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**Scholarships and Juris Doctor Prize in Honour of
Republic of Singapore's first Chief Justice Wee Chong Jin**

(26 September 2012, Singapore) The family of the late Mr Wee Chong Jin, the Republic of Singapore's first Chief Justice, has set up an endowed fund for students at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Management University (SMU).

With the gift, NUS will establish up to two Wee Chong Jin Scholarships in Law, while SMU will establish one Wee Chong Jin Scholarship in Law and the Wee Chong Jin Prize for the Most Outstanding Juris Doctor Graduate.

"Chong Jin was loved and well-respected by many. My children and I felt that bequeathing scholarships for needy undergraduates in his name was a meaningful way to remember him by. We hope that present and future students in both law schools will be inspired by the qualities of integrity, passion and hard work which marked his life-time achievements and legal career," said Mrs Cecilia Wee Chong Jin, wife of the late Mr Wee Chong Jin.

NUS will award up to two Scholarships a year, valued at S\$10,000 each. The award is to support law students pursuing their undergraduate studies in NUS Faculty of Law who embody similar values to the late Mr Wee. The candidate should be a law student who is active in community or charity work, and display a spirit of sportsmanship and collegiality.

"The Wee Chong Jin Scholarships in Law will help financially needy students who epitomise the very best qualities in a lawyer: young men and women of outstanding academic ability who are also deeply engaged in their communities," said Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Faculty of Law. "As NUS Law strives to be one of the very best law schools in the world, it is important that we do so without leaving deserving students behind. Through the generosity of the Wee family, these scholarships help us achieve that aim — while also celebrating the memory of an outstanding jurist and a role model for the next generation of lawyers and judges."

At SMU, the Wee Chong Jin Scholarship in Law will be awarded to undergraduate law students following the traditional UK model of legal education at the undergraduate level whereas the Wee Chong Jin Prize for the Most Outstanding Juris Doctor Graduate will be awarded to law students pursuing the North American model of legal education at the postgraduate level through the Juris Doctor programme, pioneered by SMU in Singapore in 2009.

Professor Yeo Tiong Min, S.C. (Hon), Dean of SMU School of Law, said, “We are very grateful to the family of the late Mr Wee Chong Jin for setting up both the Wee Chong Jin Scholarship in Law and the Wee Chong Jin Prize for the Most Outstanding Juris Doctor Graduate at SMU. Through these awards, SMU students will be able to aspire to the qualities epitomised by the late Mr Wee Chong Jin – excellence, charity and collegiality.”

The inaugural Wee Chong Jin scholars, fourth-year NUS law student Seng Han Ting and second-year SMU law student Eugene Neo Zhi Wei, were announced at the Wee Chong Jin Scholarship Appreciation Event held this afternoon at the Supreme Court. Both students were elated to receive from Mrs Cecilia Wee a biography of the late Mr Wee, entitled *The First Chief: Wee Chong Jin – A Judicial Portrait*, which will enable them to get a full appreciation of Mr Wee’s contributions to the Judiciary and judicial system of Singapore.

The appreciation event was graced by Guest-of-Honour, The Honourable The Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong. Also present at the event was Puan Noor Aishah, wife of former President of the Republic of Singapore Yusof Ishak.

About Mr Wee Chong Jin

Mr Wee Chong Jin (*b. 28 September 1917, Georgetown, Penang - d. 5 June 2005*) was the first Singaporean and Asian to head Singapore’s Supreme Court Judiciary when he was appointed Chief Justice in 1963. His appointment marked the end of the century-old tradition of appointing British Chief Justices. As Chief Justice, until he retired in 1990, he held the record for being the longest serving Chief Justice in the Commonwealth. A man of many achievements, he was conferred the honorary Doctorate in Civil Law from Oxford University in 1987.

Enclosures:

- [Annex 1](#) – Fact Sheet on the Wee Chong Jin Scholarship in Law and Wee Chong Jin Prize for the Most Outstanding Juris Doctor Graduate
- [Annex 2](#) – Profile of Scholarship recipients
- [Annex 3](#) – Detailed profile of Mr Wee Chong Jin
- [Photographs](#) of the late Mr Wee Chong Jin and of the Scholarship Appreciation Event will be issued after the event.

