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At NUS Law, we are first and foremost the national law school of Singapore.

A concrete example of the impact of our alumni in Singapore was on display in the recent General Election, which saw a full dozen (12) of the 89 seats in Parliament filled by NUS Law graduates, representing both the People’s Action Party and the Workers’ Party. Those elected include five officeholders: Speaker Halimah Yacob ‘78 (LL.B) ‘01 (LL.M.), Minister for Law & Home Affairs K Shanmugam ‘84, Senior Minister of State for Law & Finance Indranee Rajah ‘86, Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs & National Development Desmond Lee ‘01, and Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs Amrin Amin ‘03.

In addition to being the national law school, we are also a global law school — and our alumni make their mark around the world. On a recent visit to London, for example, I was delighted to host an alumni event with Singapore’s High Commissioner, Foo Chi Hsia ‘94.

The achievements of our former students are perhaps the greatest reward of teaching at NUS Law. But we also have inspiring colleagues alongside us. This issue of LawLink celebrates senior and junior colleagues, from M. Sornarajah’s latest book, to the many accolades for Lynette Chua ‘03’s first. We also highlight the path-breaking work of Cheah Wui Ling ‘03 on Singapore’s war crimes trials after the Second World War, as well as Jeffrey Pinsler’s reflections on thirty years of legal education.

Yet it remains the students who are the lifeblood of NUS Law. Their academic excellence is well known, but I am constantly surprised at the many other talents they demonstrate. The most recent Law IV musical, for example, took SG50 as the time to look back on the 1960s but through the lens of student protests against the “suitability certificate” requirement for university admission.

These talents serve our graduates well as they enter an increasingly competitive workplace. Gone are the days when all law graduates were snapped up by a handful of firms. Our students these days must be more creative and competitive in finding the right opportunity. The vast majority of them find that right opportunity, but as I explain to our alumni in Singapore and around the world: you can help.

Our alumni can help by creating opportunities for internships or full-time positions, or by providing advice. You can also help by being an example, showing the various paths that NUS Law graduates can and have taken. And of course, you can also create opportunities for current and future students by supporting us financially, such as through bursaries and scholarships for needy and deserving students.

You can read about some of those achievements and ways to get involved in NUS Law in the pages that follow.

I hope you enjoy this annual print edition of LawLink and look forward to hearing about your own news in the near future.

Simon Chesterman
Dean, NUS Law
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NUS Law thanks all our donors.
*Listed below are those who have cumulatively given S$10,000.00 and above to NUS Law since 2000.
*Some donors have asked to remain anonymous.

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Yong Pung How LL.D. ’01
Yong Wei-Woo
Stefanie Yuen Thio ’93
With a passion for international relations, Foo Chi Hsia ’94 took on a career in the Foreign Service right out of University, and the rest, as they say, is history. Ms Foo was appointed as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom on 1 September 2014. She talks to LawLink about the source of her inspiration, memorable moments in her career, and her advice for those seeking a similar career.
What made you decide to study law at NUS and then pursue a career in the Foreign Service?
I studied law at NUS because it was a sensible Singaporean decision to pursue a professional degree. Perhaps I was not even conscious of it then, but my interest clearly was with international relations. I took whatever vaguely international related courses that were available then – Public International Law, Conflicts of Law, Chinese Commercial Law – and none of these were subjects lawyers normally practise with. I started looking for alternative careers when I realised that I was going to have a very hard time going through pupillage and the practice law course to be admitted to the Bar.

It was fortuitous that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) did its first big recruitment fair the year I graduated in 1994, and enticed me from what would otherwise have been a writing career, to apply for the Foreign Service. I was inspired by the experience of another young lawyer also from NUS, Joanna Foo ’91, who remains a big sister and good friend till today even though she has since left MFA.

Who is your inspiration and why?
No surprises here. It’s Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh ’61. He helmed the recruitment fair and the interview process, and my cohort of 1994 was one of the most successful batches of recruits into MFA. Many of us are still in the Foreign Service after more than 20 years. I had the good fortune of working closely with him for the International Court of Justice case on Pedra Branca, and he remains an inspiration and mentor in so many different areas (and it is not possible to do this in three points as he would have done).

Quite apart from his well-known legal talents and diplomatic skills, his broad interest and deep knowledge in the many international and domestic issues that pre-occupy us, he has a zest for culture and deep love for food, whether as a form of diplomacy or to promote Singapore’s hawker food heritage. But most importantly, he has a genuine concern for people and is 100 percent sincere in doing the best for Singapore. He will stand his ground, but does so in his typically disarming way.

What was the most memorable moment(s) in your career as High Commissioner to the UK or in the Foreign Service?
Holding the Afghanistan file on 9/11 when Singapore was a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC). Quite apart from absorbing the enormity of the destruction of the Twin Towers right there in New York and witnessing the city become a ghost town when I walked home past midnight after helping with our Consular duties that night, Afghanistan changed overnight from a “strategic orphan” whose plight nobody cared about, to the most important and for a while, most unifying issue in the UNSC. The UNSC, when it works, is truly the most powerful and significant body in international relations, and I was glad to be part of the team during Singapore’s only term in the UNSC in the last 50 years.

Being appointed as Singapore’s High Commissioner to the UK (with concurrent accreditation to Ireland and Iceland) must be my other career highlight, topped by having to handle Singapore’s first ever State Visit to the UK by President Tony Tan barely a month and a half after my arrival.

We also had a lot of fun celebrating SG50 here in the UK, from showcasing the myriad of Singapore’s creative talents in this year’s City of London Festival, Singapore: Inside Out in Shoreditch, to organising a charity jazz concert in the 14th-century Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire belonging to the Fiennes family, who so generously opened their castle and grounds to us including kindly allowing us to literally fly the Singapore flag on top of the castle gate!

What started out as a small scale community event to kickstart our SG50 celebrations in March ended up, with the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, as a large scale memorial event attracting 700 participants and raising more than S$200,000 for Community Chest. It was a unifying moment, especially for Singaporeans overseas, who turned up in full force all wanting to contribute. A very fitting tribute to Mr Lee’s legacy.
The 10th NUS Arts Festival: Spirit of the Times, opened on 20 March 2015, with a jazz musical featuring three NUS Law alumni: Rani Singham ’94, Chok Kerong ’08 and Wang Liansheng ’13.

The musical, “Words And Music”, written by Wang Liansheng, is a story of two young lovers bound by their love for jazz music and narrated through a series of correspondences between them over the years. Singapore jazzman Jeremy Monteiro, NUS Jazz Band and jazz stars like Rani Singam and Chok Kerong delivered powerful performances and made this a night to remember.

Catching up with Rani and Liansheng, LawLink finds out what inspired them in their musical pursuit while at NUS Law.

Rani is one of Asia’s leading jazz vocalists today, and has been featured in several international jazz festivals, including The Mosaic Festival in Singapore and Jakjazz in Indonesia. She was also named in The Jazz Singers: The Ultimate Guide, a 2008 Hal Leonard publication which highlights important singers in jazz.
Liansheng, who is currently working as a lawyer, started writing for the theatre in 2012. He has since written various works for productions by The Necessary Stage, Singapore Arts Festival and NUS Arts Festival. In June 2014, he presented a dramatised reading of his first full-length work, “The Boy Inside”, as part of the Esplanade’s The Studios RAW series.

“I had a great time in NUS Law, both in class and outside for non-academic pursuits. A large part of life on campus was spent singing and performing, especially with my classmate Leonard Ng ‘94. From the time when we met at Law Camp as freshmen to the time of our graduating year when we staged the first Law 4 production with an original script and music, we performed not only jazz but pop, folk and rock music. Indeed, one of my most memorable experiences was when we took part in TCS’ Rollin’ Good Times Love Duets Contest and won the first prize!” — Rani Singham ‘94

I don’t have a specific memory per se at NUS Law that helped me pursue my interest in writing for theatre. To me, it is more about the overall experience at NUS Law. NUS Law is a very challenging environment, but also a very diverse one. What really motivated me (and still does, to this day) is the fact that the NUS Law community (from the professors to my batchmates) comprises many talented individuals who have successfully juggled their interest in the law alongside their passion for other fields such as community work, the arts, sports, and fashion. And for someone who is also having one foot in the legal industry and another in the theatre scene, these individuals inspire me with the heart and dedication they have. If they can do it, then why can’t I?” — Wang Liangsheng ‘13
ALUMNI IN PARLIAMENT

NUS Law congratulates our alumni who joined Singapore’s 13th Parliament after the General Elections 2015.

Halimah Yacob
LL.B Class of 1978, LL.M Class of 2001
Speaker of Parliament
Marsiling-Yew Tee GRC
Mdm Halimah Yacob became Singapore’s first female Speaker of Parliament when she assumed the position in January 2013.

She previously served as Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Family Development. She was a Member of the Public Petitions Committee before taking the role as Chairman in the Committee of Selection, Committee of Privileges, House Committee, Public Petitions Committee and Standing Orders Committee in the 12th Parliament.

Indranee Rajah S.C.
Class of 1986
Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Law & Ministry of Finance
Tanjong Pagar GRC
Ms Indranee Rajah was previously Senior Minister of State for Education in addition to her portfolio at the Ministry of Law, and served as Deputy Speaker of Parliament from 2006 to 2011.

In 2003, she was appointed Senior Counsel and she held the post of Deputy Head of Drew & Napier’s Dispute Resolution Department, until October 2012. She has previously served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law.

K Shanmugam S.C.
Class of 1984
Minister for Home Affairs & Minister for Law
Nee Soon GRC
Mr K Shanmugam has led the Nee Soon GRC since 2011, and was a Member of Parliament (MP) for Sembawang GRC from 1988 to 2006. Starting his career as a lawyer, he became one of the youngest Senior Counsels of the Supreme Court of Singapore, when he was appointed in 1998 at the age of 38.

Maintaining close contact with the faculty, Mr K Shanmugam also served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law.

Sylvia Lim
Class of 1988
Member of Parliament
Aljunied GRC
Ms Sylvia Lim has taken on another term of office at the Aljunied GRC, and has been a member of parliament since 2011. Prior to this, Ms Sylvia Lim was a Non-constituency Member of Parliament from 2006.

Maintaining close contact with the faculty, Mr K Shanmugam also served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law.

Lim Biow Chuan
Class of 1988
Member of Parliament
Mountbatten
Mr Lim Biow Chuan will continue to lead the Mountbatten ward, a role he has held since 2011. Prior to his appointment at Mountbatten, he represented Marine Parade GRC as a member of parliament from 2006 to 2011.

Mr Lim co-founded the law firm Derrick Wong & Lim BC LLP in 2008.

Edwin Tong S.C.
Class of 1994
Member of Parliament
Marine Parade GRC
Mr Edwin Tong has taken charge of Joo Chiat, a sub division of the Marine Parade GRC. Mr Tong was previously part of the now-dissolved Moulmein-Kallang GRC, where he represented the Jalan Besar ward and served as MP.

As a partner at Allen & Gledhill, Mr Tong’s practice includes corporate and commercial litigation and international arbitration. He has also had experience with arbitrations such as those under International Chamber of Commerce, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, London Court of International Arbitration and Singapore International Arbitration Centre Rules. In January this year, he was appointed Senior Counsel.
Patrick Tay
Class of 1995
Member of Parliament
West Coast GRC
Mr Patrick Tay moved from Nee Soon GRC to join the West Coast GRC in this year’s elections. He is currently the assistant secretary-general at the National Trades Union Congress and a member of the GPCs of Health and Manpower. Mr Tay has been a member of parliament for Nee Soon GRC since 2011.

Desmond Lee
Class of 2001
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of National Development & Deputy Leader of the House Jurong GRC
Mr Desmond Lee continues in his role as MP for the Jurong GRC, representing his Jurong Spring ward. Mr Lee was first elected as MP for the Jurong GRC in May 2011.

Prior to his entry into politics, Mr Lee spent two years at the Legal Policy Division of the Ministry of Law, and later joined Temasek as in-house counsel until his appointment to office at MND.

Amrin Amin
Class of 2003
Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
Sembawang GRC
Mr Amrin Amin, a corporate lawyer at Joseph Tan Jude Benny, was fielded as a newcomer to the Sembawang GRC team, and joined parliament for the first time this year. He has been active in grassroots work since 2004, and has served in various grassroots committees such as Citizens Consultative Committee and Community Club Management Committee. From 2004 to 2006, he was Law and Foreign Affairs Minister K Shanmugam's legislative assistant.

Mr Amrin has been involved in welfare activities, serving the boards of Nanyang Polytechnic, National Council of Problem Gambling, feedback unit REACH, bursary and scholarship body Prophet Muhammad’s Birthday Memorial Scholarship Fund Board (LBKM), and the Association of Muslim Professionals’ “Ready for School” Programme that assists underprivileged children with their education costs.

Rahayu Mahzam
Class of 2003
Member of Parliament
Jurong GRC
Madam Rahayu Mahzam, a former deputy registrar of the Syariah Court, has filled the void left by mentor, Madam Halimah Yacob, in Jurong GRC. A newcomer to the political scene, Madam Rahayu specialises in civil litigation and family law, and has been an active volunteer since 1997.

Christopher de Souza
Class of 2003 (DIP.SING.LAW)
Member of Parliament
Holland-Bukit Timah GRC
Mr Christopher de Souza has been a Member of Singapore’s Parliament since 2006 and serves as a member of the Government Parliamentary Committees for Manpower (Deputy Chairman) and Law and Home Affairs.

Mr De Souza, a lawyer at Lee & Lee, has experience in dispute resolution areas including intellectual property, contractual, negligence, defamation, internet defamation, banking and regulatory disputes and disputes involving shareholders, directors, finance and companies, as well as matters involving international arbitration and white collar crime.

Vikram Nair
Class of 2005 (DIP.SING.LAW)
Member of Parliament
Sembawang GRC
Mr Vikram Nair has been an MP for Sembawang since 2011. He has also been a member of the GPCs for Communications and Information, Finance and Trade and Industry, and Home Affairs and Law.

Mr Nair, a partner at Rajah & Tann, specialises in international arbitration and commercial and corporate litigation with particular experience in handling complex, multi-jurisdictional disputes. He was previously a management consultant at McKinsey, and has worked in international and Singapore law firms.
Professor Jeffrey Pinsler, SC, received the Long Service Award in August, recognising his dedication to educating law students over three decades. Driven by a passion to bring out the best in each student, Professor Pinsler is tireless in his efforts to engage his students in class and create opportunities for intellectual discourse. Popular among students and colleagues for his cheerful disposition, generosity and dedication, LawLink talks to Professor Pinsler to find out more about his thoughts and memories of teaching in NUS Law.

Congratulations on receiving the Long Service Award! What were your expectations when you started working at NUS Law 30 years ago, and how has that changed over the years?
I went from practice to academia. For me, becoming a university lecturer was a huge step up on the legal ladder. After all, the faculty had and has educated countless generations of judges and lawyers. Actually, in my youth, I had always wanted to teach; although I was not sure what the subject-matter of this endeavour would be. I anticipated a challenging role in the class room and relished the opportunity to objectively study the law simply for what it was and what it could be. I have also been much fulfilled by opportunities for research and my involvement in various reform projects.
Having taught generations of law students, what is the one quality that students should cultivate to have a successful career in law?

A dedication to further learning (which does not stop with an LL.B. degree) coupled with a desire to contribute to justice in Singapore. I do not wish to generalise, but I am concerned that graduates (in their quest for acceptance by the law practice which they have joined and their inevitable immersion into its business ethos), might lose sight of the more fundamental concerns of the lawyer’s calling including his or her public responsibilities and obligations to the administration of justice.

In an ideal setting, new lawyers ought to be assigned to mentors outside the law practice (these might be former judges, judicial officers, senior legal officers and academics) whom they can consult for the purpose of developing a deeper understanding of their ethical responsibilities.

What are some of the best memories you’ve had with students here?

Mostly, the best memories have been the process of learning in the classroom. Over the decades, it has also been very meaningful to be involved in judging mootings and witness examination competitions as well as debates.

What are some of the challenges you’ve faced as a professor and how did you overcome them?

One challenge would be in creating the ideal learning environment in the classroom so that all students have opportunities to participate in the discussion. This requires an understanding of psychology, for example, how to encourage student involvement and address personal issues which hinder some students from maximising their potential, and the application of appropriate teaching methods in different learning situations.

Teaching law is not a standard skill as it involves so many variables determined by the nature of the subject and the teaching session. For example, teaching approaches may depend on whether the class is a lecture, seminar, tutorial; whether a core area or elective is involved; whether the subject-matter is primarily legal or inter-disciplinary, substantive, theoretical, policy-oriented, or a balance of these priorities.

Your wife, Leena Pinsler ‘82, was also awarded the long service for being an adjunct professor here. You both obviously have great affection and loyalty towards NUS Law. Would you tell us how you met?

We met in a law firm where I was practising and Leena was a pupil. Subsequently, we both studied at the same college in Cambridge University. However, it took us a bit more time before it got serious!

You’ve been a dedicated Professor all these years, and both you and your wife have taken that one step further by donating to help needy students. What drives your passion and dedication to the students and to NUS?

As an alumnus, Leena has always had close ties with the Law School. She commenced her studies at NUS in the same year that the faculty moved to Kent Ridge. She was ranked 2nd in the famous graduating class of 1982. If she is so clever, why did she marry me?

