



SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW
ANNUAL REPORT
FINANCIAL YEAR 2000/2001

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FOREWORD

FOREWORD

by Chief Justice Yong Pung How

President, Singapore Academy of Law

The Singapore Academy of Law was created in 1988 by an Act of Parliament for the purpose of bringing together the various branches of the legal fraternity in a unified setting of learning and fellowship. In 1989, it started its first seminar, and a restaurant. The Academy has come a long way since those modest beginnings to become the institution it is today.

Over the years, the Academy has firmly established itself as an institution of repute and standing. Eminent legal luminaries from the major common law jurisdictions have visited the Academy as Annual Lecture visitors.

The services and responsibilities that have come under the wings of the Academy over the years bear good testimony to the careful efforts we have put in to fulfil the vision and statutory purposes for which this organization was set up. As you read through this report, you will find the Academy's mark in many aspects of the business of the legal fraternity. The Academy has played significant roles as a law reporting agency in Singapore and as a law reform body, and has maintained an active profile in continuing legal education work in Singapore. In recent years, it has moved into updating the legal profession on new areas of law such as information technology and biotechnology law, paved the way for the adoption of information technology for the legal profession, and led the field in promoting alternative dispute resolution in civil claims.

The Academy will push ahead in the near future to play a bigger role in the development of the legal profession and its adjustment to new practices in the new Singapore economy. Plans are being formulated for the Academy to develop the legal profession in areas such as intellectual property and e-commerce law. We will search for the best practices, and pull together the best talents to get this work done.

Resourceful leadership. Clarity of vision. Faith in one's people. Industrious resolve. These have been critical to the Academy's success in bringing its members together in the growth of a forward-looking and distinguished legal fraternity well-positioned to embrace the tremendous challenges in a fast-changing economic and social climate.

I would like to express my gratitude to everybody who has contributed selflessly to build up the Singapore Academy of Law. The achievements of the last thirteen years are the result of a synchronised effort of the members of the Judiciary, the Bar, the academia, the Legal Service and the staff at the Academy.



City Hall Building - home of the Singapore Academy of Law

INTRODUCTION



City Hall Chamber - a popular venue for seminars and conferences for the legal profession.

AN OVERVIEW

The Singapore Academy of Law (“SAL” or “the Academy”) was established by the Singapore Academy of Law Act (Cap. 294A) in 1988. At the time of its inception, Parliament had envisaged an institution patterned after the English Inns of Court, to develop among the legal profession in Singapore a collegiate spirit which is necessary for pride in the profession and in its honourable standards and practices.

Over the years, the Academy has evolved from a membership-based body to a service-based institution. It is now also the law reporting agency in Singapore; a continuing legal education provider; a legal publications body; an alternative dispute resolutions agency; an appointing body for Senior Counsel, commissioners for oaths and notaries public; a promoter of legal information technology and the keeper of stakeholding moneys in Singapore.

The Academy is a statutory body with a broad set of functions. Under the Academy are 2 subsidiaries, the Singapore Mediation Centre and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, each playing specialized and unique roles in the promotion of mediation and arbitration respectively as alternative means for the resolution of civil, commercial and trade disputes.

The Academy sits at the heart of Singapore’s Civic District - in the City Hall Building. Together with its subsidiaries, the Academy shares the premises with the Supreme Court of Singapore and the Public Service Commission.



THE LEADERSHIP

The leadership of the Academy rests on the shoulders of the Honourable the Chief Justice Yung Pung How, who is the President of the Academy and heads the Senate and the Executive Committee.

The Vice-Presidents of the Academy are the Honourable the Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong, the Judges of Appeal, the President of the Law Society, and the Dean of the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore.

The rest of the Senate comprise all High Court Judges and Judicial Commissioners, the Solicitor-General, and 9 other distinguished members of the profession nominated by the Chief Justice. The Senate is the rule-making body, and the broad policy-making body of the Academy.

The main strategic policies, plans and day-to-day running of the Academy are led by the Executive Committee chaired by the Chief Justice, and assisted by the Director of the Academy, Ms Serene Wee, with the support of the Assistant Directors.

Seated from left to right:

Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong, Chief Justice Yong Pung How, Mr R Palakrishnan, SC

Standing from left to right (1st row):

Justice Lai Siu Chiu, Justice Lai Kew Chai, Justice Chao Hick Tin, Justice L P Thean, Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han

Standing from left to right (2nd row):

Mr Ronnie Quek Cheng Chye, Mr Warren L H Khoo, Justice M P H Rubin, Judicial Commissioner Choo Han Teck

Standing from left to right (3rd row):

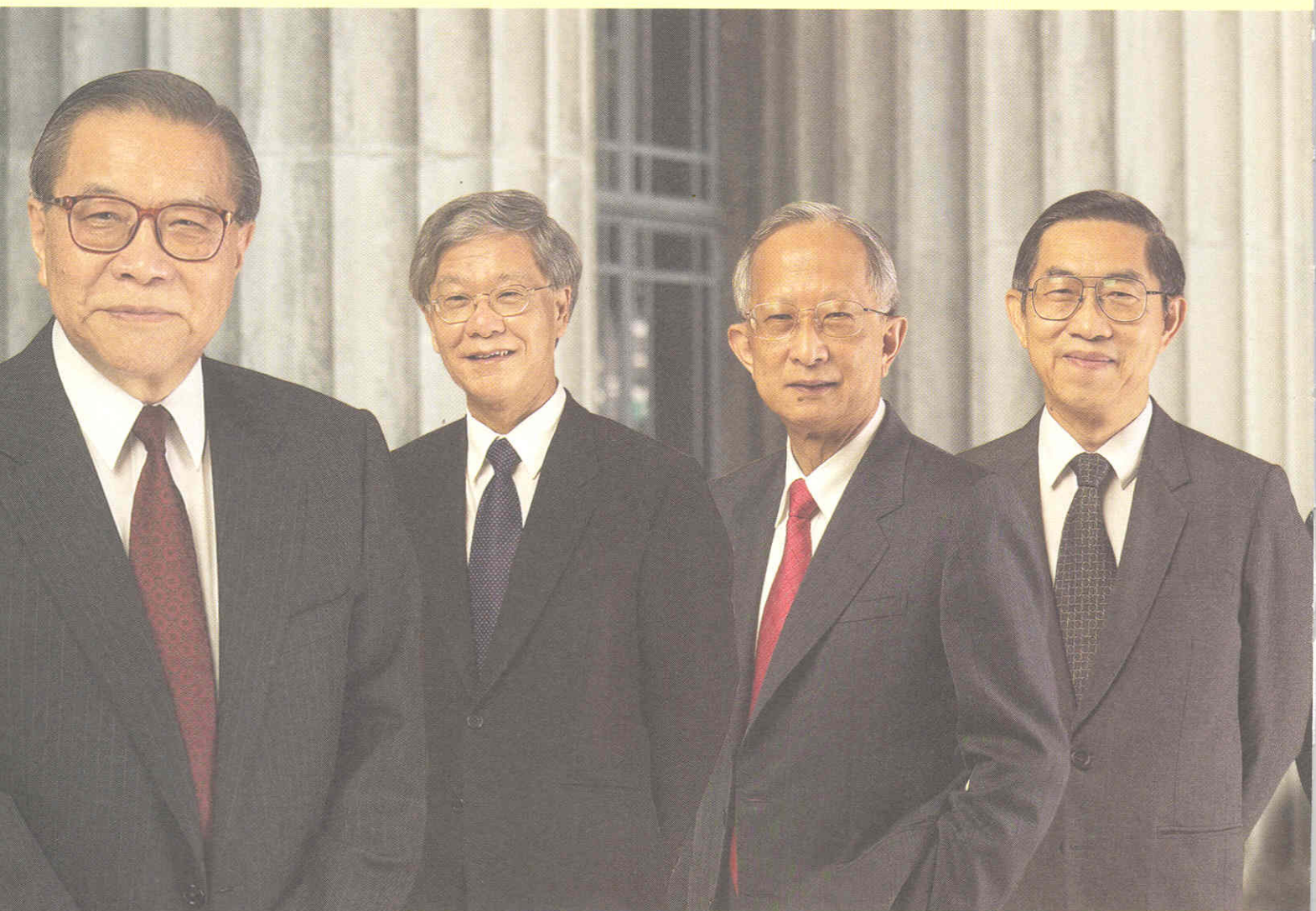
Solicitor-General Mr Chan Seng Onn, Justice Tan Lee Meng, Judicial Commissioner Tay Yong Kwang, Mr V K Rajah, SC
Justice S Rajendran

Standing from left to right (last row):

Professor Jeffrey Pinsler, Justice Kan Ting Chiu, Judicial Commissioner Lee Seiu Kin, Judicial Commissioner Woo Bih Li

Not in picture:

Justice Judith Prakash, Mr Goh Joon Seng, Mr Joseph Grimberg, SC, Mr Goh Phai Cheng, SC, Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

as at 30 August 2001



(left to right)

Chief Justice Yong Pung How (*President*)

Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong (*Vice-President*)

Justice Thean Lip Ping (*Vice-President*)

Justice Chao Hick Tin (*Vice-President*)

Mr R Palakrishnan, SC (*Vice-President*)

Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han (*Vice-President*)

Justice Lai Kew Chai (*Member*)

Justice Tan Lee Meng (*Member*)

Mrs Arfat Selvam (*Member*)



ANNUAL REPORT
2000/2001

BRINGING THE PROFESSION TOGETHER

The Academy's main strength lies in its ability to bring together the various branches of the legal fraternity, namely the Judiciary, private practitioners, legal service officers, in-house legal counsel, academics and law students, in a single institution for the fostering of good relations and social interaction.

