

# EXTRINSIC MATERIALS IN STATUTORY INTERPRETATION: AN AUSTRALIAN COMPARISON TO SINGAPORE

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024 || 4PM TO 5.15PM || SEMINAR ROOM 4-1 & ZOOM



**Dr Jacinta Dharmananda**  
*Senior Lecturer*  
*Law School of the University of Western Australia*

Lawyers and courts in both Australia and Singapore regularly refer to parliamentary and other extrinsic materials when interpreting statutes. Indeed, there is considerable similarity between the Singaporean and Australian statutory provisions permitting recourse to extrinsic materials. In Australia, the relationship between the statutory provisions and the common law about the use of such materials has become unclear and sometimes contradictory. More, Australian law offers little cohesive guidance for evaluation of the probative value of the materials, an issue that has, arguably, overtaken that of access. This seminar explores that law, provides some empirical evidence on the use of extrinsic materials in Australian courts, and offers some suggested guidance for a cohesive approach.

## PROGRAMME

- 3.30PM** Registration
- 4.00PM** Presentation by Dr Jacinta Dharmananda
- 5.00PM** Q&A moderated by Prof Tjio Hans
- 5.15PM** End of event

## REGISTER

**Registration Fee:** \$81.75 (incl. 9% GST)  
Complimentary for full-time NUS staff and students  
Register at [nus.edu/3RUGKEb](https://nus.edu/3RUGKEb) or scan the QR code

**Closing Date:**  
5 March 2024

**Contact:**  
[ewbclb@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ewbclb@nus.edu.sg)



**Public CPD Points:** 1  
**Area:** Civil Procedure  
**Training Level:** Foundation

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## SPEAKER



**Dr Jacinta Dharmananda**

**Senior Lecturer**

**Law School of the University of Western Australia**

Dr Jacinta Dharmananda is a Senior Lecturer at the Law School of the University of Western Australia. Jacinta obtained her law degree from the University of Western Australia (UWA) in Perth and her PhD from the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

Jacinta is an Australian nationally recognized scholar on the law governing the interpretation of legislation. She is a co-author of the recently published *Modern Statutory Interpretation: Framework, Principles and Practice* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) and has published widely in scholarly and practitioner publications. Her PhD topic was on the relationship between statutory interpretation and the legislative process. Jacinta designed, developed, and teaches a dedicated subject on statutory interpretation at UWA Law School as part of the JD law degree. She is a co-author of the national guide for Australian law schools, *Good Practice Guide to Teaching Statutory Interpretation* (Council of Australian Law Deans, 2015). Prior to joining UWA Law School, Jacinta worked for over a decade as a lawyer in private practice and in-house in New York, Singapore, Tokyo, Melbourne, and Perth.

## CHAIRPERSON



**Professor Tjio Hans**

**Director of EW Barker Centre for Law & Business, NUS Law**

Hans has taught at the Faculty of Law, NUS, since 1990, and was previously Director of the Centre for Banking and Finance Law and Centre for Commercial Law Studies. He has published widely in international and local journals, and has written or co-written books on company law, securities regulation and trust law. He is also a contributor to Halsbury's Laws of Singapore on contract law and to Palmer's Company Law (Geoffrey Morse ed).

He was previously seconded to the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Ministry of Law. He is presently serving on the Securities Industry Council, is Deputy Chairman of the SGX Listing Advisory Committee, and a consultant with TSMP Law Corporation. He has been a visiting professor at National Taiwan University, Auckland and Shanghai's ECUP and a visiting scholar at Stanford and Melbourne. He recently delivered public lectures at the law schools of NTU, Tsinghua and Zhejiang Universities and West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences.