Dear Members of the NUS Law Community,

What an extraordinary year it has been! Every cycle of the calendar at NUS Law is eventful, but our diamond jubilee truly was a year to remember.

I’m always wary of singling out highlights in these letters — for fear that anything not mentioned might be misconstrued as a “lowlight”. Yet I don’t think anyone who was present would begrudge me calling out our 60th Anniversary dinner. This brought together some of our strongest supporters and most distinguished alumni, under the patronage of all eight Singapore-based deans who have led NUS Law from 1968 to today. Entertainment included an a capella version of “Home” produced by David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), and arranged by Chok Kerong ’08, as well as a special performance by our own Dim Sum Dolly Selena Tan ’94.

Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon ’86, our Guest-of-Honour, also took the opportunity to make a substantive speech about the future of legal education in Singapore. He challenged us to prepare our students for a globalised profession, to instil a commitment to public service, to embrace the opportunities of the digital revolution, and to examine whether our current admissions process is best suited to identifying those who will thrive in law school and the profession.
In the first two of these areas, I believe we are making progress.

On globalisation, half of our students spend a semester on exchange, with the rest benefiting from the diverse students from around the world who join our upper years. We are nonetheless exploring additional ways for students to travel for shorter periods, in particular exposing them to jurisdictions in Asia.

On public service, we recently established a Centre for Pro Bono & Clinical Legal Education, with the aim of broadening and deepening the opportunities for students to see the law in action with real clients, real problems, and real consequences.

As for law and technology, we certainly have an obligation to prepare our students for the disruption to the legal profession that rapidly emerging technology heralds. Sometimes our students are well ahead of us. The alt+Law group has presented their ideas to the Ministry of Law and the students behind legal analytics start-up Lex Quanta were recently featured in The Straits Times for their algorithm that predicts settlements in matrimonial disputes. As a Faculty, we see this as a strategic imperative and aim to tackle it with a cross-disciplinary approach. Stay tuned for further updates on this front.

Admissions is another area that we continue to study. One modest step is an increase in our discretionary shortlisting from 10 percent to 15 percent, meaning that candidates are selected for an interview and written test not based solely on academic marks. At the same time, we are committed to ensuring that no deserving student is unable to take full advantage of a place in law school for financial reasons.

For that, however, we need your help. In my previous Annual Letter, I noted that anniversaries are a time to look backwards as well as forwards. The first, we did by celebrating our history in The Lamp of the Law: 60 Years of Legal Education at NUS Law and a special issue of the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies. But we also looked ahead, in particular through launching the NUS Law Student Support Fund, to ensure that all our students can make the most of their years at law school without regard to their financial circumstances. If you have already made a contribution to this fund, thank you. If you are still deciding whether to do so, I hope the pages that follow will help you see the impact that such a gift will have.

For a modest donation of $100 (or more if you are so inclined) towards the NUS Law Student Support Fund, you will receive a hard copy of the 60th Anniversary book, The Lamp of the Law. Please email Ms Era at lawlink@nus.edu.sg to make a donation and receive the book. Or you can make a donation on our website or by using the form on the back of this letter.
New Initiatives

In 2017, the illustrious Centre for Law & Business (CLB) at NUS Law was renamed the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business as a tribute to Singapore’s first and longest-serving Law Minister, Mr Edmund William Barker. The renamed centre was launched on 29 May at the Bukit Timah Campus by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

CLB was established in 2014 to promote research and educational opportunities for faculty, students, legal practitioners and business executives who share a common interest in law, business and economics. The centre is expanding its manpower and activities, aided by a philanthropic gift totalling $21 million from various donors, including Mr Peter Fu Chong Cheng, Kuok Group of Companies Singapore, the Lee Foundation, Lee Kim Tah Holdings Limited, the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation, Singapore Exchange Limited, Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd, the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, Tote Board and Woh Hup (Private) Limited.

As part of the larger initiative to honour Mr Barker’s role in establishing the rule of law in independent Singapore, the EW Barker Bursary was also launched with support from an anonymous donor and members of the legal fraternity. For a start, up to two bursaries of $6,000 each will be awarded per year to financially needy undergraduate students at NUS Law from AY 2017/18.

On 31 October 2017, we launched the new Centre for Pro Bono & Clinical Legal Education. The centre was inaugurated by Indranee Rajah ‘86, Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Finance. Helmed by Co-Directors Lim Lei Theng ‘92 and Ruby Lee ‘85, the centre brings together the work of the NUS Pro Bono Office and the Faculty’s clinical legal education programmes to develop best practices and prepare NUS Law students for the profession by exposing them to the challenges of delivering quality legal service while serving the disadvantaged in the community.
Recruiting and Retaining the Best Faculty

We welcomed new faculty at all levels.

**Jolene Lin** joined us from the University of Hong Kong as Associate Professor and Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) from January 2018. Jolene holds degrees from LSE and NYU. Her areas of expertise are environmental law and policy, transnational law and climate change. She is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Environmental Law*, the *Chinese Journal of Environmental Law*, and *Climate Law*. She defended her doctoral thesis — “Governing Climate Change: Global Cities and Transnational Lawmaking” — in October, and has a contract for it to be published by Cambridge University Press later this year.

We welcomed **Ernest Lim ’02** as Associate Professor. A graduate of NUS Law, he also holds an LL.M. from Harvard and a B.C.L. from Oxford. He joins us from the University of Hong Kong, where he served as Associate Professor. His primary research interests lie in comparative corporate law and governance. He is also interested in the relationship between private and public law. His monograph, *Voting and Influence: The Case for Shareholders’ Duties in Common Law Asia*, will be published by Cambridge University Press.

