

December 2018
ISSN: 0219 - 6441

law link

CALL OF DUTY
INDRANEE RAJAH '86

SLR ANNUAL LECTURE
JUSTICE AEDIT ABDULLAH '94

IN-HOUSE INSIGHTS
CHARLES LIM '01

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS
LAW ALUMNI MENTOR
PROGRAMME

LAUNCH OF NUS LAW ACADEMY

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

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DEAN'S DIARY

All law schools today grapple with the same challenge: how can we best prepare our students for a changing world? As Minister Indranee Rajah '86 and Justice Aedit Abdullah '94 describe in this issue, globalisation and technology are transforming the way law is practised. How can we guarantee that the degrees our students earn will serve them through a life in the law — or whatever path their career takes them?

The honest answer is that we cannot. What we can do is give them critical and analytical tools that will enable them to adapt and thrive, coupled with communication and interpersonal skills to operate effectively in a world that is also smaller and flatter.

More than that, however, we now also aim to instil in all our graduates an understanding that their time at NUS Law should be transformative — but that it will not be the end of their education. There is a Chinese saying “活到老, 学到老”, which loosely means “learn even when you are old”. It is said to illustrate the importance of lifelong learning. Often left out, however, is the subsequent line: “还有三分学不到” — even if you learn your whole life, there is still thirty percent that you have not learned.

To support our graduates and the wider legal community, NUS Law recently embarked on a major shift in our educational model. Building on six decades of legal education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the NUS Law Academy extends that mission to professionals at different stages of their careers. From brushing up on skills to learning about a new area of law, our aim is to provide a suite of modules for the working learner. Our hope is that the NUS Law Academy will become a vital part of Singapore's legal ecosystem, offering a range of graduate certificates and diplomas to meet the challenges of the future economy.

You can read more about the Academy in these pages, including the pioneer cohort of Graduate Certificate in

Criminal Justice (GCCJ) students, who celebrated their graduation at the launch of the Academy in November. The GCCJ was made possible by partnering with the Home Team Academy, the Home Team School of Criminal Investigation, and the Attorney-General's Chambers.

Another example of industry partnerships enhancing our education mission is the Muslim Law Practice Course — a collaboration with the Syariah Courts and MUIS Academy. It also features in this issue of LawLink.

But the magazine is primarily for our alumni. This year, alumni reunions were organised in Hong Kong and Shanghai, as well as several in Singapore — including one at which an orchid was named after the class. These events give us a chance to reconnect and learn, but also to celebrate your many achievements.

As the pages that follow make clear, those achievements are too many to summarise in a short introduction. But one thing I do want to highlight is the ways in which our alumni support current and future generations of students.

This year we had a record number of mentors sign up for our Law Alumni Mentors Programme (LAMP); others shared their time and expertise at our careers talks. Four joined our Advisory Council; still others created internships or hired our recent graduates. And a growing number also provided vital financial support — from bursaries for needy students to a prize encouraging grit through a new “Most Improved Student” award.

So as Dean I am tremendously grateful to all our alumni for their achievements and their support — even as we reorient the educational mission of NUS Law to support our students and alumni throughout their careers.

I hope you enjoy reading these pages. And if there are ways in which we might involve you in the life of NUS Law and the future of legal education, do please let me know.



Simon Chesterman
Dean, NUS Law

NUS LAW WELCOMES NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS



From left: Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85 (Vice Dean (Student Life & Global Relations)), Professor Simon Chesterman (Dean), Ms Sushma Jobanputra, Ms Amy Lee '82, The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang '82, Professor S. Jayakumar '63, Mr Andrew M Lim '85, LL.M. '88, Mr Gregory Vijayendran '92, Ms Ginney Lim '84, Mr Hri Kumar Nair '91, Professor James Penner (Vice Dean (Research)), Professor David Tan (Vice Dean (Academic Affairs))

NUS Law was pleased to welcome five new members to the NUS Law Advisory Council in 2018. The Council now comprises the following members:

Chair

Professor S. Jayakumar '63

Vice Chair

The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang '82
(Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court of Singapore)

Members

Mr Cavinder Bull S.C. (Chief Executive Officer, Drew & Napier LLC)
Ms Amy Lee '82 (Consultant, Tan Kok Quan Partnership)
Ms Sushma Jobanputra (Partner-in-Charge Singapore, Jones Day) (new)
Mr Andrew M Lim '85, LL.M. '88 (Partner, Allen & Gledhill LLP) (new)
Ms Ginney Lim '84 (General Counsel, Singapore Press Holdings Limited) (new)
Mr Hri Kumar Nair '91 (Deputy Attorney-General, Attorney General's Chambers) (new)
Mr Gregory Vijayendran '92 (President, Law Society of Singapore and Partner, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP) (new)

The Council provides advice and support to the decanal team, and acts as a liaison between the Faculty and the legal profession in Singapore and internationally. The feedback provided by the Council has been instrumental in directing the overall vision and broad strategic thrust of the Faculty.

NUS Law would also like to record its thanks to the four members who stepped down this year, Mr Wong Meng Meng S.C. '71, Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin S.C., Mr Geraint Hughes and Mr George Lim Teong Jin S.C. '81, for their insightful contributions.

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* Listed are those who have cumulatively given S\$10,000.00 and above to NUS Law since 2000, as at September 2018.
* Some donors have asked to remain anonymous.



From left: Associate Professor Lim Lei Theng '92, Mr Rajan Menon '71, Senior Partner of RHTLaw Taylor Wessing, Mrs Vimala Anandan, Ms Indranee Rajah '86, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Law, Professor Simon Chesterman, Dean of NUS Law and Mr Gregory Vijayendran '92

Designed for Law

Law was not the first choice on Indranee's mind when she got her 'A' level results. Having spent her years at junior college in an Arts course, she also considered studying Architecture before finally deciding to apply to the Philosophy, Politics and Economics Programme at the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

"I actually did put in my application, and on that very same day we had dinner with some family friends, one of whom was a lawyer, Haresh Maniam. When I told him the course I had applied for, he asked 'Oh why didn't you consider law?' And law was not on my radar at all!"

Mr Haresh Maniam advised her that with a law degree, she could still do the things she would have liked to achieve with an Arts degree, but she would have the additional option of a professional career as a lawyer. The impactful conversation got her thinking, and given that up until that point she was not sure of what she would like to pursue, his advice made a lot of sense.

So the very next day, Indranee tried to retrieve her application. She was informed by the Registrar's Office that she would have to resubmit her application directly to the Faculty of Law, and see if she could still be considered for enrolment.

Date with Destiny

At the time, the Faculty of Law was at the Kent Ridge Campus and she had to find her way to the Sub-Dean's room to submit her application.

"I promptly got lost, and then stumbled into this room where there was this Caucasian guy with these four other guys: one Sikh, two Chinese and one Indian. So I said, 'Umm ... excuse me, I'm looking for the Sub-Dean, Stanley Yeo, because I need to put in an application,' and they all solemnly pointed me in the correct direction." Feeling like she might have intruded on a serious meeting, Indranee quickly went on her way, submitted her application, and later got a place in law school.

Reminiscing back on that moment, she adds, "about a month-and-a-half later, the Straits Times front page had a picture of these same four guys, and of course, who would they be but Davinder Singh, V.K. Rajah, Jimmy Yim and Steven Chong – the Jessup Moot team! And I didn't know at that time that they were in a discussion with (Associate Professor) Robert Beckman!"

As fate would have it, Indranee went on to work with all four of them in different chapters of her career – Davinder Singh S.C. '82, who would become her CEO at Drew & Napier; Jimmy Yim S.C. '82, LL.M. '90, who would be the head of her department; Steven Chong S.C. '82, who would later be a partner in the same firm as her and V.K. Rajah '82, who became a Judge of Appeal before whom she would appear, and with whom as Senior Minister of State for Law, she would work on the Singapore Commercial Court and the Family Justice reforms. "So it's just funny the way everything turned out. I had no

idea then that Robert Beckman would also end up being my moot trainer and International Law teacher. I literally stumbled into law," she laughed. "I was also the MP who gave Bob [Beckman] his citizenship certificate when he became a Singaporean!"

Firm Foundation

For all law students and aspiring law students, Indranee advises them to pay close attention to the subject then called Legal Method (now known as Legal Analysis, Research & Communication (LARC)), which she said "sets the foundation for the way you think."

She shares that the subject demonstrates the way to read statutes and how to break something up into different parts, and then how to think about it. The skills that LARC aims to inculcate permeates legal thinking throughout all law subjects and much of legal professional life, such as how one should approach every problem, identify the salient issues, and then follow particular methodologies in researching and ultimately recommending solutions or a point of view. "So I would say that was the most important subject. I can't say it was my favourite, but it was certainly the most useful," she quipped.

Life's Lesson

One of Indranee's fondest memories was of Professor Francis Reynolds, whom she said was an amazing lecturer with a lot of clarity in his lectures, and known for setting short but deceptive essay questions. Professor Reynolds is a close friend of NUS Law and has served as editor of the *Law Quarterly Review* for almost 20 years. He delivered the 12th Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitor Lecture in 2017, and NUS Law honoured him by establishing 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.

