
SINGAPORE LEGAL SERVICE

2018 IN REVIEW



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Legal Service Commission is to maintain a dedicated corps of officers with integrity and ability to staff the Judiciary, the Attorney-General's Chambers and the Legal Service departments of various Ministries and other arms of Government.

SINGAPORE LEGAL SERVICE

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The Judicial Branch

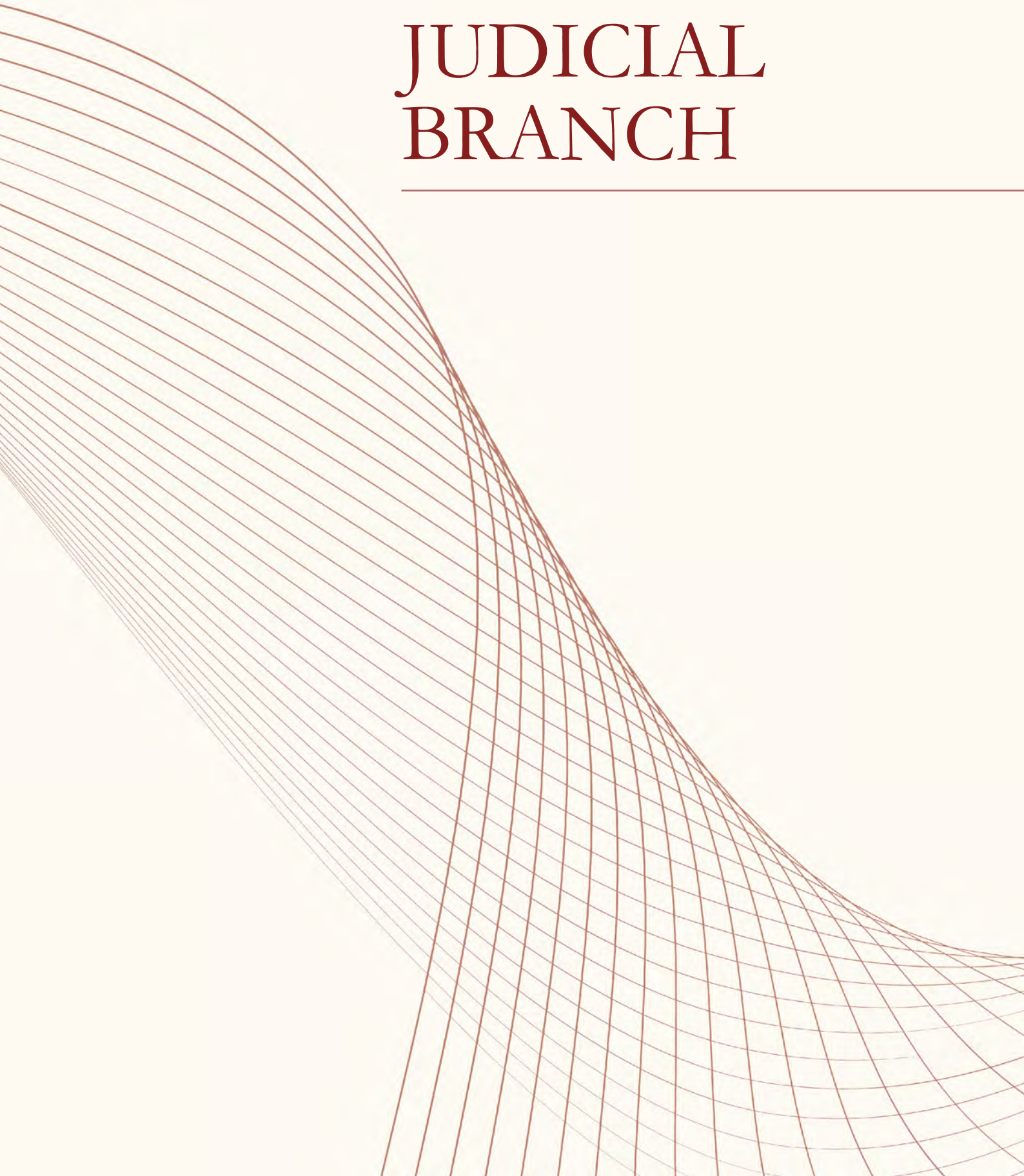
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The Legal Branch

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Ministries, Legal Service Departments and
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THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch of the Legal Service is a key component of the Singapore Judiciary. It is presided over by the Chief Justice. The Legal Service Officers (“LSOs”) in the Judicial Branch serve in the Supreme Court Registry, the Justices’ Law Clerks (“JLC”) pool at the Supreme Court, the Office of the Chief Justice at the Supreme Court, the Singapore Judicial College (“SJC”), the State Courts, and the Family Justice Courts (“FJC”).

The LSOs in the Supreme Court Registry are supervised by the Registrar of the Supreme Court. The JLCs and the Office of the Chief Justice come under the direct oversight of the Chief Justice. The LSOs in the State Courts and the FJC are supervised respectively by the Presiding Judge of the State Courts and the Presiding Judge of the FJC.

The Supreme Court

Supreme Court Registry and Justices’ Law Clerks

The Supreme Court Registry is organised into three divisions, each of which supports the work of the Court of Appeal, the High Court and the Singapore International Commercial Court (“SICC”) respectively. Each division is overseen by a Divisional Registrar, who reports directly to the Registrar, who in turn has overall charge of the Registry.

The registrars hear various civil matters in the High Court. These include bankruptcy applications, mortgage actions as well as

a variety of pre-trial and post-trial applications. In addition, the registrars sit in open court to conduct committal hearings for criminal trials where these are required under the relevant criminal legislation. The registrars also play an active role in managing civil and criminal matters heard in the High Court by giving appropriate procedural directions at pre-trial conferences to ensure that all cases are dealt with expeditiously.

The registrars may serve concurrently in the Divisional Registries of the SICC and the Court of Appeal, where they assist in case management. In 2018, the registrars of the Divisional Registry of the SICC also assisted a committee comprising local and international judges to draft a set of bespoke procedural rules to facilitate international commercial litigation in the SICC.

In addition to the various functions which they discharge across the different Divisional Registries, the registrars support initiatives for judicial reform, serve on the secretariats of committees and disciplinary tribunals, and assist in the Supreme Court’s international relations efforts. In 2018, a team of registrars helped to successfully organise the 13th ASEAN Law Association General Assembly and the 2018 ASEAN Law Conference. They also assisted in important strategic initiatives such as the 2nd Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable, the Civil Justice Commission, the Committee for the Professional Training of Lawyers, the

Judicial Insolvency Network and the Admiralty Court User's Committee in 2018.

The continuing professional development of the registrars is ensured through their participation in training offered by the SJC as well as overseas attachments, meetings and conferences. This is complemented by a continuing judicial education initiative launched in 2018, under the auspices of which talks and regular updates on significant legal issues and developments are provided to the registrars.

The Supreme Court Bench is also supported by JLCs. The JLCs assist the Judges to whom they are assigned on various matters including research on the law. The JLCs, who are appointed for a term of two years under the supervision of the Chief Justice, have the unique privilege of working for, and being mentored by, the Judges and Judicial Commissioners of the High Court in their first year, and the Chief Justice and the Judges of Appeal in their second year. Under the JLC Continuing Education Programme, the JLCs also have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of a range of distinguished speakers.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 33 LSOs in the Supreme Court Registry – the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, six Senior Assistant Registrars and 25 Assistant Registrars – and 40 JLCs

Vincent Hoong
Registrar
Supreme Court

Office of the Chief Justice

The Chief Executive (Office of the Chief Justice) (“CE”) is the Accounting Officer for the Supreme Court and the FJC. The CE ensures the implementation of a strong governance, risk and compliance framework and oversees the administrative and operational matters in the Supreme Court and the FJC. In addition, the CE provides strategic policy support and oversees strategic projects as directed by the Chief Justice. The CE also oversees the promotional and development work of the SICC.

In 2018, the CE led a multi-agency effort to successfully host the 2nd Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable. At the Roundtable, the Supreme Court and the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Guidance on the Recognition and Enforcement of Money Judgments in Commercial Cases and established a Working Group for the Development of the Legal Infrastructure Supporting the Belt and Road Initiative.

As at 31 December 2018, there was one LSO in the Office of the Chief Justice.

Juthika Ramanathan (Ms)
Chief Executive
Office of the Chief Justice

Singapore Judicial College

The SJC serves the learning and developmental needs of judges.

The SJC began 2018 by reviewing and revamping its curricula. It enhanced the induction programme for newly appointed judges with mandatory core courses to be undertaken throughout a year-long period. It also reconceived the Masterclasses as “deep-dive” sessions on selected topics in specialised areas of the law.

The SJC’s international programmes reached close to 1,300 participants across 76 jurisdictions. Besides inaugural runs of its flagship programmes in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, the SJC presented a customised judgment writing programme for the Brunei judiciary. Alongside the US National Judicial College and the European Judicial Training Network, the SJC also spoke at an international conference organised by the Supreme Court of Korea’s Judicial Research and Training Institute. Finally, the SJC held institutional exchanges in China and Singapore with the Chinese National Judges College.

The SJC launched a new Master of Laws in Judicial Studies programme jointly offered by the Singapore Management University (“SMU”). The first of its kind in the region, it provides advanced judicial training for serving judges and judicial aspirants by faculty comprising the judiciary, the SMU, and the SJC.

As at 31 December 2018, there were two LSOs in the SJC.

Foo Chee Hock

Dean

Singapore Judicial College

Supreme Court Registry, Office of the Chief Justice and Singapore Judicial College



(Left to Right) Front row:

Ms Cheng Pei Feng, Edwin San Ong Kyar, Ms Cornie Ng Teng Teng,
Christopher Tan Pheng Wee, Ms Teh Hwee Hwee,
Vincent Hoong Seng Lei (Registrar, Supreme Court), Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon,
Foo Chee Hock (Dean, Singapore Judicial College),
Ms Juthika Ramanathan (Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Justice),
Tan Ken Hwee, Phang Hsiao Chung, Ms Chong Chin Chin

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Jean Chan Lay Koon, Ms Jacqueline Lee Siew Hui, Ms Gan Kam Yui,
Jay Lee Yuxian, James Elisha Lee Han Leong, Ms Janice Wong Shi Hui,
Ms Karen Tan Teck Ping, Ms Lim Sai Nei, Ms Norine Tan Yan Ling, Ms Wong Li Tein,
Ms Zeslene Mao Huijing, Paul Quan Kaih Shiuh, Ms Li Yuen Ting, Paul Tan Wei Chean,
David Lee Yeow Wee, Elton Tan Xue Yang

(Left to Right) Back row:

Kenneth Choo Wing Kong, Ramu Miyapan, Bryan Fang Hao Wen, Jonathan Ng Pang Ern,
James Low Yunhui, Kenneth Wang Ye, Colin Seow Fu Hong, Navin Anand,
Ms Una Khng, Scott Tan Chun Wen, Justin Yeo Rong Wei, Paul Chan Wei Sern

Justices' Law Clerks



(Left to Right) Front row:

Damien Chng Cheng Yee, Ms Rachel Tan Jia Qi, Theodore Tan Jian Hui, Chong Kee En, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Bryan Ching Yu Jin, Ms Melissa Ng Li Ling, Ms Esther Wong Mei-Yu, Caspar Loi Guan Lin

(Left to Right) Second row:

Chia Chen Wei, Dennis Saw Teng Sheng, Ms Chua Xyn Yee, Ms Beverly Lim Kai Li, Ms Alison See Ying Xiu, Ms Darshini Ramiah, Ms Lu Yiwei, Ms Du Xuan, Ms Joanne Leong Wai Teng, Ms Deborah Tang Pei Le, Ms Iris Ng Li Shan, Daniel Ho Qi Rui

(Left to Right) Back row:

Reuben Ong Zhihao, Huang Jiahui, Faraaz Amzar Mohamed Farook, Andre Soh Kheng Yau, Tan Wen Shan, Alfie Lim Si En, Victor Yao Lida, Sampson Lim Jie Hao, Jonathan Kenric Trachsel, Muhammad Taufiq Bin Suraidi, Lewis Tan Choon Kia, Tan Zhi Xiang

The State Courts

2018 was an eventful and inspiring year for the State Courts.