**Rachel Leow ’11** and **Tan Zhong Xing ’12** joined us as Assistant Professors.

**Rachel Leow ’11** obtained her LL.B. at NUS before heading to Cambridge, where she completed her LL.M. and Ph.D. at Downing College. During her time at Cambridge, she won the Chancellor’s Medal in English Law and the Gareth Jones Prize for the Law of Restitution (with the highest mark ever recorded at that time), among other prizes. Her Ph.D. dissertation, “Companies in Private Law: Attributing Acts and Knowledge” examines the rules of attribution of actions and knowledge to companies across contract, tort, unjust enrichment, and selected aspects of equitable liability. Her research interests lie in private law, particularly the laws of unjust enrichment, trusts, agency, and commercial equity.

**Tan Zhong Xing ’12** practised corporate and commercial litigation before joining NUS Law as a member of the inaugural batch of Sheridan Fellows appointed in 2014. He went on to complete an LL.M. at Harvard, where he won the Project on the Foundations of Private Law Prize. While at NUS Law, he had previously won the Montrose Memorial Prize for Jurisprudence and the Wong Peng Koon Prize for Best Directed Research Paper. His research and teaching interests are in contract law, private law and legal theory, and commercial and corporate law more generally, as well as the various intersection points between these fields. His work has been published (or is forthcoming) in a number of leading general and specialist law journals, including the *Modern Law Review*, *Journal of Contract Law*, *Journal of Business Law*, and the *Journal of Corporate Law Studies*. 
Daryl Yong ‘15 joined us as a Teaching Assistant. Prior to joining NUS, he was practising as an Associate, Dispute Resolution in Drew & Napier LLC. His main research and teaching interests are in Property Law and Equity & Trusts.

Named after NUS Law’s founding Dean, Lionel Astor (“Lee”) Sheridan, we appointed three Sheridan Fellows in 2017.

Hu Ying is a law graduate of the University of Hong Kong, and she holds a Masters of Law each from Cambridge and Yale. She is currently working on her J.S.D. at Yale Law School. Her research focuses on the regulation of information collection and analysis, with particular emphasis on the impact of technology on consumer behaviour and social relations.

Samantha Tang ‘14 has served as a researcher at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, and an Associate Editor for the Asian Journal of Comparative Law. Her research interests presently lie in the corporate law of Commonwealth jurisdictions, with special focus on close corporations, shareholder remedies, and law reform. Samantha’s article, “Rethinking the Theory in Books: Derivative Actions in Singapore and Hong Kong”, won the Best Conference Paper Prize at the 2017 Corporate Law Teachers Association Conference, the flagship corporate law conference in the Commonwealth.

Jeremiah Lau ‘15 graduated from NUS Law with First Class Honours and he received the Montrose Memorial Prize for the best performance in Jurisprudence. His main research interests are in the law of equity and trusts, competition law and jurisprudence. He is especially interested in the applicability of philosophical and jurisprudential ideas to issues that arise in black-letter law.

In 2017, we recognised the commitment of some of our longest serving faculty. They include Leong Wai Kum for 40 years of service; Elizabeth Ng Siew Kuan for 30 years of service; Teo Keang Sood, Chan Wing Cheong, Thio Li-ann and Ng-Loy Wee Loon ‘87 for 25 years of service; Gary Bell and Tan Cheng Han ‘87 for 20 years of service; Daniel Seng ‘92 for 15 years of service; Wang Jiangyu and Andrew Simester for 10 years of service; Chen Weitseng, Mark McBride and Andrew Harding LL.M. ‘84 for 5 years of service.
Research Excellence

In addition to offering a world-class academic programme, NUS Law continues to produce outstanding scholarship across the spectrum of legal research. In addition to dozens of scholarly articles and book chapters, as well as scores of conference papers, the following books were published in 2017:

- Basic Knowledge and Conditions on Knowledge by Mark McBride (Open Book Publishers)
- The Commercial Appropriation of Fame: A Cultural Analysis of the Right of Publicity and Passing Off by David Tan (Cambridge University Press)
- The Evolution of International Arbitration: Judicialization, Governance, Legitimacy by Alec Stone Sweet and Florian Grisel (Oxford University Press)

We also welcomed the following new editions:

- Electronic Evidence (4th edition) by Stephen Mason and Daniel Seng ’92 (Institute of Advanced Legal Studies)
- Evidence and the Litigation Process (6th edition) by Jeffrey Pinsler (LexisNexis)
- Principles and Practice of Securities Regulations in Singapore (3rd edition) by Hans Tjio, Wan Wai Yee ’96 and Yee Kwok Hon ’91 (LexisNexis)
- Guarantees and Performance Bonds (3rd edition) by Poh Chu Chai ’73 (LexisNexis)
- The International Law on Foreign Investment (4th edition) by M. Sornarajah (Cambridge University Press)
Our faculty also edited major works on a variety of topics of national and international significance. These include:

- Benjamin’s Sale of Goods (10th edition) edited by Michael Bridge (Sweet & Maxwell)
- Contemporary Issues in Mediation (Volume 2) edited by Joel Lee and Marcus Lim ’12 (World Scientific)
- Equity, Trusts and Commerce edited by Paul S. Davies and James Penner (Hart Publishing)
- Comparative Takeover Regulation: Global and Asian Perspectives edited by Umakanth Varottil Ph.D. ’10 and Wan Wai Yee ’96 (Cambridge University Press)
- Geographical Indications at the Crossroads of Trade, Development, and Culture edited by Irene Calboli and Ng-Loy Wee Loon ’87 (Cambridge University Press)
- Global Megatrends: Implications for the ASEAN Economic Community edited by Simon Tay ’86 and Julia Puspadevi Tijaja (The ASEAN Secretariat)
Impact

In addition to producing scholarship that changes the way law is thought about, many colleagues also had a direct impact on how it is practised.