About the National University of Singapore (NUS)

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 16 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross faculty enrichment. Over 37,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 22 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore's 5th RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit www.nus.edu.sg

About the NUS Law School

NUS Law is Asia's Global Law School. Widely regarded as the region's leading law school, it sees itself as part of a global conversation about the study and practice of law. Its diverse faculty includes 60 full-time academics together with many adjuncts and visitors; its 1,200 undergraduate and postgraduate students include some of Singapore's top school leavers as well as outstanding scholars from all over the globe.

In addition to its teaching programme, the faculty is a major source of research on legal issues affecting Singapore, the region and beyond. NUS Law produces the leading publication on Singapore law as well as the Asian Journal of Comparative Law and the Asian Journal of International Law. The Faculty regularly publishes in these and other leading journals, as well as producing their own monographs and engaging with the public through mass media.

The Law School's alumni are a who's who of Singapore's legal community. Graduates include leaders in the profession, government ministers, Supreme Court judges, ambassadors, community leaders, social workers and many more. Other alumni go on to careers that take them to the heights of the profession around the world.

For more information, please visit www.law.nus.edu.sg

About the Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. It is known to be a pioneer for its interactive and technologically-enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes which remains its unique hallmark.

Home to more than 7,200 students, SMU comprises six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law and School of

Social Sciences, offering a wide range of bachelor's, master's and PhD degree programmes in business and other disciplines.

With an emphasis on generating rigorous, high impact cross-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance, SMU faculty collaborates with leading foreign researchers as well as partners in the business community and public sector through its research institutes and centres. Through executive education, the university provides public and customised training for working professionals in meeting the needs of the economy. Close relationships with leading universities, including The Wharton School, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, allow SMU to draw on their academic and research strengths in various collaborations. The SMU city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with the business and wider community. www.smu.edu.sg

About the SMU School of Law

SMU School of Law proudly welcomed its first cohort of 116 students in August 2007. Taught by a dynamic faculty with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and London, the School aims to nurture its students to become excellent lawyers who will contribute significantly to society. Trained with the ability to contextualise legal expertise and to think across disciplines and geographical borders coupled with SMU's interactive pedagogy, SMU's law graduates are confident, articulate and analytically agile.

The SMU School of Law offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Information Systems or Social Sciences, and a Master of Laws programme. The School has also launched a full-time graduate programme, the Juris Doctor Programme which can be completed within three years, and in some cases, accelerated for completion within two years.

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ANNEX 1 – FACT SHEET

Wee Chong Jin Scholarship in Law

- NUS Faculty of Law will establish up to two Scholarships per year, while SMU School of Law will establish one scholarship per year, from academic year 2012/13 and in perpetuity.
- Each Scholarship will be valued at S\$10,000 and shall be valid for one academic year, subject always to the recipient maintaining good academic performance and meeting other necessary conditions.
- The recipient shall be a full-time undergraduate of the LLB Programme at either the NUS Faculty of Law or the SMU School of Law. He or she shall possess good academic results, be active in community or charity work, and display a spirit of sportsmanship and collegiality. Considerations will also be given to students with demonstrated financial need.

Wee Chong Jin Prize for the Most Outstanding Juris Doctor Graduate

- One Prize will be awarded at the SMU School of Law each year from academic year 2012/13 and in perpetuity.
- Each Prize shall have a value of S\$6,000 and will be given to the top graduate of the Doctor of Jurisprudence Program at the SMU School of Law each year.

ANNEX 2A – PROFILE OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- (1) Seng Han Ting [成汉铤], 24 years old
Year 4, undergraduate student
NUS Faculty of Law**

Seng Han Ting's keen interest in politics since his junior college days fueled his pursuit for an education in law. He felt that politics and law invariably interacts in the realm of constitutional law, and is keen to learn more on how the law interacts with society in a complex manner.

In the near future, Han Ting, who currently has a training contract with a local law firm, plans to ply his trade in corporate practice, as he takes on a more collaborative attitude towards legal practice. He is also interested in issues of social justice and would consider the possibility of joining the public sector or the criminal bar.

While pursuing academic excellence, he has also been actively involved in various pro bono projects, which includes volunteering at legal clinics and taking on a leadership role in planning pro bono activities. One of the projects that he was involved in was aimed at raising legal awareness among troubled teens at risk of breaking the law. His current involvement in community work is with the Innocence Project, a project of the NUS Criminal Justice Club, in collaboration with the Law Society of Singapore. The project aims to provide redress to convicted persons who have exhausted all grounds of appeal by discovering and examining possible cases of wrongful convictions.

