plant and equipment (Note 14)	0	9,308	9,308
	942,603	57,402	1,000,005
A commutated amoutication			
Accumulated amortisation At 1 April 2019	612,134	19,238	631,372
Amortisation charge	161,838	9,619	171,457
At 31 March 2020	773,972	28,857	802,829
Amortisation charge	33,024	10,084	43,108
Reclassification from property,			
plant and equipment (Note 14)	0	3,102	3,102
At 31 March 2021	806,996	42,043	849,039
Net carrying amount			
At 31 March 2020	162,482	19,237	181,719
		•	<u> </u>
At 31 March 2021	135,607	15,359	150,966
Comprises: 2020			
General fund	48,260	0	48,260
Pro Bono Services	114,222	19,237	133,459
	162,482	19,237	181,719
2021			
General fund	45,059	5,741	50,800
Pro Bono Services	90,548	9,618	100,166
	135,607	15,359	150,966

The computer software development costs were mainly incurred for computerisation of General Pro Bono Services Office's workflows for implementation of a customer relationship management system.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### 16. Intangible assets (Cont'd)

Amortisation is charged as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
General Fund Pro Bono Services	9,815	22,762
<ul> <li>General fund</li> <li>Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS")</li> </ul>	0	137,150
- Chiminai Legal Alu Scheme ( CLAS )	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

#### 17. Interfund - amount due from/ (to)

2021	General fund S\$	Compensation Fund S\$	Other funds S\$	Total S\$
Amount due from Amount due to	424,224 (307,736)	285,499 (89,245)	37,459 (350,201)	747,182 (747,182)
Total	116,488	196,254	(312,742)	0
<b>2020</b> Amount due from Amount due to Total	370,510 (1,292,828) (922,318)	1,240,843 (82,181) 1,158,662	50,524 (286,868) (236,344)	1,661,877 (1,661,877) 0

Relates to transactions/transfers between the different funds of the Society.

#### 18. Trade and other payables

2021	General Fund S\$	Compensation fund S\$	Pro Bono Services S\$	Other funds S\$	Total S\$
Trade payables - Third parties	0	0	39,514	0	39,514
Other payables - Accrued operating expenses	0	0	735,995	0	735,995
- Advance receipts	0	0	75,000	0	75,000
- Amount due to Law Society	0	0	1,324	0	1,324
- Tenant's deposit	150,000	0	0	0	150,000
- Sundry payables Total before inter-segment	1,594,382	11,769	0	14,824	1,622,299
elimination	1,744,382	11,769	851,833	14,824	2,622,808
Inter-segment elimination	0	0	(1,324)	0	(1,324)
Total after inter-segment					
elimination	1,744,382	11,769	850,509	14,824	2,621,484
Comprises:	1 504 202	11 700	050 500	14.004	1 471 404
- Current	1,594,382	11,769	850,509	14,824	1,471,484
- Non-current	<u>150,000</u> 1,744,382	11,769	850,509	0 14,824	<u>150,000</u> 2,621,484
	1,744,302	11,709	000,009	14,024	2,021,404

# 18. Trade and other payables (Cont'd)

2020	General Fund S\$	Compensation fund S\$	Pro Bono Services S\$	Other funds S\$	Total S\$
Trade payables - Third parties	0	0	65,877	0	65,877
Other payables - Accrued operating	525 012		247 425	2 404	076 700
expenses - Advance receipts	525,813 0	0 0	347,435 171,250	3,481 0	876,729 171,250
- Amount due to	-	Ū.	_/_/_00	C C	
Pro Bono Services	514	0	0	0	514
- Deferred income	536,262	0	0	0	536,262
- Tenant's deposit	155,000	0	0	0	155,000
<ul> <li>Sundry payables</li> </ul>	574,288	300	0	19,576	594,164
Total before inter-segment				~~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
elimination	1,791,877	300	584,562	23,057	2,399,796
Inter-segment elimination	(514)	0	0	0	(514)
Total after inter-segment elimination	1 701 262	300	584,562	23,057	2 200 202
emmation	1,791,363	300	364,302	23,057	2,399,282
Comprises:					
- Current	1,636,363	300	584,562	23,057	2,244,282
- Non-current	155,000	0	, 0	, 0	155,000
	1,791,363	300	584,562	23,057	2,399,282

Other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are repayable on demand.

Deferred income consist of the Tech-celerate grant is from Enterprise Singapore and is to incentivise eligible Singapore law firms to use IT in and computerise their operations. The Society acts as an administrator/ trustee for Enterprise Singapore to administer the project and disburse the grants when the respective law firms meets the criteria set out by Enterprise Singapore.

At the reporting date, the carrying amounts of trade and other payables approximate their fair values.

## 19. Monies held in trust

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Pursuant to section 74 of the Legal Profession Act ("Section 74 money") Education Fund under compulsory professional	5,607,927	5,607,927
indemnity scheme	1,226,507	1,158,449
	6,834,434	6,766,376

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

#### 19. Monies held in trust (Cont'd)

Section 74 money comprises the following accounts:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
David Rasif & Partners Christopher Yap & Co H A Jalil & Associates S Gunaseelan & Partners * JLC Advisors LLP	29,303 111 5,369 22,255 <u>5,550,889</u> 5,607,927	29,303 111 5,369 22,255 5,550,889 5,607,927

\* Intervention of solicitor's practice upon death of sole practitioner.

The movement of the monies held in trust is as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Beginning of the financial year Additions	5,607,927	57,494 5,935,736
Expenditures/Transfer	0	(385,303)
End of the financial year	5,607,927	5,607,927

## 20. Lease liabilities

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Current Non-current	811,432 2,759,898 3,571,330	966,317 3,512,389 4,478,706
<b>Comprises:</b> General Fund Pro Bono Services	3,163,376 407,954 3,571,330	3,950,584 528,122 4,478,706

The carrying amount of right-of-use assets classified within property, plant and equipment in the statement of financial position are as follows:

2021	General Fund S\$	Pro Bono Services S\$	Total S\$
Lease of premises Lease of equipment	3,027,419 65,873	353,721 38,336	3,381,140 104,209
	3,093,292	392,057	3,485,349
<b>2020</b> Lease of premises	3,726,055	482,937	4,208,992
Lease of equipment	<u>94,104</u> 3,820,159	<u>41,538</u> 524,475	135,642 4,344,634

## 20. Lease liabilities (Cont'd)

The Group's leasing activities comprise the following:

- (i) The Group leases office premises and copier equipment from non-related parties. The leases have an average tenure of between two to six years (2020: two to six years). The lease of an office premise expires in July 2022 and the Group has an option to renew the lease for a further term of 3 years. Management is reasonably certain that it will exercise the option to extend the lease and as such has included the extension of the lease in its calculation of the right-of-use asset and the corresponding lease liability for the office premise; and
- (ii) In addition, in prior year, the Group leases certain office equipment with remaining contractual terms of less than one year. These leases are short-term. The Group has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

The total amount recognised in statement of comprehensive income is as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Depreciation of right-of-use assets Interest expense on lease liabilities Lease expense not capitalised in lease liabilities:	859,958 121,824	705,050 91,462
Operating lease expense - equipment	0	9,630
	981,782	806,142

#### Total cash outflows:

During the financial year, the Group had total cash outflows for leases of S\$873,576 (2020: S\$663,715).