Membership

The Academy is an umbrella membership body of the legal profession in Singapore. By law, every advocate and solicitor and every officer in the Singapore Legal Service is a member of the Academy.

SAL membership is classified into a few categories: Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Ordinary Members, Associate Members and Associate Student Members.

Over the years, the Senate of the Academy has appointed 3 persons as Honorary Fellows: Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew (in 1990), Dr Wee Chong Jin (in 1991) and the late Dr David Marshall (in 1991), in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the legal and judicial system, and to the stature of the legal profession in Singapore.



Honorary Fellows: Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Dr Wee Chong Jin, Dr David Marshall

Fellows of the Academy include the President of the Academy, the Vice-Presidents, all High Court Judges and Judicial Commissioners, the Solicitor-General, and all Senior Counsel in Singapore.

Ordinary Members form the largest group of members in the Academy. There are 3 sub-categories of fee-paying members in this group:

- (a) senior members who have been admitted to the Bar or appointed as a Legal Service officer for more than 12 years,
- (b) mid-category members who have been admitted or appointed for 7 to 12 years, and
- (c) young members of less than 7 years' call or appointment.

They include members of the Bar, legal officers, academics and corporate in-house counsel.

Other qualified persons under the Legal Profession Act and foreign lawyers can apply to join the Academy as Associate Members. Associate Student Membership is open to final-year law students of the National University of Singapore.

Persons who have left the legal profession for work that is unrelated to law can seek a waiver of fees.

Membership of the Academy stood at 6,308 as at 31 March 2001.

Events

The Annual Lecture

In 1994, the Academy inaugurated the Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture. Over the years, the Annual Lecture has seen prominent and distinguished legal personalities from around the world share their thoughts and views on the law, and on issues that affect the legal world and societies in general.

The Annual Lecture has become a highlight event in the legal profession's calendar, bringing together a large gathering of members in September each year for an evening of learning, fellowship and social interaction.

The Academy held its 7th Annual Lecture on 14 September 2000. The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, delivered the lecture on "Judicial Power and Democracy". About 550 persons attended the lecture and reception at the Mandarin Hotel in Singapore. The Annual Lecture 2000 was organized with the help of Justices' Law Clerks and judicial officers, including Assistant Registrar Ms Thian Yee Sze.

The Edu-Dine

Since 1999, the Board of Legal Education has introduced a local version of the Inns of Court dining terms, called the Edu-Dine, for students of the local Postgraduate Practical Law Course. Apart from helping the students acquaint themselves with veteran practitioners and fellow students, the Edu-Dine has an educational flavour, with talks by well-known personalities and industry leaders on current affairs topics outside the law.

Other activities

The House and Social Committee, chaired by Mr Chelva Rajah, SC, promotes interaction amongst Academy members. It has been organizing the popular Bashes at the end of court terms to provide members with an opportunity to interact and “unwind” with music, drinks and partying.

During the year under review, the Committee assisted in organizing a welcome tea hosted by the Attorney-General on 16 February 2001 for delegates attending the Comité Maritime International Conference 2001 in Singapore.

Facilities

The Academy Restaurant

Located on the third level of the City Hall Building and overlooking the Padang, the Academy Restaurant provides a focal point for members of the legal profession.

Over the years, the restaurant has played host to judges, lawyers and a regular stream of parliamentarians, visiting judges and other dignitaries. It has been the place where many young lawyers had their first meal with members of the Bench and senior practitioners.

The City Hall Chamber

The historic City Hall Chamber, better known as the Surrender Chamber for the part it played as the official place of surrender of the Japanese army in Singapore on 13 September 1945, was placed in the custody of the Academy in 1988.

Today, the hall is a popular venue for seminars and conferences for the legal profession, and continues to be used for ceremonies, including the investiture of the Singapore Cabinet and the Opening of the Legal Year.

The newsletter

The Academy has been publishing a bi-monthly newsletter since 1989 to keep members informed of events and happenings at the Academy and in the legal community. Information on upcoming seminars, conferences and other special events are disseminated through the newsletter and the flyers distributed with it. The newsletter was into its 71st issue at the end of financial year 2000/2001.



The Academy Restaurant

PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In 1995, the Singapore Academy of Law Act was amended for the Academy to take on a wider role in the development of legal infrastructure and value-added services for the legal profession.

LawNet services

LawNet is a strategic legal information network in Singapore. It was set up to provide law firms and legal professionals with an instantaneous and convenient way of retrieving legal information electronically.

LawNet policies are spearheaded by the Attorney-General, who chairs the LawNet Management Committee consisting of officers of the Attorney-General's Chambers and members of the Academy. The Project Director of LawNet is Mr Charles Lim of the Attorney-General's Chambers.

The LawNet Secretariat, headed by SAL Assistant Director Mr Tan Ken Hwee, manages and supervises the timely and accurate delivery of legal information to LawNet subscribers through a network operator, CrimsonLogic (Singapore Network Services Pte Ltd).

LawNet is made up of 5 main modules: Legal Research, Litigation, Conveyancing, Corporate Law and Intellectual Property.

1. Legal Research Module: search services

The basic Legal Research Module, called the Legal Workbench, has achieved a market penetration rate of 73% of the total number of practising lawyers in Singapore. As at 31 March 2001, 2,518 paid user-IDs had been issued, representing a subscriber base of 289 law firms and 71 other entities.

The Legal Workbench provides a comprehensive database of all primary sources of Singapore law and includes in its fold, the Singapore Law Reports from 1965, the Malayan Law Journal from 1932, unreported judgments of the Supreme Court, the Academy Digest (Supreme Court decisions), Singapore primary and subsidiary legislation, and the Singapore Parliamentary Reports.

In August 2000, the Legal Workbench saw an addition - the Heritage Law Reports - which comprise law reports dating back to the mid-19th century. Further new services launched during the year under review include the Commercial Precedents Database, the Singapore Academy of Law Journal Online, the Legal Journals Index, the Academy Digest (Subordinate Courts decisions) and unreported judgments of the Subordinate Courts.

2. *Litigation Module: search and electronic filing services*

The Litigation Module enables law firms to have access to the Supreme Court's and Subordinate Courts' hearing lists, the Supreme Court's taxation information system and databases on bankruptcy, companies winding-up as well as damages awarded in defamation cases and in personal injuries and death cases.

In addition, the Electronic Filing System ("EFS") developed by the Judiciary is also made available as a LawNet Service under the Litigation Module. The Academy has been involved in training lawyers on the use of the EFS and lawyers have become increasingly familiar with the system, thereby gearing towards making court procedures in Singapore "electronic" and paperless.

3. *Conveyancing Module: search and legal requisition services*

The Conveyancing Module allows lawyers to submit legal requisitions electronically to multiple government agencies, and has made conveyancing a more efficient process in Singapore. It also features a lot-based search system of registered land titles in Singapore.

4. *Corporate Law Module: search services*

The Corporate Law Module provides electronic access to important company and business registration information from the Registry of Companies and Businesses, obviating the need to travel to the Registry to carry out such searches.

5. *Intellectual Property Module: search services*

The Intellectual Property Module has links to important databases and services offered by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, including the powerful search functions of the SurfIP portal and the ePatents system.

During the year under review, the LawNet Secretariat initiated regular feedback sessions with customers. It also focused on product consolidation to harmonize as many of its services as possible, as well as on quality assurance and improvement.

LawNet celebrated its 10th anniversary on 28 August 2000.

LawNet has helped prepare the legal profession for the computer age, modernising a profession that has traditionally been wary of information technology. Today, the Singapore legal profession is well ahead of its counterparts in many developed jurisdictions, in terms of being equipped with the resources and skills to make efficient use of legal information technology.

Looking ahead, LawNet will further develop and enhance the use of information technology by lawyers, and will improve the scope and variety as well as the quality of its services, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that Singapore lawyers are well-equipped to operate in a knowledge-based economy.

Stakeholding services

The Singapore Academy of Law has been providing stakeholding services in transactions involving the sale and purchase of newly developed private residential properties, commercial properties and Executive Condominiums. As a neutral third party, the Academy ensures security and stability in providing such stakeholding services.

Heading the Stakeholding Department of the Academy is Assistant Director Ms Low Hui Min.

A direct deposit network involving Singapore's 5 major local banks allows purchasers to conveniently pay in stakeholding moneys through a range of banking outlets near their homes or solicitors' offices. The Academy's stakeholding system provides a notification service to all law firms, alerting them to seek their clients' final instructions on defects liability claims before the payment due dates for the stakeholding moneys.

