

BANKRUPTCY LAW IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE BY GK GANESAN  
[Malaysia: Marsden Law Book Co, 2001, xcvi + 1440 pp (including  
index). Hardcover : S\$390]

THIS massive tome is an ambitious project by a Malaysian practising lawyer to provide a useful reference work for practitioners on both sides of the Causeway. The object of this review is to see how well it serves its function for Singapore lawyers.

This book starts with the general principles of bankruptcy law and this is followed by a detailed section by section discussion of the Malaysian legislative provisions. There is a detailed discussion of the procedural and technical aspects of bankruptcy law in the general principles section.

The main problem with this work is that the book is written with the Malaysian bar as the main audience. It is not easy to research the law based

on Singapore provisions of the Bankruptcy Act. This problem is compounded by the fact that the Malaysian legislation is still based on the 2 step bankruptcy process – receiving order, then adjudication order. This process has been much simplified in Singapore into a one step process of only making a bankruptcy order.

The author tries to overcome the problem of the book's usefulness to non-Malaysian lawyers by having comparison tables at the end of the book. There is a table of comparative Malaysian and Singapore statutory provisions as well as another on the respective subsidiary legislation rules. There is also a table comparing Commonwealth provisions from the United Kingdom, Brunei, Australia, New Zealand and India. A word of caution here is that the tables only provide the equivalent section numbers with no display of the semantic or other differences between the provisions of various countries.

For the Singapore lawyer, a major consolation is that there are extensive extracts from Singapore cases, for example, the judgment from *Re Ng Lai Wat* [1996] 3 SLR 106 is heavily extracted from pages 511 to 528 of this book, while the judgment from *Re Siah Ooi Choe* [1998] 1 SLR 903 is also distilled into pages 496 to 502 here.

It is easy to criticize but one must recognise the immense effort and thought in compiling this work. All in all, a reasonably useful work for Singapore lawyers. Unfortunately, it faces stiff competition from the leading work, the *Law and Practice of Bankruptcy in Singapore and Malaysia* (K. Anandarajah ed, 1999).