



YONG PUNG HOW SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022 EDITION

Yong Pung How
School of
Law

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dorcas Quek Anderson
Associate Dean
(Student, Staff & Alumni Affairs)
Assistant Professor of Law

Dear Alumni,

I trust that you have been well since the start of 2022. Our year started with long-awaited physical commencement ceremonies for the classes of 2020 and 2021, as well as resumption of in-person teaching in our university. Some of my friends commented on how the past two years felt "written off", as if nothing significant has been achieved. Yet, as I look back on 2021, I have seen encouraging efforts amongst students, my colleagues and alumni to thrive amidst bleak circumstances. This edition of our alumni newsletter provides you a glimpse into how we have been thriving in different ways.

We have continued to feature selected alumni in this newsletter. I have been very heartened by their candid sharing and courage in forging their unique paths amidst challenges. I trust that their stories will also encourage you and prompt many more of you to come forward and share your lives with us. Please do not hesitate to approach us if you would like to be featured in future newsletters. Our alumni are part of a growing community that we should plug into for mutual encouragement and support.

We are immensely grateful to all of you for your continuous support shown in many ways. If you are able to, I appeal to you to support our needy students through your financial gifts. I have come across many students whose lives continue to be impacted by the pandemic and other crises. They will greatly benefit from bursaries and other financial support.

Do follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn (as well as Twitter and Instagram since Facebook seems to be for "older folks" as our students tell us) for updates on our School. Drop my colleagues and me a note any time and do feel free to visit us!



MARCH 2022 EDITION School of Law Alumni Newsletter Team

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News to share with us?
Please drop us an [e-mail](#).



Stay Connected with SMU!
[Update your contact details](#)
with us to receive news and
information on alumni events,
benefits and services.

*We have attempted to cover news from 1 February 2021 till 10 March 2022. We are grateful to those who have responded to our call for information. For news that we have inadvertently left out, or for any errors in the reported news, please accept our sincere apologies.

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ALUMNI FEATURES

SUIT TO A 'T'

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Joey Ng LLB, 2014

A former science student, Joey Ng found law school daunting. Today, she not only enjoys her work as legal counsel, but has applied her knowledge and abilities to a very different project, in the fashion business.

Like many of her peers, Joey Ng has varied interests. She enjoys fashion, has a keen interest in social issues, and always fancied trying her hand at entrepreneurship. She is also drawn to finance, which was her second major. The 2014 SMU graduate, though, chose a path through law school. "I didn't know what I was getting myself into," she laughs. "It was horrible and tough, but worth it."

Today, she considers it all good experience, and is happy in her job as an in-house counsel in the financial services sector. What's better, she has stretched her abilities and is finding that they can take her right into that happy place where all her interests meet.

Bee in her bonnet

Joey's recent venture is Luia, a fashion-cum-social enterprise which she set up with university friend Kylie. The hand-crafted outfits Luia sells are made by Afghan refugees.

It all began when Joey's mother-in-law returned from a trip with several items of clothing stitched by a community of asylum seekers in Malaysia. Joey's curiosity was piqued, and she set out to find out more about the organisation. It had been years since her university days, but the overseas community service Joey had embarked on in India with SMU left a strong impression. Joey was now keen to discover if she could help this group just across the causeway.

Joey soon learnt that the articles she had seen were sewn as part of the refugee organisation's tailoring project, and the entrepreneurial spark in her was kindled. Whereas previously she had neither the courage to step out nor the business skills she thought she needed, the young lawyer felt moved to take the plunge.

Being thankful

Meeting the refugees was memorable. "It made me appreciate better where we are and the lives that we lead, compared to what's going on out there in the rest of the world and the hardships other communities face," she reflects.

Her fashion label Luia takes its inspiration from "halleluia", an expression of thankfulness—it evokes gratitude for the often-overlooked people involved in the manufacture of apparel. All profits go to the refugees, and Luia is aiming to be fully self-sustaining in time.

Looking back at her law school days, Joey draws several lessons, especially from the Legal Theory & Philosophy and Jurisprudence classes she enjoyed the most. "I was inspired to think about the nature of law and how it interacts with society," she muses. "The law can stop you from abusing someone but it's not going to force you to help someone, so there is this gap which I mull over."

Being familiar with the law has also helped in running the business, from understanding cross-border transactions and the associated risks, to preparing formal contracts, skills that Joey would have lacked if not for her time at the School of Law.



Kylie (co-founder of Luia) and Joey



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Buckling down

Last year, an overnight train brought Joey and 15kg of fabric to Kuala Lumpur before communication and logistics were thrown into disarray by the pandemic. Luia was launched in December 2020, a difficult period with COVID-19 pervasive and the resultant adverse effect on retail. So far the enterprise has brought out a single capsule collection with one of the designs sewn by the refugees. In any case, the plan had always been to start small—Luia's 'micro-limited runs' have a batch size of just 20—until they fully understand their target segment and can build on it.

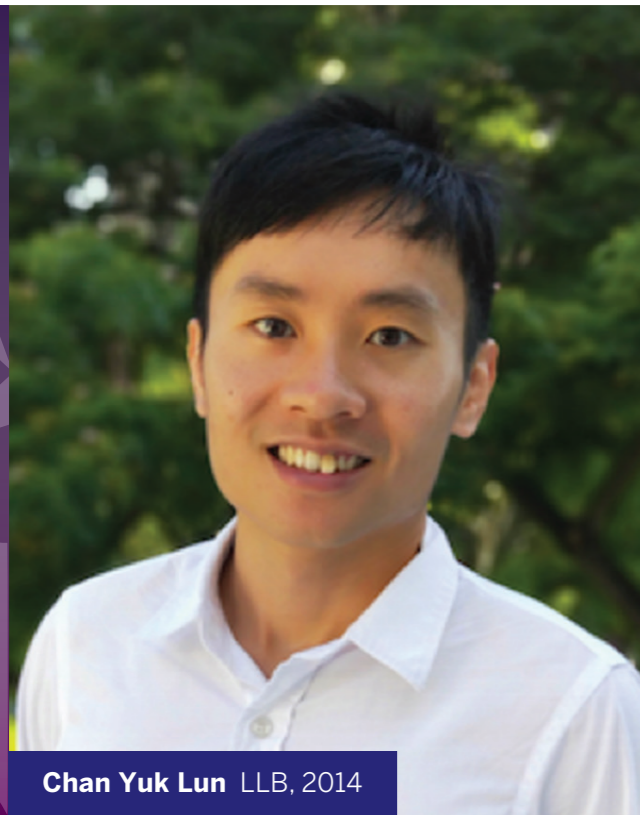
Joey admits she struggles with a seeming lack of impact on the community she wants to help, but takes consolation in knowing the organisation has other partners who are better positioned to help them for now.