"When you look on the face of it, it was a simple test question and I got a 'C'. After speaking to someone, I realised I got a 'C' because I had missed all these issues, which were buried in that very deceptively simple question," she said.

"Just from that single test question, I was taught a lesson for life."

CALL OF DUTY

INDRANEE RAJAH '86

From being a renowned litigator to a respected politician, Indranee Rajah never shies away from the call of duty, applying the same values and approaching each occasion with the same tenacity she had as a law student. Now a Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, she serves as Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for Education. Professor David Tan caught up with Indranee to chat about her law school days and her perspective on the future of the legal fraternity.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

This lesson stuck with her through life – to always probe deeper into the case as a practitioner, to find out the underlying motivation and the factors driving it.

From Lawyer to Politician

Indranee's legal career started in 1987 with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, and she later joined Drew & Napier, becoming director of the firm in 1991. Indranee was well-known in her field and was named among the Asia Pacific Legal 500 from 2006-2010, for her expertise in dispute resolution and international arbitration practice.

In 2001, she made her first foray into politics as a Member of Parliament for the Tanjong Pagar Group Representation Constituency (GRC), which she still serves today. Indranee was the Deputy Speaker of Parliament from 2006 to 2011, and was promoted to Senior Minister of State for Law and Education in 2012. In late 2015, she became the Senior Minister of State for Finance and Law. This year, Indranee was promoted to full Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, and Second Minister for Finance, and Education.

While some skills acquired from her experience in litigation can be applied



Ms Indranee Rajah at the Class of 1986 reunion in 2016

you're trying to drill down the facts and find the cause of a single event, so you're always zooming in on things."

She continued, "But when you're in public service, it's looking through a telescope; you're trying to see as far and wide as you possibly can. You're looking at the universe of things and you're trying to plan for contingencies. It's sort of similar because you're looking down a tunnel at something

technology. There is already software that analyses a lawyer's track record based on the reported cases. This is going to influence the way clients choose lawyers," Indranee shared.

Delving more into examples of technology in the legal industry, Indranee said that there are software and Artificial Intelligence (AI) which analyse documents, so legal assistants can focus on higher value-add work which cannot be done by technology.

She also commented that the legal industry should think about ways to ease legal work using technology. She cited the application "DoNotPay", a chatbot that offers AI-powered legal counsel. It allows people to ask for information required to draft an appeal letter, thus doing away with the need to hire a lawyer to draft the letter.

As legal work of this nature begins to get commoditised, the legal industry will start moving into the AI sphere. Despite this development, Indranee is of the opinion that there will still be a need for lawyers: "I think you'll always need lawyers, but that has to be at the higher level - the strategic thinking, helping clients to develop their litigation or corporate strategies, and also understanding human nature." She continued, "Computers work on the basis that something will repeat itself and follow a certain programmed logic,

"The most fundamental thing of all which cannot be replaced, is to understand what it means to be a lawyer and the underlying values of being a lawyer. You have a duty to uphold the laws of the land, and act with integrity, and honesty."

Ms Indranee Rajah '86

to her political career, she said that new skills are also needed to succeed in the role, such as policy formulation where there are multiple stakeholders involved and unlike in a courtroom where the judge is the final arbiter, the government does not operate in a similar manner.

Using the analogy of viewing both careers through a microscope and a telescope, she explained, "Basically when you're doing litigation, you're looking through a microscope, because

and you're trying to reach an outcome, but the approach is different."

Future of Legal Education

On the future of legal education in preparation for an evolving legal industry, Indranee shared some changes that she hopes to see. "I think a law school curriculum needs to be a lot more aligned with the industry. The foundation subjects are very important, but it has to catch up with what is happening out there. For example, legal practice will become increasingly augmented with



Ms Indranee Rajah (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

but anybody who has ever done family cases or corporate litigation where family members are involved, will know that it has very little to do with logic and everything to do with the quarrel that they had, or the nasty things that somebody said. It's driven by emotion, and human beings understand that much better than a machine ever can."

Advice for Future Lawyers

While emphasising the need to be aligned with the development of the

industry, Indranee would like to remind all law students and future lawyers of the importance of preserving values in their character and duty to others.

"The most fundamental thing of all which cannot be replaced, is to understand what it means to be a lawyer and the underlying values of being a lawyer. You have a duty to uphold the laws of the land, and act with integrity, and honesty. You have to understand that you are a fiduciary, and

a repository of people's secrets, of their deepest darkest fears, their potential liabilities, so you have to honour and respect that. You have to respect privilege, and to basically conduct yourself in a manner beyond reproach. The way you apply the law actually upholds society; it determines the kind of society that we are, because it goes back to the question of Rule of Law. So that's something that lawyers need to understand."

She rounded off the interview with a meaningful reminder that "it is very easy to think about a profession that pays well, but that will never ever give you that feeling of satisfaction or fulfilment if you have not resolved within yourself fundamentally why it is that you're doing law."



Ms Indranee Rajah with members of alt+Law, a NUS student-led legal technology interest group

CHARLES LIM '01: IN-HOUSE INSIGHTS

Since graduating from NUS Law in 2001, Charles Lim '01 has spent over 15 years in both private practise and as an in-house legal counsel. He was the Head of Legal and Compliance (SEA) at Credit Suisse and is now the General Counsel (Managing Director) at GIC, where he oversees the Legal and Compliance department. Charles shares his memories at NUS Law, his career highlights and his passion for giving back to the community.



Part B Course) was good fun as I got to know and work with many in my class at a deeper level.

Our tutors in NUS Law have taught me to think critically from different perspectives, analyse issues deeper with an open mind, to reason, persuade and decide with conviction. Doing the Bachelor of Civil Law subsequently in Oxford was intellectually rigorous and very demanding but NUS Law prepared me well for it.

Q3 Prior to now, you were in private practice with various law firms. What motivated your switch from a private practitioner to an in-house legal counsel? Tell us about the challenges and how you overcame them.

Like many who have moved in-house from private practice, I was driven by a strong desire to be much closer to the business and where the action is. I wanted to be able to positively influence, counsel and decide where the enterprise is heading.

My main challenge as General Counsel is how best the Legal and Compliance department under my charge can be a trusted, strategic business partner and also effectively perform the independent challenge and control function. There are inherent tensions and sensitivities when you want to help drive the business imperatives as far and fast as you can but also to conscientiously ensure that all the legal, regulatory, compliance and regulatory risks are appropriately resolved or mitigated.

Q4 Having been in the profession for over 15 years, what do you think makes a good in-house lawyer?

Having strong and broad substantive legal skills is a given to provide prompt,

Q1 What made you decide to study law at NUS?

I have always enjoyed reading, writing, interacting with and understanding people from their perspectives. Growing up, I was interested in international relations and diplomacy, working for the United Nations, public service and business. A law degree is specialised and yet offers one broad-based skill sets as well as interesting and varied career options.

I have close family members who are practising lawyers and they certainly disabused me of any notion that being a lawyer is like what we see in the courtroom TV dramas so I was very realistic about what to expect.

Q2 What are some of your best memories of your days at NUS Law? How has your time at NUS Law shaped your career?

The precious memories shared and deep friendships forged at NUS Law will stay with me for life. I remember skipping lectures for coffee in Holland Village, catching movies in town and last minute studying in the law library. Musing about life, lamenting over uncompleted tutorials and untouched readings on the benches outside the tutorial rooms are fond memories. Undergraduate years would not have been complete without orientations, winning the inter-year sports competitions and the Law IV Musical. Being class chairperson in Year 4 and the Practice Law Course (now known as the

BENNY TAN '12: REWARDING RESILIENCE



grade can qualify a student for the award if that shows the most improvement relative to other students.

Two considerations helped shape Benny's decision to set up this award. He cited former NUS President Tan Chorh Chuan's State of the University Address in 2016, where the President emphasised that it was no longer sufficient for universities to "stress the knowledge, skills and technical abilities needed by students for their future careers." In the meantime, students also needed to "move from overly narrow concern with grades to empowering themselves for the future." So one key driver that the University seeks to inculcate is resilience. The award is a step towards putting across the message that grades are not all that is important, and developing attributes like resilience and grit is just as essential.

The other consideration was the inspiration he derived from psychologist and author Angela Duckworth, who wrote a bestseller titled "Grit". Based on years of research, she found that the most critical factor for outstanding achievement is the characteristic called grit, defined as a blend of passion and perseverance for a singularly important goal. It was the hallmark for high achievers in every domain.

His personal experience also led Benny to believe that excessive obsession with grades due to peer pressure does more harm than good. In his fourth year in law school, he stepped back from fixating so much on grades. Instead, he saw every class as a learning opportunity and focused on exploring how interesting law is and how it affects people's lives. He discovered he enjoyed the learning process much more, and actually ended up doing better than before. To him, that made sense because when students are too obsessed comparing themselves with their peers, they may not internalise what they are learning, and therefore do not do as well.

