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LEARNING JOURNEY
OF A LIFETIME
AMBASSADOR
RENA LEE '92 LL.M '98

SHAPING THE SG CHAPTER
IN ARBITRATION
PROF STAVROS BREKOULAKIS

FAREWELL BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS

THE REGIONAL VOYAGER
ONE STUDENT'S CORPORATE
JOURNEY INTO SE ASIA

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
FACULTY OF LAW

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Professor Andrew Simester



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

PROFESSOR ANDREW SIMESTER



2025 has been a year defined by change. Most visibly, it marked the law school's return to the Kent Ridge campus after 20 years at the Bukit Timah campus. Much of the year was devoted to preparing for this move. There were renovation plans to scrutinise, spaces to design, and countless logistical details to resolve. The relocation of the Wee Chong Jin Moot Court and the CJ Koh Law Library required particular care, not simply as physical assets but as symbols of our academic and student life. Most importantly, we had to ensure that our new campus would be fit for a great law school, a place in which our students will continue to learn, connect and thrive.

Leaving the Bukit Timah campus was a bittersweet occasion. For many of us, it was more than a campus: it was where friendships were forged, where milestones were celebrated, and where lifelong memories were made. It was, after all, where generations of NUS Law students first discovered what it meant to think and reason like lawyers.

In this issue, we capture the memories of five alumni, one from each decade during which our campus was located at Bukit Timah (page 7). If you spent time on that campus, I hope this inspires you to recall your own favourite moments there.

As part of our farewell, we organised a large reunion event which brought together alumni across many years, with their loved ones in tow. It was heartwarming to see alumni reconnecting with one another and their law school professors, walking

the grounds, taking pictures at their favourite spots and having a good time all round. It also allowed us to see that our alumni are not just excelling in their professional life, but in their passions as well—notably, as we were entertained by our talented alumni musicians throughout the evening (page 14).

Across December, while we made the journey to Kent Ridge, I reflected on the many professional and personal paths that begin with a legal education. As a youngster, I studied at Auckland and then Oxford. I always thought that I would go back to New Zealand but, ultimately, I met the Singaporean who would become my wife. We had to decide whether she would move to the UK or whether I would move to Singapore. For that reason, I taught in 2005 as a visitor at NUS, when the Faculty was located on the Kent Ridge campus (literally, at Law Link). Cheng Han, the then Dean, convinced me about the enormous potential of NUS Law, and so I joined full-time in August 2006, on the Bukit Timah campus. It has been a voyage, not only across countries but across campuses.

Not so very differently, the stories in this issue illustrate the many kinds of journeys undertaken by others in our community. For Singapore's Ambassador for International Law, Rena Lee (page 3), her journey began at NUS Law where she first discovered her passion for international law. That passion has since taken her onto the global stage where she led complex negotiations on a landmark treaty to protect the oceans. Her leadership has earned international

recognition, including being named one of *TIME's* Top 100 Most Influential People in 2024. Yet, with humility, she reflects, "The older I get, the more I realise how much I don't know and how much more there is to learn." By that measure alone, her journey is far from done.

Our students are also charting their own paths. Undergraduate Ian Michael Yam (page 20) has embraced opportunities well beyond the classroom and has started going places even before leaving law school. In his first year, he travelled to Jakarta for an internship with the ASEAN Foundation; in his second year, he interned at law firms in Hong Kong, Bangkok and Yangon; and, in his third year, a moot competition took him to Japan. His experiences reflect the curiosity and confidence that has always been inherent in our students.

For some of us, the journey takes unexpected turns. Leonard Ng initially wanted to be an academic but his path led him to London where he joined global law firm Sidley Austin. He talks about navigating the challenges of building a career overseas and what he loves about the city. His time at the firm has been a journey in itself and, after 28 years, he was recently appointed Co-Managing Partner of Sidley's Singapore office (page 10). His story reminds us that a law degree opens doors in ways we cannot always foresee.

My colleague, Professor Stavros Brekoulakis, shows that journeys of impact are not limited by geography. From Greece to London, and eventually to Singapore, he has spent decades shaping international arbitration, with a vision and plans to shape arbitration that he brings to Singapore and the region.

As we settle into our new home, we continue our journey with the same sense of purpose and conviction that has guided us thus far. Buildings may change, but our mission does not: to educate, to inspire, and, above all, to contribute meaningfully to the development of Singapore's law and, indeed, to the law of this world.

Thank you for continuing to be part of this journey with us.

A LEARNING JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

RENA LEE '92 LL.M '98

*Singapore's Ambassador for International Law, Rena Lee '92 LL.M '98, has shaped legal landscapes beyond national borders, placing Singapore on the world stage—most notably by steering landmark negotiations to protect the oceans. Named among *TIME's* Top 100 Most Influential People in 2024, she reflects on a 30-year journey of leadership, purpose and impact as a state negotiator, lawyer and diplomat.*

"The ship has reached the shore."

That famous statement, delivered at 9.30pm New York time on 4 March 2023 by Ambassador Rena Lee '92 LL.M '98, drew rapturous cheers and a standing ovation at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters. Presiding over the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), she steered—against the odds—a successful conclusion to negotiations nearly two decades in the making. That moment marked one of the highest points in the career of Singapore's former Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Sea Issues and Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, propelling her onto the international stage.

Many hailed the outcome as a victory for international law, multilateralism and the global commons. Widely described as a "once-in-a-lifetime" achievement, it paved the way for enabling the creation of large-scale marine protected areas in the high seas, beyond national borders, and thus advancing the global target of protecting 30 per cent of the planet by 2030. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres lauded Ambassador Lee for her leadership and dedication, while Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan remarked that she wielded "diplomatic magic". Those who worked closely with her spoke of a diplomat who commanded respect and kept order in the room—qualities that earned her international recognition.

Finding her footing in international law

"I did not anticipate being a diplomat," revealed Rena, who is currently Singapore's Ambassador for International Law.

When she began her career as a Legal Officer at the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), she had not imagined



"International law is extremely fascinating. I always consider myself fortunate to have found my passion for it at NUS Law."

— Rena Lee



“Ultimately, what keeps me going is not just the intellectual challenge but the privilege of being able to sit behind Singapore’s flag, to represent and advocate for Singapore.”

— Rena Lee

representing Singapore on the world stage—let alone chairing one of the most complex multilateral negotiations in recent history. Her early years in MINDEF and later at the Attorney-General’s Chambers shaped her understanding of international law as a system intertwined with policy and diplomacy. Serving as both legal and state counsel, she represented Singapore in numerous bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including defence cooperation agreements and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In 2018, she was appointed Singapore’s first Minister-Counsellor at the Hague, alongside her ambassadorial appointment on oceans and the law of the sea—positions that set the stage for her election as President of the BBNJ negotiations.

That passion, she recalled, began almost by chance. While preparing for a Contemporary European History assignment, a non-law subject she took

as an undergraduate, she browsed the international law shelves in the NUS Law Library for inspiration.

“In the typical ‘kiasu’ Singapore fashion, I did not want to compete with other students for the same materials. As the only law student in that class, I was confident no one would be looking up international law materials,” she said.

That visit to the shelves led to a chance encounter with international law expert Associate Professor Robert Beckman (now Emeritus Professor), who encouraged her to study international law in her fourth year. She took his advice, and the rest is history. For those interested, her essay focused on the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice regarding the concept of supranationality.

Over more than three decades, Rena has advised the Singapore Government

as a state negotiator, legal adviser and diplomat, handling issues spanning the law of the sea, climate change and environmental law, as well as humanitarian and human rights law, amongst others. Exposure to this wide spectrum, she reflected, has been crucial to understanding the development of the international legal system as a whole.

“Law does not operate in a vacuum,” she said. “It interacts with policy and must be capable of practical implementation.” Being involved in both policy formulation and operational execution, she added, has been deeply instructive.

A defining moment: the BBNJ negotiations

Leading the BBNJ negotiations as President was an unparalleled experience, one she recalled with gratitude for the trust placed in her.

“I think I was very lucky,” she said. “There was a lot of pressure to bring the process to a successful conclusion in a short time frame. Fortunately, states were keen, patient and supportive of my efforts.”