"The most important thing is to persevere," Joey emphasises. "We want to see the fruit of our efforts."

This feature was prepared with the assistance of Renee Pak Ling Yui and Yunice Kah Meiyong.

ALUMNI FEATURES

A WISH THAT FILLED A NICHE



Chan Yuk Lun LLB, 2014

Chan Yuk Lun's interest in law led him to pursue a degree in it; now his goal is to make the law accessible and interesting for others, even if that means taking a different course after graduating.

"I'm willing to try new things, and am able to go with the flow," Chan Yuk Lun offers, when asked to describe himself. It is likely the reason why his website, SingaporeLegalAdvice.com, has taken off so successfully as Singapore's first comprehensive legal platform.



About SingaporeLegalAdvice.com



Singapore's Everyday Legal Platform

SingaporeLegalAdvice.com was founded in 2011 as a private entity to provide legal information for individuals and small businesses, as legal information was mostly fragmented and offline then. Since then, SingaporeLegalAdvice.com has grown from an information portal to become an all-round legal platform serving more than 200,000 monthly visitors needing help with their legal matters.

From blog to blueprint

It was while Yuk Lun was a student at SMU that he noticed a niche in the local legal landscape that

needed filling. At the time, the country did not have a legal information website, so the law freshman decided it was time to put Singapore on par with other jurisdictions.

Prior experience creating a travel blog came in handy. Together with a friend, Yuk Lun put up a page on Blogspot and started publishing basic information gleaned from his law classes, as well as an assortment of commentaries. "I didn't have a 'hard' goal," Yuk Lun recalls. "I was more focused on how to make my website useful—making the law accessible and interesting."

That was in 2011. By the time Yuk Lun graduated, his blog was hosting 27,000 visits a month, and making a very modest income. It opened his eyes to the possibilities.

A case for entrepreneurship

Yuk Lun opted for the path less trodden, and SingaporeLegalAdvice.com was incorporated in 2014, becoming sustainable within a year. The site grew



1,033 likes
singaporelegaladvice New year, new laws - 2022 edition. #SingaporeLegalAdvice

from a simple information portal into an all-rounded platform—"Singapore's Everyday Legal Platform," as the landing page proclaims. As a one-stop legal business, it offers both service and outreach, enabled by technology. Yuk Lun explains that "We give users information so that they can make decisions about the services that they need. We also give them details of lawyers, and they can compare prices as well."

A WISH THAT FILLED A NICHE

“He may not be practising as a lawyer, but his vocation is firmly grounded in the field. In bridging lawyers and clients with low-cost solutions and services, he is assured of being relevant—“feeling useful,” he calls it— even if he has little time for himself and earns less than some of his peers.”

The entrepreneur does not see his choice of career as unorthodox for a law graduate. He may not be practising as a lawyer, but his vocation is firmly grounded in the field. In bridging lawyers and clients with low-cost solutions and services, he is assured of being relevant—"feeling useful," he calls it— even if he has little time for himself and earns less than some of his peers.

In 2017, Yuk Lun was named in Asia Law Portal's list of 30 people to watch, but it is still the "little moments" that count for him, such as when users commend the portal. Deep in his heart, is the satisfaction of seeing what he had in mind come to fruition.

An open trail

The 32-year-old and his company often make an appearance in the media, whether it is The Straits Times, Money FM 89.3 or Mothership. With the boost in SingaporeLegalAdvice.com's profile came a rise in users: these days they number in the hundreds of thousands. There is an Instagram account too, which has some 40,000 followers.

The challenge, Yuk Lun says, has evolved from getting lawyers on board to remaining relevant to users. To that end, he is developing new formats for interacting with people, experimenting and redesigning as he goes along.

"The Asia-Pacific region has seen much legal innovation in recent years," he notes. He is keeping an eye open for opportunities to grow in the zone. One thing is certain, though: Yuk Lun will go with the flow when the chance comes.

"I guess one lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic is that if you really want to do something, then you should before it is too late," he says wryly.

This feature was prepared with the assistance of Lee Zi Ying and Nicole Lam.



WHITE & CASE

Kathryn Aguirre Worth Memorial Scholarship

The Scholarship was established to honour the memory of Kathryn Aguirre Worth, an American attorney with White & Case LLP, who was on board the ill-fated Silk Air flight MI 185 on 19 December 1997. This scholarship is funded by the Kathryn Aguirre Worth Memorial Foundation.

Terms of the Award. The scholarship will provide a stipend of up to US\$50,000 to defray tuition fees for graduate studies at a US law school. The award excludes general expenses.

Eligibility. The scholarship to be awarded in 2022 is open to NUS/SMU LLB graduates from the classes of 2015 to 2022 who will pursue an LLM degree at an accredited law school in the United States.

Application forms are available from:

Faculty of Law National University of Singapore 469G Bukit Timah Road Eu Tong Sen Building Singapore 259776	Singapore Management University School of Law, General Office, Level 4 55 Armenian Street Singapore 179943
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You may also download a copy of the application form from:
<http://law.nus.edu.sg/alumni/docs/kathrynworth.doc>
http://law.smu.edu.sg/sites/default/files/law/Alumni/Application_Form.doc

The closing date for submission of applications is 1 May 2022.

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ALUMNI FEATURES

BEING A WOMAN IN LITIGATION



Lee Chia Ming, Clare LLB & BBM, 2013

The aggressive climate of litigation may appear incompatible with the soft power of a woman in the legal profession, but Lee Chia Ming, Clare believes that women can more than hold their own in the arena.

“By the time people come to us, usually their house is basically on fire,” Clare states. “Our clients are people with problems and I’ve always been keen on problem solving. It’s a good fit. It’s what keeps me going.”

Now an Associate Director at Ascendant Legal LLC (which is in a formal law alliance with international firm Norton Rose Fulbright LLP), Clare has specialised in commercial litigation and international

“

She prefers to channel her focus into doing good work that makes an impact. To her it is simple: “If you are good at your job, you can make someone else’s life better—whether it’s your boss’s, your colleague’s, or your client’s.”



Celebrating her graduation with classmates

arbitration since she graduated from SMU in 2013. She is also an adjunct lecturer with SMU.

A female lawyer’s journey

Although litigation immediately conjures images of the sharp cut and thrust of the courtroom, Clare considers some of her strongest skills to be of a very different kind: empathy and patience. While legal expertise, rigour, and discipline are undoubtedly critical, Clare shares that it is learning to understand people at a deeper level that often helps her to identify the real motivations and problems, earn the client’s trust, and secure the client’s interests. Indeed, she often reminds junior lawyers and her students that lawyering is ultimately “deeply human”.

Clare firmly believes that being both a woman and a lawyer comes with unique advantages. For example, she shares that her sensitivity and intuition has often helped her to grasp how to say and do the right thing at the right time and in the right way. She points out that it is often the soft skills that help to get things done.

On the other hand, being a woman in the field can mean facing subtle biases.

BEING A WOMAN IN LITIGATION

“Even now, when I walk into court with a male colleague, people assume he is the lead counsel,” she laments, although the petite lawyer also jokes that it could be “more of a height problem”.

Role models

Indeed Clare relates how, when she was a junior lawyer in the courtroom, she observed that all the juniors were female whereas all the lead counsel were male. Discouragement turned to inspiration, however, when she saw Justice Debbie Ong on the bench. “That was such a great encouragement,” she recalls. She considers herself fortunate to have met other women lawyers along the way who cooperate, support, and mentor one another: “It makes a big difference to the journey.”

Clare also points out that one can find mentors and inspiration in both male and female lawyers. “I have always had good role models,” she reflects. From these role models she learned from early on that it is important not just to win but to win in the right way.

Carpe diem

At the end of the day, Clare is conscious not to give in to pressure to fit others’ notions of what a woman litigator ought to be like. She prefers instead to channel her focus into doing good work that makes an impact. To her it is simple: “If you are good at your job, you can make someone else’s life better—whether it’s your boss’s, your colleague’s, or your client’s.”

Finally, what does this accomplished lawyer wish she knew back in her law school days? To this, Clare quips: “That no one ever died of embarrassment!”



With SMU alumni in London on Singapore Day while seconded to Dentons’ London office



With fellow alumni at the opening of the new SMU Yong Pung How School of Law building

This feature was prepared with the assistance of Koh Zi Xian.

ALUMNI FEATURES

THE LAW IN THEIR OWN HANDS



Wilbur Lim LLB, 2012

Tell a local law student to dream big, and visions of Singapore's Big Four firms tend to float up. For some, though—like Wilbur Lim and his partners—that castle in the sky takes the form of their own firm, run under their own rules.

To start one's own boutique firm while still in their youth takes some derring-do, but the slew of honours that has followed [WMH Law Corporation](#) in just its first five years of existence proves that gumption has its reward.

Firm friends

Wilbur Lim and Mark Lee (LLB, 2012), the two joint managing directors of WMH Law Corporation, met in their first-year project group at SMU's Yong Pung How School of Law. Straight off the bat, the duo discovered a common outlook. They were full of ideas, as youth tend to be. They dreamed about starting their own practice, about how cases could be handled. They shared a strong belief in legal technology and more transparent fees for clients. They certainly wanted to engage in pro bono work.

The dream never faded, even while they worked in the same Big Four law firm after graduation. Wilbur credits the mentorship he received there for what he knows about practice and professionalism, skills he soon put to use.

Finding a foothold

Together with Hazell Ng, another young lawyer at the firm, Wilbur and Mark established WMH Law Corporation as soon as they were able to; they were all still in their twenties. "When I applied for the exemption, we were told that we were the youngest to have done so," Wilbur recalls.

Their small rented office with its single phone line was in High Street, across from the Supreme Court, and where the Attorney-General's Chambers used to be—an association the self-proclaimed history junkies could not resist. "We were starting from zero," Wilbur recounts, "but it has been a very rewarding journey."



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THE LAW IN THEIR OWN HANDS



Mark Lee, Wilbur Lim and Hazell Ng

A focus on community

Right off, they knew they wanted to effect change, and that pro bono work would be part of their *raison d'être*. The firm took up many such cases, but "reality set in" as the company grew. For now, they have scaled back and are trying to find a balance, but devoting more time to pro bono work is still very much a priority in future plans. The team keeps itself involved with the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, the Community Justice Centre and Justice Without Borders, where they feel they can impact lives.

"One of the things that I am most happy with is that for several consecutive years we've been nominated as a finalist for Corporate Citizenship," Wilbur says. The Thomson Reuters' Asian Legal Business (ALB) shortlist usually boasts large international law firms, so for his small company to be counted is something the founder is especially proud of.

First flush of success

The 33-year-old was himself a finalist for ALB's SE Asia Young Lawyer of the Year Award and firmly on the ALB's Asia 40 Under 40 watchlist, barely a year after WMH Law Corporation was set up in December 2016.

The firm has since become a regular in the ALB SE Asia Law Awards, as the finalist in a whole host of categories from Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year and Rising Law Firm of the Year, to

Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year, Medical and Healthcare Law Firm of the Year and Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year.

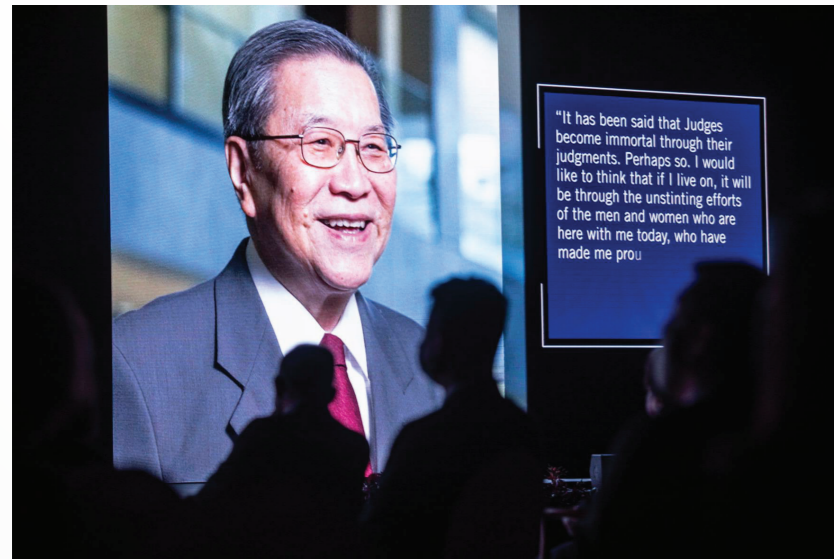
More recently in 2021, the firm was selected as a finalist for the two top law awards: Singapore Law Firm of the Year, and Singapore Litigation Law Firm of the Year. The contenders for these two categories are traditionally the largest local firms and joint law ventures.

In these first few years, WMH Law Corporation has already tripled in size as well as in revenue; it has also boosted its regional capabilities. Its story is just beginning, though; Wilbur and his partners are still young, and still full of ideas.



This feature was prepared with the assistance of Caitlin Chong Hui Ning and Valerie Lim Tien Xin.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF DR YONG PUNG HOW



On 11 April 2021, our law school attained a major milestone in being renamed the Yong Pung How School of Law, in honour of the former Chief Justice Dr Yong Pung How. The renaming ceremony was graced by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon as guest-of-honour and many guests including Dr Yong's family, Second Minister for Law Mr Edwin Tong SC and alumni.

SMU President Prof Lily Kong and CJ Menon recounted the special connection Dr Yong had with

SMU and its School of Law. Professor Kong paid tribute to Dr Yong's selfless service as the university's Pro-Chancellor from 2008 to 2010, and Chancellor from 2010 to 2015. She noted that "Dr Yong's commitment as founding Chairman of the School of Law Advisory Board was critical to the School during its infancy", enabling the school's reputation to continue growing today "because of the strong foundations he laid during those early years".

“

Chief Justice Menon shared at length on Dr Yong's contribution to the School of Law:

“Upon its establishment in 2007, around a year after he stepped down from the Bench, Chief Justice Yong took on the role of steering the Advisory Board as its Founding Chairman, and in that capacity he facilitated and nurtured close relationships between the school, the Judiciary, and the profession. I served as a member of that Board at that time, and recall being astounded by the Chief's energy and dedication to ensuring that the new school started on a solid footing with a good network of people who wished it well, and a practical presence with our Judges and lawyers.

"He later established the Yong Pung How Professorship of Law in 2007 so that the school would have the funds and more importantly, the clout to attract top legal academics in the world to teach and research here. He also identified various areas of commercial law that he thought should serve as the strategic focus for the law school and that would be aligned with the nation's own development. These initiatives turned out to be prescient, and have laid the strongest possible foundation for the law school which has gone on to establish an outstanding pedigree that well exceeds what one might have expected from an institution that has been around for just a decade and a half.

"The Chief was also very committed to doing what he could to ensure that nobody who wanted to pursue higher education would be prevented from doing so because of a lack of funds. He established the Yong Pung How Bursary in Law in 2013 to provide financial aid for less privileged students and in 2016 expanded this into a university-wide scheme. To date, more than 80 bursaries have been awarded to deserving students."

“

Dean Prof Goh Yihan SC spoke about the privilege of our School bearing Dr Yong's name:

“The renaming of this School to bear the name and legacy of the late Dr Yong Pung How says as much about what it represents, as where it can go... It speaks to the School's tradition of excellence, as an innovative law school that provides an academically rigorous yet practically relevant legal education... But the renaming of the School in Dr Yong's name also reinforces the School's relevance as an agent for change to shape the future, as Dr Yong had been in every organisation he was part of.”



Watch this moving [video](#) featuring by faculty members recollection of Dr Yong's contribution to the School in its early years.



A special exhibition paying tribute to Dr Yong's significant contributions to Singapore, together with a portrait of Dr Yong, is also permanently displayed in the School to honour Dr Yong's legacy.

CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021



COMMENCEMENT

After graduating at their virtual commencement ceremonies (one for "[class of 2020](#)" and one for "[class of 2021](#)"), alumni from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 celebrated their eagerly anticipated graduation in-person on 17 December 2021 and 10 January 2022 respectively. The graduates and their families' joy was palpable in the physical ceremonies held in the Yong Pung How School of Law building.

Graduates of the Class of 2021 who clinched top prizes include:

- **Darien The Chun Yiu** (LLB, 2021): Kwek Hong Png and SPH Valedictorian Awards; SMU Yong Pung How School of Law Best GPA Award
- **Lu Huiyi** (JD, 2021): Wee Chong Jin Prize for Most Outstanding JD Graduate
- **Su Jin Chandran** (LLB, 2021): Kwek Hong Png-SMU School of Law Valedictorian Award
- **Aaron Cheuk Yuet Tim** (LLB & BBM, 2021): Kwa Geok Choo Top Law Student Award (awarded by The Ngee Ann Kongsi); SMU Circle Award
- **Seow Ling Ern** (LLB, 2021): Kwa Geok Choo Female Trailblazer Award
- **Lau Yi Hang, Louis** (LLB, 2021): SMU Circle Award

Alumni may find more photos of these joyous ceremonies at <https://bit.ly/3vGVlO6> (2020) and <https://bit.ly/34akBwC> (2021).

We extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all the graduates.



SMU ALUMNI HOMECOMING

As part of SMU Alumni Homecoming 2021, co-organised with the SMU Office of Alumni Relations, our School welcomed back the Class of 2020 on 22 October 2021 for a virtual reunion hosted by **Lyndon Seow**. As a prelude to the event, the Class of 2020 was treated to a hand-delivered care pack including a graduation bear, the "Letters of the Law" book, and assorted treats purchased from SMU alumni's businesses including [The Kettle Gourmet Popcorn](#) and [Kindred Teas](#). Alumni from the Class of 2020 were treated to musical performances by fellow cohort mates **Dexter Choo** and **Rebecca Soh** and resident crooner Assoc Prof Low Kee Yang. A School of Law-themed quiz followed the singing items, which revived fond memories of familiar facets of life in law school.

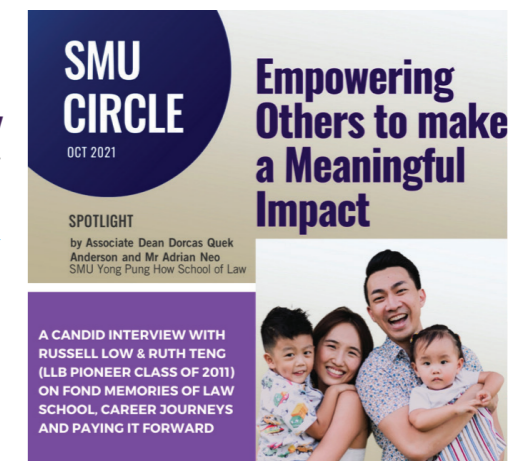
OUR PIONEER GRADUATES

2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the graduation of our pioneer class of law students. We remember with fondness our pioneer graduates' adventurous and innovative spirit as they proudly entered the working world as our school's very first law graduates. We are very proud of the impact made by our pioneer graduates and trust that they are also proud of how what the school has achieved in the last decade. Enjoy the photos below of our (still) very youthful pioneer graduates as law students.



SMU CIRCLE feature on Ruth Low and Russell Low

2021 marked the 10th year anniversary of the graduation of our pioneer class of law students. Two of our pioneer alumni, Russell Low and Ruth Teng (LLB, 2011), were featured in [SMU Circle, the university's alumni newsletter](#). Russell and Ruth candidly shared fond memories of their time in law school, how they crossed paths, their respective career journeys, and their deep passion for creating meaningful impact and paying it forward for successive generations of SMU students.



Yong Pung How School of Law Postgraduate Scholarship

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the pioneer batch's graduation, the Yong Pung How School of Law has set up the Yong Pung How School of Law Postgraduate Scholarship Fund to offer postgraduate scholarships to qualified graduates of the pioneer batch to enrol in SMU's Master of Laws (LLM) programme in AY 2022/2023. Each scholarship has a value of \$10,000. Interested applicants may view [here](#) for enquiries and information on the LLM programme.

Yong Pung How School of Law Pioneer Class Fund

In commemoration of their 10th anniversary in 2021, and inspired to make a difference to future batches of law students, the Pioneer Class of 2011 aims to collectively raise \$100,000 to establish the Yong Pung How School of Law Pioneer Class Fund which will go towards benefitting 10 full-time financially-challenged law school students (per capita income of \$2,250/month and below) with a \$10,000 bursary each. This meaningful initiative will end on **30 June 2022**.

Your support of a minimum of \$1,000 is sought – please make your contribution [here](#).

All donations will receive a 2.5x tax deduction from the government for alumni residing in Singapore. Your name will also be featured on the Alumni Wall at the Yong Pung How School of Law in acknowledgement of your kind support.

Please email any queries to Sam Wu at samwu@smu.edu.sg.

THRIVING DURING THE PANDEMIC

ENGAGING OUR STUDENTS

Week 0: Introduction to Law

We welcomed our freshmen last August with the second run of the Week 0: Introduction to Law orientation programme. In addition to getting some early exposure to the basics of legal analysis and research, our students also had the privilege of hearing from several practitioners, including alumni.

In a panel titled Tomorrow's Lawyers, we were privileged to have an all-alumni panel comprising Kimberly Tan (LLB, 2011), Liu Xuanyi (LLB, 2016), Nicholas Poon (LLB, 2011) and Sarah Ong (LLB, 2011). They shared about the various career pathways in law and their personal experiences in legal practice. In another panel titled *Lawyering for Good*, established legal practitioners and Ruby Lee (SMU Pro Bono Centre) shared how doing good can be part and parcel of the lawyer's vocation and their individual journeys in lawyering for good. The final panel *What is Law* was co-facilitated by Assoc Prof Tan Seow Hon and alumnus Asst Prof Kenny Chng (LLB, 2012).

We are grateful to our alumni who helped to make this orientation programme a success.



LLM Programme

In August 2021, our school also welcomed its largest ever batch of new LLM students hailing from 12 countries across the globe. In the virtual orientation, LLM Programme Director Assoc Prof Zhang Wei welcomed the new cohort, while LLM Alumni

President Teo Xiang Zheng (LLM, 2014) related his experience and insights on the programme.

Our LLM students are grouped under 3 tracks, namely, the LLM in Cross-Border Business and Finance Law in Asia, the Dual LLM in Commercial Law (Singapore & London) and the LLM in Judicial Studies. Numerous LLM courses, such as Law of Mergers & Acquisitions and Financial Regulation in Asia, are tailored for business and commercial law practitioners. With a view to deepening focus on law and technology, new courses such as Blockchain and Governance have been introduced. For further information on the LLM programme, see <https://bit.ly/3nda818>.



PhD in Law, Commerce and Technology

We are launching our inaugural interdisciplinary PhD programme: a PhD in Law, Commerce and Technology. The programme emphasises the interdisciplinary study between law, business and technology. In particular, students can choose to specialise in either of its two tracks, Law and Commerce, and Law and Technology. The Law and Commerce track focuses on the study of legal and regulatory responses to business, commercial and financial activities. The Law and Technology track focuses on the study of legal and regulatory responses to technology developments. Both tracks are open to students working on topics involving the three-way intersection of law, commerce and technology.

Find out more about this programme [here](#). Applications for this year's batch of PhD students are now open till 30 April 2022.

COLLABORATING WITH OUR STUDENTS

International Moots

As mentioned in our last alumni newsletter, we had set a goal of reaching a combined total of 100 podium finishes across all competitions to mark the 10th anniversary of the Ian R Taylor International Moots Programme. With the mentorship and coaching provided by many of our alumni, we are proud to announce that we have exceeded this target! Notable results include:

- Winning our first PAX Conflict of Laws championship (coached by **Huo Jiongrui** (JD, 2020))
- Earning our third trip to the Vis championship final (coached by **Andre Soh** (JD, 2017), **Iris Ng** (LLB, 2018), and **Jayakumar Suryanarayanan** (LLB, 2020))
- Winning our fourth International Criminal Court championship (coached by **Beverly Lim** (LLB, 2017) and **Andrew Chia** (LLB, 2019))
- Winning our fourth Asia Cup championship (coached by **Nicholas Liu** (JD, 2015))