While comparing oneself with one's peers is not in itself bad, it becomes harmful when it is done to excess. He therefore reminds his students to focus on whether they are better than their yesterday's self. He emphasises personal growth over results and the learning process over the outcome. The Most Improved Student Award is thus consistent with this message. Encouraging and inculcating the values of grit, perseverance and resilience with this award will aid students in becoming high achievers after they graduate.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

high quality and pragmatic commercial advice. Capable in-house lawyers are persuasive communicators who are able to focus and simplify complex legal issues and concepts such that a lay business person can readily understand and apply the advice given. They understand the unique workings and nuances of the business they are in and keep themselves abreast of the latest developments to pre-empt issues, risks and ideate solutions early. As strategic business partners and guardians of the legal, regulatory, compliance and reputational aspects of the business, they are able to exercise sharp business acumen, good and confident judgment as many decisions involve difficult trade-offs.

Q5 You were awarded the Public Service Medal (PBM) in 2016. What inspires you to pursue your community and volunteer work?

When I was in NUS Law, I did a lot of community and volunteer work. I helped out at an old folk's home and was responsible for the recruitment and training of volunteers for a charity supporting terminally ill children. I was also the founder of an award-winning website for Red Cross Singapore.

I led Credit Suisse's corporate social responsibility and philanthropy efforts for the Singapore office for about 8 years, where we focused on corporate volunteering and fundraising efforts for

disadvantaged children and education. I am a Community Advisor with Honor Singapore and I also help out on the Donations and Volunteering Committee at GIC.

Years ago, it was an eye-opening experience for me to observe Minister Indranee Rajah and her grassroots leaders serving the residents. She nominated me to the Central Singapore Community Development Council, where I have been serving as a District Councillor for the past 10 years.

We all have the ability and capacity to share and give of ourselves. Knowing that I have been graciously helped by others motivates me to do more.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS NUS LAW ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAMME



The NUS Law Alumni Mentor Programme (LAMP) has reached new heights in its seventh run. A total of 195 student mentees and 163 alumni mentors are participating this Academic Year 2018/2019, surpassing all past numbers for the year-long programme.

For the uninitiated, LAMP links first and second year law students with young alumni who can provide insights and guidance to the practice of law. For the first time since the start of the programme in 2012, LAMP was also extended to include 37 Master of Laws students this year, to provide them with an insight into legal practice in Singapore.

At the bustling networking event on Friday 5th October 2018 to mark the start of LAMP, Associate Professor Eleanor Wong (Vice Dean (Student Life & Global Relations)) welcomed alumni mentors and students who had gathered at the lobby of the Oei Tiong Ham Building. She especially thanked our alumni for taking time from their busy schedules (in particular, for sacrificing a precious Friday night) to mentor our students.

LawLink caught up with some of our alumni who are repeat LAMP mentors (ie. between two to four years as a mentor) to find out their thoughts on the programme.



Mr Favian Tan '08, a Partner at Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

LAMP provides students with access to guidance from practitioners that was previously unavailable without the benefit of an internship at a law firm. With this, students would have a better sense of what practice is all about and which practice areas they may be interested to specialise in in future.

For alumni like me, LAMP is always a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and tutors, and even to interact with the younger generation to see how experiences in Law School have evolved and changed over the years. It's a good opportunity to share one's experiences (and mistakes) in hopes that the next generation will find them useful in their journey as a lawyer.

Ms Sangeetha Yogendran '10, an international human rights advisor with the Stateless Dignity Project (a US-based Human Rights institute focusing on stateless populations)

I'm sure I speak for a lot of the mentors in saying that I wish I had a similar programme when I was a student. As a student exploring a career in human rights, I had limited opportunities to be mentored as it was a relatively unexplored career path. After law school, I did find opportunities to be mentored by those who had pursued similar career paths and found this to be incredibly helpful.

Putting myself in the shoes of a current law student, I would hope mentees are able to gain a friend and mentor who can not only provide career guidance and advice, but also be a sounding board while navigating the challenges of law school and pursuing a fulfilling career in the law after, regardless of what direction you choose to take.



Ms Shermin Chen '11, an Associate at Morgan Lewis Stamford LLC

LAMP is a wonderful platform for students to interact with seniors who are pursuing various careers in law, whether in a group during networking sessions or one-on-one during meet-ups. Being part of LAMP allows me to contribute as a corporate lawyer in private practice, by engaging with students who are keen to pursue a career in corporate law. As a plus point, I think LAMP helps to extend the NUS Law camaraderie between different batches.

This is my third year as a LAMP mentor and I have found the programme so meaningful. As a mentor, I have enjoyed befriending the students and my mentees who are eager to learn, and are more empowered to pursue different careers than before. For example, a career in legal tech is now an option, which did not even exist when I was a student! LAMP has allowed me to connect and re-connect with other alumni, and enriched my experience and knowledge of different careers in law.

Mr Danny Quah '11, Counsel at Providence Law Asia

I think that LAMP provides a precious opportunity for alumni and students to have meaningful conversations about life in and outside of the law. For students, they can use such an opportunity to obtain direction and guidance from their seniors on a variety of subjects. Sometimes, this can result in internship or work opportunities. For mentors, they get the chance to "give back", to learn about what makes the younger generation tick, and (on a personal level), to reflect on their own lives and decisions in the course of sharing "nuggets of wisdom" to their juniors.

In my own journey, I have benefited from a number of informal mentors along the way. Amongst other things, they provided me with insight into how to practise law ethically, work opportunities to help me grow as a lawyer, and role models to look up to.



TAN ZHONG XING '12 WINS HART PUBLISHING PRIZE

Assistant Professor Tan Zhong Xing's paper, "Contract Law in an Emerging Age of Proportionality: From Form to Substance and Beyond", was awarded the Hart Publishing Prize for the best paper by an early career scholar at the Ninth Biennial Conference on the Law of Obligations held at Melbourne Law School from 17–20 July 2018, and co-hosted by Melbourne Law School and the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. The judging panel included Professor Andrew Burrows, Justice James Edelman, and Professor Barbara McDonald.



Zhong Xing's paper explored the emerging idea of proportionality in contract law, as expressed in the jurisprudence on illegality, penalties, and cost of cure damages, and argued that this development signals a movement away from formalism towards a substantive justificatory framework for the accommodation of plural and competing values in contract law adjudication.

Zhong Xing said, "I am grateful for the input and encouragement from Assistant Professor Swati Jhaveri and Professor David Tan at NUS Law, who shared their resources (including their work in public law) and ideas with me, as well as

Professor Mindy Chen-Wishart, Associate Professor Wayne Courtney and Professor Tan Yock Lin with whom I have had the chance to chat with on the topic at the early stages of research."

"I also benefitted greatly from reading Associate Professor Ernest Lim's and Professor Alec Stone Sweet's excellent works on related topics. Many colleagues (including friends from SMU and Hong Kong) were incredibly supportive during my virgin outing at 'Obligations', which was most encouraging," he added.

Tan Zhong Xing joined NUS Law as a Sheridan Fellow in 2014 teaching the Law of Contract. He obtained his LL.M. at Harvard Law School in 2017, and was promoted to Assistant Professor in January 2018. He is presently teaching the Law of Contract and Introduction to Legal Theory at NUS Law. In his years at NUS Law, his articles have been published or are due to appear in journals such as the *Modern Law Review*, *Legal Studies*, *Journal of Contract Law*, *Journal of Business Law*, and the *Journal of Corporate Law Studies*.

ALASTAIR SIMON CHETTY '18 WINS NAPPERT PRIZE IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION



Alastair Simon Chetty '18 with Assistant Professor Jean Ho '03

Alastair Simon Chetty '18 was the first undergraduate student from an Asian law school to be named a winner of the 2018 Nappert Prize in International Arbitration. Established in 2014 by McGill University and endowed by arbitrator Sophie Nappert, the biennial essay competition is open to all junior scholars, junior practitioners and law students from around the world.

Alastair's paper, "Embracing Practical Solutions in Dealing with the Distinct Shades of Abuse of Process in Investment Arbitration", was selected from more than

80 entries to be awarded Second Place by a distinguished panel of jurors. The panel comprised Julie Bédard (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP), Professor Lawrence Boo '80, LL.M. '88 (National University of Singapore & Bond University), Professor Olivier Caprasse (Universities of Liège & Brussels), Professor Kun Fan (McGill University), José Feris (Squire Patton Boggs), Alexander Fessas (International Chamber of Commerce Court), Meg Kinnear (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes), and Eduardo Zuleta Jaramillo (Zuleta Abogados Asociados).

For his win, Alastair received CAD 2000 in prize money, and an all-expenses paid trip to Montreal to present his paper at a symposium hosted by McGill University on 1 November 2018.