Both of us are passionate about the students. I think it is fair to say that many of the university teachers are aware of their responsibility to nurture these young, bright people who have so much to offer Singapore and the world.

As Senior Counsel, what thoughts go through your mind when you meet your former students “in the field”?

No matter how well they have done in Law School, I am often intrigued at how much they have achieved in practice, the Legal Service, or as corporate counsel. This is because I tend to retain the image of them as the students I taught in class. They seem so different after they leave. Many have attained a level of maturity, confidence and expertise beyond the youthful attributes that I remember so well.

What would be the one piece of advice you would like to give to students after they graduate and become NUS Law Alumni?

There is life beyond the practice of law. While a legal career has its rewards and can sometimes be deeply satisfying, the stress and anxieties of being a lawyer can be overwhelming. For those who are inclined, having a family will provide ultimate meaning. You mention “NUS Law Alumni”. If I could speak on behalf of the NUS Law Faculty, please don’t forget us. We will never forget you.

About Professor Jeffrey Pinsler

Jeffrey D Pinsler LL.B (Liverpool); LL.M (Cantab); LLD (Liverpool) is a Professor specialising in civil justice, civil and criminal evidence, procedure and ethics. In 2014, he was appointed as the Geoffrey Bartholomew Professor at NUS Law. He is an advocate and solicitor, barrister-at-law, Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, a Principal Mediator of the Singapore Mediation Centre, a member of the Judicial Education Board and also a member of various professional committees of legal and governmental institutions including the Singapore Academy of Law, the Supreme Court and Ministry of Law.

He has appeared as amicus curiae before the Court of Appeal, and has spoken at, and contributed to, conferences and reform programmes in various countries. He has produced 17 major text books and reference works to date in his capacity as Author and/or Editor in Chief or Consultant Editor, as well as multiple articles. His books and articles are regularly cited by lawyers and frequently relied upon by Judges. In 2004, he was conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) for his contributions to learning. In 2008, he was appointed Senior Counsel. He is a Senior Professorial Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education.
LONG SERVICE AWARDS

On 12 August 2015, faculty members were honoured for their dedication and hard work in moulding generations of NUS Law students. In recognition of their efforts, Dean Simon Chesterman presented them with a certificate at the start-of-semester lunch in the presence of colleagues.

NUS Law thanks long service award recipients:

- Professor Jeffrey Pinsler, S.C., for 30 years of service
- Professor Ho Hock Lai ’89, for 25 years of service
and, Associate Professor Debbie Ong ‘89 for 25 years of service

For the first time, the faculty also honoured adjunct professors who have completed 10 academic years of teaching at NUS Law:

and,
Adjunct Professor Lawrence Boo ‘80
Adjunct Professor Neale Gregson
Adjunct Associate Professor Winston Kwek ‘90
Adjunct Associate Professor Lee Kiat Seng ‘89
NUS Law and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) have established a Centre for Maritime Law (CML) and MPA Professorship in Maritime Law. These two initiatives deepen the strong partnership between NUS Law, the Ministry of Law, and the MPA in boosting Singapore’s expertise in maritime law research and thought leadership.

The centre was officially launched on 3 September 2015 by MPA Chief Executive, Mr Andrew Tan, and NUS Law Dean, Professor Simon Chesterman, in the presence of about 150 guests from the judiciary, government, practitioners from the legal, insurance and shipping sectors, as well as academics. The new centre, which is NUS Law’s sixth research centre,
will focus on commercial maritime law. Established with funding from MPA and the Ministry of Law, CML’s primary focus will be to spearhead maritime law research in Singapore and in the region, as well as enhance the knowledge and expertise among the shipping community in Singapore. It will also support and enhance the teaching of maritime law among undergraduates and postgraduate students.

MPA, through the Singapore Maritime Institute, has also set aside S$2 million to support the running of CML over five years.

Professor Stephen Girvin is the Founding Director of the centre and is joined by Associate Professor Paul Myburgh, formerly of the University of Auckland, as Deputy Director of the centre. An advisory board chaired by NUS Law and comprising nine other representatives from MPA, the legal fraternity and the marine insurance sector will also guide the work of the centre.

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, said, “Singapore is already a global port and a leading venue for maritime dispute resolution. Our aim is to build on that success to establish Singapore as a thought-leader in commercial maritime law issues. The launch of the Centre for Maritime Law and the MPA Professorship in Maritime Law complement the wider efforts to promote Singapore as a full-service maritime centre and ensure that its voice in commercial maritime law issues is heard.”

Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive of MPA said, “Maritime Singapore is home to more than 5,000 maritime establishments. These include the port, shipping and maritime services such as ship broking, marine insurance and maritime law and arbitration. We have a comprehensive maritime eco-system with good growth potential. A strong pool of maritime legal expertise will reinforce Singapore's development as a leading maritime legal and arbitration centre. This partnership with NUS will strengthen our efforts to position Singapore as an international maritime centre.”

CML will focus on research in commercial maritime law, broadly on international trade, transport and shipping law related issues. The centre’s activities range across private (commercial) shipping law and includes dispute settlement, such as maritime arbitration, and the offshore sector. In addition, the centre will organise seminars, conferences and symposia to engage academics, professionals, and government institutions with the objective of enhancing the development of maritime law in Singapore and the region. The centre expects its activities to enhance the reputation of Singapore as an International Maritime Centre (IMC).

Professor Girvin said, “The Centre for Maritime Law aims to be a leader in research and scholarship in maritime law. We look forward to working closely with the local and international maritime community to contribute towards strengthening Singapore’s pre-eminent reputation as a global maritime hub.”

CML is the sixth and latest research centre developed as part of NUS Law’s research initiative. In 2012, the faculty established the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, and in 2014, the Centre for Law & Business and the Centre for Banking & Finance Law were launched. Earlier in 2015, the Centre for Legal Theory was added to the ranks. The first research centre established by NUS Law is the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2016.
MAGNA CARTA VISITS NUS

LawLink spoke to Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan ’86 who curated the exhibition around the visit of the Magna Carta to Singapore in November 2015. The Hereford Cathedral replicas were brought to the NUS Bukit Timah campus courtesy of the British High Commission. NUS Law hosted the replicas and held a panel discussion chaired by Justice Judith Prakash ’74 to peel away the myths, mantras and misconceptions behind the Magna Carta revealing an instrument that was not born to greatness but instead had greatness thrust upon it.

What is the Magna Carta?
The Magna Carta was not one document but a series of documents, the first of which was sealed by King John on 12 June 1215 at Runnymede. I often refer to the Magna Carta as a ‘deed of desperation’ on the part of John because it was his attempt to save his own skin from the rebelling barons and prevent a full-scale civil war from breaking out. The document itself is a rather haphazard litany of 63 demands the barons made of John. These included protection clauses for the Church and limited the King’s prerogative of taxation. Significantly it placed the law above the King, and two key clauses in the Charter continue to resonate today – Clauses 39 and 40. The first states that no person shall be seized or imprisoned or stripped of his rights or possessions or outlawed or exiled ‘except by the judgment of his equals or by the law of the land’ and the other, that ‘To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice’. These two clauses have found their way into most of the world’s constitutions and human rights documents in one form or another.

The Magna Carta was reissued and reaffirmed several times – in 1216, 1217, 1225 and finally in 1239 – and it was only in 1225 that it became known as the Magna Carta or Great Charter of Liberties, to distinguish it from the Forest Charter of the same year.

How is it significant to Singapore?
For a time it was part of Singapore law. After 1297, the Magna Carta was included in the English Roll of Statutes and this was imported wholesale into Singapore through the Second Charter of Justice of 1826. Of course, most of these old English statutes no longer apply, especially with the passage of the Application of English Law Act in 1993. In any case, most of its clauses are obsolete. However, it is the spirit of the two key clauses in the Magna Carta that continue to be relevant. They are enshrined in Articles 9 and 12 of the Constitution, albeit in a different form.

How did you come to curate this exhibition in Singapore?
I was approached by the British High Commission, who had been looking around for a legal historian to curate the Singapore leg of the exhibition. My old friend Kwa Chong Guan, who was formerly Director of the National Museum and now Chairman of the National
Archives of Singapore suggested that they contact me since there are very few scholars in Singapore who work on legal history. Of course, as a legal historian and scholar of constitutional law, this was an opportunity not to be missed.