She emphasised that the outcome was a collective effort, sustained by negotiators and stakeholders who kept the process alive even through the two-year disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

When the BBNJ Agreement finally entered into force on 17 January 2026, with over 80 nations, including Singapore, ratifying it, she paid tribute to all who contributed to the first international treaty dedicated to protecting the high seas.

“It carries immense promise,” she said, “particularly in bringing greater coherence to the governance of the areas beyond national jurisdiction, both the high seas and the deep seabed.” But implementation, she emphasised, will require continued cooperation among states, scientists, civil society, international organisations, indigenous peoples and local communities.

The agreement’s success also marked a defining point in her global standing. In 2024, the magazine *TIME* named her among its Top 100 Most Influential People. She won the Elisabeth Haub Award for Environmental Law and Diplomacy and the 2024 Manley-Bendall Maritime Personality of the Year award as well. In 2025, she was conferred France’s Chevalier de l’Ordre national du Merite, and an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Aberdeen.



IGC President Rena Lee received a standing ovation at the conclusion of nearly two decades of negotiations on 5 March 2023. Photo: IISD/ENB (Mike Muzurakis)

On the path to the ICJ

A testament to her capability, Rena was nominated on 14 October 2024 by Singapore’s National Group to the Permanent Court of Arbitration for election as a Judge of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN’s principal judicial organ for resolving disputes between states. If elected, she would be the first Singaporean on the ICJ bench and the first from Southeast Asia in nearly 50 years.

Mr K Shanmugam ’84, Coordinating Minister for National Security, then Minister for Home Affairs and Law, praised her as someone who brings “deep legal expertise, an unwavering dedication to upholding the rule of law,

a vision for growth and development, and importantly, sensitivity to differing views”. Dr Balakrishnan echoed the endorsement, noting that her integrity and impartiality would “enhance the diversity of representation and perspectives on the bench”.

She shared that she is humbled and honoured by the nomination. “The global legal order is facing profound challenges today. If elected, it would be an opportunity to contribute to strengthening international law and respect for the rule of law,” she said.

A learning journey

To Rena, her career has always been about learning. “The international legal system



Rena Lee (front row, third from right) with Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (second row, middle) and some members of the Singapore delegation at the conclusion of negotiations for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015

functions best when everyone works together—not just in creating norms, but in implementing them,” she reflected.

Her diplomatic experience has been invaluable in understanding this principle, enabling her to build connections, establish networks and appreciate the concerns of different actors. Yet she noted that international law is not shaped by states alone. Other stakeholders—including international organisations, the research community and civil society—play a vital role.

“Institutions like NUS Centre for International Law (CIL) can contribute by undertaking research and raising awareness, not just in academia but among practitioners as well,” said Rena, who was appointed Chairperson of the CIL Governing Board in April 2025.

Her five-year stint as Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) offered lessons beyond legal practice. “At IPOS, there is a focus on providing a better operating environment for businesses, creators, inventors and designers to utilise their creative outputs, inventions and designs to create value,” she explained.

Her journey reflects leadership, purpose and a quiet but resolute pride in being Singaporean.

For young lawyers aspiring to a career in international law, her advice is simple: Stay observant, keep learning and hone your craft.

“Don’t pretend to be someone you are not and don’t be afraid to express yourself,” she urged, especially to young

women, recalling how, over the years, she had often received “advice” on how she should dress, speak and behave to fit into somebody’s ideal image of a female lawyer or diplomat.

She emphasised that being oneself does not mean that we know everything or that there is nothing we can learn from others.

“The older I get, the more I realise how much I don’t know and how much more there is to learn,” she said. “The key is remembering why we do what we do and not losing sight of our roles, whether as a lawyer or a diplomat.”

As her journey continues, whether she makes history as Singapore’s first ICJ judge, one thing is certain: Her ship is far from reaching shore.

THE BTC CHAPTER: MEMORIES THROUGH THE YEARS

Bukit Timah campus (BTC) holds special meaning for so many of us. It was here that the Faculty of Law was established and remained until 1980, before moving to Kent Ridge and returning to Bukit Timah in 2006.

From the pioneers in our very first cohort to our most recent graduates, the law school on this campus has been a defining part of their lives. Friendships were forged, futures were shaped and generations of students found their footing on these grounds. As we close this chapter of our time at the Bukit Timah campus, we honour the many decades of learning, community and memories through the voices of our alumni across the years.

“The Bukit Timah campus will forever hold a cherished place in my heart. It was here that I spent my four undergraduate years, from 1957 to 1961, years that remain among the most formative and significant of my life.

I was in the pioneering class of the NUS Law School and Bukit Timah was not

only where we studied, but where we forged lifelong friendships and grew into young adults. I still treasure a photograph of my class, gathered with our teachers beneath the iconic tree in the Lower Quadrangle. The campus, graced by magnificent trees, even inspired a book published in 2007. For all these reasons, I will always love Bukit Timah.”



Professor Tommy Koh '61



Whether as lawyer or diplomat, Rena is guided by purpose, never losing sight of the reason behind her work





Emeritus Prof Lye Lin Heng '73

"I was a law student from 1969 to 1973. Our class had just over 100 students, half of whom were from Malaysia. The law school then occupied the Oei Tiong Ham Building where our tutorial rooms and moot court were housed. Lectures were held in various places including what became known as Block B. We shared the campus with the Science, Arts and Business & Accountancy Faculties. The building in front of Eu Tong Sen Building was used for dining and recreational facilities for staff. This was where as a staff member, I met colleagues from the Science Faculty (botanists and zoologists)

and they persuaded me to join the Nature Society as their legal advisor. This is now the Botanic Gardens Seed Bank.

After graduation, I worked with Messrs Lee & Lee, while tutoring in Land Law part-time. I decided to join academia two years later in 1975 and happily stayed on until my retirement in 2019, teaching Property Law and Environmental Law. As the old saying goes, "The only certainty is change." So once again, as the law school moves back to the Kent Ridge campus, I wish my former colleagues the very best in their new home."



Anisha Jalla '16

"Thinking back to law school brings up less of the deadlines and exams, and more of the beautiful Bukit Timah campus and the familiar faces all around it. While law school gave me the foundations to take on the world—from corporate practice at international firms in Singapore to recruiting lawyers

in New York and advising start-ups in Switzerland—my greatest takeaway has been the friendships built over those four years. Investing in relationships is what has carried me through my career; friends who've given me crash courses on everything from IP to real estate would agree!"



Class of 1973



Class of 2016



Lin Wenrong '08

"My journey at NUS Law began at the Kent Ridge campus and midway through law school, we moved to the Bukit Timah campus. Studying law across two campuses taught me resilience—the ability to stay grounded in moments of change and flux. Since graduating from NUS Law in 2008, having experience in both practice and in-house, it is clear to me that our profession requires us to adapt with clarity and heart. Returning as

a Teaching Assistant for the Negotiation course was a meaningful full-circle moment, and I'm grateful for the chance to reconnect with our students. Negotiation reminds us that being reflective, flexible and giving intentional and thoughtful responses matter. These are skills which are essential in our profession and needless to say, in handling life and its surprises."



Karthik Vyas '24

"I have many fond memories at the Bukit Timah campus—spending hours studying in the library, walking around our beautiful gardens in the evenings with friends after a long day, and honing my moot skills at the Wee Chong Jin Moot Court are most definitely the highlights!

we were otherwise at home and learning online for six months. The friends I made then remain some of my closest!

I entered NUS Law during Covid-19, and we had only one in-person class per week. BTC then became more than a campus; it became a sanctuary, a place of normalcy and genuine human connection when

As a practice trainee at the cusp of getting called to the Bar, I now know that finishing law school was not just the end of a journey, but also the beginning of another. My four years at NUS Law, where my wonderful professors and peers alike gave me so much of their time and wisdom, left me eager and inspired to pursue this profession and craft to the fullest!"



Class of 2008



Class of 2024

IN CONVERSATION: LEONARD NG '94, PARTNER, SIDLEY AUSTIN

Growing up in Singapore, Leonard Ng '94 had planned to be an academic after attaining his LLB at NUS Law. To chase that aspiration, he pursued his LLM at the University of Chicago, but his journey veered in a different direction when his student loan consideration, in part, led him to join Sidley Austin in 1997. Some 28 years later, the recently appointed Co-Managing Partner of Sidley Austin's Singapore office looks back on how being flexible took him down the path from Singapore to London, from telecoms to financial services regulatory practice, as he speaks to his fellow alumnus and old friend, NUS Law Professor Alan Tan '93, on music, life and his love for London.



Leonard Ng gravitated towards the challenge of building a life from scratch when he crossed the seas and moved to London. Almost three decades later, he is now Co-Managing Partner of Sidley's Singapore office, a member of its global Executive Committee, and heads its UK/EU Financial Services Regulatory Group

You've been recently appointed as Co-Managing Partner of Sidley's Singapore office, in addition to being a member of its global Executive Committee and heading the UK/EU Financial Services Regulatory Group in London. How are you balancing all these roles?

I'm not going to lie—it is pretty challenging, but I do love a challenge! My role as Co-Managing Partner of the Singapore office is a strategic one, to ensure connectivity between our Singapore office and the firm's other global offices, as well as the firm's senior management. We want our clients in Southeast Asia to have the benefit of the firm's entire global platform, and our clients in other parts of the globe to have the benefit of our Singapore office capability. The benefit of the constant travel back to Singapore is that it allows me to spend more time with my family and friends—as they say, you can take the boy out of Singapore but you can't take Singapore out of the boy!

How has NUS Law shaped your professional journey?

The rigour of the NUS Law curriculum gave me a solid grounding. It is funny how I still call on things that I learnt in my first or second year contracts and equity classes. One really important aspect was the school environment that allowed me to develop relationships with my fellow students and be as well-rounded as I could be. I was heavily involved in sports (especially football), played music in lots of concerts, wrote songs for our Law IV concert—those experiences moulded my character as a lawyer.

And finally, Alan, you don't know this, but you materially shaped my professional journey. You went to Yale Law School for your LLM and I was inspired to do the

same, although I went to the University of Chicago Law School. It was because of my Chicago LLM that I was able to apply to Sidley, and here I am over 28 years later!

Oh wow, never knew that! What motivated you to pursue a career in London?

Well, there was the immediate consideration of needing to get a well-paid job to pay back the loan I had taken out for my LLM. But also, growing up in Singapore, I had always had an international outlook on life, and wanted to see if I could make something of myself outside of my familiar surroundings.

I arrived in London in May 1998, having spent the first nine months of my time in our Singapore and New York offices while waiting for my work permit. There was a lot of trial by fire. But the thing that shaped my world view the most was the discovery that, if I was enthusiastic and carried myself with integrity, the partners and more senior associates would want me to work on their matters and train me. There was a lot of kindness shown to me. I've learnt that this is not the kind of job you can excel in on your own.

It also took a while to build a network of friends so I would not fall into the temptation of just working all the time. Playing music helped, as I soon got into the London music scene, played small concerts and made new friends that way. Small claim to fame: I even ended up playing guitar for Sia (of Chandelier fame) at one festival!



Leonard Ng (right) with Professor Alan Tan and Jayanthi Sadanandan '95, fellow alumni and Partner at Sidley Austin in London

Tell us more about your passion for music.

I picked up the guitar and piano as a bored teenager and have never looked back. Music is my escape. Especially in today's 24/7 legal environment where clients are around the world and the e-mail messages never stop, it is important to have something that requires you to create brain space exclusively for it. Young lawyers have never known anything other than a 24/7 existence, and I see clear evidence of mental burnout of a kind I did not have as a young lawyer myself.

What was it like living in London?

I loved London from the start; it is a beautiful city, with all its diversity and its energy. I relished the challenge of building a life from scratch, without being pigeonholed. After the initial few years of training, I had to figure out how to build a client base of my own. I realised that I had a knack of being able to put US clients at ease when they had to deal with UK and European financial services regulations.



Leonard Ng defies being pigeonholed, running two rock bands within the firm—a partners' band that plays at the annual partners' meeting in the US, and another made up of Sidley's European lawyers that performs at Sidley's bi-annual European lawyers' conference

So that was where I focused my efforts, and that grew into a client base in the US, the UK, Europe and Asia. Because I work with global clients, I get to see the most complex issues, which keeps the job endlessly interesting.

Working with US-based clients means my days start and end a little later. Now, with my Singapore role, it does feel a little like I am burning the candle at both ends. I try to cycle or climb the stairs up 16 floors to my office to get some exercise. The weekends are reserved for family, my dog and practising music! I also go rock climbing with my family when I can.

What are some highlights of your multiple roles in Sidley?

I have had a diversity of roles. As a member of the firm's global Executive Committee, I help to shape and execute the firm's strategic goals. Being the Co-Managing Partner of our Singapore office allows me to develop strong relationships and firm friendships there, and hopefully help the firm capitalise on the opportunities that arise in Southeast Asia.

The actual lawyering I do arises in my role as the head of our UK/EU financial services regulatory practice. Clients from all around the world call with all kinds of difficult issues to solve as they face the financial services regulatory regime in the UK and EU. Much of it is very technical and requires me to come to an analysis that will be helpful. But sometimes it is simply to be an agony aunt to a client who is feeling at sea amid the complexity of the law.

What guiding principles define your leadership style?

Empathy, authenticity and flexibility are key, but being a good listener is probably the first step to being a good leader. People won't follow you if they don't think that you are listening and paying attention to them, and finding out what really matters to them.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Cut yourself some slack. The truth is that everyone at every level is winging it to some extent and has some degree of imposter syndrome, and you should not be ashamed of asking questions and being curious to learn more. What is important is to communicate the enthusiasm to learn new things. And when you do make a mistake, own it and make it clear you have learnt from it; that is what people respect.

SHAPING HIS NEXT CHAPTER IN ARBITRATION

From Greece to London to Singapore, Professor Stavros Brekoulakis has spent three decades shaping international arbitration. Building the next chapter of his work at NUS Law, he shares his vision and plans to shape arbitration in Singapore and Asia.

Deeply comparative. Inherently interdisciplinary. Closely connected to real commercial practice. Professor Stavros Brekoulakis has long been fascinated by international arbitration, a field that has inspired a 30-year career spanning Greece, London and now Singapore, where he is building the next chapter of his work.

Often thought to have little bearing on the public interest, arbitration in reality shapes some of the most consequential issues

for states and societies—from regulatory governance and financial stability to energy transition and human rights.

A powerhouse in international arbitration

In January 2024, Prof Brekoulakis joined NUS Law as the inaugural Michael and Laura Hwang Professor in International Arbitration, after 25 years at Queen Mary University of London. Widely recognised as a leading authority, he is consistently

listed in *Lexology Index's* arbitration rankings and among the 25 most highly regarded arbitrators in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Praised as “a brilliant mind” and “a powerhouse in international arbitration”, he has influenced the field at the highest levels. As Vice-President of the International Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Court and an arbitrator with 3 Verulam Buildings (Gray's Inn), he oversees complex cross-border disputes affecting governments, corporations and investors. Beyond practice, he contributes to global initiatives, including serving on boards such as the International Council for Commercial Arbitration. In July and August 2026, he will teach the prestigious Summer Course on Private International Law at the Hague Academy of International Law.

Beginning the next chapter in Singapore

Building on decades of global experience, Prof Brekoulakis is now focusing on Asia, with Singapore at the centre of growing intra-Asian disputes and investment flows.

“Singapore has established itself as one of the leading global hubs for arbitration,” he said. “With a pro-arbitration judiciary, modern legislation, a highly international legal community and leading institutions like the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, it offers a unique ecosystem that shapes international arbitration discussions and practice.”

As excited as when he first set foot in London 25 years ago, he is relishing the opportunity to shape Singapore's intellectual footprint in arbitration and contribute to a region that will define the next decades of dispute resolution.

He noted that the arbitral system has changed dramatically since he began, becoming more formalised, with tribunals routinely deciding disputes involving public policy, regulatory action, financial stability and investment protection.

Developments like artificial intelligence have also reshaped the field.

“Arbitration is no longer simply a private dispute mechanism,” he said. “It must be understood within a broader political, economic and societal context.”