In keeping with its Workplan 2018 theme of “Shaping Tomorrow’s Justice”, the State Courts developed protocols and undertook initiatives to stay responsive in an evolving landscape, enhance user experience, and refine court processes.

To discourage the initiation of criminal proceedings for low-level offences, the State Courts launched pre-action protocols for Town Council prosecutions to create a framework for Town Councils to negotiate and engage with an offender before criminal proceedings are commenced for certain regulatory offences under the Town Councils Act.

In the civil sphere, the State Courts introduced an efficient and cost-effective option for civil litigants to conduct trials and assessments of damages on a documents-only basis where: (a) the issues or facts in dispute centre on the interpretation of documents or exchanges contained in contemporaneous documents; (b) cross-examination is not necessary; (c) witnesses are not available; and/or (d) issues can be determined by legal submissions/arguments.

To encourage and assist parties to reach amicable settlements, the State Courts introduced conciliation for judges conducting alternative dispute resolution conferences. This allows a Judge-conciliator to proactively propose solutions that can form the basis of parties’ settlement agreements.

To assist vulnerable witnesses including children, persons with mental disabilities and incapacities, and victims of sexual

offences, the State Courts launched the first instalment of the Witness Orientation Toolkit. The Toolkit aims to assist these vulnerable witnesses as well as their caregivers and supporters to prepare to attend court as witnesses. This project was implemented by the State Courts in collaboration with Hagar Singapore, the Community Justice Centre, and the Centre for Pro Bono & Clinical Legal Education of the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore.

In recognition of the hard work put in by its officers towards organisational excellence, the State Courts was awarded Special Recognition in the “Best Change Management Strategies” category at the Human Resource Management Awards 2018, 12 awards at the Public Sector Transformation Award Ceremony, the Singapore Quality Class Star with People Niche Certification, the “Champion of Good” Award by the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, the National Service Advocate Award, and a Tripartite Alliance (Work Life Excellence) Award.

In addition, the State Courts attained two Green Mark (Platinum) awards and a Universal Design Mark Award (GoldPlus) at the Building and Construction Authority Awards, attesting to its commitment to sustainability in its built environment. Further, the Automated Collection System for monies was conferred the Best Finance Transformation Project (Public Sector) by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants at the Singapore Accountancy Awards 2018.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 85 LSOs in the State Courts.

Justice See Kee Oon
Presiding Judge
State Courts

State Courts Senior Management



(Left to Right) Front row:

Victor Yeo Khee Eng (2nd Principal District Judge, Criminal Justice Division),
James Leong Kiu Yiu (Principal District Judge, Civil Justice Division),
Bala Reddy (Senior District Judge, Presiding Judge's Office),
Justice See Kee Oon (Presiding Judge of the State Courts),
Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon,
Ms Jennifer Marie (Deputy Presiding Judge of the State Courts),
Ong Hian Sun (Principal District Judge, Criminal Justice Division),
Ms Thian Yee Sze (Principal District Judge, Centre for Dispute Resolution),
Siva Shanmugam (Principal District Judge, Community Justice and Tribunals Division)

(Left to Right) Second row:

Luke Tan Loke Yong, Ms Laura Lau Chin Yui, Soh Tze Bian,
Chay Yuen Fatt, Ms Ong Chin Rhu, Ms Wong Peck

(Left to Right) Back row:

Ms Jill Tan Li Ching, Lim Wee Ming, Eddy Tham Tong Kong

State Courts



(Left to Right) Front row:

Luke Tan Loke Yong, Ms Laura Lau Chin Yui, Soh Tze Bian,
Victor Yeo Khee Eng (2nd Principal District Judge, Criminal Justice Division),
James Leong Kiu Yiu (Principal District Judge, Civil Justice Division),
Bala Reddy (Senior District Judge, Presiding Judge's Office),
Justice See Kee Oon (Presiding Judge of the State Courts), Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon,
Ms Jennifer Marie (Deputy Presiding Judge of the State Courts), Ong Hian Sun (Principal District Judge, Criminal Justice Division),
Ms Thian Yee Sze (Principal District Judge, Centre for Dispute Resolution),
Siva Shanmugam (Principal District Judge, Community Justice and Tribunals Division),
Chay Yuen Fatt, Ms Ong Chin Rhu, Ms Wong Peck

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Georgina Lum Baoling, Ms Wong Choon Ning, Ms Carolyn Woo Wai-Ling, Ms Ong Luan Tze,
Ms Olivia Low Pei Sze, Ms Lynette Yap Beng Lyn, Lim Wee Ming, Ms Jill Tan Li Ching, Eddy Tham Tong Kong,
Ms Low Lih Jeng, Christopher Tan Pheng Wee, Ms Salina Bte Ishak, Mrs Brenda Tan, Shaiffudin Bin Saruwan

(Left to Right) Third row:

Ms Sarah Tan Yin Tze, Ms Jasbendar Kaur d/o Resham Singh, Ms Kan Shuk Weng, Eugene Teo Weng Kuan,
Mathew Joseph, Ng Peng Hong, Ms Fong King Man, Ms Janet Wang Lan Jee, Ms Lorraine Ho Yi May, Ms Dorothy Ling Feng Mei,
Ms Koh Jiaying, Ms Yan Jiakang, Ms Chee Min Ping, Ms Diana Haven Ho, Ms Kamala Ponnampalan

(Left to Right) Fourth row:

Samuel Chua Hwa Kuan, Ow Yong Tuck Leong, Joseph Yeo Swee Teck, Prem Raj s/o Prabakaran, Marvin Bay Boon Teck,
Ms Regina Lim Siew Mei, Ms Josephine Kang Sin Wil, Ms Constance Tay Woan Fen, Terence Tay Wei Heng,
Ms Karolyn Gin Hoey Kum Hoong, John Ng, Shawn Ho Hsi Ming, Ms Carol Ling Feng Yong, Ronald Gwee Tiong Kee

(Left to Right) Back row:

Adam Nakhoda, Chua Wei Yuan, Patrick Tay Wei Sheng, Teo Guan Kee, Wong Thai Chuan, Lim Wen Juin, Chiah Kok Khun,
Hairul Hakkim s/o Kuthibutheen, Edgar Foo Mau Peng, Kevin Kwek Tze Hern, Kessler Soh Boon Leng, Lim Tse Haw

The Family Justice Courts

In 2018, the Committee to Review and Enhance Reforms in the Family Justice System, co-chaired by the Presiding Judge of the FJC and the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Social and Family Development and the Ministry of Law, studied how elements of therapeutic justice and multi-disciplinary approaches could be incorporated into the resolution of family disputes. The endeavour was to reduce acrimony and conflict among disputing parties and to make every outcome a positive way forward. Notable proposals included enhancing the law to support judge-led case management, introducing pre-action mediation, further simplifying the family justice rules and processes, and introducing a specialist training programme for family law judges and practitioners.

The FJC has begun reviewing the Family Justice Rules to make them more accessible to the lay person and reduce the psychological, emotional, and financial costs for litigants. The task includes simplifying the language of the Rules by removing legalese, improving the coherence of the structure, and streamlining processes to facilitate the expeditious resolution of family proceedings.

The pilot individual docketing system carried out in 2017 culminated with the implementation of a docketed case management system in 2018, where highly contentious cases with multiple applications are identified early in the proceedings and docketed to be managed by a single judge. This ensures the expeditious conduct of proceedings by a single judge who has a deep understanding of the entire case.

In June 2018, the FJC introduced a simplified process for uncontested applications under the Mental Capacity Act for applicants seeking limited powers as deputies. The applications can be made using the integrated Family Application Management System.

To assist court users further, the FJC produced a Probate & Administration Toolkit for the filing of non-contentious probate cases. Available on the FJC's website, the Toolkit has been well received as an informative and useful guide.

The Vulnerable Adults Act, which expands support and protection for vulnerable members of our society, was implemented on 19 December 2018, together with the updated related rules in the Family Justice Rules, the Practice Directions, and the launch of the Vulnerable Adults Act module in the integrated Family Application Management System.

Recognising the specialist nature of family law and practice, an intranet online portal containing family law and other resource materials has been developed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and capacity of family judges.

The FJC aspires to continue to build a justice system which helps every family to find a way forward even as they walk this difficult phase of life.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 37 LSOs in the FJC.

Justice Debbie Ong
Presiding Judge
Family Justice Courts

Family Justice Courts



(Left to Right) Front row:

Kevin Ng Choong Yeong, Kenneth Yap Yew Choh, Chia Wee Kiat, Justice Debbie Ong Siew Ling (Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts), Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Judicial Commissioner Tan Puay Boon, Muhammad Hidhir Bin Abdul Majid, Ms Toh Wee San, Ms Jen Koh

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Michelle Claire Elias Solomon, Ms Yarni Loi Teck Yi, Ms Lo Wai Ping, Ms Cassandra Felicia Cheong Pei Shan, Ms Kathryn Low Lye Fong, Ms Kathryn Thong Lijuan, Ms Jinny Tan Ai Ling, Ms Miranda Yeo Eng Joo, Ms Shobha Gopalakrishnan Nair, Ms Adriene Cheong Yen Lin

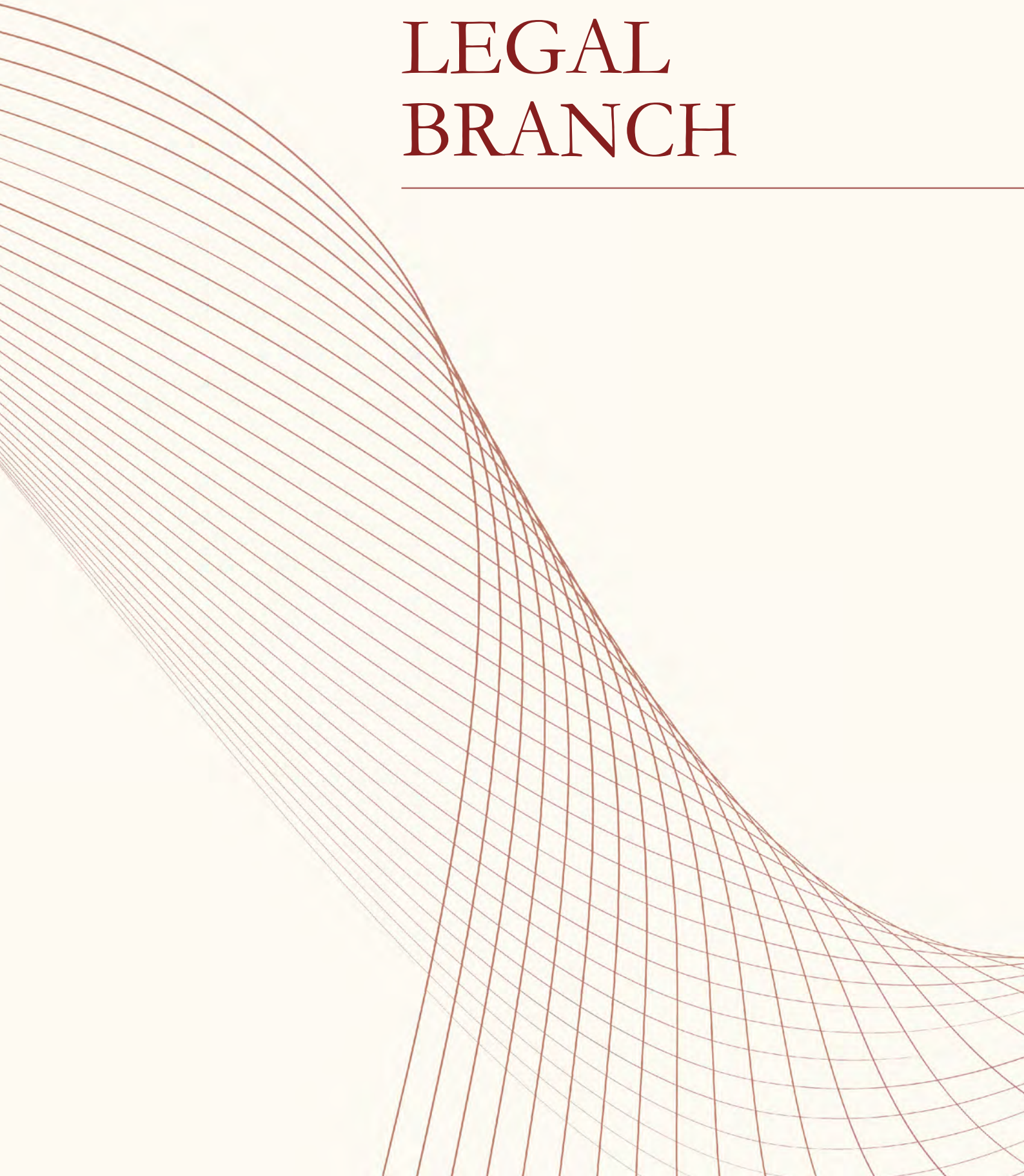
(Left to Right) Third row:

Ms Tan Shin Yi, Ms Janice Chia Yong Yong, Ms Geraldine Kang, Ms Suzanne Chin, Ms Cheryl Koh Mei Chen, Ms Wendy Yu Hui Sann, Ms Guy Bte Ghazali, Ms Christine Dorothy Lee Geok Kim, Ms Nicole Loh Wern Sze, Ms Lim Choi Ming, Ms Kimberly Scully

(Left to Right) Back row:

Eugene Tay Chian Yi, Goh Zhuo Neng, Colin Tan Boon Chwee, Wong Sheng Kwai, Sheik Mustafa Abu Hassan, Goh Kiat Yi, Azmin Jailani, Daniel Koh Poh Leong, Darryl Soh Wen Yan

THE LEGAL BRANCH



THE LEGAL BRANCH

The Attorney-General heads the Legal Branch. Legal Service Officers (“LSOs”) in the Legal Branch serve in the Attorney-General’s Chambers (“AGC”), departments of Ministries with LSO positions, or statutory boards/statutory bodies and key public institutions.

The Attorney-General’s Chambers

The AGC is led by the Attorney-General, with the Deputy Attorneys-General and the Solicitor-General. In 2018, Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai served as Attorney-General, supported by Deputy Attorney-General Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin, Deputy Attorney-General Mr Hri Kumar Nair and Solicitor-General Mr Kwek Mean Luck.

The AGC performs a critical role in advancing the rule of law. As Government’s chief legal advisor and drafter of laws, the AGC advises Government on a wide spectrum of legal issues and the development of proposals for legislation, to ensure that Government’s policy objectives are advanced within the framework of the rule of law. As the office of the Public Prosecutor, the AGC exercises overall control and direction in the conduct of criminal proceedings independently of Government. The AGC also represents Singapore at international negotiations and dispute settlement proceedings, and acts as the central authority for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition.

The Attorney-General is assisted by the LSOs in the four legal divisions of the AGC. These are the Crime Division, the

International Affairs Division (“IAD”), the Civil Division and the Legislation Division (“LEGIS”). The Crime Division was formed on 1 February 2019, following a merger of the Criminal Justice Division and the Financial and Technology Crime Division. The LSOs in the AGC Academy (“Academy”), Advocacy Group and the Legal Technology & Innovation Office (“LTiO”) also support the work of the AGC.

Advocacy Group

In 2018, the Advocacy Group was established to deal with complex disputes, and to provide a platform for LSOs to volunteer to work on dispute matters in the different legal divisions of the AGC.

The Advocacy Group will be expanded in 2019. Team members have been variously involved in diverse disputes from the Civil Division, Crime Division and IAD of the AGC. Notable matters included:

- (a) the Committee of Inquiry hearing into the cyber-attack of unprecedented scale on Singapore Health Services;
- (b) the adoption appeal in **UKM v Attorney-General [2018] SGHCF 18**, which brought into sharp focus the difficult interplay between law and public policy in the determination of the case, and saw the court expounding the role of public policy in judicial decision-making and developing an analytical framework for taking public policy into account; and
- (c) an international commercial arbitration.

In addition, the team plays a part in advocacy training, and will be working with the Academy to organise advocacy training sessions in 2019.

Fifty-three LSOs have volunteered to assist in disputes on an *ad hoc* basis. The volunteer platform was conceptualised for LSOs interested in getting involved in dispute matters outside of the divisions they work in. The volunteers are given the option of assisting in appropriate cases, thus affording them the opportunity to not only explore a different area of law, but to develop, improve and refine their advocacy skills, by working with experienced advocates on complex cases.

As at 31 December 2018, there were three LSOs in the Advocacy Group.

Kristy Tan (Ms)

Senior Director

Advocacy Group

Attorney-General's Chambers

AGC Academy

The Academy was restructured on 1 July 2017 as a standalone division and is dedicated to serving the AGC's professional and leadership training, and knowledge management needs.

In 2018, the Academy launched the competency frameworks for legal as well as leadership and management skills. These frameworks are the foundation of the new structured curriculum for cross-divisional training of LSOs within the AGC. This included training by Queen's Counsel and UK High Court Judges using case-studies tailored to our local context. The cross-divisional training is supported by a new Learning Management

System that also hosts videos and customised e-learning resources for more online learning opportunities.

To help build a more connected legal community in the public sector, the Academy organised the inaugural Public Sector Legal Forum that brought together, for the first time, LSOs in the Legal Branch and in-house lawyers in Ministries and statutory boards. Our Knowledge Management Newsletter has been made available to this wider community of lawyers in the public sector. A digital classroom was also set-up so that lunchtime talks held in the AGC may be remotely accessed by these officers.

As part of its knowledge management efforts and to strengthen the AGC's corporate identity in its various work products, the Academy facilitated the creation of standardised templates for court submissions for use by the AGC's legal divisions.

The Academy contributed articles to an international constitutional law publication and to the Singapore Academy of Law Journal.

As at 31 December 2018, there were five LSOs in the Academy.

Hui Choon Kuen

Dean

AGC Academy

Attorney-General's Chambers

Legal Technology & Innovation Office

The LTiO was established in 2017 to develop effective ways of harnessing technology across the AGC, empower LSOs to use technology more effectively, enable future management decisions on strategic technology investments and contribute to a culture of innovation within the AGC.

In 2018, the LTiO focused on two major areas where technology has an impact on the legal industry. First, through its Review Lab, the LTiO explored the use of text analytics and advanced processing technologies for the effective review of large volumes of information. In this regard, the LTiO will be utilising e-discovery tools to support the AGC in litigation involving vast amounts of data. The LTiO also completed a pilot that involved automating various steps in AGC's mass call review process, resulting in significant time savings. Second, through its Service Lab, the LTiO seeks to utilise expert systems to leverage upon institutional and experiential knowledge with guided service delivery to improve the speed and consistency of the AGC's services. In addition, the LTiO is looking into the use of court presentation software to support AGC's practice groups in the electronic presentation of evidence in court.

The LTiO is also significantly involved with the development of Intelligent Workspace, an end-to-end digital workspace that will serve most of the AGC's legal work needs, providing inputs at various stages of the development life cycle, such as functional requirements.

As at 31 December 2018, there were three LSOs in the LTiO.

Vikneswaran s/o Kumaran

Senior Assistant Director

Legal Technology & Innovation Office
Attorney-General's Chambers

Advocacy Group, AGC Academy and Legal Technology & Innovation Office



(Left to Right) Front row:

Ms Kristy Tan (Senior Director, Advocacy Group),
Hui Choon Kuen (Dean, AGC Academy),
Mr Kwek Mean Luck (Solicitor-General),
Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai (Attorney-General),
Mr Hri Kumar Nair (Deputy Attorney-General),
Charles Lim Aeng Cheng (Parliamentary Counsel [Special Projects] & Chief Knowledge Officer),
Leong Wing Tuck (Vice-Dean, AGC Academy),
Ms Denise Wong Huiwen (Executive Director, AGC Academy)

(Left to Right) Back row:

Ian Ernst Chai Yang, Ms April Phang Suet Fern, Ms Amanda Sum Yun Qian,
Ms Yvonne Goh Qiu Ting, Ms Sheryl Janet George, Mrs Lim Su Ching,
Ms Gay Hui Yi, Tan Ee Kuan

Crime Division

The Crime Division, which consists of the former Criminal Justice Division and the former Financial and Technology Crime Division, is responsible for advancing the public interest through fair and independent prosecutions and providing sound advice to Government on issues of criminal law.

In 2018, we fulfilled this responsibility by, amongst other things –

(a) **Continuing to take a strong stand against perpetrators of crime.** For instance:

- i. In **Public Prosecutor v Hussain bin Samat (CC 22/2018, unreported)**, the High Court (“HC”) agreed with our sentencing submissions and sentenced a paedophile, who had sexually assaulted two young sisters at knifepoint whilst posing as a Housing & Development Board officer, to preventive detention for the maximum term of 20 years.
- ii. In **Public Prosecutor v Chia Kee Chen and another appeal [2018] 2 SLR 249**, the Court of Appeal (“CA”) allowed our appeal against the sentence of life imprisonment imposed on the mastermind of a murder motivated by revenge, substituting it with the sentence of death.
- iii. In **Public Prosecutor v Chew Hoe Soon and others (SC-904726-2017, unreported)**, we prosecuted the director of an oil trading company who had given bribes to officers of the

Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency and Royal Malaysia Customs Department. The accused was sentenced to 38 weeks’ imprisonment for the aforesaid corruption offences.

- iv. In **Public Prosecutor v Lee Lai Leng and others (SC-910681-2017, unreported)**, we prosecuted members of a syndicate that had defrauded SkillsFuture Singapore of close to \$40 million by submitting more than 8,000 fraudulent claims. Several syndicate members had absconded overseas but were brought back to Singapore with the cooperation of foreign authorities. Thirteen syndicate members have been charged, with one sentenced to 68 months’ imprisonment for acquiring and concealing criminal proceeds including cash of \$6.7 million and 11 kg of gold bars.
- v. In **Ho Man Yuk v Public Prosecutor [2019] SGCA 2**, the three accused persons had exploited a glitch in the Marina Bay Sands casino computer systems to gain unlimited credits to gamble and then exchanged \$875,135 worth of credits into cash. After their appeals against their convictions were dismissed by the HC, the CA granted leave to one of them to refer a question of law, namely, whether an offence under section 403 of the Penal Code is committed only if the accused person had an innocent or neutral state of mind when he first came

into possession of the property in question. The CA accepted our submissions and answered the question in the negative.

vi. In **Public Prosecutor v Li Chaoyun and others (SC-904279-2016, unreported)**, an employee of Jurong Shipyard Pte Ltd was charged for corruptly receiving gratification amounting to \$956,600 in exchange for providing confidential pricing information and advancing the business interests of another business entity with his employer. The accused was convicted after a 20-day trial.

(b) **Assisting the courts to establish a number of important sentencing guideline judgments.** For instance:

i. In **Tay Wee Kiat and another v Public Prosecutor and another appeal [2018] 4 SLR 1315**, the HC allowed our cross-appeal against the sentence imposed on one of two accused persons convicted of maid abuse charges, and laid down a framework for the sentencing of maid abusers.

ii. In **Public Prosecutor v Raveen Balakrishnan [2018] SGHC 148**, the HC allowed our appeal against the sentence imposed on an accused person convicted of a rioting charge and an unrelated charge of causing hurt by a dangerous weapon, and laid down the general rule that sentences for unrelated offences should run consecutively.