The total number of payment-in transactions increased from 5,068 cases in the financial year 1999/2000 to 6,855 cases in the financial year 2000/2001, while the number of payment-out transactions increased from 4,032 to 5,984 cases.

UPGRADING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The Academy has played an increasing role in keeping the legal community continually updated on developments in the law and the legal system, and in building the capability of the legal profession for a new economy practice.

The Academy has sought to fulfil these functions through its legal education programme, its scholarships and prizes, and its undertakings in law reporting and legal publications.

Legal education and training

Continuing legal education

Over the years, the Committee on Legal Education and Studies has been organizing seminars, conferences and roundtable discussions for the legal profession.

During the period under review, the Committee, under the chairmanship of the Attorney-General, organized 7 seminars, 2 roundtable discussions and a 3-day conference entitled "Developments in Singapore Law from 1996 to 2000" as a follow-up to the 1995 conference on "Review of Judicial and Legal Reform in Singapore between 1990 and 1995". The conference, jointly organized with the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore ("NUS"), covered 15 principal areas of Singapore law. The speakers were leading members of the Singapore legal fraternity and their papers were published in a post-conference publication.

With the support of non-law agencies such as the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology and the Info-Communications Development Authority of Singapore, the Committee has put in place programmes to allow members access to developments, both legal and scientific, in the fields of biotechnology and information technology. The Committee will be organizing more seminars with an emphasis on new knowledge areas and new topics of law.

Board of Legal Education

The statutory responsibility for the supervision of pupillage and the professional training and examination of young law graduates for admission to the roll of the Supreme Court falls on the shoulders of the Board of Legal Education. The Board operates under the aegis of the Academy in consultation with the Council of the Law Society of Singapore.

The Board is chaired by the Attorney-General, with Mr T P B Menon serving as the Deputy Chairman.

Since 1982, the Board has trained 5,142 persons through its Postgraduate Practical Law Course ("PLC"). In 2000, the Board accommodated 213 PLC students comprising 152 students from NUS, 13 barristers, one solicitor, 46 holders of the Diploma in Singapore Law and one candidate pursuant to section 7 of the Legal Profession Act.

The PLC is organized by its Director, Mr Patrick Nathan. PLC instructors comprise practitioners, legal and judicial officers, and lecturers from NUS. All lectures are conducted at Temasek Polytechnic while tutorials and practice classes are held at the Subordinate Courts.

Scholarships and prizes

The Academy has taken steps to promote scholarship in the law. The Singapore Academy of Law Scholarships were introduced in 1996 to promote excellence in postgraduate legal study and research among young lawyers.

During the period under review, the Executive Committee awarded the 2001/2002 SAL Scholarship to Mr Tan Boon Gin, Ms Sharon Lim Hui Mien and Ms Cheng Pei Feng for Masters of Law studies at Harvard University, University of California—Berkeley and New York University respectively.

Since 1997, the Academy has also introduced prizes for the top final year law student at the NUS Faculty of Law, the top student for MBA (Business Law) at the Nanyang Technological University ("NTU"), as well as the top student in the Diploma in Legal Studies course at Temasek Polytechnic.

The winners of the SAL prizes for the period under review were Ms Ng Pei Suin, top final year student in law, NUS; Mr Wong Kok Weng, top student in MBA (Business Law), NTU and Ms Ong Ei Woon, top student in the Diploma in Legal Studies course, Temasek Polytechnic.

LawNet training

The LawNet Training Centre, run by the Academy at its premises in the City Hall Building, is equipped with 20 computers with 21-inch large monitor screens and broadband access to LawNet and the Internet. It also conducts off-site courses at the NUS and Temasek Polytechnic.

Besides training LawNet subscribers, PLC students, NUS law undergraduates and students from the Temasek Polytechnic, the Centre also trains lawyers and paralegals on the use of the Electronic Filing System, the Solicitor Case Query/Video Switching Device and the Non-Judiciary Commissioner for Oaths System, as well as the Legal Workbench for online legal research.

The following courses were run during the period under review:

Course	No. of Classes	No. of Participants
Legal Workbench		
- for the legal profession	5	49
- for NUS students	9	149
EFS Front-End		
- for the legal profession	20	265
- for PLC students	21	393
Non-Judiciary Commissioner for Oaths System		
- for the legal profession	8	67
Solicitor Case Query & Video Switching Device		
- for the legal profession	34	275
- for PLC students	21	393
Total	118	1,591

The LawNet Training Centre will continue to develop new courses to equip the legal profession with the latest training in information technology.

Millennium Law Conference

In 2000, the Academy organized the Millennium Law Conference to encourage the legal profession to think about the changes and challenges of an increasingly global and knowledge-based economy.

Initiated by the Professional Affairs Committee, the Conference was held from 10 to 12 April 2000. An Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Justice Lai Kew Chai, and a Steering Committee, under the chairmanship of Senior District Judge Mr Richard Magnus, headed the Conference.

The theme of the Conference was “The Singapore Conference: Leading the Law and Lawyers into the New Millennium @2020”. Over 500 local and foreign participants attended the event. The Conference was opened by the Chief Justice Yong Pung How.

The panel of distinguished local and international speakers included the then Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf of Barnes; the New York Stock Exchange Chairman, Mr Richard Grasso; the Minister for Law and Foreign Affairs, Professor S Jayakumar; the Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong; the Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, and Trade and Industry, Mr Lim Swee Say; and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Manpower, Dr Tan Chin Nam.

The highlight of the Conference was the Special Millennium Address delivered by Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew at the Conference Gala Dinner. SM Lee spoke on the challenges of globalization and the response of the legal sector in Singapore to these challenges. The Address was broadcast live over Channel News Asia.

A post-conference publication comprising all papers presented at the Conference was published jointly with Butterworths Asia. Harnessing the ideas put forward by the Conference speakers, the Professional Affairs Committee established 4 working groups – on Banking and Finance, Trade and Competition, Infocommunications and Legal Education – to study the Conference memorandum and put forward proposals for change.

Law reporting

The Academy is the law reporting agency in Singapore, performing this role as part of its statutory function to promote the advancement and dissemination of the knowledge of laws and the legal system.

Singapore Law Reports

The Singapore Law Reports (“SLR”) are published by Butterworths Asia under the authority of the Academy and the editorial selection of the Attorney-General’s Chambers.

From 2 volumes in 1992, the SLR has grown to 4 volumes since 1999. The SLR is also published in electronic format on CD-ROM, and is available online through Lexis-Nexis, as well as in the domestic market through the LawNet website.

Academy Digest

The fortnightly Academy Digest has been a subscription service by fax since 1995. It contains a summary of all Court of Appeal and High Court decisions for which there are written judgments. A second series of the Academy Digest (Subordinate Courts) was launched in January 2001. As at 31 March 2001, there were 125 and 100 fax subscribers of the first and second series of the Academy Digest respectively.

Both series of the Academy Digest are also available in electronic format through the LawNet website as part of the Legal Workbench database. The digest writers are drawn from a team of judicial officers and Justices’ Law Clerks.

Legislation Watch

The bi-monthly Legislation Watch has been a regular insert in the Academy’s newsletter since 1996. It updates readers on the latest Bills, amendment Acts, subsidiary legislation, revised editions of laws published by the Law Reform and Revision Division of the Attorney-General’s Chambers, and practice directions and circulars in force. Its main contributors are officers of the Legislation Division of the Attorney-General’s Chambers.

Unreported judgments

The unreported judgments of the Supreme Court are available online, through the Legal Workbench. In January 2001, the unreported grounds of decisions of the family, civil and criminal courts in the Subordinate Courts went online as well.

Publications

Singapore Academy of Law Journal

The Library and Publications Committee of the Academy, under the chairmanship of Justice Chao Hick Tin, has been publishing the Singapore Academy of Law Journal, a bi-annual legal journal, since 1989.

The Journal contains articles contributed by legal officers, practitioners and academics, and regularly features a digest of new Acts passed during the previous half-year. A consolidated Index for all Journal issues from 1989 to 1999, comprising a Table of Cases, Subject Index and Index of Contributors, was published and distributed in March 2001.

Annual review of Singapore cases

Since September 2000, the Library and Publications Committee has embarked on a project of publishing an annual series of reviews on the reported and unreported cases decided in the year under review. Leading practitioners, Legal Service officers and academics contributed to the review in their areas of speciality. The inaugural issue, edited by NUS Law Faculty's Associate Professor Teo Keang Sood and SAL Assistant Director Ms Hung Ning Shing, was distributed to members in June 2001.

The ADR Bulletin

The ADR Bulletin, a collaborative effort of the SAL, the Singapore Mediation Centre ("SMC") and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("SIAC"), contains articles on alternative dispute resolution ("ADR") and highlights ADR developments in the SMC and the SIAC. It is published bi-monthly as a supplement to the Academy newsletter.

