



ANNUAL REPORT



LAW SOCIETY
PRO BONO SERVICES

LAW SOCIETY PRO BONO SERVICES

Shoestring Productions



NUMQUAM DIES TARDO

*This annual report was produced
in-house.*

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CORPORATE INFORMATION

Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS) is a Singapore-registered 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's bar association, The Law Society of Singapore (LSS), we were subsequently incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2017 with LSS as our sole member.

UEN No.: 201700430E

Date of Charity Registration: 31 March 2017

IPC Period: From 31 March 2019 to 31 March 2022

NCSS Full 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

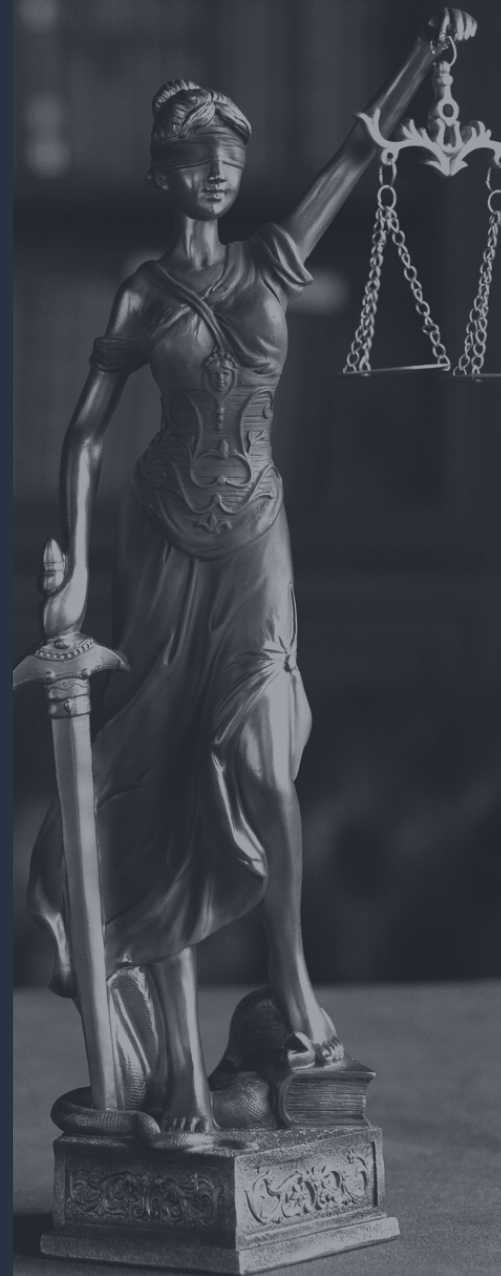
Website: www.lawsocprobono.org



OUR OBJECTIVES

We work to:

1. develop and ensure a just and efficient system for the provision of pro bono legal services in Singapore;
2. 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 access to justice for the needy and vulnerable so that all may have access to 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 access to 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 access to 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 Society Pro Bono Services impact 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.

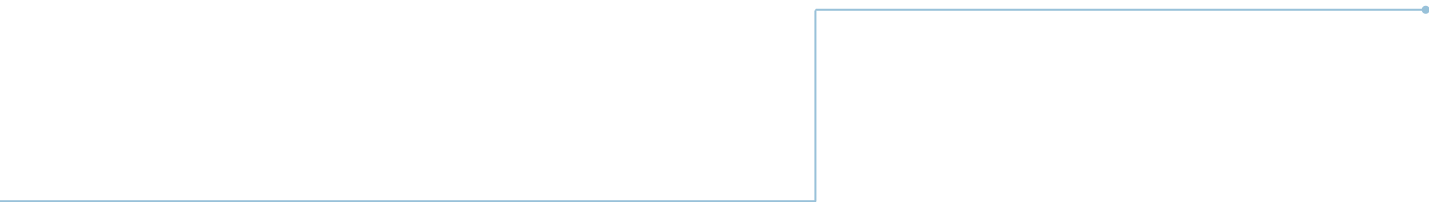
It was indeed a year that was not the quick rebound, phased in recovery or staged return to normalcy that we all hoped for. The new normal feels like the new abnormal to many of us – no greeting (with handshakes), no meeting (in numbers), no eating (in groups). And yet, at a time of the “crisis of a 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. CEO Tanguy 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@CDC 2020 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, LSPBS inked a strategic and symbolic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MCCY's SG 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's SG Cares Office, 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 cases to 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 ground-up initiatives that LSPBS is open 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's pro 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 France and 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 much-awaited 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 CLAS and FJSS that continue 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 access to justice initiatives. A strategic partner and our biggest benefactor for our CLAS programme is the Law Ministry. We could only ensure the vision of access to 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, SG Cares 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 access to 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 SC CLAS Fellowship Fund in memory of a legend at law and the man who pioneered CLAS 36 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).

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 “Just Laugh” 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.

Every one 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 access to 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.



GREGORY VIJAYENDRAN, SC



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 access to 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 "can-do" spirit are on full display in the coming pages of this Annual Report. Please read in more detail on how LSPBS was 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@CDC collaboration 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.

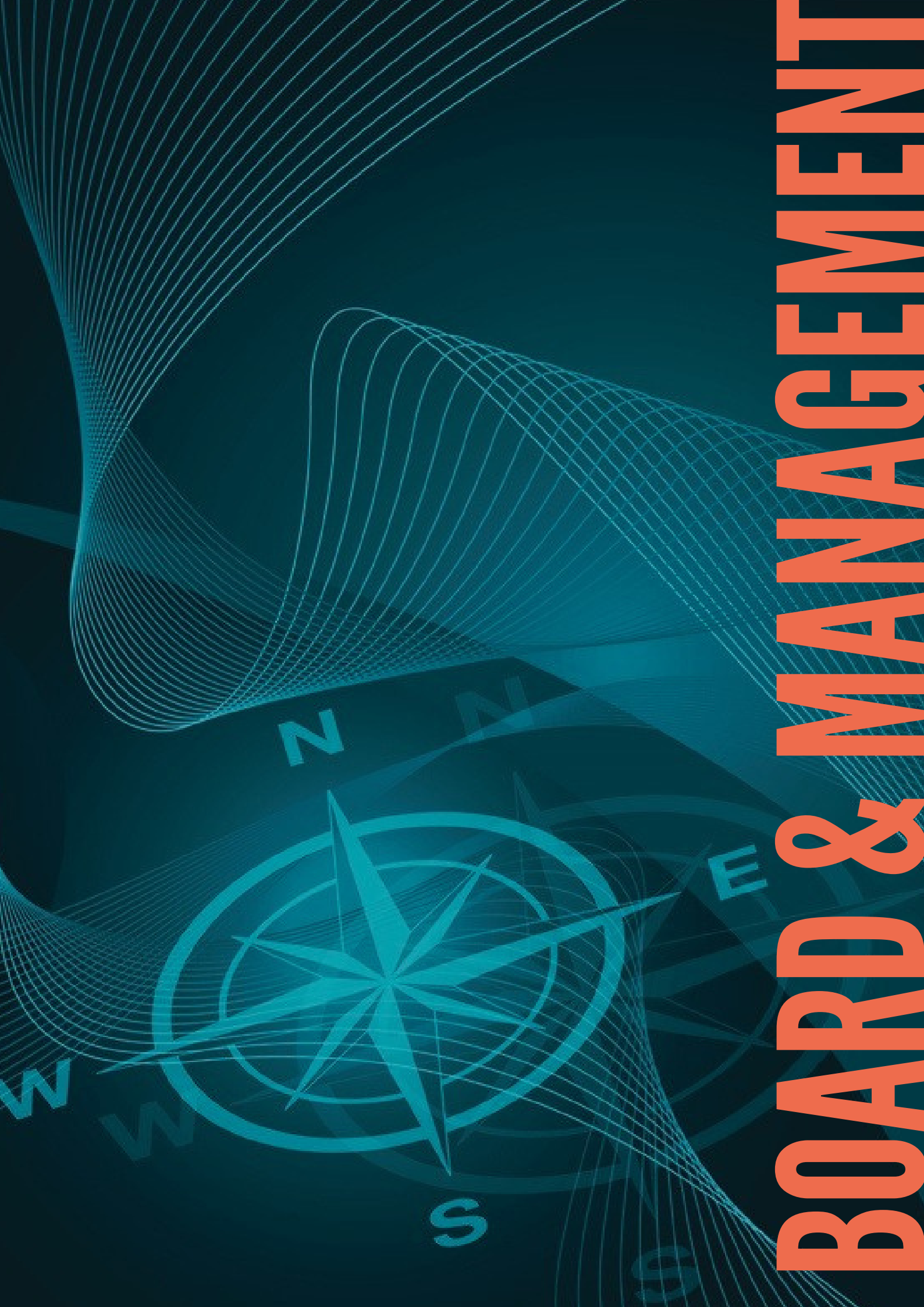
We are also very grateful for the support of our donors and funders through what has been a very difficult year for the charity sector. A series of COVID-19 impact grants and fund-raising initiatives to support charities were rolled out in quick succession. We were able to tap on these funds to significantly 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.

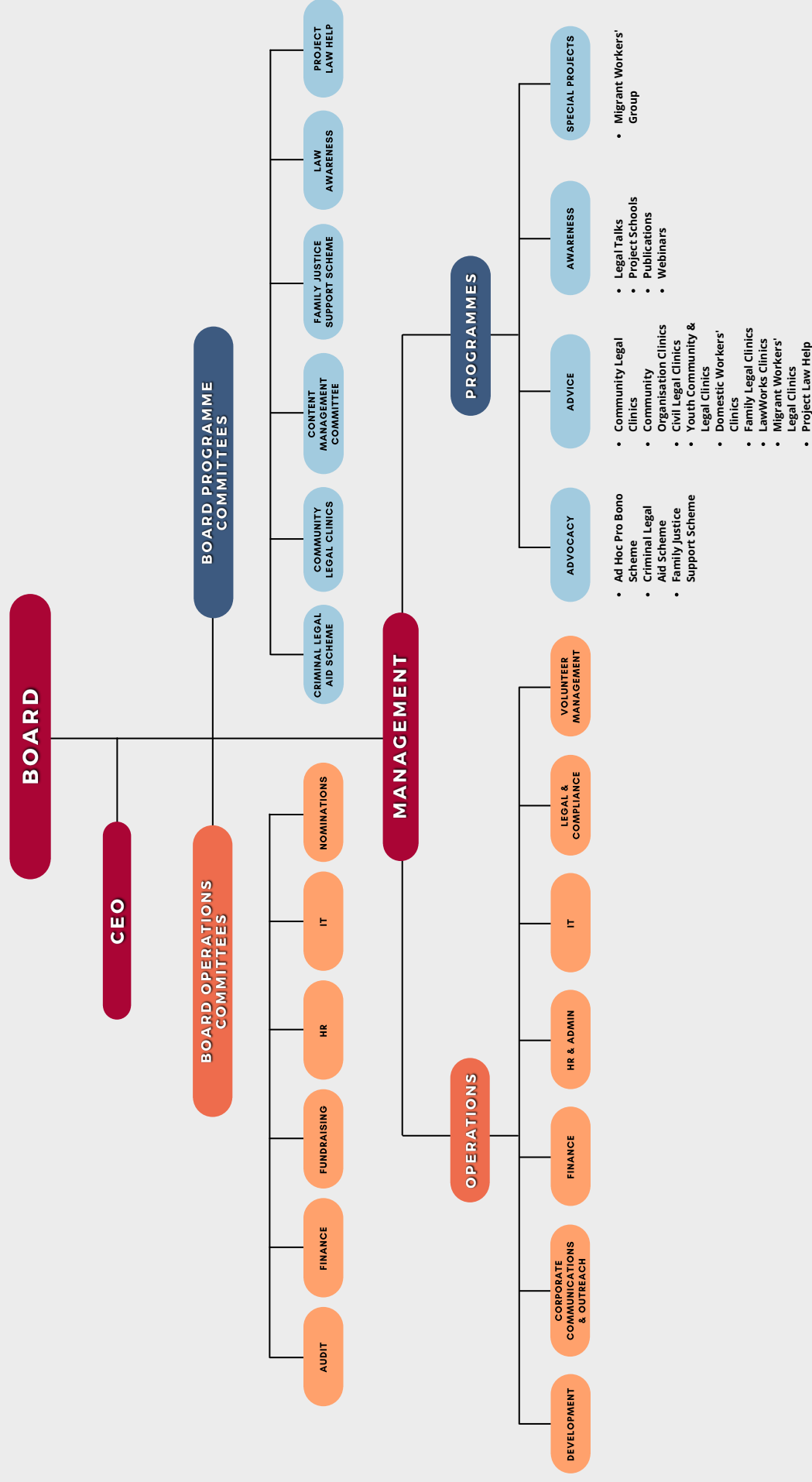

LIM TANGUY





BOARD & MANAGEMENT

ORGANISATION CHART



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



GREGORY VIJAYENDRAN, SC
CHAIRMAN

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January 2017

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 January 2017

Kelvin is Co-Head of 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DINESH SINGH DHILLON
TREASURER

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January 2017

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's most important and high-profile litigation cases in 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ARFAT SELVAM

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January 2017

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 Exco Member 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 January 2017

N Sreenivasan is the Managing Director and Managing Partner, Singapore at K&L Gates Straits Law LLC. He was previously a Council member, Exco member 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TAN CHEOW HUNG

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January 2017

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 January 2019

Adrian is a partner at TSMP Law 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 January 2017

A founding member of TSMP Law 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 Benchers 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DEREK KANG

Appointed w.e.f. 4 January 2017

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's Criminal Department. Sunil's passion 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 access to justice in Singapore.



GOPINATH PILLAI
DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL LEGAL AID SCHEME

Appointed from 1 April 2017 to 13 August 2021

Gopinath was the Director of the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS). He oversaw the administration of CLAS, and the Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme (AHPBS). Whilst CLAS provides criminal defence representation to those who are unable to afford defence counsel in non-capital offences, AHPBS is an initiative where people may be referred for assistance in situations where they are unable to obtain legal assistance anywhere else.

Gopinath supervised the CLAS Fellowship comprised of four to five lawyers, and two CLAS Advocates 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 CLAS volunteer since 1996 and also chaired the CLAS sub-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, he had 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

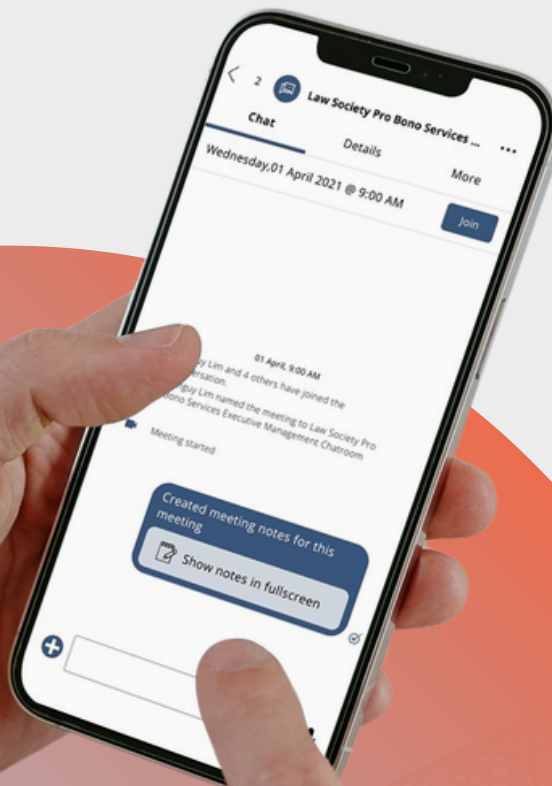


CAI CHENGYING
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CEO'S OFFICE

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 CLAS Fellow 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 LEGAL AID SCHEME COMMITTEE

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 Iezu Costan
Kawal Pal Singh s/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 Shooou-Huang Jonathan*

COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS COMMITTEE

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**
Kiranjit Kaur Dharsan**
Kok Yee Keong (Guo Yiqiang)
Lai Yan Ting**
Lam Kuet Keng (Steven John)
Lee Tai-Hwa
Loh Guo Wei, Melvin
Mohamed Fazal Bin 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)*

*1 April – 31 December 2020

**1 January – 31 March 2021

PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

LAW AWARENESS COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Josephus Tan Joon Liang

Vice-Chairperson

Elaine Jia Ni 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

PROJECT LAW 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
Lyn 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 JUSTICE SUPPORT SCHEME COMMITTEE

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

Asiyah Binte Ahmad Arif**

Lyn Boxall**

Chiam Zhi Wen, Nick**

Helena Mildred Whalen-Bridge**

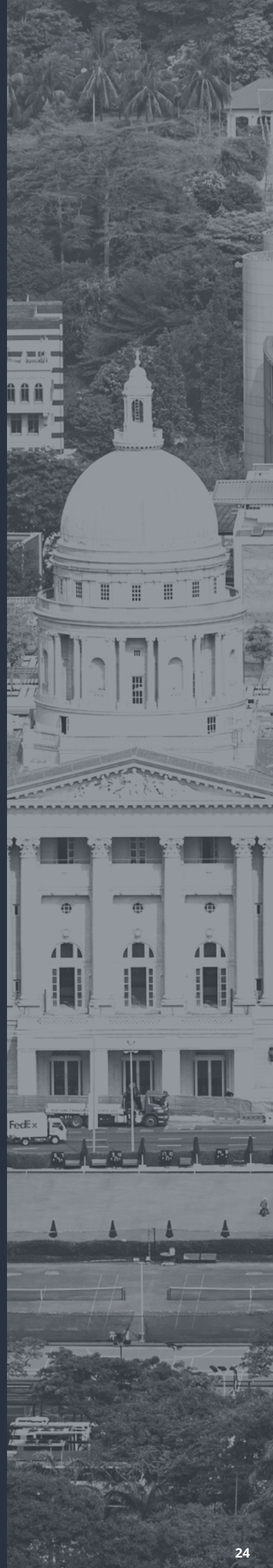
*1 April – 31 December 2020

**1 January – 31 March 2021

GOVERNANCE

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.



GOVERNANCE

1. BOARD GOVERNANCE

LSPBS is 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, LSPBS has in 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 LSPBS complies with the Constitution and all relevant laws and regulations, as well as to make sure LSPBS is 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
- 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.

GOVERNANCE

Board Committees

The Terms of Reference of our **six** Board Committees are set out below.

Audit

The Audit Committee facilitates the external and internal audit of LSPBS for 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 checks on key processes to ensure compliance with the established procedures, and report to the Board on the findings and recommendations for improvements;
- To analyse and address the risks that are associated with the key processes;
- To oversee regulatory compliance and whistleblower guidelines;
- To report to the Board of any financial irregularities, concerns and opportunities; and
- To liaise with auditors on any significant matters arising.

Finance

The Finance Committee provides financial oversight for LSPBS. The responsibilities of the Finance Committee include:

- To prepare LSPBS's budget for Board's approval;
- To develop coherent financial policies for LSPBS including investment policies and guidelines for the Board's approval;
- To review the various functions and activities of LSPBS which impact the finances of LSPBS;
- To ensure that the appropriate internal controls and risk management strategies (both operational and financial risks) are in place;
- To ensure accountability to the Board, LSPBS and its stakeholders; and
- To present financial reports to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for overseeing LSPBS's overall fundraising 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.

GOVERNANCE

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;

Nominations

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;
- Reviews training and professional development programmes for the Board; and
- Identifies and nominates individuals to be appointed as Programme Committee Chairpersons.

IT

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:

- Key performance indicators of IT services within the company; and
- IT policies, standards and procedures and any major changes in LSPBS' IT strategies, 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.

GOVERNANCE

Board Meetings

The Board meets at least once every four months with a quorum of four Board members. Executive management 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

LSPBS has in 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 LSPBS and 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 receive remuneration and staff are not involved in setting their own remuneration.

GOVERNANCE

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board periodically reviews and approves the vision and mission to ensure LSPBS stays relevant to its changing environment and needs. The Board also sets aside time to review and update the organisation's strategic roadmap.

4. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

LSPBS' Committee Administration Guidelines set out the procedures for the appointment of LSPBS programme committees, their work processes, and the respective responsibilities of committee members, committee chairpersons and committee secretariat representatives.

LSPBS ensures 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 **six** Programme Committees are set out below.

Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS)

The Terms of Reference of the CLAS Committee are:

- To co-ordinate and advise the Board on the administration of the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (the Scheme);
- To hold dialogue sessions, seminars, talks and visits relevant for volunteer lawyers and / or pupils of the Scheme on criminal law, practice and procedure;
- To publish relevant information to the public on the Scheme and 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 CLC Committee 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;
- To publish relevant information to the public on the Community Legal Clinics network and the services provided;
- To organise fund raising activities for the Community Legal Clinics network on behalf of LSPBS; and
- To keep the Board apprised of all such activities.

GOVERNANCE

Content Management Committee

The Terms of Reference of 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 LSPBS Board on the contribution of publishing activities towards LSPBS' objectives.

Law Awareness

The Terms of Reference of the Law Awareness Committee are:

- 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 PLH Committee 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 FJSS Committee are:

- To co-ordinate and advise on policy matters, protocols and processes concerning the FJSS;
- To liaise with stakeholders in the family justice system in relation to the administration of FJSS;
- Assist in mobilisation of volunteers and organising resources to support FJSS; and
- Assist in promoting awareness of FJSS.

GOVERNANCE

5. HUMAN RESOURCE AND VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

LSPBS administers 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 LSPBS when performing their duties.

LSPBS also 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.

LSPBS is 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.

LSPBS discloses the 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

LSPBS does not have paid staff who are close members of the family of the Executive Head or Board members.

LSPBS has 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.

GOVERNANCE

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.

