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NUS Law Celebrates
Diamond Jubilee

Pioneer Graduates
Welcome New Generation

Honouring
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New Centre for
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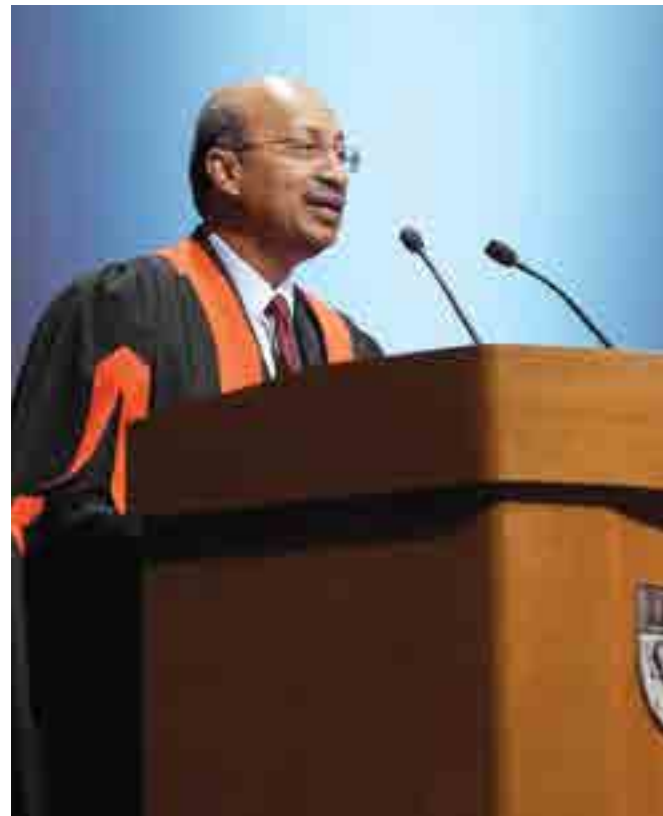
Moot Victories
Faculty Features
Book Launches

REUNIONS!
Classes of 1982, 1987,
1992, 1997 & 2007

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



From left: Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh '61, Dean of NUS Law Professor Simon Chesterman, former Chief Justice Mr Chan Sek Keong '61, Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian '61, Ms Tan Leng Fong '61 and Mr Amarjeet Singh SC '61



PIONEER GRADUATES WELCOME NEXT GENERATION

The Class of 1961 joined the Class of 2017 at this year's Commencement on 8 July at the University Cultural Centre



Members of the Class of 1961 at Commencement 2017. Front row (from left): Ms Aileen Lim, Ms Tan Leng Fong, and Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian. Back row (from left): Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh, Mr Foo Yew Heng, Mr Amarjeet Singh SC, former Chief Justice Mr Chan Sek Keong, and former Solicitor-General Mr Koh Eng Tian.

This year marked the 60th Anniversary of the first intake of law students at NUS and the Faculty was particularly delighted to welcome eight members from this first cohort (the Class of 1961) who were present to share the celebrations!

Presiding over the ceremony was former Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, NUS Pro-Chancellor, and the guest speaker was the Honourable V.K. Rajah SC '82, former Attorney-General and Judge of Appeal. The Class of 1961 was also represented by Ambassador-at-Large Professor Tommy Koh, Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian, Ms Tan Leng Fong, Ms Aileen Lim, Mr Amarjeet Singh SC, Mr Foo Yew Heng, and former Solicitor-General Mr Koh Eng Tian.

In tribute to the pioneer class, Mr V.K. Rajah said, "The Class of 1961, Singapore's very first law graduates, is well represented here. Some of them initially faced some job discrimination. Englishmen who then ran the largest law

firms thought that those who qualified in England had a superior hallmark. But the Class of 1961 quickly put that misconception right. I would like to recognise three of them whom as a law student I looked up to. Chan Sek Keong, the finest legal mind Singapore has known. Tommy Koh, the finest diplomat Singapore has produced. T.P.B. Menon '61, Singapore's finest Chancery lawyer until he left active practice. Two of them are here today to personally welcome you to the legal fraternity and demonstrably show that the legal profession is more than a business. We are a community bound together by shared values, ethical precepts and common aspirations."

He also had this advice for the Class of 2017, "You must have a deep appreciation that the practice of law is ultimately about values and that it has a real impact on people's lives. As professionals, we subscribe to higher values that must always include fair play."

As over 300 of this year's graduates sat among the faculty's pioneer batch and renowned members of our alumni, it was a timely reminder of how the Class of 1961 set the bar high for all the generations that have followed, each breaking down barriers for the next generation of legal pioneers.

Reuben Ong '17, valedictorian for the Class of 2017, thanked professors and loved ones. Addressing his classmates, Reuben said, "I'm sure all of us have experienced moments in law school when we felt that the challenges and difficulties that we faced were almost overwhelming – the weeks were short but days were long, and every moment seemed to have an opportunity cost attached. In such circumstances, a kind word or caring gesture can go a long way, and I hope that we will continue as a batch to support one another in this way, even if we find ourselves seated on opposite ends of the table."

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DEAN'S DIARY

A diamond jubilee is a time for celebration, to look backwards as well as forwards. This year, we have aimed to do all three of these things in celebration of sixty years of legal education at NUS Law.

We have had parties, as at the 60th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and the Alumni Movie Night. We have studied our history, in the form of a special issue of the *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies* and a commemorative volume written by our own Kevin Tan '86. And we are laying the foundation for the future through the NUS Law Student Support Fund, to ensure that all deserving students can take full advantage of a legal education without regard to their financial circumstances.

For my own part, during this year, I have repeatedly come back to a very basic question: What is a law school?

In one sense, a law school is a set of buildings. And the history of NUS Law is, in part, a tale of architecture.

The campus on which the first Singaporean law students were admitted, sixty years ago, nestles at the edge of the Botanic Gardens, its whitewashed cloisters chosen from an Empire-wide architectural competition. Those students enrolled as colonial subjects in the new Department of Law of the University of Malaya; they graduated, four years later, from a Faculty of what would shortly be rechristened the University of Singapore, the country itself on the cusp of independence.



Aerial view of the campus when it was known as the University of Malaya, circa 1952

Within two decades, the campus had been outgrown and in 1980 the National



University of Singapore was established at Kent Ridge. The call of Bukit Timah lingered, however, and after a further quarter-century NUS Law returned to the historic buildings and leafy quadrangles in 2006. The campus that once accommodated an entire university is today fully occupied by the schools of law and public policy.

A law school is far more than the buildings it occupies, of course. The power of the law lies in the significance we attribute to its words. The history of NUS Law is, then, also a history of ideas.

Given the importance of the rule of law to Singapore today, it's surprising to

note that the study of law was actively discouraged by colonial authorities, here and across much of the Empire. This was sometimes justified as a question of priorities — engineers, doctors, and agriculturalists were said to be more useful in a developing economy. But it is also clear that lawyers were viewed with suspicion as potential troublemakers.

Such wariness of the dangers of a legal training continued into independence, with various efforts to match the number of law graduates to the number of lawyers required by the economy. Indeed, those efforts continue today in tweaking the domestic and international

supply of lawyers. (I hasten to add that all of our graduates who seek training contracts continue to get them.)

The importance of the rule of law to Singapore is no longer questioned, however, and indeed NUS Law is not only expected to produce highly-qualified graduates, but also help position Singapore as a thought-leader in legal research.

So, in one sense, a law school is a set of buildings; in another, it is a set of ideas. Yet even the finest classrooms and the richest body of scholarship would be nothing without the people that pass through those halls and engage with that material. And so the history of NUS Law is, ultimately, a story of teachers and of students.

In six decades, NUS Law has seen hundreds of full-time and adjunct faculty teach more than ten thousand students. Today, we are widely recognised as the best law school in Asia. That status is based, to some extent, on the quality of our faculty and the research we produce.

But the rankings that support such a claim make clear that our greatest asset is not our facilities or even the knowledge created here — it is our students and our alumni.

Over sixty years, our alumni have gone on to leadership roles in all parts of the Singapore profession, as well as top law firms in New York and London, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Many of our graduates assume public office; others join academia or represent



60th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. From left: Dean Simon Chesterman, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86, Ms Olivia Anne D'Costa '86, Professor S. Jayakumar '63 and NUS President Designate Professor Tan Eng Chye

Singapore on the international stage. Still others use their legal training to start new ventures in the corporate world, or apply their skills with language as playwrights or actors.

The story of NUS Law is, therefore, the story of an institution and of its evolving role in Singapore. But the richness of that tale lies in the lived experiences of the men and women who studied and taught, mooted and published, graduated from and gave back to their alma mater — through their achievements, their financial support, and the opportunities that they create for the next generation of NUS Law students.

The history of NUS Law is, then, *your* history.

So congratulations on all that you and your fellow alumni of NUS Law have achieved



Jessup Moot Champions 1982. From left: Former Attorney-General V.K. Rajah SC '82, Davinder Singh SC '82, Judge of Appeal Steven Chong SC '82 and Jimmy Yim SC '82

over sixty years. Thank you for all your support up to now. And thank you for all that we aspire to do together in the future.

Simon Chesterman
Dean, NUS Law



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* Some donors have asked to remain anonymous.

NUS LAW CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE



NUS Law Dean Professor Simon Chesterman (fourth from left) celebrates NUS Law's 60th Anniversary with former Law Deans (from left) Professor Tan Lee Meng '72, Dr Thio Su Mien '61, Professor Tommy Koh '61, Professor S. Jayakumar '63, Professor Tan Sook Yee, Associate Professor Chin Tet Yung and Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87.



Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86

NUS Law celebrated 60 years of legal education in Singapore with a glittering anniversary dinner on 20 October at the Shangri-La Hotel. The event was attended by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86 as the Guest-of-Honour, together with more than 300 faculty members, students, eminent alumni and members of the legal fraternity, benefactors and supporters of NUS Law. The evening was filled with fun and nostalgia, and featured performances by an alumni quintet and founder of the Dim Sum Dollies, Selena Tan '94.

A special anniversary book titled *The Lamp of the Law: 60 Years of Legal Education at NUS Law* was launched at the dinner. Proceeds from the book will go towards the NUS Law Student Support

Fund, which was established at the start of the jubilee year to provide additional sources of financial support for NUS law students. Ten special edition copies of the book, signed by Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, and seven of his predecessors, were all snapped up by donors contributing \$1,000 for each copy.

NUS Law Student Support Fund

The fund will provide financial assistance to law students. Examples of financial support include bursaries and book grants for financially needy students; and grants for students to take part in local and overseas mooted competitions as well as student exchange programmes.

Professor Chesterman said, "We are committed to ensuring that no deserving student should be denied an undergraduate education in law for financial reasons. Currently, around 10 percent of our students receive financial aid based on their family's per capita income. At the same time, we want all our students to be able to make the most of their education at NUS Law and be able to participate in the programmes and activities offered, regardless of their financial background."

Humble Beginnings

Founded in 1956 as the Law Department of the University of Malaya in Singapore, the Faculty accepted its first undergraduate cohort in 1957 — including Ambassador-at-large Professor Tommy Koh '61, Singapore's former Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong '61 and Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian '61, who went on to play important roles in shaping Singapore's laws and legal practices.

Over six decades, NUS Law has had a tremendous impact on the study and the practice of law in Singapore. Today, the school has established itself as the leading law school in Asia and is consistently ranked in the top 20 worldwide.



Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan '86 presents his book to Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86 and Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law



NUS Law Jessup Mooters. Standing (from left): Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng '92, Mr Gregory Vijayendran '92, Associate Professor Lynette Chua '03, Mr Tan Ken Hwee '94, Professor Leslie Chew '78, Ms Deborah Barker SC '76, Associate Professor Michael Ewing-Chow '95, Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85, Mr Harveen Singh Narulla '02, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86, Ms Aurill Kam '91, Mr Mohan Pillay '85, Mr Kevin Lee '12, Judge of Appeal Steven Chong SC '82, Attorney-General Lucien Wong SC '78, Mr David Isidore Tan '16, Professor Alan Tan '93, Mr Jason Chan '02, and Mr Lye Kah Cheong '95
Sitting (from left): Mr Kenneth Lim '04, Ms Parveen Kaur '16, Mr Hairul Hakkim '16, and Mr Kelvin Chong '15 (Vis Moot)



Professor Tommy Koh '61, Ambassador-at-Large and Professor Tan Eng Chye, President Designate of National University of Singapore.

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, said, "NUS Law has played a vital role in Singapore's development as a legal hub. In addition to training the men and women who lead the profession, NUS Law is now recognised as a thought-leader in many areas of legal research."

Despite its humble beginnings, the Faculty's student population has expanded from its pioneer batch of 22 students to an intake of 250 undergraduate students and 120 graduate students per year today. These students are taught by around 70 faculty members representing most of the major jurisdictions around the world.

To date, NUS Law has produced more than 10,000 law graduates, who have gone on to occupy the senior ranks of the judiciary, government, private practice, business, the arts and media communities as well as almost every niche of professional life in Singapore.

Prominent NUS Law alumni include Singapore's first female President Madam Halimah Yacob '78, Minister for

Law K. Shanmugam '84, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86, actor and playwright Ivan Heng '88, co-founder and CEO of Razer Inc, Tan Min-Liang '02, and fashion designer Priscilla Shunmugam '06.



Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86 and his wife, Ms Olivia Anne D'Costa '86.

The Lamp of the Law: 60 Years of Legal Education at NUS Law



The *Lamp of the Law* celebrates 60 years of the NUS Faculty of Law. Founded in 1956 as the Law Department of the University of

Malaya in Singapore, the Faculty accepted its first cohort of students in 1957, and it is this anniversary that the volume celebrates.

The book covers early efforts made to teach law at Raffles College in the pre-war and early post-war periods, as well as how NUS Law has transformed itself into a global law school today.

Written by NUS Law alumnus and legal historian Adjunct Professor Kevin Tan '86,

this book chronicles the development of the Faculty of Law through the decades. The story of NUS Law is told in six chapters spanning some 200 pages.

The *Lamp of the Law* is currently available for a donation of \$100 or more towards the NUS Law Student Support Fund. To make a donation and obtain a copy of the book, please e-mail Ms Era at lawlink@nus.edu.sg.



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

A behind-the-scenes look at the NUS Law 60th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on 20 October 2017 at the Shangri-La

By Associate Professor David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs)



The producer and “accidental” emcee David Tan

It is never an easy task organising a gala dinner commemorating a momentous anniversary celebration like a diamond jubilee.

When I was volunteered to oversee the entertainment section of the 60th Anniversary Dinner in October at the Shangri-La, I was flummoxed. What could we possibly put together for a distinguished dinner hosting the current and former Chief Justices, judges of the Supreme Court, senior government officials and members of the legal fraternity that would be different, entertaining and memorable?

My starting point was the saying: “Home is where the heart is”. I remembered how the iconic song “Home” composed by Dick Lee and performed by Kit Chan very much resonated with many Singaporeans, and thought I could evoke a sense of community and belonging to NUS Law by adapting the lyrics of that song for the occasion. I have known Kit Chan for over 15 years and asked if she could perform it. Her first response was, “Are you sure? I’m not alumni.”

After some discussion, I decided to produce the dinner show with only NUS Law alumni and current students

as performers, keeping it an intimate showcase of the diversity of talents that the law school can offer.

I started by rewriting the lyrics to “Home” way back in June this year; just a few tweaks making references to the friendships, the teachers, and the lectures while retaining most of the nostalgic lines we are so familiar with. And then I conscripted Tong Miin ’16 to gather a quintet and soon we had Chok Kerong ’08 a renowned jazz musician onboard as the music arranger.



Calvin Lee ’17, Walter Seow ’18, Priscilla Goh ’17, Lee Shu Qing ’17, Tong Miin ’16, and Chok Kerong ’08 (on piano)

Kerong gave up a place at the prestigious Berklee College of Music for NUS Law. But upon graduation, he went on to complete a two-year course at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City on a NAC Scholarship. His arrangements and compositions have been performed by Jeremy Monteiro, Rani Singam, the T’ang Quartet, and the Singapore Wind Symphony. Disquiet, commissioned by Singapore Symphony Group for the Victoria Concert Hall Organ Series, is Kerong’s first work featuring the pipe organ, and was performed by eminent organist Dr Margaret Chen with a string ensemble in August 2017.

Interestingly, Tong Miin was an assistant to Kit Chan in her final year at NUS Law. Miin was one of only two graduates who successfully completed the University Scholars Programme (USP) thus far, and is currently a practising lawyer at Lee & Lee. Taking on the role as leader and soprano in the “Home” quintet, Miin organised the Sunday rehearsals at U-Town. Her musical versatility stems from her roots in classical music since the age of four, later branching out with Raffles Jazz and the NUS Jazz Band. Miin has lent her voice to projects helmed by well-known clients such as Resorts World Sentosa, Okto and



Calvin Lee ’17, Walter Seow ’18, Tong Miin ’16, Priscilla Goh ’17, and Lee Shu Qing ’17

Gardens By the Bay, and performed as a soloist at world-class venues including Esplanade-Theatres By the Bay and the Shaw Symphony Foundation Stage. She also received the NUS Centre For the Arts Honours Award for her outstanding contribution to the arts at NUS.

Miin was the quintessential glue that held the group together, organising weekend practices and juggling a punishing work schedule. In fact, she was working in the office till way past midnight on the eve of the Dinner, and had to be back in the office again in the morning. I was on tenterhooks wondering if her firm was going to release her for the evening’s performance! After the performance, Miin was in a reflective mood, “I realised that my time in law school was but one of the varied experiences which make up this community - a shared trove of experience, knowledge and wisdom of students, faculty and staff. Indeed, at NUS Law, I know I’m home, and this sentiment was very clearly shared amongst all who have traversed its gates.”

Priscilla Goh ’17 sang the alto part and is presently a Part B candidate for the Bar Examinations. She has loved singing since her days in the Raffles Girls’ School Choir, and has enjoyed being a vocalist in Raffles Jazz, and performing in the Law IV Musical, Judicial Review. Priscilla is also a fan of food (the making and eating of), Edward Elgar, and detective stories and shows.

Lee Shu Qing ’17, the other alto, is currently enrolled in the Part B course. Before law school, she had the opportunity to study Drama as well as Musical Theatre at Anglo-Chinese Junior College. She most recently performed in the Law IV Musical Judicial Review too.

Calvin Lee ’17, performing the bass role, is currently completing Part B of his Bar Examinations. He has been an avid chorister from young, progressing from a boys’ choir to an a capella group in ACS (Independent), and capped his law school experience performing in the Law IV Musical earlier this year. Besides making music, he confessed that he thoroughly enjoys gluttony, and cannot resist the painstaking ordeal of supporting Liverpool.

Walter Seow ’18, singing tenor in “Home”, is a final year undergraduate. Aside from his academic pursuits, he enjoys singing with the NUS Choir and going for his thrice-yearly hiking trips. Walter also thoroughly enjoys good food – which seems to be a common thread holding this quintet together. When I caught him in a more reflective mood, he said, “Performing for the NUS Law 60 dinner was a really amazing experience. Beyond the thrill of performing for such an illustrious group of alumni, I was reminded of the generations of students who have come before me, whose heritage I now inherit. As I begin

the final semester in law school, I will keep these precious memories close to heart and cherish my remaining time here at NUS Law.”

But “Home” was not enough. I needed a showstopper to close the evening. Naturally the choice was Selena Tan ’94. Selena – founder and one third of the famous Dim Sum Dollies – is possibly one of the few NUS Law alumni who can most naturally combine humour with soaring vocals.

It was a delightful first meeting with Selena at Jones The Grocer over coffee where we brainstormed her list of songs. She also revealed that she did not plunge straight into a career in the world of entertainment but had worked in the litigation department of Wong Tan & Molly Lim for three and a half years. Her “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” and “Give My Regards to Broadway” at the jubilee dinner cleverly slipped in references to NUS Law and even a mention of every single local dean of the law school!

In her usual bubbly manner, Selena enthused, “It was an honour to perform at such an important occasion, and it really felt like a homecoming of sorts. It was wonderful to see familiar faces in the crowd and to help celebrate law school turning 60 years. To more good years!”

Did I also say that after paying for everyone’s dinner this year, there was no money left to hire a professional emcee for the evening? Yeah, that’s how you ended up with me! Nonetheless, I hope everyone had a great time, and I look forward to seeing you at more of our alumni events next year!



Selena Tan ’94 belting out Broadway tunes

60TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI MOVIE NIGHT: JUSTICE LEAGUE

Word spread fast about NUS Law's 60th Anniversary Alumni Movie Night, and tickets were literally snapped up overnight upon release! It was indeed a night to remember as 400 alumni and their guests arrived at GV Grand, Great World City on 18 November, many with their kids in tow.

The reception before the movie was the perfect opportunity for alumni to mingle and many were delighted to

meet up with old law school mates, as well as faculty members such as Dean of NUS Law, Professor Simon Chesterman, Associate Professors Eleanor Wong '85, Vice Dean (Student Affairs), David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), Chan Wing Cheong and Burton Ong '99.

In the theatre, alumni were treated to a video featuring the Faculty's major milestones and highlights in the past 60 years, and Professor Chesterman gave a

warm welcome to everyone before the lights were dimmed for the movie.

For those who attended, we hope you enjoyed the show, and we look forward to seeing many more of you at future NUS Law events!

To stay updated on the latest alumni events and happenings, please update your particulars with us at law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/alumni_update_particulars.asp.



NUS LAW HONOURS SINGAPORE'S PIONEER LAW MINISTER EW BARKER

Launch of EW Barker Centre for Law & Business and EW Barker Bursary



PM Lee Hsien Loong and Dean of NUS Law, Professor Simon Chesterman taking a picture with the Barker family.

NUS Law recognised the legacy of Mr EW Barker, Singapore's first and longest-serving Law Minister, by renaming the Centre for Law & Business after him and launching a student bursary in his honour. Singapore Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong officially launched these initiatives in the presence of Mrs Gloria Barker, wife of the late Mr Barker, and members of the Barker family at an event held at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus.

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, said, "The EW Barker Centre for Law & Business ensures that not only will Mr Barker's story be told and his name remembered, but that his legacy will carry forward in perpetuity. The Law was his first calling and this centre, which will be a thought-leader in cutting-edge legal debates, serves as both a reminder of Singapore's first Law Minister and an inspiration to build on his many achievements."

Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87, Chairman of the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business at NUS Law, added, "Mr EW Barker is a highly distinguished person in Singapore's history and we are acutely aware of the responsibility that it brings to be worthy of bearing his name. We have worked hard to ensure that the centre has, in a relatively



PM Lee chats with NUS Law student leaders.

short period of time, become recognised as one of the leading commercial law research centres in the world. With strong support from various stakeholders as well as adequate research funding, the centre has been able to make a significant impact globally. In doing so, we place Singapore law more firmly in the consciousness of the international community."

"We are also announcing the EW Barker Bursary, which will support financially needy students at NUS Law. Mr Barker's legacy is inextricably tied to his identity as a lawyer, so it seems fitting that this Bursary, which will enable the next generation to pursue a legal education, also bears his name," said Professor Chesterman.

Mrs Gloria Barker said, "My husband always had the best interest of Singapore foremost in his heart and ambitions. I am sure he would have been delighted with the plans to make this centre of learning a global leader in the field of law and business. For himself, he was modest and had no idea of leaving any legacy behind. On his behalf, we are deeply honoured and thank the NUS Faculty of Law for remembering his contribution to Singapore in this way."



From left: Professor Simon Chesterman, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS President, PM Lee Hsien Loong, Mrs Gloria Barker, Professor S. Jayakumar '63, and Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87

EW Barker Centre for Law & Business

The centre, which is part of NUS Law, was established in 2014 to enhance and promote research and educational opportunities for faculty, students, legal practitioners and business executives who share a common interest in the fields of Law, Business and Economics. The centre aims to be a leading research centre globally in the field of Law and Business.

Several years ago, NUS Law launched a campaign to raise support for the centre. A total of \$21 million (inclusive of the

Government's matching grant) was raised to set up an endowment fund which will enable the centre to expand its manpower and scope of activities to make a major impact on Singapore and the wider region. Following the success of this campaign, and in recognition of Mr Barker's achievements, NUS Law has renamed the centre, the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business.

The EW Barker Centre for Law & Business plans to hire new faculty, including the recruitment of leading

scholars from around the world as well as cultivate the next generation of Singaporean scholars; organise a thriving research programme, including a series of interdisciplinary workshops and a major conference every year; and welcome visiting fellows, post-doctoral fellows and other scholars to Singapore to contribute to the vibrancy of Singapore's business law research.

EW Barker Bursary

As part of the larger initiative to recognise Mr Barker's role in establishing the rule of law in independent Singapore, NUS Law has also established the EW Barker Bursary.

An endowment fund of more than \$300,000 (including the Government's matching grant), with contributions from an anonymous donor and several members of the legal fraternity, has been set up for the Bursary. For a start, up to two bursaries of \$6,000 each is expected to be awarded per year. The Bursary will be awarded to financially needy undergraduate students at NUS Law from Academic Year 2017/18 onwards.

A Tribute to Mr EW Barker



Mr Edmund William Barker entered Raffles College, a predecessor institution of NUS, in 1939. The current NUS Bukit Timah Campus occupies the Raffles College site. In 1942, Mr Barker's education at Raffles College was disrupted by the onset of the Japanese Occupation. After the Japanese surrendered, Mr Barker returned to Raffles College in 1946 to complete his studies, attaining the Queen's Scholarship

and then graduating with an arts diploma the following year. With the scholarship, Mr Barker left for England in 1948 to study law at St Catherine's College, Cambridge University.