On 29 January 2018, Malaysia’s Federal Court in *Indira Gandhi a/P Mutto v Pengarah Jabatan Agama Islam Perak and Other Appeals* decided an extremely important case affecting the separation of powers and freedom of religion under the Federal Constitution. Zainon Ali FCJ, delivering the judgment of the Federal Court, twice quoted *Law, Government and the Constitution in Malaysia* (1996) by Andrew Harding LL.M. ’84. The second quotation (p54) is of particular significance as the Court cited with approval an ‘eloquent passage’ in which Andrew explains the critical but complex relationship between the civil courts and the syariah courts, and the true effect of Article 121(1A) of the Constitution. This interpretation led to the Court declaring that the unilateral conversion of the appellant’s minor children to Islam was invalid, and the establishment of the principle that conversion of minors can only be effected with consent of both parents, thereby ending a ten-year struggle by the appellant to regain custody of her children from her former husband. The court also cited Thio Li-ann’s book, *A Treatise on Singapore Constitutional Law* (Academy Publishing, 2012), and reproduced a short extract in this landmark decision.

Jeffrey Pinsler’s books and articles on Evidence, Procedure and Ethics were cited by the Courts for their propositions on the law in almost 60 cases. In several of these cases, the judicial endorsement of his proposals directly contributed to the significant development of the law. He is also a member of the Civil Justice Commission which has just produced a draft set of rules that will fundamentally change the landscape of civil litigation.

Various publications by Walter Woon ’81 have been cited in 156 Singapore and Malaysian cases as of August 2017.

Stanley Yeo ’76 and Chan Wing Cheong’s book *Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore* (2nd ed, LexisNexis) continued to serve as the leading commentary on criminal law in Malaysia and Singapore, as evinced by frequent citations by the courts. Cases included the Singapore Court of Appeal in *Iskandar bin Rahmat v PP* [2017] 1 SLR 505 on the defence of diminished responsibility; and the Singapore High Court in *Shaikh Farid v PP* [2017] SGHC 239 on the offence of criminal misappropriation.

Teo Keang Sood’s books on strata title and land law were cited by the Singapore High Court in *Sit Kwong Lam v MCST Plan No. 2645* [2017] SGHC 57 at [46], [53], [80], [95], [133] and [137]; *Fu Loong Lithographer Pte Ltd v Mok Wing Chong* [2017] SGHC 97 at [94], [96], [105], [217], [218] and [219]; and by the Malaysian Court of Appeal in *Dato’ Joseph Chong Chek Ah v AmCard Services Bhd* [2017] 6 CLJ 151 at [16], [17].
Leong Wai Kum continues to be instrumental in shaping Family Law in Singapore and was quoted in four Court of Appeal judgements. In AUA v ATZ [2016] 4 SLR 674 Chao Hick Tin JA quoted from Elements of Family Law in Singapore 2d on parental responsibility for child maintenance. In TDT v TDS and another appeal and another matter [2016] SGCA 35 Andrew Phang JA cited Elements 2d and the fact the Select Committee of Parliament changed an expression in a statutory provision upon her suggestion in her Private Representation. In ARY v ARX and another appeal [2016] 2 SLR 686 Chao Hick Tin JA quoted from Elements 2d on the objective of the law of maintenance between spouses post-divorce. And significantly, in ATE v ATD and another appeal [2016] SGCA 2 Andrew Phang JA, remarked “The entire topic of maintenance of a former wife has been comprehensively dealt with by a leading scholar in Singapore family law (see Leong Wai Kum, Elements of Family Law in Singapore (2nd ed, LexisNexis, 2013) at ch 18. Indeed, our local case law on this specific topic owes much to, and embodies many of the views of Prof Leong in both this work as well as her other works in the field” and proceeded to quote several propositions she suggested in her book.

Stephen Girvin was cited in Louis Vuitton Malletier v Megastar Shipping Pte Ltd (PT Alvenindo Sukses Ekspress, third party) [2017] SGHC 305.

Constitutional Interpretation in Singapore: Theory and Practice (Routledge, 2017) edited by Jaclyn Neo ’03 and her op-ed “Should constitutional principles be eternal?” in The Straits Times were cited with approval by the High Court in Ravi s/o Madasamy v Attorney-General and other matters [2017] SGHC 163.


Koh Kheng Lian ’61, LL.M. ’66, Ph.D. ‘72 continues to have a presence on the global stage. Her many invitations included serving as a panellist at a seminar “Visualising ASEAN Next 50 Years”, organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) of Malaysia, in which she also contributed a chapter, “Sustainable Developed ASEAN - 50 Years On: ASEAN Environmental Legal Integration” in the publication, ASEAN Future Forward launched on that occasion. She also presented a paper and an exhibition “The Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco – City and the BRI ‘Bridge for Cities’” in events related to the Belt and Road Initiative organised jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Finance Centre for South-South Cooperation held in Vienna, Austria. Kheng Lian was invited by the National Environmental Agency of Singapore to conduct training for its senior officials in the “NEA Leaders in Environmental Action Programme”.

