



**SCHOOL OF LAW
ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER**

JULY 2020 EDITION

School of
Law

ASSOCIATE DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni,

We bring you another new edition of the Alumni Newsletter. In this revamped version, we have placed even greater focus on you, our alumni. As you will notice, there is now a special section featuring alumni who have done interesting and meaningful things. In this edition, we tell the stories of several alumni who have ventured into the area of law and technology, which we hope you will find to be a good read in light of the increasing interest in this topic. In future editions, we hope to feature more diverse profiles and we welcome your suggestions as to whom we can feature.

There is also a separate section about alumni returning to school to share their experiences with our students. In my capacity as the Associate Dean responsible for alumni affairs, I have asked my fellow colleagues and student clubs to try as much as possible to include you in school activities. The goal is to foster closer ties between alumni, students and faculty, allowing the three groups to provide the necessary support and encouragement to each other.

We welcome your feedback on the revamped newsletter, especially on any other content that you might be interested to see in future issues. We are grateful to those of you who have responded to our call for information to fill the pages of this newsletter. Last but not least, we express our gratitude to Associate Professor Tan Seow Hon for her splendid job of laying the foundations for alumni engagement.

Happy reading!



ALVIN SEE
Associate Dean
(Student, Staff & Alumni Affairs)
Associate Professor of Law
(Education)



JULY 2020 EDITION

School of Law Alumni Newsletter Team

Adrian John Neo

Benjamin Joshua Ong

Chen Siyuan

Kenny Chng

Lau Kwan Ho

Alvin See



News to share with us?
Please drop us an e-mail at:
adrianjneo@smu.edu.sg

*We have attempted to cover news since the last newsletter (March 2019) up till June 2020. 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.

CONTENTS



The Class of 2018 returned to SMU for an evening of reunion, fun and games at 2019's Mass Call Party to celebrate their call to the bar.

02 Associate Dean's Message

04 Alumni Features

- Josh Lee (LLB, 2015)
- Stella Chen (LLB, 2015)
- Joey Pang (JD, 2013)
- Chang Zi Qian (LLB, 2011)
- Edmund Koh (LLB, 2011)

14 Class of 2019

- Law Graduation Night 2019
- Commencement 2019

16 Returning to School
Mass Call Party
International Moots Alumni
Back to the Classroom

19 Responding to Covid-19

20 Alumni News

ALUMNI FEATURES



Josh Lee Kok Thong (LLB, 2015)

“**The best way to know what the future will bring is to shape it yourself!**”

Since he was a child, Josh has always been fascinated by technology—think giant robots, space rockets and computers (and the games to play them on!). As each new piece of exciting technology is being rolled out, it makes him look forward and wonder “what will the future bring?”.

Even before graduating, Josh had already been thinking about how lawyering would be like in the future with major technological disruptions. Whilst attending a conference on the future of lawyering, Josh met a group of fellow law students from NUS and SMU who were part of Legal Hackers Singapore. This was his first venture into legal innovation and technology, which eventually led him to do many exciting things in this field. He has not looked back since.

Josh co-founded [LawTech.Asia](#) to inspire and generate thought leadership among lawyers and policymakers in law and technology. In 2019, LawTech.Asia was invited by the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) to be a strategic media partner. Josh chairs the Steering Committee of the Asia-Pacific Legal Innovation and Technology Association ([ALITA](#)), which coordinates legal technology initiatives in the Asia Pacific region with the broader goal of improving access to justice. He is also a member of SAL’s Law Reform Committee Working Group on Robotics and AI, and a Research Fellow at SMU’s Centre for AI and Data Governance.

“**The collective strength of these organisations will allow us to deliver a coordinated and considered response to issues arising from technological disruptions.**”

Josh is particularly interested in the following issues: (1) the use of regulation to shape ethically-designed autonomous systems and to ensure the proper governance of new technologies; (2) the use of technology to improve access to justice and bridge

Josh is currently the Legal Policy Manager for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance at the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA). In this role, he helps to manage Singapore’s policies relating to AI governance and regulation.

Prior to that, Josh was an international arbitration and disputes lawyer at Lee & Lee. He subsequently joined the Ministry of Law, where he eventually became an Assistant Director of the Legal Policy Division. There, he was involved in legislative reforms, which gave him insights into policy-making at the national level. He learnt to consider more deeply the legal, policy, societal and ethical issues of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.

Josh is deeply passionate about issues at the intersection of law, policy and technology, and finds a deep sense of purpose and fulfilment in working for the greater good and making sense of the future.

the gap between the digital haves and have-nots; (3) using human-centred policies to combine technology and positive human behaviour to address climate change or explore new frontiers in space; and (4) the question of what it means to be human in light of the increasing abilities of artificial intelligence.