Mr Barker graduated with a law degree with honours from Cambridge University in 1951 and was called to the Bar at London's Inner Temple the same year. Upon his return to Singapore, Mr Barker practised law from 1952 to 1964, specialising in civil litigation. He entered politics in 1963, after winning the election for the Tanglin Constituency. He returned unopposed in the constituency in all subsequent general elections until he retired from politics in 1988.

Mr Barker served as a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1963-1964, before becoming Singapore's first Minister of Law on 1 November 1964, leaving office a quarter of a century later in 1988. In addition to his appointment as the Law Minister, he was concurrently the Minister for National Development for almost a decade from 9 August 1965 to June 1975. Besides his law and national development portfolios, Mr Barker was at

various times Minister for Home Affairs, the Environment, Science and Technology as well as Labour. He also served as Leader of the House from 1968 to 1985.

Mr Barker played a significant role in Singapore's separation from Malaysia in 1965. He drew up the separation agreement, an amendment to the Malaysian Constitution to allow for Singapore's departure, as well as the Proclamation of Singapore. Given the tense situation then, the relationships and trust established between Mr Barker and the Malaysian leaders during their Raffles College and Cambridge University days helped to make the parting an amicable one.

In recognition of his contributions to the Singapore government, Mr Barker was conferred the Order of Nila Utama (First Class) of the National Day Awards in 1990. Together with the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Mr Barker was awarded Johor's highest honour, the Honourable Order of the Crown of Johor (First Class), in 1984, in recognition of their contributions in establishing and maintaining good relations between Johor and Singapore.

NEW CENTRE FOR PRO BONO EFFORTS



From left: Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng '92, Ms Indranee Rajah '86, Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Finance, Associate Professor Ruby Lee '85 and Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law



Ms Lim Hui Min, Director of Legal Aid, Legal Aid Bureau

Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Finance Indranee Rajah '86 launched the Centre for Pro Bono & Clinical Legal Education at NUS Law on 31 October 2017.

The centre brings together the work of the NUS Pro Bono Office and the Faculty's clinical legal education programmes to develop best practices and prepare NUS Law students for real-world practice by exposing them to the challenges of delivering quality legal service while serving the disadvantaged in the community.



Ms Indranee Rajah '86 with Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law

"This new centre will widen and deepen the opportunities for our students to see the law in action, making them better lawyers and potentially better people. Such experiences will help improve our graduates in the practice of law but also teach them, we hope, that the value of a

lawyer is best measured in people helped rather than hours billed," said Dean of NUS Law, Professor Simon Chesterman.

Ms Rajah echoed similar sentiments in her speech during the launch. "Education for young lawyers is broader than teaching



Ms Indranee Rajah '86 (centre) and Presiding Judge of the State Courts Justice See Kee Oon '91 (2nd from right) with Year 4 NUS Law students and participants of the pilot State Courts – NUS Clerkship Programme (from left) Lim Wei Yang '18, Marcus Hoh '18 and Shaun Lim '18.

the law, jurisprudence and concepts of justice and rights. It also includes cultivating practical knowledge and skills, and understanding the potential impact of our work on the lives of our clients."

Addressing the students, she added, "Your abilities, skills and energy help people facing legal issues understand their rights and obligations, and where they can go for legal help. You therefore contribute invaluable in facilitating access to justice."

The centre will develop, manage and oversee pro bono programmes at the Faculty, including the Mandatory Pro Bono Programme for Law Students, as well as support the myriad of student-led pro bono activities of the NUS Pro Bono Group and the Criminal Justice Club.

It will also expand its clinical legal education programmes, for which students are graded and given credit. An example of this is the 11-week State Courts – NUS Clerkship Programme introduced in August 2017, which offers students the rare opportunity to hone their legal advocacy, drafting and research skills through observing cases in real-life courtroom settings, reflecting on and reviewing existing court processes, and weekly discussions and interaction with top State Court judges.

Marcus Hoh '18, who participated in the pilot programme, said the module gave him an invaluable opportunity to understand things from the judge's perspective as well as the different measures available in the State Courts.



Mr Alvin Ho of the Downs Syndrome Association, presenting "21 evergreen stories", a painting by Lin Chin Ru, to the centre in appreciation of assistance in deputyship applications. Pictured are the student leaders (from left) Lin Boon Xin '18, Tan Kar Wai '18 and Allen Sng Kiat Peng '18.



Remy Choo Zheng Xi '10 and Ng Bin Hong '14 of Peter Low & Choo LLC with Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng '92



Commemorative tiles given at the event.



Performer from the MINDS troupe.

"I think it ties in very nicely with the opening of the pro bono centre, which is not just about helping unrepresented accused persons but also about enhancing access to justice by laypeople."

The Centre for Pro Bono & Clinical Legal Education is helmed by NUS Law Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng '92 and Associate Professor Ruby Lee '85.

"We are privileged to be in a law school that believes not only in training our students to be able to compete in the marketplace of the world as lawyers, but also believes in keeping our students grounded in the community that they have grown up in, live in, belong to, and rub shoulders with every day," added Associate Professor Lim.

NEW AT NUS LAW

Master of Laws in International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution (LL.M. (IADR))

The NUS LL.M. (IADR) was launched in August 2016, and seeks to nurture lawyers and scholars to conduct rigorous and independent inquiries into dispute resolution issues, to appreciate transnational approaches to arbitration, to articulate critical and impactful insights, and to propose solutions beneficial to the local and global communities.

This relatively new specialised LL.M. programme enables a student to get an in-depth understanding of the laws of international arbitration and dispute resolution, and has the advantage of being located in Singapore which is the one of the preferred locations for international arbitration and dispute resolution in the world, and where many top arbitrators and academics often converge.

Students enrolled in the LL.M. (IADR) are required to complete the following compulsory courses: International Dispute Settlement, International Commercial Arbitration and Topics in International Arbitration and Dispute Settlement. They would take most of their elective courses from a wide array of courses specialising in international arbitration and dispute resolution. They can also take a number of other courses from a broad and diverse range of over 120 elective courses. In July 2017, seven students were the first to graduate with the LL.M. (IADR). In August 2017, we admitted 21 students to the second cohort.

Associate Professor Gary F. Bell, Director of the LL.M. (IADR) programme said, "Our goal is for this programme to be one of the top LL.M. programmes in arbitration and dispute resolution in the world and the best in Asia."

Double Degree with University of Geneva

NUS Law also offers a Double Degree Programme - **NUS Master of Laws (International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution) (LL.M. (IADR)) + University of Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS)**.

The Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) is a one-year full-time graduate degree programme providing the opportunity for an in-depth and high-profile study of international dispute settlement from a broad range of perspectives. It is one of the most highly regarded LL.M. degrees in the specialised field of international arbitration and dispute resolution.

This Double Degree Programme has the special advantage of giving students the "best of both worlds" – students will learn different approaches to dispute resolution, gain practical skills and have exposure to practitioners and institutions in Asia as well as in Europe, as well as in common law (Singapore) and civil law (Geneva) jurisdictions.

Associate Professor David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), recalls meeting programme director Professor Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler in 2015 to discuss the Double Degree Programme where a student can obtain both the LL.M. (IADR) from NUS and the Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) in a minimum of 18 months.

Associate Professor Tan said, "The MIDS degree is one of the most highly regarded LL.M. degrees in the specialised field of international arbitration and dispute resolution. Its 'European' and 'civil law' orientation complements the 'Asian' and 'common law' approaches that form the main focus at NUS."

Indeed the Double Degree Programme with Geneva will equip legal professionals with the requisite skills and knowledge that will allow them to be more effective operators on the international



"There is no place in the world where more is happening in international arbitration than Singapore. The demand for a specialised LL.M. is high, and NUS is excited to fill it with our own programme and the Double Degree Programme with the University of Geneva. Our faculty, our visitors, our courses, and especially our students – like Singapore itself – are leading and innovating."

Professor Lucy Reed, Director, Centre for International Law

plane. In the accelerated mode, students may commence their studies at either institution in their first year, and spend the last six months or one semester at the other institution. Two students from the first cohort have embarked on this Double Degree Programme.

Top Talent

To date, despite the programme being in its nascent stage, NUS Law has attracted a number of well-known names in the field to be visiting professors offering intensive courses each semester, including Gary Born (President of the SIAC Court of Arbitration), Professor Franco Ferrari (NYU), and Jeffrey Waincymer (Monash). Professor Lucy Reed (Director of the Centre for International Law, NUS) is also actively involved in the teaching.

Mr Born, chair of the International Arbitration Practice Group at WilmerHale, is widely regarded as the world's preeminent authority on international commercial arbitration and international litigation. He has been ranked for the past 20 years as one of the world's leading international arbitration practitioners and the leading arbitration practitioner in London.

Professor Reed was a partner from 2000 to 2016 with the international law firm of Freshfields, where she headed the international arbitration and public international law groups. She has represented private and public clients in more than 100 complex commercial and investment treaty arbitrations, focusing on energy and Asia disputes. She was awarded the 2014 Asia Women in Business Award for Best in Dispute Resolution.

In addition, Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor Alec Stone Sweet, Professor M. Sornarajah, Associate Professor Gary F. Bell, Associate Professor Joel Lee, Assistant Professor Jean Ho '03, Assistant Professor Vincent-Joël Proulx, Adjunct Professor Lawrence Boo Geok Seng '80 and Adjunct Professor Neale Gregson also teach in the programme.



"Singapore has attracted practitioners of arbitration from around the world, is known as a very important and international hub for arbitration, and this allows us to find the best teachers and the best arbitrators to come here and teach."

Associate Professor Gary F. Bell, Director, LL.M. (International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution), LL.M. (Asian Legal Studies), Asian Law Institute



MEET THE FACULTY

NUS Law's faculty members are internationally recognised as leaders in their fields. Our academics draw on their legal scholarship and professional engagements to deliver challenging and intellectually stimulating courses. Many of our faculty are extremely influential in the shaping of law and policy in Singapore, and their depth of knowledge and involvement in their area of specialism continue to shape the law school into a world class institution. In celebration of our 60th Anniversary, we have been featuring faculty members who shared their advice for students. Their full interviews can be read at law.nus.edu.sg.



**Professor
Simon Chesterman:**
**Forefront of
International Law**

"The people who do well (in international law) tend to be a little more creative in their career paths. Some take the initiative to go out and find field positions, work in the forgotten conflicts and humanitarian crises that give you experience and establish your credibility. Others are lucky enough to work in law firms that have small public international law practices, or do pro bono work on the side."



**Professor
Leong Wai Kum:**
A Pioneer in Family Law

"I believe that the broad strokes of Family Law should be public knowledge in order that the law is more effective. I have long written that law, particularly an area such as Family Law, should also play a pedagogical role in guiding people towards moral behaviour as a member of a family."



**Professor
Tan Cheng Han SC '87:**
Serious Business

"A good business lawyer is one who is able to think across different areas of law as many commercial transactions cut across more than one area. At the same time, such lawyers must see themselves as problem solvers; they must offer positive solutions to their clients and not simply tell them what they can't do."



**Professor
Alan Tan '93:**
The Sky's the Limit

"There is much scope in the field of aviation financing, which is much about structuring deals to purchase or lease aircraft. At the same time, there is some potential in legal and regulatory work, particularly in the airlines and civil aviation authorities. However, litigation involving injured passengers is still quite a small field in Singapore. Overall, aviation is a growing area that holds much promise, so your career in aviation is bound to take flight!"



**Associate Professor
Eleanor Wong '85:**
Rules of Engagement

"I believe that mootng should be about a learning experience, over and above competition outcomes. At NUS, we try to make the experience open to many students, not just to those who have already distinguished themselves, or who have "relevant experience" or who have 'obvious talent'. We do look for proven aptitude; but we equally look for attitude and potential."



**Associate Professor
David Tan:**
A Road Less Travelled

"In a successful transnational education, there are three attitudinal qualities – curiosity, empathy and skepticism – and three qualities relevant to analysing ideas and information – logic, patience and creativity – that one should develop in students today. While technology will be of great relevance in the delivery of knowledge, the inculcation of these qualities should remain the driving force."



**Associate Professor
Stephen Phua '88:**
Of Passion & Taxes

"Like all other areas, the practice of tax law requires an enduring passion and devotion. In particular, there are rapid and frequent changes in every domestic tax system and every tax practitioner is expected to be aware of developments elsewhere as the Singapore economy is essentially a hub for international finance, trade and investments."



**Associate Professor
Ruby Lee '85:**
Power of Pro Bono

"Law students can benefit in many ways. They can learn lawyering skills when assisting qualified lawyers in live cases. They can learn the real concerns of the community when they conduct talks on community issues. However, they can only benefit if they are prepared to embrace the work and be open to the experience."