As coordinators of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies’ Law & Religion Cluster, Jaclyn Neo ’03 and Arif Jamal conceptualised and founded the Law & Religion Speaker Series.
Stephen Phua ’88 supervised a student social project as part of Business and Finance for Lawyers module called “Youth-in-Form” which was featured in The Straits Times. The project was conceptualised and launched as part of the module “Business and Finance for Lawyers”. Through this module, students studied the business practices that underpin social enterprises.

Thio Li-ann and Kevin Y.L. Tan ’86 entered into an agreement with Hart Publishing (Bloomsbury Professional) to be Editors of a book series entitled Constitutionalism in Asia.

Helena Whalen-Bridge LL.M. ’03 organised and led the CALS Symposium “Lawyers and Access to Justice: Challenging Pro Bono” with papers from 15 international scholars. Helena was also an invited expert for the UN in two collaborative academic projects, “Education for Justice” (E4J), which produces educational materials in UNODC mandated areas of crime prevention and criminal justice in secondary and tertiary education, and the “Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative” (ACAD), which generates anti-corruption academic support tools. With support from the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business, Helena organised the Asia Regional ACAD Expert Workshop at NUS Law.

Jean Ho ’03 made history in 2017 as the first invitee to record lectures for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law in three official languages of the UN. Her lecture in French, entitled “La responsabilité d’Etat et la rupture des contrats d’Etat”, and her lecture in Mandarin, entitled “国际法对投资合约的保障”, complement her 2016 lecture in English on “State responsibility for breaches of investment contracts”.

Vincent-Joël Proulx was selected and participated in a competitive workshop: Sixth Annual Junior Faculty Forum for International Law in Nottingham. He was also invited as an expert and key speaker at the inaugural Kharkiv International Legal Forum, where he was the featured speaker in a roundtable, expert-level presentation and delivered an open lecture.

Lan Luh Luh ’89 and Dan W. Puchnia published an article “Independent Directors in Singapore: Puzzling Compliance Requiring Explanation” in the American Journal of Comparative Law, which is widely considered to be the world’s leading comparative law journal. This was the first article focusing on Singapore law published in the American Journal of Comparative Law since independence. The only other piece published in the Journal on Singapore law was in 1964 by Geoffrey W. Bartholomew.
Faculty Achievements

Our faculty also achieved significant milestones in other areas.

Three of our colleagues, Lynette Chua ’03, Nicole Roughan and Arif Jamal, were promoted to Associate Professors in 2017.

Lynette Chua ’03 first joined the Faculty in 2008 as a Lecturer, and then an Assistant Professor en route to Berkeley for doctoral studies. Upon returning to Singapore she commenced full-time employment as an Assistant Professor in 2011. She teaches specialised subjects drawing on her research expertise, such as Sociology of Law and Law & Social Movements, as well as Constitutional and Administrative Law. She has also taught in the University Scholars Programme and supervised undergraduate and graduate research projects.

Nicole Roughan joined NUS Law in 2013 as an Assistant Professor, having completed her legal studies in New Zealand and at Yale. She serves as Deputy Director for the Centre for Legal Theory and is co-founder of the Network on Transnational Legal and Political Theory. She teaches in two core modules, Introduction to Legal Theory and Equity & Trusts, and also offers an elective in Jurisprudence. The latter corresponds with her research interest where she focuses in particular on “pluralist jurisprudence”, notably the jurisprudence of non-state law and its relations with state law.

Arif Jamal was promoted to Associate Professor (Educator Track). He first joined NUS Law in 2010 as an Assistant Professor, coming with degrees from McGill, Toronto, SOAS, and UCL. In terms of teaching, he draws on his expertise in Islamic law, a key strategic interest that the Faculty has in maintaining its role as the top Asian law school. He has developed two modules in the area, Islamic Law and Law & Religion. He also has a strong background in Legal Theory, having taught Introduction to Legal Theory since joining the law school.

David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), was appointed a member of the Advisory Board of the Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law (published by Oxford University Press) and a Senior Fellow of Melbourne Law School.

Jean Ho ’03 was nominated by the US Department of State as an Expert to the UNIDROIT Working Group on Agricultural Land Investment Contracts, inducted as a Member of the Investment Treaty Forum of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, and accredited as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She also accepted appointments as a Visiting Fellow at the Lauterpacht Center for International Law at the University of Cambridge, as a Scholar-In-Residence at WilmerHale in London, and as a Consultant at the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes at the World Bank in Washington DC.
**James Penner**, Vice Dean (Research), was appointed as the Kwa Geok Choo Professor of Property Law. He works primarily in the area of property and trusts, as well as law and theory.

**Tan Cheng Han '87**, Chairman of the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business, has been appointed as chairman of Singapore Exchange Regulation Co (SGX RegCo). He leads a five-person board to oversee stock market regulations.

**Hans Tjio** was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Listing Advisory Committee of the Singapore Exchange in July 2017.

**Vincent-Joël Proulx** was appointed as Director of Studies by the Curatorium of The Hague Academy for the 2022 winter session of The Hague Academy of International Law (French language section).

**Michael Bridge** was appointed honorary QC (England and Wales) and Chair of the Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) Advisory Council.

**Swati Jhaveri** and **Jaclyn Neo ‘03** were appointed as Kathleen Fitzpatrick Visiting Fellows with the ARC Laureate Project in Comparative Constitutional Law at Melbourne Law School in November 2017. The Laureate Visiting Fellowships in Constitutional Law offers outstanding female doctoral and female early career researchers the opportunity to participate in an intensive mentoring program relative to the Laureate Program with Professor Adrienne Stone, ARC Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellow. The Fellowship culminated in presenting a paper at the inaugural meeting of the Melbourne Institute of Comparative Constitutional Law.