In exploring these issues, Josh’s legal background has come in useful. As Josh elaborates:

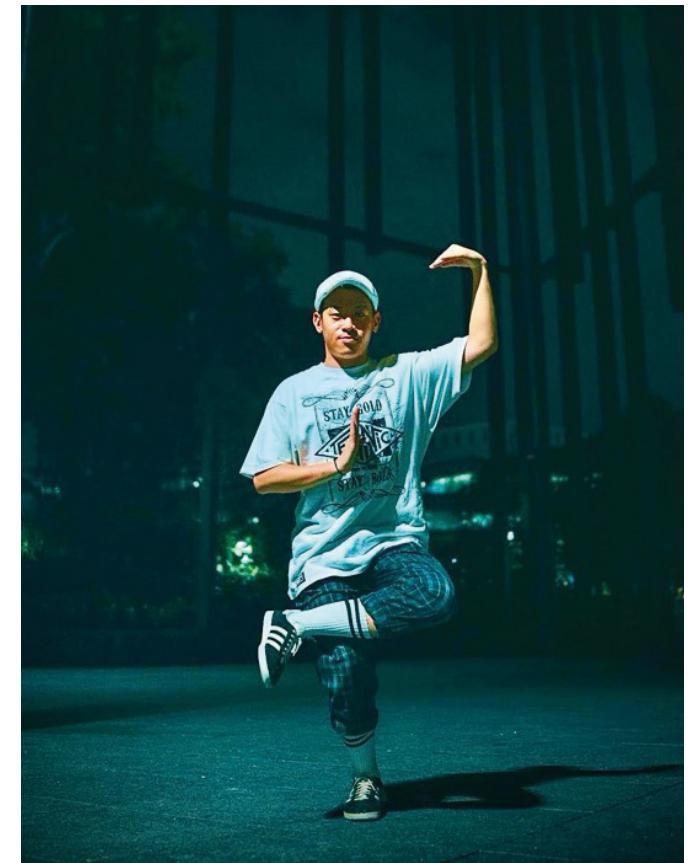
“Being exposed to legal practice gave me a better perspective of how technology can assist lawyers. It also opened my eyes to the contextual and policy aspects of the legal industry. More importantly, it instilled analytical rigour, allowing me to think more structurally and concretely, such as discerning trends and forecasting their impacts”.

Josh has contributed to these continuing dialogues at various platforms. He was the draftsman for Singapore’s *Model AI Governance Framework* (2nd edition, 2020) and is also the co-Chief Editor of the *State of Legal Innovation in Asia-Pacific Report 2019*. His writings on these topics have also appeared in periodicals such as *Legal Business World*, *The Straits Times*, *The Business Times* and the *Singapore Law Gazette*.



For his achievements, Josh was featured in Asia Law Portal’s Asia’s 30 Persons to Watch in the business of law in 2019 and Anna Lozynski’s e-book, *The New Age Lawyers*.

Outside of work, Josh is an avid street dancer who specialises in the funk style of *Popping*. In 2013, Josh represented Singapore in the Respect-16 Bboy Masters World Finals in South Korea, emerging as the runner-up. He also co-founded a dance club in SMU—SMU Funk Movement—and its alumni chapter. Recently, he started teaching in a dance studio.



Josh lives his life by adhering to three important values: Respect, Humility and Discipline. He warns against the danger of being driven solely by material success, which is often a source of internal dissonance and unhappiness.

“**We should view a person’s achievements as just reflections of his or her deeper values.**”

Josh also encourages the finding of one’s own narrative in life. He gives the example of how law students often assume that their life goal is to become a law firm partner. Obviously, life is much more than just how far one goes in the profession. As he explains:

“Real narrative-creation requires deep thought and asking ‘why’ until you reach your *raison d’etre*. This becomes a *Polaris* which remains a constant which helps create a much clearer path in life.”

ALUMNI FEATURES



Stella Chen (LLB, 2015)

Stella's interest in law and technology stems from her desire to improve efficiency. She recalls her frustration with having to repeatedly fix the formatting of a Microsoft Word document when she was a practice trainee. The table of contents would lose its formatting every time it was updated! This motivated her to constantly improve her Microsoft Word skills. Originally a personal endeavour, it eventually bore fruit when it became relevant to her current role. For example, she can now produce document templates with perfect formatting (e.g. multilevel list styles already set up) that lawyers can take and use immediately. Having also learned Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) (a programming language common to all Microsoft Office applications) alongside Word, she is even better equipped to handle the basic coding involved in document automation.

“**For tasks you have to do every day, especially those that you don't enjoy doing, finding the most efficient way to perform them just makes sense.**”

Stella often gets asked if her job involves coding. While part of it does involve coding, this is actually the easiest part to learn. The more crucial aspect of her work involves contract drafting. She has to ensure that the document templates are clear and consistent before they are fed into the document assembly software. Otherwise, it will be a case of “garbage in, garbage out”.

Example

Consider the phrase “acknowledges and agrees” in a contract. Do these words mean different things? If not, the drafter should choose one word and stick to it. This is because an established principle of interpretation is that the court will ascribe meaning to every word in a contract. If a court distinguishes the two words, this might contradict what the drafter intended!

Although one might think that the software would replace lawyers, the truth is that certain lawyering skills are simply indispensable. On contract drafting, Stella recommends Kenneth Adams' *A Manual of Style for Contract Drafting* (she stresses that she does not receive a commission for recommending it).