Alastair's paper analyses arbitral jurisprudence on the topical issue of abuse of process claims in investment arbitration. It began life as a University Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Directed Research Paper submitted in Academic Year 2017/2018, and supervised by Assistant Professor Jean Ho '03.

Alastair shares, "Writing a Directed Research paper was by far the most rewarding educational experience at NUS Law. Unlike other modules that provide structured syllabi, the Directed Research process compels students to formulate their own research blueprints and crack the code independently... I learnt to communicate my views professionally and reasonably, and also discovered how conveying a simplified version of one's argument is an essential yet underrated craft".

LEX QUANTA DEVELOPS A SIMULATOR



Jerrold Soh '18 and three of his peers have developed a simulator that can predict the division of assets in a divorce case. Determined to take advantage of this potential disruption to the legal profession, Jerrold and his former schoolmates set up Lex Quanta in 2016, with each of them taking on the areas of data, coding, business and law.

Jerrold said that he had become aware of the impending possibility that junior lawyers might soon be replaced by

FOR USE IN LEGAL DIVORCE CASES

artificial intelligence (AI) and thought he should learn more about AI. He shared: "We thought of doing this after reading a recent Court of Appeal judgment that introduced a numerical framework for dividing matrimonial assets. The court did say, and we agree, that you can't reduce everything to a simple equation, but we thought it would be helpful to have some technology to assist the parties involved especially with the more mathematical bits. From volunteering at the family courts in Year 2, I saw how

stressful divorce cases can get - and that's just for the lawyers. So the simulator is really about facilitating the process."

The simulator they developed as a result is programmed to predict the outcome of cases by computing the total assets involved and the contribution each party made in the relationship. The final version of the simulator, which was expected to be ready by April 2018, has been tested on over 100 cases involving matrimonial assets, and Lex Quanta has tested it with over 10 family law firms.

Looking ahead, Lex Quanta hopes to enhance the simulator's capabilities further for use in cases involving personal injuries, commercial cases, and other family law matters.

Lex Quanta will operate out of a co-working space called Collision 8, as part of the Future Law Innovation Programme (Flip). Flip is a legal innovation incubator and accelerator programme for tech-enabled law firms and LegalTech startups, by the Singapore Academy of Law.

NEW NUS LAW ACADEMY TO HONE LEGAL SKILLS OF PROFESSIONALS IN SINGAPORE



From left: Associate Professor Umakanth Varottil '10 (Ph.D) (Director (NUS Law Academy) & Director (Graduate Coursework Studies), NUS Law), Mr Edwin Tong '94 (Senior Minister of State for Law and Health), Professor Simon Chesterman (Dean, NUS Law) and Professor Susanna Leong (Vice Provost (Lifelong Education), NUS)

NUS Law announced the establishment of the NUS Law Academy on 12 November 2018. The new setup is aimed at honing the legal skills of professionals and practitioners in Singapore.

Mr Edwin Tong '94 (Senior Minister of State for Law and Health) launched the NUS Law Academy with Professor Simon Chesterman (Dean, NUS Law) at the graduation ceremony for the Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice (GCCJ) programme held at the NUS Kent Ridge Campus.



Professor Simon Chesterman (Dean, NUS Law) delivering the welcome remarks



Mr Edwin Tong '94 (Senior Minister of State for Law and Health) delivering the opening address

"Building on six decades of transformative legal education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the NUS Law Academy extends that mission to professionals at different stages of their careers. From brushing up on skills to learning about a new area of law, our aim is to provide a suite of modules for the working learner. Our hope is that the NUS Law Academy will become a vital part of Singapore's legal ecosystem, offering a range of graduate certificates

and diplomas to meet the challenges of the future economy," said Professor Chesterman.

The NUS Law Academy will offer skills-based, industry-relevant courses necessary for upskilling or reskilling, to enable working professionals to hone their skills and update their legal knowledge within a flexible timeframe. There will also be courses catered to non-lawyers such as those who wish to be involved in the

practice of arbitration, master mariners and engineers, and law enforcement officers. The NUS Law Academy will work closely with government agencies such as SkillsFuture Singapore, Attorney-General's Chambers, Home Team Academy and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, to deliver high quality industry-relevant programmes.

The Academy currently offers three accredited programmes – Graduate



From left: Graduating top of their class are Deputy Superintendent of Police Michelle Tay Hwee Ling (Criminal Investigation Department) and Assistant Superintendent of Police Koay Lean Seong (Central Police Division)



The Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice graduates (Class of 2018)

Certificate in International Arbitration (GCIA), Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice (GCCJ) and the Graduate Diploma in Maritime Law & Arbitration (GDMLA). In the pipeline is a new programme, the Graduate Certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law (GCIPTL), which will be introduced from August next year.

Coinciding with the launch of the NUS Law Academy was the graduation of 29 senior Home Team officers from the inaugural GCCJ programme.

The nine-month programme was specially designed for senior Home Team officers to enhance their knowledge in the four pillars of the Singapore criminal justice system – criminal law, criminal procedure law, evidence law and sentencing law. It also aimed to enhance their proficiency in investigation work and provide them with a stepping stone towards higher law-related certification.



Ms Aileen Yap (Assistant Director, Specialised Commercial Crime Division, Commercial Affairs Department) delivering her speech on behalf of the Class of 2018

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 two lectures under this programme.

Professor Scott Brewer: Arguing the World: A Logocratic Explanation of 'Post-Truth' Law and Politics



Professor Scott Brewer presented a lecture titled, *"Arguing the World: A Logocratic Explanation of 'Post-Truth' Law and Politics"* on 16 August 2018 with Professor Ho Hock Lai '89 chairing the lecture.

Professor Brewer explored the relation among evidence, reason, and argument in post-truth (or, perhaps more accurately, non-truth) spaces of argument, understanding, and action. He shared that the perceptions and understandings of the world, and of humanly vital domains within the world, such as politics, law, science, religion, and philosophy, are mediated by and constructed on the basis of arguments and the judgments that arguments produce.

In a post-truth or non-truth space, canons of argument that call for careful weighing of evidence and the testing of judgments about what is true were either overtly rejected and disparaged or silently disrespected and unheeded. And, it is not difficult to discern post-truth or non-truth processes of legal judgment in many legal systems, including those that boast most proudly of "rule of law" values.



Professor Scott Brewer with Professor Ho Hock Lai '89

these ceaselessly troubling phenomena of human understanding and action.

About Professor Scott Brewer

Professor Scott Brewer joined the Harvard Law School faculty full-time in 1991, having been a lecturer in 1988. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Harvard University (1997; Robert Nozick was his thesis adviser) and a J.D. from Yale Law School (1988), where he was the Editor-in-Chief for Volume 97 of the Yale Law Journal. He was a law clerk for Judge Harry T. Edwards of the United States D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals (1989-90) and then for Justice Thurgood Marshall on the United States Supreme Court (October Term 1990).

He teaches the basic courses on contracts and evidence as well as a variety of courses in jurisprudence and philosophy of law. In 2011, he co-founded and continues to co-administer (with Professor Giovanni Sartor of the European University Institute) the annual Summer School on Law and Logic. He is also the founder and administrator of the Logocratic Academy, a forum that promotes the development, theoretical study and practical application of the Logocratic Method.

Professor Mark Tushnet: The Future of the Separation of Powers



Harvard Law School's Professor Mark Tushnet delivered a public lecture titled, *"The Future of the Separation of Powers"* on 20 September 2018. Speaking to a full house made up of members from the law fraternity and students, Professor Tushnet postulated a fourth branch of government, consisting of a group of institutions whose function, as described in the Constitution of South Africa, is the protection of constitutional democracy. Among these institutions are electoral commissions, anti-corruption agencies, and constitutional courts.

The lecture began by describing how the fourth branch fits into the overall scheme of separation of powers. By contrasting institutions for protecting democracy with the administrative bureaucracy, it then analyses the branch's emergence as a separate branch of government. Professor Tushnet focused



From left: Professor Simon Chesterman (Dean, NUS Law), Professor Mark Tushnet, Professor Andrew Harding, and Professor David Tan (Vice Dean (Academic Affairs))

on a discussion of the characteristics of these three institutions, which he termed IPDs (Institutions Protecting Democracy), raising provocative questions of institutional design such as specialisation, qualifications for appointment,

appointment mechanisms and tenure, and concluded with some speculations about the future of the fourth branch. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session chaired by Professor Andrew Harding.

About Professor Mark Tushnet

Professor Tushnet is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. He graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School, and served as a law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall. He specialises in constitutional law and theory, including comparative constitutional law. His research includes studies examining the practice of judicial review in the United States and around the world. He also writes in the area of legal and particularly constitutional history, with works on the development of civil rights law in the United States, and currently a long-term project on the history of the Supreme Court in the 1930s. Professor Tushnet is teaching Freedom of Speech: Critical & Comparative Perspectives at NUS Law as the Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitor.