LSPBS has a fixed asset register to account for all its fixed assets. LSPBS safeguards 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 LSPBS operates 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. LSPBS does not have endowment funds.

For long-term stability of the operations, it is the objective of LSPBS to 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

LSPBS maintains 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

LSPBS fundraises according to best practices and in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations. LSPBS does not engage third party fundraisers.

Accountability to donors

LSPBS has a Gift Policy in place to:

- Guide enquiries on gifts to LSPBS and the 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.

LSPBS also has financial SOPs in place to ensure donations are properly accounted for and promptly deposited.

GOVERNANCE

9. PUBLIC IMAGE

To ensure that LSPBS maintains an image consistent with its objectives, LSPBS has in 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.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT

Despite the shrinking economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FY2020/2021 ended 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.

Income

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-19 Access to Justice Response, Harry Elias SC CLAS Fellowship Fund and Inclusive Justice. The increase in funding was due to the Bicentennial Community Funding (\$400,000) and Job Support Scheme (\$367,211) received.

Expenditure

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 CLAS cases assigned.

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.

Balance Sheet

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.

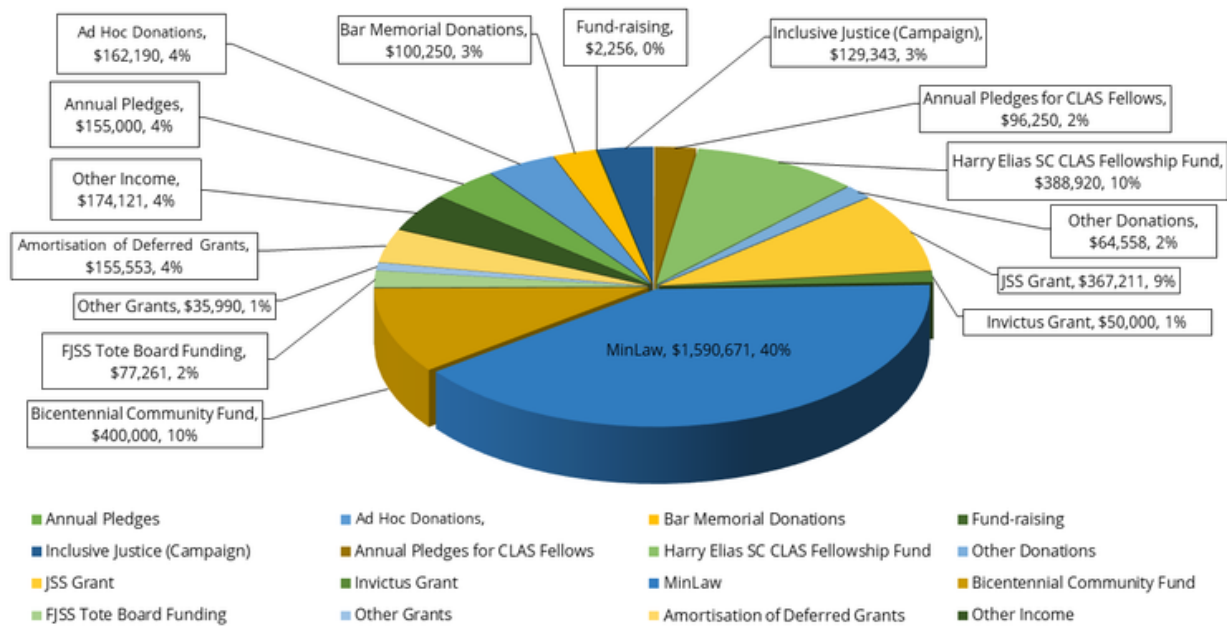
I take this opportunity to thank Dinesh who has stepped down from being Treasurer since the inception of LSPBS and as he continues to volunteer as a Board member of LSPBS and in LSPBS Finance Committee. I also thank the other members of LSPBS Finance Committee - Cheow Hung, Cyril and Usha for their unwavering support, counsel and contributions as well as Board, Management and Finance staff 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. I look forward to your continuous support for LSPBS toward our vision and mission in allowing all to have access to justice in Singapore.

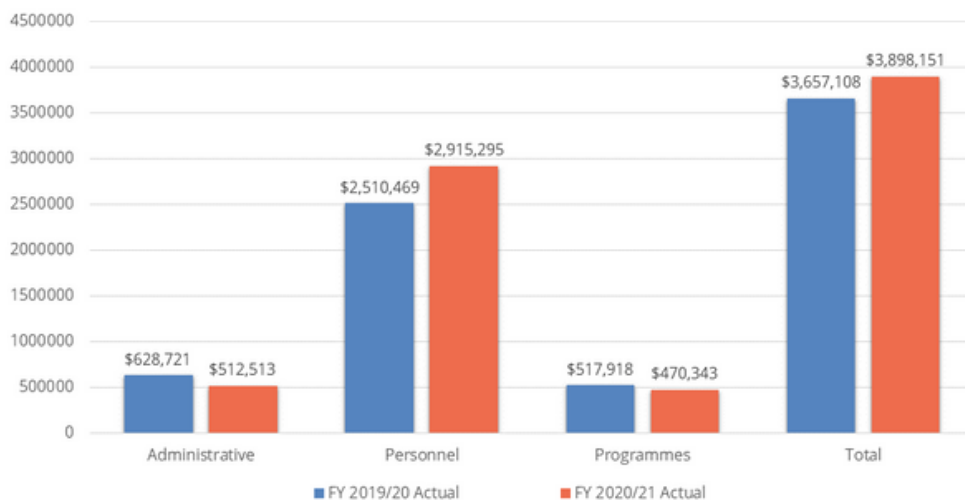

PAUL SEAH
TREASURER



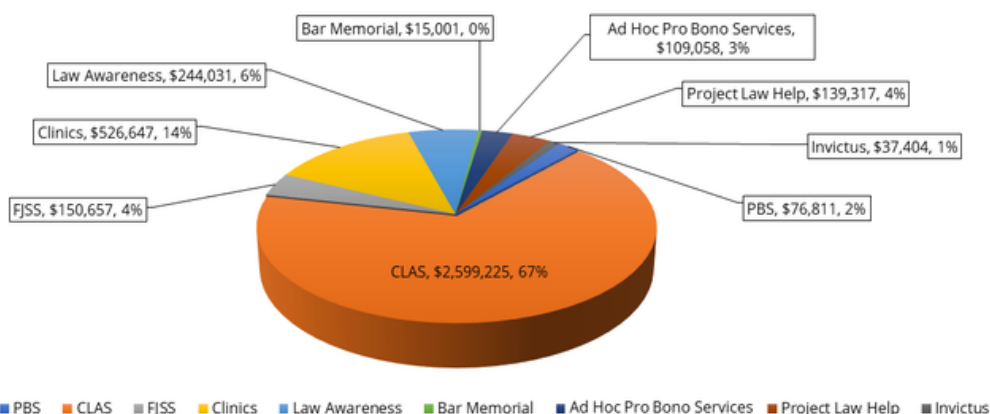
FY2020/2021 INCOME (\$3,949,574)



FY2020/2021 EXPENSES COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR



FY2020/2021 FULL COST BY PROGRAMME





SNAPSHOT OF OUR YEAR

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

FOR FY2020/2021

AUG
2020

Charities Lean Forward webinar on **Anti-Money Laundering & Counter Terrorism Funding** with the Charities Unit ⁴

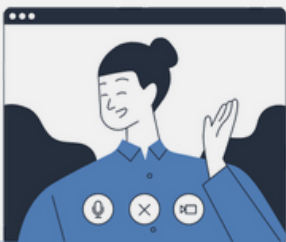
Webinar on **Restaurant-ing in the New Normal** ⁴

Family Justice Support Scheme Recruitment Drive

Asia Regional Pro Bono Roundtable ¹

APR
2020

Launch of virtual legal clinics via video-conferencing



Singapore and Hong Kong Pro Bono Roundtable ¹

LawWorks Legal Primer on **Freelancing in a Crisis** ⁴

Webinar on **COVID-19 Legislation Impact on Charities Operations** organised jointly with the Commissioner of Charities ⁴

MAY
2020



Webinar on **Understanding the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020: A Charity's Perspective** organised jointly with Centre for Non-Profit Leadership and Singapore Corporate Counsel Association ⁴

In Conversation with Commissioner of Charities ⁴

LawWorks Legal Primer on **Worker in a Crisis** ⁴

JUN
2020

Webinar on **Legacy Giving: What charities can look forward to** with the Community Foundation of Singapore ⁴

Signing of MOU with Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Office of the Commissioner of Charities on the Provision of Shared Services for Charities

Signing of MOU with Office of Mayors on behalf of the People's Association for Community Development Councils, NUS, SMU, SUSS and Singapore Corporate Counsel Association

SEP
2020



OCT
2020

Advocates for the Arts
collaboration Webinar
with **Baybeats 2020**,
Esplanade

2020 PILnet Global Forum ¹

NOV
2020

LawWorks
Legal
Primer on
**Navigating
a Crisis** ⁴

JAN
2021



Pro Bono Ambassador Award 2020 ²

Received **Plaque of Appreciation** by Hope
Initiative Alliance ³

Received **MSF Community Cares Award** by
Ministry of Social and Family Development ³

Received **People's Association Community
Spirit Awards 2020** ³

Charities Lean Forward Webinar on **Future
Forward** with Ministry of Culture,
Community and Youth Charities Unit ⁴

Launch of Youth Community & Legal Clinics

**Mediacorp Channel 5 9.00pm News
feature** on Family Justice Support Scheme



**Law Awareness
Weeks @ CDC 2020**
Launch and Webinar
series ⁴

**9th Asia Pro Bono
Virtual Conference &
Access to Justice
Exchange** ¹

Volunteer Capacity Building
Series (VolCapBSeries) Webinar
on **Media Management in the
Court of Public Opinion**

Wan Bao feature on Criminal
Legal Aid Scheme, Family Justice
Support Scheme and Ad Hoc Pro
Bono Scheme

DEC
2020



Advocates of the Arts
collaboration webinar on
The Art of Negotiation
with Bloomberg ⁴

Volunteer Capacity
Building Series
(VolCapBSeries) Webinar
on **A Guide to the Social
Service Landscape**

