Panel Discussion: Government Careers in International Law

Brief Synopsis: This event will feature stories from different sectors of international law practice across Singapore Government agencies. Each panellist will provide an overview of his or her work, career pathway, and practical tips on what you can do now to prepare yourself for a government career in international law—including in non-legal positions. Among the panellists are officials from the Ministry of Law and the Attorney-General’s Chambers. You will also learn more about how you can participate in the burgeoning local international law community, including at events such as the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and the AGC International Law Speakers’ Series.

The panel will be followed by an interactive discussion moderated by A/P Eleanor Wong, Vice Dean (Student Affairs).

Event Details

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>18 August 2017, Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>1215H to 1400H (Please do not be late) Lunch will be provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venue:</td>
<td>Blk B, 5th Level, Seminar Room 5-2 National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>URL:</td>
<td><a href="http://tinyurl.com/yc2yo64e">http://tinyurl.com/yc2yo64e</a></td>
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Panellists

Davinia Aziz ‘02
Senior State Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General’s Chambers, Singapore and Adjunct Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law

At the AGC, Davinia provides legal services to Singapore Government agencies on the full spectrum of public international law issues. She has particular practice interests in the law of the sea and maritime boundaries, international dispute settlement, and the legal work of the United Nations. At the National University of Singapore, Davinia teaches a course on international organizations. She has also published on this topic in the International Organizations Law Review (Brill) and the Asian Journal of International Law (Cambridge University Press).

Davinia was educated at the New York University School of Law, where she was a Hauser Global Scholar, and at the University of Oxford. She read law at the National University of Singapore, and was a member of the team that represented NUS at the 2001 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

Paul Chia ‘00
Deputy Senior State Counsel, International Affairs Division since August 2011

His current responsibilities involve advising the Singapore Government on public international law matters, with a focus on trans-boundary criminal matters such as extradition and mutual legal assistance. Paul was formerly a Deputy Public Prosecutor with the Criminal Justice Division from 2000 to 2008. He was then seconded to the Legal Services Department of the Ministry of Manpower where he served as the Deputy Director of the department from 2008 to 2011 before joining the International Affairs Division. Paul graduated with an LLB (2nd Upper Hons) from the National University of Singapore in 2000.
Mary-Elisabeth Chong  
State Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General’s Chambers in February 2015

At the AGC, Mary advises the Singapore Government on all matters relating to international law. During this time, she has worked on a wide range of matters relating to different areas of international law, including the law on human rights, treaties, privileges and immunities, international legal cooperation, as well as the legal and security-related matters under the purview of the UN. Prior to her current appointment, she was serving as a Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Criminal Justice Division of the Attorney-General’s Chambers and as an Assistant Official Assignee/Official Receiver/Public Trustee in the Insolvency & Public Trustee’s Office of the Ministry of Law. She read law at the National University of Singapore.

Kenny Tay  
Assistant Director, Developing International Law Expertise Secretariat, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General’s Chambers since 2009

Kenny manages the Developing International Law Expertise Secretariat at the AGC, which is committed to developing international law expertise in and for Singapore. He formulates and implements policies and initiatives with his team, as well as develops regional and global networks in the international law arena to achieve the Secretariat’s objectives. Kenny was also the National Administrator for the Singapore National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition from 2015 to 2016. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in International Business and Management from the University of Bradford.
Sarala Subramaniam '05  
Deputy Director, International Legal Division, Ministry of Law

At the Ministry of Law, Sarala works on a variety of public and private international law policy issues for the Singapore Government. She focuses on private international law and leads the Ministry’s involvement in the Hague Conference on Private International Law. She also works on other international legal policy areas such as extradition, mutual legal assistance and human rights. Prior to joining the Ministry, Sarala was with the International Affairs Division in AGC with practice interests in human rights and international economic law. Sarala read law at the National University of Singapore and completed her masters at Harvard Law School. She began her career in private practice as a litigator with Allen and Gledhill.

Moderator

Eleanor Wong  
Associate Professor, Vice Dean (Student Affairs), Faculty of Law, NUS

A graduate of the NUS Faculty of Law, Assoc. Prof. Eleanor Wong started her career with the Commercial Affairs Department, prosecuting complex commercial and securities frauds. She obtained an LLM from New York University in 1990 and practiced in the New York office of Coudert Brothers, before returning to Singapore in 1992. She specialized in regional banking and finance work for Coudert and, later, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Assoc. Prof. Wong joined NUS in 2002 as Director of the Legal Skills Programme and today also serves as Vice Dean, Student Affairs.