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 20. Lease liabilities (Cont'd)

Reconciliation of movements of lease liabilities to cash flows arising from financing activities:

					N	on-cash changes	5		
	1 April 2020 S\$	Cash flows S\$	Disposal S\$	Accretion of interests S\$	Adjustments S\$	Rental subsidy S\$	Rent concession S\$	Other S\$	31 March 2021 S\$
Liabilities									
- Current - Non-current	966,317 3,512,389	(873,576) 0	(7,468) (7,483)	121,824 0	(6,321) 0	(104,127) 0	(30,225) 0	745,008 (745,008)	811,432 2,759,898
	4,478,706	(873,576)	(14,951)	121,824	(6,321)	(104,127)	(30,225)	0	3,571,330
					-		on-cash changes		
		1 April 2019 (As restated)	Cash flows	Additions	Disposal S\$	Accretion of interests S\$	Rental subsidy S\$	Other	31 March 2020

Liabilities	5\$	5\$	5\$	5\$	5\$	5\$	5\$	5\$
- Current - Non-current	381,916 26,546	(654,085)	4,716,174	0	91,462	(83,307)	(3,485,843) 3,485,843	966,317 3,512,389
- Non-current	408,462	(654,085)	4,716,174	0	91,462	(83,307)	0	4,478,706

As at 31 March 2021, the Group does not have any commitments for short-term lease.

# 21. General fund

Accumulated general fund is expendable at the direction of the Council in furtherance of the Group's objectives.

		2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Income			
Subscriptions from members	21.1	4,151,758	5,691,961
Surplus from self-financing projects	21.2	588,880	1,060,460
Government grants	21.3	1,221,968	427,890
Rental income		540,000	236,667
Income from operating activities	21.4	151,222	213,855
Other income	21.5	732,626	517,033
		7,386,454	8,147,866
Less: Expenditure			
Expenditure for operating activities	21.6	550,986	274,319
Administrative expenses	21.7	1,648,947	1,889,095
Personnel expenses	21.8	4,763,886	4,941,165
Donations/Grants/Contributions to Singapore Institute of Legal Education/Pro Bono			
Services/SBF Foundation	21.9	471,735	599,050
Disciplinary Proceedings costs	21.10	336,137	198,347
Interest on lease liabilities		98,711	79,912
	_	7,870,402	7,981,888
(Deficit)/surplus before tax		(483,948)	165,978
Tax expense	_	(65,972)	(3,647)
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial ye	ear	(549,920)	162,331
Balance brought forward		20,353,302	20,190,971
Transfer of funds from Compensatio	n		
Fund - Library		312,380	0
Balance carried forward	_	20,115,762	20,353,302

# 21.1 Analysis of subscriptions from members

	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$
Subscription from Non Practitioners	24,423	36,211
Subscription from Practitioners	4,127,335	5,655,750
	4,151,758	5,691,961

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 21. General fund (Cont'd)

21.2	Analysis of surplus from	self-financing	project	
			2021	2020
			S\$	S\$
	Annual dinner			
	Income		0	62,324
	Expenditure *		(9,700)	(73,381)
	Deficit		(9,700)	(11,057)
	Continuing Professional Develop Programmes/ Advocacy	ment		
	Income		1,449,422	1,696,757
	Expenditure *		(845,728)	(819,502)
	Surplus		603,694	877,255
	Conference			
	Income		7,080	416,289
	Expenditure *		(12,194)	(222,027)
	(Deficit)/Surplus		(5,114)	194,262
	Total surplus		588,880	1,060,460

\* Relates to direct expenditure only and does not include secretariat staff or admin overheads.

In the current financial year, the amount includes the waiver of receivables from webinar participants totalling to S\$312,380. The total waiver amount was funded back by the Compensation Fund - Library by transferring the same amount to the General Fund (Note 22.1).

#### 21.3 Analysis of government grants

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Jobs Support Scheme	799,382	0
Ministry of Law		
<ul> <li>Grant for rental at Maxwell Chambers Suites</li> </ul>	0	53,077
- Grant for Singapore Law Practices Project	221,103	235,377
Singapore Tourism Board	17,465	0
National Heritage Board	44,888	0
Enterprise Singapore – Lawyers go global	139,130	139,436
	1,221,968	427,890

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 21. General fund (Cont'd)

21.4	Analysis of income from	operating	activities	
			2021	2020
			S\$	S\$
	Advertising - online directory		56,480	50,055
	Advertising – Online Law Gazette		9,800	8,600
	Classified advertising		36,942	92,200
	Penalty for not voting		<u>48,000</u> 151,222	63,000 213,855
			151,222	213,033
21.5	Analysis of other incom e			
			2021	2020
			S\$	S\$
	Interest income on fixed deposits		37,131	197,562
	Investment income		200,068	131,139
	Rent concession		16,743	0
	Property tax rebate		78,735	0
	Certificate of good standing		49,564	71,022
	Miscellaneous		350,385	117,310
			732,626	517,033

# 21.6 Analysis of expenditure for operating activities

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Meetings, events and other Council expenses	82,066	186,013
Council budgets for special projects/expenditure	468,920	88,306
	550,986	274,319

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 21. General fund (Cont'd)

# 21.7 Analysis of administrative expense

	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$
Advertising	0	6,804
Amortisation of intangible assets	9,815	22,762
Auditor's remuneration		
- External - Current	18,200	12,483
- External - Prior	10,517	0
- Internal - Current	13,000	0
Bank charges	1,487	1,356
Delivery charges	130	8,211
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	838,894	764,550
Depreciation of investment property	155,532	155,532
Disbursement of research grant from National		
Heritage Board	44,888	74,000
Fair value loss on financial assets, at FVTPL	59,501	38,868
Insurance	36,878	38,599
Miscellaneous	65,099	13,652
Newspapers, periodicals and binding services	579	1,351
Pantry supplies	986	9,154
Photocopier metered charges and paper costs	2,060	13,174
Postage and courier charges	15,757	15,584
Printing and stationery	3,987	28,855
Professional fees	79,667	43,500
Property, plant and equipment written off	0	112,906
Right of use assets written off	0	94,640
Expenses relating to premises at 39 South Bridge Road	0	98,502
Expenses relating to premises at 28 Maxwell Road	0	11,517
Repairs and maintenance		
- High Court bar room	3,205	3,941
- Premises at 39 South Bridge Road	0	182,090
- Premises at 37 South Bridge Road	3,626	15,792
- Secretariat equipment and website at Maxwell		
Chamber Suites	210,260	53,427
- State Courts bar room	37,662	28,161
Staff resources	, 0	2,216
Storage charges	11,451	23,021
Telephone, facsimile and email broadcast charges	25,766	14,447
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1,648,947	1,889,095
	, ,	, ,

Singapore Institute

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

to

## 21. General fund (Cont'd)

21.8	Analysis of personnel expense		
	, , , ,	2021	2020
		S\$	S\$
	Central Provident Fund and Skills Development Levy	1,229,087	577,603
	Temporary staff and employment agency fees	170,815	216,695
	Salaries (including temporary staff), bonuses and		
	related expenses	3,297,846	4,028,972
	Staff allowances	603	9,268
	Staff fringe benefits	7,823	16,814
	Staff medical fees and group hospital insurance	43,658	50,352
	Staff training fees	14,054	41,461
		4,763,886	4,941,165
	Personnel expenses	4,821,306	4,995,434
	Less: Allocation to Compensation Fund	(57,420)	(54,269)
		4,763,886	4,941,165

#### 21.9 Analysis of Donations/ Grants/ Contributions Education/ Pro Bono Services/ SBF Foundation

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Book prizes	3,600	2,100
Contributions to the Singapore Institute of Legal Education Contributions to the Pro Bono Services	441,190	589,450
(Just Jubilee Project/Annual Contribution)	0	7,500
Contributions to SBF Foundation Compassion Fund	26,945	0
	471,735	599,050

## 21.10 Analysis of Disciplinary Proceeding costs

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Expenses *	361,137	226,327
Add: Expenses relating to inquiry panel	0	9,284
Less: Penalties collected	(22,000)	(24,000)
Less: Costs recovered	(3,000)	(13,264)
	336,137	198,347

\* Relates to direct expenditure only and does not include any imputed cost for secretariat staff time, administrative overheads and volunteer lawyers' time.