**What has gone into bringing the Magna Carta to Singapore?**

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, working with Hereford Cathedral, put together some funds to take Hereford’s 1217 version of the Magna Carta on tour through 7 countries, including Singapore. This is quite rare since the Magna Carta hardly ever goes on tour. The last tour was by the Lincoln Cathedral’s 1215 copy which went to America in 1939. There are only four surviving copies of the 1215 version and four surviving copies of the 1217 version. Even more spectacular and rare than the touring Magna Carta is Hereford’s ‘Letter of King John’ from 1215. This is the sole surviving copy of the letters which were sent by the King to the Sheriffs, ordering them to obey the Charter and make it known to the people. That’s a real treat.

**What were some of the events organised to celebrate the Magna Carta in Singapore?**

A five-day exhibition of the Hereford Magna Carta was staged at the Supreme Court from 19 to 23 November. In conjunction with the display, there was a small exhibition (which I curated) telling visitors about the history of the Magna Carta, what it says, and its continuing influence and significance, as well a bit about Hereford Cathedral and its treasures. Three talks were staged as a prelude to the Exhibition. The first was at NUS Law on 9 November.
BOOK LAUNCH
The ASEAN Charter: A Commentary


Over 160 guests from the legal fraternity gathered at the Moot Court on the Bukit Timah Campus, including guest-of-honour Professor Tommy Koh ’61, Ambassador-at-Large, and Mr George Yeo, Singapore’s former Minister for Foreign Affairs. Professor S. Jayakumar ’63, Chairman of the NUS Law Advisory Council, and also former Minister for Law, Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, was also in attendance. Titled “Building the Rules-Based ASEAN Community: Strengthening the Centre”, the lecture was introduced by Mr George Yeo who shared intimate insights into the role ASEAN has played in the recent election victory in Burma.

The 2007 ASEAN Charter was signed by the Heads of State/Government in Singapore. The aim was to create a rules-based ASEAN Community comprising three pillars: the ASEAN Economic Community, the ASEAN Political-Security Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. The ASEAN Community will be officially established this year.
Professor Woon asked the question - can the central institution of ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretariat, cope with the challenge of supporting the legal infrastructure that must exist for a rules-based community to exist?

His contention was that at the very least, significant resources need to be devoted to creating a proper Legal Service. The function of the Legal Service would be to support the Secretary-General in his role as Chief Administrative Officer of ASEAN, as well as to provide the institutional back-up for the making of rules, dispute resolution and advising the various ASEAN organs on the noodle-bowl of ASEAN instruments. The grand ambition to establish an integrated, people-oriented, rules-based ASEAN single market and investment area committed to the rule of law will not be achieved unless the centre is strengthened considerably.

Professor Tommy Koh thanked Professor Woon for his meticulously researched publication which helps readers navigate the ambiguities of the Charter by detailing an insider’s background, provision by provision, of the debates that went into the making of the ASEAN Charter. It not only explains how the provisions of the Charter came to be drafted, but also how they relate to the realities of diplomatic practice. Professor Koh defended the use of the camel analogy to describe ASEAN. He argued that despite its inelegance, a camel is able to “walk the shifting sands” across vast distances without food or water — reflecting the tenacity of ASEAN.

The book is published by NUS Press.

Professor Walter Woon
Professor Walter Woon read law at the National University of Singapore on a Development Bank of Singapore Scholarship, graduating with First Class Honours in 1981. He then proceeded to Cambridge University on a Commonwealth Scholarship, graduating with an LL.M. (First Class Honours) in 1983. He was called to the Singapore Bar in 1984 and appointed Senior Counsel in 2007.

Professor Woon is currently the David Marshall Professor at NUS Law and Deputy Chairman of the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore.

He has previously been Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, a nominated Member of Parliament and ambassador to Germany, Greece, the European Union, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the Holy See.

In 2007, he was an alternate member of the High Level Task Force for the drafting of the ASEAN Charter, functioning as the leader of the Singapore delegation during the second part of the process. He presented the completed Charter to the Foreign Ministers for signing by the Heads of State/Government at the 13th ASEAN Summit in November 2007.

David Marshall Professorship
David Saul Marshall, Singapore’s first Chief Minister and subsequent Ambassador to France, was a criminal lawyer par excellence and a formidable presence in court. To Mr Marshall, law was a calling, and he was known to work tirelessly even for hardship cases where he was paid little or nothing. NUS Law established the David Marshall Professorship in 1993 to honour an exceptional lawyer with a strong sense of social justice. The Professorship enables the Faculty to engage eminent professors to co-operate in research and education with other faculty members and share their expertise. The David Marshall Professorship was supported by generous gifts from the Far East Organization, Lee Foundation, Lien Foundation, Reuben Meyer Trust Fund, as well as other companies and individuals.
In celebration of SG50, Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan ’86 & Professor Thio Li-ann have written a book, Singapore: 50 Constitutional Moments that Defined a Nation.

The book published by Marshall Cavendish, was launched on 21 October at The Arts House. The venue was extremely fitting as the building served as Singapore's first Parliament House, where most of the historical constitutional moments in the book took place. The collection of short essays describes and explains the 50 constitutional moments that formed major inflexion points in the trajectory of Singapore's constitutional development. The authors have selected each of these 'moments' based on their impact in the forging of Singapore's modern constitutional order.

Singapore inherited a Westminster-style constitution from the British who ruled the island for 140 years. Since Singapore's independence in 1965, the Singapore constitution has received what co-author Professor Thio Li-ann described as “an American gloss” as it has been amended and augmented several times and wherein uniquely Singapore institutions — such as the Elected Presidency and Group Representation Constitutions — were created. All these changes occurred against the backdrop of Singapore's unique geographical location, multi-ethnic population and vulnerability to external forces.

Speaking to over 80 guests, including colleagues and students from NUS Law as well as the judiciary and members of the legal fraternity, Professor Kevin Tan thanked everyone who helped them in getting the book published. Professor Thio Li-ann said that the timing for introducing the book could not have been better as Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence this year. The book is mainly targeted at Singaporeans, and the authors hope that it will give an insight into the constitutional developments that have shaped our nation's history.

In reaffirming the objective of the book, Guest-of-Honour, Mr Thio Shen Yi, SC, President of the Law Society, talked about the significance of the book in helping Singaporeans understand the constitutional history of Singapore and how the people's choice of political order impacts the lives of everyone. He added that both Professor Kevin Tan and Professor Thio Li-ann have reduced the complexity of the constitution into a book that makes it more “digestible” for reading, with “more full stops than commas.”
The Centre for Law & Business (CLB) announced the launch of Cartels in Asia: Law & Practice at the Faculty on 7 May 2015. The book is the product of a research project co-funded by the CLB and the Competition Commission of Singapore in late 2013 where leading competition law scholars from eight jurisdictions in Asia presented papers at a symposium ("Competition Law and Cartels: An Asian Perspective") held at the National University of Singapore.

Competition law authorities around the world almost invariably make combating cartels an enforcement priority because such forms of collusive behaviour are unequivocally harmful to competition. Hard core cartel agreements typically involve one or more of the most anti-competitive forms of conduct — price-fixing, bid-rigging, market allocation and output restrictions — and frequently attract severe legal sanctions in most competition law jurisdictions. However, despite the general agreement among these jurisdictions that cartel activities should be treated unfavourably as a matter of legal principle, the specific features of each legal regime vary from country to country as each jurisdiction must implement laws that are suited to their respective political and economic circumstances.

This book seeks to provide an Asian perspective on a range of legal issues related to anti-cartel laws across a selection of countries in Asia, including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, India, Vietnam and Singapore. The goal is to examine contemporary issues facing the competition law regimes in these countries, with their diverse political systems and market conditions, and to provide insights into the policy challenges faced by their competition authorities in the enforcement of their national anti-cartel laws.

NUS Law congratulates Professor M. Sornarajah on his book, *Resistance and Change in the International Law on Foreign Investment*. NUS Law Dean Simon Chesterman delivered the opening address at the book launch on 29 April. He was joined by Visiting Professor Tony Anghie who gave a commentary on some of the issues raised in the book.

Professor M. Sornarajah has published several books in the area of commercial arbitration, and is considered a leading academic in his area of expertise. He currently holds the position of CJ Koh Professor at NUS Law, and is Visiting Professor at the Centre for Human Rights, London School of Economics.

Published by Cambridge University Press, Professor M. Sornarajah’s book explores the conflicts that emerged within international law on foreign investment which have been increasing as a result of several competing interests. His contention is that neoliberal philosophy ensures inflexible investment protection given by a network of investment treaties interpreted in an expansive manner, which led to states creating regulatory space over foreign investment.

However, NGOs committed to single causes such as human rights and the environment protested against inflexible investment protection. The rise to prominence of arguments against the fragmentation of international law also affected the development of investment law as an autonomous regime. These factors have resulted in some states renouncing the system of arbitration and other states creating new treaties which undermine inflexible investment protection. The treaty-based system of investment protection has therefore become tenuous, and change has become inevitable.

