Panel Discussion: A Career in the Judiciary

For those of you with an inclination towards public service and/or state authority, the judiciary can be a worthwhile option. Not only is it a way to remain closely connected with the law throughout your professional life, but one that offers the satisfaction of working for the good of society. Join this intellectually stimulating panel discussion where you get all your questions on a career in the judiciary answered!

Event Details

Date: 23 January 2016, Saturday

Time: 10am to 12pm (Please be seated by 9.55am)
Refreshments will be provided.

Venue: Blk B, 4th Level,
Seminar Room 4-1
National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law

Please register for the panel discussion here:
http://tinyurl.com/LunchtimeTalk-23Jan2016

Guest Panellists:

Professor Tan Lee Meng
NUS Faculty of Law
Senior Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore

An alma mater of the then University of Singapore, where Professor Tan obtained his LL.B with first class honours at in 1972, he proceeded with a subsequent LL.M from University of London in 1974, after which he was admitted to Bar in 1976, as an advocate and solicitor.

Prior to his appointment as Judicial Commissioner in 1997 and Judge of Supreme Court of Singapore from 1997 to 2013, Professor Tan joined University of Singapore after obtaining his LLB. In 1987, he was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Law, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of National University of Singapore in 1992.
Ms Sim Khadijah Mohd.
District Judge, Family Justice Courts

Khadijah graduated from the NUS Faculty of Law and was the winner of the Faculty’s Advocacy Cup in 2005. She went on to represent NUS in the ALSA Advocacy Competition in Australia in 2005. In 2008, while taking the Postgraduate Practical Law Course, Khadijah was awarded the Law Society’s Prize for Best Student in Advocacy. Khadijah is currently a District Judge with the Family Justice Courts.

Prior to becoming a District Judge, Khadijah was an Assistant Registrar with the Supreme Court and a practicing lawyer with the Commercial Litigation Practice Group in Rajah & Tann LLP. While her primary passion lies in litigation and advocacy, Khadijah has also been accredited as an Associate Mediator by the Singapore Mediation Centre since 2008.

Khadijah is actively involved in training, and is a Legal Skills Instructor for the NUS Faculty of Law and an advocacy trainer for the Part B Course. She also serves as a mediation trainer for the SMC, conducting courses both locally and abroad.

Mr. Afzal Ali
Justices’ Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Singapore

Having graduated with an LL.B from NUS, and an LL.M from NYU Law as part of the NUS-NYU concurrent LLB-LLM program, Afzal is currently part of the Justices’ Law Clerk pool of the Supreme Court of Singapore. He is in the second year of the Enhanced 2 year program and is currently clerking for the Court of Appeal.

Prior to his appointment as a Law Clerk, Afzal served as a Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Attorney-General’s Chambers for a brief period of time. He took charge of various criminal matters in the State Courts.

As a Law Clerk, Afzal has assisted on a wide array of matters including trials and appeals from lower Courts. He has assisted on both criminal and complex civil matters.
**Mr. Sim Bing Wen**  
Justices’ Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Singapore

Bing Wen graduated from NUS in 2015 and is presently a Justice’s Law Clerk at the Supreme Court. While at NUS he was in the Pro Bono Club and participated in a number of moots, including the Oxford Intellectual Property Moot.

**Mr. Kelvin Chong**  
Justices’ Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Singapore

Kelvin is currently serving as a Justices’ Law Clerk with the Supreme Court of Singapore. Kelvin graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from the National University of Singapore in 2015. Prior to that, he graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from NUS in 2012. While at university, Kelvin participated in various law and debating competitions including the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, the Australian Law Students Association (ALSA) Witness Examination Competition and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Mediation Competition.

**Ms Elaine Chew**  
Lecturer, NUS Faculty of Law

Elaine is a Lecturer with NUS Law. Prior to her current appointment, she worked as a Justices' Law Clerk and then as an Assistant Registrar and Magistrate at the Supreme Court, before joining the Ministry of Law as an Assistant Director. Her work at the Ministry of Law focused mainly on land and arbitration related policy work. At present, she teaches Principles of Property Law and Legal Analysis, Research and Communications. She is also coaching for the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

**Mr. Chen Zhida**  
Teaching Fellow, NUS Faculty of Law; Justices’ Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Singapore

Zhida graduated in 2013 with a LL.B from NUS and an LL.M from NYU. He is currently a Justices’ Law Clerk with the Supreme Court.
Moderator:

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

After graduating with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), Eleanor headed to the States, where she obtained an LL.M from New York University and practiced in Coudert Brothers, and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe before returning to Singapore in 1992.

Aside from being a published playwright with works produced in Singapore and ASEAN, and a TV host, she held top management portfolios such as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Strategist in a leading local TV production company The Right Angle. In 2002, Eleanor joined NUS Faculty of Law, her alma mater, as a Director of the Legal Skills Programme.

Programme Outline

10.00 am       Open Address by Judge Tan Lee Meng
10.15 am       Panel Discussion with Judge Tan Lee Meng and panellists
10.45 am       Q & A with students
11.00 am       End of Part I (short refreshments)
11.15 am       Parallel Break-out Sessions (topics below):

Each session to be facilitated by one or two panellists:

1.   So You Think You Can Judge Me? (The Judicial Temperament) -- Elaine Chew and Kelvin Chong
2.   Different Strokes for Different Folks (The Different Roles within the Judiciary) -- Sim Khadijah
3.   How to survive the JLC Interview (and other questions you were afraid to ask) -- Chen Zhida, Afzal Ali, and Sim Bing Wen