#### 22. Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific trusts, which may be declared by the donor(s) or with their authority or created through legal process, but still within wider objectives of the Group.

Restricted funds comprise of:

# 22.1 Compensation fund

#### 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.

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<b>I ncome</b> Contributions received Interest income on fixed deposits	6,529 33,869	628,150 132,589
Investment income	227,350 267,748	162,219 922,958
<b>Less: Expenditure</b> Bank charges	238	46
Claims Expenses relating to establishment, maintenance,	0	24,375
administration and application of funds Fair value loss on financial assets	57,420 270,142	54,269 38,868
	327,800	117,558
( Deficit) / Surplus for the financial year Balance at beginning of financial year Transfer of fund to	(60,052) 15,095,454	805,400 14,584,862
Compensation Fund – Library Balance at end of financial year	<u>(261,219)</u> 14,774,183	<u>(294,808)</u> 15,095,454

## 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

## 22.1 Compensation fund (Cont'd)

#### Compensation Fund - Library

A fund established for the purposes of purchasing or maintaining a library for the use of the members and amounts of S\$261,219 (2020: S\$294,808) have been transferred from the Compensation Fund to the Compensation Fund - Library for these purposes.

During the current year, the Council has approved the transfer of S\$312,380 from Compensation Fund – Library to General Fund to fund back the waived receivables from the participants of webinars held during the year (Note 21.2).

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<b>I ncome</b> Interest income on fixed deposits	13,255	21,436
Less: Expenditure	-,	,
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	444	1,027
Surplus for the year	12,811	20,409
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,360,987	1,045,770
Transfer of fund from Compensation Fund	261,219	294,808
Transfer of fund to General Fund	(312,380)	0
Balance at end of financial year	1,322,637	1,360,987
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	

# Total Compensation Fund at end of financial year 096,820 16,456,441

#### 22.2 Pro Bono Services

Law Society Pro Bono Services ("Pro Bono Services") is incorporated in Singapore on 4 January 2017 to take over the operations of Pro Bono, Learning and Support Services (the "Division"), a division of The Law Society of Singapore with charity status as a going concern. The Division was deregistered as a charity with effect from 23 May 2018. Pro Bono Services' registered office and principal place of activities is located at 1 Havelock Square, #B1-18 State Courts, Singapore 059724.

Pro Bono Services was registered as a charity under the Charities Act, Chapter 37 on 31 March 2017 and has been accorded an Institutions of a Public Character ("IPC") status for the period from 31 March 2019 to 31 March 2022.

Pro Bono Services is a public company limited by guarantee whereby its member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Pro Bono Services, in the event of the Pro Bono Services being wound up while it is a member, or within one (1) year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of debts and liabilities of the Pro Bono Services contracted before he ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding S\$10 only.

## 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

#### 22.2 Pro Bono Services (Cont'd)

Pro Bono Services' sole member is the Society. As such, the immediate and ultimate parent of the Pro Bono Services is the Society.

The principal activities of the Pro Bono Services is to coordinate and administer all pro bono initiatives of the Society, including the Pro Bono Services' General fund ("General Fund"), Criminal Legal Aid Scheme ("CLAS"), Family Justice Support Scheme ("FJSS"), Law Awareness Fund and Bar Memorial Scholarship Fund ("BMSF"). The purpose of the Pro Bono Services is to implement the Society's vision and initiatives as to the provision of pro bono legal services in Singapore.

22.2.1 General Pro Bono Services

Accumulated General Pro Bono Services is expendable at the direction of the Board of Directors in furtherance of the Pro Bono Services' objectives.

22.2.2 Criminal Legal Aid Scheme

The Criminal Legal Aid Scheme fund is established to aid impecunious accused persons. This programme offers pro bono criminal defence representation for needy accused persons facing non-capital charges, regardless of nationality.

22.2.3 Family Justice Support Scheme

The Family Justice Support Scheme is established for the purpose of offering legal representation to litigants facing family law issues.

22.2.4 Law Awareness fund

The Law awareness fund is a fund established for the purpose of reaching out members of the public to increase understanding of how the law applies in their daily lives. This is implemented through free public legal education talks, webinars, seminars, exhibitions and information booklets.

22.2.5 Bar Memorial Scholarship fund

The scholarship fund is established for an annual award given to Singaporean candidates who have obtained admission to, or who are currently taking a course in subjects of study relating to law. Other than the financial needs of the students, the Pro Bono Services also considers their academic results and track record, testimonials and volunteering experience when awarding the scholarship.