BOOK LAUNCHES

Data Protection Law in Singapore – Privacy and Sovereignty in an Interconnected World (2nd Edition)

Professor Simon Chesterman



The EW Barker Centre for Law and Business (EWCLB), was pleased to organised a book launch and seminar for Professor Simon Chesterman's edited book *Data Protection Law in Singapore – Privacy and Sovereignty in an Interconnected World (2nd Edition)* on 4 October 2018. The book focuses on how the adoption of the Personal Data Protection Act transformed the legal regime for data protection in Singapore. The second edition includes new chapters examining how the legislation has kept

pace with technological change and how individual rights have been balanced against business interests in the course of enforcing the law.

Professor Tan Cheng Han '87 (Chairman, EWCLB) and Mr Huey Tan (President, AsiaDPO) delivered the welcome address. This was then followed with a keynote presentation by Mr Tan Kiat How (Commissioner at the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) and Chief

Executive Officer of Singapore's Info-Communications Media Development Authority (IMDA)). The book launch also featured a panel discussion moderated by Professor Simon Chesterman. The panel also included Ms Angela Xu (Vice-President, AsiaDPO), Mr Lanx Goh (Assistant Director, Personal Data Protection Commission), Professor David Tan (Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), NUS Law), Associate Professor Daniel Seng '92 (NUS Law), and Ms Hu Ying (Sheridan Fellow, NUS Law).

Routledge Handbook of Biodiversity and the Law

Associate Professor Burton Ong '99 and Professor Charles R. McManis



The Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) hosted a book launch on 26 March 2018 to celebrate the

publication of the *Routledge Handbook of Biodiversity and the Law*. The handbook is co-edited by Associate Professor

Burton Ong '99 and Professor Charles R. McManis. Guest-of-Honour Dr Lena Chan (Director, National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board, Singapore) gave an illuminating presentation of the importance of scientific input to environmental lawmaking processes. This 27-chapter compilation of essays provides multi-faceted perspectives on the legal and policy issues arising from the conservation and exploitation of non-human biological resources. Contributors include leading academics, policy-makers and practitioners reviewing a range of socio-legal issues concerning the relationships between humankind and the natural world, including intellectual property, biotechnology and traditional knowledge.

Constitutions, Religion and Politics in Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka

Assistant Professor Dian A.H. Shah



Focusing on Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, *Constitutions, Religion and Politics in Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka* shows how constitution-making and the operation of constitutional arrangements involving religion cannot be separated from the broader political dynamics

of society. Although constitutions establish legal and political structures of government institutions and provide tools for rights protection, they do not operate in a vacuum divorced from the games of power and the political realities surrounding them. Dian sets out how constitutions operate and evolve, and demonstrates how constitutional provisions can produce unintended consequences over time.

The book launch was organised by the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) on 21 February 2018.

The Regionalisation of Competition Law and Policy within the ASEAN Economic Community

Associate Professor Burton Ong '99



The Regionalisation of Competition Law and Policy within the ASEAN Economic Community, published by Cambridge University Press is a collaborative project involving academics, practitioners and policy-makers, this book explores issues such as the role of competition policy in facilitating the market-integration ambitions of the ASEAN member states,

the challenges arising from divergences in the national competition law regimes of the ASEAN member states, and the absence of a supranational legal framework and the future of competition policy in light of the AEC Blueprint 2025. Guest-of-Honour Ambassador Ong Keng Yong '79 (Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University) delivered the Opening Remarks at the book launch.

The book launch was organised by the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business (EWBCLB) on 5 March 2018.

Professor Michael Bridge Celebrates Launch of Four Books



First published in 1868, the *Benjamin's Sale of Goods (10th edition)* provides comprehensive advice on case law and

legislation regarding sale of goods in the UK and globally. *The Law of Personal Property* provides a treatment of personal property and covers both tangible and intangible property, including things in action, intellectual property rights and shares and securities. *The Law of Security and Title-Based Financing (3rd Edition)* is the only full-length treatment that covers both traditional security over personal property and also devices that fulfil a similar economic function, such as retention of title and sales of receivables.

Independent Directors in Asia: A Historical, Contextual and Comparative Approach

Associate Professor Dan W. Puchniak (Edited with Harald Baum and Luke Nottage)



Independent Directors in Asia: A Historical, Contextual and Comparative Approach provides in-depth historical, contextual and comparative perspectives on the law and practice of independent directors in seven core Asian jurisdictions (China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan) and Australia. This book features case studies that reveal the varieties of independent directors in Asia, none of which conform to its original American concept. The authors develop a taxonomy of these varieties, which provides a powerful analytical tool for more accurately understanding and effectively researching independent directors in Asia.

The book launch and seminar were organised by the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALS) and EW Barker Centre for Law & Business (EWBCLB) on 5 March 2018.

The International Sale of Goods (4th Edition) provides a critical evaluation of the law in a commercial context which enables the reader to anticipate trends and changes in this area and offers a unique, comprehensive dual focus on contracts governed by English law and those by the United Nations Convention on the International Sale of Goods (CISG).

The book launch was organised by the EW Barker Centre for Law & Business (EWBCLB) on 29 March 2018.

NUS LAW LAUNCHES MUSLIM LAW PRACTICE COURSE



From left: Associate Professor Arif Jamal (NUS Law), Justice Debbie Ong '89, Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo '03 (NUS Law), Professor David Tan (Vice Dean (Academic Affairs), NUS Law) and Mr Amrin Amin '03 (Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Health)



NUS Law launched the inaugural Muslim Law Practice Course (MLPC) on 13 October 2018. This course is a collaboration between NUS Law, the Syariah Court of Singapore, and the MUIS Academy, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Community, and Youth (MCCY). This is the first course of its kind to be conducted in Singapore and serves to fill a gap in systematic legal training in Muslim Law practice in Singapore. The course aims to acquaint participants with a holistic understanding of Islamic family law as practised within the Singapore context and clarify the Islamic ethical principles and higher purposes underlying the Islamic legal thinking. It will also contribute to the quality of practice before the Syariah Court by familiarising participants with key concepts, common terminologies,

issues and recent developments related to dissolution of marriage and attendant matters according to Islamic family law.

Speaking at the event, Guest-of-Honour, Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Health), Mr Amrin Amin '03 expressed hope that "the course will provide participants with exposure to both the classical and contemporary understanding of Muslim family law, and help them appreciate the ethical principles and objectives underlying Islamic legal thinking." He further observed the unique conditions in which Muslim law operates in Singapore, highlighting in particular that "our understanding of Muslim family law must also continue to be sensitive to the norms of our multi-racial and multi-religious society."



Justice Debbie Ong '89, Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, also delivered an opening address in which she emphasised the strong partnership between the Syariah Courts and the Family Justice Courts. She praised the Muslim Law Practice Course as "a wonderful initiative in which family lawyers and judges from both Muslim and non-Muslim practices can, together, deepen their knowledge on many relevant legal, jurisprudential and substantive aspects of Muslim law and practice."

Course convenors, Associate Professor Arif Jamal and Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo '03 applauded the Syariah Court's vision in initiating the course in response to feedback from Muslim law practitioners on the need for practitioners to be made more familiar with key concepts and issues relating to the practice of Muslim family law in Singapore.

They stated that "NUS Law is pleased to collaborate with the Syariah Court and MUIS Academy to run the Muslim Law Practice Course, which is an expression of the Faculty's commitment to enhance the understanding of Muslim law principles, as well as practice issues, in Singapore."

The inaugural run was attended by more than 30 practitioners from organisations such as Legal Aid Bureau, Ministry of Law, Family Justice Courts and various law firms.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018



As this year's graduates sat among renowned members of our alumni, it was a reminder of the paths that lay ahead of them, and the duties that they would undertake as they continued to become integral members of the law fraternity.

NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye said, "We are proud to be celebrating the achievements of the NUS Class of 2018 on this day. The journey ahead for our graduates will be exciting - I have every confidence that they will excel in their chosen paths, overcome challenges that might come their way, and make a difference in society - as their predecessors have done. I would like to urge our graduates to never stop learning, and to assure them that NUS will be their anchor for lifelong learning, as they grow in their careers."



Chong Shi Cheng, valedictorian for the Class of 2018, thanked professors and loved ones. Addressing his classmates, Shi Cheng said, "When success is achieved, it is easy to get caught up in it. It is then that we must remember to be grateful and humble. Equally, when faced with setbacks, which would invariably happen many times in our lives, it is important to not allow them to defeat us, but rather, to learn from the



experience, and to become a little wiser and a little more resilient. Thus, as we move from the shelter of school and into the phase of practice, I hope that we will always practise the attributes of humility, resilience, and willingness to learn."

BRIDGING TECHNOLOGY AND LAW



Addressing the difficulties of migrant workers took centre stage as the top three teams of the inaugural NUS Law-WongPartnership Legal Tech Competition were revealed on 18 September. The competition, which took place over two weeks — from 31 August to 14 September — challenged NUS students to design a legal technology platform that could improve access to legal aid and benefit particular groups of beneficiaries including migrant workers, litigants-in-person, accused persons, low income families and youth at risk. Over 60 students participated, from NUS Law as well as other schools and faculties such as NUS Business, NUS Computing, NUS Engineering and Yale-NUS College.