**Swati Jhaveri** and **Jaclyn Neo ‘03**'s work was selected as the winner of the SHAPE/SEA (Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia) 2016 Research Award in the “General Public” category. The Research Award recognises excellence in research in the field of human rights and peace in Southeast Asia. She was appointed to the Law Society's Public and International Law Committee, and was also appointed to the editorial board of the *Asian Journal of International Law*. She is part of the inaugural editorial board for a new journal on Review of Constitutionalism and Constitutional Change. She is also part of the founding organising committee of the inaugural Younger Scholars Forum of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL), which will take place in July 2018. She was invited to be a (funded) Visiting Scholar at the Faculty of Law of Muenster University in June 2017.
Alan Tan '93 was invited by the Association of Star Alliance Pilots to advise on the intricacies of airline joint ventures. The Association brings together pilot unions from Star Alliance’s 28 member airlines, including Singapore Airlines.

Alan Tan '93 and Swati Jhaveri received the University-level Annual Teaching Excellence Award. At the Faculty level, we had the pleasure of announcing our Annual Teaching Excellence Award recipients — Alan Tan '93, Thio Li-ann, Walter Woon '81, Margaret Fordham, Joel Lee, Paul Myburgh and Eleanor Wong '85, Vice Dean (Student Affairs).

Teo Keang Sood and Jeffrey Pinsler were conferred the inaugural Academy Publishing Award at Academy Publishing’s 10th Anniversary celebrations. The Awards were presented by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon ’86.

Sheridan Fellow Matthew Seet ’12 won the Foundation for the Development of International Law in Asia (DILA) Prize for Young Scholars, receiving the prize money of US$2,000. The DILA Prize is awarded annually to original essays of excellent quality on a topic of public or private international law, written by young scholars (under the age of 40) of Asian nationality residing anywhere in the world. Matthew won for his article “China’s Suspended Death Sentence with a Two-Year Reprieve: Humanitarian Reprieve or Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Punishment?” which is published in the Asian Yearbook of International Law.

Ruby Lee ’85 was given the Amicus Award by the Legal Aid Bureau on 15 February 2017. She has been actively supporting the Bureau’s work and furthering the Legal Aid Bureau’s cause to make legal aid and advice more readily available to persons of limited means. Her work at the Legal Aid Bureau is part of the NUS-Legal Aid Bureau clinical legal education programme which, since its inception in 2009, has involved 197 students and managed more than 185 cases.
Associate Professor Elizabeth Ng Siew Kuan joined NUS Law in 1986, having completed her legal education in England with an LL.M. from Cambridge on a Cambridge Commonwealth Trust scholarship. Called to the Bar in England and Singapore, intellectual property (IP) became her field of expertise and she excelled in both theory and practice. Siew Kuan pioneered many of the IP courses now on offer at NUS Law, including Foundations of IP Law, International Patent Law, Policy & Practice, Biotechnology Law, and Global Exploitation of IP Rights among others. She spoke and published around the world, her most recent book appearing late last year and celebrated in these pages.

Never one to retreat into an ivory tower, Siew Kuan was also deeply engaged with the profession locally and internationally. She served as an IP adjudicator for the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and as amicus curiae for the Supreme Court. In her specialist area of patents, she was retained as a consultant by the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva to report on the impact of the patent regime on developing countries. This built on one of her abiding qualities as a scholar-practitioner, which was her commitment to working with fellow IP specialists from around the region.

Within NUS Law, she was a respected and admired colleague, and a popular and effective teacher. Her roles included Deputy Chairwoman and Head of the IP programme at the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business, and Director of the Graduate Certificate in IP.

We celebrate her life and mourn the passing of an outstanding educator, scholar, and friend.

Joel Lee was named in the seventh edition of Who’s Who Legal: Mediation. Last year’s list featured 381 practitioners from 299 firms across 53 countries, who have been selected as leaders in the field.

Stephen Girvin was elected as an Associate Fellow (AFNI) of the Nautical Institute, an international representative body for maritime professionals involved in the control of sea-going ships, established to enhance the professional standing and knowledge of members, who are drawn from all sectors of the maritime world. He was also invited to serve as a Member of the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) Specialist Accreditation Scheme: Shipping Law Sub-Committee (the accreditation for shipping law specialists was announced at the Opening of the Legal Year 2018).
One of the hallmarks of a great university is academic excellence and we were able to celebrate the academic achievements of our students at the annual Dean’s List and Awards Ceremony. Held in September 2017, 78 students, accompanied by their parents and loved ones, received awards and prizes. This year for the first time, several prize donors joined me on stage to present the prizes that they sponsor.

As a Faculty, we also seek to recognise the efforts and initiatives our students spearheaded in the area of pro bono.

At the 2nd NUS Law Pro Bono Awards Ceremony, 18 students, alumni and partners were recognised for their leadership and contributions in pro bono projects. Two new awards were launched at this ceremony. The Pro Bono Pioneer Award recognises NUS Law alumni who were instrumental in founding pro bono projects that have led to sustainable and meaningful contributions by NUS Law students. The Pro Bono Mentor Award is awarded in recognition of any person who is an outstanding supporter of NUS Law students’ efforts in pro bono, including but not limited to acting as legally qualified supervisors on student pro bono activities. During the event, financial grants were also awarded to support four deserving pro bono projects.

Our students also did us proud at the 2017 NUS Student Achievement Awards. The Criminal Justice Club was awarded the Bronze medal in the Community Service category for their work in the Innocence Project (Singapore). They were also awarded a medal in the New Initiatives category for spearheading the National Police Cadet Corps Project.
Beyond the academic rigour and excellence we instil in our students, they have also benefitted greatly from a variety of co-curricular activities – from the rich traditions of the Law IV musical, to the annual Freshmen Orientation activities, not to mention our Student Exchange Programme.