22.2.6 Invictus fund

Invictus fund is received from National Council of Social Service to support the Pro Bono Services in maintaining service delivery and serving clients safely and effectively during the pandemic.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	<u> </u>	Unrestricted fund		Re	estricted funds				
$ \begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $		- ·							
S\$         S\$         S\$         S\$         S\$         S\$         S\$         S\$         S\$           I ncom e         Amortisation of deferred grants         155,553         0			-				_		
I ncom e Amortisation of deferred grants         155,553         0         0         0         0         0         155,553         195,482           Contribution from The Law Society of Singapore (Annual Contribution)         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         7,500           Contribution from the Ministry of Law:         -	-								
Amortisation of deferred grants         155,553         0         0         0         0         0         155,553         195,482           Contribution from The Law Society of Singapore (Annual Contribution)         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         7,500           Contribution from the Ministry of Law:         -         -         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         7,500           Contribution from the Ministry of Law:         -         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         7,500           - Operating costs         500,000         0         0         0         0         0         0         7,500           - CLAS cases         0         275,545         0         0         0         0         0         0         104,127         30,230           Contributions/donations/donations received form others         1,282,726         47,303         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         1,557,54         1,038,000           CLAS Faining Programme         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         <		S\$	S\$	5\$	5\$	S\$	S\$	5\$	5\$
Contribution from The Law Society of Singapore (Annual Contribution)         Contribution         Contreastant	I ncom e								
Contribution from The Law Society of Singapore (Annual Contribution)         0         0         0         0         0         0         7,500           Contribution from the Ministry of Law:         -	Amortisation of deferred grants	155,553	0	0	0	0	0	155,553	195,482
Contribution from the Ministry of Law:         500,000         0         0         0         0         0         500,000         500,000           CLAS cases         0         711,000         0         0         0         0         711,000         818,000           - CLAS cases         0         275,545         0         0         0         0         711,000         818,000           - CLAS Advocates         0         275,545         0         0         0         0         275,545         227,425           - Grant for rental at State Courts         0         104,127         0         0         0         104,127         30,230           Contributions/donations received         1,282,726         47,303         77,261         100,250         50,000         1,557,540         1,038,000           CLAS Fellowship         0         485,171         0         0         0         0         865           CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         69,979           Interest income on fixed deposits         31,864         0         0         0         0         61,285         171,661           2,017,594         1,704,469 <t< td=""><td>Contribution from The Law Society of</td><td>,</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>,</td><td>,</td></t<>	Contribution from The Law Society of	,						,	,
- Operating costs         500,000         0         0         0         0         0         500,000         500,000           - CLAS cases         0         711,000         0         0         0         711,000         818,000           - CLAS cases         0         275,545         0         0         0         0         275,545         227,425           - Grant for rental at State Courts         0         104,127         0         0         0         104,127         30,230           Contributions/donations received         1,282,726         47,303         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         1,557,540         1,038,000           CLAS Felowship         0         485,171         0         0         0         0         8,865           CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         67,489         69,979           Interest income on fixed deposits         31,864         0         0         0         0         100,250         50,000         31,864         52,119           Other income         1,704,469         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         3,648         52,119           Advoca	Singapore (Annual Contribution)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,500
- CLAS cases       0       711,000       0       0       0       711,000       818,000         - CLAS Advocates       0       275,545       0       0       0       0       275,545       227,425         - Grant for rental at State Courts       0       104,127       0       0       0       104,127       30,230         Contributions/donations received       1,282,726       47,303       77,261       0       100,250       50,000       1,557,540       1,038,000         CLAS Fellowship       0       485,171       0       0       0       0       485,171       382,500         CLAS Co-payment collection       0       67,489       0       0       0       69,979         Interest income on fixed deposits       31,864       0       0       0       0       31,864       52,119         Other income       47,451       13,834       0       0       0       3,949,574       3,501,761         Less: Expenditure       36,350       0       0       0       0       3,648       52,119         Advocates for Arts       0       0       0       0       0       3,648       4,521         Advocates for Arts       0 </td <td>Contribution from the Ministry of Law:</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Contribution from the Ministry of Law:								
- CLAS Advocates       0       275,545       0       0       0       275,545       227,425         - Grant for rental at State Courts       0       104,127       0       0       0       104,127       30,230         Contributions/donations received from others       1,282,726       47,303       77,261       0       100,250       50,000       1,557,540       1,038,000         CLAS Fellowship       0       485,171       0       0       0       0       485,171       382,500         CLAS Co-payment collection       0       67,489       0       0       0       67,489       69,979         Interest income on fixed deposits       31,864       0       0       0       0       31,864       52,119         Other income       47,451       13,834       0       0       0       0       3,949,574       3,501,761         Less: Expenditure	- Operating costs	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	500,000	500,000
- Grant for rental at State Courts Contributions/donations received from others         0         104,127         0         0         0         104,127         30,230           CLAS Fellowship         1,282,726         47,303         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         1,557,540         1,038,000           CLAS Fellowship         0         485,171         0         0         0         0         485,171         382,500           CLAS Fellowship         0         67,489         0         0         0         0         8865           CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         67,489         69,979           Interest income on fixed deposits         31,864         0         0         0         0         61,285         171,661           2,017,594         1,704,469         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         3,949,574         3,501,761           Less: Expenditure         K         C         K         K         K         K         K         K           Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme         36,350         0         0         0         0         33,293         0         0         0         33,293 </td <td>- CLAS cases</td> <td>0</td> <td>711,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>711,000</td> <td>818,000</td>	- CLAS cases	0	711,000	0	0	0	0	711,000	818,000
Contributions/donations received from others         1,282,726         47,303         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         1,557,540         1,038,000           CLAS Fellowship         0         485,171         0         0         0         485,171         382,500           CLAS Training Programme         0         0         0         0         0         485,171         382,500           CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         8,865           CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         8,865           Other income on fixed deposits         31,864         0         0         0         0         31,864         52,119           Other income         47,451         13,834         0         0         0         0         61,285         171,661           2,017,594         1,704,469         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         3,949,574         3,501,761           Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme         36,350         0         0         0         0         3,648           Amortisation of intangible assets         0         33,293         0         0 <td>- CLAS Advocates</td> <td>0</td> <td>275,545</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>275,545</td> <td>227,425</td>	- CLAS Advocates	0	275,545	0	0	0	0	275,545	227,425
from others1,282,72647,30377,2610100,25050,0001,557,5401,038,000CLAS Fellowship0485,1710000485,171382,500CLAS Training Programme0000008,865CLAS Co-payment collection067,48900067,48969,979Interest income on fixed deposits31,864000031,86452,119Other income47,45113,834000061,285171,6612,017,5941,704,46977,2610100,25050,0003,949,5743,501,761Less: ExpenditureAd Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme36,3500000036,3504,521Advocates for Arts0000033,293148,69534,695Auditor's remuneration14,377000014,3779,609Accounting expenses510000014,3771,509Bank charges2252240420108701858		0	104,127	0	0	0	0	104,127	30,230
CLAS Fellowship         0         485,171         0         0         0         485,171         382,500           CLAS Training Programme         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         8,865           CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         0         67,489         69,979           Interest income on fixed deposits         31,864         0         0         0         0         0         31,864         52,119           Other income         47,451         13,834         0         0         0         0         61,285         171,661           2,017,594         1,704,469         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         3,949,574         3,501,761           Less: Expenditure         K         K         K         K         K         K         K           Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme         36,350         0         0         0         0         3,648           Amortisation of intangible assets         0         33,293         0         0         0         33,293         148,695           Auditor's remuneration         14,377         0         <									
CLAS Training Programme         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         8,865           CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         67,489         69,979           Interest income on fixed deposits         31,864         0         0         0         0         31,864         52,119           Other income         47,451         13,834         0         0         0         0         61,285         171,661           2,017,594         1,704,469         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         3,949,574         3,501,761           Less: Expenditure         K         K         K         K         K         K         K           Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme         36,350         0         0         0         0         3,648           Amortisation of intangible assets         0         33,293         0         0         0         33,293         148,695           Auditor's remuneration         14,377         0         0         0         0         148,695           Auditor's remuneration         14,377         0         0         0         <	from others	1,282,726	,	77,261	0	100,250	50,000	1,557,540	1,038,000
CLAS Co-payment collection         0         67,489         0         0         0         67,489         69,979           Interest income on fixed deposits         31,864         0         0         0         0         31,864         52,119           Other income         47,451         13,834         0         0         0         0         61,285         171,661           2,017,594         1,704,469         77,261         0         100,250         50,000         3,949,574         3,501,761           Less: Expenditure           Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme         36,350         0         0         0         0         36,350         4,521           Advocates for Arts         0         0         0         0         0         33,293         148,695           Auditor's remuneration         14,377         0         0         0         0         14,377         9,609           Accounting expenses         510         0         0         0         0         510         509           Bank charges         225         224         0         420         1         0         870         1858	CLAS Fellowship	0	485,171	0	0	0	0	485,171	382,500
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	CLAS Training Programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,865
Other income         47,451         13,834         0         0         0         0         61,285         171,661         100,250         50,000         3,949,574         3,501,761           Less: Expenditure	CLAS Co-payment collection	0	67,489	0	0	0	0	67,489	69,979
Less: Expenditure           Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme         36,350         0         0         0         0         0         3,949,574         3,501,761           Advocates for Arts         0         0         0         0         0         0         0         3,293         4,521           Advocates for Arts         0         3,293         0         0         0         0         3,293         148,695           Auditor's remuneration         14,377         0         0         0         0         0         14,377         9,609           Bank charges         225         224         0         420         1         0         870         1858	Interest income on fixed deposits	31,864	0	0	0	0	0	31,864	52,119
Less: Expenditure         Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme       36,350       0       0       0       0       36,350       4,521         Advocates for Arts       0       0       0       0       0       0       36,350       4,521         Advocates for Arts       0       0       0       0       0       0       3,648         Amortisation of intangible assets       0       33,293       0       0       0       33,293       148,695         Auditor's remuneration       14,377       0       0       0       0       14,377       9,609         Accounting expenses       510       0       0       0       0       510       509         Bank charges       225       224       0       420       1       0       870       1858	Other income	47,451	13,834	0	0	0	0	61,285	
Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme36,3500000036,3504,521Advocates for Arts00000036,3504,521Advocates for Arts00000036,3504,521Amortisation of intangible assets033,293000033,293148,695Auditor's remuneration14,3770000014,3779,609Accounting expenses51000000510509Bank charges2252240420108701858	-	2,017,594	1,704,469	77,261	0	100,250	50,000	3,949,574	3,501,761
Ad Hoc Pro Bono Referral Scheme36,3500000036,3504,521Advocates for Arts00000036,3504,521Advocates for Arts00000036,3504,521Amortisation of intangible assets033,293000033,293148,695Auditor's remuneration14,3770000014,3779,609Accounting expenses51000000510509Bank charges2252240420108701858	Less: Expenditure								
Advocates for Arts00000003,648Amortisation of intangible assets033,293000033,293148,695Auditor's remuneration14,3770000014,3779,609Accounting expenses51000000510509Bank charges2252240420108701858		36.350	0	0	0	0	0	36.350	4,521
Amortisation of intangible assets033,293000033,293148,695Auditor's remuneration14,3770000014,3779,609Accounting expenses51000000510509Bank charges2252240420108701858				-		0	0		-
Auditor's remuneration14,3770000014,3779,609Accounting expenses51000000510509Bank charges2252240420108701858		-	33.293	0		0	0		-
Accounting expenses         510         0         0         0         0         0         510         509           Bank charges         225         224         0         420         1         0         870         1858	-	-		0		-	0	-	-
Bank charges         225         224         0         420         1         0         870         1858	Accounting expenses			0	-	0	0		
	5 1		-	0	420	1	0		
Dai memonai Schulai Ship V V V V 15,000 V 15,000 15,000	Bar Memorial Scholarship	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	15,000
Balance carried forward         51,462         33,517         0         420         15,001         0         100,400         183,840	Balance carried forward	51,462	-		÷		0		

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

	Unrestricted fund		Re	estricted funds				
				Law			Total	Total
	General			Awareness		Invictus	funds	funds
	fund	CLAS	FJSS	fund	BMSF	fund	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Less: Expenditure (Cont'd)								
Balance brought forward	51,462	33,517	0	420	15,001	0	100,400	183,840
Business Continuity	3,638	0	324	0	0	165	4,127	0
Central Provident Fund and Skills						0		
Development Levy	155,926	98,449	16,434	12,720	0		283,529	228,673
CLAS Advocates and Fellows								
Expenses	0	22,187	0	0	0	0	22,187	29,457
CLAS Advocates and Fellows Salaries								
with CPF	0	485,464	0	0	0	0	485,464	532,242
CLAS training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	718
Community legal clinics	1,921	0	0	0	0	0	1,921	1,858
Conference/study trips	24	0	0	0	0	0	24	16,585
Consultancy Services	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	0
Corporate Admin Allocation Charge	(163,530)	126,275	12,000	25,255	0	0	0	0
Corporate Personnel Allocation								
Charge	(716,935)	572,446	30,000	114,489	0	0	0	0
Corporate secretariat expenses	14,068	0	0	0	0	0	14,068	14,088
Depreciation of property, plant and								
equipment	71,853	98,246	203	0	0	1,561	171,863	168,924
Disbursement charged by assigned								
lawyers	0	54,010	0	0	0	0	54,010	31,437
Disbursement specialist report	251	42,627	0	0	0	0	42,878	58,990
Enhanced CLAS (Honorarium)	0	299,783	0	0	0	0	299,783	368,471
Finance charge	2,186	20,927	0	0	0	0	23,113	11,550
Fund raising expenses	12,580	2	0	0	0	0	12,582	10,861
HR services	44,151	0	0	0	0	0	44,151	6,648
Internal audit	9,630	0	0	0	0	0	9,630	5,350
Balance carried forward	(509,775)	1,853,933	58,961	152,884	15,001	1,726	1,572,730	1,669,692

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

<u>U</u>	nrestricted fund		Re	stricted funds				
				Law		<b>.</b>	Total	Total
	General			Awareness	DMOE	Invictus _	funds 2021	funds 2020
-	fund	CLAS	FJSS	fund	BMSF	fund		
	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Less: Expenditure (Cont'd)								
Balance brought forward	(509,775)	1,853,933	58,961	152,884	15,001	1,726	1,572,730	1,669,692
Interpretations/translation fee	0	2,873	0	0	0	0	2,873	3,083
IT services	75,338	98,742	0	0	0	5,963	180,043	118,054
Law Awareness projects	0	0	0	3,943	0	0	3,943	6,009
Marketing communications	4,884	70	0	920	0	1,946	7,820	7,895
Meeting expenses	504	0	45	0	0	0	549	2,606
Miscellaneous	1,432	0	0	0	0	0	1,432	0
Moving cost	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,065
Online Legal Awareness Project	400	0	0	0	0	0	400	0
Office insurance	7,019	553	20	41	0	0	7,633	8,458
Pantry supplies	236	0	0	0	0	0	236	2,770
Photocopier metered charges and paper costs	1,476	0	0	0	0	0	1,476	3,157
Postages	235	0	0	54	0	0	289	1208
Printing and stationery	1,771	4	0	4	0	260	2,039	2,264
Property, plant and equipment written off	871	0	0	0	0	0	871	61,062
Publication	136	0	0	0	0	0	136	407
Rental of equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,630
Repair and maintenance	9,823	0	0	0	0	4,537	14,360	14,480
Resource library	2,451	179	0	0	0	0	2,630	7,619
Balance carried forward	(403,199)	1,956,354	59,026	157,846	15,001	14,432	1,799,460	1,924,459