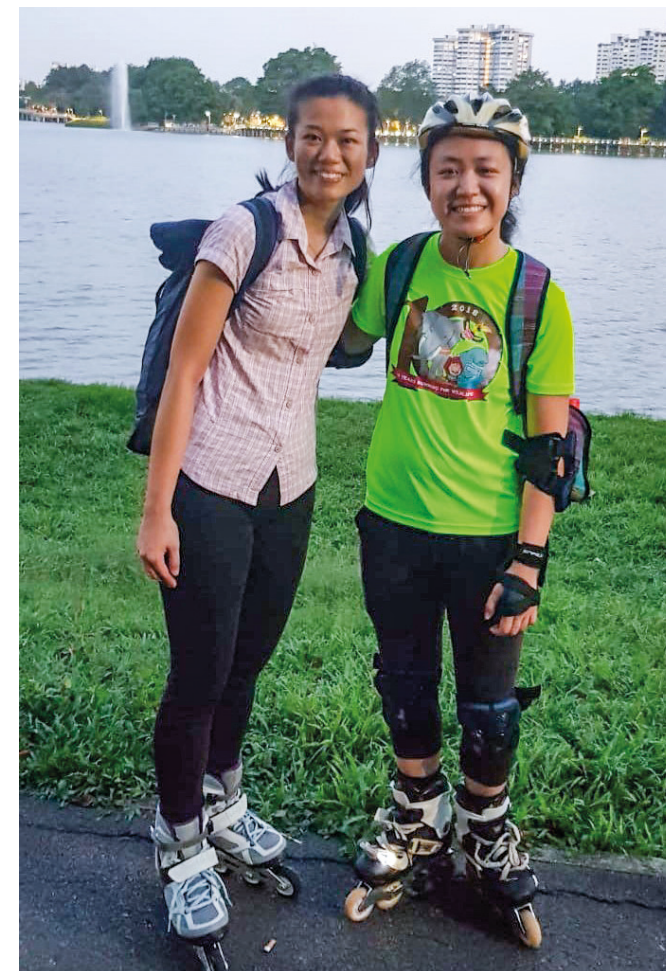
Stella is a Legal Technology Development Manager with RHTLaw Asia. She manages the document assembly software, which enables lawyers to generate a first draft of a document by simply answering a questionnaire. This replaces the traditional drafting method of finding a suitable precedent and manually amending it. Generating contracts this way not only saves time and cost but also reduces the risk of errors from manual amendments which results in better quality contracts. Stella's day-to-day work involves researching and drafting document templates, and telling the software which parts of the template to customise according to answers in the questionnaire (which is a form of coding).

Previously, Stella was with the Legal Research & Development Department at the Law Society of Singapore. Her role mainly involved researching trends that are expected to affect lawyers in the future. During her stint there, she was involved in the drafting of the Law Society's responses to government consultations, assisted in producing ethics publications for lawyers, and authored a series of articles for the Singapore Law Gazette. She was also the Data Protection Officer.

Although many begin to turn to technology to solve problems in the legal industry, Stella stresses the importance of knowing the limitation of technology.

“**I'm less worried about technology's limitations than what happens if people forget that technology has limitations.**”

Take the example of questionnaires which Stella prepares for the lawyers to input information into the document assembly software. Consider a simple indemnity clause which states that A must indemnify B for all losses arising from A's breach. If the indemnity clause is included in the questionnaire without the option to omit it, the drafter is imposing her view that this clause is standard practice, and vice versa. As the default position is informed by human judgment, which may turn out to be wrong, it is important not to accept it unhesitatingly.



“**As technology is only as good as its creator, we can never omit the need for human judgment.**”

Outside of work, Stella is a keen reader and also writes short stories of her own (when inspiration strikes!). She tries to read as widely as she can. She particularly enjoys plots where characters actually get what they wanted, only to find that what they wanted isn't what they want. As Stella explains, “nowadays the mantra is to ‘follow your heart’, but we don't always question whether what our heart wants is what it should want”. For such a plot, a book she would recommend is *Sarong Party Girls* by Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan, which is about a Singaporean girl who wants to marry a rich *ang moh* (white man). Besides reading and writing, Stella also loves outdoor activities such as hiking and roller skating.

Reflecting on the challenges she has encountered during work, Stella shares her method of dealing with them. She has personally struggled with maintaining work quality in cases where she didn't think her work would be recognised or when dealing with trivial tasks. How a person deals with such smaller challenges is a good reflection of his or her character. Her advice is simply to “do it for yourself”. It is important to avoid taking shortcuts and being resentful as these tend to become habits.

When facing major life challenges, Stella draws on her experience of pursuing an unconventional career path. Standing at the crossroads, one is often required to decide if certain things are truly worth it to make sacrifices for. For Stella, she finds meaning in her job as it frees up time for lawyers to spend on work they value and people they love. She has a simple piece of advice to those facing similar challenges:

“Discover what you value so much that the costs become unimportant, and let this guide you through your major life challenges.”



ALUMNI FEATURES



Joey Pang (JD, 2013)

committees. He holds memberships in three committees at the Law Society of Singapore (the Cybersecurity and Data Protection Committee, the Information Technology Committee, and the Continuing Professional Development Committee) and has also been appointed to the Expert Panel of SMU's Centre for AI and Data Governance. He is also part of the leadership team at AsiaDPO, a society of professionals united by the common goal of furthering the practice and profession of privacy and data protection in Asia.