**Assistant Professor
Jean Ho '03:**
A League of Her Own

"When you are passionate about what you do, you will become good at it, and be recognised globally for it. Trust your own judgment, consult those whose opinions you value, and time will take care of everything else."



**Assistant Professor
Swati Jhaveri:**
Nurturing the Future

"Working hard is a crucial start. Evolving as the industry you are in changes is also important. Also, remember that knowing your job is not enough; knowing how to use what you know is what counts. Finally, it will help you if you can find 'purpose' in what you do: it always brings a sense of fulfilment to see that what you are doing has some meaning beyond the job itself."

LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2017

Congratulations to all of NUS Law's Long Service Award recipients!

The Long Service Award recipients were honoured by the Faculty on 16 August 2017 for their dedication and hard work.



From left: Professor Teo Keang Sood, Assistant Professor Chen Weitseng, Associate Professor Gary Bell, Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87, Associate Professor Daniel Seng '92, Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong, Professor Ng-Loy Wee Loon '87, Professor Andrew Harding LL.M. '84, Professor Leong Wai Kum, Assistant Professor Mark McBride, Associate Professor Wang Jiangyu and Dean Simon Chesterman

NUS Law thanks long service award recipients:

Professor Leong Wai Kum for 40 years of service;
Associate Professor Elizabeth Ng Siew Kuan for 30 years of service;
Professor Teo Keang Sood for 25 years of service;
Associate Professor Chan Wing Cheong for 25 years of service;
Professor Thio Li-ann for 25 years of service;
Professor Ng-Loy Wee Loon '87 for 25 years of service;
Associate Professor Gary Bell for 20 years of service;

Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87 for 20 years of service;
Associate Professor Daniel Seng '92 for 15 years of service;
Associate Professor Wang Jiangyu for 10 years of service;
Professor Andrew Simester for 10 years of service;
Assistant Professor Chen Weitseng for 5 years of service;
Assistant Professor Mark McBride for 5 years of service, and
Professor Andrew Harding LL.M. '84 for 5 years of service.



From left: Dean Simon Chesterman, Ms Rahima Bte Hussain, Ms Khairiyah Bte Abu, Ms Nur 'Afiqah Binte Mohd Noor, Ms Grace Lam, Ms Era Carmen Chan, Ms Tan Swee Hiang, Ms Tan Siew Hong, Ms Ong Hwee Bin, Ms Chuan Chin Yee, Ms Goh Mia Yang '92, Ms Rohanah Bte Mohamad, Ms Shirley Mak and Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85, Vice Dean (Student Affairs)

The Faculty also honoured colleagues who have been integral to the administration of the Faculty:

Ms Rohanah Bte Mohamad for 35 years of service;
Ms Tan Siew Hong for 20 years of service;
Ms Tan Swee Hiang for 20 years of service;
Ms Khairiyah Bte Abu for 15 years of service;
Ms Shirley Mak for 15 years of service;
Ms Rahima Bte Hussain for 15 years of service;
Ms Goh Mia Yang '92 for 15 years of service;
Ms Chuan Chin Yee for 15 years of service;
Ms Era Carmen Chan for 5 years of service;
Ms Nur 'Afiqah Binte Mohd Noor for 5 years of service;
Ms Ong Hwee Bin for 5 years of service;
Ms Margaret Ang for 5 years of service, and
Ms Grace Lam for 5 years of service.

ALAN TAN '93 & SWATI JHAVERI WIN TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to Professor Alan Tan '93 and Assistant Professor Swati Jhaveri for being honoured at this year's NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Awards.



Professor Alan Tan

"I challenge my students to not only describe what the law is, but more importantly, to prescribe what it ought to be. In other words, they should be able to discern what is outdated, inadequate or unsatisfactory about the legislation and cases, and propose reforms accordingly. To do this, they must feel society's pulse and understand the social, political,

economic and cultural forces that shape our policy choices, and the fact that these are dynamic and ever-changing. Along the way, they should know their place and be alive to the world around us, and the fact that developments in other countries have a significant impact on tiny Singapore."

Professor Alan Tan teaches Aviation Law and Criminal Law. Born in Penang, Malaysia, he was educated at the Penang Free School and Raffles Junior College, subsequently obtaining an LL.B. from NUS and an LL.M. and J.S.D. from Yale Law School. Professor Tan has been a Justices' Law Clerk at the Supreme Court of Singapore and has also interned at the International Maritime Organization in London. He has published widely on aviation law, maritime law and environmental law, particularly in the context of Asian countries.

Professor Tan was Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and Research at NUS Law (2006 to 2010) and Director (Projects) in the Office of the Provost at NUS (2011 to 2012), overseeing the Yale-NUS College's double degree programmes. He was also Director of the NYU@NUS Dual Degree programme. In 2009, he was appointed the Hauser Global Visiting Professor at New York University School of Law, where he taught global aviation law and policy. He has also taught at the University of Sydney and served as a consultant to various governments and donor agencies, including the Vietnamese government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Professor Tan has also been engaged as a consultant on aviation liberalisation in Asia by the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Arab League and various national governments.

Assistant Professor Swati Jhaveri

"One of the fundamental components of my teaching philosophy involves encouraging active oral participation in all classes, whether large lectures or tutorials. Active participation contributes to an increased confidence in the study of law. It is difficult to make the transition to university and Law can be one of the most challenging degree programmes, since students are being introduced to a subject matter they would not have had any exposure to in secondary school. Participating actively during class is critical to building their confidence. It allows students to test their thoughts in a more dynamic conversational manner within a safe environment (the classroom), forces them to defend their positions in reaction to comments by others, and improves their overall classroom and learning experience."

Assistant Professor Swati Jhaveri joined NUS Law in August 2012. She teaches the Law of Torts and Constitutional & Administrative Law. She previously taught at the Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Her areas of research include constitutional and administrative law, with a focus on the latter. She has published in these areas in *Public Law*, the *Tort Law Review*, the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, the *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies* and the *Australian Journal of Asian Law*. While at CUHK, she was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award. She has been the recipient of the Faculty and University's Annual Teaching Excellence Awards at NUS in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence (First Class Honours) and Bachelor of Civil Law (Distinction)



from the University of Oxford. She previously practised law at Allen & Overy, specialising in international commercial arbitration. She is a Solicitor of the Hong Kong SAR and England & Wales and is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

NUS LAW RECOGNISES STUDENTS' PRO BONO INITIATIVES

New awards introduced to recognise alumni and mentors



Front row (3rd from left): Pro Bono Office Chair, Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng '92, Associate Dean Ms Goh Mia Yang '92, Mr Kevin Ng '92, District Judge, Family Justice Courts, Law Society President, Mr Gregory Vijayendran '92, Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85, Vice Dean (Student Affairs), and RHTLaw Taylor Wessing Founding Director, Mr Rajan Menon '71 with the award recipients

NUS Law recognised 18 students, alumni and partners for their leadership and contributions in pro bono projects, and awarded financial grants to support four deserving pro bono projects at the 2nd NUS Law Pro Bono Awards Ceremony.

The awards for individuals were presented in four categories – Pro Bono Leadership Award, Special Recognition Award, Pro Bono Pioneer Award and Pro Bono Mentor Award. The two grants presented to student pro bono projects were the RHTLaw Taylor Wessing Subhas Anandan Pro Bono Award and the NUS Law Class of 1992 Pro Bono Award.

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law said, "I'm always pleased to see the immense efforts of our students who have tirelessly devoted their skills, time and effort to assist those in need. We are also especially proud to recognise alumni who are pro bono pioneers and mentors, and external partners who have mentored our students."

"Pro bono work is important for NUS Law students as these projects enable students to gain real-world experience

of practising law. And hopefully by being involved in pro bono work, our students can discover a sense of purpose and social responsibility as a legal professional and be aware of how they can make a difference to the lives of those in need of help," he added.

This year, NUS Law established two new awards – the Pro Bono Pioneer Award and the Pro Bono Mentor Award.

Pro Bono Pioneer Award

The award recognises NUS Law alumni who were instrumental in founding pro bono projects that have led to sustainable and meaningful contributions by NUS Law students.

The inaugural 2017 Pro Bono Pioneer Award was conferred on Mr Will Jude Vimal Raj '16, for his work in developing the Law & You programme under Students 4 Migrants, a student group of the NUS Pro Bono Group that focuses on the legal needs of foreign workers in Singapore. The programme seeks to empower foreign domestic workers with knowledge of the law so that they can protect themselves against abuse.



Will Jude Vimal Raj '16, recipient of the inaugural Pro Bono Pioneer Award.

Pro Bono Mentor Award

This is awarded in recognition of any person who is an outstanding supporter of NUS Law students' efforts in pro bono, including but not limited to acting as legally qualified supervisors on student pro bono activities. Two mentors were recognised this year with this award for going above and beyond the call of duty to assist and inspire NUS Law students.

Ms Hwang Soon Ae '13, a member of Rajah & Tann's legal team specialising in Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), worked closely with NUS Law students on the NUS Rajah & Tann PDPA Compliance Project to assist charities and voluntary welfare organisations in reviewing

agreements, documents and practices to bring them into compliance with personal data protection laws.

Mr Jon Ong S W, Registrar of Subordinate Military Courts and Military Court of Appeal, has been working with the Military Justice Project on developing avenues for NUS Law students to render legal aid to accused persons under military law, and to develop resources on military law.

Pro Bono Leadership Award

The Pro Bono Leadership Award recognises law students who have shown outstanding leadership and commitment towards pro bono work on a sustained basis, and whose contributions have led to significant developments in pro bono opportunities for law students.

This year's award recipients include law students who have worked on migrant worker issues; raised legal awareness and knowledge among youths; as well as assisted voluntary welfare organisations in working with litigants to make court applications to be legal representatives of mentally incapacitated children.

The 2017 Pro Bono Leadership Award recipients are:

- Kenneth Chan Jian Da '18 (Innocence Project)
- Alvin Chua Jianjie '18 (NUS Pro Bono Group)
- Amelia Chew Sihui '19 (NUS Pro Bono Group)
- Shawn Teo Kai Jie '18 (NUS Pro Bono Group)
- Shaun Lim Sheng Kang '18 (State Court Student Representative)
- Allen Sng Kiat Peng '18 (Deputyship Programme)
- Lim Boon Xin '18 (Deputyship Programme)
- Joel Leow Wei Xiang '18 (NUS-Rajah & Tann PDPA Compliance)
- Pavithra Ramkumar '18 (NUS-Rajah & Tann PDPA Compliance)
- Mark Teo Tzeh Hao '18 (NUS-Rajah & Tann PDPA Compliance)

Special Recognition Award

This is awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to and passion for pro bono work in a sustained manner. Student leaders who receive this certificate have gone beyond the



Allen Sng Kiat Peng '18, Lim Boon Xin '18, Hwang Soon Ae '13, Sheiffa Safi Shirbeeni '19 and Prabu Devaraj '19

demands of their office to lead and inspire. Recipients also include students who have shown persistent effort, commitment and a passion towards providing quality pro bono services.

The 2017 recipients of the Special Recognition Award are:

- Daniel Ng Ming Zhong '19 (Military Justice Project)
- Marcus Teo Wei Ren '18 (Military Justice Project)
- Shawn Lim Jun Ta '18 (Legal Awareness Talks)
- Wang Yufei '17 (Ulu Pandan Legal Clinic)
- Joy Khor Huifen '17 (Ulu Pandan Legal Clinic)

RHTLaw Taylor Wessing Subhas Anandan Award

This award is a tribute to the legacy of RHTLaw Taylor Wessing's late Senior Partner – Mr Subhas Anandan, who was a prominent criminal lawyer in Singapore and a champion of pro bono work. Initiated in 2016, the award will provide \$25,000 over a period of five years to fund deserving pro bono projects or programmes initiated by NUS Law students. A cash award of up to \$5,000 will be given out yearly to support a deserving project.

This year, the RHTLaw Taylor Wessing Subhas Anandan Pro Bono Award 2017 was presented by Mr Rajan Menon '71, Founding Director, to the Criminal Justice Club, a student-led club established in September 2009 with the purpose of carrying out pro bono work in the area of criminal law. Besides its Innocence

Project founded in 2012, the Criminal Justice Club has expanded its activities to include Military Justice Project, the NPCC Law Course and various other projects relating to criminal law.

NUS Law Class of 1992 Pro Bono Award

This award was established in 2016 through a \$20,000 gift from the NUS Law Class of 1992. Each year, up to three awards of up to \$2,500 will be granted to support sustainable pro bono projects with a catalytic effect. These are projects that galvanise attention and efforts towards a worthy cause to which NUS Law students can provide significant contributions.

The NUS Law Class of 1992 Pro Bono Award was presented by the current Law Society President Mr Gregory Vijayendran '92, to the following three projects:

Syariah Law Forum – an awareness raising forum to educate law students and practitioners and engage the next generation of law students on Syariah law. It will tap on the experience of both Muslim and non-Muslim legal practitioners.