(c) **Ensuring that justice was meted out in an even-handed manner.** For instance, in **Kok Kum Hong v Public Prosecutor (CM 15/2018, unreported)** and **Lam Kim Heng v Public Prosecutor (CM 39/2018 & MA 9080/2018, unreported)**, both accused persons had been diagnosed with terminal illnesses after their convictions and had a very short life expectancy. We did not object to their appeals against sentence.

Separately, we continued to prioritise the development of our officers in 2018. Our officers attended courses and conferences in Singapore and overseas, and participated in study visits and attachments to leading foreign law firms and prosecuting agencies in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, China and Hong Kong.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 203 LSOs in the Crime Division.

Kow Keng Siong, Tan Kiat Pheng & Lee Lit Cheng (Ms)
Chief Prosecutors
Crime Division
Attorney-General's Chambers

Crime Division



(Left to Right) Front row:

Ms Peggy Pao-Keerthi Pei Yu, Ms Tan Wen Hsien, Han Ming Kuang,
Mohamed Faizal s/o Mohamed Abdul Kadir, David Khoo Kim Leng, Hay Hung Chun,
Ms Lee Lit Cheng (Chief Prosecutor), Mr Kwek Mean Luck (Solicitor-General),
Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai (Attorney-General),
Mr Hri Kumar Nair (Deputy Attorney-General),
Kow Keng Siong (Chief Prosecutor), Tan Kiat Pheng (Chief Prosecutor),
Francis Ng Yong Kiat, Leong Wing Tuck, Peter Koy Su Hua,
Wong Kok Weng, Ng Yiwen

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Ho Jiayun, Ms Li Yihong, Ms Chee Ee Ling, Ms Seah Ee Wei, Ms Selene Yap Wan
Ting, Ms Sarah Ong Hui'en, Ms Teo Siqi, Ms Grace Chua Zhu Ern, Ms Sheryl Yeo Su Hui,
Ms Manickamalar Kayalvizhi Pillay, Ms Angela Ang Qian Hui, Ms Charlene Tay-Chia,
Ms Daphne Lim Ai Juan, Ms Sarah Siaw Ming Hui

(Left to Right) Third row:

Ms Marie Christina Koh Sok Kheng, Kumaresan s/o Gohulabalan, Mark Yeo Kee Teng,
Houston Tian Jin Johannus, Derek Ee Xing Bei, Gregory Gan Wee Kiat,
Winston Man Kah-Soon, Andre Ong Yao-Min, Jarret Huang Jinghao, Quek Jing Feng,
Nicholas Lai Yi Shin, Ms Michelle Lu Wei Yi, Ms Amanda Han Jin Juen

(Left to Right) Back row:

Ms Kelly Ho Yan-Qing, Ng Jun Chong, Andre Chong Wei Min, Zhou Yang,
Muhamad Imaduddin Bin Abdul Karim, Mansoor Amir, Ashraf Bin Hassan,
Gabriel Choong Hefeng, Yang Ziliang, Tan Yen Seow, Tay Jia En, Eugene Teh

Crime Division



(Left to Right) Front row:

Lau Wing Yum, Mohamed Faizal s/o Mohamed Abdul Kadir,
David Khoo Kim Leng, Hay Hung Chun,
Ms Lee Lit Cheng (Chief Prosecutor), Mr Kwek Mean Luck (Solicitor-General),
Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai (Attorney-General),
Mr Hri Kumar Nair (Deputy Attorney-General), Kow Keng Siong (Chief Prosecutor),
Tan Kiat Pheng (Chief Prosecutor), Francis Ng Yong Kiat,
Leong Wing Tuck, Peter Koy Su Hua, Mark Tay Swee Keng

(Left to Right) Second row:

Jotham Tay Zi Xun, Ms Theong Li Han, Ms Chong Yun Ling, Ms Kwang Jia Min,
Ms Shenna Tjoa Kai-En, Ms Shana Poon Jingjie, Ms Lim Woon Yee,
Ms Carene Poh Kai Lin, Ms Goh Sue Jean, Ms Ramkumar Pavithra,
Ms Lim Tze Etsuko, Ms Tan Yanying, Ms Teo Lu Jia, Ms Agnes Chan Huseh Mei,
Ms Rimplejit Kaur, Mark Anand Jayaratnam

(Left to Right) Back row:

Terence Chua Seng Leng, Chong Yong, Kong Kuek Foo, Dwayne Lum Wen Yi,
Wu Yu Jie, Nicholas Wuan Kin Lek, Wong Woon Kwong, Kevin Ho Hin Tat,
Chin Jincheng, Tan Wee Hao, Desmond Chong Sheng Liang, Samuel Yap Zong En,
Lim Jian Yi, John Lu Zhuoren

Crime Division



(Left to Right) Front row:

Teo Guan Siew, Gordon Oh Chun Wei, Alan Loh Yong Kah,
Mohamed Faizal s/o Mohamed Abdul Kadir, David Khoo Kim Leng, Hay Hung Chun,
Ms Lee Lit Cheng (Chief Prosecutor), Mr Kwek Mean Luck (Solicitor-General),
Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai (Attorney-General),
Mr Hri Kumar Nair (Deputy Attorney-General), Kow Keng Siong (Chief Prosecutor),
Tan Kiat Pheng (Chief Prosecutor), Francis Ng Yong Kiat,
Leong Wing Tuck, Peter Koy Su Hua, Ivan Chua Boon Chwee,
Gnanasihamani Kannan, Christopher Ong Siu Jin

(Left to Right) Second row:

Kelvin Kow Weijie, Nicholas Tan Beng Leong, Tan Weiming, Eugene Phua Liang Wei,
Ms Genevieve Pang Feng Tian, Ms Ng Jean Ting, Ms Cheng Yuxi, Ms Thiam Jia Min,
Ms Kang Jia Hui, Ms Michelle Tay Xin Ying, Ms Tan Pei Wei, Ms Loh Hui-Min,
Ms Stephanie Chew Xizhi, Ms Magdalene Huang Xin'en, Ms Haniza Bte Mohammad
Reeza Abnass, Ms Tan Hsiao Tien, Ms Alexandria Shamini Joseph, Sanjiv Vaswani

(Left to Right) Third row:

Foo Shi Hao, Ryan Lim Yi Hern, Benjamin Amaldas Samynathan,
Kenneth Chin Jiayang, Randeep Singh Koonar, Tow Chew Chi, Ben Mathias Tan,
David Koh Boon Tiong, Nicholas Khoo Tian Lun, Leong Weng Tat, Jordon Li Mingjie,
Norman Yew Li Chuen, Tan Zhi Hao

(Left to Right) Back row:

Kevin Yong Ee Wen, David Koh Yi-Da, Eric Hu Youda, Jiang Ke-Yue, Navindraram Naidu,
Thiagesh Sukumaran, Hon Yi, Nicholas Lim Kah Hwee, Viveganandam Jesudevan,
Suhass Malhotra, Alexander Joseph Woon Wei-ming

International Affairs Division

The IAD advances and protects Singapore's interests through international law.

In 2018, the IAD advised Government on a wide range of international law issues from human rights and security issues to trade and investment matters, and bilateral issues between Singapore and its neighbours. The IAD made robust preparations for two cases filed by Malaysia against Singapore before the International Court of Justice relating to the 2008 judgment on Pedra Branca, Middle Rocks and South Ledge, which were ultimately withdrawn by Malaysia. The IAD also filed submissions in a World Trade Organisation ("WTO") appeal concerning Australia's tobacco plain packaging measure, and delivered a third party oral statement in another WTO dispute concerning the scope of security exceptions.

In addition, the IAD supported agencies in major international meetings, including those hosted by Singapore as ASEAN Chair, and the North Korea-United States Singapore Summit. On the multilateral front, the IAD represented Singapore in negotiations, including:

- (a) the first Intergovernmental Conference on an internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations ("UN") Convention on the Law of the Sea, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. An IAD officer served as President of the Conference.
- (b) Working Group III of the UN Commission on International Trade Law on Investor-State Dispute Settlement, convened to consider reforms to the current system of international investment arbitration between investors and states in the light of growing criticisms against it.
- (c) the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which resulted in the successful conclusion of a package of decisions to operationalise the Paris Agreement. The IAD undertook negotiations on the mechanism to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Paris Agreement.

As the Central Authority for mutual legal assistance matters, the IAD dealt with a growing number of complex and contentious matters. The IAD also processed a number of extradition requests.

IAD officers are also based overseas to support the work of Singapore missions in Geneva and New York, and its Diplomatic Office in The Hague.

The IAD organised the 43rd session of the Hague Academy of International Law's External Programme on "Contemporary Questions of International Economic Law", and hosted eminent international jurists including Judge Gilbert Guillaume.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 39 LSOs in the IAD.

Daphne Hong Fan Sin (Ms)
Director-General
International Affairs Division
Attorney-General's Chambers

International Affairs Division



(Left to Right) Front row:

Derek Loh Kong Yue, Ms Danielle Yeow Ping Lin,
Mr Kwek Mean Luck (Solicitor-General),
Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai (Attorney-General),
Mr Hri Kumar Nair (Deputy Attorney-General),
Ms Daphne Hong Fan Sin (Director-General),
Marcus Song Ee Pin, Sellakumaran s/o Sellamuthoo, Jason Tan Theng Kok

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Ilona Tan Lin Yen, Ms Amanda Chong Wei-Zhen, Ms Ng Kexian,
Ms Wong Li Ru, Ms Deena Abdul Aziz Bajrai, Ms Mary-Elisabeth Chong Xinling,
Ms Tan Kim Ping, Ms Allison Phua Su-Yun, Ms Jean Kua Zhizhen,
Ms Seraphina Fong Mian Yi, Ms Chung Yoon Joo, Ms Zhang Hongchuan,
Ms Kristi How Suqian, Ms Sabrina Choo Wen Shan, Ms Diane Tan Yi-Lui

(Left to Right) Back row:

Nathaniel Khng Yong-Ern, David Low Quan Ming, Ashley Ong Jia Hong,
Koh Mun Keong, Alan Hu Zhenliang, Kenneth Wong Weixiong, David Zhang Shaohua,
Edmund Wong Wei Jie, Ramasamy s/o Nachiappan, Vincent Lim Jun'an

Civil Division

The Civil Division (“Division”) is Government’s primary legal advisor. In 2018, the Division advised Government on a broad spectrum of matters, including the National Digital Identity, extension of the MyInfo service, elimination of wet-ink signatures under the Digital Government Blueprint, the National Trade Platform project, and autonomous truck platooning trials. Officers from the Division represented Singapore at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

Notable litigation matters handled by the Division include:

- (a) **ARW v Comptroller of Income Tax and Attorney-General [2018] SGCA 85** – The Attorney-General (as guardian of the public interest) successfully applied to intervene in the proceedings, to assert public interest privilege over various internal documents of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore.
- (b) **Re BSL [2018] SGHC 207** – In the first case after the Court of Appeal established revised principles for section 15(1)(c) of the Legal Profession Act in **Re Harish Salve [2018] 1 SLR 345**, the Attorney-General successfully opposed an application to admit Queen’s Counsel on an *ad hoc* basis for a commercial matter.
- (c) **Re Tay Yew Beng Peter (HC/OS 66/2018, unreported); Re Thomas Haeusler (HC/OS 1028/2018, unreported)** – The Attorney-General successfully opposed leave applications brought by disqualified directors

under section 155A of the Companies Act to continue acting as directors.

- (d) **UKM v Attorney-General [2018] SGHCF 18** – The Attorney-General represented the Director of Social Welfare from the Ministry of Social and Family Development in a novel case on whether a homosexual man may adopt his biological son conceived by a surrogacy arrangement made overseas. The High Court accepted the Attorney-General’s submissions that public policy, including that against formation of same-sex family units, may be considered in deciding whether to make adoption orders.
- (e) **Wong Souk Yee v Attorney-General [2018] SGHC 80** – The Attorney-General successfully resisted a constitutional challenge for a by-election to be called in Marsiling-Yew Tee Group Representation Constituency after Member of Parliament Madam Halimah Yacob vacated her seat to stand as a candidate in the 2017 Presidential Election.

The Division also produced a contract template generator, which was rolled out by the Ministry of Finance in July 2018, enabling procuring agencies to select and assemble their preferred contractual terms for procurement of goods and services.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 51 LSOs in the Division.

David Chong Gek Sian
Chief Counsel
Civil Division
Attorney-General’s Chambers

Civil Division



(Left to Right) Front row:

Ms Lee Jia Wei, Ms Low Siew Ling, Soh Kee Bun, Khoo Boo Jin,
Mr Kwek Mean Luck (Solicitor-General),
Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai (Attorney-General),
Mr Hri Kumar Nair (Deputy Attorney-General),
David Chong Gek Sian (Chief Counsel),
Hui Choon Kuen, Ms Toh Hwee Lian, Phua Wee Chuan

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Hannah Cheng Xin Ying, Ms Linda Esther Foo Hui Ling, Ms Lee Hui Min,
Ms May Ng, Ms Shivani d/o Sivasagthy Retnam, Ms Vanessa Yeo Xue Ying,
Ms Cassandra Lee Shi Wee, Ms Olivia Low Pei Sze, Ms Elaine Liew Ling Wei,
Ms Ailene Chou Xiujue, Ms Jessie Lim, Ms Amanda Tan Chek Yin

(Left to Right) Back row:

Terence Szetoh Khai Hoe, Francis Zhang Zeyi, Tan Sze Yao,
Enoch Wong Lok Hang, Louis Ng Shi Zheng, David Lee Yi Zan,
Tang Shangjun, Ang Boon Kwan, Sivakumar s/o Ramasamy

Legislation Division

LEGIS is Singapore's central law drafting office and keeper of the Singapore statute book. LEGIS provides law drafting and legislative consultancy services to Government and all public sector agencies (including Town Councils). LEGIS also provides 24/7 free online public access to Singapore legislation through its Singapore Statutes Online (SSO) website.

Demand for LEGIS' law drafting and legislative consultancy services continued at an even higher level in 2018. Fifty-three Bills (3,220 pages) were drafted for introduction in Parliament, a 55% increase from 2017. The 40 amendment Bills and 13 new Bills covered subjects ranging from cybersecurity, new corporate structures like variable capital companies, protection of vulnerable adults, taxing of greenhouse gas emissions to criminal procedure and insolvency law reform. LEGIS also drafted 909 pieces of subsidiary legislation (totalling 6,839 pages or a 52% increase from 2017) and rendered 2,445 pieces of advice outside of draft legislation, a 22% increase from 2017.

2018 saw the continuation of the "Plain Laws Understandable by Singaporeans" initiative started in 2013 to make Singapore legislation more accessible, LEGIS stepping up as keeper of the Singapore Statute Book, and the assumption of a new role supporting Parliamentary democracy.

Since July 2018, LEGIS provides Members of Parliament with tracked-change versions of Acts for which an amendment Bill has been introduced. Universal revision of all Acts (over two years) has started with the object of simplifying and modernising the

text of more than 500 Acts, and omitting spent or obsolete texts. Online information about Singapore legislation was improved, with the launch of LegiS@Gov, which is an extra legislation database for all public sector users, and the capturing of older versions of legislation (till 1985 Revised Edition for Acts and the 1990 Revised Edition for subsidiary legislation) for uploading online next year.

LEGIS increased its capacity to prepare publication proofs of legislation in-house in place of the Government Printer. In 2018, 74% (673 pieces) of the year's subsidiary legislation were published in-house, compared to 54.6% (441 pieces) in 2017. All Bills were prepared in-house.

LEGIS also conducted a 4-day legislative drafting workshop for the Lao People's Democratic Republic in April 2018. LEGIS continued its collaborations with the Civil Service College to enhance the link between good law and policy-making through courses.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 30 LSOs in LEGIS, one fewer than 2017.

Owi Beng Ki (Mrs)
Deputy Solicitor-General and
Chief Legislative Counsel
Legislation Division
Attorney-General's Chambers

Legislation Division



(Left to Right) Front row:

Terence Ong, Ms Jeanne Lee Ming En,
Mr Kwek Mean Luck (Solicitor-General),
Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kuai (Attorney-General),
Mr Hri Kumar Nair (Deputy Attorney-General),
Mrs Owi Beng Ki (Deputy Solicitor-General & Chief Legislative Counsel),
Lee Chuan Huei, Mrs Joyce Chao Suling, Mrs Wendy Chang Mun Lin

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ng Junyi, Ms Anne Goh Su Yee, Ms Gillian Hauw Hui Ying, Ms Jaime Tey Su Fung,
Ms Karen Ang Aiping, Ms Jeslyn Chionh Hui Qi, Ms Hung Ning Shing,
Ms Esther Yee Swee Yoong, Ms Cheryl Seah Li Min, Fong Jing Heng

(Left to Right) Back row:

Chong Kah Wei, Tay Li Hang, Stanley Kok Pin Chin,
Leonard Goh Choon Hian, Seow Zhixiang, Chong Kah Kheng,
Philip Ng Wuheng, Makoto Hong Cheng

MINISTRIES,
LEGAL SERVICE
DEPARTMENTS
AND STATUTORY
BOARDS/
STATUTORY
BODIES



MINISTRIES, LEGAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS AND STATUTORY BOARDS/ STATUTORY BODIES

Legal Service Officers (“LSOs”) may be posted to Ministries as representatives of the Attorney-General to undertake a wide range of legal work. The current Ministries are: Defence; Law; Home Affairs; Manpower; Education; Health; Social and Family Development; Communications and Information; Culture, Community and Youth; National Development; and Finance. In these roles, LSOs provide legal advice, draft and vet legal documents, and assist in the review and drafting of legislation. They may also hold leadership or management positions and be involved in the formulation of policies and the administration of finances and personnel within the Ministries.

LSOs may also be posted to Legal Service departments or seconded to statutory boards/statutory bodies and key public institutions such as the Legal Aid Bureau, the Insolvency and Public

Trustee’s Office, the Syariah Court, the Commercial Affairs Department, the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore, the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, the Singapore Land Authority, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Office of the Public Guardian, the Economic Development Board, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, the National Environment Agency, the Singapore Medical Council, the Health Sciences Authority, the Personal Data Protection Commission, and the Land Transport Authority. A senior LSO usually assumes primary responsibility for the administration and management of these organisations or departments, while LSOs in these organisations or departments implement the legislation and policies falling within the ambit of that organisation or department.

Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence (“MINDEF”) Legal Services Department (“MLS”) provides legal support to the MINDEF, the Singapore Armed Forces (“SAF”) and MINDEF-related organisations including the Defence Science and Technology Agency. The MLS is headed by the Director, Legal Services, who is appointed by the Armed Forces Council as Director Legal Services and Chief Military Prosecutor of the SAF. She is also the Chief Operations Law Adviser.

A new Operations Law division was set up in the MLS to support the SAF in legal aspects of doctrine development and to provide enhanced legal support for SAF operations and exercises. The MLS officers also participated as Operations Law Advisors in various local and overseas coalition military exercises.

To strengthen the military justice system, the MINDEF launched a *pro bono* legal assistance scheme administered by the MLS which enables servicemen facing complex court martial charges to apply for legal representation by external volunteer lawyers. Additionally, the MLS enhanced the training curriculum for more than 200 SAF Defending Officers representing servicemen at court martial proceedings.

The MLS was extensively involved in various capacities in cases involving death of servicemen, such as representation in Coroner’s Inquiries, advising on compensation, preparation of public and parliamentary releases, and prosecutions for lapses and breaches.

In the area of international law, the MLS provided legal support to the MINDEF and the SAF on the various Implementing Arrangements under the Singapore-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other international law issues.

Following the enactment of the Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act and Infrastructure Protection Act, a review was undertaken of the operational impact on SAF support for civilian operations and the applicable rules of engagement. The MLS also assisted with the review of the SAF drug enforcement framework for servicemen following amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act, and new military prosecution policies were framed.

As at 31 December 2018, there were eight LSOs in the MLS.

Teoh Ai Lin (Ms)

Director

Legal Services Department
Ministry of Defence &
Singapore Armed Forces

Ministry of Defence



(Left to Right):

Ms Asanthi Mendis,
Ms Ho Su-Lyn,
Ms Teoh Ai Lin (Director, Legal Services Department, MINDEF & SAF),
Ms Hee Mee Lin,
Ms Ravneet Kaur,
Chan Wang Ho,
Ng Der Lim,
Paul Lie Yi Fang

Ministry of Law

The Legal Group at the Ministry of Law (“MinLaw”) plays a critical role in upholding the rule of law, advancing access to justice and ensuring a sound and progressive legal framework.

The Legal Policy Division (“LPD”) steers substantive reform in civil, criminal, family and community-related laws. The LPD also oversees governance and legal policy matters in Government by ensuring that legislation reflects sound legal policy principles. In 2018, the LPD saw the Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 2018, Criminal Justice Reform Act 2018, Evidence (Amendment) Act 2018 and Small Claims Tribunals (Amendment) Act 2018 through Parliament. These reforms kept court processes up-to-date with changing technology and socio-economic needs, whilst ensuring fairness, accuracy and equity of outcomes. The LPD also engaged in substantive reforms to the Penal Code, civil procedure and family justice.

The International Legal Division (“ILD”) advances Singapore’s interests through the development of a progressive international legal policy framework anchored on the rule of law. In 2018, the ILD worked with partner agencies and institutions to conclude the Model ASEAN Extradition Treaty, launch ASEAN Extradition Treaty negotiations and establish the ASEAN Law Academy. The ILD and other agencies also secured Singapore’s re-election as a member of UNCITRAL from 2020. These developments represent Singapore’s continued participation in and contributions to the international legal framework.

The Policy Advisory Division (“PAD”) works with the MinLaw’s policy divisions on the legal aspects of policy formulation. In 2018, the PAD saw the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018, the Companies (Amendment) Act 2018 and the Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 2018 through Parliament. These reforms touched on a wide range of matters, including consolidating and strengthening Singapore’s insolvency regime, maintaining Singapore’s status as a maritime hub, enhancing the disciplinary framework for lawyers and introducing a framework for unclaimed client moneys respectively. The PAD also helped to develop and launch the Singapore Infrastructure Dispute-Management Protocol for major infrastructure contracts.

Working together, the ILD and the PAD also secured the Singapore Convention on Mediation (the first United Nations treaty named after Singapore), and Singapore’s hosting of the signing ceremony.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 26 LSOs in the MinLaw.

Joan Janssen (Mrs)

Director-General

Legal Group

Ministry of Law

Ministry of Law



(Left to Right) Front row:

Colin Chow Zhiquan,
Ms Tammy Low Wan Jun (Director-General, Legal Policy, MinLaw),
Mrs Joan Janssen (Director-General, International & Advisory, MinLaw),
Mrs Natalie Morris-Sharma, Jeremy Yeo Shenglong

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Larissa Lim Fen Ping, Ms Sherlyn Neo Xiulin, Ms Joanne He Xiuwen,
Mrs Jasmine Chin-Sabado, Ms Elsie Lee Yuejia, Ms Fong Mian Yi Seraphina,
Ms Kam Kai Qi, Ms Wong Shiau Yin, Ms Joan Pang Wei En, Ms Joy Yee Jia Min,
Ms Claire Hoe Qin Ya, Ms Parvathi Menon, Ms Yap Jia Jun

(Left to Right) Back row:

Timothy Seet Qianren, Stephen Yeo Zhi Yuan, Wong Wen Jian,
Yeo Zhen Xiong, Joshua Rene Jeyaraj, Teh Joo Lin, Senthil Dayalan,
Jonathan Ee Wenyang, Terence Tan Zhong Wei

Legal Aid Bureau

The Legal Aid Bureau's ("Bureau") mission is to provide quality legal aid and advice to persons of limited means. The Bureau provides legal advice, legal representation and assistance with drafting legal documents. The Bureau handles a wide variety of civil legal matters, about half of which are family law related. In 2018, supported by about 200 active Assigned Solicitors and 14 Volunteer Assistant Directors of Legal Aid, the Bureau handled about 8,000 applications for legal aid, advice and assistance.