On the mooting front, many of our students have taken part in various competitions locally and around the world. We celebrate some of the achievements below, and are very proud of all of the teams – too many to mention – who honed their advocacy skills and served as ambassadors of NUS Law.

Kok Chun Hou ‘17, Joshua Woo ‘17 and Lee Yew Boon ‘19 won the Best Overall Team at Lex Infinitum 2017. Lex Infinitum is an International Mediation and Negotiation Competition hosted by the V.M. Salgaocar College of Law in Goa, India. The 2017 iteration featured 24 shortlisted teams from law schools all around the world.

The inaugural Gowling WLG IP Moot 2017 organised by the NUS Law Mooting and Debating Club (MDC) was held on 24 February 2017. The competition was sponsored by Gowling WLG and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS). Nigel Na ‘18 emerged as Champion, Ryo Yap ‘19 and Tan Ming Ren ‘20 emerged as joint second runners-up.

Amanda Lim ‘17 and Joshua Chia ‘18 were awarded the Best Written Submissions at the Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot 2017. This is the second year running that NUS Law won this award. In addition, Amanda received a prize for being the 3rd Best Speaker during the Preliminary Rounds. Given the high quality of the mooters this year, this was by no means an easy feat.
Serene Chee ‘19, Uma Sharma ‘19, Low Ee Ning ‘19 and Seah Ern Xu ‘19 emerged as Champions in the Asia-Pacific Regional Rounds of the International Air and Space Law Academy (IASLA) Space Moot Competition 2017. The team also received the Best Memorial prize. This is the third time that NUS Law has emerged as Champions in the Asia-Pacific round.

At the 8th Leiden Sarin International Air Law Moot Court Competition, the NUS Law team – comprising fourth year students Kelvin Choo ‘17, Charlene Wee ‘17 and Lim Hao Jie ‘17 – defeated the Indian national champion, the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), to lift the tournament trophy.

NUS Law emerged as champions at the inaugural Blackoak Transactional Competition. The team comprised Lee Shao Xun ‘19, Daryl Tan Wei Jie ‘19, Marcel Wong Liang Kun ‘19 and Joseph Lim Weisheng ‘19. Lee Shao Xun also clinched the Best Oralist Award.
Team NUS Law took top position at the inaugural Asia-Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition. The team was made up of Cheah Wenjie ‘19, Cheng Le En Leanne ‘19, Lim Wei Shen Mark ‘19, and Liu Siew Rong ‘19. The competition was held in Melbourne, Australia, from 7 to 9 July 2017, and was organised by the Australia International Chamber of Commerce as a regional round leading up to the annual Paris ICC Mediation Competition.

The NUS Law team of Joshua Foo ‘19, Nicholas Ng Wei Jie ‘18, Joshua Phang ‘19, and Kiu Yan Yu ‘18 emerged winners at the Allen & Overy Private Law Moot Competition. Joshua Phang ‘19 was awarded Best Oralist. This is the first time that a team from Singapore has won this prestigious university mooting competition. The second team from NUS Law comprising Serene Chee Yi Wen ‘19, Lim Boon Choon ‘19, Seah Ern Xu ‘19 and Low Ee Ning ‘19 made it to the semi-finals of the competition.

The team featuring Douglas Lok ‘17, Nicholas Tan ‘18, Law Jia Hao ‘17, Leung Liwen ‘17 and Wang Yufei ‘17, won the hard-fought Grand Final against the University of Queensland on 5 July 2017 and emerged as winners of the 18th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot. Douglas was also named Best Speaker in the General Rounds.

Tan Fong Han ‘20, Violet Huang ‘20, Elizabeth Teoh ‘20 and Kimberly Lim ‘19 emerged Champions at the 11th Annual University of Malaya and National University of Singapore (UMNUS) Friendly Moot Competition. Elizabeth also clinched the Best Oralist Award.
NUS Law emerged overall champion for the second consecutive year in the Asia Cup (Foreign Minister’s Award). In addition to taking home the cup, NUS Law also won the award for the third best memorial. The team was made up of Ayana Ki ’19, Law May Ning ’19, Melody Lau ’19 and Joel Sherard Chow ’20. Joel and Melody were also named joint Best Oralists of the moot, a first for the competition.

At the 2017 edition of the Attorney-General’s Cup, our students, Joel Sherard Chow ’20 and Low Ee Ning ’19 did NUS Law proud by coming in as Champions. This win marks the third consecutive win by NUS Law and our fifth in seven years.

NUS Law students swept the top prizes at last year’s B.A. Mallal Moot. At the Finals on 27 October 2017, Melody Lau ’19 was awarded the Champion cup, with Tammie Khor ’19 coming in a close second, followed by Lee Jin Loong ’20 and Violet Huang ’20 as joint second runners-up. Law May Ning ’19 was awarded the Best Memorial Prize.

To round off the mooting wins for the year, Fiona Ng ’20, Adeline Tan ’20, Rachel Ang ’20 and Ryan Kwan ’20 emerged Champions at the Tun Suffian International Human Rights Moot Court Competition held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Fiona was named Best Speaker for the General Rounds, and Ryan won Best Speaker for the Final Round of the competition.
As is now traditional, the graduating batch of Law undergraduates staged a musical production known as Law IV. As part of NUS Law’s 60th Anniversary, the Class of 2017 kick-started the celebrations with their all-original musical production titled “Judicial Review”. The show ran over three days in February 2017 at the NUS Law Auditorium, and was graced by former Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ‘61, LL.D. ’10 (Honoris Causa) as Guest-of-Honour. Proceeds from the production helped fund the Class of 2017 Pro Bono Award, which will support up to two student-led projects annually from 2018.