**Asia Pro Bono
Roundtable** ¹

MAR
2021

¹ Please view these events on page 95

² Please view the feature on page 84

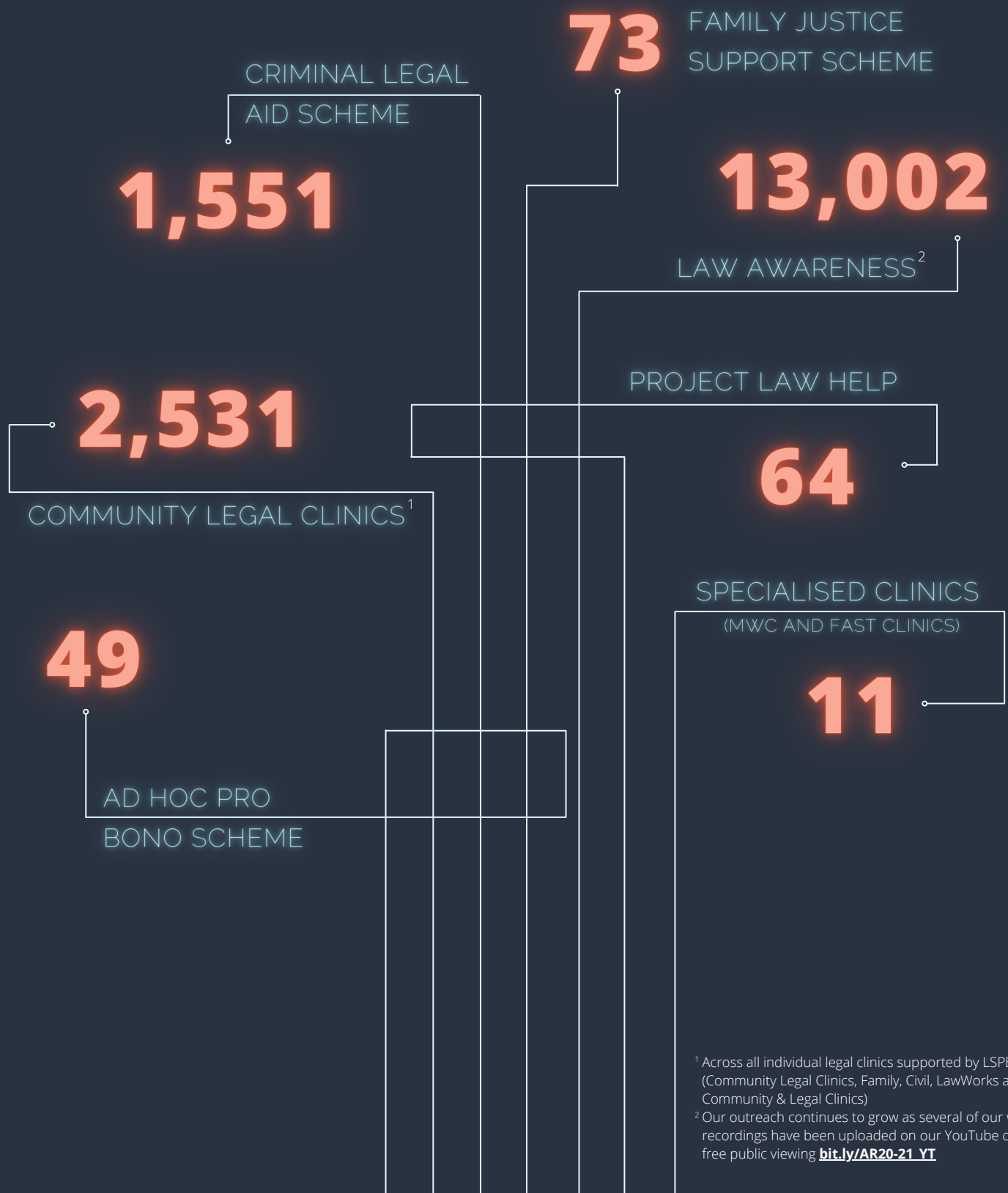
³ Please view our awards on page 96

⁴ Please watch our virtual webinars and events on our
YouTube channel by visiting bit.ly/AR20-21_YT



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

OVER 17,281 LIVES TOUCHED ACROSS ALL PROGRAMMES



¹ Across all individual legal clinics supported by LSPBS (Community Legal Clinics, Family, Civil, LawWorks and Youth Community & Legal Clinics)

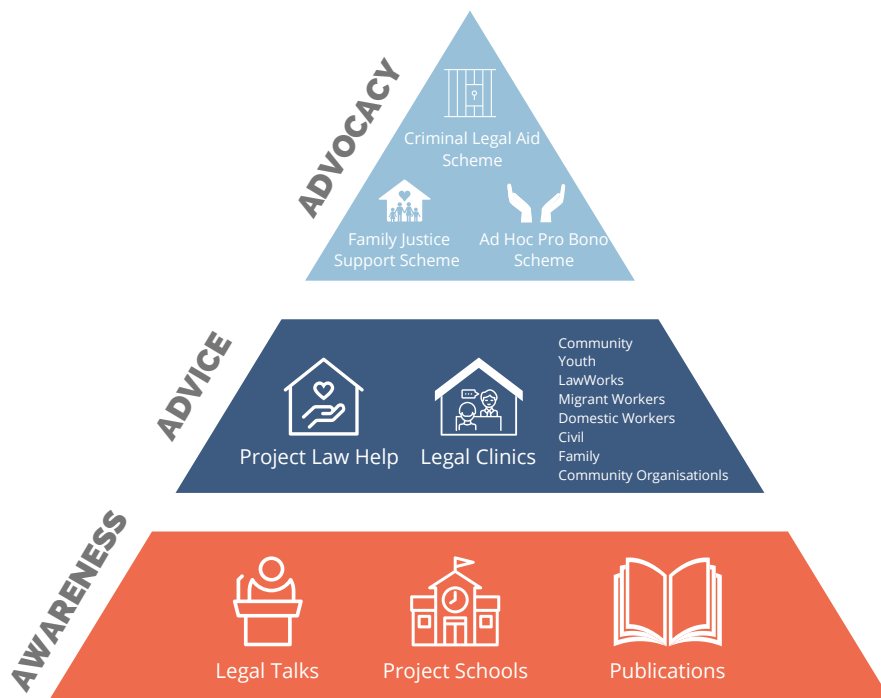
² Our outreach continues to grow as several of our webinar recordings have been uploaded on our YouTube channel for free public viewing bit.ly/AR20-21_YT



CORE 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 to 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 to justice.



AWARENESS

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 Now³”, 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@CDC with 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.

³ Download the publication from bit.ly/AR20-21_KTL



For Community Organisations⁴

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 "Legalese⁵" 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.

⁴ Charities, voluntary welfare organisations, non-profit organisations and social enterprises

⁵ Download the publication from bit.ly/AR20-21_LEAGALESE



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's means 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 access to 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 access to 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 SUSS Pro 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 (CLC Committee) 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 access to 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 started 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-savvy were 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 seamlessly to:

- 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.⁶

To ensure applicants less familiar with technology are supported to receive legal advice virtually, trial sessions to guide 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.

⁶Video: 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 LSPBS in 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 Residents have 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 CLCs at 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 access to 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 CLC Committee 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 issues faced 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 **Consumer Services Disputes**
- #5 **Estate and Probate**

Applicants registered for legal clinics

1,867

Community
Legal Clinic

166

Civil Legal Clinic

301

Family
Legal Clinic

123

LawWorks Legal
Clinic

74

Youth Community &
Legal Clinic

11

Migrant Workers'
Clinic

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

Lexton Law Corporation
Quahe Woo & Palmer LLC
Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
Shook Lin & Bok LLP
TSMP Law Corporation
Tan Kok Quan Partnership
Tan Rajah & Cheah
WongPartnership LLP

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."

- Heershan Kaur

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."

365

Number of
Volunteers

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. CLAS was formally integrated into the Pro Bono Services Office (the predecessor of LSPBS) in September 2007.

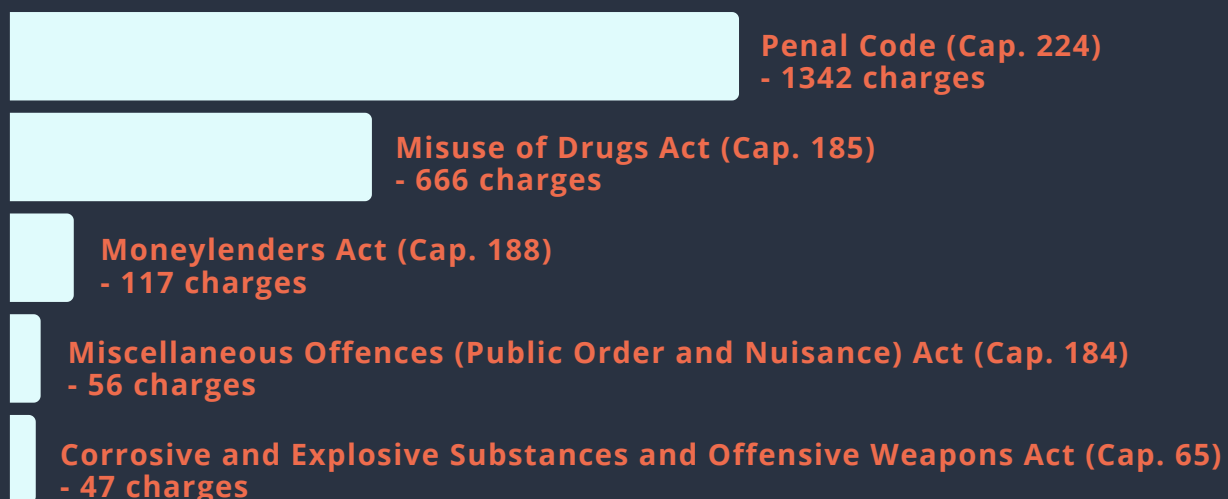
The CLAS Committee comprises experienced criminal practitioners, many of whom are active volunteers of the Scheme and is passionate in ensuring the lost, the last and the least have a voice in Court.

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-19 presented 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-19 did not prevent business as usual for us.

STATISTICS

Offences under the 5 most common statutes covered by CLAS:



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

— ”

CLAS Volunteer Lawyers

281

volunteer lawyers (excluding CLAS Advocates and Fellows) took up at least one case.



20

law firms signed MOUs to take up CLAS assignments.

“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.”

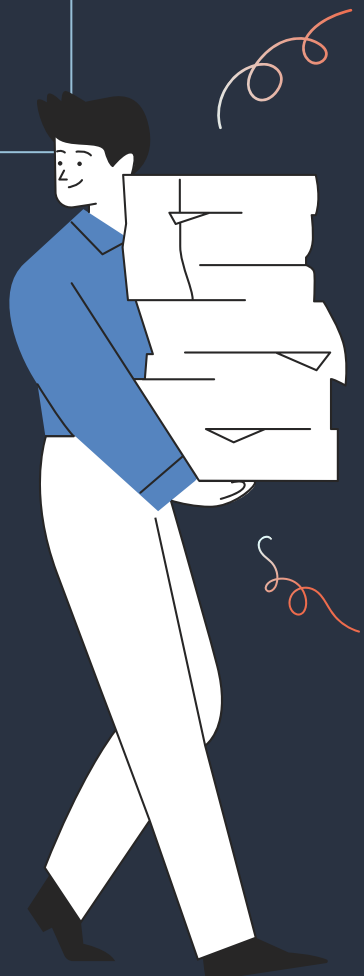
— Alice Tan

“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 CLAS assignments

1. Allen & Gledhill LLP
2. Harry Elias LLP
3. WMH Law Corporation
4. Damodara Ong LLP
5. TSMP Law 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
19. WongPartnership LLP
20. Peter Low & Choo LLC



ADVOCATES AND FELLOWS

In 2015, the CLAS Fellowship 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 CLAS Fellows, 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 CLAS Fellows is dependent on our fundraising efforts. The CLAS Fellows 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 CLAS Fellows are mentored by our CLAS Advocates 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.

CLAS FELLOWSHIP 2021

*Sitting (left to right):
Ng Shi Yang, Ng Pei Qi,
Kimberley Pah Wye Yan and Sadhana Rai*



CLAS FELLOWSHIP 2020

*Standing (left to right):
Vigneesh Nainar, 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 CLAS Fellowship. Later, Shi Yang re-joined the then Pro Bono Services Office in December 2016 as a CLAS Advocate.



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 LLC under Mr Davinder Singh, SC. In June 2015, Sadhana joined the inaugural batch of the CLAS Fellowship as the sixth CLAS Fellow. She continued to work as a CLAS Fellow in 2016. In December 2016, Sadhana was offered the newly minted role of CLAS Advocate. 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 Judge announced 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 CLAS Fellowship 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 CLAS Fellowship in 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.

CLAS has 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 CLAS Advocate; 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.



Vigneesh Nainar (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 CLAS in January 2020, he gained experience in the practice of criminal, family and civil litigation.

Through the CLAS Fellowship 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 advocacy and conducting merits tests for legal aid applicants grew my confidence in independently advising accused persons. All this, I could not have done without the CLAS Fellowship, 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

Kimberley Pah Wye Yan

Kimberley graduated in 2019 with a double degree, Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from National University of Singapore and Yale-NUS College, respectively. She was then called to the Singapore Bar in August 2020, and joined Gurbani & Co LLC, where she completed her practice traineeship. Kimberley joined the CLAS Fellowship in January 2021.

The CLAS Fellowship 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's greatest 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 CLAS Fellowship in January 2021, Pei Qi worked as a Legal Associate at WongPartnership LLP.



The CLAS Fellowship 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' CLAS cases.

After several discussions and brainstorming sessions with CLAS fellows Pramnath Vijayakumar and Vignesh Nainar, whose cases and faces were to be featured in the animation video, the script was finally developed. The team at Weave took the time off work to interview and film our CLAS fellow at their premises.

The final docu-animation videos are available for viewing on our YouTube channel.⁷



**DIRECTOR DIANE ROZARIO
OPENING WITH THE SLATE**



**CLAS FELLOW VIGNEESH NAINAR
PREPARING FOR HIS SHOOT**



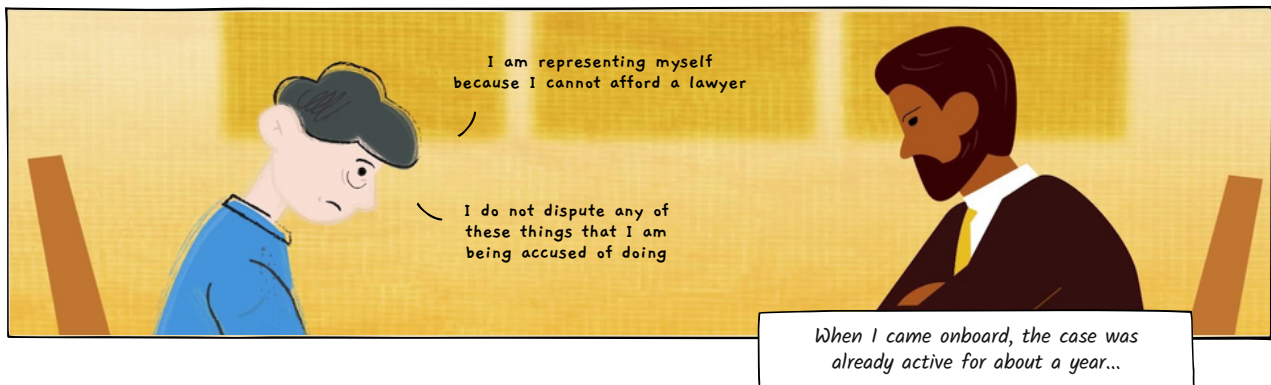
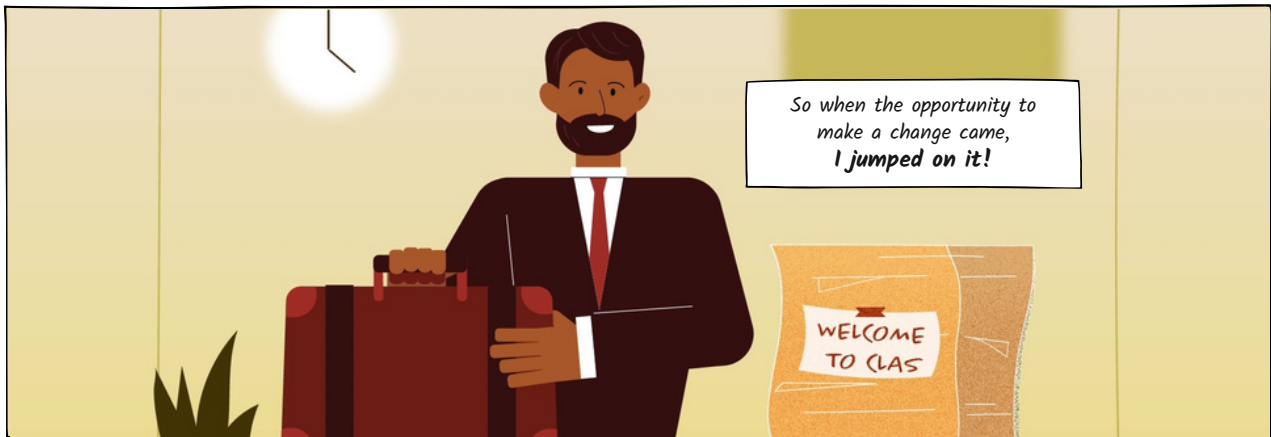
**CLAS FELLOW PRAMNATH VIJAYAKUMAR
DURING HIS INTERVIEW**



**CLAS FELLOW VIGNEESH NAINAR
DURING HIS INTERVIEW**

⁷ Head on to our YouTube channel for more bit.ly/AR20-21_YT

Here is a little teaser for Pramnath's docu-animation.

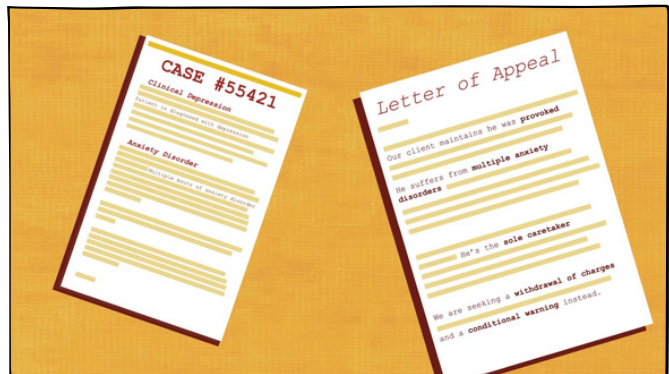


FIRST CLAS ACT

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.



But that was unfortunately,



He felt 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.

This is not the end of the road!

There is still another opportunity for us to reach out to the prosecution!

© CREDITS: Docu-animation filmed, animated and created pro bono by Weave. Comics curated by Law Society Pro Bono Services. Weave is a Singapore-based production house that tells heartfelt stories beautifully – through films, motion graphics, and photography. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

**Find out what happens next!
Scan this QR code to watch our docu-animation.**



Weave was also featured in LSPBS' fundraiser Just Laugh's E-magazine.

LSPBS asked: **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 strangest ideas 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.**

LSPBS would like to thank Diane, Lan Yu and their team at Weave for their pro bono support!

AWARE LAW AWARENESS



Empowering everyday people with legal awareness.

Committee Report, Josephus Tan, 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 LSPBS YouTube channel. In addition, information booklets on the law are made available for free download from our website.

Members of the LA Committee 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 access to 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, LSPBS was 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-19 legislation and when new vulnerable communities emerged or when vulnerable communities were placed even more at risk, was certainly a challenge.

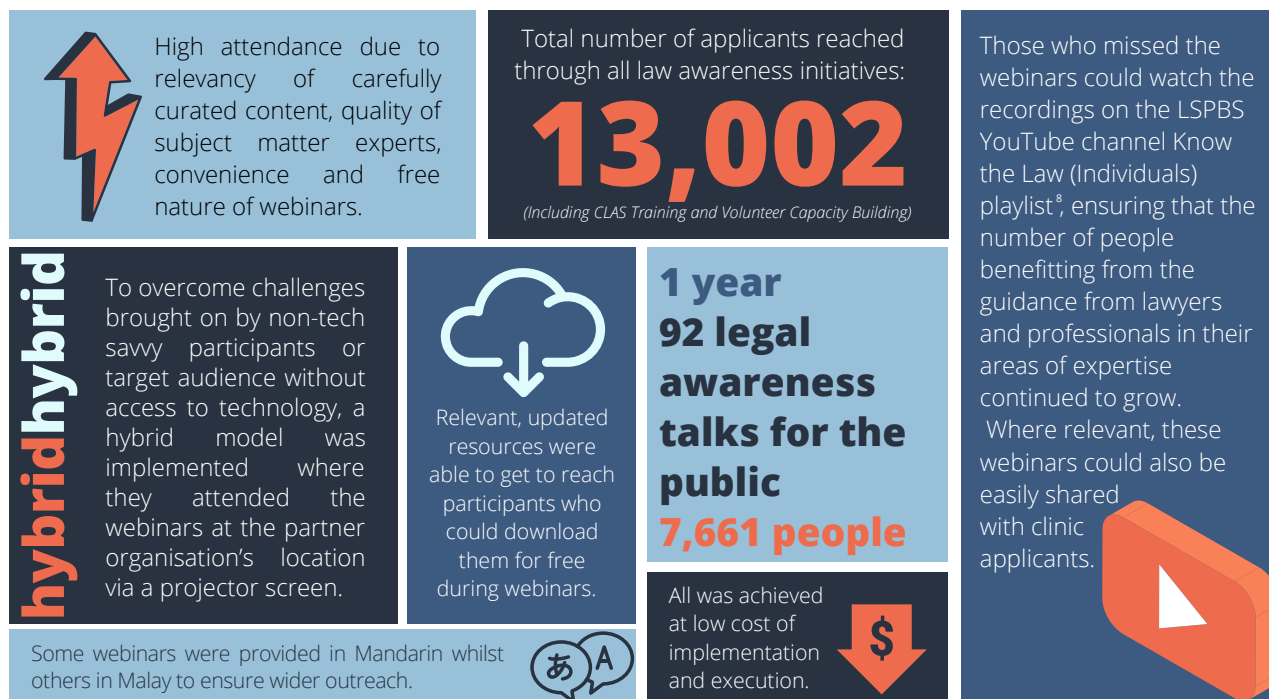
LSPBS' response was a bold decision to quickly pivot physical talks to online webinars (despite having little knowledge and experience doing so) to continue creating relevant legal content to equip the general public and vulnerable communities with legal knowledge. The webinars were a crucial mode of 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.