Year	Jessup	Vis	Vis East	VPM	Price	Intl Crim Ct*	Frankfurt	IHL	Maritime Asia Cup	LAWASIA	A&O Nurem Fletc	Sarin ADM	FDI	ALSA PAX	Stet	Misc
2011	enhi	2015	2015	2013 (AP)	2010, 2013	2015, 2016	2015	2010, 2011	2016	2010, 2011	2009, 2011	2016	2017	2017	2017	2011
2012	enhi	2016	2017, 2018	2014 (Shg)	2015, 2016	2017, 2018	2017	2012, 2013	2017	2012, 2013	2012, 2013	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019
2013	2014, 2021	2020	2020 (Mel)	2017, 2018	2019	2019	2019	2014, 2015	2019	2014, 2015	2014, 2015, 2018	2021	2019	2020 (m)	2020	2021
2015	NRC	2015	2020 (Shg)	2019, 2020 (AP)	2020 (APF)	2021 (MI)	2018, 2019, 2020 (m)	2021	2016, 2017	2020, 2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2021	2021
2017	NRC	2017	2021 (H)	2020, 2021 (AP)	2021	2021	2020 (m)	2020	2018, 2020	2020	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021
2018	NRC	2018														



The tally by the season's end was 102 podium finishes and, to commemorate the occasion, a [102-minute documentary](#), featuring the students and alumni in action throughout the course of the season, was released. Our alumni also continue to be generous with their donations to the International Moots Alumni Fund, allowing our students to compete in dozens of competitions every year and succeed at the highest level.

COLLABORATING WITH OUR STUDENTS

Mediation And Negotiation

Our alumni who have previously participated in international mediation and negotiation competitions have been collaborating with the SMU Mediation and Negotiation Club to coach students in local and international competitions and to share their dispute resolution experience.

Yong Eng Wah (LLM, 2014) coached our students in the Lex Infinitem international Dispute Resolution Competition in February 2021 and 2022. Last year, our students were ranked the top international negotiation team amongst 36 teams, as well as 2nd out of 18 mediator teams in the preliminary rounds. This year, our students advanced to the semi-finals and quarter-finals for the negotiation and mediation rounds respectively.



Under the guidance of **Sim Wei Qing** (LLB, 2021), **Chye Shu Li** (LLB, 2021,) and **Dhiraj Chainani** (LLB, 2015), our students were ranked 7th in the 2021 Australian Disputes Centre – International Chamber of Commerce’s Asia-Pacific Commercial Mediation Competition in September 2021.

Dhiraj Chainani (LLB, 2015) coached our JD students who emerged as champions for the first time in the national round of the International Negotiation Competition 2021. The team was ranked 6th out of 28 teams from 19 countries in the international rounds.



The team was also assisted by alumni **Audrey Koo** (LLB, 2019) and **Benedict Hoon** (LLB, 2019) during their training.

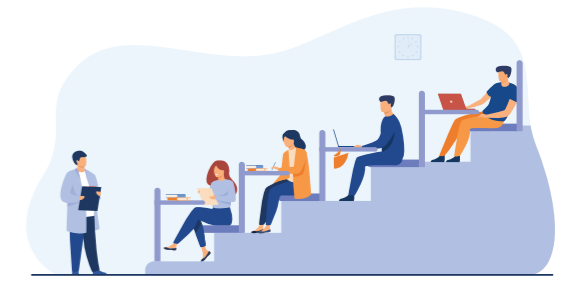
Finally, **Benedict Koh** (LLB, 2021) guided our students who emerged as Champion and 1st Runner-Up amongst 28 teams in the Negotiation and Mediation categories of the NUJS Mediation Competition in May 2021. The team also garnered two awards: Best Mediator in the Preliminary Rounds, and Best Negotiation Opening Statement. The team was also assisted by alumni **Sambhavi Rajangam** (LLB, 2021), **Sim Wei Qing** (LLB, 2021), **Chye Shu Li** (LLB, 2021), **Seow Ling Ern** (LLB, 2021) and **Michelle Cheong** (LLB, 2021).



Our students also excelled in the International Mediation Singapore competition in 2021 (5 gold awards, 8 silver awards and 5 bronze awards) and the Asian Law Students’ Association International Mediation Competition (semi-finalist). We are grateful to our alumni for devoting their time to guide our students.

TEACHING WITH US

We thank the following alumni who returned to school to teach as adjunct instructors in terms 1 and 2 of Academic Year 2021-22:



Name	Subject(s) Taught
Aaron Yoong (LLB, 2019)	Business Law; Legal Research & Writing 1
Charles Li (JD, 2012)	Financial Crimes
Chia Chen Wei (LLB, 2018)	Ethics & Social Responsibility
Chow Zi En (LLB, 2017)	Public International Law; Legal Research & Writing 2
Devathas Satianathan (LLB, 2013)	Legal Research & Writing 1
Dominic Liew (LLB, 2018)	Business Law
Fong Wei Li (JD, 2012)	Legal Research & Writing 1; Law & Psychology
Francis Chan (LLB, 2012)	Employment Law & Regulations in Singapore
Gerome Goh (LLB, 2020)	Ethics & Social Responsibility; Legal Research & Writing 2
Ian Mah Hao Ran (LLB, 2020)	Business Law
Keziah Simon (LLB, 2020)	Ethics & Social Responsibility
Koh Boon Tiong David (JD, 2017)	Business Law
Lau Yi Hang Louis (LLB, 2021)	Business Law
Lee Chia Ming (LLB & BBM, 2013)	Ethics & Social Responsibility
Low Jia Na (LLB, 2021)	Legal Research & Writing 2
Lu Huiyi (JD, 2021)	Ethics & Social Responsibility
Nick Chiam (LLB, 2017)	Ethics & Social Responsibility
Patrick Tay (LLB & BBM, 2015)	Company Law
Rennie Whang (JD, 2020)	Ethics & Social Responsibility
Samuel Ng (LLB, 2012)	Ethics & Social Responsibility; Company Law
Saw Teng Sheng (JD, 2017)	Legal Research & Writing 2
Shriram Jayakumar (LLB, 2018)	Public International Law; Legal Research & Writing 2
Soh Kian Peng (LLB, 2021)	Business Law
Sui Yi Siong (LLB, 2014)	Sentencing Advocacy

We look forward to welcoming more of you back in this capacity when future opportunities arise.

