

29 June 2021



CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFESSOR WALTER WOON SC

Education & Qualifications

Professor Walter Woon read law at the National University of Singapore on a Development Bank of Singapore Scholarship, graduating with First Class Honours in 1981. He was awarded the Law Society of Singapore Book Prize thrice (1978, 1979 and 1980), the Adrian Clark Memorial Gold Medal as top student (1981), the Leow Chia Heng Prize (1981) and the External Examiners' Special Cash Prize (1981). During his undergraduate days he was Class President (1977-78) and President of the Law Club (1978-79). He also was awarded the prize as best Speaker in the Freshman Oratorical Contest 1977, the Law Inter-Year Debates 1977-78 and Radio-Television Singapore (RTS) Debates 1979.

He attended the Postgraduate Practice Law Course in 1981 and was awarded the Aw Boon Haw & Aw Boon Par Memorial Prize 1981 as top student, as well as the Tan Ah Tah Book Prize for professional ethics. He then proceeded to Cambridge University on a Commonwealth Scholarship, graduating with an LL.M (First Class Honours) in 1983. He was awarded the Whytehead Scholarship (1983) and the Wright Prize (1983) by St John's College Cambridge.

He was called to the Bar in 1984 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2007.

Professional Experience

Professor Woon is currently David Marshall Professor at the Law Faculty. He was previously Chairman of the Board of Legal Education (BLE) from April 2008 to April 2010. From April 2010 to September 2020 he was Dean of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE), which

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conducts the Bar Examinations and Foreign Practitioner Examinations for entry into the legal profession. Between 1988 and 1995 he was Sub-Dean and Vice-Dean of the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore. He was awarded a Faculty Teaching Award for excellence in teaching five times (2013, 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018) and a University Teaching Excellence Award thrice (2014, 2015 and 2021). He currently teaches Criminal Law and Company Law at the Faculty of Law, NUS. He was also Coordinator for Company Law in Part A of the Singapore Bar Examinations conducted by the SILE from 2010 to 2020. He is presently Dean of the RHT Legal Training Institute, which was set up by regional law firm RHT Law Asia LLP to provide courses to professionals in the legal and allied fields.

In 2012 he was a Herbert Smith Visiting Fellow at St John's College Cambridge. The following year he was invited by the Rockefeller Foundation to be a Policy Fellow at the Foundation's Bellagio Center in Italy. In 2019 he was elected to a Beaufort Visiting Fellowship at St John's College, Cambridge, where he spent Michaelmas Term 2019.

He established the Woon Eng Chwee Memorial Bursary (in honour of his father) in 2019, to aid students from less-affluent backgrounds. A further Woon Chow Tat Memorial Bursary (in honour of his grandfather) was established in 2021.

Professor Woon was appointed non-executive Chairman and Senior Consultant of the regional law firm RHTLaw Asia LLP (formerly RHTLaw Taylor Wessing LLP) in January 2015. In addition he is Patron of the Gunong Sayang Association (which was founded in 1910 to promote Baba culture) and a member of the Films Appeal Committee, the Criminal Practice Committee of the Law Society of Singapore and the Chancery Bar Association of England and Wales. Since January 2016 he has also been a member of the Market Surveillance and Compliance Panel (MSCP) established under the Electricity Market Rules, which is part of the oversight mechanism for the National Electricity Market of Singapore (NEMS). He is also Chairman of the Society of International Law Singapore (SILS).

He served as Attorney-General from 2008 to 2010, having previously been Solicitor-General from 2006 to 2008. He has also been Judge Advocate-General as well as a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, the Legal Service Commission and the board of directors of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

He was a Nominated Member of Parliament (1992 to 1996), during which time he was instrumental in the passage of the Maintenance of Parents Act, which he introduced as a private member's bill. From 1995 to 1997 he was Legal Adviser to the President and Council of Presidential Advisers. In December 1994 Time Magazine named him as one of 100 Young World Leaders.

Between 1989 and 2001 he was a director of Intraco Ltd (serving as chairman of the audit

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committee) and Natsteel Ltd, both companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Singapore. He was Chairman of the Steering Committee for Review of the Companies Act, which submitted its final report in April 2011. In 2011 he was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Directors. He became a director of St John's Cambridge (Singapore), a charitable public company set up by St John's College Cambridge in October 2014. He was also formerly a director of Asian SIL Holdings Pte Ltd, a company established to administer the Asian Society of International Law. In April 2016 he was appointed Special Counsel to the Steering Committee for the Re-writing of the Taiwan Company Act.

From 1998 to 2006 he was Singapore's ambassador to Germany, Greece, the European Communities, the European Union, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the Holy See. He was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great by the Holy See in 2006.

In 2007 he was an alternate member of the High Level Task Force on Drafting of the ASEAN Charter (serving as Singapore delegation leader during the later half of the process) and presented the completed Charter to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers for signing by the Heads of Government at the Thirteenth ASEAN Summit in November of that year.

From 2009 to 2016 he was Deputy Chairman of the governing board of the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore. He was also President of the Goethe Institut (Singapore Branch) from 2010 to 2016 and an Executive Council Member of the Asian Society of International Law from 2011 to 2017.