LAW AWARENESS

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 LSPBS and 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 SUSS School of Law as partners in this outreach.

LAW@CDC 2020 "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@CDC is a 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 issues faced in the day-to-day lives of Singaporeans including:

- Employment
- Family Violence
- Divorce and You (Civil)
- Divorce and You (Syariah)
- Advance Legal Planning

⁸ Know the Law (Individuals) YouTube playlist bit.ly/AR20-21_KTL_YT



LAW AWARENESS

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 (PDPA considerations 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@CDC playlist⁹, greater outreach and awareness is made easily accessible to the general public.

LawWorks

LawWorks is an ongoing partnership between LSPBS and 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 LSPBS YouTube channel LawWorks playlist¹⁰.

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, LSPBS has 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 well-received. 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.

⁹ LAW@CDC 2020 YouTube playlist bit.ly/AR20-21_LAW_YT



¹⁰ LawWorks YouTube playlist bit.ly/AR20-21_LawWorks_YT



LAW AWARENESS

Project Schools

Project Schools was launched in July 2012 with the objective of promoting a greater level of civic-mindedness amongst youth and enabling them to better protect themselves from the consequence of crime. 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

Feedback received 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.

Fantastic articulation of the deeper issues, clearly delineating the complexities of the issues, the adverse implications of FV for society from young to old, the effective means and avenues for seeking help for both victim and abuser, the empowering hope and help that all parties affected can find in Singapore. WELL DONE! PLEASE DO MORE WEBINARS!!!

– Webinar on Family Violence

I know my responsibilities and the procedures regarding divorce after the webinar.

– Webinar on 离婚与你

Extremely satisfied with the seminars.

– Webinar on Running a Business Amidst a Crisis

At least I can understand there are 2 stages to the divorce process.

– Webinar on Divorce and You (Civil)

Yes. Helps me work with Muslim clients as I am a social worker.

– Webinar on Divorce and You (Syariah)

They conveyed not just the information regarding available resources but also the spirit of care and concern of willing helpers. I am so grateful we have such dedicated people working for the good of our society.

– Webinar on Family Violence

Great session today. Best webinar with relevant topic well addressed by presenters. No specific areas to improve.

Thank you for hosting the webinar on Legacy Giving. It is very timely- because my colleague and I were just discussing about what we should do if a donor is interested to make a legacy gift to us.

– Webinar on Legacy Giving: What charities can look forward to

I have some knowledge of what Advance Legal Planning is all about after this webinar.

Content packed webinar. Speakers are well prepared.

– Webinar on 预先法律规划

Thanks for sharing. Case studies are helpful. Would it be possible for the responses be summaries and forward to us. Thank you.

– Webinar on Safeguarding Charities (Fraud Prevention Anti-Money Laundering & Countering The Financing of Terrorism)

A good eye opener for me as I am thinking of freelancing as a trainer. Thanks very much.

– Webinar on Freelancing in a crisis

They are superb, & friendly n encouragement, their messages are well delivered to those who are relevant. I like this discussion & hope to see more to come for different topics related to other staff benefits n entitlements when the employment contract is silence n does not specifically to address such unutilised annual leave whether it is allowable to encash or forfeit, etc.

– Webinar on Employment: Termination & Retrenchment

Very clear in presentation & explanation in simple, easy to understand manner with relevant relatable real-life examples.

– Webinar on Working from Home: PDPA considerations Employees & Small businessess

Yes, this will help workers to know of the process that clients are going through i.e. bankruptcy and the options they have the legal process that will be ahead if they go ahead with certain actions.

– Webinar on Dealing with Creditors

Definitely. I have gained some knowledge of what Advance Legal Planning is all about.

– Webinar on Advance Legal Planning

Panelists are aware of the new upcoming laws and policies for small businesses.

– Webinar on Small Businesses in a Crisis

STATISTICS & MORE

LAW@CDC 2020	13 webinars, 1,500 attendees
LAWWORKS	300 participants, 120 served
ADVOCATES FOR THE ARTS	15 talks, 850 participants, 24 served
PROJECT SCHOOLS	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@CDC 2020 - 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

"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 well-received 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

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



LAW AWARENESS EVENTS

LSPBS EVENTS, PROGRAMMES AND 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 AWARENESS OUTREACH TALKS THAT REACHED 700 PARTICIPANTS

Date	Topic	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 CDCS THAT REACHED 1,530 PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY MADE UP OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Date	Topic
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 (Syria)
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)

PROJECT SCHOOLS TALKS THAT REACHED OVER 1,770 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	Topic	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 PRIMERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NTUC
THAT REACHED OVER 300 PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY
FREELANCERS**

Date	Topic
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)

**TALKS IN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS THAT REACHED 870 PARTICIPANTS**

Date	Topic	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 SERIES THAT
REACHED 550 PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY VOLUNTEER
LAWYERS**

Date	Topic
17 December 2020	Media Management in the Court of Public Opinion
24 March 2021	A Guide to the Social Service Landscape

CLAS TRAINING PROGRAMME THAT REACHED OVER 4,680 PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY CLAS VOLUNTEERS

Date	Topic
30 April 2020	Module 1: Overview of the Criminal Justice Process & the Role of 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



EVENT SNAPSHOTS

PROJECT LAW 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. COCs provide 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 January 2020.

As a result of COVID-19 however, COCs were moved to a virtual platform and legal clinics at the Temasek Shophouse were suspended.

PROJECT LAW HELP

In response to the challenges brought on by COVID-19:

- COCs application form, PLH application form and other related documents such as terms and conditions and submission of attendance notes were digitised;
- COCs were 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 access to justice gaps – topics included the impact of COVID-19 legislation 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 LSPBS social media platforms after. The Know the Law (Community Organisations) playlist on the LSPBS YouTube channel¹¹ 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.

¹¹ Know The Law (Community Organisations) YouTube playlist bit.ly/AR20-21_PLH_YT



STATISTICS

Community Organisation Clinics



Top 4 Case Types for COCs

Entity legal structure and corporate governance
Privacy, confidentiality and liability
Contracts and agreements
Intellectual property

Project Law Help



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. Really appreciate this service!"

"Fairly straightforward 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 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020: A Charity's Perspective	Centre for Non-Profit Leadership & Singapore Corporate Counsel 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



UNDERSTANDING THE COVID-19 (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT 2020: A CHARITY'S PERSPECTIVE
WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2020, 12.00PM - 1.30PM



FUTURE FORWARD
Continuing the work of your charity
Wednesday, 20 January 2021
2.30pm - 5.00pm

Commissioner of Charities



COVID-19 LEGISLATION'S IMPACT ON CHARITY OPERATIONS
WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2020, 4.30PM - 6.00PM

Commissioner of Charities

SG Cares

COMMISSIONER OF CHARITIES

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF CHARITIES

DATE: 23 JUNE 2020, TUESDAY
TIME: 3.00PM - 5.00PM

GUEST OF HONOUR
Grace Fu
Minister for Culture, Community and Youth

FREE WEBINAR REGISTRATION REQUIRED

About the Event
Faced with various changes brought about by COVID-19, how may charities continue to be relevant and impactful in meeting the evolving needs? The third installation of "In Conversation with the Commissioner of Charities" will challenge charities to rethink their usual mode of operations and explore new ways of working through collaboration and digitalisation. Come join us in this webinar event and let us emerge stronger post COVID-19.

Scan the QR code to REGISTER NOW

Jointly organised by Commissioner of Charities

CHARITY_COUNCIL_SG@MCCY.GOV.SG



SAFEGUARDING CHARITIES
FRAUD PREVENTION, ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING & COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM
FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2020, 3.00PM - 5.00PM

Commissioner of Charities




WEBINAR: A LAWYER'S GUIDE TO THE SOCIAL SERVICE LANDSCAPE
Wednesday, 24 March 2021
9.30am - 1.00pm

VOLUNTEER CAPABILITY BUILDING SERIES



WEBINAR ON LEGACY GIVING
What charities can look forward to
TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2020, 4.00PM - 5.30PM

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SINGAPORE



FJSS FAMILY JUSTICE SUPPORT SCHEME



Bridging existing service gaps by increasing access to legal services to those facing family law issues who fall through the cracks.

June Lim, 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)'s means 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 FJSS Panel lawyers who agree to reduce their charges for pre-screened referrals. ("**Modest Means Clearinghouse**")
- Foreign spouses with Singaporean children who would satisfy LAB's means 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-19 restrictions. 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 June Lim. She helped me to divorce my husband. That allowed me to apply for a Long Term Visit Pass and 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, and I 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

31

ASSIGNED CASES

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

NEW

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 LSPBS over a number of years. We have seen so much growth in the pro bono content produced by LSPBS thanks 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 LSPBS content (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 LSPBS volunteers.

Usha Chandradas, Chairperson





HEROES IN LAW

VOL VOLUNTEERS

We are heartened by how our heroic volunteers stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic to selflessly offer 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

365 volunteers
– Legal Clinics

281 volunteers
– at least one case taken under Criminal Legal Aid Scheme

126 volunteers
– Legal Awareness Outreach

280 student volunteers across all schemes



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 CLAS Training (as described above). The VolCapB Series sessions conducted are set out below.

Date	Topic	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:

“ —

| “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 LSPBS and volunteer opportunities available”

| — ”

Students' feedback on their volunteering experience:

“ —

| “The attachment was eye opening for me as I am able to assist people 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 access to 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 cases helped 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

| — ”

VOL 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

Assist Non-Profit Organisations Scheme (Individuals)

- Adrian Tan
- Deborah Koh
- Lee Ching Ling Yvonne

Assist Non-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 Shouu-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
- TSMP Law 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 (Special Commendation)
- 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
- Vivienne Sandhu

Special Projects (Individuals)

- Abigail Lee
- Courtney Derera
- Ng Li Yen
- Patricia Caroline Mele

Special Projects (Firm)

- 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



Eugene Thuraisingam 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.¹²

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's office.

Eugene has always been passionate about providing access to 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 choice for him.

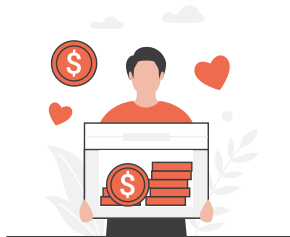
Much of his pro bono work is in the criminal field because he believes justice is for everyone, regardless of what someone has done. "For the system to work, regardless of what someone has done, he deserves a fair process, one that is available to everyone under the law, and for a lawyer to put his case 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", Eugene stated in the candid interview with Gregory.

With this award, we celebrate Eugene's sustained and continuing efforts to improve access to justice and to promote the pro bono spirit.