“ **These activities allow me to exchange views with and learn from others who are equally passionate about these topics.** ”

Prior to entering law school, Joey already had a diploma in Multimedia & Infocomm Technology and a degree in Economics. For work, he did a smattering of things, from establishing a startup during the 1999-2000s dotcom boom, joining Accenture as a management consultant, to being employed as a research analyst at the Ministry of Defence's Security and Intelligence Division (SID).

While his role at the SID was interesting, intellectually rigorous and meaningful, he was looking forward to a career that involved more human interaction and problem-solving. A career in law ticked all the boxes. This led him to enrol in the JD programme at SMU.

Fast forwarding to the present, Joey did not make the full switch to law but now focuses on issues arising at the intersection between law and technology. As a technologist who stumbled into law, Joey sees a great deal of synergy between the two disciplines.

“ **As a tinkerer, I have a knack for problem-solving, which lies at the heart of law and technology. Arriving at the intersection between the two disciplines thus happened very naturally.** ”

Joey is currently a technology lawyer and legal technologist with DBS Bank. In his role as Senior Vice President (Legal & Compliance), his time is split among three broad areas: legal advisory and transaction work on the bank's technology projects and procurement; advocacy efforts on regulatory issues relating to emergent technology such as data innovation, data ethics and AI governance; and transformation projects within the bank that melds technology into legal and compliance work to bring about new capabilities and new ways of working and service delivery.

Soon after joining DBS Bank in mid-2017, Joey helped launch the bank's application programming interface (API) portal which at that time was the largest by a bank. That project underscored the bank's commitment to reimagining banking for the benefit of its customers. Joey also drove the conceptualisation and operationalisation of the bank's responsible data use standard, which comprises four main tenets: Purposeful, Unsurprising, Respectful and Explainable (PURE). These underpin the bank's view of what it means to be responsible in using data and AI.

Beyond his day-to-day work at DBS Bank, Joey is also actively involved in a number of professional

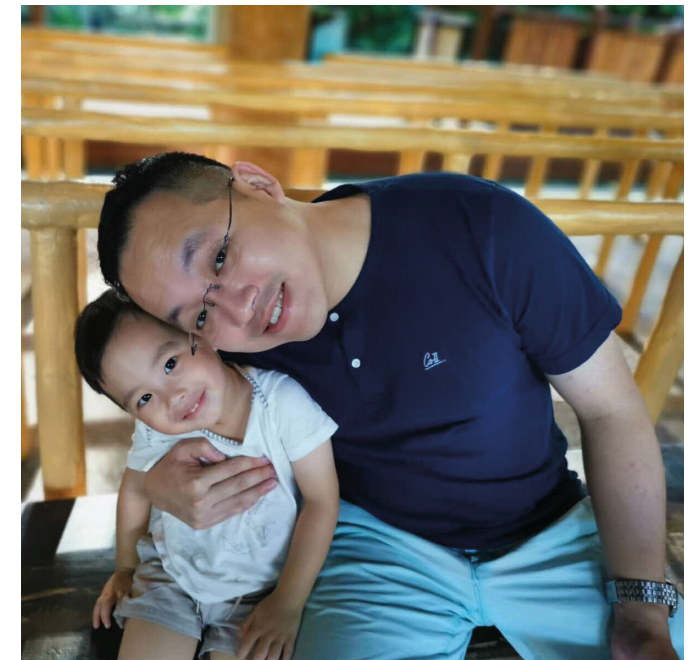


Asked if his legal education has equipped him with skillsets that are helpful in his current role at DBS Bank, Joey replied that it has provided him with "a very useful frame of reference and assortment of tools for addressing technological issues". In particular, Joey explains that his legal background is useful in spotting legal and compliance issues that may arise from the adoption of new technologies and business models.

On the flip side, he also found his technical training to be very useful when it comes to drafting agreements as both programming and contract drafting share a common set of good practices, such as maintaining proper definitions, precision in language and proper structure planning.

“ **In a lot of ways, drafting contracts is akin to legal programming and I can certainly see why lawyers look at smart contracts with great interest.** ”

Outside of work, Joey likes to program and tinker with electronic gadgets such as Arduino boards, Raspberry Pi and Zigbee sensors. Unsurprisingly, his other passion, cooking, does not escape the use of interesting gadgets: sous vide machines, smokers, grill guns, dry aging cabinets and dehydrators. He



used to also do a fair bit of RPG gaming (Far Cry, Final Fantasy, etc) but with the birth of his son 4 years ago, his Xbox has been gathering dust.

Joey lives by a simple motto which we can certainly learn from:

“Be less worried about how your life or career will turn out and put your time in people and interests that you care about. You will be surprised at how everything will fall in place for you!”

ALUMNI FEATURES



Chang Zi Qian (LLB, 2011)

INTELLEX

INTELLEX's vision is to build a knowledge management system that augments the creation, automates the management, delights the consumption, and expedites distribution of knowledge to professional knowledge workers.

his belief that the legal industry would benefit from more technology applications. Unsurprisingly, a light-bulb moment arose for Zi Qian.

“**As I stayed in the office doing research at 2am, I wondered to myself how is it possible that no one in the law firms has thought about this point? It was difficult to conduct searches on the various databases. I just hoped to have a google for law!**”

In 2015, Zi Qian and a few other friends founded INTELLEX. Their goal was to become the go-to expert for the management of professional knowledge.

However, as that was even before the term “legal tech” gained popularity, most people did not understand what INTELLEX was setting out to do. As Zi Qian recounts, “many people mistook us for being a legal content database and we were frequently asked if we had the Singapore Law Reports on INTELLEX”.

“**Entrepreneurship is an endless cycle of ‘chicken and egg’ conundrums. We are always trying to create something from nothing, trying to convince without a track record, trying to hire without a market reputation, trying to deliver without prior experience, etc.**”

As Zi Qian observes, many lawyers simply regard the inherent difficulties of legal research as part and parcel of their job. No one thought it was worth paying money to alleviate the inconvenience. Fortunately, despite the initial scepticism, INTELLEX has not only survived but grown. It will be celebrating its fifth birthday this year! Clearly the initial years of grinding have started to bear fruit.

As CEO of INTELLEX, Zi Qian's primary responsibility is to ensure that the company survives! He oversees the company's fund raising efforts, business development and sales, which require regular meetings with clients and investors. As part of the management team, he also helps ensure the wellbeing of the employees, especially during difficult times.

After graduating from law school and being called to the bar, Zi Qian joined the National Research Foundation (NRF). He was part of the team overseeing venture capital investments and start-up related policy. During his time with the NRF, he had the opportunity to interact with startups and researchers, which exposed him to the possibilities of applying technology in the legal industry. His earlier stint at a law firm confirmed



From Zi Qian's experience of building up a business from scratch, it is clear that entrepreneurship is never easy. Establishing a start-up is one thing. Growing it is another. For Zi Qian, the challenge is holding fast to the belief that the company will overcome whatever difficult circumstances it is in and move on to a firmer footing thereafter.

“**If there is no mud, there is no lotus. Every challenge comes with its corresponding benefits. Let's all learn to see the duality in every circumstance or challenge that one encounters.**”

In terms of product development, Zi Qian's legal training has been highly relevant. Developing technologies for the legal industry requires an understanding of the work flow of lawyers and the mental models they adopt when they work. Having been a lawyer himself, Zi Qian possesses the contextual knowledge that helps the company create technologies and products that their intended users will find sufficiently intuitive.

Zi Qian regularly returns to the School of Law to talk to the students about legal tech. He is also a member of the School's Law & Technology Advisory Council.

For his achievements, Zi Qian was the recipient of the National Youth Achievement Award (Gold) and was named twice by the University of St Gallen (Switzerland) as one of the 100 Leaders of Tomorrow (2011 and 2014) at the St Gallen Symposium.

“**As entrepreneurs, we need to believe that when we are doing work, we are actually creating value. And to believe that when we hire, the company values will be strengthened to become the company culture. And when we deliver, we are actually building onto a reputation that we want to be proud of.**”

Beyond work, Zi Qian likes to read. He recommends Clayton Christensen's *How Will You Measure Your Life?*, which explores the profound question of how to lead a fulfilling life. He is also learning to cook and is particularly proud of his fried rice with orange peel. Aside from these hobbies, Zi Qian is also passionate about cultural identity issues, such as the role of the mother tongue in a multicultural Singapore, Singlish as a language, and how strongly we need to or should fall back on the cultural DNA of our forefathers. He believes that the answers to these issues will help us understand the foundations upon which our society operate.



ALUMNI FEATURES



Edmund Koh (LLB, 2011)

Prior to joining INTELLEX, Edmund was in private legal practice for a number of years. He observed that search engines used by legal databases are inefficient because they are unable to identify the different contexts in which words are used. For example, if a lawyer searches for “consideration” with contract law in mind, the search results will also include non-contract cases in which the word is used in its natural instead of legal sense. Edmund wondered why modern search engines like Google seem to be able to understand the intention behind a search so well. He was also curious if it was possible to translate legal reasoning and what goes on the mind of a lawyer into algorithms.

The opportunity to explore these issues soon presented itself when Edmund was approached by Zi Qian about creating a start-up. This led to the founding of INTELLEX.

“ **I thought very hard about it, weighing up the pros and cons (as lawyers tend to do). But what tipped the scales was my desire to make a difference in how law ought to be practiced. It cannot be right that lawyers have no modern tools to help their work while they are piled upon with increasing expectations.** ”

This venture into the intersection between law and technology has its own set of challenges. Edmund’s technical role requires the translation of legal documents and reasoning into code. This means that he has to be knowledgeable about databases, search techniques, and other technical terminologies. Fortunately, Edmund already had some programming experience and simply needed to refresh his coding skills by picking up basic Python and update himself by reading technical papers relating to databases and information retrieval.

“ **The term Engineer in my job title aptly describes what I do. I utilise my legal training and knowledge to deliver functional outcomes for clients within the bounds of practicality (of data science and technology), raw materials (i.e. available legal documents) and cost.** ”



“ **The goal of technology is to solve problems. Once you can understand that and sense how different technologies accomplish things, it does not take long to build an understanding of more complex applications.** ”

Edmund’s legal training has proven to be equally important in discharging his technical role. For example, in deciding how cases should appear in a search result, he has to decide what factors contribute to the importance of a case (e.g. court level, recency, citation count, etc). Only after this basic framework has been established can the engineers begin their work.

Having been a keen mooter during his student days, Edmund has been coaching the School of Law’s team for the International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition. Coaching involves many hours of guiding the students in preparing their written and oral submissions and eventually accompanying them to the competition.

“ **I have benefited from the International Moots Programme, and this is my way of giving back to the school. I am always impressed by how the already high standards are improving year-on-year.** ”

During his free time, Edmund likes reading about history. He observes that history is more than about a past event but also about the society of various time periods, which provides useful lessons for us in the present day.

“Even though technology has advanced, it seems that people tend to act in similar ways in similar situations. As we are reading about past events, there is a comforting sense of a pending conclusion, which is missing as we are navigating through current events”.

Edmund is particularly interested about events leading up to World War I. On this topic, he recommends a book by Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe went to War in 1914*, which tells about the complex events and relationships that eventually led a group of well-meaning leaders into war.

As someone who has stepped out of his comfort zone to try something new, Edmund has a simple word of advice for us:

“Realise that you can act to get a life that you want, instead of just floating along where it brings you”.



CLASS OF 2019



LAW GRADUATION NIGHT 2019

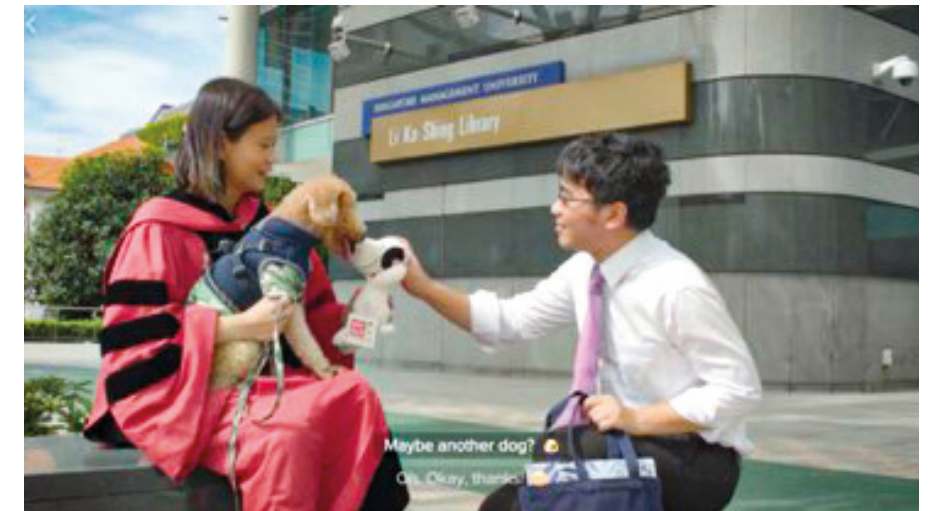
Organised by The Bar, the Law Graduation Night 2019 was a farewell celebration for the Class of 2019 just prior to their official graduation. Held on 10 July 2019 at Boaters' Bar at Sentosa, it was a night of splendid food and games.

COMMENCEMENT 2019

At the School of Law's 2019 Commencement Ceremony, which was held on 31 July 2019, 197 graduands received their degrees: 147 LLBs, 32 JDs and 18 LLMs. Among the LLB and JD graduands, 15 received the highest honour of *summa cum laude*. **Nguyen Sinh Vuong** (LLB, 2019) was awarded the DBS Bank Valedictorian Award, **Lee Chuan** (JD, 2019) received the Wee Chong Jin Prize for the Most Outstanding Juris Doctor Graduate, and **Ng Jun Xuan** (LLB, 2019) received the Kwa Geok Choo Top Law Student Award

The event began with an inspiring speech by the Guest-of-Honour, the Honourable Justice Andrew Phang, who urged the graduands to strive for excellence in making meaningful impact to those around them. When it was the turn of **Professor Goh Yihan** to deliver his Dean's Address, he indicated to the audience that he had brought the wrong speaking notes and needed to retrieve the correct ones. After he exited the hall, the audience were treated to a light-hearted video showing him going around the university campus in search of the missing note. Professor Goh eventually returned on stage to deliver his speech, in which he stressed the importance of kindness, gratitude and dreaming big. Both valedictorians for LLB and JD, Nguyen Sinh Vuong and Lee Chuan, also delivered heartfelt speeches with special dedications to faculty members, friends and loved ones who played important roles during their time at SMU.

We would like to congratulate the Class of 2019 and wish all of them every success in their endeavours.



RETURNING TO SCHOOL

MASS CALL PARTY

On 31 August 2019, we celebrated a significant milestone in the legal journey of our Class of 2018: getting called to the Singapore Bar. About 65 alumni and staff attended the Mass Call Party 2019, a joyous event filled with food and beverages, games, a fancy photo booth, and lots of fun! We are especially grateful to **Benedict Chan** (LLB, 2018), class representative, for assisting in the organisation of the event.



BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

Several of our alumni have taken time off from their busy schedules to share their experiences with current students. We hope to invite more of you back in the future to foster closer ties between alumni, students and faculty members.

On 11 January 2019, as part of the Get to Know Practice series of lunchtime talks, **Ada Chua** (LLB, 2015), Senior Associate at Rajah & Tann Singapore, shared with our students about the trials and tribulations, and the joys and rewards, of family law practice.



On 19 September 2019, **Joey Pang** (JD, 2013), then Vice President (Legal & Compliance) at DBS Bank, joined a roundtable discussion on the topic of law and technology in Professor Locknie Hsu's Law and Digital Commerce course.



