

Judging the Constitution: The Theory and Practice of Constitutional Interpretation in Singapore

28 and 29 May 2015

Moot Court

*Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
(Bukit Timah Campus)*

Programme

Thursday, 28 May 2015 (Day 1)

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| 9.00am – 9.20am | Registration and Coffee
<i>Outside Moot Court</i> |
| 9.20am – 9.30am | Introductions |
| 9.30am – 9.45am | Opening Remarks
Professor Andrew Harding , DIRECTOR
CENTRE FOR ASIAN LEGAL STUDIES AND ASIAN LAW INSTITUTE
FACULTY OF LAW, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE |
| 9.45am – 10.30am | <i>Interpreting the Singapore Constitution</i>
Opening Keynote Speech
The Honourable Attorney-General V K Rajah, SC
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS |
| 10.30am – 11.00am | Morning Tea Break
<i>Outside Moot Court</i> |
| 11.00am – 12.30pm | Session I: Foundations of Interpretation
Chairperson: Michael Hor, Dean , THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Speakers
<i>Into the Matrix: Interpreting the Westminster Model
Constitution</i>
Kevin YL Tan, Adjunct Professor , NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

<i>Should Singapore's Constitution be Interpreted in Line with the
Basic Structure Doctrine?</i>
Andrew Harding, Professor , NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE |

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Lunch

Portico Staff Lounge, Federal Building

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Session II: Principles of Interpretation

Chairperson: Maartje de Visser, Assistant Professor, SINGAPORE
MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

Speakers

Rethinking the Presumption of Constitutionality

Jack Tsen-Ta Lee, Assistant Professor, SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

*Balancing Act: Balancing Metaphor as Deference and Dialogue
in Constitutional Cases in Singapore*

Jaclyn L. Neo, Assistant Professor, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Uncovering Originalism and Textualism in Singapore

Yap Po Jen, Associate Professor, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

3.30pm – 4.00pm

Afternoon Tea Break

Outside Moot Court

4.30pm – 5.30pm

Session III: Legal Influences

Chairperson: Calvin Liang, Senior Associate, Tan Kok Quan
Partnership

Speakers

*Whither the Autochthonous Narrative of Freedom of Speech in
Singapore? : A Guide to Defaming Politicians and Scandalising
Judges in Singapore*

David Tan, Associate Professor, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

*Resisting Foreign Law in Constitutional Interpretation in
Singapore: Trends Across 50 years*

Arun K. Thiruvengadam, Assistant Professor, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF
SINGAPORE

6.00pm

Group Photo

6.05pm – 8.00pm

Welcome Dinner (For invited guests only)

Friday, 29 May 2015 (Day 2)

- 9.00am – 9.15am** **Registration and Coffee**
Outside Moot Court
- 9.15am – 11.15am** **Session IV: Interrogating Constitutional Interpretation**
Chairperson: Chen Siyuan, Assistant Professor, SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY
- Speakers**
- Developing the Content of “Fundamental Rules of Natural Justice”*
Swati Jhaveri, Assistant Professor, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
- Interpreting Constitutions and Statutes: Are Different Approaches Justified?*
Goh Yihan, Associate Professor, SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY
- The Shifting Boundaries of Constitutional and Administrative Law in Singapore*
Victor V. Ramraj, Professor UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA (VIA SKYPE)
- 11.15am – 11.45am** **Morning Tea Break**
Outside Moot Court
- 11.45am – 1.15pm** **Session V: Theorizing Interpretation**
Chairperson: Nicole Roughan, Assistant Professor, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
- Speakers**
- Principled Pragmatism as an Approach in Constitutional Interpretation*
Thio Li-ann, Professor, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
- Constitutional Evolution Through Interpretation: Is Law or Politics the Best Route for Singapore? A Dialogue*
Michael Dowdle, Assistant Professor & Kevin YL Tan, Adjunct Professor
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
- 1.15pm – 1.25pm** **Closing Remarks**
- 1.30pm – 2.30pm** **Lunch**
Portico Staff Lounge, Federal Building