Championing interdisciplinarity and a new Centre for International Arbitration

In his inaugural Michael and Laura Hwang Professorial Lecture, “Law and the Expansion of Politics: The Case of International Arbitration”, last February, he proposed a rethink of the arbitral system. With disputes increasingly touching on policy, economics, environment and human rights, he emphasised integrating these disciplines to ensure international law serves the public interest, not only narrow legal outcomes.

At NUS Law, he is building an interdisciplinary platform that reflects how arbitration is practised—combining doctrinal study with institutional, commercial and regulatory perspectives. He believes the next decade will test arbitration in three ways: growing contestation of private adjudication in public matters; internal pressures such as rising costs, increased judicialisation and transparency concerns; and the rising complexity of multiparty disputes.

“In this environment, Asia has the opportunity to reinforce confidence in international adjudication and to help shape a more balanced, legitimate and future-proof model,” he said. “NUS



Professor Brekoulakis delivered the keynote speech at the London Arbitration Week in December 2025

“My vision is to build a world-class, interdisciplinary thought-leadership centre that becomes the intellectual anchor for arbitration across ASEAN and, in time, globally. It will add a crucial layer to Singapore's existing strengths.”

offers an exceptional opportunity to build a thought leadership centre that connects research, policy, capacity-building and innovation, something that few universities globally can sustain.”

In the coming months, he will launch the NUS Centre for International Arbitration. As Founding Director, he plans to integrate high-level scholarship, academic programmes and executive education, alongside policy-driven initiatives and innovation in areas such as technology, energy transition, climate, artificial intelligence and public policy. The Centre will collaborate with courts, ministries,

arbitral institutions, law firms and industry across ASEAN, Asia and the Global South.

Optimism for the next generation

Just two years in Singapore, Prof Brekoulakis has been struck by the city's “dynamic” and “highly sophisticated” legal ecosystem. Looking ahead, he remains optimistic about the next generation entering the field.

He said, “The field is competitive, but it is also fair. If you work hard and consistently deliver high-quality work, you will be noticed, and you will progress.”



Professor Stavros Brekoulakis has a vision to shape arbitration in Singapore and Asia at this phase of his career at NUS Law



Professor Brekoulakis moderated a fireside chat with Minister Indranee Rajah, S.C. '86 during the SIAC Symposium in August 2024

FAREWELL BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS

The Bukit Timah campus (BTC) holds a special place in the history of NUS Law. It was here that the law school began as the Department of Law at the then University of Malaya back in 1956. After more than two decades on this campus, NUS Law relocated to Kent Ridge in 1981 following the establishment of the National University of Singapore. In July 2006, the Faculty returned to Bukit Timah where it remained until December 2025 when it once again made the move back to the Kent Ridge campus.

As a place that had witnessed many memories and milestones, BTC was given a farewell befitting its significance. On 15 November 2025, faculty, staff, students and alumni of NUS Law gathered on campus to honour the moments shared, celebrate the journey and bid a fond farewell to BTC.

The evening was filled with reunions and nostalgia: a mix of live music, games, food and conversation. Above all, it was a reminder that while places hold our memories, it is the people and community that truly define the spirit of NUS Law—and that will endure no matter where we call home.



Alumni at a photo display showcasing the history and highlights of NUS Law at BTC



Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan '86 conducted heritage tours and shared the history behind various spots on campus



Alumni and their families posed under the #NUSLaw arch at the main entrance to Block B



Alumni gathered for a picture under this majestic tree in the Lower Quadrangle, the backdrop of the photograph of NUS Law's first graduating class in 1961



In his welcome address, Professor Andrew Simester, Dean of NUS Law, acknowledged the bittersweet occasion, noting the end of NUS Law's chapter at Bukit Timah and the start of a new one at Kent Ridge



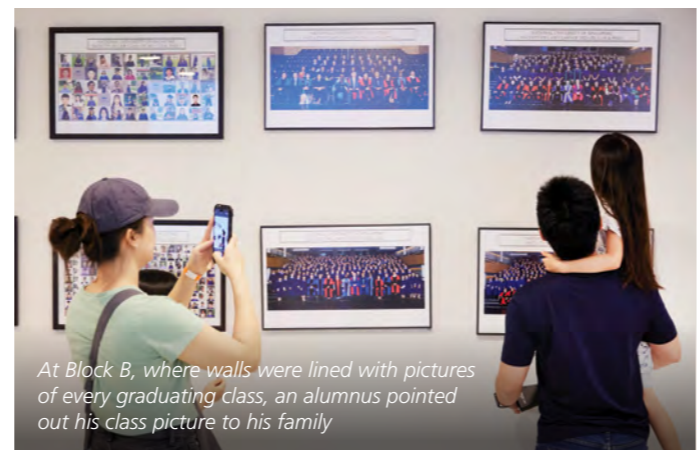
Senior Lecturer Benjamin Wong '15, Associate Professor Tan Zhong Xing '12 (second and third from left respectively) and fellow alumni gathered outside Block B for refreshments and entertainment



It was a full circle moment for many alumni as they played ball games with their children at the Upper Quadrangle, the place where games and parties were held during their law school days



Law's Got Talent: Entertainment was provided by our talented alumni musicians, including Guilty as Charged (left) and Shot at Redemption (right), pictured here



At Block B, where walls were lined with pictures of every graduating class, an alumnus pointed out his class picture to his family



The "Tea with Teachers" session gave alumni an opportunity to catch up with their law professors, including Professor Tan Cheng Han, S.C. '87, pictured here



The Wee Chong Jin Moot Court was transformed into a fun photo booth for the day. Pictured here are Ms Grace Tan (left) and Ms Yixiang Kang, both from the Class of 2008



Federal Building, the backdrop of many photos over the years, was once again a key feature for both farewell and reunion photos among alumni

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

It was a bittersweet moment for the Class of 2025 as they celebrated the culmination of their undergraduate studies before their entry into the working world, and for NUS Law too, as it bid adieu to the last batch of students to have spent the full four-year term at the Bukit Timah campus.

And what a long way the graduates have come indeed; they experienced Covid-19 lockdown measures in their first year but as circuit breaker measures eased, student life returned to normal for most of their time at the law school. Professor Andrew Simester, Dean of NUS Law, told the

graduates that the day was a celebration of their growth, resilience and potential, at the Commencement ceremony held at the University Cultural Centre on 11 July 2025, while Guest Speaker Justice Debbie Ong '89 encouraged them to find their calling and reminded them that, at its core, law is about justice.

As the final cohort to complete their law degree at the historic Bukit Timah campus, some of our graduates ruminated on the moments that made their journey at NUS Law unforgettable. Eliora Joseph said, "I'm very lucky to have had a very enriching NUS

Law experience, from mooting to exchange programmes and even service-learning projects. Even though we were part of the Covid-19 batch during orientation, I'm very fortunate to have been able to go for the Student Exchange Programme."

Valedictorian Choi Young Jae echoed her sentiments—while Eliora went to Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, Young Jae spent a year at the University of Cambridge, even writing a dissertation which he eventually published in an international journal.

Closer to home, other graduates shared lighthearted takes on what they would miss most about the campus. "I'm really going to miss the library, especially [the study area] on the third floor, the third table from the toilet. It had the best charging ports, and the best sunlight," quipped Thomas De Silva, while Nicole Lim said, "I'll miss walking through Botanic Gardens to destress after a very long study session". Sin Kee Chicken Rice even came up, as comfort food for graduate Ryan Tok at the Summit canteen during study breaks.

Reflecting on his overall law school experience, Young Jae said, "If I could describe my NUS Law experience in a few words, it would be that your options are limitless. There is something for every student at NUS Law to explore and excel in. Having options is important because as cliché as it might sound, it enables you to pursue your interests and that is crucial in a discipline as rigorous as ours, because it will keep you motivated and fulfilled along your journey."

As for Eliora, her key takeaway is learning how much of a privilege it is to know about the law and how that knowledge can help people. "It's one thing to be good at the law, but I think being a good person and helping others with the newfound knowledge we have is much more important."

To the Class of 2025: May your path be filled with purpose, growth and the courage to serve with integrity and compassion. We look forward to seeing you make a positive difference in the lives of others!