Military Justice Project – the project has been serving as a bridge between the Singapore Armed Forces, lawyers and law students so that accused servicemen are able to obtain access to pro bono legal support.

Innocence Project (Singapore) – the project has been benefiting prison inmates who have already exhausted all legal avenues of appeal yet believe that they have been wrongfully convicted.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL VISITS NUS LAW

The NUS Law International Advisory Panel (IAP) visited Singapore between 13 and 15 March. The IAP is chaired by Professor Hugh Collins, Vinerian Professor of English Law at Oxford University and includes Professor Kim Kon Sik of Seoul National University, Professor Harold Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law at Yale Law School, and Professor Cheryl Saunders, Laureate Professor Emeritus at Melbourne Law School.

The IAP was first established in 1998 to assess the Faculty's academic standing in relation to internationally renowned universities; and make recommendations on the Faculty's strategic development and future goals with a view to achieving international eminence. The members of the last IAP (convened in 2011) were Professor Julie Maxton, Professor Stephen Toope, Professor Jeremy Webber and Professor Joseph Weiler.

As part of the three-day visit, they attended a dinner held on 14 March where they were joined by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86, members of the legal fraternity and alumni.



From left: Mr Wong Taur Jiun '92, President of the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association, Mrs Stefanie Yuen Thio '93, Joint Managing Director of TSMP Law Corporation, Professor Kim Kon Sik, Professor Hugh Collins, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86, Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, Professor Harold Koh, Professor Cheryl Saunders, Mr Gregory Vijayendran '92, President of The Law Society of Singapore and Associate Professor David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs)

5TH ASIAN LAW SCHOOLS DEANS' FORUM

NUS Law was honoured to host 70 Law Deans at this year's Asian Law Schools Deans' Forum, which took place from 21 to 22 February at the NUS Bukit Timah Campus.

The forum was an opportunity for leaders from a select group of law schools to discuss the challenges facing legal education today, with a particular emphasis on the Asian region.

This year, the emphasis was on experiential learning (pro bono, clinical programmes), interdisciplinary programmes, and the changing role of technology in law schools and the legal profession. The Deans also explored the various roles Asian law schools can play – nationally, globally, but especially in the region.

The distinguished participants came from almost 50 institutions from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Macau, Mongolia, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.



SAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED FOR NEEDY STUDENTS



NUS Law has established a new scholarship through a generous gift from the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL).

The scholarship, which will amount to approximately \$300,000 over an initial term of 5 years, aims to enable outstanding students who are financially needy to have the opportunity to read law.

The gift from SAL will support one full-term undergraduate scholarship annually over five years at NUS Law. This prestigious scholarship is open to high-potential freshmen from low-income Singaporean families who have been offered admission to, or enrolled in, NUS Law.

The SAL Undergraduate Scholarship was first awarded in Academic Year 2017/2018 to Lim Pin Xiu '21. The scholarship will cover the tuition fees of each recipient for all four years of the Bachelor of Laws programme at NUS Law as long as the recipient requires financial assistance and continues to do well in the programme.

Ms Serene Wee, Chief Executive of SAL, said, "The SAL Undergraduate Scholarship underscores our commitment to nurture the future generations of the legal profession. The scholarship not only provides much needed financial assistance but also aims to provide the recipients with a valuable opportunity to participate in SAL programmes and committee work

where they can interact with and learn from senior members of the profession. We believe that this practical exposure will complement their academic learning in preparing them for the future."

Added Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, "We are grateful to the Singapore Academy of Law for their generous contribution. SAL is committed to the promotion and development of Singapore law and this scholarship is an investment in future generations of Singaporean lawyers. It also helps ensure that NUS Law can continue to offer an outstanding legal education while maintaining a needs-blind, merit-based admissions policy."

KWA GEOK CHOO DISTINGUISHED VISITORS LECTURES

NUS Law established the Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitors Programme as one of several initiatives to pay tribute to the late Madam Kwa Geok Choo, wife of Singapore's founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew (LL.D. '13, Honoris Causa). Under this programme, leading law academics are invited to teach a course at NUS and deliver public lectures on topical legal issues. This year, NUS Law hosted three lectures under the programme.

Professor Cheryl Saunders: National Constitutions in a Transnational Age

Professor Saunders delivered the 11th Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitors Lecture titled "National Constitutions in a Transnational Age" on 9 February, with Professor Thio Li-ann chairing the lecture.

There are emerging signs of ambiguity in the character and function of national constitutions. On the one hand, each constitution has an umbilical link to a state, for which it is both a symbol and a working instrument of government, reliant for its legitimacy on the people of the state. There is plenty of evidence still for what may be described as the traditional view. On the other hand, the dynamics of globalisation now expose national constitutions to transnational forces to such a degree that there are suggestions that the paradigm is changing or, at least, that a transition of some kind is under way. From this perspective, national constitutions reflect transnational norms

and institutions and may be supplemented by them. In a sense, they play a role in the international order from which, in at least some cases, their legitimacy also derives. The apparent tension between these two views of national constitutions is reminiscent of earlier debates about the changing character of states themselves in an interconnected world.

The lecture questioned whether and how these views can be reconciled if, indeed, reconciliation is necessary. The issues at stake have practical significance for the ways in which Constitutions are made and changed, for constitutional design and for the premises that underpin constitutional interpretation. On a more abstract level, they have implications for constitutional theory and comparative constitutional method. They may have flow on effects, as well, for the operations of international institutions and for international law.



About Professor Cheryl Saunders

Professor Saunders is Laureate Professor Emeritus at Melbourne Law School and the Founding Director of the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies. She is a President Emeritus of the International Association of Constitutional Law and has held visiting positions in leading law schools in many parts of the world including Oxford, Cambridge, Paris II, Fribourg, Trento, Georgetown, Seoul National, Cape Town and Hong Kong.

Professor Michael Klausner: The Economics of Business Contracts



The 13th Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitors Lecture on 31 August by Professor Michael Klausner was titled, "The Economics of Business Contracts".

The question and answer session that followed was chaired by Professor Hans Tjio, Co-Director, Centre for Banking & Finance Law.

In this lecture, Professor Klausner discussed how contract theory in economics can inform the design and interpretation of complex business contracts. Taking examples of actual business deals from areas such as joint ventures, real estate acquisitions, trademark licenses and others, Professor Klausner demonstrated the way an economic perspective can reveal how contractual mechanisms respond to

underlying business challenges or, when used without sufficient skill, introduce problems into contractual relationships.

About Professor Michael Klausner

Professor Michael Klausner is the Nancy and Charles Munger Professor of Business and Professor of Law at Stanford Law School. Professor Klausner is currently writing a book entitled *Deals: The Economic Foundations of Business Transactions*. He teaches a course by the same title, along with courses on corporate law, corporate governance, and regulation of financial institutions.

Professor Francis Reynolds: Agency Reasoning – A Formula or a Tool?



Speaking at the 12th Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitors Lecture on 17 August was Professor Francis Reynolds who presented a lecture titled, "Agency reasoning – A formula or a tool". A lively discussion followed which was chaired by Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87, Chairman, EW Barker Centre for Law & Business.

In the lecture, Professor Reynolds talked about how the use of agents pervades commercial and even personal relations. He said that everyone deals with, or acts as agents much of the time, yet "no word is more commonly and constantly abused than the word 'agent'. A person may be spoken of as an 'agent', and no doubt in the proper sense of the word may properly be said to be an 'agent', although when it is attempted to suggest that he is an 'agent' under such circumstances as create the legal obligations attached to agency, that use of the word is only misleading." This lecture aimed to distinguish full employment of the notion

and its legal implications from situations where agency reasoning is invoked for limited purposes only.

At the end of the lecture, Professor Tan announced the establishment of the "Francis Reynolds Prize in Domestic & International Sale of Goods", thanks to the generosity of a consortium of donors which included NUS Law faculty and alumni.

About Professor Francis Reynolds

Professor Francis Reynolds D.C.L., F.B.A., is an Emeritus Professor of Law in the University of Oxford, a barrister, Honorary Q.C. and Honorary Bencher of the Inner Temple. He is standing consultant on English Law to Ang & Partners, Singapore; Honorary Professor, International Maritime Law Institute of the IMO, Malta; and Titular Member of the Comité Maritime International. He has held visiting professorships at many Commonwealth universities including NUS.



From left: Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, Professor Francis Reynolds and Professor Tan Cheng Han SC '87, Chairman of the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business

Professor James Penner Appointed as the Kwa Geok Choo Professor of Property Law



Professor James Penner, who is also the Vice Dean for Research at the Faculty, works primarily in the area of property and trusts, as well as law and theory.

Prior to joining NUS Law in 2013, his publications included the prize-winning monograph *The Idea of Property Law*, and a sole-authored textbook. The former won the UK Society of Public Teachers of Law first prize for outstanding scholarship by a younger scholar.

From 1 July, he succeeded Professor Kevin Gray, who had served with distinction as Kwa Geok Choo Professor of Property Law since his appointment in 2011.

The Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law was launched on 5 July 2011 as a tribute to the late Madam Kwa Geok Choo, who was a leading property lawyer. She was a pioneer who started a law firm with Mr Lee Kuan Yew and his younger brother, and then went on to excel as a conveyancing lawyer, mentoring many others in the process.

BOOK LAUNCHES

The Commercial Appropriation of Fame

Singapore-based celebrities Kit Chan and Allan Wu joined Associate Professor David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), at the launch of his book *The Commercial Appropriation of Fame* on 8 September. Organised by the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business, the launch also had the celebrities engaged in an insightful discussion with Associate Professor David Tan.

The book, published by Cambridge University Press, analyses the commercial exploitation of the celebrity personality in countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore.

Associate Professor Tan demonstrates how an appreciation of the production, circulation and consumption of fame can be incorporated into a pragmatic framework to further the understanding of the laws protecting the commercial value of the celebrity personality. Using contemporary examples such as digital fandom, social media and fantasy video games, he



examines how present challenges for the law may be addressed using this cultural framework, and how an understanding of the cultural phenomenon of the contemporary celebrity may better shape the development of these laws.

Constitutionalism Beyond Liberalism



The Centre for Legal Theory launched Associate Professor Mike Dowdle's co-edited book, *Constitutionalism Beyond Liberalism*, on 9 March. Published by Cambridge University Press, the book was the product of a research project funded by the MOE Academic Research Grant Tier 1 where leading constitutional law scholars presented papers at the Comparative Constitutional Law & State Building Symposium held at NUS. The volume seeks to expand our appreciation of the human possibilities of constitutionalism, exploring constitutionalism not merely as a restriction on the powers of government, but also as a creating collective political and social possibilities in diverse geographical and historical settings.

Constitutionalism and Legal Change in Myanmar



The Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) organised a book launch for Professor Andrew Harding LL.M. '84 to celebrate the publication of his book *Constitutionalism and Legal Change in Myanmar* on 31 March. The collection of essays, published by Hart Publishing/Bloomsbury is edited by Professor Harding and Dr Khin Khin Oo, who was formerly a CALS Visiting Research Fellow. The result of a project by scholars to assess Myanmar's constitutional reforms under the 2008 Constitution and discuss the issues of constitutionalism, this book is an attempt to gauge the extent and potential for the entrenchment of constitutionalism in Myanmar in a rapidly changing environment.

Can Banks Still Keep a Secret? Bank Secrecy in Financial Centres Around the World



The edited volume *Can Banks Still Keep a Secret? Bank Secrecy in Financial Centres Around the World*, published by Cambridge University Press was launched on 29 August. The research project was sponsored by the Centre for Banking & Finance Law (CBFL). At the launch, editors Associate Professor Dora Neo, Director of CBFL, and Associate Sandra Booyen LL.M. '03, Ph.D. '09, Deputy Director of CBFL, together with two of the book's contributors, Associate Professor Christopher Hare (University of Oxford) and Assistant Professor Christian Hofmann (NUS Law), discussed how the project developed and reflected on various aspects of bank secrecy.

International Intellectual Property and the ASEAN Way

In conjunction with the "Design Law Reform Conference", the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business hosted the book launch of *International Intellectual Property and the ASEAN Way*, edited by Associate Professor Elizabeth Ng Siew Kuan and Professor Graeme W. Austin, on 19 September. The book was launched by the Guest-of-Honour, His Excellency Antonio Morales, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines. As part of the launch, a panel consisting of the book's contributors and editors introduced the book, and engaged with the audience in a discussion on the book's subject.

Published by Cambridge University Press, the book examines the efforts to move beyond sovereign protections of intellectual property rights and establish



meaningful inter-state cooperation on intellectual property issues. Rather than aim for IP harmonization, ASEAN recognises its internal diversity and pursues an agenda of 'IP Interoperability'. The book enables the reader to compare and contrast the

ASEAN model to other approaches in regional cooperation, such as Europe and Latin America, and also explores private international law as a potential vehicle for interoperability.