Emphasising the changes resulting from resistance to a system based on neoliberal foundations, this study looks at recent developments in the area.
Congratulations to Assistant Professor Lynette Chua ’03 on being awarded the 2015 Distinguished Book Award by the Sociology of Law Section of the American Sociological Association and the 2015 International Convention of Asian Scholars’ Accolade for Ground-Breaking Matter. She was also selected as a finalist for the 2015 Hart Socio-legal Book Prize for Early Career Academics, Socio-legal Studies Association (U.K.), and shortlisted for the EuroSEAS Social Science Book Prize 2015.

Published by Temple University Press, the book explores the themes of legal restrictions and political norms affecting the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) community. Mobilizing Gay Singapore: Rights and Resistance in an Authoritarian State provides insight into the emergence of the LGBT movement, development and strategies, and how the roles of law and rights play out in the process.

Launched on 14 May 2014 at the NUS Law campus, Assistant Professor Chua’s book uses in-depth interviews with gay activists, observations of the movement’s activities, movement documents, government statements, and media reports. She shows how activists deploy “pragmatic resistance” to gain visibility and support, and tackle political norms that suppress dissent, while avoiding direct confrontations with the state.

In her ground-breaking book, Assistant Professor Chua tells the history of the gay rights movement in Singapore and asks what a social movement looks like under these circumstances. She examines the movement’s emergence, development, strategies, and tactics, as well as the roles of law and rights in social processes.
REMEMBERING JUSTICE AND LEGAL HERITAGE

The Singapore War Crimes Trials Project

By Assistant Professor Cheah Wui Ling ’03

This year we mark the 70th anniversary of Japan’s official surrender in Singapore at the end of the Second World War. Next year we will observe the 70th anniversary of the first of 131 war crimes trials held in Singapore after the war.

Two NUS Law alumni have been awarded a grant by Singapore’s National Heritage Board to implement a legal heritage and public outreach project on the Singapore war crimes trials. Assistant Professor Cheah Wui Ling ’03 and Ms Ng Pei Yi ’11 have been working with a team of NUS students and recent law graduates to build a freely accessible web portal on the Singapore trials.

On 10 September 2015, Pei Yi presented their ongoing project at NUS Law during a talk that also featured Dr Moritz Vormbaum, an expert on post-war trials in Germany from Humboldt University.

For Pei Yi, the bringing to life of this legal heritage project has been thought-provoking.

Apart from the more famous Tokyo and Nuremberg Trials, hundreds of other war crimes trials were conducted by the Allied Powers throughout Asia and Europe at the end of the war. Singapore served as the hub for British war crimes investigations and trials in Asia. Here, in Singapore, defendants from Japan, Korea and Taiwan were tried by British and Allied judges for wartime atrocities. Hundreds of European and Asian witnesses took the stand to bear witness to notorious crimes such as the Sook Ching Massacre and Burma-Siam Death Railway.

The web portal on the Singapore trials aims to present trial-related data in an accessible and interactive manner. Case summaries, legal analysis and testimonies will be displayed in engaging ways using graphics and data visualisation tools. The web portal will also host a searchable database that will contain the names and information of trial actors and victims. This database will be of particular interest to ordinary members of the public who want to know whether their family members or friends were involved in the trials.

Wui Ling and Pei Yi hope that this web portal will increase public awareness about the Singapore war crimes trials. While many researchers know that these trials were held, the content and details of these trials remain under-explored and under-researched. This legal heritage project aims to stimulate public interest in this tumultuous but fascinating period in Singapore’s history.

As eloquently put by Professor Walter Woon in his speech as guest of honour at the remembrance ceremony organized at Kranji War Cemetery on 12 September 2015, “To ignore the grim lessons of history is to dishonour the memory of the thousands of men and women who lie here around us […] men and women who might have gone on to do great things but for the War.”

The Singapore war crimes trials web portal will commemorate those who suffered as well as those who pursued justice.

If you would like to be involved or have any queries and ideas to share, please feel free to reach out and contact Wui Ling (lawcwl@nus.edu.sg) or Pei Yi (mail.peiyi@gmail.com).

Cheah Wui Ling is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore. She is co-researcher of the Singapore War Crimes Trials Public Outreach Project.

Ng Pei Yi is Legal Counsel for the Asia Pacific region at Travelport. She is also co-researcher and executive officer of the Singapore War Crimes Trials Public Outreach Project.
NUS Law has reaffirmed its position in the legal fraternity and its status as Asia’s Global Law School. In the latest report by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2015, NUS Law was ranked 1st in Asia and 14th in the world.

Regaining its leading position in Asia, and climbing five positions in the global rankings, NUS Law’s strong showing is a result of the faculty’s academic reputation, research impact and reputation among employers.

Dean of NUS Law, Professor Simon Chesterman said: “Everyone involved knows that such rankings can only measure at best part of what any law school does, but I was pleased to see that NUS Law was placed clearly as the best in Asia and 14th in the world.

The QS Rankings also named NUS among the world’s 10 best universities for 11 subjects across disciplines in Architecture/Built Environment, Engineering, Science, and the Social Sciences. The University is also Asia’s best across 21 subjects (including Law), up from 18 subjects last year.

NUS makes the top 50 worldwide for a total of 30 subjects, where it was ranked in 31 out of the 36 subjects relevant to the University. It is also the best-performing Asian university, topping the list of universities outside the UK and US with the most number of subjects within the top 10 ranking.

Said NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan: “Our strong performance in the latest subject rankings is a testament to the powerful commitment of our talented professors and graduates to excellence, and the contributions they have been making. The confidence of academics and employers around the world in NUS serves as a reminder and encouragement to all of us at the University to continue sharpening our focus on educational innovation and high-impact research, with the aim of creating distinctive value for Singapore and the communities around us.”

Added Professor Tan Eng Chye, NUS Deputy President (Academic Affairs) and Provost: “We are truly pleased that there is global and Asian appreciation of our efforts to ensure that the NUS curriculum remains relevant to industry, and future needs. The close synergy between academics and employers continues to inspire the culture of excellence and innovation at NUS. Our aim … is to nurture graduates who will be ‘future-ready’ for impactful careers that will make a difference to Singapore and beyond.”

Considered the largest of its kind, the yearly subject rankings are based on surveys conducted on 85,062 academics and 41,910 employers, together with the analysis of 17.3 million research papers and more than 100 million citations.
Citi launched a Legal Internship Programme with NUS Law in February 2015. This is part of its commitment to nurturing the workforce of tomorrow. The programme inaugurates a partnership between Citi, NUS Law and Rajah & Tann. It was developed to address the increasing and evolving needs of the financial and legal industries, by providing law students with a unique opportunity to gain practical legal experience in banking.

The programme attracted 80 applications from NUS Law with nine students being selected for the internship. Students who are accepted into the programme are attached to a senior counsel and gain exposure to the role of the in-house legal function at Citi. This internship programme requires students to make a three-month commitment, during which they are exposed to global financial regulatory trends, product development and contract negotiations. In addition, all interns are granted a guaranteed interview opportunity with Rajah & Tann and the best performing intern of the year, as determined by Citi and Rajah & Tann, will be awarded a training contract with the law firm.

Andrew Wan, General Counsel Markets & Securities Services, Asia Pacific at Citi said, “The evolution of the legal industry
has resulted in the need for the legal profession to transform the way it was originally set out to be. There is now an increasing need for law students to look beyond the traditional private practice career path and seek out alternative career choices. Citi’s legal internship programme was developed precisely to help law students see the potential in organisations like Citi and is part of our efforts to support the evolving needs of both the financial and legal industries. We are very pleased that our partners Rajah & Tann and NUS Law see the value in our initiative and have extended their support for our programme."

Evangeline Chua, Head of Human Resources at Citi Singapore said, “Being one of the largest banking employers in Singapore, Citi has always taken a proactive role in nurturing the workforce of the country. The legal internship programme is modelled after Citi’s own associate programmes and seeks to give students the opportunity to experience the banking industry, with guidance from Citi’s senior executives. At Citi, we recognise that an organisation’s success is driven by its people and believe in working closely with our industry partners and tertiary institutions, to develop programmes that are relevant and address the needs of the market.”

To maximise the impact of the internship programme, a total of up to 10 law students will be accepted into Citi’s legal internship programme each year. The next intake of the legal internship programme will commence in early 2016 and the call for application will begin end 2015.

"Becoming a complete lawyer in today’s world has become increasingly challenging. Technical excellence and exemplary professional ethics remain critical but more is needed. Commercial sense, a keen understanding of how business is transacted, and good working knowledge of the client’s industry have also become fundamental. The Citi Legal Internship Programme has been designed with these needs in mind. It is unique in providing the opportunity to receive training in both the bank and law firm environments, as well as from the perspectives of both corporate and external counsel. We are proud to be part of this programme.