Eliora Joseph (above, in blue) cherished her time at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, where she spent her exchange, while valedictorian Choi Young Jae went to the University of Cambridge for his



LAW IV 2025

In the latest chapter of the NUS Law IV tradition, the Class of 2025 came together to produce and present *Legal Legacies*. Set in the vibrant and transformative era of the 1980s, our story follows a group of unlikely friends journeying towards triumph in an international mooting competition while facing unexpected social challenges stemming from a school merger. With a healthy sprinkle of individual battles, quirky chaos and a budding romance, the evenings of 9 and 11 April 2025 were filled with heart, excitement and laughter.

This year's production was in support of the amazing work of the Breast Cancer Foundation, and graciously supported

by Setia Law LLC, Dentons Rodyk, Mayer Brown PK Wong & Nair, FC Legal Asia LLC, TKQP Law LLP and Reed Smith in alliance with Resource Law.

Despite having little experience in producing musicals, the cast and crew were ambitious in their goals: On top of an original script, the team worked to produce a dynamic set and eight original compositions and songs. What began as an audacious dream grew to become an unforgettable and proud memory for the some 33 friends who committed to being part of one final act before fully stepping into the realities outside of law school.

By Lee Hilman Bin Zulkifli '25



NUS Law Dean Andrew Simester and Guest Speaker Justice Debbie Ong '89 opened the Commencement ceremony with words of wisdom for the Class of 2025

THE REGIONAL VOYAGER

The journey of NUS Law undergraduate Ian Michael Yam '27 is a testament to how curiosity, gratitude and a streetwise sensibility can turn a standard law degree into a truly regional experience.

Most law students view the path to success as one paved with prestigious internships. Not Ian Michael Yam '27. "I remember I received strange looks when I said I was going to go to Thailand for a corporate law internship, instead of doing internships at coveted firms in Singapore, but I have no regrets putting myself out there and growing," he said confidently.

Today, that boy with the simple wish of caring for his family has grown into an astute young man; with an eye for optimising global opportunities, Ian has crafted a corporate adventure exploring Southeast Asia.

From Cantonese dramas to law school

Ian's interest in law started unconventionally—in front of a television set with his grandfather. While his grandfather never practised law, his obsession for all things legal, including old Cantonese legal dramas, was infectious.

"My aim wasn't complex back then," he reflected. "I just wanted to study hard, take care of my family, and earn some extra money."

Growing up, family holidays were rare. Ian's world was shaped by the local neighbourhood and the responsibility of caregiving for his grandparents. Those early years, however, were his first "internship". Scouting for the best *lobang* (deals) and managing the crises that came with caregiving instilled in him a streetwise sensibility. He learnt to anticipate needs and handle pressure, skills that would later prove invaluable in the high-stakes world of regional corporate law.

The NUS catalyst

Ian credits NUS Law with providing the "intellectual stage" he needed. As a recipient of the Global Merit Scholarship, he was given access to an education that might have otherwise been out of reach, and he highlighted the extensive support networks and opportunities at NUS. Describing a pivotal moment in his Company Law class, he shared that his tutor, Ms Samantha Tang '14, noticed his



In his second year of law school, Ian Michael Yam interned with Tilleke & Gibbins, with a secondment to Myanmar (pictured) where he had to navigate corporate transactions involving a wide range of regional clients

knack for corporate strategy and urged him to apply for the NUS-New York University (NYU) LLB-LLM joint programme.

"I liked company law classes a lot but didn't think I was good enough," Ian admitted. "But she made me believe in myself and saw how the NYU stage could stretch my strengths." This encouragement turned his LLB degree towards a global trajectory.

The regional connection

Having deliberately wended his way through many regional countries, Ian explained it was never his intention to neglect his Singapore law competencies and relationships. "I figured I could 'get back to it' eventually but with lots of insights accumulated from fresh experiences."

His passport tells a story of intense immersion. In his first year, Ian travelled to Jakarta for an internship with the ASEAN Foundation; his second year

saw him interning at law firms in Hong Kong (Des Voeux Chambers), as well as Bangkok (Tilleke & Gibbins), with a secondment to Yangon. In November 2025, he competed in a moot at Sophia University in Tokyo.

What truly sets Ian apart is his mastery of languages—English, Mandarin and Bahasa Melayu (BM), with a working knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia and Thai. To Ian, they are more than words; they are the keys to a room.

"I learnt BM as a third language in school, but I feel most of my learning came from pure interest and hanging out with Malay friends, and pals from Thailand and Malaysia," he said. With a laugh, he added: "After my moot in Tokyo, I am being 'pressured' to pick up Japanese. I suspect I will likely bend!"

That penchant for language has clearly helped him connect to the local community. He didn't skip a beat when asked about what was most exciting about going beyond Singapore. "Definitely the

people! You learn so much about life, cultural nuances, and what it means to operate in different environments. The people I've met have shaped my view on handling unconventional situations."

Lessons learnt

One of Ian's most memorable moments occurred in Myanmar. While visiting government officials in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the officials mistook the young intern for a foreign investor, offering him their name cards. Thinking on his feet, he quickly had his supervisor translate that he had just joined the team and his name cards weren't ready, averting a blunder that could have embarrassed the officials. The meeting proceeded smoothly, a testament to the crisis-handling skills honed during his childhood.

The importance of honorifics was an aspect of regional cultures that he quickly learnt to be cognisant of. "As a foreigner, the first impression you give is tied to you not addressing others in a way that is oblivious to seniority and relationship dynamics."

Reflecting on his greatest takeaway from his travels, Ian said: "My greatest learning point is to always stay hungry, without being greedy. I find that identifying the next skill I need to work on has helped me gradually grow into bigger shoes."



In his first year of law school, Ian travelled to Jakarta for an internship with the ASEAN Foundation, stepping out of his comfort zone to make the best of his NUS Law experience

The way forward

Ian's regional journey is not just about personal growth, it is also about "growing the pie" for Singapore. "Our founding leaders criss-crossed the globe to bring opportunities back home," he reflected. "What reason is there for us to not do so as well?"

Ian has set a bar for himself: to establish himself as a cross-border corporate transactions lawyer, to help overseas

partners have a positive impression of Singapore, and to inspire peers to believe in regional collaborations.

Ian is now preparing for his next challenge: New York University. While he has never been to the US, he carries with him the hunger of a small-town boy and the sensibilities of a seasoned regional navigator. Yet he remains humble, summarising his journey thus far in three simple heartfelt words: "Thank you everyone."

"I think the 'challenge' at law school is to not just be a studious student, but to actually achieve fulfilment in making the best of one's lived experience at NUS Law. This is pretty much the main driving force as to why I like to do things outside my comfort zone."



In November 2025, Ian (centre) travelled to Japan for the Intercollegiate Negotiation Competition held at Sophia University

REUNIONS & ALUMNI EVENTS

CLASS OF 1980: 45TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Contributed by Steven Seah '80 (Partner, Seah Ong and Partners LLP)

The Class of 1980 finally made it—our 45th anniversary reunion on 5 December 2025, with 15 of us gathering at The Telegraph by Olivia in Midtown Guoco. A great venue with wonderful fusion cuisine, elevated by the excellent whiskey generously sponsored by Steven and Chandra.

This reunion was originally planned for earlier in the year, but with very full calendars for many (and grandchildren to juggle!), scheduling proved challenging. Still, the organising committee felt that 45 years is far too important a milestone to let pass, even with year-end festivities around the corner. And we're glad we did.

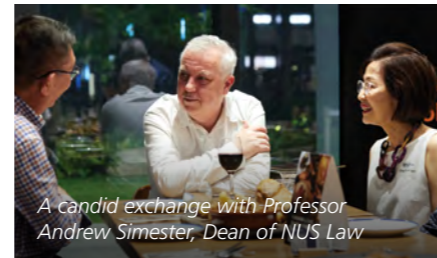
We were honoured to have Dean of NUS Law Professor Andrew Simester join us and share his insights into the future of legal education in Singapore. We took the opportunity to highlight that the Class of 1980 was the last graduating batch from the University of Singapore,

after which came the Joint Campus and then the National University of Singapore. We also had the unique privilege of spending our first two years at Bukit Timah and the next two at Kent Ridge.