The Bureau commemorated its diamond jubilee in 2018. It published a corporate video, an e-book and articles in the Singapore Law Gazette, featuring the Bureau's work. It also did volunteer work with Arc Children's Centre. The Bureau concluded its anniversary celebrations with a gala dinner for about 300 guests.

Amendments to the Legal Aid and Advice Act were passed by Parliament in November 2018 and will fully take effect after June 2019. The amendments aim to simplify the means test for legal aid, provide greater flexibility to grant legal aid to those with extenuating circumstances who fail the means test, and improve the administration of legal aid.

In 2018, the Bureau further expanded its in-house expertise in complex family law, civil law and Muslim law matters through its specialist practice groups. Among the significant cases undertaken by the Bureau were a novel (and successful) application for backdated child maintenance to be regarded as a debt owed to a non-parent with *de facto* care and control, the first

successful application in Muslim divorce proceedings for children's issues to be heard by the civil courts, and a contract case in which the Bureau represented a defendant who was sued for \$50,000 and where the defendant managed to settle the matter at only \$3,000.

As at 31 December 2018, there were 21 LSOs in the Bureau.

Lim Hui Min (Ms)

Director

Legal Aid Bureau

Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office

The Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office ("IPTO") has a total strength of 165, and is headed by the Official Assignee, who is concurrently the Official Receiver, Public Trustee, and Registrar of Moneylenders and Pawnbrokers. The LSOs in the IPTO advise on legal issues in administering insolvencies and trusts, and in regulating moneylenders and pawnbrokers. The LSOs also conduct civil litigation before the High Court and prosecutions in the State Courts.

2018 saw the appointment of a new Official Assignee. As part of a hotwash of existing cases, the LSOs assisted their operational colleagues in nearly doubling the discharge of bankruptcies, from 2,020 in 2017 to approximately 4,010 in 2018. This achievement streamlines the IPTO's case administration, while offering many bankrupts a fresh start.

Together with the Attorney-General's Chambers and the Ministry of Law, the LSOs completed work on the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act, which

Parliament passed on 1 October 2018. The Act cements Singapore's status as a hub for insolvency and debt restructuring work, by combining the relevant laws into a single statute and introducing a new licensing and regulatory regime for insolvency practitioners. The Act and its subsidiary legislation are targeted to commence by 31 January 2020, along with an electronic Insolvency Case Management Platform and a new division to license and regulate insolvency practitioners.

The LSOs also worked on the amended Moneylenders Act and Rules, which came into force on 30 November 2018. The amendments better protect borrowers by imposing aggregate loan caps for local and foreign borrowers and implementing a self-exclusion framework.

Lastly, the LSOs were involved in several significant cases, including **Lee Chen Seong Jeremy v Official Assignee [2018] 2 SLR 820**, where the Court of Appeal clarified how the common law doctrine of abandonment applies to debts owed to defunct companies.

As at 31 December 2018, there were eight LSOs in the IPTO.

Tan Boon Heng
Official Assignee & Public Trustee
Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office

Singapore Land Authority

The Singapore Land Authority ("SLA") is responsible for the optimisation of State land and safeguarding of property rights. The SLA leveraged significantly on technology in 2018 to improve processes

and better achieve its business outcomes. Following the Land Titles Registry's enhancement of its registration system to automate registration of caveats lodged against completed properties, the system was further enhanced to automate registration of caveats lodged against properties under development where the owner was still the developer. This brought the SLA one step closer to achieving a highly automated registration system which will allow officers to focus on complex cases.

As the regulator of foreign ownership of landed residential property, the SLA collaborated with various Government agencies to build system interfaces to strengthen its enforcement capabilities for better detection of breaches of the Residential Property Act.

The SLA's Legal Division launched phase one of its smart templates project, where officers from business units were guided to draft contractual documents like foreshore leases and tenancy agreements. The templates have built-in checks, provide automatic selection of clauses, and highlight legal considerations to meet specific requirements.

As at 31 December 2018, there were three LSOs seconded to the SLA.

Bryan Chew Chee Wan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Regulatory) and
Registrar of Titles & Deeds
Singapore Land Authority

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“IPOS”) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Law. To support the Committee on the Future Economy’s vision of an innovation-driven economy, the IPOS strengthened Singapore’s innovation ecosystem and helped enterprises scale up, taking their ideas to the market. The IPOS also embarked on its transformation into an innovation agency.

Singapore has strengthened its connectivity to international markets to help innovative enterprises expand internationally, as demonstrated by the successful conclusion of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (“CPTPP”). The high-level Intellectual Property (“IP”) chapter of the CPTPP will establish a new benchmark for international IP agreements.

On the domestic front, the IPOS launched a new SkillsFuture Study Awards for the IP sector, where working professionals can acquire or update their IP skills and knowledge. It also launched a new FinTech Fast Track initiative which accelerates the patent application-to-grant process for FinTech inventions to as quickly as six months.

As testament to its achievements, Singapore moved up two notches to be the fifth most innovative country in the Global Innovation Index 2018, and the most innovative country outside of Europe.

As at 31 December 2018, three LSOs were seconded to the IPOS.

Daren Tang Heng Shim
Chief Executive

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Legal Aid Bureau, Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office, Singapore Land Authority and Intellectual Property Office of Singapore



(Left to Right) Front row:
Louis Agnelo D'Souza,
Bryan Chew Chee Wan
(Assistant Chief Executive [Legal and Regulatory] and Registrar of Titles & Deeds, SLA),
Ms Lim Hui Min (Director, LAB),
Tan Boon Heng (Official Assignee & Public Trustee, IPTO), Lim Yew Jin

(Left to Right) Second row:
Ms Suria Sidambaram, Victor Lim See Wai, Edmund Chew Minhui, Zhong Zewei,
Benjamin Yim Geok Choon, Sunari Kateni, Ms Goh Yin Dee, Ms Wileeza A Gapar

(Left to Right) Third row:
Darren Chan Eng Jin, Zheng Shaokai, Ms Sheela Kumari Devi, Ms S Puspha,
Ms Foo Fang Min, Davyd Chong Wenquan, Ms Maryam Hasanah Bte Rozlan

(Left to Right) Fourth row:
Azri Imran Tan, Sivabalan s/o Thanabal, Ms Tan Jun Ya,
Ms Kavitha Kandesan, Ms Yap Cai Ping

(Left to Right) Back row:
Ms Lynda Lee, Ms Istyana Putri Ibrahim, Ms Carrie Zheng Yuan

Not in picture:
Daren Tang Heng Shim (Chief Executive, IPOS)

Ministry of Home Affairs

The Legal Division (“LD”) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (“MHA”) provides a full range of legal services to the MHA and its nine Home Team departments, including the Singapore Police Force (“SPF”), the Singapore Civil Defence Force, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority and the Singapore Prison Service.

In the area of advisory support, the LD advised various departments in the MHA on important operations for key events in Singapore in 2018, including the Trump-Kim Summit, as well as events occurring in neighbouring states. The LD also provided legislative support and guidance to the MHA’s policy departments for the enactment of the Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act and renewal of the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act (“CLTPA”), as well as amendments to the Civil Defence Act and the Misuse of Drugs Act.

In relation to transactional work, the LD drafted and reviewed agreements and memoranda of understanding with various academic institutions, industry partners and foreign security counterparts for cutting edge research and collaboration, as well as cooperation initiatives on matters relating to the mission of the MHA and its departments.

Under the CLTPA regime, the LD continued to assist the Minister for Home Affairs in assessing evidence in support of detention and police supervision orders issued under the CLTPA. Separately, it operated a secretariat for the Criminal Law Advisory Committees appointed under the CLTPA. In 2018, the LD also

assumed new responsibilities in taking over the policy oversight of the CLTPA regime.

In addition, an LSO was seconded from the Attorney-General’s Chambers to the MHA’s Policy Development Division (“PDD”). His work involves reviewing criminal justice policy, including reform to legislation such as the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.

As at 31 December 2018, there were five LSOs in the LD and one LSO seconded to the PDD.

Leong Kwang Ian
Senior Director
Legal Division
Ministry of Home Affairs

Commercial Affairs Department, Singapore Police Force

The Commercial Affairs Department (“CAD”) is Singapore’s principal white-collar crime enforcement agency and the SPF’s staff authority for all commercial crimes investigations. The CAD is also in charge of the Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office (“STRO”), Singapore’s Financial Intelligence Unit.

In 2018, the CAD successfully implemented two novel SPF-CAD taskforces, namely the Transnational Commercial Crime Task Force and the E-Commerce Fraud Enforcement and Coordination Team, to tackle Internet love scams, impersonation scams and e-commerce scams, with the aim of dismantling and disrupting the criminal syndicates behind them.

The CAD investigated a complex \$40 million grant fraud perpetrated against SkillsFuture Singapore and charged 13 persons. The CAD worked closely with its counterparts in China, Hong Kong and Malaysia to detect, detain and repatriate the four main suspects who were hiding overseas.

The CAD continued its partnership with the National Crime Prevention Council as well as diverse e-commerce platforms to engage the public on anti-scam crime preventive measures.

The CAD STRO has strengthened its data analytics capability: the launch of

the STRO Online Notices and Reporting Platform consolidates all reporting forms into machine-readable formats that facilitate the analysis of intelligence reports on suspected money laundering and terrorism financing.

As at 31 December 2018, one LSO was seconded to the CAD.

David Chew Siong Tai

Director

Commercial Affairs Department
Singapore Police Force

Ministry of Home Affairs and Commercial Affairs Department, Singapore Police Force



(Left to Right):

Joshua Lim Yong En, Quek Jing Feng,
Leong Kwang Ian (Senior Director, Legal Division, MHA),
David Chew Siong Tai (Director, CAD, SPF),
Ronald Ang Ee Lin, Jason Nim Kia Meng

Ministry of Manpower

The LSOs in the Legal Services Division (“LSD”) of the Ministry of Manpower, with the support of 48 dedicated officers, conduct criminal prosecutions, render legal advice, adjudicate on work injury claims and administer the financial penalty frameworks under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act (“EFMA”) and the Employment Act (“EA”).

In 2018, LSD handled 2,366 criminal cases involving offences under the EFMA, the Employment Agencies Act, the EA, the Work Injury Compensation Act (“WICA”), the Workplace Safety and Health Act and the Foreign Employee Dormitories Act 2015. Notable cases include prosecuting two employment agencies for not conducting due diligence and bringing under-aged foreign domestic workers (“FDWs”) into Singapore. The LSD also prosecuted and obtained an aggregate fine of \$46,000 against an employer who had failed to provide safe working conditions for her two FDWs, as she had instructed her FDWs to clean the external windows of her residence by climbing on scaffolding. In addition, the LSD prosecuted an employment agency personnel, Erleena Binte Mohd Ali, for abetting the agency in breaching its licensing conditions, as it had placed insensitive advertisements by marketing FDWs in a manner akin to commodities on Carousell.

The LSD rendered 450 pieces of legal advice, drafted and vetted 169 contractual agreements, and worked with the Attorney-General’s Chambers to amend and promulgate one primary and six subsidiary legislation. The amendments to the EA were the most far reaching

since its enactment in 1968, and include extending the core EA benefits to all managers and executives, extending protection on hours of work, rest day and overtime pay to more than half of Singapore’s total workforce, and enhancing the employment dispute resolution framework by shifting the adjudication of wrongful dismissal claims to the Employment Claims Tribunals of the State Courts.

The LSD adjudicated over 119 WICA cases, and issued decisions for 695 EFMA and 359 EA financial penalty cases.

As at 31 December 2018, there were five LSOs in the LSD.