Interning with Citi has given me privileged access to work in a leading global bank, under the guidance of experienced counsel. This opportunity has enabled me to gain valuable insights of both the finance and legal industries, cultivating the practical skills necessary to excel in my future career endeavours. The programme has definitely validated my choice to join the legal profession, and presents going in-house as a meaningful alternative to traditional private practice."
COMMENCEMENT 2015

Welcome to Our Newest Alumni!

NUS Law saw over 300 students graduate from the faculty at Commencement 2015, which took place at the University Cultural Centre on 13 July.
This year, NUS Law Commencement was held together with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and attendees were honoured to be joined by Ambassador-at-Large, Professor Tommy Koh ’61. Speaking at the ceremony, Professor Koh, who is an inspiration to many, shared some advice and words of encouragement with the new graduates. Dean Simon Chesterman called on graduates to treasure the education received from NUS Law and encouraged them to achieve great things.

Chew Chin Seng ’15, valedictorian for the Class of 2015, reminisced about his days in school and thanked his classmates, professors and family. Echoing the sentiments of his fellow graduates, Chin Seng said, “Our alumni have built their success not merely upon the cases and the legal principles that we have studied in NUS, but more importantly, upon the skills, the experiences and the personal connections gained over the years of university education. We too can aspire to achieve great things in our careers with the solid foundation that NUS has laid for us, and to seek out and define our own success. Yes, there will be challenges and obstacles ahead, but I believe that the inner drive within each of us, and the values imparted to us from our education and upbringing will have prepared us well.”

The farewell dinner held for the graduates later that evening wrapped up a day of celebrations. With a night of music, jokes and an awards ceremony featuring nominations for “Most likely to be Chief Justice”, and the “Just-so-Loveable Couple (JLC)” among others, the newest NUS Law Alumni sought to preserve memories of dear friends with video recordings and photos.

Congratulations to all our graduates!
MOOT WINS
NUS Law Continues to Excel in International Competitions

27th Annual Jean-Pictet Competition

The 27th annual Jean-Pictet Competition saw the NUS team, comprising Huang Peide ‘16, Lee Ji En ‘15 and Zulhafni Zulkeflee ‘15, emerge as overall champion.

The Jean-Pictet Competition, named after the former Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, is the most prestigious international humanitarian law moot court competition. It aims to take “law out of the books” through simulations and role-play within fictitious but realistic scenarios of armed conflict. Adopting various roles from combatants to aid workers, students are trained to look at the same situation from different perspectives and assessed by leading practitioners and scholars in the field.

This competition differs from other moots in that the challenge topics are only revealed hours, sometimes minutes, before the final competition, leaving little preparation time.

The NUS Law team competed in gruelling preliminary rounds, progressing to the finals held on 3 April in Virginia, US, which culminated in a victory for NUS.

“The competition focuses a lot on collaboration. At any point of time it’s usually a very supportive environment,” said Zulhafni, whose childhood dream was to be a criminal lawyer. Highlighting a close friendship formed with the African team, he added: “They were really excited when we won, even more excited than we were!”

In another moot competition—the 22nd Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot held in Vienna from 27 March to 3 April—Kelvin Chong ’15 took home the Martin Domke Award for Best Oralist. Kelvin is the first Singaporean and member of an Asian team to achieve this honour.

The Award, named after Martin Domke, a well-known scholar of international arbitration, aims to foster the study of international commercial law and arbitration for resolution of international business disputes.

The competition required Kelvin to write and file a memorandum from both the claimant and respondent on a case study dispute requiring arbitration before proceeding to the oral rounds in Vienna. He ranked highest across four preliminary rounds, leading to his win.

A dedicated member of the NUS Debate Team since 2008, Kelvin said that his debating experience may have contributed to his win. He has previously won the Asian British Parliamentary Debating Championship in 2012 and 2013.

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D.M. Harish International Moot Competition

The NUS Law team emerged as champions at the 16th D. M. Harish Government Law College International Moot Court Competition 2015. The team featured Benjamin Foo ’15, Jeremiah Lau ’15, and Marc Teh ’15. In addition to the win, Jeremiah received the awards for best speaker overall and best speaker in the final round, while Benjamin was ranked 5th in the overall speakers’ standings.

The team’s participation and success was due, in no small part, to the generous donation made by the late Mr H.L. Wee. Benjamin is the first recipient of the H.L. Wee Mooting Scholarship while Jeremiah and Marc are recipients of the H.L. Wee Mooting Fund.

Organised and hosted by the Government Law College, Mumbai, in association with the D. M. Harish Foundation, the competition is India’s oldest and most renowned international moot court competition, boasting participation from a number of universities including New York University, Queen Mary University of London, National Law School of India University, Bangalore and Singapore Management University.

The competition is also noted for the high profile judges who adjudicate at every stage of the competition, from practitioners and professors well-versed in international law, to senior counsel of the Bombay High Court and Supreme Court of India. The bench for the final round comprised of five judges of the Bombay High Court, a court with jurisdiction over the states of Maharashtra and Goa, whose decisions can only be appealed to the Supreme Court of India.

The teams were tasked to prepare and present arguments on both sides of a complex hypothetical dispute that raised issues of public international law and international investment law. Briefly, these issues included the lawfulness of the use of force in a military intervention, whether the threat of activating a computer virus can be construed as a threat of use of force, the admissibility of the two aforementioned issues, and whether a legislative act of a sovereign state can amount to an expropriation that breaches international investment law. Many teams came well-prepared and were adept in the art of mooting and presentation, and their highly commendable performances and efforts made for a very high standard of competition.

The final round was a much awaited showdown between the team from The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata and the team from NUS Law. Both teams came through the preliminary, octo-final, quarterfinal and semi-final rounds undefeated. During the course of the round, both teams traded intelligently crafted arguments with excellent grounding in the law.

Ultimately, the NUS team emerged victorious because they were able to address the panel’s questions and succinctly present “the law in the context of the facts”—per The Honourable Mr Justice V.M. Kanade, quoting a line from Benjamin’s speech. Besides being quoted by a judge in the highest court of the state, it was a historic moment for the NUS team as the results mark the first win for a Singapore team in the 16 years of the competition’s history.

Aside from the competitive aspect of the experience, it was also a culturally memorable and enriching experience. The exceptional hospitality of the Moot Court Association of Government Law College ensured teams’ needs were met, from safe passage from airport to hotel, to arranging for a tantalising array of cuisine for participants to savour at each meal. The friendly competition officials even introduced a little bhangra culture to the teams during a visit to a village-themed restaurant-cum-bar after the quarter-final rounds. In particular, the competition officials expediently arranged for transport for the NUS team when they had to rush for their flight immediately after the valedictory function after the finals. All in all, the competition was a valuable learning experience for the team.
NUS Law won the inaugural Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot 2015. The competition was held at King’s College London from 12 to 14 June 2015.

Jeremiah Lau ‘15, Benjamin Wong ‘15 and Lisa Tan ‘15 beat teams from University of Helsinki, Maastricht University, University of Leeds, as well as the competition’s host university King’s College London, to reach the finals where they triumphed over the team from University of Amsterdam to clinch the champion title. The team also impressed the international panel of judges, recording the highest score among all 12 teams at the end of the preliminary rounds. Lisa Tan also won the Best Oralist prize, achieving a perfect score of 50 out of 50, while Jeremiah Lau and Benjamin Wong followed closely as joint runners-up.

Over two days, the NUS Law team fought through jet lag and fatigue to demonstrate the depth of their mastery of the legal subject matter against multiple panels of judges. They were put through two preliminary rounds, one quarter-final, one semi-final, culminating in a gruelling hour-long session in the Finals before a distinguished panel of seven judges that included senior competition law enforcement officials from both sides of the Atlantic. In the crucial final round, they successfully argued why businesses would be unfairly penalised if the court did not accept the Defendant’s submissions.

The Finals lasted twice as long as the previous two rounds, with a panel of judges including European Commission officials, CMA officials, and academics. The questions came fast and furious, but our team managed to keep our unified stance. Thanks to Associate Professor Eleanor Wong ‘85, Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng ‘92 and Lecturer Ms Elaine Chew ‘09 for sharing their oral advocacy skills, the competition lawyers who provided invaluable feedback in our practice rounds, and Associate Professor Burton Ong ‘99 for facilitating and organising this journey with us.

From left to right: NUS Law students Jeremiah Lau, Lisa Tan, Benjamin Wong and Associate Professor Burton Ong
The two biggest takeaways from the competition were the experience of preparing for the case itself, and the chance to learn from dedicated professors and practitioners who made available their time and experience to coach us. We did not have any prior mooting experience and the team faced a steep learning curve. Nonetheless, our coach and professors believed in us and gave us the advice and support we needed. Our success is a reflection of their excellent tutelage. The team hopes our moot win will inspire other potential moot teams and students aspiring to pursue a career in shipping law to give it their best shot.