The winning team, made up of Year 3 NUS Law students Natasha Tan, Suresh Viswanath and Yu Kai Yan as well as Year 3 NUS Engineering students P Srivatsa and Melvin Tan, edged out the competition with their NatashaBot, a Facebook-based chatbot that can converse in more than 100 languages and is designed to give migrant workers easily understandable answers to basic legal questions. Key features include an ability to improve itself with increased interaction, as well as easy maintenance without the need for a background in coding.

“It had been designed very thoughtfully by the technical people working together with the legal people so that maintenance is not dependent on the

technical people but instead leverages off their knowledge,” recalled Associate Professor Eleanor Wong ‘85 (Vice Dean (Student Life & Global Relations)) at NUS Law, who was one of the judges. “I thought that was really amazing and I hope to see more of this happen,” she added. The opportunity to collaborate with students from another faculty was one of the most valuable parts of the experience, the students shared.

“It was very intense and very enjoyable. It was a chance to create something tangible with legal knowledge. Usually

“It was very intense and very enjoyable. It was a chance to create something tangible with legal knowledge. Usually in law you most often write and read, it’s very verbal. In this case we were able to team up with Srivatsa and Melvin (from NUS Engineering) to create this bot”

Natasha Tan ‘19

in law you most often write and read, it’s very verbal. In this case we were able to team up with Sri and Melvin to create this bot,” said Natasha, adding that at one point she spent hours with Melvin programming the bot to ensure that the legal knowledge was correctly captured.

For Srivatsa, the experience showed him the opportunity for greater collaboration between the two areas of expertise. “Over the two weeks, we had a better understanding of the legal space and could see how we can bring in technology,

and for the law students, I think they saw that technology is not abstract and hard to understand but something that’s very intuitive which you can easily apply.”

The team hopes to refine their project in the future, interacting more with migrant workers to understand their struggles and how they communicate to enable the programme to become more intuitive and user-friendly.

The 18 participating teams were evaluated by a panel of judges on a range of criteria that included technical feasibility, creativity, social impact and the quality of the pitch. One of the judges, Mr Lam Chung Nian ‘97, Head of the Intellectual Property, Technology & Media, Telecommunications and Data Protection Practices at WongPartnership, commended the students on the thought and diligence that went into their ideas, saying that they “demonstrated awareness of the needs of beneficiaries as they applied technology to help ameliorate the needs and concerns”. He strongly encouraged them to continue coding for a cause.

“So much of practice is about being able to think through problems, come up with solutions and then find ways to solve them by bringing in the right collaborators. If our students managed to get a taste of

that through this competition, I’m over the moon about it,” Associate Professor Eleanor Wong commented, reflecting on what she hopes the students have gained from the experience.

In total, five teams won cash prizes ranging from \$250 to \$2,500, sponsored by WongPartnership, which they were encouraged to use in further developing their project for real-world applications. All law students in the winning teams will also be offered internships at WongPartnership.

JUSTICE AEDIT ABDULLAH ‘94 DELIVERS SLR ANNUAL LECTURE



“We are at the cusp of a new era in terms of the development of the legal system”

Justice Aedit Abdullah ‘94

Just as lamplighters were displaced by electrical lighting, how will judges be disrupted by technological changes?

‘The Obsolescent Judge’ was the thought-provoking title of the 30th Singapore Law Review Annual Lecture given by Justice Aedit Abdullah ‘94 on 16 October 2018 at the Bukit Timah Campus Auditorium. The opening address was delivered by Mr. Harpreet Singh Nehal SC ‘91, managing partner of Cavenagh Law LLC, who lauded the faculty for inculcating a spirit of independent thought among the students. Mr Singh noted that some of the most challenging issues could not be left to an algorithm and that in such situations, it was better to have an “imperfect judge ... than a good machine”. He was joined by Professor Kevin Tan ‘86, who proffered an introduction to the history and humble origins of the Lecture as part of the team that organised its first iteration. Professor Tan also mentioned that a

chapter contributed by Justice Abdullah to one of his publications is still circulated and read by students today.

The spotlight drew on Justice Abdullah, who queried the continued relevance of judges in light of rapid advancements



Associate Professor Eleanor Wong ‘85 (Vice Dean (Student Life & Global Relations)) presenting a token of appreciation to Justice Aedit Abdullah ‘94

in technology. The High Court Judge believes “we are at the cusp of a new era in terms of the development of the legal system”, and proceeded to outline how smart systems involving artificial intelligence (AI), data mining and blockchain technology are impacting the legal system, such as in areas like contract drafting and documentation. In the United States, programmes help with, among other things, bail and sentencing. AI also assists in dispute resolution for online commerce, offering suggested solutions. Justice Aedit then considered the impact of technological disruption on judges.

Online dispute resolution systems, which can predict potential outcomes in commercial cases like those pertaining to insurance, may reduce litigation as parties who face possible unfavourable outcomes would be less likely to bring a claim to court. So the role of a judge would be to review a decision arising from the AI system. Other areas that could be redefined by AI systems would be the more administrative and routine aspects of a judge’s role, such as applications to seek court approval. However, Justice Aedit opined that AI is less likely to disrupt areas where factors are often complicated, such as family law and laws relating to serious crimes. For instance, while a formula can be applied to predict the division of matrimonial property, he found it important to impart a personal touch to help parties manage the emotional damage, particularly in custody issues. For serious offences, people might be averse to having a machine sentence them to loss of life or liberty. AI is also not likely to be used anytime soon in the development of new rules.

Justice Aedit concluded that the legal system is ultimately about achieving justice for citizens, and if the adoption of technological change fulfils this objective, then the “very bright” students of the present need to find solutions to stave off the future obsolescence of lawyers and judges.

OVER \$39,000 RAISED FOR LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL AT NUSSU RAG & FLAG

Contributed by Mr Ong Yinn Jaye '21, NUS Law Rag Director 2018



NUS Law Freshmen raised over \$39,000 for their beneficiary, the Lighthouse School at this year's NUSSU Rag & Flag held on 11 August 2018. The amount raised was more than double that of last year. Their excellent performance at Rag Day also earned them a Gold Award.

NUS Law Rag Director, Mr Ong Yinn Jaye '21 shared that the NUSSU Rag & Flag experience was one that was undoubtedly rewarding and truly humbling, which every freshman would treasure greatly as part of their University journey. The whole process, from mere concept and creating a common vision to eventually having them materialise and seeing the result, was truly an unforgettable roller coaster of an experience.

During Flag Day, NUS undergraduates from the various faculties collected donations from members of the public. They stood for hours under the scorching sun and faced countless rejections. However, what made everything worthwhile was witnessing and experiencing first-hand, the generosity of strangers and the spirit of giving wholeheartedly. That in itself, made up for everything, and served as a motivation to push on.

Following Flag Day was Rag Day, where elaborate floats and enthralling dance performances were put up by NUS undergraduates. Themed "Reigniting our Flair", Rag Day 2018 aimed to inspire incoming freshmen with values of excellence and originality and the spirit of giving back. NUS Law did not



fail to thrill and amaze the audience with their spectacular performance. The float, made from scratch out of recycled materials gathered by the students, was impressive, and the freshmen wowed the audience with their artistic flair and entertaining choreography. Well done, NUS Law!



LAW IV: VALEDICTION



Every year, the graduating class of NUS Law puts on a musical production both as a swan song to their years in school and to raise funds for charity. This year, the Class of 2018 continued this tradition with "Law IV 2018: Valediction", which was performed from 23 to 25 February.

Over the course of three nights, more than 700 friends, relatives, faculty members and special guests applauded the Class of 2018 as they showcased the fruits of over seven months of planning and three months of intense rehearsals. Among the invited guests were beneficiaries from Hagar Singapore, who enjoyed a night of catchy tunes and laughter. The efforts of our graduating class were not in vain, with more than \$9,000 raised at the end of three nights.

Preparation for the musical started as early as June 2017 – forming the many committees, writing the script and music, and choreographing the numerous dance performances. The cast and crew members endeavoured to raise funds for their selected beneficiary, Hagar Singapore, a non-profit organisation committed to the recovery of trafficked, abused, and exploited women and children through restorative programmes and social enterprises.

The musical is set in a world where everyone is born with something missing – eyebrows, a sense of shame, or even

a sense of identity. In this society, every graduate is offered an entry-level job in a career that a government algorithm deems would best suit them. The only exceptions to the rule are the valedictorians – one individual from each graduating batch who is given the choice to pursue whatever career he or she desires.

The story follows a group of students as they deal with the conflict between who they are and what they actually want to be, all while chasing the same dream of becoming Valedictorian.

As Law IV 2018 comes to a close, and the cast and crew members step off the stage, they do so with fond memories as well as a renewed sense of purpose for their new roles in society - whatever those may be.