As part of the Legal Commentaries for Practice course, **Rodney Yap** (LLB, 2018) and **Marc Chia** (LLB & BBM, 2018), co-founders of Regall Pte Ltd, were invited by Senior Lecturer Ong Ee Ing to class on 16 October 2019 to share about legal technologies and their applications in the legal industry.



On 30 October 2019, **Ivan Lee** (LLB, 2015), Partner at Tito Isaac & Co, shared about the practical aspects of conveyancing in Associate Professor Alvin See's Law of Property class.



Darius Tay (LLB, 2011), Director and co-founder of BlackOak LLC, was invited by The Bar to share his experience at the BlackOak LLC Dialogue Session. Held on 17 January 2020, Darius shared about his practice and gave valuable tips on excelling in law school.



Josh Lee (LLB, 2015), Legal Policy Manager (AI Governance) at IMDA, was invited by our student-led Legal Innovation and Technology Club to share about the legal technology landscape on 20 February 2020.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL



International Moots Alumni

Each international moot competition typically requires half a year of preparations. To date, almost 300 alumni volunteers have contributed by coaching, judging, mentoring and donating to the [SOL International Moots Alumni Fund](#). Their generous contributions have been critical to the success of our international moots programme, for which we are immensely grateful. In the past year, notable achievements of our student mooters include the following:

- Champions, 4th Fletcher International Insolvency Law Moot (London) | coached by **Clayton Chong** (LLB, 2014)
- Champions, 13th Price Media Law Moot (Oxford) | coached by **Dennis Saw** (JD, 2017)
- Champions, 11th Sarin Air Law Moot (St Petersburg) | coached by **Daniel Ho** (LLB, 2017), **Charlotte Tang** (LLB, 2019) and **Wayne Yeo** (LLB, 2019)
- Champions, 12th Foreign Direct Investment Moot Regional (Seoul) | coached by **Alvin Tan** (JD, 2015)
- Champions, 4th CIArb Australia Vis Moot Preliminary (Melbourne) | coached by **Andre Soh** (JD, 2017), **Iris Ng** (LLB, 2018) and **Melissa Ng** (LLB, 2018)



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

The SMU School of Law has launched several initiatives to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 is an unprecedented event that has affected many in the community. We at the SMU School of Law hope to play our part and contribute as well by leveraging on our legal knowledge in putting together initiatives to aid individuals affected by COVID-19.

Prof Goh Yihan
Dean
SMU School of Law

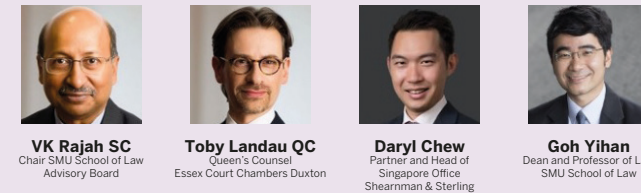


Led by Professor Chan Wing Cheong, the SMU Pro Bono Centre (PBC) has launched an [online portal](#) as a community service for members of the public to learn about regulations responding to and legal issues arising from the virus outbreak. The portal also provides virtual avenues for members of the public to seek free legal advice. We are grateful that several alumni have responded to our call for assistance.

The SMU Law Academy will be running a series of CPD webinars specifically addressing commercial disputes arising from the virus outbreak. The net proceeds raised from this webinar series will be donated to the SOL Community Fund, which will enable the University to support its law students whose families may be affected by COVID-19, as well as ongoing and future initiatives to help support the wider community that may be impacted by the pandemic. Many of you have attended the first few webinars. We thank you and hope for your continuous support not only in taking these courses but also possibly serving as a speaker or panellist.

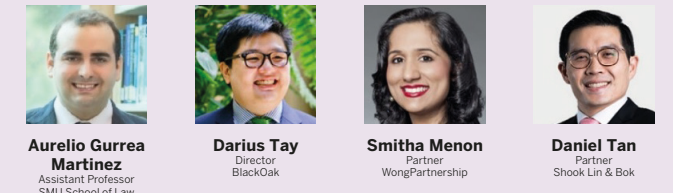
COVID-19 Seminar Series

Webinar 1: Selected Issues in Contract Law



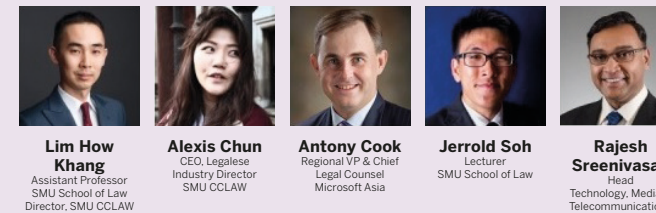
VK Rajah SC Chair, SMU School of Law Advisory Board
Toby Landau QC Queen's Counsel, Essex Court Chambers Duxton
Daryl Chew Partner and Head of Singapore Office, Shearman & Sterling
Goh Yihan Dean and Professor of Law, SMU School of Law