Geographical Indications at the Crossroads of Trade, Development, and Culture: Focus on Asia-Pacific



Professor Ng-Loy Wee Loon '87 and Professor Irene Calboli (SMU School of Law) launched their edited volume *Geographical Indications at the Crossroads of Trade, Development, and Culture: Focus on Asia-Pacific*, published by Cambridge University Press. The launch on 18 September was organised by the Centre for Asian Legal Studies. At the book launch, the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Denis Croze, WIPO Singapore Office Director, spoke about the importance of geographical indications in today's economy and how the book edited by Professors Ng-Loy and Calboli fills an important vacuum in the legal literature by focusing on one of the fastest growing geographical areas of the world: Asia-Pacific.

New Essays on the Nature of Rights



The Centre for Legal Theory was pleased to organise a book launch for Assistant Professor Mark McBride's edited book *New Essays on the Nature of Rights* on 20 September. Contributing authors include Professor James Penner, Vice Dean (Research), and Professor Andrew Halpin. The book was the result of a research project funded by the NUS Start-up Grant. The project culminated in a workshop held at NUS. Published by Hart Publishing, this book aims to contribute to future discussions concerning the nature of rights and their role in legal and political theory.

In Pursuit of Pluralist Jurisprudence



Centre for Legal Theory (CLT) Deputy Director, Associate Professor Nicole Roughan and CLT Director, Professor Andrew Halpin launched their edited book *In Pursuit of Pluralist Jurisprudence* on 11 October. The book was published by Cambridge University Press. The book itself is the culmination of a research project, funded by the Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund Tier 1, which also produced two workshops in Singapore. Collecting together new work by leading scholars in the field, this volume considers basic questions about relationships between state law and other legal orders, and reflects on an appropriate theoretical response.

NUS LAW STUDENTS LAUNCH GUIDEBOOK ON PRACTICE OF MUSLIM LAW

Students initiate inaugural forum to highlight role of Syariah in Singapore



Sheiffa Safi Shirbeeni '19 and Prabu Devaraj '19 presenting the book to then Speaker of Parliament, Madam Halimah Yacob '78, LL.M. '01, LL.D. '16.

Students from NUS Law introduced a new guidebook on Muslim Law and successfully organised a forum on the history of Syariah and its role within the Singapore legal framework.

Madam Halimah Yacob '78, LL.M. '01, LL.D. '16, then Speaker of Parliament, launched the new guidebook entitled *Navigating Muslim Law in Singapore* at the student-run Syariah Law Forum 2017 on 13 May, which was held in partnership with I.R.B. Law LLP, NUS Muslim Society, NUS Pro Bono Group and ARLC Law Corporation. The guidebook and the Forum were the fruits of labour of a pro bono project which involved 11 months of planning and research by 16 NUS Law students.

Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, said, "Syariah Law is an important but under-explored part of Singapore's legal system. This Forum



Madam Halimah Yacob delivering the opening address.

and the guidebook offer an outstanding resource to improve understanding, as well as an opportunity to widen the dialogue about Syariah Law. I'm particularly pleased that it was our students who took the lead role in this initiative, and that it received such strong

support from our alumni, who funded it through the NUS Law Class of 1992 Pro Bono Award."

In his welcome address, Associate Professor David Tan, Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) at NUS Law, said, "Just a month ago, the

public consultation on the draft of the Administration of Muslim Law Act (AMLA) Amendment Bill was concluded. As social dynamics change, the practice of Syariah as Muslim Family Law is expected to follow these changes. The latest proposed revisions seek to reinforce Muslim institutions, enhance the management of Muslim assets and strengthen Muslim families. Hence, while this Forum will equip you with the fundamentals of the law, it will also prepare you and allow you to think critically about the developments that are yet to come."

Sheiffa Safi Shirbeeni, a second-year NUS Law student who is leading the Syariah Law Forum, saw the need to raise awareness and to engage legal practitioners, academics, students and members of the public in a discussion of Muslim law in Singapore, and put together a team of like-minded students to work on the project.

Sheiffa said: "I was part of the 'Syariah Court Friends' project, a court volunteer scheme organised by the NUS Pro Bono Group and Syariah Court. Through this experience, I realised there was a lot that could be learnt about Syariah. We organised this Forum as a platform for people to learn about Syariah - correcting misconceptions and encouraging a conversation on the law. We opened the Forum to the public, and not just lawyers or law students, because we believe that everyone can benefit from an understanding of what Syariah is and how it is really applied in Singapore."



Prabu Devaraj '19, Associate Professor David Tan, Madam Halimah Yacob '78, LL.M. '01, LL.D. '16, Mr. Kevin Ng '92, District Judge, Family Justice Courts

Syariah Law Forum 2017

The inaugural Syariah Law Forum engaged legal practitioners, academics, students and members of the public on the history of Syariah and its modern application as Muslim Family Law within the Singapore legal framework. Insights were shared with the participants on topics such as the procedures of the Syariah Court, and the relationship between the Syariah, Family and Civil Courts.

Sheiffa and her team received the NUS Law Class of 1992 Pro Bono Award from NUS Law in March this year to kick-start this project. Each year, up to three awards of up to \$2,500 will be granted to support sustainable pro bono projects with a catalytic effect.



Ms. Halijah Mohamad, Vice President of the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers.

About the Guidebook

Navigating Muslim Law in Singapore is a guidebook compiled and designed by the Syariah Law Forum Organising Committee, with support from NUS Law staff and legal practitioners, to serve as a useful guide for readers to navigate the practice of Muslim law in Singapore. The guidebook first provides context by reviewing the history of Syariah, culminating in the Administration of Muslim Law Act. Moving to the present-day, it then focuses on the operation of Muslim law in Singapore. Specifically, it looks at the Syariah Court's jurisdiction, procedures in the Syariah Court, and the substantive Muslim law principles which are applied in Singapore. Building on the preceding chapters, the guidebook offers a brief comparison of practising Muslim law and civil law in Singapore.

Participants at the Syariah Law Forum were given a copy of the guidebook. The team hopes that the guidebook would benefit those who are interested in learning more about Muslim law, such as law students, lawyers beginning to pick up Muslim law as one of their practice areas, aggrieved litigants-in-persons, or any individual who seeks an overview of the practice of Muslim law. Copies of the book are available at the C J Koh Law Library (NUS Bukit Timah Campus) and the Centre for Pro Bono & Clinical Legal Education at (probono@nus.edu.sg), and a digital version is available at issuu.com/navigatingmuslimlaw.

SAW SWEE HOCK CENTENNIAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE: THE MARKET FOR INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION



From left: Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, Professor Saw Swee Hock, Professor Alec Stone Sweet, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86 and Professor Lucy Reed

The inaugural Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professorial Lecture by Professor Alec Stone Sweet was held on 3 February 2017. NUS Law was delighted to welcome Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon '86 as the Guest-of-Honour. We were also honoured by the presence of Professor Saw Swee Hock, President's Honorary Professor of Statistics at NUS, whose generous gift to the Faculty established the Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professorship in Law.

Professor Stone Sweet's lecture on "The Market for International Arbitration" attracted over 100 members of the legal fraternity for a rare opportunity to delve into the subject with a leading international expert. Professor Lucy Reed, Director of the Centre for International Law was commentator for the lecture.

The presentation focused on a new research project: the on-going construction of a global market for international commercial arbitration. Today, more than 200 international arbitral centres compete for market share, influence, and survival.

A handful of "global centres" seek to structure the broader field in their own image; smaller ones work to develop regional, or niche services that will enable them to prosper. Major trading states compete to show their pro-arbitration colours, not least, because the business of arbitration is big business. Professor Stone Sweet emphasised that as crucial instruments of enforcement, national courts, too, cast shadows on arbitration in myriad ways. Finally, arbitrators compete with one another for appointments, and also for the top management positions in the major houses. A relatively small cadre of elite arbitrators dominates the field, networking it and reducing its (potential) fragmentation.

The project seeks answers to questions such as: What are the most important determinants of the success of IACs? Which states have been the most successful at attracting arbitral business, and through what strategies? What advantages does Singapore have over HKIAC-Hong Kong and other centres in Asia, and how can SIAC increase its global prominence?

About Professor Alec Stone Sweet

Professor Alec Stone Sweet is a leading American academic in the fields of international law and comparative law. He works in the fields of comparative and international politics, and comparative and international law. He has published eleven books and edited volumes, and more than 70 papers, including in the American Journal of Sociology, the American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, West European Politics, the International Journal of Constitutional Law, the Journal of European Public Policy, and the Revue Française de Science Politique.

Professor Stone Sweet graduated from Western Washington University (BA, Political Science), the Johns Hopkins SAIS (MA, International Relations), and the University of Washington (Ph.D., Political Science). Prior to moving to the Yale Law School in 2004, he was Official Fellow and Chair of Comparative Government at Nuffield College (1998–2005), and Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine (1991–1998). He has also held visiting professorships at the Bocconi University Law School (Milan), the Columbia Law School (New York), as well as in law faculties in Aix-en-Provence (France), Bologna (Italy), Florence (Italy), Madrid (Spain), Paris (France), Stockholm (Sweden), Sydney (Australia), and Vienna (Austria).

Professor Stone Sweet joined the NUS Faculty of Law in January 2016 as the inaugural Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor of Law, a tenured full-time position at NUS Law.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL LUCIEN WONG SC '78 DELIVERS SLR ANNUAL LECTURE



From left: Lim Ke Jia '19, Deputy Chief Editor (Administration), Singapore Law Review, Law May Ning '19, Chief Editor, Singapore Law Review, Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, Attorney-General Lucien Wong SC '78, and Ms Deborah Barker SC '76, partner at Withers KhattarWong



AG Wong addresses the crowd of over 300 at the lecture

NUS Law hosted the 29th Singapore Law Review Annual Lecture on 19 October 2017, at the auditorium of the Bukit Timah Campus. The lecture delivered by Attorney-General Lucien Wong SC '78, was titled "Prosecution in the Public Interest".

The lecture is the first public lecture by AG Wong since he took office in January this year, and over 300 members of the legal fraternity and the general public filled the venue. NUS Law Dean, Professor Simon Chesterman kicked off the event by talking about how the student-run Singapore Law Review has served as a time-

honoured platform for the development of legal scholarship and the honing of editing and writing skills. The opening address was delivered by Ms Deborah Barker SC '76, partner at Withers KhattarWong, who generously sponsored the event. Ms Barker spoke about the relevance of the topic of prosecutorial discretion not just within legal circles but also for the general public.

During his lecture, AG Wong said that public interest permeates all decisions by the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC), and determining what is in the public interest is something which AGC officers engage in on a daily basis. Nevertheless, AG Wong opined that it is impossible to lay down a definitive statement as to what the public interest is because this has to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

AG Wong said that prosecutorial discretion is a multifaceted and complicated task which requires a balance of various competing factors. Reaffirming the AGC's commitment towards prosecuting in the public interest and for the good of Singapore, AG Wong noted that no single person in the AGC unilaterally "determines" the public interest in the AGC. He explained that a fully considered decision can only be reached through the process of open engagement.

For a full report on the lecture, please visit The Singapore Law Review at singaporelawreview.com.

LAW IV: JUDICIAL REVIEW



In commemoration of our 60th Anniversary, the Class of 2017 kick-started the celebrations with their all-original musical production titled “Judicial Review”. The production ran from 17 to 19 February 2017 at the NUS Law Auditorium, and was graced by former Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong ‘61 as its Guest-of-Honour.

It tells the story of Jack, a retired judge who tries to bring his new talkshow off the ground with his overbearing producer and unassuming intern. Things come to a head, however, when a guest from his past decides to visit him on his show. Interwoven with musical numbers, quirky characters and a beautiful talkshow-cum-backstage set, “Judicial Review” challenges our assumptions about identities and expresses the universal idea of staying true to oneself.

The creative process for the musical took place over eight months, passionately crafted by more than 70 students comprising final year undergraduate students. Although most of them were new to musical theatre, they selflessly gave up their time to rehearse, re-write, orchestrate, dance, build sets and more in order to bring to the audience 2½ hours of laughter, joy and contemplation about who we really are. That the students did all of these over and above their daily academic load shows their dedication to their craft and the pro bono cause that the production stands for.



Through this musical, the graduating students successfully raised funds for a new Class of 2017 Pro Bono Award, which will fund up to two student-led projects annually starting next year. Many of the graduands have been successful pioneers of pro bono projects themselves, helping scores of communities like migrant workers, military servicemen, the wrongfully convicted and the elderly. The Class of 2017 hopes that the Award will continue to inspire future batches of law students to find new and meaningful pro bono initiatives that benefit communities needing legal help.

As the curtains drew to a close on the final night, the end of the production also capped the students’ four-year journey at NUS Law. Law IV 2017 was nothing short of a remarkable success – it was all at once a celebration of their diverse pool of talent and a display of their



commitment to helping others in the process. The production is also reminder that law students are not just book-smart individuals, a sentiment that is echoed in the finale song:

*We are not what we seem,
More than what you see!*

The Class of 2017 would like to thank everyone who has supported the musical in one way or another, especially those who attended the performances and our generous donors.