Tay Jia En ‘15
NUSSU Rag & Flag 2015 was a spectacular event that left lasting impressions on both the audience and participants. It was held in conjunction with the SG50 and NUS’ 110th anniversary celebrations.

For Flag Day, more than 200 NUS Law students took to the streets on 4 August to collect donations for Lighthouse School, a specialised school for the visually handicapped. Commendably, students across all faculties raised a total of S$451,120 for the 19 beneficiaries this year.

The highlight was Rag Day, where the different NUS faculties and halls came together at The Float @ Marina Bay on 7 August to showcase the results of their creativity and hard work. The 26,000-strong crowd was treated with a stunning array of performances, with dancers dressed in colourful costumes and the stage decorated with intricately-designed floats.

During the two months leading up to the event, the Law rag team spent countless hours rehearsing their dance moves and constructing stage props for their chance to impress—and impress they did, with the Law performance clinching the Silver Award. Awards aside, our law students also gained from this experience lasting memories and newly-formed friendships.

Other performers, including Youtube sensation Christina Grimmie, local talents “The Sam Willows and Gentle Bones”, and MINDS Towner Garden School’s “Kool Kidz”, also joined in the celebrations and entertained the crowd. The night ended on a high with a dazzling fireworks display against the iconic Marina Bay skyline, truly a sight to behold. For our incoming freshmen, this marked the end of orientation, but the beginning of an exciting journey at NUS.
LAW IV: ON THE UPPER QUAD
Contributed by NUS Law Club, Class of 2015

Keeping with tradition, the graduating class of NUS Law puts together a musical production to raise funds for an adopted charity. This year that charity was the Society for the Aged Sick (SAS). With a capable production team and backed up by a talented cast, the Class of 2015 presented Law IV: On the Upper Quad.

Enjoyed by over 700 people, On the Upper Quad centred on Seng, a young man stopped from realising his dream of university education due to his family history and the Suitability Certificate.

The story was inspired by events that took place at the Bukit Timah Campus in the 1960s. Led by student leaders, demonstrations were held in response to the introduction of the Suitability Certificate requirement for university admissions, which was intended to keep subversive elements out of tertiary institutions. The background of the story proved particularly poignant for guest-of-honour Professor Tommy Koh ’61, who spoke of the actual demonstrations back in October 1966, which he had been part of.

The proceeds from the sale of tickets, as well as other fundraising activities, such as a bake sale, helped raise over S$18,000 for SAS.

The charity efforts for SAS went beyond raising funds as many of those involved in Law IV also volunteered to participate in events organised by the association for the elderly members. This being the 50th year of Singapore’s independence, it was thought appropriate for Law IV to celebrate and honour the efforts of Singapore’s pioneer generation.
REUNIONS

A much awaited event for members of the alumni are the Class Reunions hosted by NUS Law. It is at these reunions that everyone gets to catch up with old classmates and professors, and of course to reminisce on their days as students.

Class of 1980

NUS Law’s Class of 1980 celebrated their 35th anniversary reunion on 17 October 2015, at the Balzac Brasserie & Bar. Over 30 of the class made it to the event with Professor Valentine Winslow, indulged in lively banter and of course trying to spot each other in old class photos.

The class sang along to the song “Vincent (Starry Starry Night)” which was a top hit during their law school days, and also tested their memories of law school through a quiz which ensured lively participation and a lot of laughs. It was a warm and cosy reunion that lasted long into the night.
Class of 1985
The Class of 1985 celebrated their 30th anniversary reunion on 23 October 2015 with a dinner at Suntec City Guild House. The reunion was hosted by Dean Simon Chesterman, and more than 30 classmates gathered to catch up, including Vice Dean Eleanor Wong ’85 and Associate Professor Ruby Lee ’85. There were smiles and hugs all round as classmates renewed ties, traded stories and relived fond memories, and were even treated to a short film produced by fellow classmate Ng Yuen.
Class of 2000
Hosted by Dean Simon Chesterman and members of the faculty, the 15th anniversary reunion for the Class of 2000 took place on 22 August 2015, at NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House. Even though 15 years had passed since graduation, the years just melted away as soon as the party started with light-hearted chats and boisterous laughs.
Class of 2005
The Class of 2005 got together for their 10th Anniversary Reunion on 9 May, at NUSS the Graduate Club. Hosted by Associate Professor Eleanor Wong ’85 and NUS Law, the reception was a lively one with the former classmates introducing their young families and catching up with each other.
For the first time ever, the NUS Alumni Relations team hosted a dim sum lunch for our alumni based in London on 12 April, at the Royal China Restaurant. The Singapore High Commissioner to the UK, Her Excellency Ms. Foo Chi-Hsia ’94 graced the occasion. We were happy and very touched to have alumni from other parts of Europe who flew in to join us for the event. Our students who are on exchange in the United Kingdom joined the lunch too.

In true blue Singapore fashion, our guests bonded over good food (too much!) and good conversation. We have already been asked to come back soon to do a Singapore hawker food feast for our next reunion!
On 7 March, the NUS Law Alumni Relations Team returned to the beautiful Ruijin Hotel to host a cocktail reception for our alumni based in Shanghai. In addition to NUS Law Dean Professor Simon Chesterman, alumni also met with Vice Dean, (Student Affairs), Associate Professor Eleanor Wong ’85, Director for LLM (IBL) Associate Professor Stephen Phua ’88 and Associate Professor Burton Ong ’99. Our current LLM (IBL) students who were at the East China University for Political Science and Law (ECUPL) for the second semester of the IBL programme were also invited.

China is currently our largest overseas alumni base and is set to grow. We look forward to more opportunities to catch up with them!
CLASS ACTION

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Jaclyn L. Neo ‘03 and husband, Markus K. Labude, on the arrival of their beautiful daughter Hannah Mia Neo Labude in 2014! The year was an especially exciting one for Jaclyn, who also received her doctorate (J.S.D.) from Yale.

“Little Hannah continues to thrill and surprise us daily with her beautiful smiles and sense of wonder about the new world around her,” shares the new mum.

Best wishes to Clement Ee (DipSing ‘07) and Iris Mo on their recent nuptials!

Clement tells LawLink: “I’m so blessed to have indeed ‘found the one whom my soul loves’ (Song of Songs 3:4). We chose the law school as one of the venues for our pre-wedding photo shoot not only because of its architectural features but more importantly because of the many good memories and significance it has to me, having attended the DipSing there in 2007 – a watershed moment – when I finally decided to return to Singapore and enter legal practice after spending 7 years living in the UK. Thank you LawLink for giving us the opportunity to share our joy with my friends in the legal fraternity.”

Taking on a new role is Daryl Lim ‘04 (LLB) ’06 (LLM), who was appointed Director of the Center for Intellectual Property, Information & Privacy Law at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Daryl specialises in intellectual property (IP) and antitrust law, and will oversee John Marshall’s nationally ranked IP program. Best of luck in your new role!

NUS Law congratulates Davinder Singh ‘82, SC, on being named “Disputes Star of the Year” at the inaugural Asialaw Asia-Pacific (APAC) Dispute Resolution Awards held in Hong Kong. Davinder is the Chief Executive Officer of Drew & Napier LLC, and has handled a number of high profile cases. He has an active international arbitration practice involving complex commercial disputes and multiple jurisdictions.

Moving on up is Cheong Aik Hock, ‘97, who was promoted at Hyflux Group to be part of the Key Management Committee. In his new capacity, Aik Hock will oversee the Group’s emerging Power business, and the Group’s legal activities, corporate governance and compliance. Congratulations on the promotion!

Congratulations to Jacqueline Chan ‘98 of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP partner for being named among Private Funds Management’s (PFM) “30 under 40,” an annual list of the most influential private equity lawyers around the world under 40 years of age!
NUS Law welcomes Oskar Padang Adityo ’16 as the first Riady Scholar to the faculty. The scholarship is a gift from the Riady family in support of outstanding Indonesian law students who wish to pursue their graduate education with the faculty. LawLink catches up with Oskar who tells us more about himself, his inspirations and interest.
Congratulations on being the first to obtain the Riady Scholarship! Can you tell us more about yourself?

I'm originally from Jakarta, Indonesia, and completed my high school education in Australia, before returning to Jakarta for my law degree. Later, a scholarship granted by the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office helped me pursue my Masters in Public Policy at Queen Mary University of London.

Scholarship Award

It is an honour to be awarded the Riady Scholarship, and the donors are very generous to give me this opportunity. I hope in future there will be more scholars who can benefit from such an experience.

Career

I started my career in an advisory role with the Indonesian National Police (INP), and was posted to one of their transnational crime task forces in 2008. My role was to provide advice through research pertaining to legal and political implications for Indonesia's counter-extremism efforts conducted by the INP since the Bali Bombings in 2002. I later joined the law firm, Lubis Ganie Surowidjojo, dealing with matters on Foreign Investment Law. In early 2010, I moved back to INP after the 2009 Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott hotel bombings.

Most recently, I was involved in the successful presidential campaign for Indonesian President Joko Widodo. During the campaign, it was imperative for me to share information on the candidate's agenda with the local and foreign press. This helped to ensure common public understanding and expectation of President Joko Widodo's administration during his tenure.

What/who inspired you to pursue a career in law?

I aspired to be an international lawyer or diplomat ever since I was in junior high school. My ambitions were inspired by modern 20th century international relations and political literature.

I had read biographies and works by international statesmen such as Theodore Roosevelt, Edmund A. Walsh, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Henry Kissinger, and looked up to Indonesian figures such as the late Indonesian politician L.B. Moerdani, and Yap Thiam Hien, the Indonesian human rights lawyer.

Why did you choose NUS Law?

Perhaps the thrill of seeing the world and to meet people from all walks of life and different cultures was a strong reason for choosing a law career in the very first place. This is also why I chose to study at NUS Law. As China and Indonesia have growing economic cooperation and stronger ties, I feel compelled to learn more on the dynamics of the relationship as the growth would affect the international public and private sectors.

The LL.M. International Business Law programme allows me to spend a second semester in Shanghai, and I consider this the best way for me to achieve that objective. This programme also allows the sharing of thoughts and ideas with my Chinese colleagues from the programme, discussing pertinent issues that are important to our public and private areas. I am also grateful for the opportunity to meet schoolmates from Japan, the United States and European countries who are interested in the prospect of a growing Asia.

The International Business Law programme is the perfect platform for lawyers from different jurisdictions to foster relationships with each other and gain more understanding on the future direction of the business sector in Asia and internationally.

Another important factor is that studying at NUS Law allows me to have a better understanding on the Southeast Asian region, especially in the context of Singapore-Indonesia relationship. Despite the proximity, shared historical background and common vision of the region, I believe that stronger ties need to be committed between these two countries to promote more bilateral understanding in solving issues that are affecting their relationship outside the established framework of multinational cooperation such as ASEAN and regular public international law diplomacy tracks.

What are your plans after getting your LL.M?

I will go back to being a lawyer, and hope to pursue a PhD at some point.
TOP PROFESSOR FROM YALE JOINS NUS LAW

Professor Alec Stone Sweet appointed as inaugural Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor in Law

Professor Alec Stone Sweet, an internationally renowned professor of comparative constitutional law and comparative politics will be leaving his tenured position at Yale University School of Law to join NUS Law in January 2016.

He will be the first to take up the Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professorship in Law. The Chair is generously supported by Professor Saw Swee Hock, President’s Honorary Professor of Statistics at NUS, who has supported numerous education and research related ventures at universities worldwide, and represents one of the most distinguished appointments at NUS.

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, said: “Alec Stone Sweet is one of the very best scholars in the world on comparative constitutional law and comparative politics. We are thrilled that he will be the first Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor of Law. Having been a tenured professor at Yale for a decade, his decision to give up that post and move to Singapore is an indication of how far and how fast NUS Law has risen. Given Alec’s scholarship on the evolution of legal systems, in particular the economic and political impact of courts, it is also a natural move that places him the heart of Asia’s premier legal hub.”

When asked about his move to NUS Law, Professor Stone Sweet said: “I have chosen to move to NUS because my future research will focus on Asian law and institutions, and NUS Law is clearly the most important law school in Asia.”

He adds, “There are three main reasons for taking up this exciting opportunity. First, given my current book is on the evolution of international arbitration, Singapore’s growth as the dispute resolution hub for Asia is extremely attractive to me. NUS Law hosts SIMI, the Singapore International Mediation Institute and will allow me to watch closely the development of the newly launched International Commercial Court. My research also covers regional integration and being in Singapore will place me at the heart of the developments in ASEAN. Finally, as one of my fields of research is comparative law, the NUS Law Centre for Asian Legal Studies which has already become an important and widely-respected research institution has made the study of constitutionalism its top priority.”

When asked about Singapore, Professor Stone Sweet laughs, “I’ve spent exactly one week in Singapore. Imagine – moving to the other end of the world to live in a place I hardly know! What I do know is that I am moving to a great university and I have no doubt that the NUS Law community will make me feel welcome. The Bukit Timah campus looks like a wonderful oasis dedicated to teaching and scholarship, and I am looking forward to making a new home there.”

The Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professorship in Law was created to push the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law to new heights of excellence. I am delighted that it has led to the appointment of Professor Alec Stone Sweet, a tenured full professor who is giving up his position at Yale Law School to move to NUS. I am confident that Professor Stone Sweet will make a tremendous contribution to the research and teaching mission of the Faculty of Law.

Professor Saw Swee Hock
About Professor Alec Stone Sweet

Professor Alec Stone Sweet is a leading American academic in the fields of international law and comparative law. He is currently the Leitner Professor of Law, Politics and International Studies at Yale University. His research has focused on law and courts, and the impact of judges on legislators and other policymakers, on market integration and transnational economic activity, and on the protection of human rights.

Prior to joining Yale in 2004, Prof Stone Sweet was Official Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford (1999-2004), and Professor at the University of California, Irvine. He has also held visiting professorships at Bocconi University Law School (Milan), Columbia Law School (New York), as well as in law faculties in Aix-en-Provence (France), Bologna (Italy), Florence (Italy), Madrid (Spain), Paris (France), Stockholm (Sweden), Sydney (Australia), and Vienna (Austria).

Professor Stone Sweet has taught a wide range of courses in law, among which Comparative Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Law and Globalisation, Legal Pluralism and Global Law, the European Convention on Human Rights, European Union Law, Qualitative Research Design for Legal Research, and International Arbitration.
REMEMBERING HIS FATHER THROUGH A BURSARY

The father of NUS Law alumnus Mr Tan Chong Huat ‘89 had a generous heart and a huge passion for life. Mr Tan Han Boon started as a salaried worker before rising through the ranks to become a successful businessman, an active member of the community, a philanthropist and the father of three children, two of whom are NUS alumni.

This story inspired Mr Tan Chong Huat to honour his father’s memory by pledging S$150,000 to NUS Law to establish the Tan Han Boon Bursary.

Mr Tan’s desire to perpetuate his father’s values provided his motivation to give back to his alma mater. He explains, “My father was a deserving pioneer who contributed to Singapore and his industrious nature and responsible nature moulded the lives of my siblings and me to be diligent and dedicated in everything that we do.”

Mr Tan shares his father’s achievements, which granted him both status and great respect. He says, “He was born in Batu Pahat, Malaysia on 31 August 1939. At the age of 15, he came to Singapore to work as an apprentice technician and later settled into the position of a clerk in a commodities trading company. Eventually, he rose to the position of trading director. He was held in high regard by his peers for his honesty, integrity and fair dealings in the rice and sugar industry in both Singapore and Thailand.”

In addition, Mr Tan’s father was determined to contribute back to society. He was active in grassroots activities in the constituency, and as honorary secretary to various community organisations, he was fluent in Mandarin and various local dialects. Apart from his time, his father also generously donated and sponsored various causes in the local community despite his modest means.

Through the Bursary, Mr Tan wants to offer deserving students the opportunity to further their studies regardless of their circumstances. He hopes the recipients will do well in life and, when they are ready and financially able, they will give both time and money back to society, as well as to NUS.

For these students to achieve success, Mr Tan believes that recipients of the Tan Han Boon Bursary should possess qualities such as diligence, a deep sense of responsibility and belonging and also a doggedness and passion for life. Mr Tan is a firm believer that these qualities have proven to be the pillars of success for many NUS alumni.

Lennart Ng ‘16, a Year 3 Law student and recipient of the Bursary, says, “The biggest difference this Award has made is that I do not have to fret over money issues, which can be very stressful when it comes to juggling studies and work.” He is starting a career in international law, and intends to ‘pass on’ the gift through society projects.

“A good education lays only the basic foundation for one’s journey in life. Values, character, affiliation and ethics are factors that will determine how meaningful and happy that journey will be.

“Giving is an act of sharing and believing in a better future that we all share. Giving originates from the heart. It is the heart of each alumnus that this giving seeks to touch. In doing so, other aspects of our lives will be touched,” concludes Mr Tan.

For information on making a gift to NUS, contact us at 1800-DEVELOP (1800-338-3567) or email askdvo@nus.edu.sg.

If you have a story to share, please contact us at whatyourstory@nus.edu.sg.
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