MOOT VICTORIES

LOCAL MOOT COMPETITIONS



NUS Law presented thoughtful and intriguing submissions on the constitutionality and breach of 377A of the Penal Code at the **NUS B.A Mallal Moot 2018** in October. The competition was organised by the NUS Law Mooting and Debating Club and sponsored by Allen&Gledhill.

The finalists consisted entirely of NUS Law students with Ong Kye Jing '21 emerging as Champion. Abigail Fernandez '21 received the first runner-up title while Ng Weiqi '21 and Benedict Tedjopranoto '20 received the second runner-up titles.

The **Attorney-General's Cup** is Singapore's only criminal law moot and is jointly organised by the Attorney-General's Chambers, the SMU Moot Court Club and the NUS Criminal Justice Club. Natalee Ho '20 and Gwendolyn Oh '21 emerged as champions of the competition. Additionally, Natalee also won the Best Oralist award. This is the fourth consecutive win for NUS Law.



Organised with the support of the NUS Legal Analysis Research & Communications (LARC) Programme, **Dentons Rodyk Moots** is a mooting competition to showcase the best of the LARC mooters. The 10th anniversary of the Dentons Rodyk moot was celebrated with a showcase of the top 5 mooters from the year 1 LARC Programme.

Natalee Ho '20 emerged as Champion while Wee Jong Xuan '21 and Dion Chan Khoo Hong '21 received the first runner-up and second runner-up awards respectively. Abigail Fernandez '21 and Shaun Cheng Si Yuan '21 received the Merit Award.



Ryan Kwan '20 and Elizabeth Teoh '20 emerged as Champion and runner-up respectively at the **Gowling WLG Intellectual Property (IP) Moot** organised by the NUS Law Mooting and Debating Club, in partnership with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS). The moot problem focused on a novel area of trademark law concerning the use of AdWords. The Gowling WLG IP moot is sponsored by Gowling WLG.

INTERNATIONAL MOOT COMPETITIONS



NUS Law emerged as Champions at the **11th Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot** held in Germany. The team tackled a moot problem set in the 1790s, concerning the seizure of ships and cargo in the Nootka Sound where an investor sought to bring a claim against the host state under a fictitious Trade and Prosperity Pact (TPP). The team consisted of Low Jia Rong '19, Emmanuel Aw '19, Violet Huang '20 and Tan Fong Han '20. Our students also received the Gary Born Award for the Best Non-OECD team.



NUS Law emerged first and second place at the **1st INTA Asia-Pacific Moot Court Competition** held in February, ahead of 21 teams from eight countries. The moot problem focused on the timely issues of trademark tacking, likelihood of confusion, and the burden of proving irreparable harm in a preliminary injunction hearing on trademark infringement. The winning team consisted of Loo Fang Hui '18, Jonathan Teo '18, Sheryl Tan '19 and Tan Ming Ren '20.



The prestigious **25th Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot** was held in Vienna, Austria in March. The competition saw a record 366 teams participating from all around the globe. NUS Law team consisting of Charlotte Wang '18, Glenn Sim '19, Marcus Liew '19 and Ryo Yap '19 received mentions in various categories such as the Eric E. Bergsten Award for Team Orals, the Pieter Sanders Award for Best Claimant Memorandum and the Werner Melis Award for Best Respondent Memorandum. Ryo Yap was also awarded an Honourable Mention for the Martin Domke Award for Best Individual Oralist.



NUS Law participated for the first time in the **3rd International Carey Moot Court Competition** in Prague, Czech Republic in June. The team consisting of Joelle Loy '20, Violet Huang '20, Adeline Tan '20, and Daniel Ling '20

emerged as Champions. Additionally, they won top prizes in numerous categories such as Best Team Oral Arguments, Award for Best Team and Award for Best Written Memorial.



Congratulations to Abigail Wong '20, Yvette Tay '20, Gwendolyn Oh '21 and Sophia Yew '20 for emerging champions of the **International Air and Space Law Academy Moot Court Competition**, Asia-Pacific Regional Round held in Sydney, Australia. This is NUS Law's fourth consecutive win at the Regional Round.

REUNIONS

Class Reunions hosted by NUS Law are eagerly anticipated events. It is at these reunions that everyone gets to catch up with old classmates and professors, and of course to reminisce about their days as law students.

CLASS OF 1978: 40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION



"This 40th anniversary of our graduation brought back many memories of my days at Law School. It was a wonderful evening spent reminiscing about the good old days and renewing ties. Our time at NUS Law has bound us together and I hope we continue to stay connected! "

President Halimah Yacob

The Class of 1978 celebrated their 40th anniversary at the NUS Bukit Timah campus, where they spent their four years as law students. The reunion committee headed by Ms Rokiah Pillay worked tirelessly for months to get in touch with classmates in Singapore and beyond, and even tracked down former teachers who still remembered the class fondly.

On the evening of 15 September 2018, many turned up at the Oei Tiong Ham



"It was wonderful to catch up with classmates from near and far, some of whom we last saw in the Bukit Timah campus some 40 years ago. It was a great evening of sharing memories and renewing friendships, and we hope to catch up again in the near future. Our appreciation to Professor Chesterman, and our teachers Associate Professors Robert Beckman and Irene Lye, as well as Ms Loo Lian Ee and Mr Harbajan Singh, for joining in this special occasion. "

Angela Teo Bee Luang

lobby with a touch of gold in their outfits, a nod to the theme for the reunion - Silence is Still Golden. Hugs were exchanged and conversations flowed as classmates caught up on each other's lives and reminisced about days gone by. Excitement buzzed as President Halimah Yacob, an alumna from the class, arrived to join in the celebration. Another highlight of the evening was

the unveiling of the "Law Class of 1978, NUS" Orchid, which was officially named after the class. The beautiful blooms were carefully positioned for all to admire, and were the perfect legacy for a class that happens to lay claim to both the Patron of The Orchid Society of South East Asia, President Halimah Yacob, as well as its President, Mr K. Gopalan.

In the midst of all the merriment, the Class of 1978 also took the time to give generously to help others in need. Much to their delight, the Class managed to raise enough to name the "Law Class of 1978 Grant", which will help needy students at the Faculty of Law for years to come.

CLASS OF 1988: 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Contributed by Tan Soon Meng '88



"Great class spirit!" Every NUS Law class thinks it has it. But when others say so, you believe it more. Professors who have attended other reunions, and even NUS Law alumni staff (who attend many reunions!) commented on the camaraderie of the Class of 1988 at its 30th Anniversary Reunion on 7th September 2018. And when Vice Dean Associate Professor Eleanor Wong '85 said in her speech that NUS Law '88 is one of the coolest law classes, you felt you had to accept it - she is so persuasive, after all.

A highlight of the evening was when Joan Lim donated \$15,000 to pay forward class fund money which she received years ago when she needed help. The money will go towards three different causes, bursaries at NUS Law, Francis Teo's work in Africa, and to the family of a late classmate, Zurkeflee bin Naemat.

Eighty classmates out of just over 200 attended the reunion, which was held at the Furama Riverfront Hotel. That impressive number was only because

of the hard work of Brown and his committee of Rohim, Lalita, Sugu, Michelle, FX, Melanie and Anthony.

But what's so cool about the class, you ask? Among other things, it has MPs on both sides of the House - Sylvia Lim and Lim Biow Chuan. And not just one, but two Cultural Medallion recipients in Ong Keng Sen and Ivan Heng. Oh, and quite a few are doing pretty well in the law, too.

CLASS OF 1998: 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Contributed by Class of 1998 Reunion Committee



Over 70 members from the Class of 1998 (including DipSing) turned up for the 6th April reunion dinner at Marcello (Intercontinental Singapore Robertson Quay) and had a meaningful time re-connecting with long-lost classmates and our former tutors.

The Class of '98 has had regular lunch meets over the last few years and riding on this, a few of us from the regular lunch group took the initiative to organise the 20th year reunion gathering. It was useful to have an organising committee comprising individuals who had different "gangs" and groups we hung out with during our law school days and post law school. This

provided the advantage of reaching out to a wider group of former classmates.

The initial planning was done via WhatsApp in order to cater to each committee member's hectic work and family commitments. An extended network facilitated the finalising of the plans. Tricia connected us with Janice who was instrumental in helping us to reach out to the DipSingers.

A date was suggested for the earlier half of the year, to avoid national examinations (PSLE, O levels), major law conferences in various jurisdictions, end of year travels and year end firm events.

For those who had not been able to make the April date, please accept our apologies for this.

The venue at Marcello, Intercontinental Singapore Robertson Quay was perfect. The venue space, food and drinks was a comfortable fit and perfect match for a casual and yet elegant reunion do. From the Facebook posts by various classmates sharing photographs of that evening, we are glad that everyone had a wonderful and happy time. Till the next!

CLASS OF 2008: 10TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION



On 21 July 2018, the Class of 2008 got together to celebrate their 10th Anniversary since graduation at the Kent Ridge Guild House. Many came with toddlers and babies in tow, and were delighted to catch up with each other and with their former teachers,

Professor Simon Chesterman (Dean, NUS Law) and Professors Joel Lee and Alan Tan '93. With the encouragement of the organising committee led by Lin Shumin, the class managed to raise almost \$20,000 towards bursaries at the Faculty - a tremendous effort!