¹² 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

FY2020/2021 presented new and serious challenges to fundraising for Law Society Pro Bono Services, as the COVID-19 pandemic led to nation-wide restrictions on physical movement and economic hardship. We postponed our annual fundraiser “Just Laugh” 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 especially grateful for the firm’s steadfast support of the CLAS Fellowship 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 Singh Chambers LLC** for their contributions of **over \$50,000**, comprising their donations as Silver Benefactor to the CLAS Fellowship 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 CLAS Fellowship.
- **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.
- **GSJ Ballas Trust** for their donation of **\$50,000** to the CLAS Fellowship.
- **Singapore Institute of Legal Education** for their donation of **\$44,000** and facilitating donations of honorarium amounting to **almost \$130,000**.

CAMPAIGNS

KEY CAMPAIGNS

COVID-19 ACCESS TO JUSTICE RESPONSE

We were classified as providing an essential service by the Ministry of Trade & Industry during the circuit breaker in 2020 and worked ceaselessly to 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 access to 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

CAMPAIGNS

KEY CAMPAIGNS

HARRY ELIAS SC CLAS FELLOWSHIP FUND

Campaign formerly known as "Restoring Lives Through Criminal Legal Aid"

The Harry Elias SC CLAS Fellowship 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, SC spearheaded the setup of our Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) in 1985 to help the less fortunate obtain free criminal defence. CLAS went on to be the spark that set off a pro bono movement in Singapore.

36 years on, CLAS is still going strong. The CLAS Fellowship 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

GSJ Ballas 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

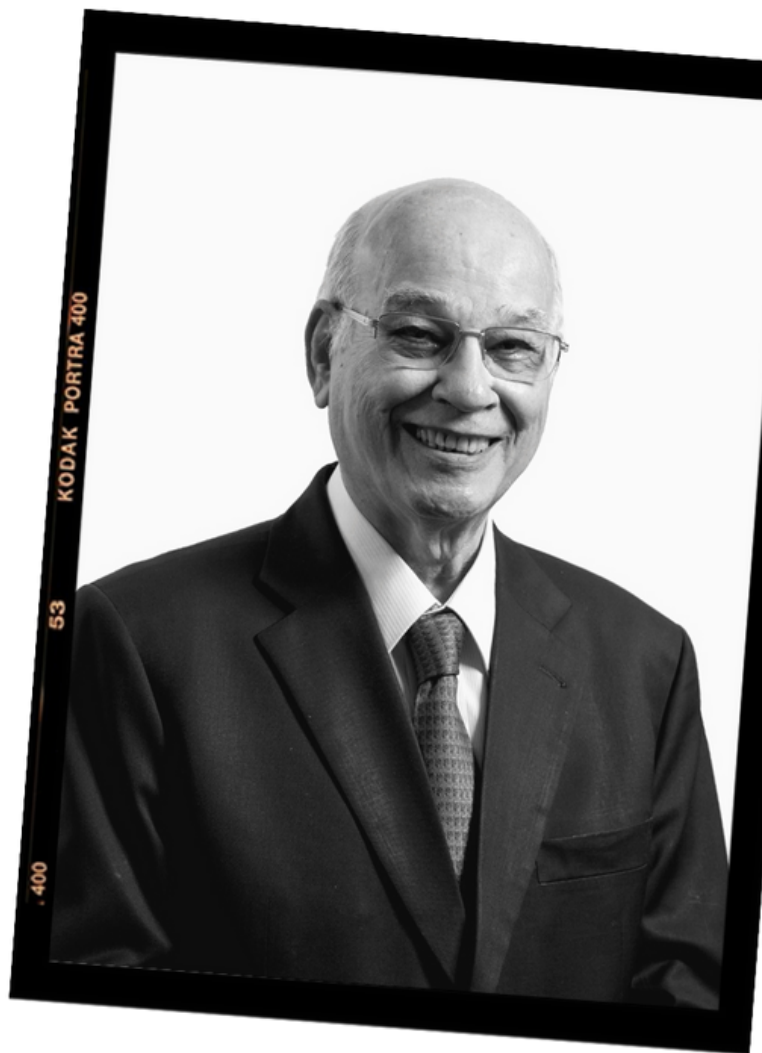
Matsushita Greatwall Corporation Private Limited

Palmer Michael Anthony

PDLegal LLC (formerly known as Peter Doraisamy LLC)

Rahma Elias

S Suresh



Virtual Memorial for Harry Elias, SC

A virtual memorial¹³ 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 Justice Sundaresh Menon



Minister for Law and Home Affairs, K Shanmugam also paid his tribute to Harry Elias, SC at 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

¹³ Scan the QR code to watch his virtual memorial bit.ly/AR20-21_HarryEliasSC



CAMPAIGNS

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 Justice Support Scheme and Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme. During the COVID-19 pandemic 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 donors¹⁴:

\$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

¹⁴ Based on receipts as at 31 March 2021.

JUST LAUGH: 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 Just Laugh.

Please refer to our earlier annual report for the list of top donors from FY2019/2020. A full list of the top donors who donated in FY2021/2022 will be provided in our next annual report.

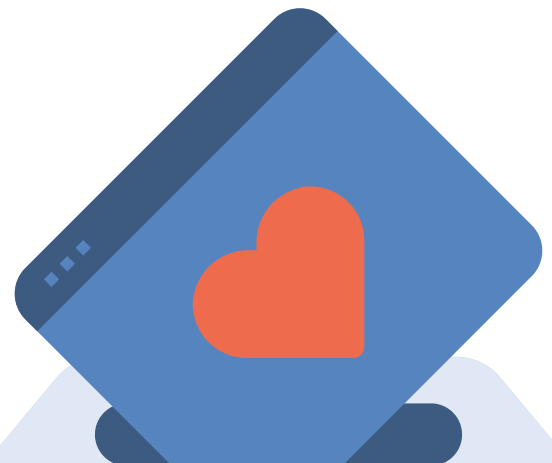
Other donations

Finally, we are grateful for:

- Kampung Spirit Fund's donation of **\$10,000** to Migrant Workers' Group.
- Norton Rose Fulbright (Asia) LLP's donation 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.

Make a donation to help protect and empower marginalised individuals to gain access to legal aid.

**Support
Access to
Justice for
All!**



LEGACY

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 challenges while 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 JD Programme 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 chance to 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 legacy lives 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](https://bit.ly/AR20-21_Doreen)



QUIRKY GIFT

At the beginning of 2021, LSPBS received a unique offer of support – in the form of a life-sized statue of Lady Justice. We sat down with the donors, Eling and Augustine of Myths & Legends Collection, 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 ourselves and 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. So one 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 Justice would 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 & Legends Collection for their kind and generous donation!



Read their full interview on LinkedIn at [bit.ly/AR20-21 ML](https://bit.ly/AR20-21_ML)



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
Casa Raudha 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 Justice Centre
Covenant Chambers
COVID-19 Migrant 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
Justice Without 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
SG Accident 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



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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 CEO Lim Tanguy presented on the access to 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, BABSEACLE and 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 access to 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