Lee Jwee Nguan
Divisional Director
Legal Services Division
Ministry of Manpower

Ministry of Education

The Legal Services Branch (“LSB”) of the Ministry of Education (“MOE”) assists the MOE Headquarters and Government schools through the provision of legal services on matters including the exercise of the MOE’s regulatory powers under statutes such as the Education Act, the implementation of existing or intended education policies, as well as on contracts, personal injury and other civil claims.

In 2018, the LSB supported the work of the MOE by, amongst other things, advising on:

- (a) legal aspects pertaining to an initiative to facilitate meaningful, policy-relevant research studies between the MOE and research institutions in Singapore;

- (b) the collection, use and disclosure of personal data by the MOE following the coming into force of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018;
- (c) the framework established by the MOE for handling certain kinds of accidents in Government and non-Government mainstream schools;
- (d) the processes implemented by the MOE for the registration of management committees of non-Government mainstream schools; and
- (e) the MOE's initiative to provide higher fee subsidies to lower and middle income students enrolled in independent schools in 2019.

As at 31 December 2018, there were six LSOs in the LSB.

Loke Shiu Meng

Director

Legal Services Branch
Ministry of Education

Ministry of National Development

The Legal Services Unit (“LSU”) of the Ministry of National Development (“MND”) provides legal advice to the MND in support of its mission to create a vibrant and sustainable living environment for our nation.

In 2018, the LSU provided legal support to the MND on policy and operational matters concerning building management, composition frameworks, land use planning, public and private housing,

and town councils. The LSU also reviewed and advised on notable transactional documents such as the revised land tender framework for religious sites, the implementation of a progressive wage in certain public sector contracts, and supplements to the public sector conditions for construction works. On the disputes management front, the LSU worked with the Attorney-General’s Chambers to manage issues arising from State leases, food recalls, infrastructure projects, and the enforcement operations of MND’s statutory boards.

As at 31 December 2018, there were two LSOs in the LSU.

Crystal Ong Wai Mun (Ms)

Director (Legal)

Legal Services Unit
Ministry of National Development

Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Education and Ministry of National Development



(Left to Right) Front row:

Ms Crystal Ong Wai Mun (Director, Legal Services Unit, MND),
Loke Shiu Meng (Director, Legal Services Branch, MOE)

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Chloe Mercy Lee Weiming, Ms Nicole Evangeline Poh Jia Yin,
Ms Elizabeth Lee Liang Mae, Ms Valathammai d/o Muthupalaniappan,
Ms Rachel Ng Bao Ling

(Left to Right) Back row:

Jonathan Ee Wenyang, Melvin Shen Zongwei,
Paul Cheong Yuen, Terence Tan Zhong Wei

Not in picture:

Lee Jwee Nguan (Divisional Director, Legal Services Division, MOM)

Ministry of Health

The Legal Office (“LO”) of the Ministry of Health (“MOH”) provides legal advice and support to MOH’s senior management and its divisions on matters involving policy development and review, planning and operations. The support provided covers a wide spectrum of legal issues, ranging from medical, tort and criminal law, to data protection and intellectual property law.

Apart from advisory and transactional work, the LO also conducts criminal prosecutions on behalf of MOH in respect of, *inter alia*, breaches of the Infectious Diseases Act, Medical Registration Act and Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act. In 2018, the LO represented MOH in the Committee of Inquiry into the cyber attack on Singapore Health Services’ information technology system, which resulted in the data of a large number of patients being illegally accessed.

As at 31 December 2018, there were six LSOs in the LO.

Chua Ying-Hong (Ms)

Director

Legal Office

Ministry of Health

Singapore Medical Council

The Legal Division (“the Division”) of the Singapore Medical Council (“SMC”) took on an expanded role in 2018, with the amalgamation of the common functions of the Singapore Dental

Council in April, and provides advice to the Councils on matters pertaining to professional conduct and ethics, registration, accreditation, surveillance, investigation, procurement and policies.

The Division’s work also includes the management and oversight of the conduct of formal inquiries before Disciplinary Tribunals and other Committees, and cases before the High Court and the Court of Appeal. In addition, the Division conducts training and seminars for doctors and dentists on relevant medico-legal developments.

As at 31 December 2018, two LSOs were seconded to the SMC.

Loo Yu Hao, Adrian

Director (Legal) and General Counsel
Singapore Medical Council

Health Sciences Authority

The Health Sciences Authority (“HSA”) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Health.

The Legal Department (“LD”) serves all the legal needs of the HSA. In 2018, the LD received 1,291 and concluded 1,765 criminal matters, and received 380 and completed 342 advisory requests and document reviews. The LD also trained the forensic scientists in court testimony.

In **Public Prosecutor v Xu Aihang (DSC-900091-2018 & others, unreported)**, the HSA prosecuted a peddler of illegal medicines found with 190,000 units of medicines worth around \$700,000. The HSA

successfully argued for court bail to be imposed. Consequently, the accused was remanded upon his re-offending. He was eventually imprisoned for 112 weeks and fined \$19,500 for disorganisation.

As at 31 December 2018, one LSO was seconded to the HSA.

Grace Lim Seow Gek (Ms)
Director
Legal Department
Health Sciences Authority

Ministry of Health, Singapore Medical Council and Health Sciences Authority



(Left to Right) Front row:

Adrian Loo Yu Hao (Director [Legal] and General Counsel, Legal Division, SMC [until 30 June 2019]),
Andrew Tan Shao Weng (Director [Legal] and General Counsel, Legal Division, SMC [wef 1 July 2019]),
Ms Chua Ying-Hong (Director, Legal Office, MOH),
Ms Ruth Teng Xiaohui (Director, Legal Department, HSA [wef 1 July 2019])

(Left to Right) Back row:

Andre Moses Tan Chang Ann, Ms Karin Lai Yiling, Ms Serene Seet Lay Cheng,
Ms Indhuja Ramakrishnan, Ms Lye Hui Xian, Ethan Liu Junhao

Not in picture:

Ms Grace Lim Seow Gek (Director, Legal Department, HSA [until 30 June 2019])

Ministry of Social and Family Development

The Legal Services Unit (“LSU”) of the Ministry of Social and Family Development (“MSF”) is a specialist department which provides legal advice to the MSF’s divisions on matters such as adoption, child welfare, adult protection, marriage, and the exercise of regulatory and licensing powers. The LSU also assists with the drafting of contracts and reviews legislation under the MSF’s purview.

In 2018, the LSU worked closely with the MSF’s operational divisions on the implementation of the Vulnerable Adults Act 2018 and the Early Childhood Development Centres Act 2017. The LSU also advised the Office of the Public Guardian on the re-engineering of its business processes, and the Registry of Marriages on legal issues over the State Marriage Register. Further, the LSU assisted with the review of applications by charities seeking to be approved as Institutions of Public Character, and provided extensive advice on adoption applications and legal issues under the Adoption of Children Act.

To enhance the MSF’s work productivity, the LSU conducted several legal education talks for the MSF’s officers and provided contractual templates and checklists, which the LSU periodically reviewed and tailored to better facilitate the MSF’s operational needs.

As at 31 December 2018, there were five LSOs in the LSU.

Amy Tung Chew Ming (Ms)

Director

Legal Services Unit

Ministry of Social and Family Development

Office of the Public Guardian, Ministry of Social and Family Development

In 2018, the Office of the Public Guardian (“OPG”) received 28,695 applications for Lasting Powers of Attorney (“LPA”), a 74% increase from 2017. Fifty court reports were furnished under section 37 of the Mental Capacity Act, compared to 35 in 2017.

The OPG currently supervises 3,515 deputies, a 22% increase from 2017. Home visits were conducted to check on recalcitrant deputies who had failed to render their reports to the OPG.

On 1 September 2018, the OPG implemented the registration and certification framework for Professional Deputies (“PD”). As at 31 December 2018, 20 PDs had been registered.

Having completed a business process re-engineering study, the OPG will roll out an online LPA registration system and an intelligent supervision and investigation tool by 2021. This system will improve the user experience for the public and OPG staff, and encourage the early uptake of LPAs.

As at 31 December 2018, one LSO was seconded to the OPG.

Regina Chang (Ms)

Public Guardian

Office of the Public Guardian

Ministry of Social and Family Development

Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

The Legal Unit (“LU”) of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (“MCCY”) provides legal services to MCCY (including its autonomous agency, the National Youth Council) in support of MCCY’s mission - “Building Singapore’s Social Capital, Inspiring the Singapore Spirit, Together Making Singapore Home”.

In 2018, key Government initiatives the LU supported included:

- (a) the organisation of the inaugural ASEAN eSports tournament;
- (b) the ePlanner platform, which maps community needs and assets to facilitate outreach efforts to needy families; and
- (c) the Whole of Government Volunteer Management System, which centralises volunteer management efforts across public agencies and provides strategic overview of volunteerism patterns.

Throughout 2018, the LU assisted the Charities Unit with its intensified enforcement work, following the 2018 amendments to the Charities Act. The LU also liaised closely with the Attorney-General’s Chambers to manage some civil claims.

On the international front, the LU continued supporting the MCCY in the drafting of Singapore’s first State Party Report on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination for submission to the United Nations.

As at 31 December 2018, there were four LSOs in the LU.

Ang Ching Pin (Ms) Director (Legal)

Legal Unit
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Syariah Court, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

The Syariah Court (“SYC”) amended the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Rules to promote a less adversarial divorce process, better protect the child’s interests and more effectively achieve restorative outcomes. Where appropriate, civil procedure was adopted for parity of approach on common issues.

The SYC also initiated the first Muslim Law Practice Course. Conducted by the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore, the course provided training in Muslim law principles and contributed to legal education in Singapore.

With counselling, about 40% of registered cases did not proceed with divorce, and 70% of divorce cases were resolved amicably.

The SYC continued to work closely with the Family Justice Courts and various agencies to serve the community.

As at 31 December 2018, there were two LSOs in the SYC.

Shahrinah Abdol Salam (Ms) Registrar

Syariah Court
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Ministry of Social and Family Development, Office of the Public Guardian, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Syariah Court



(Left to Right) Front row:

Ms Shahrinah Abdol Salam (Registrar, Syariah Court, MCCY),
Ms Regina Chang (Public Guardian, Office of the Public Guardian, MSF),
Ms Amy Tung Chew Ming (Director, Legal Services Unit, MSF),
Ms Ang Ching Pin (Director, Legal Unit, MCCY),
Mrs Shahla Iqbal (Director, Legal, MUIS)

(Left to Right) Back row:

Ms Eunice Chong Miao En, Ms Elena Yip Luyang, Sean Lee Weiheng,
Ms Alicia Teng Kia Hui, Ms Eunice Ng Huiya, Ms Ang Swee Yan

Ministry of Communications and Information

The Legal Services Department (“LSD”) of the Ministry of Communications and Information (“MCI”) provides legal advice and support to the divisions of MCI and its senior management in the exercise of MCI’s regulatory and statutory functions and its policy deliberations involving the statutory boards under its purview (namely, the Info-communications Media Development Authority and the National Library Board).

The LSD drafts and reviews various contractual and quasi-contractual documents, and advises on a wide range of issues, including issues relating to contract, intellectual property rights, confidentiality, personal data protection and cybersecurity.

The LSD was actively involved in giving legal input on policy matters relating to the Cybersecurity Act 2018 and its implementation, the Films (Amendment) Act and the National Library (Amendment) Act, which were passed in Parliament in 2018. Additionally, the LSD was an integral part of the secretariat staffing the Committee of Inquiry into the cyber attack on Singapore Health Services’ patient database system. The LSD also provided legal support to MCI on the restructuring of Design Singapore Council (currently a division of MCI) as a subsidiary of the Economic Development Board.

As at 31 December 2018, there were three LSOs in the LSD.

Daphne Chang Wei Hsian (Ms)
Director
Legal Services Department
Ministry of Communications and Information

Data Innovation & Protection Group, Info-communications Media Development Authority

The Personal Data Protection Commission (“PDPC”) is integrated into the Info-communications Media Development Authority (“IMDA”) and continues to enforce and administer the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 (“PDPA”) as its primary role.