ALUMNI UPDATES

We now have more than 10 working cohorts making noticeable impact in the legal industry and beyond. Special congratulations to those who have made their mark in one way or another.

Appointments



Darien The Chun Yiu

Low Jia Na

Lau Yi Hang, Louis

Lu Huiyi

Soh Kian Peng

- **Asiyah Arif** (LLB, 2012) was appointed Director at Providence Law Asia.
- **Chua Cheng Yew** (LLB, 2015) was appointed Associate Director at Wong Tan & Molly Lim LLC.
- **Clarence Kang** (LLB, 2014), **Deya Dubey** (LLB, 2014), **Leow Jiamin** (JD, 2013) and **Tan Kai Yun** (LLB, 2014) were appointed Partners at WongPartnership LLP.
- **Darien The Chun Yiu** (LLB, 2021), **Low Jia Na** (LLB, 2021), **Lau Yi Hang, Louis** (LLB, 2021), **Soh Kian Peng** (LLB, 2021,) and **Lu Huiyi** (JD, 2021) were admitted into the prestigious Justices' Law Clerk (JLC) programme. **Dhiraj Chainani** (LLB, 2019) will be joining the JLC cohort in January 2023.
- **Deborah Wong** (LLB, 2015) was appointed Partner at Shook Lin & Bok.
- **Desmond Chew** (LLB, 2014) and **Loy Zhi Hao** (LLB, 2014) were appointed Partners at Dentons Rodyk & Davidson.
- **Doreen Chia Ming Yee** (LLB, 2012) and **Priscilla Soh** (LLB, 2014) were appointed Partners at Rajah & Tann Asia. **Chew Xiang** (JD, 2012) was admitted as Equity Partner at Rajah & Tann Asia.
- **Fazrihan Duriat** (LLM, 2015), Senior Lecturer in Euclid University, was appointed as Adjunct Professor of Chandigarh University in February 2022.
- **Genevieve Wong** (LLB, 2013) was appointed Partner at Eldan Law LLP.
- **Iain Teh** (LLB, 2013) was appointed Associate Director at Engelin Teh Practice LLC.
- **Jacqueline Chua** (LLB, 2011) was appointed Partner at Lee & Lee.
- **Jonathan Muk** (LLB, 2013) was appointed Associate Director at LVM Law Chambers.
- **Joshua Lim** (LLB, 2011) was appointed Director (Advisory & Policy Team), Crime Division, Attorney-General's Chambers.
- **Julian Ho** (LLB, 2012) and Victoria Leong (LLB, 2015) were appointed Partners at Allen & Gledhill LLP.
- **Lee Chia Ming** (LLB & BBM, 2013) was appointed Associate Director at Ascendant Legal LLC.
- **Nanthini Vijayakumar** (LLB, 2015) was appointed Associate Director at TSMP Law Corporation.
- **Nathanael Lim** (LLB & BBM, 2012) was appointed Partner at Pinsent Masons MPillay LLP.
- **Qabir Singh Sandhu** (LLB, 2015) was appointed Of Counsel at LVM Law Chambers LLC.

Other News

- **Asoka Markandu** (JD, 2011) started his own law firm Anitha & Asoka LLC on 1 December 2021, focusing on family, criminal and estate matters. Asoka was part of the school's first cohort of JD graduates and was featured in the [news](#) upon his graduation.
- **Benjamin Teo** (LLB, 2011) was one of 13 Singapore lawyers featured in Lexology Client's Choice 2021 Awards for his expertise in insurance and reinsurance.
- **Chow Zi En** (LLB, 2017) and Wong Yan Yee (LLB, 2017) won the Essex Court Chambers-Singapore Academy of Law Mooting Competition 2021.
- **Deya Dubey** (LLB, 2014) won the cross-examination competition of the Oral Advocacy Programme organised by Delos Dispute Resolution.
- **Farahna Alam** (LLB, 2021) and **Lokman Hakim bin Mohamed Rafi** (JD, 2021) each received the Spirit of Pro Bono Award for having completed the most number of pro bono hours in their respective cohorts.



Lokman Hakim bin Mohammed Rafi (Left), Farahna Alam (Right)

- **Iris Ng** (LLB, 2018) won the inaugural HK45 Essay Competition, organised by the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre.
- **Lee Kok Thong Josh** (LLB, 2015) was awarded the Kathryn Aguirre scholarship to pursue his LLM at UC Berkeley School of Law specialising in law and technology. Josh was awarded the Fundamentals of US Law Achievement Award for being the top LLM student in Fundamentals of US Law.

Other News

- ETPL.Asia, a think-tank co-founded by **Lee Kok Thong Josh** (LLB, 2015), was awarded the [highest tier research grant](#) of US\$25,000 by the Notre-Dame-IBM Tech Ethics Lab to conduct research on promoting human values in technology.
- **Tan Jun Hong** (LLB, 2016) became the first SMU alumnus to be accepted into the LLM programme in Stanford Law School.

Publications

- **Benedict Koh Yen Hin** (LLB, 2021), "Paiseh! - Apologies, Restorative Justice and Criminal Mediation in Singapore" in Joel Lee, Marcus Lim, Isabella Tan and Alvin Cheng (eds), *Contemporary Issues in Mediation* Volume 6 (World Scientific, 2021) p 105
- Chen Siyuan, **Chai Wen Min** (LLB, 2021,) and **Lau Yi Hang Louis** (LLB, 2021), "The Use of Hearsay Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: An Updated Framework" [2021] SAL Prac 8
- **Jasper Hayden Chan** (LLB, Laws & Political Science, 2018), "All of the Obligations, None of the Rights – Who will Step Up for the Step-parents?" (30 June 2021) [Singapore Law Blog](#)
- **Darien The** (LLB, 2021) and **Joel Fun**, "The Ebb and Flow of Vicarious Liability in Tort Law" [2021] SJLS 206
- **Fazrihan Duriat** (LLM, 2015) and Lise Faski Goin, "Singapore: The Reset on Nature and Islamic Finance" (13 January 2022) [Islamic Finance News](#)
- **Foo Cechao** (JD, 2020), "Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act and the Roles of Internet Intermediaries in Regulating Online Falsehoods" (2021) 33 SAclJ 438
- **Ian Mah Hao Ran** (LLB, 2020), Online Mediation: The Future that Arrived Much Sooner than We Thought" in Joel Lee, Marcus Lim, Isabella Tan and Alvin Cheng (eds), *Contemporary Issues in Mediation* Volume 6 (World Scientific, 2021) p 65
- **Jo Tay** (LLB & BBM, 2011) and Ee Jia Min, "Common Issues Arising from the Moratoriums against Enforcement of Security and Repossession of Goods under Quasi-Security Arrangements" [2021] SAL Prac 32