Publications and Areas of Legal Interest

Professor Woon is the author of several law books, including *The ASEAN Charter: A Commentary* (NUS Press, 2015); *Walter Woon on Company Law* (now in its third edition, edited by Professor Tan Cheng Han; Sweet & Maxwell, 2005), which is a standard text on company law used in law and business schools in Singapore; *The Companies Act of Singapore: An Annotation* (originally co-written with Andrew Hicks, now forming the basis of *Woon's Corporations Law*, Lexis Nexis 2019); and *Towards a Rules-Based Community: An ASEAN Legal Service* (with Jean-Claude Piris) (Cambridge University Press, 2015). In addition, he was Consulting Editor *The Companies Act of Malaysia 2020*. He has also published articles in the *Malayan Law Journal*, the *Malaya Law Review*, the *Securities Industry Review*, the *Law Society Journal*, the *Singapore Academy of Law Journal*, the *Australian Journal of Corporate Law*, the *Pacific Rim Law and Policy Journal*, the *Korean Society of International Law Journal* and the *Chinese (Taiwan) Yearbook of International Law and Affairs*.

He has appeared in the High Court and Court of Appeal on numerous occasions, including representing the President in Constitutional Reference No 1 of 1995, which is the only case heard by the Constitutional Tribunal to date.

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His main areas of interest are company law, criminal law and international law.

Selected Publications

Books

Essential Company Law (in progress)

Companies Act of Malaysia Desk Edition 2020 (LexisNexis, Malaysia) – Consulting Editor

Woon's Corporations Law (LexisNexis, Singapore) – editorial work and regular biannual updates on a continuing basis.

Walter Woon on Company Law (Sweet & Maxwell) (3rd Ed edited by Tan Cheng Han)

The ASEAN Charter: A Commentary (NUS Press, 2015)

Towards a Rules-Based Community: an ASEAN Legal Service (with Jean-Claude Piris) (Cambridge University Press, 2015)

Articles, Chapters in books, etc (selection)

China and America - The Power of Historical Memory RSIS Commentary (S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU) 11 June 2020

Remembering Singapore's India Connection Today Online 11 March 2020.

Freedom, responsibility and COVID-19 Today Online 18 May 2020

Sexual Misconduct in Universities: Punishment must be based on principles, not guidelines' Today Online 21 February 2020.

Lift Not the Painted Veil Singapore Comparative Law Review 2019, p185

Can the US and China Escape the Thucydides Trap? One of the top three essays in the Straits Times Contest, published online November 2019.

Punishing Corporate Corruption Straits Times 30 April 2018

The Fall of Singapore: Shades of Grey Straits Times, 25 February 2017

The ASEAN Charter – 10 Years On Contemporary Southeast Asia, Vol 39, No 2 (ISEAS August 2017)

The Public Prosecutor, Politics and the Rule of Law Straits Times 29 September 2017

The Teaching of Company Law – Reflections on Past and Future [2017] Sing JLS 258

Impact of Political Trends on Civil Society Civil Society and the State in Singapore, p71 (IPS and World Scientific 2017; Carol Soon & Gillian Koh eds)

Changing Social Mores - Protecting Children from Themselves in Speaking of Children: The Singapore Children's Society Collected Lectures (World Scientific Publishing, 2015) 43-64

Idealism & Realpolitik – Building the ASEAN Community Chinese (Taiwan) Yearbook of International Law & Affairs (Vol 32, p 27)

9 August - Two Anniversaries Straits Times, 13 August 2015

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Talks, Conference presentations, etc (selection)

The Companies (Amendment) Act 2014, paper presented at the Clifford Chance seminar, Clifford Chance office, Singapore, 12 February 2015

The Politics of Regulating Majority Shareholders, presentation at the EU Asia Corporate Governance Dialogue, NUS, Singapore, 24 February 2015

Rule of Law in Singapore, presentation at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Rule of Law Seminar, Vientiane, Laos, 27-28 August 2015

Recollection and Reconciliation, Guest-of-Honour's Speech at the Remembrance Ceremony for the 70th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War, Kranji War Memorial, Singapore, 12 September 2015

Commitment to Defence, talk at the SAF Veterans' League, SAFRA Toa Payoh, Singapore, 30 October 2015

Building the Rules-Based ASEAN Community: Strengthening the Centre, David Marshall Lecture, Singapore, 13 November 2015

Realism in Examinations and Seminars, paper presented at the Faculty Teaching Seminar, NUS, Singapore, 10 February 2016

Leadership in a VUCA World, presentation at the Academy of Principals Global Leadership Conference, Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore, 9 March 2016

Capital Punishment in Singapore, presentation at the Taiwan Judges Academy Symposium on Issues Regarding Death Penalty Cases, Taipei, 16-17 November 2016

Development of ASEAN Dispute Settlement Mechanisms, presentation at the Center for Asian Legal Exchange, Nagoya University, Nagoya, 18 December 2016

Asia and the Rules-Based International System, ISEAS/Wilton Park Conference on the Rules-Based International System, Singapore 13 March 2017

As of December 2019 his various works have been cited in 254 cases in Singapore and abroad (including 26 in the Singapore Court of Appeal, 4 in the Malaysian Federal Court and 14 in Court of Appeal of Malaysia). There have also been 117 citations in academic and other works. (all figures approximate, according to a count by a Research Assistant).

Fiction Writing

Professor Woon is the author of four novels: *The Advocate's Devil* (Times Books International, 2002), *The Devil to Pay* (Marshall Cavendish International, 2005), *The Devil's Circle* (Marshall Cavendish International, 2011) and *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* (Marshall Cavendish International, 2014). His short story 'Sinclair's War' placed third in the Asiaweek Short Story Competition 1983. He was awarded a prize in National Short Story Competition 1985 for the story 'The Body in Question'. In November 2012 and again in November 2014 he was a featured

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author at the Singapore Writers Festival organised by the National Arts Council. In 2018 *The Devil's Circle* was optioned for production as a television series. This will be telecast under the title 'This Land is Mine' in August 2021.