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

l	Unrestricted fund		Re	stricted funds				
	- ·			Law		<b>-</b>	Total	Total
	General			Awareness	DMOE	Invictus _	funds 2021	funds 2020
-	fund	CLAS	FJSS	fund	BMSF	fund		
	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
Less: Expenditure (Cont'd)								
Balance brought forward	(403,199)	1,956,354	59,026	157,846	15,001	14,432	1,799,460	1,924,459
Salaries and bonuses	1,206,836	619,578	89,860	85,422	0	0	2,001,696	1,630,440
Security		·	·					245
Staff allowance and transport	1,019	337	29	0	0	0	1,385	3,977
Staff medical fees and group hospital								
insurance	30,701	9,055	1,025	763	0	0	41,544	34,808
Staff training	5,191	2,753	391	0	0	0	8,335	16,932
Staff welfare	358	50	0	0	0	11,563	11,971	10,310
Storage	1,474	0	0	0	0	0	1,474	1,558
Telephone and fax charges	751	2,978	326	0	0	11,409	15,464	11,268
Temp staff	6,943	8,066	0	0	0	0	15,009	397
Utilities	1,759	0	0	0	0	0	1,759	11,998
Volunteer engagement/ recognition/	_		_	_	_	_		
training	0	54	0	0	0	0	54	10,716
_	851,833	2,599,225	150,657	244,031	15,001	37,404	3,898,151	3,657,108
year	the financial 1,165,761	(894,756)	(73,396)	(244,031)	85,249	12,596	51,423	(155,347)
Balance at beginning of financia year	al 3,400,240	542,283	0	8,668	11,338	0	3,962,529	4,117,876
Transfer of funds	(1,263,523)	888,851	143,752	232,170	(1,250)	0	0,502,525	4,117,070 0
Balance at end of financial year		536,378	70,356	(3,193)	95,337	12,596	4,013,952	3,962,529
Balance at end of finalicial year	5,502,470	223/3/0	. : 1955	(3)193)	207007	12/000	.,==5,552	2,222,325

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

	Unrestricted fund		Re	stricted funds				
				Law			Total	Total
	General			Awareness		Invictus	funds	funds
	fund	CLAS	FJSS	fund	BMSF	fund	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$	S\$
ASSETS								
Current assets								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,520,922	790,185	10,000	5,138	95,337	0	4,421,582	3,940,421
Trade and other receivables	91,947	19,069	77,261	0	0	0	188,277	307,020
Contract assets	0	223,720	0	0	0	0	223,720	194,020
Deferred expenditure	48,424	0	0	0	0	0	48,424	93,116
	3,661,293	1,032,974	87,261	5,138	95,337	0	4,882,003	4,534,577
Non-current assets								
Property, plant and equipment	145,277	356,770	3,863	0	0	12,596	518,506	669,191
Intangible assets	0	100,166	0	ů 0	0 0	12,000	100,166	133,459
	145,277	456,936	3,863	0	0	12,596	618,672	802,650
Total assets	3,806,570	1,489,910	91,124	5,138	95,337	12,596	5,500,675	5,337,227
LIABILITIES								
Current liabilities								
Trade and other payables	243,194	579,540	20,768	8,331	0	0	851,833	584,562
Contract liabilities	77,200	0	0	0	0 0	0	77,200	0
Lease liabilities	8,049	92,991	0 0	ů 0	0 0	0	101,040	117,366
Deferred grants	149,736	0	0	Õ	0 0	0	149,736	262,014
	478,179	672,531	20,768	8,331	0	0	1,179,809	963,942
Non-current liability								
Lease liabilities	25,913	281,001	0	0	0	0	306,914	410,756
Total liabilities	504,092	953,532	20,768	8,331	0	0	1,486,723	1,374,698
NET ASSETS	3,302,478	536,378	70,356	(3,193)	95,337	12,596	4,013,952	3,962,529

## 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

#### 22.3 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.

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<b>I ncome</b>	330	458
Sale of publications	19,465	33,417
Sale of gifts and souvenirs	0	144
Sale of consignment items	19,795	34,019
Less: Cost of sales	41,961	48,617
Opening inventories	6,643	16,636
Purchases and related costs	(44,227)	(41,961)
Closing inventories (Note 11)	4,377	23,292
Gross profit from sales Interest income from fixed deposits	15,418 	10,727 908 11,635
<b>Less: Expenditure</b>	485	405
Bank charges	0	702
Repairs and maintenance	1,419	1,242
Miscellaneous expense	1,904	2,349
Surplus for the financial year	13,799	9,286
Balance at beginning of financial year	229,638	220,352
Balance at end of financial year	243,437	229,638

## 22.4 Pastoral Care Fund

A fund established to promote pastoral care programs for practitioners.

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Balance at beginning and end of financial year	(15,870)	(15,870)

## 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

#### 22.5 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.

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
I ncome Inter-professional Games refund Other Golf Competition fees recovered Singapore/Malaysia Law Games <sup>@</sup>	0 3,186 <u>0</u> 3,186	2,000 6,813 91,702 100,515
Less: Expenditure Bank charges Miscellaneous Inter-Professional Games Other games Singapore/Malaysia Law Games <sup>@</sup>	70 0 3,220 8,250 11,540	(35) 745 14,867 2,159 139,363 157,099
Deficit for the financial year Balance at beginning of financial year Balance at end of financial year	(8,354) (223,728) (232,082)	(56,584) (167,144) (223,728)
SINGAPORE/MALAYSIA LAW GAMES @		
I ncome Contributions/sponsorships received Dinner and dance costs recovered	0 0 0	60,700 31,002 91,702
Less: Expenditure Games' Day Expenses Dinner and dance Refreshments and receptions Souvenirs and plaques Transport and travelling Training	1,440 0 0 320 6490 8,250	34,965 64,878 14,963 105 490 23,962 139,363
Deficit for the financial year	(8,250)	(47,661)

## 22. Restricted funds (Cont'd)

#### 22.6 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.

	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$
Miscellaneous expenses	0	(19,678)
Balance at beginning of financial year	22,263	41,941
Balance at end of financial year	22,263	22,263

#### 22.7 Library Fund

The fund was set up for the establishment of a library and the acquisition or rental of offices to house the library.

	2021	2020
	S\$	S\$
Interest income from fixed deposits	461	741
Bank charges	(24)	0
Surplus for the financial year	437	741
Balance at beginning of financial year	51,926	51,185
Balance at end of financial year	52,363	51,926

## 22.8 Practice Resilience Fund

A fund established to assist members, who are proprietors of their own legal practice and facing temporary financial difficulty in relation to their practice, to meet short-term needs that will help them to stay in practice.

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Donations received	0	600
Balance at beginning of financial year	2,000	1,400
Balance at end of financial year	2,000	2,000

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 23. Remuneration paid to key management personnel

## **The Society**

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<ul> <li>Salaries and other short-term employee benefits</li> <li>Post-employment benefits – contributions to CPF</li> </ul>	289,380 20,395 309,775	291,329 17,340 308,669
No remuneration is paid to any member of the Council.		
Pro Bono Services		
	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
<ul> <li>Salaries and other short-term employee benefits</li> <li>Post-employment benefits – contributions to CPF</li> </ul>	804,621 70,144	677,558 66,848
	874,765	744,406

## Remuneration bands for 3 highest paid Pro Bono Services staff who are also KMP

The 3 highest paid staff whose remuneration exceeded S\$100,000 in the period were as follows:

	2021	2020
Number of staff in bands: S\$100,000 to S\$199,999 S\$200,000 to S\$299,999	2	2

No directors of Pro Bono Services have received remuneration for their services as board members and no directors are staff of the Pro Bono Services.

During the financial year, the Group employed an average of 96 (2020: 94) staffs.