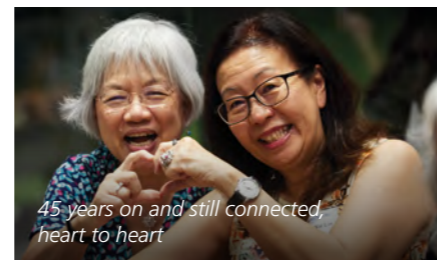
The evening was about fellowship: Catching up on life updates, swapping grandparent stories, comparing retirement plans (or lack thereof), and reliving memories. Even after the official programme ended, quite a few of us lingered on—mostly to continue the conversations and the whiskey.

Through Wai Lin's efforts, the Class will also be giving back to the Law Faculty by making donations to support undergraduates in need—a meaningful way to pay it forward.

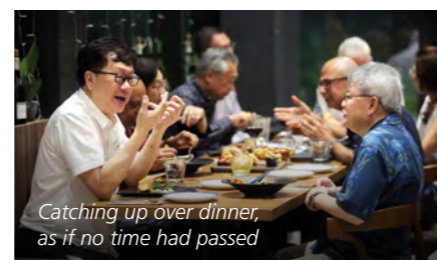
We look forward to our next reunion, trusting that it be much sooner than the 50th anniversary.



A candid exchange with Professor Andrew Simester, Dean of NUS Law



45 years on and still connected heart to heart



Catching up over dinner, as if no time had passed



Celebrating friendships that have lasted over the decades



First meeting with NUS Law Dean Andrew Simester, where he shared about the Faculty's latest developments



All cosied up for a 45th reunion photo

BACK TO THE FUTURE: CLASS OF 1990 REUNITES AFTER 35 YEARS

Contributed by Lee Teck Leng '90 (Director, Legal Clinic LLC)

Old friends, big laughs and a night of nostalgia at Amara Hotel.

Our Class of 1990 first reunited in 2010. We had big plans for a 30th anniversary in 2020, but Covid-19 had other ideas. Waiting until 2030 for the 40th felt way too far off, so we decided to meet halfway. On 30 August 2025, we gathered at Amara Hotel for our 35th anniversary celebration.

81 classmates showed up, including friends who flew in from the US, Canada, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia. We were thrilled to welcome four of our former professors—Tan Lee Meng, Andrew Phang, Leong Wai Kum and Robert Beckman—and the current Dean, Professor Andrew Simester, who gave a warm welcome on behalf of the Faculty. The vibe? Pure joy. Lots of smiles, laughter,

hugs, handshakes and back-slaps. Thank goodness for name tags—without them, there would've been plenty of "Guess who I am?" moments!

Once everyone settled in, we kicked things off with a four-minute slideshow from our old class magazine—a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Then it was back to mingling and snapping photos at the photo booth, which was a huge hit. The props were hilarious: "Excuse me, are you a lawyer?", "I passed ... 'cause I studied Lor", and the classic "OBJECTION!".

One highlight of the night was Attlee Hue Kuan Yew launching his second book, *Do-It-Yourself, Retirement Investment Planning* (or "DIY RIP" for short). He signed copies for classmates, and dozens were snapped up—because who can resist a freebie?

Of course, no reunion is complete without a little friendly competition. Seven classmates took the stage to vie for the "Forever Young" Award. The crowd voted by clapping, and Patricia Chua won with the loudest applause. Former Dean Professor Tan Lee Meng handed out tokens to the runners-up and a bottle of champagne to Patricia, along with a heartfelt address that made us feel like we were his favourite class (or so we'd like to think!).

After the group photo in front of the stage, the official programme wrapped up at 11pm, but many stayed on to keep the conversations flowing. With old ties renewed, we're already looking forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2030.



Smiles, props, and a whole lot of "remember when..."



A proud class moment: Attlee Hue (left) with his published book signed and gifted to classmates



Winner of the Forever Young Award of the night: Patricia Chua, posing with Former NUS Law Dean Professor Tan Lee Meng



A fun shot to commemorate the nostalgia-filled night

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: CLASS OF 1995 CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Contributed by Adeline Foo '95

On 28 November 2025, the Class of 1995 gathered at Harry's @ Clarke Quay to mark a remarkable milestone: their 30th year reunion. With 38 classmates in attendance, the evening was a vibrant celebration of enduring friendships and shared history. Held in a private function space amidst the lively Clarke Quay surroundings, the setting provided the perfect backdrop for a night of nostalgia and connection.

As the evening unfolded, the air was filled with peals of laughter and the warmth of long-awaited reunions. Amidst heartfelt hugs, a common refrain echoed throughout the room: "You still look the same!"

We enjoyed a generous buffet featuring Harry's signature wings, satay and pizza, complemented by a curated selection of cocktails, beer and fine wine. Yet, the true highlight of the night was the conversation. Old friends spent hours recounting university escapades and

updating one another on the diverse professional and personal journeys they had navigated over the past three decades.

The event was graced by special guests Professor Hans Tjio and NUS Law Dean Professor Andrew Simester. In an engaging address, Professor Simester updated us on the latest developments at the Faculty, including the law school's move to University Town at the Kent Ridge campus.

In a moving tribute to their collective legacy, the class committee rallied support for the Class of 1995 Award. Established during our 10th anniversary, this fund continues to provide financial assistance to law students in need, ensuring that the spirit of the Class of '95 supports the legal luminaries of tomorrow.

It was truly an unforgettable night—a celebration of a shared past and a powerful reaffirmation of bonds that have only grown stronger over 30 years.



A fruitful catch-up with Professor Hans Tjio (left)



Cheers to three decades of memories, with a toast by Professor Andrew Simester, Dean of NUS Law



Timeless bond: Thirty years have passed, but in their eyes, everyone looked the same



Marking 30 years with the people who made it unforgettable

CLASS OF 2005 REUNION

Contributed by Faz Hussen '05 (General Counsel and Head of Legal, Government Relations and Sustainability, McDonald's Singapore)

Twenty years. It still blows my mind. On 16 October 2025, the Class of 2005 came together again—81 of us, plus three teachers who shaped so much of who we are: Professor Kumaralingam Amirthalingam, Professor Eleanor Wong '85 and Professor Alan Tan '93. Bar-Roque Grill was the setting, but honestly, it felt more like stepping back into a familiar chapter of our lives that we somehow paused two decades ago.

There was something special about the night. The kind of energy you can't fake. Conversations picked up like they never stopped. We talked careers, families, life, and then naturally drifted into the memories that made us who we have become—tutorials, late nights, the small ridiculous moments that bonded us more tightly than any textbook ever could.

I was privileged to be able to galvanise support for our adopted charity to give back what we had received. But my favourite moment? Opening that old tin box I brought along, filled with photos from our student days. Watching the bursts of laughter, the teasing, the "OMG look at your hair!" reactions—it was like holding tiny time capsules reminding us where we started.

Professor Kumaralingam thanked the class for staying connected, adding that it's rare for a cohort to show up for one another after 20 years. And it hit



All smiles with their mentor, Professor Kumaralingam (third from left)



A reunion highlight: Classmates grinning over Faz's treasure trove of school photos



Faz Hussen bringing energy and purpose, as he championed the NUS Law Student Support Fund

home. He's right. Maybe because we grew up together and some bonds just don't break.

Here's to the next chapter. To more stories, more laughter, more journeys rediscovered. I believe in the roads ahead. And I'm glad we get to walk parts of them together.



A full spread, a full glass and a full heart



Cheers to the past, present and future!

CLASS OF 2012: A BELATED 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Contributed by Dorothy Tan '12 (Senior Associate Director, Family Law and Probate Department, PKWA Law Practice LLC)

Oh, how quickly the years have flown by. On 16 August 2025, the Class of 2012 returned to the Bukit Timah campus for our 13th-year reunion—otherwise known as our very belated 10th-year celebration (we've always been a little creative with deadlines). True to the spirit of "better late than never", the afternoon exceeded all expectations, with a fantastic turnout of 79 alumni, not counting the many spouses and children who came along for the fun.

From the moment the first groups arrived, the day was filled with easy laughter and conversation that slipped effortlessly back into old rhythms. In true law school fashion, we even produced a reunion T-shirt—because clearly no milestone is real until it comes with merch!

A special joy was seeing classmates who had not stepped foot on campus in years, returning just as NUS Law enters its final chapter at our beloved Bukit Timah home. The sense of genuine reconnection, after more than a decade of exploring our own paths in the profession, was unmistakable. We were also truly touched by the strong faculty support, including our deans past and present: Professor Tan Cheng Han '87, S.C., Professor Simon Chesterman, and NUS Law Dean, Professor Andrew Simester.