Publications

- **Zhuo Jiaxiang** and **Kenny Lau** (LLB, 2014), "The Contours and Limits of Transnational Issue Estoppel" [2021] SAL Prac 22
- **Lau Yi Hang Louis** (LLB, 2021), "Two Steps Forward, One Step Back? An Attempt to Cure Due Process Paranoia" (2021) 1 Singapore Law Journal 17
- **Lau Yi Hang Louis** (LLB, 2021), "One More Chance for Loss of Chance? Re-examining Loss of Chance through the Lens of Actionable Damage" (2021) 28 Tort Law Review 81
- **Lau Yi Hang Louis** (LLB, 2021) and **Lee Chong Jie** (LLB, 2021), "The Interplay Between Contract and Unjust Enrichment: [2022] Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly 57
- Darius Chan and **Lau Yi Hang Louis** (LLB, 2021), "Proper Characterisation of the Parol Evidence Rule and its Applicability in International Arbitration" (2021) 37 Arbitration International 805
- **Lee Kok Thong Josh** (LLB, 2015), Jerrold Soh and Gregory Vijayendran SC, "Technology and the Legal Profession" in Simon Chesterman, Goh Yihan and Andrew Phang (eds) *Law and Technology in Singapore* (Singapore Academy of Law, 2021)
- **Marissa Daisy Decruz**, "Building a Bridge Over Troubled Water: How Facilitating 'Closure' Can Strengthen the Effectiveness of Victim-Offender Mediations" in Joel Lee et al (eds), *Contemporary Issues in Mediation* Volume 7 (World Scientific, forthcoming in 2022)
- **Mark Cheng** (LLB, 2011), "An IP Strategy for Corporate Success Part I: Building a Winning IP Strategy" [2021] SAL Prac 11
- **Mark Cheng** (LLB, 2011), "An IP Strategy for Corporate Success Part II: Essential Steps to Successful Implementation" [2021] SAL Prac 13
- **Mark Chia** (LLB, 2021), "The Presumption of Innocence: A Golden Thread Always to be Seen" (2021) 1 Singapore Law Journal 48
- **Ng Chong Yuan** (JD, 2011), "Whither Singapore's Harbour for Patenting Computer-Implemented Inventions?" (2021) 33 SAcLJ 870
- **Nicholas Poon** (LLB, 2011), "The Power to Consider Remittal as a New Point in an Appeal: A Matter of Jurisdiction or Power?" [2021] SAL Prac 16
- **Ong Ken Wei** (LLB, 2021), "The Limits to Contractual Discretion" (2021) 33 SAcLJ 919
- **Kenny Chng** and **Ong Ken Wei** (LLB, 2021), "The Singapore Green Plan 2030: Analysing Its Implications on Law and the Legal Industry in Singapore" (2021) 23(4) Environmental Law Review 336
- **Patrick Tay** (LLB & BBM, 2015) and **Chua Wei Yuan** (LLB & BAcc, 2014), "Corporate Self-Representation in the Singapore Courts" (2021) 33 SAcLJ 1124
- Andre Jumabhoy and **Priscilla Chia** (LLB, 2017), "Levelling the Playing Field in Criminal Proceedings" [2021] SAL Prac 3
- Singapore Academy of Law, Subcommittee on the Specialist Accreditation Framework for Data and Digital Economy Lawyers and Inhouse Counsel (including **Lee Kok Thong Josh** (LLB, 2015)), *Report on Specialist Accreditation Scheme* (Singapore Academy of Law, January 2022)
- Singapore Academy of Law Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee (including **Lee Kok Thong Josh** (LLB, 2015)), *Report on Criminal Liability, Robotics and AI Systems* (Singapore Academy of Law, February 2021)
- **Soh Kian Peng** (LLB, 2021), "Scope of a Doctor's Duty to Advise" (2021) 21 Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal 328
- **Soh Kian Peng** (LLB, 2021), "Spandek: A Relational View of the Duty of Care" (2021) 6 Cambridge Law Review 263
- **Soh Kian Peng** (LLB, 2021), "Calculation of Limitation Periods and Accrual of Causes of Action in Tort" (2021) 37 Journal of Professional Negligence 194
- **Soh Kian Peng** (LLB, 2021) and Jeremy Chai Zee Peng, "Identities of Parties to a Contract" [2022] Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly 23

Publications

- Edwin Teong Ying Keat and **Soh Kian Peng** (LLB, 2021), "Expert Witnesses in Arbitration and the Duty of Loyalty" (2021) 37 Journal of Professional Negligence 148
- **Sui Yi Siong** (LLB, 2014) and Aaron Yoong (LLB, 2019), "Back to Basics? Recent Developments in Vicarious Liability in the UK Supreme Court" (2021) 28 Tort Law Review 18
- Darius Chan and **Teo Jim Yang** (LLB, 2020), "Reformulating the Test for Ascertaining the Proper Law of an Arbitration Agreement" (2021) 17 Journal of Private International Law 439
- **Terence Yeo** (LLB, 2020), "Banking on Mediation: A Critical Analysis of Financial Disputes Mediation in Singapore" in Joel Lee, Marcus Lim, Isabella Tan and Alvin Cheng (eds), *Contemporary Issues in Mediation* Volume 6 (World Scientific, 2021) p 25
- **Tricia Ho** (LLB, 2013), "Family Law" (2020) 21 SAL Ann Rev 553
- **Tricia Ho** (LLB, 2013) and **Aaron Yoong** (LLB, 2019), "Therapeutic Justice: For Practitioners, By Practitioners?" [2021] SAL Prac 29
- **Wong Yan Yee** (LLB, 2017) and **Joshua Phang Shih Ern**, "Imposing Conditions on a Stay of Proceedings in Favour of Arbitration" [2022] SAL Prac 5

THE SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI WALL



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For gifts to the International Moots programme, please refer to this [link](#).



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Indicate your interest to volunteer [here](#).



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