Other publications

From time to time, the Academy has sponsored other legal publications. These publications include a book written by Professor Jeffrey Pinsler entitled "Developments in the course of the 20th century – Civil Justice in Singapore", as well as the publication entitled "The Singapore Conference: Leading the Law and Lawyers into the New Millennium @2020" containing papers presented at the Millennium Law Conference. Both books were published in 2000.

PROMOTING LEGAL RESEARCH AND REFORM

One of the statutory functions of the Academy is “to promote legal research and scholarship and the reform and development of the law”. To that end, the Law Reform Committee, previously known as the Law Revision Committee, and the Technology Law Development Group were formed in 1989 and 2000 respectively.

In an attempt to disseminate knowledge of the legal history of Singapore and to promote research and education on the island’s past laws and legal system, the Academy has also embarked on a major legal heritage project over the years.

Law reform

The Law Reform Committee of the Academy makes recommendations to the authorities on the need for legislation in any particular area or subject of the law, reviews any legislation before Parliament and makes recommendations for changes (if any) to be made to the legislation and for carrying out law reform. It publishes selected reports which are available online through LawNet.

Chaired by Justice L P Thean, the Committee comprises members drawn from every branch of the legal fraternity in Singapore. It includes Judges of the High Court, representatives from the Bar, academics and Legal Service officers.

During the year under review, the Committee:

- (a) discussed the draft Instruments (Formalities) Bill 2001 and prepared a report on it;
- (b) drafted amendments to the Trustees Act (Cap. 337) to widen the investment powers of trustees;
- (c) considered the legal issues arising from the liability for psychiatric illness caused by negligence;
- (d) considered and responded to queries raised by the Government on the Committee’s “Report on the Status of Children Born Through Artificial Insemination”;
- (e) proposed reforms to the law of restitution on mistakes of law and submitted a report on it;
- (f) considered a report on stalking prepared by the Law Commission of Hong Kong; and
- (g) examined the law governing illegality in contracts and trusts.

Technology Law Development Group

The Technology Law Development Group (“TLDG”), an Academy think-tank on technology law, was formed in November 2000 to identify and anticipate key trends and developments in technology, to identify gaps in the law and propose necessary reforms, as well as to facilitate and enhance the reform process by promoting dialogue among industry, the legal profession and the government.

Chaired by Judicial Commissioner Lee Seiu Kin, the TLDG has a diverse membership, comprising private practitioners, academics, and Legal Service officers, as well as leaders from the information technology and financial services industries and from the public sector.

The TLDG held its inaugural formal meeting on 28 February 2001, with an opening address delivered by the Chief Justice.

The TLDG is assisted by a Secretariat, and supported by Justices’ Law Clerks Mr Kwek Mean Luck and Mr Justin Chan. It has embarked on several projects, one of which is in conjunction with the Legal Service Technology Law Core Group, to prepare a set of basic Technology Law and Issues Primers, for the benefit of the general membership of the Academy as well as Singapore as a whole.

In a manner befitting its goals, the TLDG carries out discussion via electronic means, and has plans to develop a full online research portal with up-to-date information regarding technology law issues. It also intends to embark on detailed legal research on selected issues and present its findings at a symposium.

Legal heritage

Legal heritage projects have been carried out under a pro-tem committee, which is a sub-committee of the Executive Committee, and chaired by Justice Kan Ting Chiu.

The pro-tem committee is exploring the possibility of working with the Singapore History Museum for the museum to acquire a legal heritage collection through donations from law firms. It has plans to publish a book of essays on various aspects of Singapore’s legal history. The general editor of the book is Dr Kevin Tan.

In sourcing for legal history materials, the committee has obtained permission to reproduce a collection of old photographs belonging to the Honourable Dato’ James Foong Cheng Yuen, a judge of the High Courts in Malaya and Sabah and Sarawak.



A picture of the City Hall and Supreme Court Buildings taken between 1939 and 1942 from the top of the Fullerton Building. The City Hall Building was completed in 1929.

ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Another statutory aim of the Academy is “to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and learning of the members of the legal profession in Singapore and the standing of the profession in the region and elsewhere”.

Senior Counsel

Senior Counsel in Singapore are appointed pursuant to statute, and by a selection committee constituted under section 30 of the Legal Profession Act comprising the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General and the Judges of Appeal.

The selection committee appoints Senior Counsel on the basis of applications received from persons who have had a minimum of 10 years' experience as advocates and solicitors or as Legal Service officers or both. The committee may appoint a member of the Bar as a Senior Counsel if they are of the opinion that, by virtue of the person's ability, standing at the Bar or special knowledge or experience in law, the person is deserving of such distinction.

So far, each of the Senior Counsel appointed has been a litigator with substantial advocacy in the higher courts, and has outstanding ability as an advocate, professional integrity and maturity, an extensive grasp of the law and a successful practice.

The 2 Senior Counsel appointed for 2001 are Mr R Palakrishan and Ms Deborah Evaline Barker. This brings to total 28 persons who have been conferred this distinguished title by the selection committee since 1997.

Commissioners for oaths and notaries public

The Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public appoints eligible advocates and solicitors and public officers as commissioners for oaths and notaries public in 2 appointment exercises every year.

The Board, under the chairmanship of Mr Joseph Grimberg, SC, sets guidelines as to the number of appointments allowed and the minimum age and years of legal practice required of eligible commissioners for oaths and notaries public. In determining whether to make an appointment, the Board will also make inquiries into the past conduct of the applicants. Generally, only those applicants who have an unblemished disciplinary record are appointed. Each appointment is for a year and is renewable.

In the period under review, the Board appointed a total of 635 advocates and solicitors, 859 public officers and 94 court interpreters as commissioners for oaths. It also appointed 366 advocates and solicitors as notaries public.

Professional Affairs Committee

The Professional Affairs Committee, chaired by Justice Lai Kew Chai, and consisting of members nominated by the Legal Service, the Law Society of Singapore and the Faculty of Law, NUS, was established in 1993. Since then, it has established itself as a forum for the discussion of all issues affecting the various branches of the legal profession, with a view to making recommendations for improvements.

The Committee has played a significant role in spearheading initiatives impacting the legal profession, such as the Millennium Law Conference last year, and in raising public awareness of the work of the legal profession and the legal system through efforts such as the Legal Heritage Exhibition. It also collaborated with the Television Corporation of Singapore in a television documentary on "The Passage of Law in 1995".

During the period under review, the Committee considered matters such as steps to raise the Academy's regional and international profile, developments in the Law Faculty of NUS, and the rise in starting salaries for new law graduates with its impact on the supply of lawyers and access to justice.

The Committee has embarked on an exercise to promulgate a Code of Ethics for the members of the Academy in keeping with the Academy's statutory aim of promoting high standards of conduct and standing of the legal profession. The proposed Code is not intended to be disciplinary in nature, but rather a set of aspirations which each member of the Academy should strive towards.

PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Academy's 2 subsidiaries, the Singapore Mediation Centre and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, provide and promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms as alternatives to litigation.

SINGAPORE MEDIATION CENTRE

Incorporated in 1977, the SMC is a company limited by guarantee of the Singapore Academy of Law. The Chairman of the SMC's Board of Directors is Mr Goh Joon Seng, a retired High Court Judge. The Executive Director of the SMC, Mr Phang Hsiao Chung, is concurrently an Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court, and a District Judge.



SMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS and STAFF

(From left to right)

Front row:

Mr Chow Kok Fong, Ms Serene Wee, Mr Goh Joon Seng, Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC and Mr George Lim

Back row:

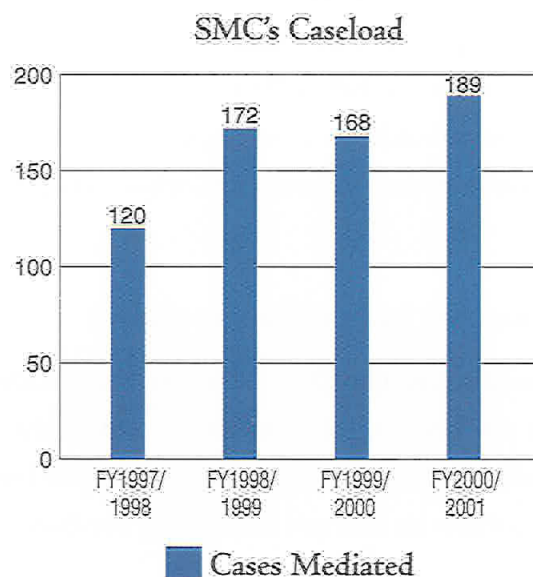
Ms Judy Ang, Mr Phang Hsiao Chung, Mr Loong Seng Onn and Ms Renee Tan

Dispute resolution services

The SMC is dedicated to providing and promoting alternative mechanisms for dispute resolution, such as mediation, neutral evaluation and mediation-arbitration. In providing such services, the SMC is equipped with 4 mediation chambers. These chambers are self-contained units which include a waiting room, a meeting room and a computer area for drafting agreements.