To everyone who attended, helped or cheered us on: thank you. This one was definitely for the memories. Here's to the Class of 2012 staying connected, and to friendships that only grow richer with time.



Dressed in special reunion T-shirts made for the occasion



Posing with Professor Simon Chesterman, who served as Dean of NUS Law during their time in law school



Reunion fit: Designed by the class, for the class



Nothing like catching up over brewed coffee and beer



Professor Andrew Simester commending the strength of the NUS Law school spirit



Catching up on the last 13 years



One last class photo with the Oei Tiong Ham Building as backdrop

DUAL LAUNCHES FOR ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAMME

The NUS Law Alumni Mentor Programme for AY 2025/2026 was especially significant, with the launch event taking place over two days for the first time, bringing a total of 123 pairs of mentors and mentees together

The NUS Law Alumni Mentor Programme (LAMP) returned in AY 2025/2026 with its first-ever two-part launch, in response to strong interest and high enrolment. Alumni mentors and student mentees connected on 26 September 2025 at Temasek Club's Grand Ballroom, and again on 16 October 2025 at Block B of the NUS Bukit Timah campus. These two vibrant evenings brought our community together to connect, learn and celebrate. In total, 123 pairs of mentors and mentees took part this year, underscoring LAMP's expanding reach and enduring value to the NUS Law ecosystem.

This year also marked a special milestone for LAMP: the inaugural presentation of 10-year long service awards to five alumni, honouring their remarkable dedication and steadfast support. A total of 16 alumni were also celebrated for having served for five or more years. Their commitment exemplifies the spirit of mentorship at NUS Law by building bridges across cohorts and practice areas, and shaping a collaborative culture that benefits students and alumni alike.

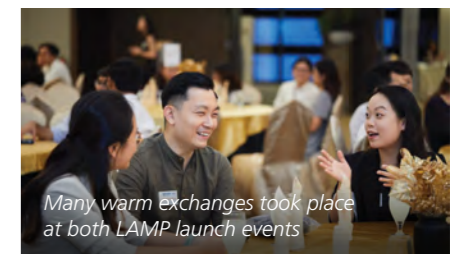
The long service alumni mentors are Gan Boon Eng Justin '10, Serene Gan '07, Alfred Lim '09, Ushan Premaratne '10 and Grace Tan '08.

Across both evenings, mentors and mentees—including Year 1 and Year 2 undergraduates, Juris Doctor students and Masters students—mingled over round-table conversations and a lavish buffet spread. Junior and seasoned practitioners carved out time from their busy schedules to share candid insights, practical tips and personal reflections on life in the law. These exchanges sparked thoughtful discussions on career pathways, practice trends and professional growth, while forging new connections and deepening ties between alumni and students.

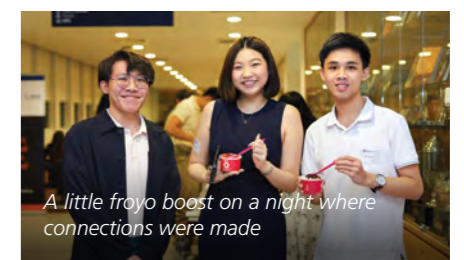
We extend our heartfelt thanks to our alumni for their immense contributions to nurturing the next generation of NUS Law students. Your time, wisdom and unwavering support continue to enrich the students' educational journeys and strengthen our community. Here's to another meaningful year of mentorship!



A heartfelt exchange, where experience meets aspiration



Many warm exchanges took place at both LAMP launch events



A little froyo boost on a night where connections were made



Professor Andrew Simester thanking alumni mentors for stepping forward to guide the next generation of NUS Law students



Recognising our long-serving alumni mentors with an awards presentation



Alumni mentors and student mentees connect, share and grow through the meaningful sharing of insights into a life in law

KUALA LUMPUR ALUMNI REUNION: RECONNECTING ACROSS GENERATIONS AND BORDERS

On the evening of 22 August 2025, nearly 80 NUS Law alumni gathered at the Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral Hotel for a memorable reunion that celebrated not just their shared beginnings in the law, but enduring friendships formed across time and borders. The gathering brought together both LLB and LLM alumni across multiple cohorts and circumstances, including those who had returned to Malaysia after their time at NUS Law, as well as alumni working in Kuala Lumpur who took the opportunity to reconnect.

What made the evening especially meaningful was the remarkable breadth of representation. Alumni from as early as the Class of 1964 through to the Class of 2023 were present, a living testament to the continuity of the NUS Law community across six decades. It is one thing to host an alumni gathering; it is quite another to witness a reunion that so naturally bridges years, experiences and distance.

Seeing conversations unfold that evening was deeply heartwarming. Old friends exchanged stories and laughter with the same ease as if time had barely passed, while newer graduates listened with curiosity and admiration. Given the strong Malaysian roots of many of NUS Law's earlier batches, it was particularly heartening to see alumni travelling from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur to reunite with long-time friends, underscoring the depth of bonds forged during their law school years.

The evening was graciously hosted by Professor Andrew Simester, Dean of NUS



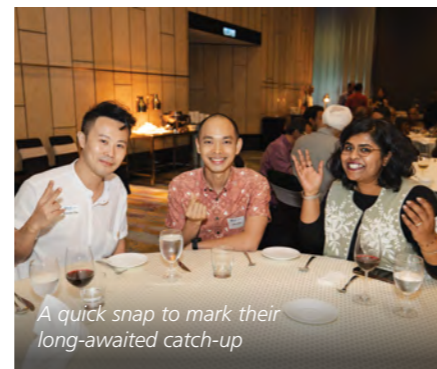
Past and present leadership in one frame: Professors Andrew Simester and Tan Cheng Han '87, S.C. (fifth and seventh from left)



Proof the alumni network travels and thrives wherever they are



A special reunion moment with Professor Lye Lin Heng '73



A quick snap to mark their long-awaited catch-up

Law, together with Professor Tan Cheng Han '87, S.C., Chief Strategy Officer. In his address, Professor Simester reaffirmed that the heart of the gathering lay in friendship and fellowship. He spoke of the enduring ties between Singapore and Malaysia within the legal profession, shared updates on the school's latest developments, and invited everyone to raise a toast to shared memories and to the many journeys of success forged by its alumni, which continue to shape and strengthen the NUS Law family.



NUS Law family, KL edition: familiar faces, new connections

LONDON-BASED ALUMNI REUNION

Contributed by Dr Timothy Liau '14 (Assistant Professor, LSE Law School)

A group of us London-based alumni were given the opportunity to meet NUS Law Dean Andrew Simester, as well as Vice-Dean of Faculty Development Ernest Lim '02, for dinner at the Brasserie Blanc on Chancery Lane in late October of 2025. To add to the suspense, we weren't told who else would be attending. We were greeted with pleasant surprise after pleasant surprise as each person walked through the door, as recognition dawned on each of our faces. How nice to be reunited with unexpected classmates, many of whom we had not seen for several years.

We each shared our respective journeys and how we ended up working here in London. Several of us had made our way here after a stint in the US. There was much reminiscing about how important

our formative years at NUS law had been. Happy stories were shared about the various professors who, in one way or other, left an impression on us. Two of us had been taught criminal law by Professor Simester in separate years, three years apart, and he fondly recounted his memories of our year groups.

One theme that emerged through the night was unexpected connections. As the conversation progressed through the night, we discovered various connections, many of which we hadn't realised we had. Some of us were taught by the same professors. Some of us worked for the same law firms. Some of us were neighbours in London, living within walking distance of one another. Some of us had, while pursuing postgraduate studies in Cambridge, gathered for

chicken rice during the cold, dark British winter. And some of us turned out to have known each other's partners through dance classes.

Professor Simester shared with us updates from the Faculty and arrangements for its move from the Bukit Timah campus to the main campus on Kent Ridge, which would mark the start of a new chapter for NUS Law. We dearly miss the campus on which we spent numerous late nights preparing for various moots (including LAWR!) and mugging together with friends. Many things have changed, and will continue to change, but some things will not. The people who make up NUS Law—which includes all of us alumni—will always be part of NUS Law.