The student-led Singapore Law Review (SLR) organised the 29th edition of the SLR Annual Lecture. The lecture titled, “Prosecution in the Public Interest” was delivered by Attorney-General Lucien Wong ’78 and covered issues such as what the public interest is, and how prosecutorial discretion interacts with it. The lecture was the first public lecture by AG Wong since he took office in January 2017, and over 300 members of the legal fraternity and the general public filled the venue.

The SLR also had two of their articles displayed at the Singapore National Gallery. These articles discuss the Singapore War Crimes Trials at length. The trials were an epochal moment in Singapore’s history, where justice and accountability was served following the numerous atrocities committed during the Second World War.
Alumni Relations & Development

As NUS Law turned 60, our alumni have played a major part in making our celebrations a success through their presence and support. They have also continued to make us proud with many stellar achievements worthy of recognition. The following is illustrative of a fraction of their achievements.

In September, Halimah Yacob ‘78, LL.M. ‘01, LL.D. ‘16 (Honoris Causa), made history when she was declared the eighth President of Singapore, a sterling honour and recognition after decades of public service. Madam Halimah was also recently appointed Chancellor of NUS.

NUS also conferred the Distinguished Alumni Service Award on Chew Gek Khim ‘84, Executive Chairman of The Straits Trading Company Limited, in recognition of her outstanding achievements, visionary leadership and philanthropy.

In new judicial appointments, the Honourable Justice Steven Chong ‘82 was appointed Judge of Appeal, former Deputy Attorney-General Tan Siong Thye ‘79, and former Judicial Commissioners Debbie Ong ‘89, Kannan Ramesh ‘90, Aedit Abdullah ‘94 and Hoo Sheau Peng LL.M. ‘05, were all elevated to Judges of the High Court. Debbie Ong ‘89, a former faculty member, was also appointed Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts.

Former Member of Parliament Hri Kumar Nair ‘91 took over the role of Deputy Attorney-General.

Desmond Lee ‘01 was promoted to Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, and Second Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of National Development, while Amrin Amin ‘03 was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health.
The Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice Judith Prakash ‘74 was conferred The Public Service Star and Justice Lee Seiu Kin ‘86 was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal during the National Day Awards 2017, which saw many other alumni recognised. These included Jacinta Mahtani ‘80, Chiam Mong Luan ‘87, Yeo Tiong Min ‘90, Isaac Tan Choon Kiat ‘90, Marvin Bay Boon Teck ‘91, Chew Huey Ching ‘92, Kow Keng Siong ‘93, Lynne Loh Li Ling ‘01 and Natalie Yu-Lin Morris-Sharma, Dip. Sing. ‘07.

Daren Tang Heng Shim ‘97, the Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights at the World Intellectual Property Organisation, a United Nations organisation that deals with intellectual property rights.

Daryl Chew ‘06 was made the Managing Partner of Sherman & Sterling’s Singapore office, and was also featured in the inaugural edition of Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration – Future Leaders 2017 which profiles the foremost practitioners in the global arbitration community aged 45 and under.

In addition to serving as role models to inspire our students, we are deeply grateful for the strong support we receive from our alumni each year.

In 2017, we had a record number of 136 alumni who stepped forward to volunteer as Mentors in the sixth run of our Law Alumni Mentor Programme (LAMP). LAMP links first and second year NUS Law students with alumni mentors who can share their experiences and insights, as well as offer practical guidance and encouragement.

Alumni also returned to the Faculty to give their time and expertise as adjunct professors, coaches for moot competitions, speakers at our career talks and advisors to student groups such as the Pro Bono Group.

In this year of celebrations, other alumni and stakeholders made important financial contributions to support future generations of NUS Law students.

An anonymous NUS Law alumna made a significant gift to set up the NUS Law Student Bursary to help financially disadvantaged law students. The bursary has immediately made a difference, as two needy law students were given awards of $6,000 each this year.

Principal District Judge Bala Reddy ‘80, LL.M. ‘90 established the Bala Reddy Scholarship in Law to help high-potential students from low-income families at the Faculty.

Another anonymous NUS Law alumnus from the Class of 2012 set up a prize to recognise and encourage resilience and grit in our students. The Most Improved Student Award was established to reward six second-year law students each year, whose results have improved the most based on a comparison of their rankings in their first and second years.
NUS Law also saw strong support from other donors.

The **Ella Cheong LL.M. (Intellectual Property & Technology Law) Scholarship** was awarded for the first time this year, to a graduate student in the Master of Laws (LL.M.) (IP & Technology Law) programme. This graduate scholarship is part of a gift of $1,000,000 from Ella Cheong, one of the pioneers in the field of intellectual property in Asia.

The year 2017 saw a string of subject prizes set up in honour of current or former faculty members. The **Tan Keng Feng Prize for Best Directed Research** was set up with a gift from Jennifer Chia ‘71, in memory of her late husband.

Francis Martin Baillie Reynolds is no stranger to NUS Law, having taught as a Visiting Professor over a period of 25 years. During his most recent visit here in August, the new **Francis Reynolds Prize in Domestic & International Sale of Goods** was announced. This Prize was established through donations from faculty members, alumni and friends, to honour Francis, who is one of the foreign academics who has helped NUS Law the most.