Han Ting comes from a family of four. His father, who is a taxi driver, is the sole breadwinner of the family, and his mother is a housewife who takes on part-time cleaning jobs from time to time.

ANNEX 2B – PROFILE OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**(2) Eugene Neo Zhi Wei [梁志伟], 22 years old
Year 2 undergraduate student
SMU School of Law**

Eugene is a second year SMU law student whose passion for the law is matched only by his enthusiasm to give back to the community. An avid sportsman, Eugene plays tennis and squash for leisure in addition to being an active member of the SMU Aquatic Sharks, SMU's swimming and water-polo club. Despite being only in his second year, his achievements at the SMU School of Law extend well beyond excellent grades.

Eugene was a member of an all-freshman SMU team in the second Attorney-General's Cup Moot. Despite the competition from more seasoned opponents, the SMU team excelled against the odds to secure an all-SMU finals and eventually claimed the Attorney-General's Cup for SMU for the first time in emphatic fashion, with Eugene himself winning the honour of being runner-up.

To Eugene, a balanced lifestyle also means giving back to the community – in this case both to SMU and the wider Singapore community. He was a member of the SMU Law Camp Organising Committee this year and is also a cast member of the Law School's musical production "Never/Land", an effort to raise funds for the MCYC Community Services Society.

As a freshman, he also volunteered with the Law Society's project "Law Cares", which sought to advise the elderly on their legal rights and assist them in matters relating to the law. Outside of Singapore, Eugene has participated in a community service project in Taiwan where the team taught English to and mentored underprivileged and delinquent children.

ANNEX 3 – DETAILED PROFILE OF MR WEE CHONG JIN

Wee Chong Jin – A Chronology

28 September 1917	Born in Penang to Wee Gim Puay and Lim Paik Yew; eldest in family of two boys and four girls
1934	Obtained place to read law at St John's College, Cambridge, during his final year at Penang Free School
July 1935	Arrived in Cambridge after a trip across the Pacific and Atlantic with his father, Wee Gim Puay
June 1938	Graduated with a Upper Second Class Honours; awarded a McMahon Law Studentship by St John's
November 1938	Called to the English Bar by the Middle Temple
May 1939	Left England
September 1949	Arrived in Penang
11 March 1940	Called to the Straits Settlement Bar in Penang; left for Singapore at the end of the year
January 1941	Started work at Allen & Gledhill, Singapore, principally as junior of David Keri Walters, a leading advocate; met David Saul Marshall at Allen & Gledhill
15 February 1942	Fall of Singapore to the Japanese; returned to Penang soon after
1946	Returned to the new Colony of Singapore and teamed up again with D K Walters at Allen & Gledhill from June
1947	Appointed to assist in the Public Services Salaries Commission of Malaya, under the chairmanship of Sir Harry Trusted, which recommends the establishment of a Public Services Commission
1948	Left Allen & Gledhill to join D K Walters at D K Walters & Co
1950	Joined his Cambridge friend Wee Eng Lock at Wee Swee Teow & Co
15 June 1955	Married Cecilia Henderson; they had a daughter followed by three sons; became a Roman Catholic in 1955
15 August 1957	First Asian from the Bar appointed to High Court

4 April 1962	Appointed Commissioner for Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the boycott of Secondary IV examinations in 1961 by Chinese middle school students
5 January 1963	Appointed Chief Justice of Singapore
4 July 1963	Elected President of the Singapore Golf Associations
4 June 1965	Conferred Panglima Mangku Negara by Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia in Birthday Honours List
1966	Chaired Constitutional Commission which later submitted its Report on 27 August
1973	Appointed Chairman of Presidential Council for Minority Rights, a position he held until 1991
24 June 1987	Conferred Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law from Oxford University
27 September 1990	Retired as Chief Justice
18 April 1992	Conferred Honorary Member and Fellow for Life of the Singapore Academy of Law
9 August 1992	Awarded Singapore Distinguished Service Order
5 June 2005	Passed away

This chronology is taken from *The First Chief: Wee Chong Jin - A Judicial Portrait* by John Koh and published by Academy Publishing, a division of the Singapore Academy of Law. It is available at good book stores and online.