SHANGHAI



On Good Friday, 30 March 2018, 80 NUS Law alumni and students gathered at the beautiful Intercontinental Shanghai Ruijin Hotel for the Shanghai Alumni Reunion. The evening was hosted by the Professor Simon Chesterman (Dean, NUS Law) and our Alumni Relations team.

For the first time ever, the event was combined with the Annual International Business Law (IBL) Alumni Reception, an event that was spearheaded by Associate Professor Stephen Phua '88, Director for LL.M. (IBL), and has been held annually

since 2009. This being a combined event, NUS Law was delighted to welcome special guests from the East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL), including Professor Zhang Yong, Vice Dean of ECUPL's Graduate School.

Associate Professor Stephen Phua kicked off the proceedings with a warm welcome to alumni and guests, after which Professor Simon Chesterman and Professor Zhang brought their respective

greetings to alumni and reaffirmed the strong partnership between both universities. For the rest of the evening, alumni enjoyed catching up and taking photos with their former professors, as well as connecting with other alumni. It was especially encouraging to note that a number of alumni from nearby cities had made the effort to travel to Shanghai for the reunion. Do keep a lookout for future overseas reunions and join in the fun!

HONG KONG



The Alumni Appreciation and Networking Night 2018 for the NUS Alumni Hong Kong Chapter was held on Thursday, 19 April 2018 at the Liberty Exchange Kitchen & Bar in the heart of Central, Hong Kong. This event was

jointly organised by the very active NUS Hong Kong Alumni Chapter and the NUS Office of Alumni Relations.

As part of the event, NUS Law seized the opportunity to meet up with our alumni

living and working in Hong Kong. Over drinks and delicious finger food, our alumni were delighted to be able to catch up with old chums, and also form new friendships!

UPCOMING REUNIONS

Calling all alumni from the **Classes of 1989, 1999 and 2009** – your classmates are planning for a reunion in 2019, so do keep a lookout for reunion news and update your particulars with us.

For other classes who will be celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2019 (ie. **Classes of 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1994 and 2004**), please contact Jo-Ann Chan '97 (joann.chan@nus.edu.sg; 66012248) if you are keen on organising a reunion and we can help you plan the gathering - a subsidy is provided too!

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

PAYING IT FORWARD

Yap Wai Ming '86



Law alumnus and a donor to the National University of Singapore (NUS), Mr Yap Wai Ming '86 received financial help when he was studying at the NUS Faculty of Law. Today, he is a partner at Morgan Lewis Stamford, an international law firm focusing largely on commercial business transactions. He recounts how help, which came at the right time, changed his life forever and explains how this shaped his attitude to giving.

Describe the difficulties you faced while pursuing an education.

I came to Singapore from Kuala Lumpur to study under the Asean Pre-University Scholarship at Hwa Chong Junior College and continued to study at NUS without a scholarship then. My late father was the sole breadwinner and he was a textile salesman. He started his own video rental business at about the time I went to university. His business failed miserably with the mushrooming of many such similar shops. He closed his business down and I pooled all my savings and persuaded my mother to chip in and pay off the bank loan. My mother supplemented the household income by babysitting other kids. My father took up odd jobs by fixing wooden crates and salvaging wooden packing materials. He was working out of a makeshift garage at home earning a few tens of dollars a day. I could not request money from him to fund my education and I had to find other means on my own.

What kind of help did you receive then?

I applied for the Bashir Mallal study loan which was S\$5,000 per student. But I still needed to supplement my financial needs by working as a part-time waiter at the Guild House in between lessons and also giving private tuition. Times were tough. I had a law school classmate and a running buddy, Sin Boon Ann '86. We ran the marathon together and participated in the University triathlon selection. He came to understand my financial background.

One day, he passed me an envelope with S\$1,000 claiming that his father, Mr Sin Jeok Tong, managed to obtain a needy study fund from the Lions Club. I was very



Mr Yap with Mr Sin Boon Ann '86

grateful for whatever assistance that came along. A few years after graduation, when I visited Boon Ann at his home, his father told me that he had given me his own money. He explained that if he had not done so, I may have rejected the money. Boon Ann also told me that he was kept in the dark as well. His father was really a very generous man who gave without knowing who I was and that I was just a good friend of his son. I am eternally grateful.

How has studying at NUS changed you?

NUS gave me a tertiary education and it has allowed me an opportunity to embark on a fulfilling career. I met my wife at NUS too and we are blessed with a healthy and happy family. I studied law at NUS and I joined the Singapore Trade Development Board after qualifying as a lawyer before I rejoined the profession where I have remained ever since.

Has this experience influenced your views on philanthropy and those who give selflessly to help others?

It has definitely formed my views about giving to the needy and I would not have been what I am today if not for the help that many people provided for me along the way. The Bashir Mallal loan and Mr Sin Jeok Tong's creative giving have certainly shaped my philosophy. I have contributed to many different charities and I now serve on five different charitable organisations, largely in the health care sector.

What advice would you give to young students who have just received their own scholarship or bursary and whose education journey lies ahead of them?

Work hard and when it is your turn, please contribute back to society in your own way. I find inspiration in the Chinese saying 滴水之恩, 涌泉相报. We return with a gushing fountain in return for the drop of water that we received.

EARLY START TO GIVING

Mohamed Faizal Mohamed Abdul Kadir '05



"Giving back is part of an ecosystem. I'm reproducing a piece from my life's jigsaw puzzle, so that it can be given to somebody else to help complete his puzzle," shares Mr Mohamed Faizal Mohamed Abdul Kadir '05. Listening to the 37-year-old, a Legal Service Officer who currently serves as a Deputy Chief Prosecutor at the Attorney-General Chambers, sharing his perspectives on philanthropy, one gets the sense that this is someone who has put much thought into making an impact by giving back.

Though Faizal is currently in the process of setting up a book grant at his alma mater, the National University of Singapore (NUS), his journey in giving back in the field of education in fact started more than a decade ago. In 2007, the then 26-year-old decided to start a scholarship in his former secondary school. The Bedok View Secondary School Scholarship was the first-of-its-kind in the school and aimed to inspire others who come from underprivileged backgrounds. Although the scholarship applicants' academic performance served as the primary criterion, their family income levels and housing types were also considered.

Happy with how that scholarship had developed with time, Faizal began to

look at other platforms to give back. In 2014, he launched the Tampines Junior College Scholarship which espoused similar objectives. His work on this front was recognised when he was awarded the President's Volunteerism and Philanthropy Award by then President Tony Tan Keng Yam in 2015.

As Faizal shares, "I wanted to give something back because my own journey has largely been shaped by philanthropic support towards the community and the different institutions I was in. My parents' philosophy has always been that the lack of something cannot hold you back. If you have the willingness to thrive, the willingness to push yourself, resources will come your way. Their own philosophical approach to such challenges and hurdles has served as a constant reminder to me in my own journey to never let financial circumstances dictate outcomes and restrict one's aspirations."

In line with such advice, Faizal's undergraduate law studies at the NUS Faculty of Law were, in part, funded by community support, loans, scholarships and awards, including the Kwa Geok Choo Scholarship, CJ Koh Scholarship and Shook Lin and Bok Award. Faizal was one of the nine in his cohort to be conferred a first-class honours. After working

for a few years, he went on to secure concurrent Legal Service Commission and Kathryn Worth Foundation scholarships to read a Masters of Law at Harvard University, where his thesis was awarded the International Insolvency Institute Gold Medal.

Acknowledging how much he has received, giving back to NUS was, in Faizal's own words, "only natural". He sums up, "I think that once you've had that opportunity to pursue your interests as a result of segments of the wider community taking pains to assist you on that journey, you can't help but want to do the same in some small way or other, and to be a catalyst for the success of others."

Spurred on by the desire to do more, Faizal contacted NUS Law on his own initiative to find out how he could help. "We discussed the possible options, keeping in mind what I wanted to achieve and the financial commitments that the various options entailed, I thought that a book grant for underprivileged law students would be a wonderful way to make a difference and to give back to the current generation of students at an institution that has given so much to me," he says.

When asked about his desire to make a difference through education, Faizal says matter-of-factly, "The transformative power of education and the value of NUS as an institution are subjects close to my heart. I have been privileged to have had the opportunity to meld these two in various ways, including teaching in the NUS Faculty of Law as adjunct faculty for some time." He views the book grant as a means to extend that association, while at the same time, making a difference. "I see education as a good way to give back and where an impact can be felt most profoundly. If you give someone a good education, almost invariably, the spill-over effects will be massive." He hopes to inspire the next generation of Singaporeans to pay it forward as well, and 'perpetuate the good that exists out of giving'.

NUSGIVING

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National University of Singapore
Eu Tong Sen Building
469G Bukit Timah Road
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