In the second quarter of 2000, the SMC and the SIAC jointly developed the SMC-SIAC Med-Arb Procedure (a hybrid dispute resolution process where parties first attempt to settle a dispute via mediation and proceed to arbitration should mediation not result in a settlement). The first Med-Arb case was registered on 28 February 2001.

Caseload



From 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001, a total of 211 new matters were referred to the SMC for mediation. 189 of these matters were mediated, out of which 138 (73%) were settled within the same period. It is estimated that these settlements have saved the Judiciary about \$2.87 million in respect of High Court proceedings during that period.

The SMC panel of mediators

As at 31 March 2001, there were 101 persons on the SMC's distinguished panel of accredited mediators. Potential mediators are selected from senior legal practitioners, industry leaders and professionals with specialized backgrounds. Aside from its domestic panel, the SMC also has an international panel of mediators made up of outstanding foreign mediators of international repute.

Training and consultancy

The SMC provides training in ADR skills. There is a demand for such skills as they often prove useful in managing workplace differences and disputes. The SMC also provides consultancy services.

During the period under review, the SMC organized 8 mediation workshops, 4 negotiation workshops, and an executive programme in negotiation and mediation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Singapore Cooperation Programme for overseas participants. Some of these workshops were open to the public, some were for institutional clients and some were held overseas.

The inaugural Singapore Mediation Conference was held on 1 July 2000 at the City Hall Chamber. The Conference was the platform for the launch of the SMC's training and consultancy services and of a mediation textbook entitled "Mediation: Principles, Process, Practice" by Professor Laurence Boulle and Ms Teh Hwee Hwee, to which the SMC made substantial contributions. The SMC also contributed a chapter each to a Singapore Information Technology Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee ("SITDRAC") publication entitled "Effective Management of IT Disputes", which was published in April 2000 and to the Subordinate Courts' publication entitled "Families in Conflict - Theories and Approaches in Mediation and Counselling", which was published in November 2000.

The SMC's Mediation Procedure and mediation clauses

Mediations handled under the auspices of the SMC are covered by the SMC's Mediation Procedure. This Procedure contains sample mediation agreements for the parties, the mediators and the SMC to enter into, and contains the Code of Conduct for Mediators and the Fee Schedule for mediations. The Procedure is necessary to facilitate an efficient and proper conduct of mediations.

The SMC has also been promoting mediation clauses in contracts. Essentially such clauses provide for parties to attempt mediation at the SMC before proceeding to use other means of dispute resolution. The Government has seen it fit to provide for mediation clauses in its contracts. One example is clause 34.5 of the Public Sector Standard Conditions of Contract for Construction Works 1999, which requires the parties to government construction contracts to consider resolving their disputes through formal mediation at the SMC before commencing arbitration or court proceedings.

Promoting ADR

Aside from presentations and delivery of papers at conferences and seminars, the SMC organizes in-house talks and consultations on a regular basis for the public, the legal profession and institutional clients. Promoting ADR is an important aspect of the SMC's functions as institutionalized ADR is

still relatively novel. In March 2001, the SMC visited 6 law firms as part of an ongoing programme to conduct in-house talks regarding the SMC's services.

In September 2000, the SMC, together with its partners, held a series of Mediation Awareness Seminars for the public. The SMC also organized Mediation Week 2000 from 25 September to 6 October 2000. During that period, the Centre and its mediators offered mediation services at a nominal administrative fee.

Working with industry

The SMC has always worked closely with the business community. This is one way for the Centre to reach out to potential end-users of dispute resolution mechanisms. As at 31 March 2001, the SMC had entered into 24 memoranda of understanding with professional and trade institutions and organizations in Singapore and overseas, providing for such partners to inter alia, assist, support and promote the SMC, and to refer disputes for mediation at the SMC. In return, the SMC will provide them with mediation, training and consultancy services.

The SMC entered into 2 new memoranda of understanding in the year under review. They are with the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association and the Tokyo Maritime Arbitration Commission of the Japan Shipping Exchange, Inc.

Industry-specific bodies such as SITDRAC and the Advisory Committee on Construction Mediation assist the SMC by promoting mediation, providing expert knowledge and referring disputes to the SMC.

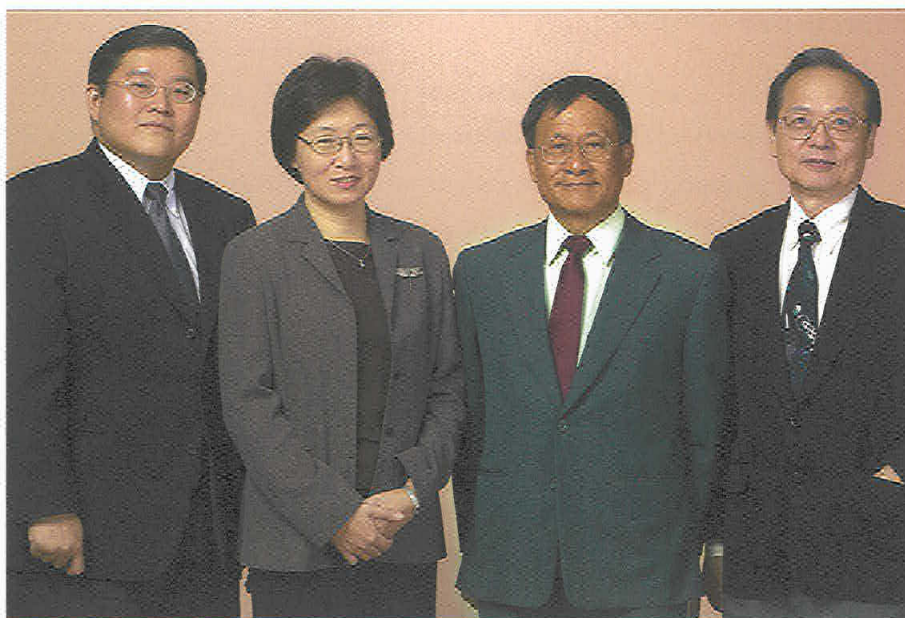
International representation

The SMC enjoys an international reputation largely because of its unique origins and set-up, and its significant achievements. The Centre has also made a conscientious effort to position itself as a leading provider of ADR services within Asia.

To enhance its international presence, the SMC appointed its former Executive Director, Ms Teh Hwee Hwee, as its consultant for North America. In this capacity, Ms Teh has presented papers at various conferences and sits on the Program Committee of the Association for Conflict Resolution, one of the largest ADR organizations in the world. The SMC's Deputy Director, Mr Loong Seng Onn, was also nominated as the Singapore "Expert" for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ADR Executive Education Project 2000 in Thailand.

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

The SIAC was established in July 1991 with the objective of developing Singapore into a regional and international hub for commercial arbitration. It was transferred to the SAL from the Trade Development Board and the Economic Development Board in August 1999 so as to bring the Centre within the mainstream dispute resolution framework in Singapore. The Chairman of the SIAC is Mr Warren Khoo, a retired High Court Judge and its Executive Director is Mr Ang Yong Tong.



SIAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS and STAFF

(From left to right)

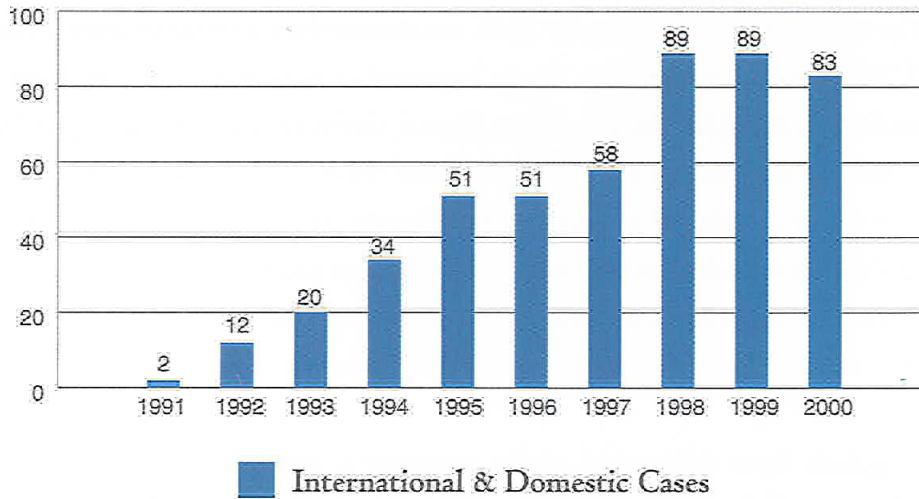
Mr Ang Yong Tong, Ms Serene Wee, Mr Warren Khoo and Mr Goh Phai Cheng, SC

Caseload

The SIAC's annual caseload has increased over the years. From 2 cases in 1991 to 83 cases in 2000, the SIAC has developed tremendously. The first quarter of 2001 saw 24 new cases being docketed. 70% of all cases docketed at the Centre are international arbitration cases.

The SIAC enjoyed profitability in the year under review with a surplus of more than \$0.5 million. This is attributable to changes in policy on case administration and an increased demand for the SIAC's hearing and related facilities.