#### 24. Financial instruments

The financial assets and liabilities of the Group as at the end of financial year are as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Financial assets At amortised cost		
- Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances	34,040,786	33,770,196
- Contract assets	223,720	194,020
<ul> <li>Trade and other receivables (excluding</li> </ul>		
prepayments)	3,940,650	5,005,625
	38,236,387	38,969,841
Financial assets, at FVTPL	2,010,529	1,934,711
Financial assets, at FVOCI	5,925,275	7,814,609
	46,140,960	48,719,161
Financial liabilities		
At amortised cost		
- Trade and other payables (excluding advance		
receipts)	2,547,808	2,228,032
- Lease liabilities	3,571,330	4,478,706
- Monies held in Trust	6,834,434	6,766,376
	12,953,572	13,473,114

#### 25. Financial risk management

The Group's activities do not expose it to any significant financial risks. Risk management is carried out under policies approved by the Council. The Council approves guidelines for overall risk management, as well as policies covering these specific areas.

#### 25.1 Creditrisk

Credit risk refers to the risk that the counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in a loss to the Group.

i) Risk management

The Group has adopted the following policy to mitigate the credit risk.

For cash and cash equivalents, the Group mitigates its credit risks by transacting only with counterparties who are rated "A" and above independent rating agencies.

The Group has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults. The Group performs ongoing credit evaluation of its counterparties' financial condition and generally do not require a collateral.

The maximum exposure to credit risk in the event that the counterparties fail to perform their obligation as at the end of the financial year in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as stated in the statement of financial position.

## 25. Financial risk management (Cont'd)

#### 25.1 Creditrisk (Cont'd)

#### ii) Impairment of financial assets

As at the reporting date, there are no amounts arising from expected credit losses for each class of financial assets.

The Group had applied the simplified approach by using the provision matrix to measure the lifetime expected credit losses for trade receivables.

To measure the expected credit losses, these receivables have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristic and days past due. In calculating the expected credit loss rates, the Group considers historical loss rates for each category of customers, and adjust for forward-looking macroeconomic data.

Receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery, such as debtor failing to engage in a repayment plan with the Group. The Group categories a receivable for write off when a debtor fails to make contractual payment greater than 3 years past due based on historical collection trend. Where receivables have been written off, the Group continues to engage in enforcement activity to attempt to recover the receivables due. Where recoveries are made, these are recognised in profit and loss.

The Group has no significant concentration of credit risk. The Group has credit policies and procedures in place to minimise and mitigate its credit risk exposure.

Description of evaluation of financia Basis for recognition and assets measurement of ECL			
Counterparty has a low risk of default and does not have any past due amounts	12-month ECL		
Contractual payments are more than 30 days past due or where there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition	Lifetime ECL - not credit-impaired		
Contractual payments are more than 120 days past due or there is evidence of credit impairment	Lifetime ECL - credit-impaired		
There is evidence indicating that the Group has no reasonable expectation of recovery of payments such as when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings	Write-off		

## 25. Financial risk management (Cont'd)

#### 25.1 Creditrisk (Cont'd)

ii) Impairment of financial assets (Cont'd)

As at 31 March 2021 and 2020, the carrying amount of Group's trade and other receivables were disclosed in Note 12.

The Group considered that there was evidence if any of the following indicators were present:

- There is significant difficulty of the debtor; or
- Breach of contract, such as default or past due event; or
- It is becoming probable that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation.

#### Receivables from third parties

The Group assessed the latest performance and financial position of the counterparties and concluded that there has been no significant increase in the credit risk since the initial recognition of the financial assets. Accordingly, the Group measured the impairment loss allowance using 12-month ECL and determined that the ECL is insignificant.

#### Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets at amortised cost include contract assets, trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents. Credit risk exposure in relation to financial assets at amortised costs as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020 is insignificant, and accordingly no credit loss allowance is recognised as at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020.

The Group has no financial assets that are either past due and/or impaired at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2020.

#### 25.2 Market price risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Group's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than interest or exchange rates). The Group 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 2021, the Group's financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income amounted to S\$5,925,275 (2020: S\$7,814,609). A 10% increase/decrease in the underlying equity prices at the reporting date would increase/decrease equity by S\$592,528 (2020: S\$781,461).

As at 31 March 2021, the Group's financial assets at fair value through profit or loss amounted to S\$2,010,529 (2020: S\$1,934,711). A 10% increase/decrease in the underlying equity prices at the reporting date would increase/decrease surplus by S\$201,053 (2020: S\$193,471).

#### 25. Financial risk management (Cont'd)

#### 25.3 Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of the Group's financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Group's exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily from their cash and cash equivalents and borrowings.

The Group does not expect any significant effect on the Group's profit or loss arising from the effects of reasonably possible changes to interest rates on interest bearing financial instruments at the end of the financial year.

#### Sensitivity analysis for interest rate risk

At the reporting date, the interest rate profile of the Group's interest-bearing financial instruments was as follows:

	2021 S\$	2020 S\$
Fixed rate instruments Financial assets Fixed deposits	20,851,722	21,278,659
<u>Financial liabilities</u> Lease liabilities	3,571,330	4,478,706

The sensitivity analysis is based on changes in the interest rates of variable rate financial instruments.

Sensitivity analysis for interest rate risk is not presented as the Group do not have significant exposure to market risk for changes in interest rate.

At the reporting date, the Group does not have variable rate interest-bearing financial instruments.

#### 25.4 Liquidity risk

The Council exercises prudent liquidity and cash flow risk management policies and aims at maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and cash flow at all times.

The financial liabilities of the Group as presented in the reporting are due within twelve months from the reporting date and approximate the contractual undiscounted repayments obligations.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

## 25. Financial risk management (Cont'd)

# 25.4 Liquidity risk (Cont'd)

The table below summarises the maturity profile of the Group's financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting date based on the contractual undiscounted repayment obligations:

2021	Within one year S\$	Later than one year but not later than five years S\$	Total S\$	
<b>Financial assets, at amortised cost</b> Fixed deposits, bank and cash balances Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding	34,040,786 223,720	0 0	34,040,786 223,720	
prepayments)	3,940,650	0	3,940,650	
	38,205,156	0	38,205,156	
Financial assets, at FVTPL Financial assets, at	2,010,529 <b>FVOCI</b> 46,140,960	0 0 0	2,010,529 5,275 0 5,925 46,140,960	,275
Financial liabilities, at amortised co Trade and other payables (excluding		(150,000)	(2 546 494)	
advance receipts) Lease liabilities	(2,396,484) (907,614)	(150,000) (2,898,502)	(2,546,484) (3,806,116)	
Monies held in Trust	(6,834,434)	(2,090,502)	(6,834,434)	
At amortised cost	(10,138,532)	(3,048,502)	(13,187,034)	
Net financial assets/ (liabilities)	36,002,428	(3,048,502)	32,953,926	
	Within one year S\$	Later than one year but not later than five years S\$	Total S\$	
2020	year	but not later than five years		
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets	year	but not later than five years		
<b>Financial assets, at amortised cost</b> Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 5,005,625	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 5,005,625	
<b>Financial assets, at amortised cost</b> Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments)	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 ass	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 0 5ets, at FVTPL	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments)	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 ass FVOCI	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 5ets, at FVTPL 2,227,337	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934 5,587,272	-,711 1,9 7,814,609
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments)	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 ass	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 0 5ets, at FVTPL	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments) Financial Financial assets, at Financial liabilities, at amortised co Trade and other payables (excluding	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 5,005,625 38,969,841 ass FVOCI 41,197,178	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 0 5ets, at FVTPL 2,227,337 7,521,983	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934 <u>5,587,272</u> 48,719,161	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments) Financial Financial assets, at Financial liabilities, at amortised co Trade and other payables (excluding advance receipts)	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 5,005,625 38,969,841 <b>ass</b> FVOCI 41,197,178 ost (1,536,772)	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 <b>Sets, at FVTPL</b> 2,227,337 7,521,983 (150,000)	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934 <u>5,587,272</u> 48,719,161 (2,228,032)	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments) Financial Financial assets, at Financial liabilities, at amortised co Trade and other payables (excluding advance receipts) Lease liabilities	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 <b>ass</b> FVOCI 41,197,178 ost (1,536,772) (1,019,135)	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 0 <b>Sets, at FVTPL</b> 2,227,337 7,521,983 (150,000) (3,813,615)	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934 <u>5,587,272</u> 48,719,161 (2,228,032) (4,832,750)	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments) Financial Financial assets, at Financial liabilities, at amortised co Trade and other payables (excluding advance receipts) Lease liabilities Monies held in Trust	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 <b>ass</b> FVOCI 41,197,178 (1,536,772) (1,019,135) (6,766,376)	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 <b>5ets, at FVTPL</b> 2,227,337 7,521,983 (150,000) (3,813,615) 0	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934 <u>5,587,272</u> 48,719,161 (2,228,032) (4,832,750) (6,766,376)	
Financial assets, at amortised cost Cash and cash equivalents Contract assets Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments) Financial Financial assets, at Financial liabilities, at amortised co Trade and other payables (excluding advance receipts) Lease liabilities	year S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 <b>ass</b> FVOCI 41,197,178 ost (1,536,772) (1,019,135)	but not later than five years S\$ 0 0 0 <b>Sets, at FVTPL</b> 2,227,337 7,521,983 (150,000) (3,813,615)	S\$ 33,770,196 194,020 <u>5,005,625</u> 38,969,841 0 1,934 <u>5,587,272</u> 48,719,161 (2,228,032) (4,832,750)	

#### 26. Fair values

The Group 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.

#### 26.1 Fair value measurements of assets that are measured at fair value

The Group's financial assets at FVTPL and FVOCI are traded in an active market and are based on quoted market prices at the reporting date. These investments are included in the Level 1 hierarchy.

# 26.2 Fair value financial instruments by classes that are not carried at fair value and whose carrying amounts are reasonable approximation of fair value

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 or that they are floating rate instruments that are re-priced to market interest rates on or near the reporting period.

The fair value of the investment property for disclosure purposes is categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

The fair value of the Group's investment property was determined based on desktop valuations performed by independent professional valuers using comparison method.

Based on the comparison method, comparison was made to recent sales transactions of comparable properties within the vicinity and elsewhere. Necessary adjustments have been made for differences in location, tenure, size, shape, design and layout, age and condition of building, dates of transactions and the prevailing market conditions amongst other factors affecting its value. Any significant changes to the adjustments made to market value for differences in location or condition would result in higher or lower fair value measurement.

#### 27. Fund management

The Group's objectives when managing its funds are to safeguard and maintain adequate working capital to continue as a going concern and to develop its principal activities over the longer term.

The objectives, policies or processes of the Group during the financial year ended 31 March 2021 remain the same as those for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

Audited Financial Statements Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021

# 28. 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.

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.

#### 29. Comparative figures

Certain reclassifications have been made to the comparative information to enhance comparability with current year's financial statements.

The following reclassifications were made:

	As previously		
	reported	Reclassification	As reclassified
		S\$	S\$
2020			·

#### 2020

#### Consolidated statement of financial position

<b>Current</b> assets Amount due from the Law Society of Singapore Trade and other receivables	514 5,151,196	(514) 514	0 5,151,710
<b>Non-currentassets</b> Property, plant and equipment Right-of-use assets	971,710 4,344,634	4,344,634 (4,344,63 <b>4</b> )	5,316,344 0

29.	Comparative	figures (Co	ont'd)		
	2020 (Cont'd)		As previously reported S\$	Reclassification S\$	As reclassified S\$
	Consolidated stat	ement of co	mprehensive	income	
	<b>I ncome</b> Income from operating Investment income an income from fixed	d interest	5,667,435	(5,363,591)	303,844
	current bank accou Surplus from self-finar Contributions Government grants CLAS Co-Payment coll CLAS Training Progran Rental income Amortisation of deferrent Other income	nts ncing projects ection nme fee	698,713 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	(698,713) 1,060,460 1,131,600 2,108,032 69,979 8,865 236,667 195,482 1,251,219	0 1,060,460 1,131,600 2,300,545 69,979 8,865 236,667 195,482 1,058,706
	<b>Expenditure</b> Expenditure from oper Administrative expens Personnel costs		11,034,095 0 0	(10,074,847) 2,568,944 7,505,903	959,248 2,568,944 7,505,903

## 30. I mpact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

The COVID- 19 pandemic has affected almost all countries of the world and resulted in border closures, production stoppages, workplace closures, movement controls and other measures imposed by the various governments. The Group's significant operations are in Singapore which have been affected by the spread of COVID-19 in 2021. The impact of COVID-19 on the Group's financial performance reflected in this set of financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 are summarised below:

- i. The Group has assessed that the going concern basis of preparation for this set of financial statements remains appropriate. The management is continuously monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic situation and will take further action as necessary in response to the service disruption.
- ii. The Singapore Multi-Ministry Taskforce implemented an elevated set of safe distancing measures as a circuit breaker from 7 April 2020 to 1 June 2020, to pre-empt the trend of increasing local transmission of COVID-19. Except for those providing essential services and selected economic sectors which are critical for the local and the global supply chains, all businesses are required to suspend all in-person activities and the Group's physical operations were temporarily closed to adhere to the respective governments' movement control measures.
- iii. The Group was granted a total of 2-months rental waiver for the months of April 2020 to May 2020 amounting to S\$30,225 as part of the Government's rental relief framework in an assistance package to help business and cushion the impact of COVID-19. The effect of such rental concessions received was disclosed in Note 6.

# 30. I mpact of COVI D-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) (Cont'd)

- iv. Following the COVID-19 guidelines of the government, the Group conducted a hybrid mode of providing services by having the CLAS and legal clinics applications to be handled online, by phone and through physical consultations. The trainings and seminars which are previously conducted physically were also moved online in the form of webinars.
- v. During the year, the Group provided Extraordinary Relief Package to support law firms and members during the COVID-19 pandemic through waiver of practicing certificate fees and compensation fund contributions for first-time applicants, advertising fee waiver and subsidy initiatives and free CPD webinars for all members.
- vi. The government has also implemented assistance measures which might mitigate some of the impact of COVID-19 on the Group's results and liquidity.

As the global COVID-19 situation remains very fluid as at the date of these financial statements were authorised for issuance, the Group cannot reasonably ascertain the full extent of the probable impact of the COVID-19 disruptions on its operating and financial performance for the financial year ending 31 March 2022. If the situation persists beyond management's current expectations, the Group's assets may be subject to further write downs in the subsequent financial years.

# 31. Authorisation of financial statements

The financial statements of the Group for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 were authorised for issue by the Council on 20 September 2021.



: :

•

:

.

:

: 

# I THE LAW SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

.

•



-

.

•

٠

٠

.

• ٠ ٠ •

٠

•