The Public Administration Medal (Silver)

Prof Lily Kong Lee, vice-provost (Education), Office of the Provost, professor, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore; Prof Tan Cheng Han, dean, Faculty of Law, professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore; Mr Chan Yew Meng, director, School of Engineering (Electronics), Nanyang Polytechnic; Mrs Penny Goh, director, Human Resource, director in charge, Legal Matters, Nanyang Polytechnic; Mr Tan Yok Gin, director (Policy and Planning), Policy and Planning Department, Public Utilities Board; Mr Edward Quah Kok Wah, deputy principal (Administration), Singapore Polytechnic; Mrs Lay-Tan Sook Lye, director, Temasek Engineering School, Temasek Polytechnic; Mr Lim Eng Hwee, assistant chief planner and director (Physical Planning), Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Law don happy to wear public service hat

AS THE person presiding over 2004’s biggest corporate scandal, Senior Counsel Tan Cheng Han, 42, is a busy man.

The trial, involving educational services provider Informathics, started on Tuesday.

It was adjourned till the end of the month, but when the trial finally gets under way in earnest, the recipient of the Public Administration Medal (Silver) is going to see some very busy days.

He will have a 6.30am start, ferrying Lauren, one of his eight-year-old triplet daughters, to school. By 8am, he will be in his office at the National University of Singapore to play the role of dean of the law faculty before heading to the courts at 9.30am.

There, he will act as a “specialist judge” hearing the Informathics trial. After court, he will go back to school to continue his administration work.

He arrives back home only at 7.30pm, where, after putting the children to bed, he will do some more work before retiring for the night.

Professor Tan said: “I suppose I see being a specialist judge as a form of public service. As an academic and as a lawyer, I work in the commercial law area and cases that benefit from my specialisation are where I could most naturally lend myself.

“And it will be a rather gruelling period, because I am essentially holding down two jobs at once. But it’s all about time management.”

Prof Tan, a former partner of law firm Drew & Napier, also holds several other positions, including member of the Competition Commission of Singapore.

But he said anything he takes on is contingent on him being able to continue to deal with the faculty’s issues.

“I am really delighted, because in what I do as dean of the law faculty, I promote Singapore’s interests as much as possible. And it is nice to know the country appreciates what I have done.”