SIAC's Caseload



Facilities

It was with a view to meeting the needs of large commercial arbitrations that the SIAC converted Court 17 in the City Hall Building into a hearing room with 3 breakout rooms. The hearing room has, since its renovation, been heavily booked for lengthy arbitration hearings.

The SIAC also has a board room, 2 computer work stations with transcribing facilities for parties' secretarial assistants, audio and video recording facilities, meeting rooms for solicitor and client discussions, and a witnesses' lounge with beverage-making facilities. The SIAC also provides secretarial, interpretation and transcription services.

The SIAC Domestic Arbitration Rules

The current SIAC Rules are designed for international arbitration. Increasing demand for the SIAC to play a greater role in domestic arbitration, to provide institutional support and to exercise a degree of supervision in domestic cases led to the drafting of a new set of domestic arbitration rules from the second half of 2000.

The Rules also came about as a result of the Subordinate Courts' case referral system, which refers cases suitable for arbitration to the SIAC, and stipulate a time-frame for court-referred arbitration proceedings. Drafted in consultation with the Law Society of Singapore, the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, lawyers, arbitrators, interested organizations and individuals, the newly published SIAC Domestic Arbitration Rules aim to provide a framework within which domestic arbitration may be seamlessly conducted under the auspices of the SIAC. The Rules were launched by the Chief Justice on 4 May 2001.

The SIAC panel of accredited arbitrators

Parties who wish to resolve their disputes at the SIAC can choose their arbitrators from an international panel of about 150 accredited arbitrators. These impartial experts come not only from Singapore, but from countries such as Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. They comprise Queen's Counsel, Senior Counsel, professors, maritime captains and other professionals such as senior engineers and architects. They are able to hear disputes involving Construction and Engineering contracts, Corporate Banking and Insurance, Shipping/Maritime and Marine Insurance, and International Trade and Commercial Transactions. New panels are being created to meet the demands of the other industries.

The SIAC has regularly been designated as the appointing authority for arbitrators under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules by the International Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

International cooperation

Over the years, the SIAC has established good bilateral relations with numerous international arbitration institutions, including the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the China International Economic & Trade Arbitration Commission, the American Arbitration Association, the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association, and the Swiss Arbitration Association.

On 30 March 2001, the SIAC entered into a cooperation agreement with the Tokyo Maritime Arbitration Commission ("TOMAC") of the Japan Shipping Exchange, Inc. Under the agreement, the SIAC and TOMAC will cooperate in promoting the use of arbitration and in mutually assisting each other in the selection of arbitrators, the appointment of experts and the provision of facilities.

BRINGING EVERYTHING TOGETHER

The Academy has covered significant mileage in the year under review. Substantial improvements and growth have taken place in the areas of publications, continuing legal education, LawNet services and ADR. The Academy's international profile has been raised considerably with the success of the Millennium Law Conference and the achievements of the SMC and the SIAC.

It has been able to achieve all these through the contributions of the various branches of the legal profession, led by the Senate and the Executive Committee who oversee the various functions, with the chairmen of boards and committees collectively looking after SAL's work in mediation and arbitration, legal education and studies, law reform, publications, LawNet, house and social activities and professional affairs. The committees and boards are each supported by members of the Academy, who believe that the best of the Academy is yet to unfold in the years ahead.

Working with the boards and committees in putting everything together at the operational level are the Director and Assistant Directors of the Academy, assisted by a team of secretariat officers comprising paralegals, accountants, information technology professionals, corporate communications officers and support staff. The administration of each of the subsidiaries is headed by its respective Executive Director.

Unseen to many in helping to develop the Academy is an ongoing stream of Honorary Secretaries from the ranks of the Assistant Registrars of the Supreme Court and the Justices' Law Clerks who have been assigned to the Academy by the Chief Justice.

KEY PERSONS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS



From left to right:

Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong

Justice Thean Lip Ping

Justice Chao Hick Tin

Justice Lai Kew Chai

Justice Tan Lee Meng



From left to right:

Justice Kan Ting Chiu

Judicial Commissioner Lee Seiu Kin

Mr Joseph Grimberg, SC

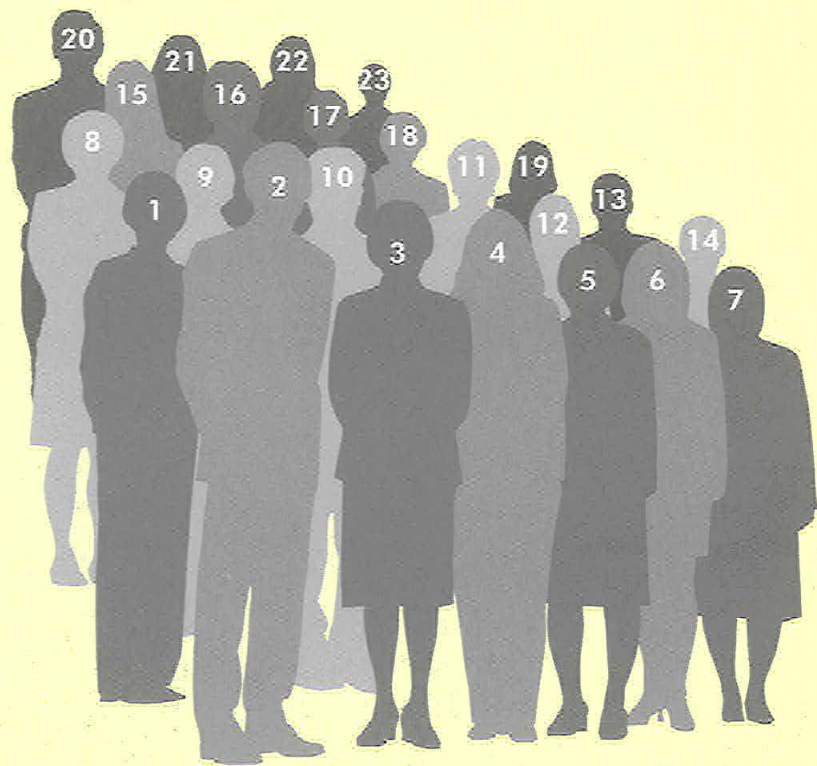
Mr Chelva R Rajah, SC

Mr Charles Lim Aeng Cheng

Singapore Academy of Law

Management, Staff and Honorary Secretaries

- 1 Ms Joy Ti
- 2 Mr Kwek Mean Luck
- 3 Ms Serene Wee
- 4 Ms Hung Ning Shing
- 5 Ms Doreen Chew
- 6 Mrs Christina Lim
- 7 Ms Juliet Sim
- 8 Ms Low Hui Min
- 9 Ms Sherina Chan
- 10 Mr Tan Ken Hwee
- 11 Ms Jane Ng
- 12 Ms Valerie Ong
- 13 Mr Kelvin Choo
- 14 Mr Tan Boon Khai
- 15 Ms Thian Yee Sze
- 16 Ms Renee Tan
- 17 Ms Aarti Kapoor
- 18 Ms Lily Tan
- 19 Ms Lai Wai Leng
- 20 Mr Loong Seng Onn
- 21 Ms Evelyn Ei
- 22 Ms Rosalind Kam
- 23 Ms Lynette Hee







HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

1 April 2000 – 31 March 2001

Events and new services at a glance

- April 2000 Third SAL Conference, “The Singapore Conference: Leading the Law and Lawyers into the New Millennium @ 2020” (The Millennium Law Conference), followed by a publication of the same title.
- April 2000 Joint publication with Butterworths Asia of the book, “Developments in the Course of the 20th Century – Civil Justice in Singapore” by Jeffrey Pinsler.
- May 2000 Launch of the SMC-SIAC Med-Arb service which offers a seamless transition from mediation at SMC to arbitration at SIAC.
- June 2000 Second round of mediation training conducted by SMC for the Malaysian Bar Council.
- July 2000 Inaugural Singapore Mediation Conference, “Perspectives on Conflict Management: Theory, Techniques, Tools”.
- July 2000 Endorsement and launch of the book, “Mediation: Principles, Process, Practice (Singapore Edition)” by Laurence Boulle and Teh Hwee Hwee.
- July 2000 Mediation workshops conducted by SMC for judges and judicial trainers of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Philippine Judicial Academy.
- August 2000 LawNet Tenth Anniversary, launch of new databases for Commercial Precedents, SAL Journal Online and Legal Journals Index. Also launched: 65,000 pages of Heritage Law Reports.
- September 2000 Seventh Annual Lecture: “Judicial Power and Democracy” by the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada.