RAG & FLAG

By Freshmen Orientation Central Committee (FOCC) 2016/17



RAG & Flag is an annual event organised by the NUS Students’ Union (NUSSU) with participation from the school’s constituent faculties, halls and residential colleges. Flag Day involves the collecting of donations from the public for numerous beneficiaries while RAG (Receive and Give) is a show exhibited at UTown to extend the school’s appreciation to the public for their generosity shown during Flag Day.

This year, the theme was “Reminisce and Flourish”. Participating faculties cracked their heads to come up with a creative storyline, which was no mean feat considering the RAG committee had to weave this storyline consistently through the dance and float. Finally, the committee broke through with a meaningful storyline – an evil queen peered into her magic mirror and upon seeing her happy childhood, returned to the present with kindness, cheer and song in her heart. Over 100 freshmen participated enthusiastically in RAG, practising hard over the holidays to perfect their dance moves, prepare their costumes and construct the float and props.



As part of Law’s tradition to make RAG & Flag a purely freshmen-driven activity, the entire freshmen batch was mobilised to flag for donations for our designated beneficiary, Lighthouse School, an institute catering to children with special needs. Prior to this, some of the freshmen had visited the school for an engagement session, learning more about the school’s mission and their various teaching methods. On 8 August, 200 freshmen, accompanied by their Orientation Group Leaders (OGLs), took to the streets as part of the greater NUS effort to reach out to the public’s generosity, with some of our freshmen even journeying to places as far as Boon Lay and Punggol. The generous donations from the public will go a long way in providing for the Lighthouse School.

After a whole summer’s preparation, Law RAG bravely took the stage on a rainy Saturday afternoon on 12 August and wowed the audience with their energy in spite of the downpour. Undaunted by

the rain, the freshmen showcased their majestic float and cleanly-executed dance moves, drawing cheers and admiration from the audience. Nearing the end of the 7-minute performance, Law RAG got the crowd going when she executed her famous “S2N” stunt scene, sending the crowd, among them our Dean, Professor Simon Chesterman, into a frenzy. At the end of the day, the organising body, NUSSU, announced with great pride the prize-winners, while thanking everyone for their enthusiastic participation. Law RAG went home with heads held high, clutching a Silver trophy but holding on to golden memories.

RAG & Flag might be long over, but the intangibles remain – the memories of staying in school till late for endless preparation, the friendships and camaraderie forged over the summer and most importantly, the act of giving back to the community.

Once more, Let’s Gold Law RAG!

MOOT VICTORIES

One of the most intense and valuable educational experiences a student can have at NUS Law is to represent the University in mooting competitions. NUS Law has an unparalleled track record in national and international competitions. 2017 delivered a bumper crop of victories. Congratulations to all the winning teams!

Gowling WLG IP Moot 2017



From left: Tan Ming Ren '20, Mr Gordon Harris, Co-Head of Gowling WLG International IP Practice, Mr Daren Tang '97, CEO of IPOS, Nigel Na '18, Ms Sheena Jacob '88, Head of JurisAsia LLC, Lim Joe Jee, student from SMU, Ryo Yap '19, Seah Ern Xu '19, Meaghan Lim '17 and Uma Sharma '19 (Not in photo – Joshua Phang '19)

The inaugural Gowling WLG IP Moot 2017 was organised by the NUS Law Mooting and Debating Club (MDC) was held on 24 February 2017. The competition was sponsored by Gowling WLG and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS). Nigel Na '18 emerged as Champion, Ryo Yap '19 and Tan Ming Ren '20 emerged as joint second runner-up.

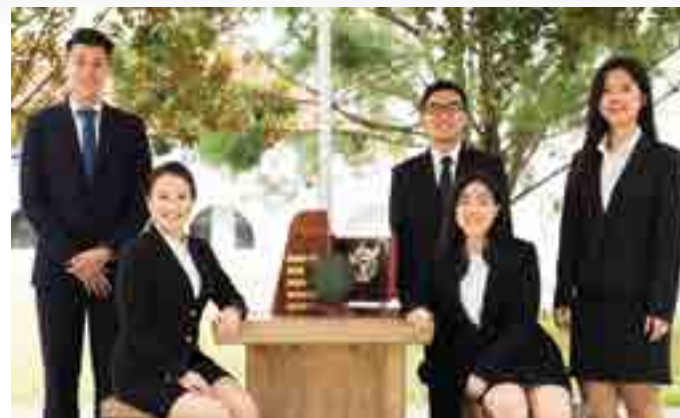
Lex Infinitum 2017



From left: Lee Yew Boon '19, Joshua Woo '17, Kok Chun Hou '17 and Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law

NUS Law was awarded Best Overall Team at the competition.

Intercollegiate Negotiation Competition



From left: Darren Sim '20, Violet Huang Qianwei '20, Daniel Ling '20, Sophia Yew '20 and Tan Fong Han '20

NUS Law won the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Japan Chapter Award in the Intercollegiate Negotiation Competition. They also recieved the Best Team award.

Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot 2017



Amanda Lim '17 (left) and Joshua Chia '18 (right) were awarded "Best Written Submissions" at the Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot 2017.

International Air and Space Law Academy Space Moot Competition 2017



From left: Uma Sharma '19, Seah Ern Xu '19, Low Ee Ning '19 and Serene Chee '19

Our team emerged as Champions in the Asia-Pacific Regional Rounds of the International Air and Space Law Academy (IASLA) Space Moot Competition 2017. They also received the Best Memorial prize.

Dentons Rodyk Moots



From left: Phillip Teh '20, Fiona Ng '20, Darren Sim '20, Stanley Tan '20 and Joel Sherard '20

Our top 5 students from Legal Analysis Research and Communications (LARC) showcased their skills and won for themselves internships at Dentons Rodyk.

Pan Asian Human Rights Mooting Competition



From left: Joshua Phang '19, Darren Sim '20 and Glenn Sim '19

The team was first runner-up at the inaugural Pan Asian Human Rights Mooting Competitions, organised and hosted by the University of Hong Kong.

European Law Students' Association World Trade Organization Moot



From left: Kenneth Mak '18, Chan Meiyi '17, Benedict Teong '17 and Reuben Ong '17

The NUS European Law Students' Association (ELSA) World Trade Organization (WTO) moot team made their debut in the Geneva Finals in June this year. Chan Meiyi '17, Reuben Ong '17, Benedict Teong '17 and Kenneth Mak '18 made it to the semi-finals and received considerable praise from the panellists and other teams.

Blackoak Transactional Competition



From left: Marcel Wong Liang Kun '19, Daryl Tan Wei Jie '19, Dean Simon Chesterman, Darius Tay, Director of Blackoak LLC, Joseph Lim Weisheng '19 and Lee Shao Xun '19

Champions at the inaugural Blackoak Transactional Competition. Lee Shao Xun '19 also clinched the Best Oralist award.

Asia-Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition



From left: Cheah Wenjie '19, Cheng Le En Leanne '19, Liu Siew Rong '19, Mark Lim Wei Shen '19 and The Hon. Justice Clyde Croft, Supreme Court of Victoria

Our team came in top position at the inaugural Asia-Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition. In the image is the NUS Law team with The Hon. Justice Clyde Croft, Supreme Court of Victoria, who was the Guest-of-Honour for the final round. (Photo credit: ICC Australia)

B.A. Mallal Moots 2017



From left: Violet Huang '20, Tammie Khor '19, Melody Lau '19 and Lee Jin Loong '20
NUS Law came in tops at the annual B.A. Mallal Moots, where all four finalists were from NUS. Melody Lau '19 was Champion.

Allen & Overy Private Law Moot Competition



Front row (from left): Seah Ern Xu '19, Lim Boon Choon '19, Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law, Joshua Phang '19, and Kiu Yan Yu '18
Back row (from left): Joshua Foo '19, Nicholas Ng Wei Jie '18, Low Ee Ning '19, and Serene Chee '19

NUS Law students emerged winners at the Allen & Overy Private Law Moot Competition. On the winning team were Joshua Foo '19, Nicholas Ng Wei Jie '18, Kiu Yan Yu '18 and Joshua Phang '19, who was also awarded "Best Oralist". This is the first time that a team from Singapore has won this prestigious university mooting competition. The second team from NUS Law comprising Serene Chee Yi Wen '19, Lim Boon Choon '19, Seah Ern Xu '19 and Low Ee Ning '19 made it to the semi-finals of the competition.

8th Leiden Sarin International Air Law Moot Court Competition



From left: Kelvin Choo '17, Charlene Wee '17 and Lim Hao Jie '17
The team came in as champions in the 8th Leiden Sarin International Air Law Moot Court Competition.

Well Done!

3rd Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot



From left: Associate Professor Burton Ong '99, Gan Wei Rong, Mok Ho Fai, Arjuna Segathesan, Jessica Mau, and Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85, Vice Dean (Student Affairs)

Mok Ho Fai '17, Gan Wei Rong '17, Arjuna Segathesan '17 and Jessica Mau '17 emerged as first runners-up in the 3rd Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot Competition.

18th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot



From left: Leung Liwen '17, Douglas Lok '17, Wang Yufei '17, Dedi Affandi '10, Ian Teo '01, Nicholas Tan '18, and Law Jia Hao '17

NUS Law emerged as champions of the 18th International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot. The team featuring Douglas Lok '17, Nicholas Tan '18, Law Jia Hao '17, Leung Liwen '17 and Wang Yufei '17, won the Grand Final against the University of Queensland on 5 July 2017. Douglas Lok was also named "Best Speaker in the General Rounds". The team was coached by Ian Teo '01 and Dedi Affandi '10.

Attorney-General's Cup and Asia Cup 2017



From left: Law May Ning '19, Low Ee Ning '19, Joel Sherard '20, Ayana Ki '19 and Melody Lau '19

Joel Sherard '20 and Low Ee Ning '19 took home the top prize at the Attorney-General's Cup. This also marked NUS Law's fifth win in seven years. In another win, Joel Sherard '20, together with Law May Ning '19, Ayana Ki '19, and Melody Lau '19 also became champions for the second consecutive year at this year's Asia Cup (Foreign Minister's Award), and received the award for the third best memorial. Joel Sherard and Melody Lau were also awarded "Best Oralist".

University of Malaya and National University of Singapore Friendly Moot Competition



The team with their coach Parveen Kaur '16

Violet Huang '20, Kimberly Lim '19, Elizabeth Teoh '20, and Tan Fong Han '20 were champions of the 11th annual University of Malaya and National University of Singapore (UMNUS) Friendly Moot Competition. Elizabeth Teoh clinched the Best Oralist award.

KENNETH LIM '04: DEFYING LAW OF THE ODDS



When a young woman was caught stealing from an electronics store and a supermarket, it seemed certain that she would lose her freedom.

But her lawyer, Kenneth Lim '04 from Allen & Gledhill, who was assigned to represent her pro bono under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, sensed that something was amiss and started digging deeper into his client's background.

His instincts were proven right. The accused was later diagnosed by the psychiatrist as suffering from a severe case of clinical depression. As it turned out, she had been living rough for a while before her arrest, and had been estranged from her family.

"It is the duty of the defence counsel to understand the accused's case, to look into the background, and to raise mitigating factors," said the law alumnus.

Citing the woman's unfortunate predicament and psychological condition as mitigating circumstances, Kenneth successfully argued for leniency. Instead of jail, she was found eligible for a community sentence. In a happy ending for everyone, the defendant and her family were also reconciled after the legal and emotional trials of the court proceedings.

Solutions for Clients

Kenneth, a father of three, is a civil litigator who also specialises in the field of Insolvency and Restructuring, where he helps his clients resolve complicated commercial tangles.

His successful defence of the woman wasn't just a result of his dogged determination to help his client, but also his uncanny ability to view things from an unconventional perspective.

While some in the business world might see insolvency laws as a loophole to protect failed businessmen, Kenneth has a different view. To him, bankruptcy protection fosters entrepreneurship and innovation, as it encourages people to take risks.

According to Kenneth, anyone with a laptop can tell you what the letter of the law says, but what people are really looking for are solutions.

"With time and experience, you learn that law is about solving problems for your clients. The best part of my job is achieving a satisfactory resolution for the people I represent," he said.

Note from the Wise

Kenneth credits his journey as a younger lawyer to senior lawyers who guided him along each step of his legal career.



In 2004, Kenneth represented NUS in its debut appearance at the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot Competition, where the NUS team emerged as champions.

He also learned from the example set by those "older and wiser lawyers", many of whom are NUS alumni who have trodden the same path.

Law is a profession where you learn by doing, Kenneth believes. He is thankful that NUS Law gave him plenty of hands-on legal experience in the form of advocacy training and international mooting competitions, like the prestigious Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court held in Washington D.C., USA, and the Asia Cup Moot held in Tokyo, Japan.