The **Margaret Fordham Prize in Advanced Torts** was set up through generous donations from her colleagues to recognise her many contributions made in this subject area and to the Faculty of Law in her 33 years with the Faculty.

Law firm Rajah & Tann LLP made a gift to set up the **Rajah & Tann Asia Prize in Legal Systems of Asia**, a compulsory module for second year students. In addition, the Singapore Mediation Centre established the **Singapore Mediation Centre Prize**, to reward the top two students in the module Mediation.

As for alumni events, we were delighted by the strong turnout of alumni at the recent 60th Anniversary Alumni Movie Night: Justice League. The movie screening was another highlight of our Anniversary celebrations, as well as our key alumni event for the year.

There were also a good number of reunions held last year, with the **Classes of 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2007** celebrating their milestone anniversaries. In addition, reunions held in London and Shanghai allowed us to reconnect with alumni living and working there. It is always a joy for me to meet up with alumni at these gatherings, to hear stories of their law school memories and get updates on their current achievements.

In addition to the reconnecting and reminiscing that take place during class reunions, many of our alumni classes take the opportunity presented by a reunion to do some good, raising money for class bursaries and grants. The **Class of 1982 Bursary** (set up at their last reunion in 2012) received a significant boost following their recent 35th Anniversary celebration.
The **Class of 1987** also came together to top up their class bursary and to increase the quantum of each bursary awarded to a more meaningful amount, in view of the current tuition fees of $12,600 per annum.

On the occasion of their 25th Anniversary celebration, the **Class of 1992** raised funds for a new class bursary, which is in addition to the **Class of 1992 Pro Bono Fund** set up 5 years ago to support students’ pro bono efforts!

Following in their footsteps was our newest batch of alumni, the **Class of 2017**. To mark NUS Law’s 60th Anniversary, the class decided to channel all proceeds from their Law IV musical “Judicial Review” to set up a new **Class of 2017 Pro Bono Award**. This award will encourage law students to serve the wider population through pro bono and other community service projects.

Anniversary reunions have always been a hallmark in our calendar. This year, the **Classes of 1978, 1998 and 2008** are already planning for their celebrations.

If you belong to the **Class of 1963, 1968, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993 or 2003**, please contact us if you are interested in celebrating your anniversary and we can help you to plan the gathering. We are often able to provide logistical support as well as a modest subsidy — so do take advantage of it! We also hope to be able to meet with our overseas alumni on a regular basis, so if you are currently residing overseas and would like to work with us on a reunion in your area, we would love to hear from you.
I cannot overstate how much our alumni have contributed to the successes of NUS Law. Your achievements inspire and challenge us all, raising our profile and establishing our reputation. The opportunities you create for our students, through mentorship, internships, and employment are what transform these young men and women into lawyers. Your financial support makes possible our mission of being one of the very best law schools in the world — while making sure that no deserving student is left behind.

As I mentioned earlier, the **NUS Law Student Support Fund** has been the focus of our fund-raising efforts this year, with the goal of enabling our students to make the most of the opportunities available without being held back by the lack of finances. With the support of our alumni and other donors who have rallied around this noble cause, more than $100,000 has been raised to date. On behalf of all the students who will benefit from this fund, thank you for your generosity!

If you would still like to make a contribution, a donation form is attached to this letter. If you would like to discuss any of the ways in which you might advance the mission of NUS Law, please feel free contact Jo-Ann Chan ’97 (joann.chan@nus.edu.sg; 6601 2248) or myself directly.

**Stay in Touch**

I hope that you find these annual updates on NUS Law interesting. If you would like to know more, or if you think there may be ways in which you could get involved with the Faculty, please do not hesitate to let me know.

On behalf of all of us at NUS Law, we wish you and your loved ones the best for 2018. May it bring you peace, happiness and fulfilment.

Simon Chesterman  
Dean, NUS Law
Giving to the Next Generation:
NUS Law Student Support Fund

Given the rising cost of a legal education (tuition alone now stands at $12,600 per year) and the steady rise in the number of bursary applications each year (around 10% of our students currently receive some kind of financial aid), it comes as no surprise that student support is an important part of our fund-raising.

The NUS Law Student Support Fund was recently launched in conjunction with our 60th Anniversary celebrations in 2017. The Fund will be used to support financially disadvantaged students, student learning and student activities at NUS Law, enabling all our students to develop to their full potential regardless of financial circumstances. The Dean will have discretion to allocate funds where they are most needed for the greatest benefit of our students.

“Thank you for your generosity. Your gift will benefit deserving students and support meaningful learning opportunities at NUS Law.”

Stephanie Ng Wenli ‘18
Year 4 Student and Scholarship Recipient
# GIFT FORM

## GIFT

I / We would like to make:

- A monthly* gift of $________________ for __________ months.
- An annual* gift of $________________ for __________ years.
- A one-time gift of $________________

To support:

- **NUS Law Student Support Fund** (used to support needy students, student learning and student activities at NUS Law, enabling all our students to develop to their full potential regardless of financial background)
- **Faculty of Law Lee Sheridan Legal Education Fund** (used to fund bursaries, scholarships and visiting professorial appointments)
- **NUS Law Fund** (enables the Dean to channel resources where they are most needed within NUS Law)
- **Other:** ____________________________ (please specify refer to this link http://law.nus.edu.sg/giving_to_law for more options.)

## PAYMENT METHOD

- I / We enclose a cheque [No.: ____________ ] crossed and in favour of “National University of Singapore”
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  Card No.: ____________________________ Expiry Date: ____________ (MMYY)

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Thank you for your support!