- September 2000 Mediation Awareness Month 2000.
- November 2000 Established the think tank on e-commerce law, the Technology Law Development Group (TLDG).
- November 2000 Life Sciences Seminar conducted by the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology.
- November 2000 “Arbitration Asia 21”, a symposium jointly organized by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (East Asia Branch), Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and SIAC.
- November 2000 Joint symposium with Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and Singapore Institute of Arbitrators.
- December 2000 Extension of the use of Supreme Court’s Technology Courts and Technology Chambers for mediation, arbitration and other ADR processes conducted under the auspices of SMC and SIAC.
- January 2001 Appointment of 2 new Senior Counsel.
- January 2001 Inaugural issue of the Academy Digest (Subordinate Courts series).
- January 2001 Unreported Subordinate Courts’ decisions made available online on Legal Workbench.
- February 2001 Inaugural meeting of SAL think-tank, the Technology Law Development Group and launch of its web forum.
- March 2001 Joint legal conference with NUS, “Developments in Singapore law between 1996 and 2000”.
- March 2001 Executive programme in negotiation and mediation conducted by SMC for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Singapore Cooperation Programme.
- March 2001 Consolidated Index of Singapore Academy of Law Journal Volumes 1 to 11

Output at a glance

Academy Newsletter	6 issues released
LawNet Services	6 new databases added
Stakeholding service	6,855 payment-in cases, 5,984 payment-out cases
Legal Education & Studies	7 seminars, 2 major conferences and 2 roundtable sessions conducted; 838 persons attended
LawNet Training	118 classes conducted; 1591 persons attended
Singapore Law Reports	4 volumes published
Academy Digest (Supreme Court Series)	27 issues released
Academy Digest (Subordinate Courts Series)	7 issues released
Legislation Watch	6 issues released
Singapore Academy of Law Journal	2 issues and a consolidated Index published
ADR Bulletin	5 issues released
Law Reform	7 matters considered
Senior Counsel	2 persons appointed
Commissioners for Oaths	1588 persons appointed
Notaries Public	366 persons appointed
Mediation	211 new cases registered in the year under review, 189 mediated
SMC training	12 workshops, 1 executive programme and 1 conference conducted; 360 persons attended
Arbitration	82 new cases registered

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
2000/2001

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2000/2001

Important Note

This summary financial statement is derived from the Academy's financial statements and auditors' report thereon, which are available for inspection by all members of the Academy at the premises of the Academy during the Academy's office hours. Any member who wishes to have copies of the financial statements and auditors' report may notify the Academy; and the Academy shall furnish these free of charge to that member within 21 days of its receipt of the member's notification.

Objectives of the Academy in accordance with Section 4(1) of the Singapore Academy of Law Act (Cap. 294A, 1997 Ed) are:

- (a) to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and learning of the members of the legal profession in Singapore and the standing of the profession in the region and elsewhere;
- (b) to promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of the laws and the legal system;
- (c) to promote legal research and scholarship and the reform and development of the law;
- (d) to provide continuing legal education for its members;
- (e) to provide for the training, education and examination, by the Academy or by any other body, of persons intending to practise the profession of law;
- (f) to consider proposals and suggestions regarding matters which are referred to the Academy by the Law Society or the Board*;
- (g) to refer to the Law Society or the Board* proposals and suggestions regarding matters which in the opinion of the Senate require consideration by the Law Society or the Board*;
- (h) to promote good relations and social interaction amongst members and between members and law students and persons concerned in the administration of law and justice in Singapore;
- (i) to appoint persons as notaries public or commissioners for oaths and to authenticate their signatures;

- (j) to undertake activities and projects relating to the study, development and operation of laws and legal systems and the facilities, information technology and infrastructure in support thereof;
- (k) to provide consultancy and other services relating to the study, development and operation of laws and legal systems and the facilities, information technology and infrastructure in support thereof; and
- (l) to exercise the functions and duties conferred on the Academy under any written law.

* "Board" refers to the Board of Legal Education established under Section 3 of the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161, 1997 Ed).

Summary Income and Expenditure Statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2001

	The Group		The Academy	
	2001	2000	2001	2000
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total income including				
Grants received	8,452,278	6,090,284	6,694,391	5,079,471
Total expenditure	(3,810,868)	(3,043,627)	(2,953,279)	(2,390,145)
Surplus before taxation	4,641,410	3,046,657	3,741,112	2,689,326
Taxation	(76,441)	(52,058)	-	-
Surplus after taxation				
but before transfer				
to Other Funds	4,564,969	2,994,599	3,741,112	2,689,326
Amounts transferred				
to Other Funds	(280,880)	(445,118)	(200,000)	(200,000)
Additions arising from the				
acquisition of subsidiary	-	180,964	-	-
Net surplus for the year	4,284,089	2,730,445	3,541,112	2,489,326

Summary Consolidated Balance Sheets as at 31 March 2001

	The Group		The Academy	
	2001	2000	2001	2000
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Fixed assets	802,381	630,032	559,210	512,237
Deferred expenditure and deferred tax assets	333,027	439,287	11,827	82,787
Funds with fund managers	6,755,957	4,849,760	3,130,336	1,423,079
Current assets	218,063,779	148,719,830	211,869,713	143,321,435
Current liabilities	(208,029,249)	(140,995,558)	(204,095,554)	(137,409,708)
	17,925,895	13,643,351	11,475,532	7,929,830
Accumulated Fund	11,777,373	7,493,284	10,501,461	6,960,349
Other Funds	4,837,425	4,751,955	974,071	969,481
	16,614,798	12,245,239	11,475,532	7,656,830
Grants	1,311,097	1,398,112	-	-
	17,925,895	13,643,351	11,475,532	7,929,830

Changes in structure of the Academy

There are no material changes in structure of the Academy for the financial year.

Summary of significant related party dealings

Between the Academy and its subsidiaries

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
	<hr/>	
Management fee expense	311,089	266,156
Food and beverage expense	114,531	65,527
Grants to subsidiary	30,000	66,818

The original statement has been signed by Chief Justice Yong Pung How, President of the Academy, on behalf of the Senate on 31 July 2001.

Auditors' statement to the members of the Singapore Academy of Law

We have examined the summary financial statement set out on pages 50 to 53.

In our opinion, the summary financial statement is consistent in all material respects with the financial statements of The Singapore Academy of Law ("Academy") and the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the financial year ended 31 March 2001 from which they were derived.

We have issued an unqualified audit report dated 31 July 2001 on the financial statements of The Singapore Academy of Law and the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the financial year ended 31 March 2001, which is as follows:

"Auditors' report to the members of the Singapore Academy of Law

We have audited the financial statements of The Singapore Academy of Law ("Academy") and the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the financial year ended 31 March 2001 set out on pages 2 to 23 [therein]. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Academy's Senate. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Academy's Senate, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and consolidated financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Academy of Law Act and Singapore Statements of Accounting Standard and so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Academy and of the Group as at 31 March 2001, the profit and changes in funds of the Academy and of the Group and the cash flows of the Group for the financial year ended on that date.

We have considered the financial statements and auditors' report of the subsidiaries, being financial statements included in the consolidated financial statements. The names of these subsidiaries are stated in Note 3 to the financial statements.

We are satisfied that the financial statements of the subsidiaries that have been consolidated with the financial statements of the Academy are in form and content appropriate and proper for the purpose of the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.

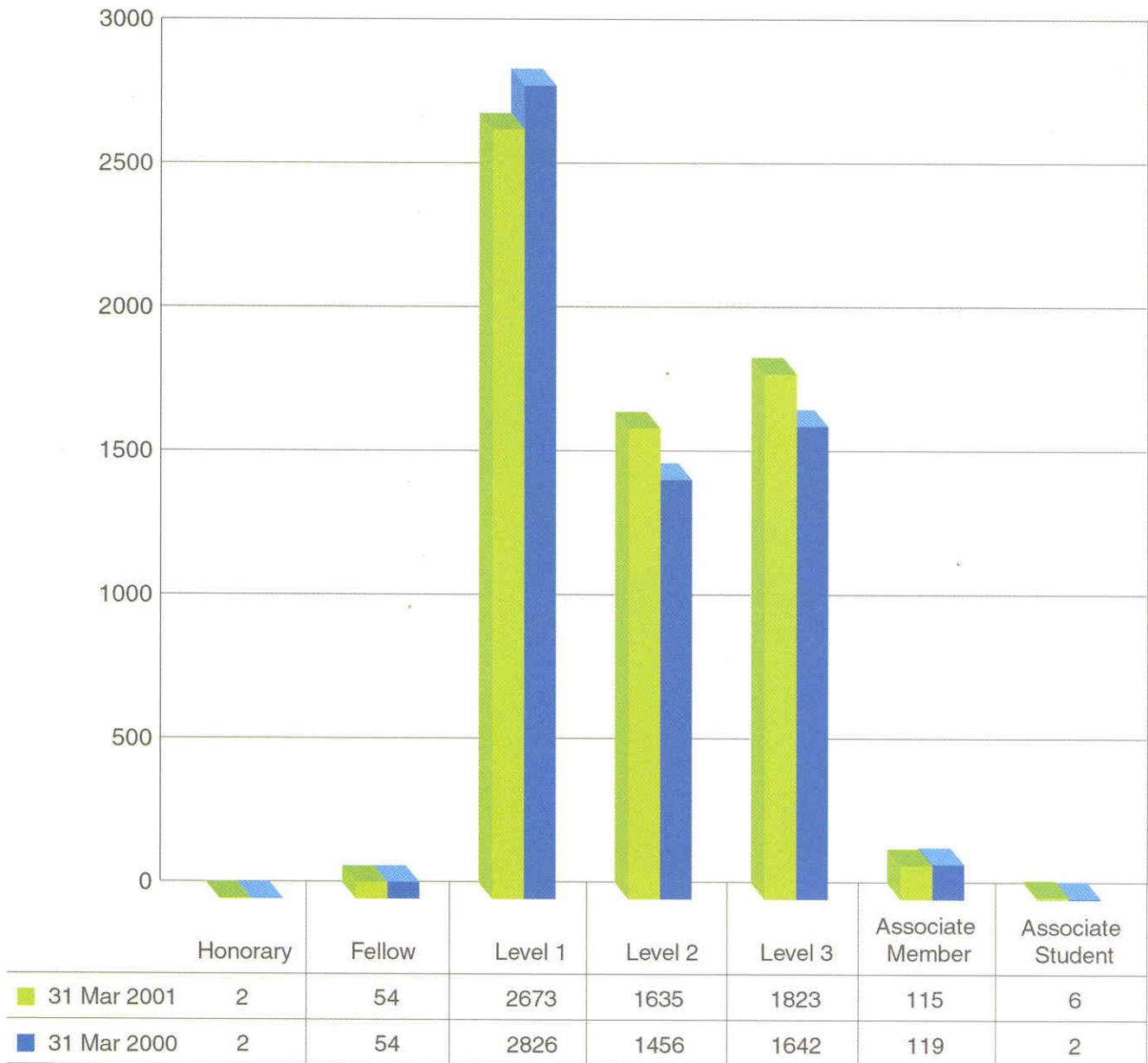
The auditors' reports on the financial statements of the subsidiaries were not subject to any qualification."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "PricewaterhouseCoopers".

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Certified Public Accountants

Singapore,
24 August 2001

Members Statistics



Category

Level 1: < 7 years from date of admission¹ or appointment²

Level 2: ≥ 7 years and < 12 years from date of admission¹ or appointment²

Level 3: ≥ 12 years from date of admission¹ or appointment²

¹ As advocate and solicitor

² As legal officer in the Singapore Legal Service

THANKING THE
FRATERNITY

THANKING THE FRATERNITY

We would like to thank our members for contributing their time, energy and resources to the Academy. The following list of committees, the members of which have been substantially responsible for the work done in financial year 2000/2001, are as at 31 March 2001.

SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW

SENATE

Chief Justice Yong Pung How (President)
Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong (Vice-President)
Justice L P Thean (Vice-President)
Justice Chao Hick Tin (Vice-President)
Associate Professor Chin Tet Yung (Vice-President)
Mr R Palakrishnan, SC (Vice-President)
Justice Lai Kew Chai
Justice S Rajendran
Justice G Pannirselvam
Justice M P H Rubin
Justice Kan Ting Chiu
Justice Lai Siu Chiu
Justice Judith Prakash
Justice Tan Lee Meng
Judicial Commissioner Amarjeet Singh
Judicial Commissioner Lim Teong Qwee
Judicial Commissioner Choo Han Teck
Judicial Commissioner Chan Seng Onn
Judicial Commissioner Lee Seiu Kin
Judicial Commissioner Tay Yong Kwang
Judicial Commissioner Woo Bih Li
Mr Warren L H Khoo
Mr Joseph Grimberg, SC
Mr Michael Hwang, SC
Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC
Mr V K Rajah, SC
Mr Ronnie Quek Cheng Chye
Associate Professor Jeffrey Pinsler
Mr Derrick Wong Ong Eu
Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han
Miss Serene Wee (Senate Secretary)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chief Justice Yong Pung How (President)
Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong (Vice-President)
Justice L P Thean (Vice-President)
Justice Chao Hick Tin (Vice-President)
Associate Professor Chin Tet Yung (Vice-President)
Mr R Palakrishnan, SC (Vice-President)
Justice Lai Kew Chai
Justice Tan Lee Meng
Mrs Arfat Selvam

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND STUDIES

Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong (Chairman)
Justice Tan Lee Meng (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Michael Hwang, SC
Mr V K Rajah, SC
Mr Kenneth Michael Tan Wee Kheng, SC
Mr Charles Lim Aeng Cheng
Mr David Chong Gek Sian
Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han
Mr Lee Eng Beng
Mr Chiam Boon Keng
Associate Professor Leong Wai Kum
Mr Sam Bonifant
Mr N Sreenivasan
Mr Gregory Tan
Mr Andrew Ong
Ms Audrey Lim Yoon Cheng
Ms Hung Ning Shing
Mr Thio Shen Yi
Mr Tan Chuan Thye (Secretary)

BOARD OF LEGAL EDUCATION

Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong (Chairman)
Mr T P B Menon (Deputy Chairman)
Associate Professor Chin Tet Yung
Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC
Mr Wong Meng Meng, SC
Mr Sundaresh Menon
Mr George Lim Teong Jin
Justice Kan Ting Chiu
Mr Michael Hwang, SC
Mr David Chong Gek Sian
Mr Patrick Nathan (Secretary)

LAWNET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Attorney-General Mr Chan Sek Keong (Chairman)
Judicial Commissioner Lee Seiu Kin (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Charles Lim Aeng Cheng (Project Director)
Mr G Kannan (Deputy Project Director)
Mr Tan Eng Pheng (Technical Director)
Mr Andrew Chan Chee Yin
Associate Professor Chin Tet Yung
Mr Chiam Boon Keng
Mr Richard Magnus
Mr Hamzah Moosa
Mr P O Ram
Mr Vincent Hoong
Ms Juthika Ramanathan
Ms Liew Woon Yin
Mr Tan Ken Hwee
Mr Jim Lim Kheng Huat
Mr Lim Seng Siew
Mr Daniel Seng
Mr Benjamin Ang Cheng Koon

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Justice L P Thean (Chairman)
Justice Judith Prakash (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Kim Seah Teck Kim
Mr Jimmy Yim Wing Kuen, SC
Mr Alvin Yeo Khirn Hai, SC
Mr Chou Sean Yu
Mr Charles Lim Aeng Cheng
Ms Teoh Ai Lin
Ms Wendy Yap Peng Hoon
Associate Professor Tan Yock Lin
Professor Andrew Phang Boon Leong
Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han
Mr Cavinder Bull
Ms Margaret Chew
Mr Lee Eng Beng
Mr David Lim Hock Choon
Mr See Kee Oon
Mr Teo Kiang Kok
Mr Goh Phai Cheng, SC
Mr Christopher Tang (Secretary)

LIBRARY AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Justice Chao Hick Tin (Chairman)
Justice G Pannirselvam (Vice-Chairman)
Judicial Commissioner Amarjeet Singh
Judicial Commissioner Tay Yong Kwang
Mr Kenneth Michael Tan Wee Kheng, SC
Mr David Chong Gek Sian
Associate Professor Dora Neo Swee Suan
Mr Tan Tee Jim, SC
Ms Kathiona Lie Keng Hua
Ms Joan Francis
Ms Sylvia Choy Li Chern
Mr Philip Jeyaretnam
Associate Professor Michael Hor Yew Meng
Assistant Professor Tan Seow Hon
Ms Malathi Das
Ms Navarani d/o Navaratnasingam (Secretary)
Ms Hung Ning Shing (Assistant Secretary)

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Justice Lai Kew Chai (Chairman)
Mr Richard Magnus
Mr Jeffrey Chan Wah Teck
Mr Philip Jeyaretnam
Mr N Sreenivasan
Associate Professor Jeffrey Pinsler
Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han
Mr Michael Hwang, SC
Mr Sarjit Singh Gill, SC
Mr James Leong (Rapporteur)
Ms Mavis Chionh (Rapporteur)

LEGAL HERITAGE PROJECT PRO-TEM COMMITTEE

Justice Kan Ting Chiu (Chairman)
Mr Richard Magnus
Ms Elisabeth Eber
Dr Kevin Tan
Professor Andrew Phang Boon Leong
Ms Serene Wee
Ms Sia Aik Kor
Ms Dawn Tan
Ms Tan Wen Shan

ANNUAL LECTURE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Justice Tan Lee Meng (Chairman)
Mr Chelva R Rajah, SC
Mr Chiam Boon Keng
Mr Richard Magnus
Mr Michael Hwang, SC
Mr V K Rajah, SC
Mr Kenneth Michael Tan Wee Kheng, SC
Mr Jimmy Yim Wing Kuen, SC
Mrs Anamah Tan
Ms Deborah Barker, SC
Mr Patrick Nathan
Mr Derrick Wong Ong Eu
Mr Charles Lim Aeng Cheng
Associate Professor Mr Tan Cheng Han
Mr Alvin Yeo Khirn Hai, SC
Ms Hung Ning Shing (Secretary)

STAFF COMMITTEE

Justice Tan Lee Meng (Chairman)
Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC
Mr Kim Seah Teck Kim
Ms Low Hui Min (Secretary)

TECHNOLOGY LAW DEVELOPMENT GROUP (THINK-TANK)

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