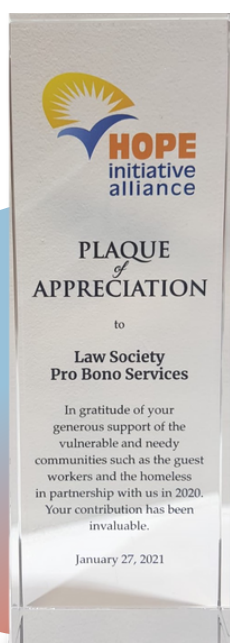
Jointly organised by PILnet, BABSEACLE, iProbono, TrustLaw - Thomson Reuters Foundation and LSPBS and attended by over 50 participants, the roundtable focused explicitly on technology with discussion topics such as the provision of remote legal services, enabling better pro bono referrals through digital 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 support of the five Community Development Councils and the long-term partnership to expand residents' access and understanding of the law. Our commitment helped broaden legal 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	Media Platform	Headlines
Thursday, 9 April 2020	Channel NewsAsia	\$S185,000 mask cheating case: Accused remains in remand after judge rejects bail amendment request
Monday, 27 April 2020	The Straits Times	Lawyers report surge in queries related to issues triggered by coronavirus pandemic
Tuesday, 28 April 2020	The Straits Times	Lawyers see surge in queries amid coronavirus pandemic
Tuesday, 2 June 2020	The Straits Times	Man, 21, pleads guilty to committing loan-shark harassment during circuit breaker period
Tuesday, 2 June 2020	Yahoo News Singapore	COVID-19: Man admits to loanshark offences during circuit breaker
Wednesday, 3 June 2020	The Straits Times	21-year-old pleads guilty to loan-shark harassment
Tuesday, 23 June 2020	The Straits Times	Grant for charities to adopt tech solutions expanded to cover more areas: Grace Fu
Wednesday, 24 June 2020	The Straits Times	Grant for charities to adopt tech to expand in scope
Saturday, 27 June 2020	On Singapore, Weekend Life, CNA938	Running a business amidst a Covid Crisis
Thursday, 9 July 2020	On Today, CNA938	Family Violence
Monday, 13 July 2020	TODAY Online	Man swung beer bottle at NEA officer who caught him smoking, gets 11 weeks' jail
Tuesday, 14 July 2020	Channel NewsAsia	Man who broke COVID-19 laws to carry out loan shark harassment gets reformatory training and driving ban
Tuesday, 14 July 2020	Yahoo! Singapore	Youth who flouted circuit breaker rules while harassing loanshark's debtors given reformatory training
Saturday, 1 August 2020	On Singapore, Weekend Life, CNA938	Restaurant-ing in the New Normal
Saturday, August 15, 2020	On Today, CNA938	Legacy Giving Webinar
Thursday, 27 August 2020	The Straits Times	Senior Counsel Harry Elias, who founded Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, dies at age 83
Thursday, 27 August 2020	The Straits Times	Harry Elias: Top legal eagles pay tribute to a law icon for his contributions, character and courtcraft
Thursday, 27 August 2020	联合早报	刑事法律援助计划发起人 高级律师伊莱雅士逝世
Thursday, 27 August 2020	联合晚报	刑事法律援助计划发起人 高级律师伊莱雅士逝世
Thursday, 27 August 2020	8视界	当年发起刑事法律援助计划 高级律师伊莱雅士逝世
Thursday, 27 August 2020	Yahoo News Singapore	Top Singapore lawyer Harry Elias dies at 83
Thursday, 27 August 2020	TODAY Online	Harry Elias, lawyer and trailblazer who helped thousands in poverty access legal aid, dies at 83
Thursday, 27 August 2020	The Straits Times	From The Straits Times archives: Legal eagle Harry Elias has a soft spot for the needy
Thursday, 27 August 2020	The Business Times	Criminal Legal Aid Scheme founder Harry Elias dies
Thursday, 27 August 2020	AsiaOne	Senior Counsel Harry Elias, who founded Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, dies aged 83
Thursday, 27 August 2020	The Straits Times	Senior Counsel Harry Elias, who founded Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, dies
Thursday, 27 August 2020	Channel NewsAsia	Criminal Legal Aid Scheme co-founder Harry Elias, who 'gave justice to the weakest in society', dies at 83
Friday, 28 August 2020	The Straits Times	Tributes pour in for law icon Harry Elias, who dies at age 83
Friday, 28 August 2020	The New Paper	Law fraternity pays glowing tributes to Harry Elias
Friday, 28 August 2020	The Business Times	Criminal Legal Aid Scheme founder Harry Elias dies, aged 83
Friday, 28 August 2020	联合早报	35年来为数千贫困者伸张正义 “传奇律师”伊莱雅士病逝
Friday, 28 August 2020	The Straits Times	Top legal eagles pay tribute to law icon Harry Elias, who died on Aug 26
Friday, 28 August 2020	联合早报	35年来为数千贫困者伸张正义 “传奇律师”伊莱雅士病逝
Friday, 4 September 2020	Channel NewsAsia	Do more for people with disabilities, essential workers; invest in technology and green living, say MPs
Monday, 7 September 2020	Blog Seedly	Pro Bono Lawyers Work Without Fee... Why Would Someone Take It Up?
Friday, 11 September 2020	TODAY Online	The Big Read in short: Migrant workers' access to justice
Saturday, September 12, 2020	Singapore Press Holdings	Weekends: Gregory Vijayendran on the need for pro bono lawyers and the Parti Liyani case
Sunday, 13 September 2020	Channel NewsAsia	Fewer people applying for free legal services
Sunday, 13 September 2020	8视界	刑事法律援助计划申请人减少四分之一
Sunday, 13 September 2020	新明日报	工程师出身辩护律师 无偿服务获法官肯定
Sunday, 13 September 2020	新明日报	助保安洗刷
Sunday, 13 September 2020	联合早报	廖文良前女佣案 赃物首度曝光
Sunday, 13 September 2020	联合早报	廖文良前女佣案 “赃物”首度曝光
Monday, 14 September 2020	Channel NewsAsia	The Big Read: For migrant workers in trouble, navigating Singapore's legal system can be a challenge
Saturday, 19 September 2020	Yahoo News Singapore	Pro-bono services in the spotlight: access to justice for the indigent
Sunday, 20 September 2020	AsiaOne	Parti Liyani case: Improve access to justice for the poor and needy, experts say
Sunday, 20 September 2020	The Straits Times	Improve access to justice for those of lesser means: Experts
Wednesday, 23 September 2020	The Straits Times	Charities to receive support to build digital capabilities and strengthen regulatory compliance
Wednesday, 23 September 2020	The Independent Singapore	Parti Liyani case highlights need for better access to legal aid for migrant workers
Thursday, 24 September 2020	The Straits Times	More help for charities to go digital, boost transparency
Thursday, 24 September 2020	The New Paper	More help for charities to go digital, boost transparency
Friday, 25 September 2020	TODAY Online	10.5 years' jail for former teacher who sexually abused 8 boys, fled overseas for 17 years
Monday, 28 September 2020	The Straits Times	New initiative unveiled to help youth understand legal rights and get free legal advice
Tuesday, 29 September 2020	The Straits Times	New initiative to provide youth with free legal services
Tuesday, 29 September 2020	The New Paper	New clinic to help young people with legal advice
Wednesday, 30 September 2020	8视界	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
Wednesday, 30 September 2020	8视界	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
Wednesday, 30 September 2020	8视界	【958自明德意】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
Thursday, 1 October 2020	MotherShip.sg	How are consumers protected when shopping online? & other law-related questions that you should know
Friday, 2 October 2020	The Straits Times	Centre for Seniors enhances outreach with FastJobs tie-up; legal, employment services centre opens in Pioneer SMC
Friday, 2 October 2020	The Straits Times	Centre for Seniors enhances outreach with FastJobs tie-up; Pioneer residents can get legal, employment services at new centre
Sunday, October 4, 2020	On Today, CNA938	LAW@CDC 2020 (Freelancing in a Crisis)
Sunday, October 4, 2020	On Today, CNA938	LAW@CDC 2020 (Work from Home: PDPA considerations)
Monday, October 5, 2020	SPH96.3	LAW@CDC 2020 (Divorce and You Mandarin)
Thursday, 15 October 2020	The Straits Times	Parti Liyani has decided to go ahead with complaint against 2 DPPs for misconduct: NGO
Wednesday, 28 October 2020	Channel NewsAsia	Woman testifies about her anger when her son told her his stepfather abused him sexually from age 8
Thursday, 29 October 2020	TODAY Online	Woman testifies about her anger when her son told her his stepfather abused him sexually from age 8
Monday, 2 November 2020	TODAY Online	High Court acquits domestic worker of stealing from elderly employer through bank withdrawals
Thursday, 5 November 2020	TODAY Online	Maid jailed for abandoning her newborn son in recycling bin outside Upper Paya Lebar house
Friday, 6 November 2020	The New Paper	Maid who abandoned baby son jailed five months
Friday, November 6, 2020	Yahoo News	Access to justice: Lawyers who help maids in cases through CLAS
Sunday, 8 November 2020	联合晚报	3新议员获总理点名
Friday, 11 December 2020	Singapore Business Review	Virtual law practice proving a challenge: Chief Justice
Tuesday, 15 December 2020	联合早报	跃大法学院夜间课 首届毕业生提前完成司法考试
Monday, 21 December 2020	联合晚报	特特写 侯 律师
Wednesday, 30 December 2020	联合晚报	律师:被告遭霸凌 童年阴影烙锅根
Friday, January 22, 2021	LSPBS YouTube Channel	Pro Bono Ambassador Award: Eugene Thuraisingam Interview
Sunday, January 24, 2021	Channel NewsAsia	New Law Society scheme offers cheaper family law help for the lower-income
Thursday, 4 February 2021	TODAY Online	Man fined \$51,000 for destroying PAP poster bearing PM Lee's image during GE2020
Sunday, 21 February 2021	The Straits Times	Lawyer Eugene Thuraisingam hailed for pro bono work
Monday, 22 February 2021	The Straits Times	Unmasked marvel in pro bono legal work
Tuesday, 23 February 2021	Channel NewsAsia	Man gets jail for trying to kill girlfriend, biting off her earlobe in 'vicious' public attack
Monday, 1 March 2021	Channel NewsAsia	Committee of Supply 2021 debate, Day 2: Hany Soh on boosting the public's legal knowledge and access
Monday, 1 March 2021	Channel NewsAsia	Committee of Supply 2021 debate, Day 2: Leong Mun Wai on legal aid for economically vulnerable
Tuesday, 2 March 2021	MotherShip.sg	S'pore enhancing legal aid, may introduce a Public Defender's Office: Edwin Tong
Tuesday, 2 March 2021	Channel NewsAsia	MinLaw plans better access to civil and criminal legal aid: Edwin Tong
Tuesday, 2 March 2021	The Straits Times	Budget debate: New criteria to be introduced for criminal legal aid for those less well off
Tuesday, 2 March 2021	8视界	【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
Tuesday, 2 March 2021	8视界	【国会】刑事法律援助计划今年起实施新评估标准
Wednesday, 3 March 2021	The Straits Times	New criteria for assessing those seeking legal aid
Wednesday, 3 March 2021	联合早报	刑事法律援助计划将实行新支付能力标准 助简化申请程序
Wednesday, 17 March 2021	TODAY Online	Former beauty salon manager jailed for cheating women into paying \$5632,000 for fake packages
Wednesday, 17 March 2021	Channel NewsAsia	Former beauty salon manager jailed for cheating women into paying \$5632,000 for fake packages
Friday, March 26, 2021	NCSS Singapore Facebook Page	Beyond COVID 19: Adapting Digitally for Service Continuity
Tuesday, 30 March 2021	TODAY Online	Man jailed 5 months for breaking wife's arm, slapping her while she carried their infant son

APPENDICES



APPENDICES

INITIATIVES FOR INDIVIDUALS (APPENDIX A)

Advice through legal clinics

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 Justice Courts on a twice weekly basis.
Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training Legal Clinic (FAST)	Legal advice for foreign domestic workers on a monthly basis.
LawWorks Clinics	Legal advice for NTUC members with personal legal issues on a monthly basis.
Migrant Workers' Clinics	Legal advice 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.

APPENDICES

Awareness through talks, events, webinars and publications

Advocates for the Arts (Individuals)	Legal awareness talks for the creative industry, especially freelancers.
General Legal Talks	Legal awareness talks 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 awareness and 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	Legal awareness programme 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	Legal awareness publication 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.

Advocacy through 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	Legal representation on family law matters for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Foreign Spouses with Singaporean children who satisfy the LAB means test – pro bono legal representation.

APPENDICES

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.

Joint International Pro Bono Committee Legal advice and/or representation for corporate non-litigation matters/transactions for international community organisations that are based in Singapore to meet community concerns or needs.

Project Law Help Non-litigation corporate legal assistance for community organisations undertaking community work in Singapore.

Capacity Building Programmes

Assisting the 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, a legal 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 services to the sector.

APPENDICES

INITIATIVES FOR VOLUNTEERS (APPENDIX C)

Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme	Assist practitioners 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.
Paralegal Support for Criminal Trials	Paralegal trial 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	Research support for pro bono lawyers undertaking cases involving complex issues of law.
Pro Bono Roundtable Networking Sessions	Regular networking 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 Capacity Building Series (VolCapBSeries)	Practice refreshers and legal seminars/workshops to enhance the delivery of pro bono services by our volunteers.
Volunteer Initiative Support Scheme	Assistance for practitioners involved in regular pro bono work for a group of persons or community in need.

APPENDICES

PROGRAMMES FOR 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 SACC for counselling.	LSPBS offers legal advice to victims referred by SACC.
Community Justice Centre (CJC)	CJC seeks to 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 Justice Courts, the Ministry of Law, the Ministry of Social and Family Development and the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, LSPBS supports and assists CJC's On-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's Legal Services Department and Industrial Relations Department, LawWorks aim to educate working people on their legal rights in Singapore.	LSPBS provides the following support: 1. Organising legal primers 2. Developing and updating LawWorks pocket guides 3. Volunteer mobilisation and coordination for the LawWorks legal Clinics

APPENDICES

PROGRAMMES FOR 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.	LSPBS provides the following support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sharing of LSPBS materials including the Community Legal Clinic manual and forms/templates for the use/adaptation 2. Technical assistance including the training/attachment stints of staff on legal clinic administration and procedures 3. Highlighting to our volunteer practitioner pool legal clinic volunteer opportunities 4. Volunteer mobilisation and coordination
Specialised Clinics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) 2. Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training (FAST) 	Legal clinics for foreign workers.	LSPBS provides the following support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sharing of LSPBS materials including the Community Legal Clinic manual and forms/templates for the use/adaptation 2. Technical assistance including the training/attachment stints of staff on legal clinic administration and procedures 3. Highlighting to our volunteer practitioner pool legal clinic volunteer opportunities 4. Volunteer mobilisation and coordination



<https://www.lawsocprobono.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/lawsocprobonoservices>



<https://sg.linkedin.com/company/law-society-pro-bono-services>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/ProBonoServices>

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