"From day one, we had courses on legal method and legal analysis. They do train you in the nuts and bolts of how to look at a case or how to argue it in court."

Apart from mooting, Kenneth was also active in a wide variety of Law School activities like the Law Orientation Camp, Matriculation Week and Law Students International Relations Committee. In his final year, he produced and co-wrote the Law IV Musical, which was staged by the graduating class to raise funds for a good cause.

Pay it Forward

The practical training has evidently served him well. It has been more than 12 years since graduation and Kenneth has come full circle. No longer a fresh-faced law pupil, he now devotes his spare time towards guiding his juniors in the same way that his mentors once guided him.

Every now and then, he trades his office for a busy NUS classroom. He has helped

with moot teams, and is happy to share advice with law students eager to learn more about the profession.

He recently served as a panellist at the NUS Law Matriculation session in 2016 entitled "The Practice of Law". Alongside fellow alumni from NUS Law, the session gave aspiring lawyers a chance to cross-examine them.

Much as it would seem like nothing could faze Kenneth, he admitted that there was one question from the undergraduates that even he, with all his years of experience, could not really answer.

"They want to know how their legal education can translate into something meaningful. They have so many different options based on their individual strengths, no one can prescribe meaning for them," he said.

The answer may appear entirely open-ended, but he believes it is all a matter of finding one's passion.

"Whether it is legal practice, government service, academia, or carving an entirely new and different path for themselves, I am sure that an NUS education will help them to find their calling."



Kenneth (centre) with fellow classmates who staged the Law IV Musical in their final year at NUS.

LAW ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAMME



The Law Alumni Mentor Programme (LAMP) 2017 kicked off on 2 November, with a networking dinner for almost 160 mentors and mentees at the Oei Tiong Ham Building on the NUS Bukit Timah Campus. Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85, Vice Dean (Student Affairs), was there to give a hearty welcome to many current and former students and thanked all mentors for their invaluable help.

Since the programme first started in 2012, LAMP has benefitted scores of students, and this year promises to be no different. We are indeed grateful for the record number of 136 alumni (many of



whom are repeat volunteers) who have stepped forward to mentor a total of 154 first and second-year law students.

Jointly organised by the Centre for Future-ready Graduates@Law and the NUS Law Alumni Office, LAMP provides an opportunity for our Alumni to give back by sharing with Mentees their experiences and insights gained, as well as offering practical guidance and

encouragement. Students get a close-up glimpse into life as a lawyer, and become better equipped to make decisions about their professional development.

If you would like to share your experiences and make a difference in the lives of our students, do join us as a LAMP mentor in our next run! Drop us a note at lawlink@nus.edu.sg and we will keep you updated.

REUNIONS

Class of 1982: 35th Anniversary Reunion

The Class of 1982 celebrated their 35th Anniversary with a lunch at the Kent Ridge Guild House on Saturday 18 November 2017. Almost 30 alumni from the class were thrilled to catch up with one another and with their former lecturers, Justice George Wei, former Dean Professor Tan Sook Yee, Mr Valentine Winslow, Mr Bill Ricquer, former Dean Professor Tan Lee Meng '72, Professor Leong Wai Kum, Associate Professor Lye Lin-Heng '73 and former Dean Associate Professor Chin Tet Yung. Dean of NUS Law, Professor Simon Chesterman, was also present to mingle and chat with the class.

The afternoon was filled with lively banter, music and memories as a band performed nostalgic tunes which brought everyone back to the good old days. During lunch, montages of old photos and inside jokes (a labour of love by Louis D'Souza '82) were screened, much to the delight of the



audience. Several classmates and teachers then took turns at the mic to share their reminiscences of law school days, and to thank those who had made a difference along the way.

During his sharing, Justice George Wei sprang a carefully-planned surprise on his former students by screening an old video recording of a Trial Moot which

took place in 1981. The video featured younger versions of V.K. Rajah, Davinder Singh, Leena Pinsler and Jimmy Yim (all from the Class of 1982) in the thick of their arguments, against a backdrop of the old Moot Court at the Kent Ridge Campus; offering a live-action glimpse into the past.

Other highlights of the afternoon included songs shared by Judge of Appeal Steven Chong '82, Jimmy Yim '82, his wife Cynthia and Associate Professor Low Kee Yang '82, as well as the class sing-along of the Beatles number "In My Life". A hearty rendition of "Those Were the Days" and a piano recital by Associate Professor Lye Lin-Heng '73 brought the house down.

Amidst all the fun and merriment, the Class took the opportunity to raise funds for their Class of 1982 Bursary. Two of the bursary recipients, Isaac Tay Chen Rong '18 and Eric Hu Youda '16, were also pleased to join in the celebrations and to be able to express their gratitude directly to the class.



Class of 1987: 30th Anniversary Reunion

The Class of 1987 celebrated their 30th Anniversary with a reunion at the NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House on 15 July 2017. The mood was light as classmates chatted, reconnected and reminisced over dinner – instantly transported back to their younger days with the help of a

soundtrack of 80s hits. The Dean of NUS Law, Professor Simon Chesterman, was delighted to join the class in celebrating this significant milestone. The Class also seized the opportunity to give back, and rallied together to raise funds for their Class of 1987 Bursary. Excitement grew as

the donations flowed in, and the target of \$100,000 for bursaries for needy law students was met! On behalf of our students, please accept our grateful thanks for your kind generosity!



Class of 1992: 25th Anniversary Reunion

By Judy Chang '92

Nostalgia struck early on the evening of our 25th Anniversary as several organising committee members struggled to carry the large anniversary cake from the Suntec bakery across Nicoll Highway to the Alchemist Beer Lab at South Beach.

This brought back memories of doing manual chores prepping for Law Orientation, and set the tone for the evening. The 70-odd attendees (special thanks to those who made the trip from Japan, Hong Kong, Brunei, Malaysia etc) probably felt transported back to our law school days

and we became the 20-something year olds again as we reminisced, laughed and teased one another. We debated whether the nametags provided by NUS Law were necessary and unanimously concluded that the font size should be increased at the next reunion.

The Class of 1992 remembered the less fortunate as well in our celebrations. We are establishing a bursary for the less privileged law students as the cost of a legal education has increased 5-6 times since we attended law school. This

bursary will help defray the cost of legal education for some needy students. Anyone who is interested in contributing, please contact Associate Dean Ms Goh Mia Yang (miayang@nus.edu.sg).

As the American essayist, Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." My hope is that with the ripple effect of an official reunion, we may rekindle old friendships and continue to maintain the ones that we have cultivated. See you at our 30th!



Class of 1997: 20th Anniversary Reunion

By Jo-Ann Marie Chan '97

On 28 July 2017, more than 70 classmates from the Class of 1997 – some of whom had not stepped into the campus for the last 20 years – gathered at the NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House. It was wonderful to see so many familiar, friendly faces and we had a blast catching up on each other's lives and rekindling old friendships.

Much to everyone's amusement, an impromptu, tongue-in-cheek poll was conducted (ascertaining who was still in practice, who had gone in-house, who was no longer doing law, those with 4 or more kids, etc), which really brought the class together and updated everyone instantly. Special thanks must go to my

fellow Organising Committee members for spreading the word and rounding up the troops, thus ensuring a fantastic turnout and a very memorable evening! And thank you to everyone for making the time and effort to come, particularly those who travelled from afar. See you at our next reunion!



Class of 2007: 10th Anniversary reunion



More than 50 alumni from the Class of 2007 celebrated their 10th Anniversary since graduation on 7 October 2017, at the Oei Tiong Ham Building. Being the first batch to graduate after the Faculty moved back to the Bukit Timah Campus, the class

was delighted to be back on campus 10 years later. The cohort has certainly been bountifully blessed and many brought their little ones along to introduce them to their friends – see if you can spot all 17 kids in the class photo!



UPCOMING REUNIONS

Calling alumni from the **Class of 1998**, some of your classmates are planning a reunion to celebrate your 20th Anniversary on the evening of Friday, 6 April 2018 – please save the date! More details will be provided once they are finalised but meanwhile, please help to spread the word!

Finally a shout-out to all classes who will be celebrating their milestone anniversaries in 2018 (ie: **Classes of 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 2003 and 2008**), please contact Jo-Ann Chan '97 (joann.chan@nus.edu.sg; 6601 2248) if you are keen on celebrating your anniversaries and we can help you plan the gathering.

Meanwhile, please update your contact details with us at: https://law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/alumni_update_particulars.asp so that we can keep you informed about the latest news and events.

Shanghai Reunion

The Shanghai Alumni Reunion was the first reunion in our 60th Anniversary year, and it was held on 3 March 2017. A strong turnout of almost 70 alumni gathered at the InterContinental Shanghai Ruijin Hotel, and filled the elegant venue with the sound of chatter and laughter as they connected with one another and caught

up with faculty members Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85, Vice Dean (Student Affairs) and Associate Professor Joel Lee. Alumni and even current students from our LL.M. (International Business Law) Programme were well-represented, and they were delighted to be reunited with classmates and to

get to know other alumni. The event was also a welcome opportunity for our alumni based there to swap notes on life in Shanghai, and to break out into their native Singlish with fellow Singaporeans. We hope to see many more of you at the next reunion!



London Reunion

Our alumni in London gathered for a cocktail reception on 7 April 2017 at Red & White, the in-house restaurant of Latham & Watkins LLP. Special thanks must go to Jayanthi Sadanandan '95, Managing Partner of Latham & Watkins' London office, for graciously hosting the reception together with our Dean,

Professor Simon Chesterman. We were delighted that the Singapore High Commissioner to the UK, Foo Chi Hsia '94 was able to join us.

The warm and cosy event provided a fantastic opportunity for alumni to network and to meet up with faculty members

including Professor M. Sornarajah, Ms Rachel Leow '11, Mr Timothy Liao '14 and Mr Ivan Lee '14. Many lingered to enjoy the good company and conversation way past dinnertime. We look forward to meeting many more alumni in London at future reunions.



ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP A BOON FOR LAW STUDENT

Mr Seow Zhixiang '09 understands firsthand the important role that NUS alumni play in empowering future generations of students to overcome challenging financial circumstances and to reach their full potential.

Zhixiang, who today is a state counsel and legislative drafter at the Attorney-General's Chambers, with a special interest in public and constitutional law issues, is a former recipient of the Class of 1986 Scholarship. Alumni from the NUS Law Class of 1986 set up the scholarship

in memory of their late classmate, Mr Bennett Lam.

"University education is a great enabler and I think it is wonderful that alumni help to ensure that a university education remains accessible for those who come after them," says Zhixiang.

He explains, "I am very grateful for the donors' generosity, which made a tremendous difference to me. My parents could not afford the cost of a university education; I had to take a study loan and

give tuition to pay my way. The scholarship eased my financial burden and helped me to concentrate on my studies."



YOUNG ALUMNA BELIEVES IN GIVING BACK EARLY

"Most students from NUS Law are believers in justice; they volunteer at the courts, participate in legal clinics and support pro bono efforts. I believe that making a contribution to give someone an education is one of the many ways to make society a fairer, better place," said Mak Shin Yi '14, who gave back to NUS Law right after graduation.

Called to the Singapore Bar in 2015, Shin Yi started her legal career in one of the Big Four law firms in Singapore and practised as a lawyer in the field of commercial litigation and international arbitration for two years. In 2017, she joined the United Nations through the Young Professionals Programme and is now working as an associate legal officer in the Office of Legal Affairs.

Coming from a humble background – her father was a taxi-driver and her mother a housewife – the former recipient of the Kwa Geok Choo Bursary is the first lawyer in her family. While she was a full-time student at NUS Law, she also took on part-time jobs by giving tuition

and working at cafés to earn some income and pay for her school fees. While she found the first two academic years to be particularly challenging, she was thankful that there was a culture of sharing notes and helping each other out amongst her classmates, which helped her to adjust to the intensity of law school.

Financial aid made it possible for her to take part in the NUS Student Exchange Programme, which allowed her to study in Madrid in her third year, exploring her interest in international law. She also spent two summers in Geneva, pursuing internships related to the United Nations. The experiences she gained in studying and working overseas became invaluable to her career.

Asked why she decided to donate to NUS, Shin Yi said, "I think it would be best summed up by the Chinese idiom, 饮水思源, which captures the spirit of gratitude for past acts of kindness that have led us to where we are today. When I received my first paycheck, I decided to give back to NUS in the hope that it



will help deserving students who might share similar backgrounds and aspirations with me, just as others before me had done. It was a small sum, but I believe that every contribution, no matter how small, can go a long way towards helping someone else."

Shin Yi believes that young alumni are, in their own way, best placed to give back to NUS Law. "We don't make the most money, but as we embark on new careers, most of us are wondering: how can we do something meaningful? The good news is that we don't have to look far to do good. Start giving back early, and that's something we can carry on later into our lives."

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