Across time zones, still connected: Cosy evening with Professors Andrew Simester and Ernest Lim in London

UPCOMING REUNIONS

To organise your milestone reunion in 2026 (Class of 1966, 1971, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2006), gather a few classmates to form your committee and contact Madelyn Kia at madelyn.kia@nus.edu.sg to get things started.

UPDATE YOUR PARTICULARS & SAVE THE EARTH

To receive news and invitations to future class reunions, please update your latest contact details with us!

As part of NUS Law's efforts on sustainability, **publications are distributed mainly in digital format**. If you wish to receive *LawLink* and *Letter from the Dean* in hard copy, please opt in via the e-survey below (physical copies will only be sent to alumni who opt in or who have not updated their e-mail address with us).

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* Some donors have asked to remain anonymous.

THE GIFT OF PERSPECTIVE

For Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian '61, LLM '66, PhD '72 and Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore Pte Ltd, their giving is one of both prize and perspective. In recognising potential and having meaningful two-way conversations with students about the legal world, they are encouraging, indeed shaping, the future of the profession and the students' eventual contributions to society.

At NUS Law, alumni, law firms and friends work in partnership with NUS Giving, the University's philanthropic arm, to see the possibility in every student and in the future of the legal profession. Our donors' generosity in establishing prizes does more than support programmes, it affirms potential, rewards perseverance and makes excellence possible.

In the following stories, we feature three donors who took the time to meet the recipients of their prizes, showcasing how their generosity goes beyond the monetary. We hear the backstories of the givers—the importance they ascribe to inspiring a new generation of lawyers, through sharing insights from lived experience—and listen to the receivers on being part of a larger legal community invested in their growth.

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

Our five donated prizes reflect our firm's belief that Excellence with Heart is about more than just professional achievements; it is also about caring for

people and investing in the future of the legal profession. As a purpose-driven firm, we believe that doing good should come from a genuine sense of responsibility and conviction, simply because it is the right thing to do.

Over a meal with the students, we got to understand their hopes for the future and share our experiences as those who have walked a similar path. Many talked about their excitement in exploring the world during their student exchange and graduation trips, the challenges of being a law student today, and the anticipation in embarking on a new journey as a lawyer. These conversations were also a reminder of how encouragement and support, given at an important stage of their legal journeys, can affirm confidence and shape aspirations. We hope the students will go on to build their careers with integrity, compassion and courage, and to contribute meaningfully to the communities they serve.

We also hope to encourage fellow alumni, law organisations and students to

remain connected to the legal education ecosystem, recognising that access to justice is a shared responsibility shaped by how we educate, support and sustain the next generation of lawyers. It is through our collective efforts of philanthropy and sustained engagement that a strong, compassionate and values-driven legal community can continue to grow and serve society meaningfully.

Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian '61, LLM '66, PhD '72

Establishing the Sim Pei Fang Environmental Steward Award was a meaningful way to give back to NUS Law, while encouraging greater attention to an area that touches all our lives. When I began working in environmental law in the early 1990s, it was a relatively new field. Over time, it became clear that environmental issues are never merely "local". Singapore's geography and our place within ASEAN mean that we are deeply affected by transboundary challenges such as pollution, forest fires and the haze. Supporting a student award



A shared commitment to environmental law and stewardship: (from left) Ms Liana Mahadi, from NUS Development Office; Emeritus Prof Koh Kheng Lian '61, LLM '66, PhD '72; and Li Minghan '25

in this space is my way of affirming that environmental stewardship matters, and that the legal profession has an important role to play in shaping practical, lasting solutions.

Meeting Li Minghan '25, this year's award recipient, over lunch brought that purpose to life. In a relaxed setting, our conversation moved naturally from his interests and experiences to the broader realities of environmental governance in the region. I was heartened by his thoughtfulness and openness to learning. It also reminded me that when we make space to speak about the environment, we begin to notice more, and to think more carefully about what responsible action might look like. Moments like this show how giving can go beyond recognising achievement: It can create connection, spark reflection, and strengthen a sense of shared responsibility.

The award is also a personal tribute to my mother, Madam Sim Pei Fang—an educated working mother who served with the Salvation Army and believed in doing what she could, simply because it was the right thing to do. Her resilience and commitment to service shaped my own values, and this gift is one way of carrying those values forward. Looking ahead, I hope recipients will develop a broad view of environmental issues: understanding how land, water and sea interact, appreciating the competing interests that make solutions difficult, and recognising that progress often requires patience, experimentation and

legal community's role in society. It is also an opportunity to give back in recognition of the education we received, while encouraging the next generation of lawyers.

Meeting the students and sharing a meal with them in a more intimate setting was both inspiring and rewarding. The exchange provided a platform to share insights not only from our own professional journeys, but also to learn from the students' perspectives and aspirations as they look to embark on their legal careers. Their enthusiasm and openness made the experience meaningful and served as a reminder of the importance of engaging with and supporting future members of the profession. They will play a pivotal role in ensuring law firms remain at the forefront, addressing clients' challenges with insight and agility.

We hope they will go on to contribute to society and to the legal profession. Law is a profession that asks a lot of us, and every day brings new challenges and shifting priorities which lawyers need to navigate with competence, confidence and often with empathy. For those working in such a demanding and rewarding environment, staying connected with alumni and the legal education landscape, as well as philanthropy efforts, plays a vital role in creating long-term impact by investing in the development of those who will shape the future.

the courage to take thoughtful leaps of faith. Above all, I hope this support affirms students who care about these issues and encourages them to contribute, in their own ways, to a more sustainable future.

Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore Pte Ltd

Supporting NUS Law through our prize, the Clyde & Co Clasis Prize in Introduction to Legal Theory, is a way to affirm the



Partners of Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP—Mr Hoo Chi Tern (back), Ms Ho Mei Shi (third from right) and Mr Joshua Seet '12 (third from left)—with the AY 2025/2026 winners of one of their prizes, the Rajah & Tann Asia Prize in Legal Systems of Asia



Mr Chong Ik Wei '96, Managing Director of Clyde & Co (second row, second from left), and the firm's lawyers met the prize recipients to connect, through exchanging insights and sharing about their professional journeys

LEAVING A LEGACY IN EDUCATION

The value of education goes beyond what one learns in the classroom. For Agnes Sng '84, participating in extracurricular activities and after-school programmes during her time as a law school student was invaluable.

"They helped me bond with my classmates in social settings and built the foundation for lifelong friendships," she shared. Those connections she made at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law (NUS Law) would later prove helpful when collaborating on projects with old law schoolmates.

But not all of Agnes' peers in law school had the opportunity to build these bonds during university. She observed that many of them had to skip school activities to take on part-time jobs to pay for their tuition fees and schoolbooks.

After a successful career holding roles in banks, non-governmental organisations and the Singapore Academy of Law, Agnes knew she wanted to give back. Believing that no one should be denied an education because of financial constraints, she made the decision to pledge a substantial portion of her CPF monies towards establishing a bursary for NUS Law students.

"Every little bit helps," Agnes added. "If many people come together to give, it will make a difference in someone's life."



Agnes Sng decided to pledge a substantial portion of her CPF monies towards a bursary for NUS Law students

If you feel called to make a difference, here's how you can give back.

- Make a charitable bequest via your will/ trust by leaving a specific asset, sum of money, percentage of your estate or what remains of your estate after you have provided for other beneficiaries. You can also designate how you want your bequest to be used or leave it unrestricted so that NUS may direct the funds to where it is most needed at the time.
- Nominate NUS as a beneficiary of your CPF monies. To find out more, visit cpf.gov.sg.
- Designate NUS as the beneficiary of your insurance policy when the policy is no longer important to your family's financial security.
- Purchase an insurance policy and name NUS as both the owner and the beneficiary.
- Participate in the NUS Gift Annuity programme which is a meaningful way to create a lasting impact while receiving annual payouts for life.

Contact Kate Cheong at legacygift@nus.edu.sg or 6516 8000 if you wish to find out more about how you can create your legacy with NUS.

This article first appeared on The AlumNUS on 1 October 2023 at alumni.nus.edu.sg/thealumnus/2023/10/01/leaving-a-legacy-in-education/

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