Artificial Intelligence and data analytics technologies offer new possibilities to harness data innovatively. In preparing Singapore towards a Digital Economy and embracing new advances in the generation, collection and use of personal data, PDPC provides policy guidance on data-sharing to enable industries to navigate the future data landscape.

The PDPA is undergoing a review to keep pace with technological developments and the PDPC leads the crafting of policies and frameworks to support the adoption of such technologies, while balancing the needs of individuals and organisations.

As at 31 December 2018, one LSO was seconded to the IMDA.

Yeong Zee Kin
Assistant Chief Executive
(Data Innovation & Protection Group)
Info-communications Media
Development Authority and
Deputy Commissioner
Personal Data Protection Commission

Ministry of Communications and Information and Data Innovation & Protection Group, Info-communications Media Development Authority



(Left to Right) Front row:
Ms Ang Ching Hwei,
Ng Song Yeong,
Yeong Zee Kin (Assistant Chief Executive, IMDA and Deputy Commissioner, PDPC),
Ms Daphne Chang Wei Hsian (Director, Legal Services Department, MCI),
Andrew Teo Jun Yi

Ministry of Finance

The Legal Directorate (“LD”) of the Ministry of Finance (“MOF”) was established on 1 April 2018 to strengthen MOF’s capabilities in responding to rapid global developments in the economic and fiscal fronts, and also for the concurrent development of legal expertise in corporate, finance and tax policy areas within the Singapore Legal Service.

While the LD’s initial focus was on tax-related advisory matters (such as the taxation implications of Variable Capital Companies, Goods and Services Tax on imported services, the provision of stamp duties on electronic instruments and double taxation agreements), the LD’s scope of work quickly expanded to include advice on the full scope of MOF’s work such as the Minister’s discretion in an appeal against the Registrar of Company’s decision to refuse the registration of a company and on matters involving constitutional law.

The LD officers also attended overseas conferences and meetings, for example the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank Legal Conference in Beijing, China and the setting up of a Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility on the margins of the ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting in Busan, Korea.

As at 31 December 2018, there were four LSOs in the LD.

Alvin Koh Meng Sing **Chief Legal Officer**

Legal Directorate
Ministry of Finance

Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (“ACRA”), a statutory board under the purview of the Ministry of Finance, regulates business entities and public accountants in Singapore.

ACRA’s Assistant Chief Executive, a senior Legal Service Officer, supervises the work of LSOs seconded to ACRA and deployed to the Legal Services Department and Prosecution Department.

The LSOs in the Legal Services Department provide civil advisory and law reform support to ACRA. Civil advisory includes providing general advice on the statutes administered by ACRA, contractual matters, dispute resolution, name complaints, cross-ministry projects and assessments for compliance with international standards on transparency.

The LSOs were also involved in the review of the Companies Act and the Accountants Act, to ensure Singapore’s corporate and accounting regulatory regime stays robust and competitive. The law reform support includes research and drafting of law reform papers and reports, and supporting committees formed to review legislation under ACRA’s purview. The LSOs also engaged in cross-agency legislative projects, including the Monetary Authority of Singapore’s Variable Capital Companies Bill and the Ministry of Law’s Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Bill.

The LSOs in the Prosecution Department prosecute breaches of ACRA-administered legislation, during which deterrent

sentences were sought whenever appropriate. These included cases of lodgement of false information and failures by corporate services providers to fulfil statutory obligations. The LSOs also administered the new disqualification regime against directors who had three or more companies struck off by ACRA, and handled the conduct of disciplinary matters concerning public accountants.

ACRA's Assistant Chief Executive led the ACRA delegation in the onsite peer review by reviewers from the Global Forum on Transparency and Tax, to explain and defend the legal and regulatory framework administered by ACRA.

As at 31 December 2018, 10 LSOs were seconded to ACRA.

Andy Sim Yock Ann

Assistant Chief Executive

Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

The Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (“IRAS”) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance. The IRAS is tasked with administering, assessing, collecting and enforcing the payment of taxes. The IRAS also advises Government, and represents Singapore internationally, on matters relating to taxation.

The IRAS Law Division (“the Division”) advises the IRAS on a broad range of legal and tax issues. This includes rendering advice on income tax, goods and services

tax, stamp duty and property tax, and providing corporate legal support in various matters such as contract, procurement, and intellectual property. The Division represents the IRAS at tax tribunals, the High Court and the Court of Appeal, and prosecutes tax-related offences such as tax evasion and fraud. The Division is also involved in the drafting of tax legislation, arising from annual Budget announcements or as part of tax reform.

As at 31 December 2018, six LSOs were seconded to the IRAS.

Tang Siau Yan

Chief Legal Officer

IRAS Law Division

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

Ministry of Finance, Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority and Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore



(Left to Right) Front row:

Alvin Koh Meng Sing (Chief Legal Officer, Legal Directorate, MOF),
Tang Siau Yan (Chief Legal Officer, Law Division, IRAS)

(Left to Right) Second row:

Ms Nor'ashikin Binte Samdin, Mrs Jasmine Chin-Sabado, Ms P Arul Selvamalar,
Ms Lim Pei Ying, Ms Quek Hui Ling, Ms Genevieve Lee Hui Shan

(Left to Right) Back row:

Cheok Yu-Liang, Elgin Tay Wei Xiong, Ma Hanfeng, Thomas Mathew Koshy,
Gilbert Low Teik Seang, Kenny Kung Yong Jin, Ramesh Ethan s/o Ananda Suppiah,
Joshua Lai Zhiyang, Norman Teo Zhenxing, Jasper Wong Chun Yin

Not in picture:

Andy Sim Yock Ann (Assistant Chief Executive, ACRA)

Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore

In April 2018, the Competition Commission of Singapore was renamed the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (“CCCS”), to reflect its additional function of administering and enforcing the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act. The Competition Act was also amended to strengthen the competition regime, through simplifying the interview process during investigations, and empowering the CCCS to accept commitments to eliminate anti-competitive practices and provide confidential advice for anticipated mergers.

The CCCS issued several high profile decisions, the most notable one involving the Grab-Uber merger where the CCCS issued Interim Measures Directions during investigations and found that the merger resulted in substantial lessening of competition in the provision of ride-hailing platform services. A total financial penalty of \$13 million was imposed on Grab and Uber and directions were issued to keep the market open and contestable. The CCCS also issued an infringement decision against a cartel of 13 fresh chicken distributors (that supplied more than 90% of fresh chicken products in Singapore) for coordinating price increases and market sharing, imposing the highest total financial penalty of \$26.9 million in a single case to date. The CCCS also issued an Airline Guidance Note streamlining airline joint venture notifications processes. Nine merger clearance decisions were also issued, spanning various industries from rail mobility to ophthalmic lenses and spectacle

frames. The most significant was the acquisition of Kopitiam Investment Pte Ltd and its subsidiaries by NTUC Enterprise Co-operative Limited, which was approved after an extensive public consultation with multiple stakeholders.

The CCCS demonstrated its commitment to cross-border enforcement when it took over the chairmanship of the ASEAN Experts Group on Competition and oversaw the establishment of the ASEAN Competition Enforcers’ Network. It also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on enforcement cooperation with its Indonesian counterpart, the first ever with an ASEAN competition authority.

As at 31 December 2018, five LSOs were seconded to the CCCS.

Toh Han Li **Chief Executive**

Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore

Economic Development Board

The Economic Development Board (“EDB”) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It is responsible for strategies that enhance Singapore’s position as a global business centre.

The Legal Division (“Division”), part of the EDB’s Corporate Development Group, regularly advises on financial and tax incentives for the promotion of investments, training, productivity and research and development in Singapore.

The Division also advises on data protection, procurement, property and human resource matters.

Key initiatives worked on by the Division in 2018 included the implementation of EDB's compliance with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, and the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018 (No. 5 of 2018). The Division also produced

content for an e-learning platform on legal matters.

As at 31 December 2018, three LSOs were seconded to the EDB.

Ching Sann (Ms)
General Counsel
Legal Division
Economic Development Board

Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore and Economic Development Board



(Left to Right) Front row:

Ms Lee Pei Rong Rachel, Ms Then Ling,
Edrick Guo Zhixian (General Counsel, Legal Division, EDB [wef 1 January 2019]),
Toh Han Li (Chief Executive, CCCS),
Ms Qiu Huixiang, Quilindo Michael Zhi Cheng

Not in picture:

Ms Ching Sann (General Counsel, Legal Division, EDB [until 31 December 2018])

Monetary Authority of Singapore

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (“MAS”) is Singapore’s central bank and financial services regulator. Its Enforcement Department (“ENF”) and Prudential Policy Department (“PPD”) play key roles in deterring misconduct within the finance industry and promoting Singapore’s financial stability.

Two LSOs were seconded to ENF, which detects, investigates and takes enforcement action across MAS-regulated financial sectors. ENF’s Enforcement Policy and Legal Division provides legal advice, formulates enforcement policies and represents MAS at international enforcement forums.

In 2018, MAS-led investigations, under the joint investigation arrangement with the Commercial Affairs Department, resulted in a four-month imprisonment sentence against an offender for market manipulation. MAS also obtained prohibition orders against six financial advisory representatives for mis-selling investment products to a range of investors, including vulnerable clients. MAS further imposed hefty penalties against several financial institutions for breaches of requirements.

One LSO was seconded to PPD, which develops MAS’ banking regulatory framework and formulates capital and prudential policies to promote a sound, resilient and dynamic financial sector. In 2018, PPD formulated policy measures in the Payment Services Act (No. 2 of 2019) to protect consumers and safeguard Singapore’s continued financial stability (including restrictions to prevent payment

service licencees from becoming shadow banks).

As at 31 December 2018, two LSOs were seconded to the MAS.

Gillian Koh Tan (Ms)

Executive Director & Department Head
Enforcement Department
Monetary Authority of Singapore

National Environment Agency

The Legal Department (“LD”) of the National Environment Agency (“NEA”) provides legal advice and services to the NEA as the regulator for the environment and public health. The LD’s prosecutors also prosecute offences under NEA’s laws.

With 2018 being designated as “the Year of Climate Action”, the LD actively supported the NEA in its initiatives to deal with climate change. New legislation enacted included the Carbon Pricing Act, which imposes a carbon tax on certain greenhouse gas emissions of business facilities.

As part of Singapore’s vision to become a smoke-free nation, the Smoking (Prohibition in Certain Places) Act was amended to allow the prescribing of no-smoking zones.

As at 31 December 2018, two LSOs were seconded to the NEA.

Jeffrey Sim Mong Heng

Director
Legal Department
National Environment Agency

Land Transport Authority

The Land Transport Authority (“LTA”) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Transport. The Legal Sub-Group handles a diverse portfolio in areas such as legislative policy, regulatory and licensing work, prosecution of road-related offences, contracts and claims, intellectual property and land law, and corporate secretarial work.

In 2018, the key developments, projects and achievements include work done on cross-border projects with Malaysia,

projects relating to autonomous vehicle technology, new Mass Rapid Transit Lines (Cross Island and the Jurong Region Lines), active mobility initiatives, Electronic Road Pricing 2, North-South Corridor, and private-hired cars. New legislation passed include the Land Transport (Enforcement Measures) Act 2018 and the Parking Places (Amendment) Act 2018.

As at 31 December 2018, two LSOs were seconded to the LTA.

Eugene Lee Yee Leng
General Counsel
Land Transport Authority

Monetary Authority of Singapore, National Environment Agency and Land Transport Authority



(Left to Right):

Ms Kok Shu-en, Eugene Lee Yee Leng (General Counsel, LTA [until 30 June 2019]),
Jeffrey Sim Mong Heng (Director, Legal Department, NEA),
Paul Chia Kim Huat, Ms Lynn Tan Jin Ling

Not in picture:

Ms Gillian Koh Tan (Executive Director & Department Head, Enforcement Department, MAS)

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