Webinar 2: Insolvency Law in Times of COVID-19



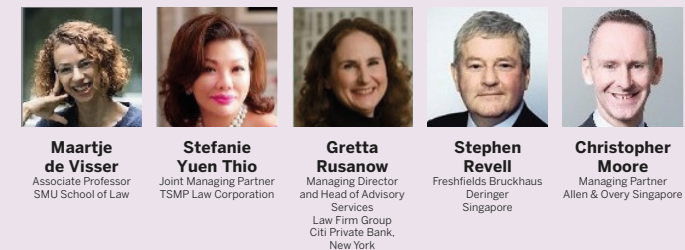
Aurelio Gurrea Martinez Assistant Professor, SMU School of Law
Darius Tay Director, BlackOak
Smitha Menon Partner, WongPartnership
Daniel Tan Partner, Shook Lin & Bok

Webinar 3: Legal Technology in Times of COVID-19



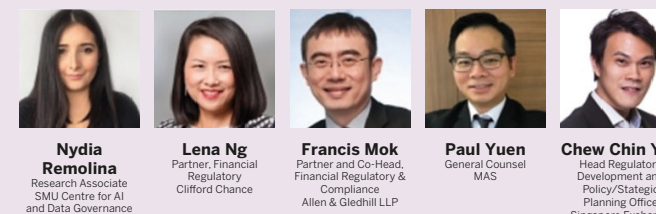
Lim How Khang Assistant Professor, SMU School of Law, Director, SMU CCLAW
Alexis Chun CEO, Legalese Industry Director, SMU CCLAW
Antony Cook Regional VP & Chief Legal Counsel, Microsoft Asia
Jerrold Soh Lecturer, SMU School of Law
Rajesh Sreenivasan Head, Technology, Media & Telecommunications, Rajah & Tann

Webinar 4: Well-Being and Law-Firm Management in Times of COVID-19



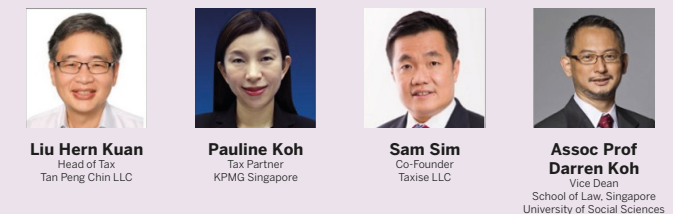
Maartje de Visser Associate Professor, SMU School of Law
Stefanie Yuen Thio Joint Managing Partner, TSMP Law Corporation
Gretta Rusanow Managing Director and Head of Advisory Services, Law Firm Group, Citi Private Bank, New York
Stephen Revell Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Singapore
Christopher Moore Managing Partner, Allen & Overy, Singapore

Webinar 5: Financial Regulation in Times of COVID-19



Nydia Remolina Research Associate, SMU Centre for AI and Data Governance
Lena Ng Partner, Financial Regulatory, Clifford Chance
Francis Mok Partner and Co-Head, Financial Regulatory & Compliance, Allen & Gledhill LLP
Paul Yuen General Counsel, MAS
Chew Chin Yee Head, Regulatory Development and Policy/Strategic Planning Office, Singapore Exchange Regulatory

Webinar 6: Tax Implications Resulting from COVID-19



Liu Hern Kuan Head of Tax, Tan Peng Chin LLC
Pauline Koh Tax Partner, KPMG Singapore
Sam Sim Co-Founder, Taxise LLC
Assoc Prof Darren Koh Vice Dean, School of Law, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Through its various Centres, the School of Law has offered several traineeships to assist our alumni whose employment have been affected by the COVID-19 situation, with priority given to the most recent graduates. We are confident that with collective strength we will tide through the challenging times and emerge stronger than before.

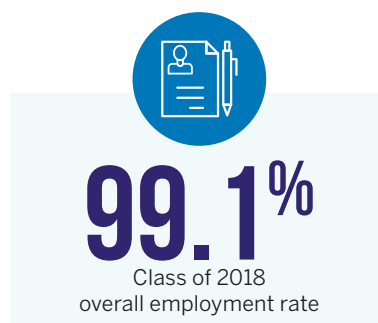
ALUMNI UPDATES



Graduate Employment Survey

Based on the MOE's Graduate Employment Survey 2019 published this year, our Class of 2018 enjoyed an overall employment rate of up to 99.1%, drawing a mean gross monthly salary of over \$5,000. We congratulate them for the achievement. We also thank all of you who have responded to the survey calls throughout the years.

2019 Graduate Employment Survey



Appointments

- **Aaron Yoong** (LLB, 2019), **Gan Ee Kiat** (JD, 2019) and **Nguyen Sinh Vuong** (LLB, 2019) were admitted into the prestigious Justices' Law Clerk programme.
- **Agnes Lim** (LLB, 2013) was appointed Partner at Shook Lin & Bok.
- **Alexander Lee** (LLB, 2018) was appointed Counsel at Providence Law Asia.
- **Ann Yi-An Lai** (LLM, 2019) was appointed Partner at Chien Yeh & Associates (Taiwan).
- **Benjamin Teo** (LLB, 2011) was appointed Partner at Rajah & Tann Singapore.
- **Cephas Yee** (LLB, 2014) was appointed Partner at Aquinas Law Alliance.
- **Charles Li** (JD, 2012) was appointed Associate Director at Drew & Napier.
- **Chew Wan Lin** (LLM, 2019) was appointed Senior Assistant Director at the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Chew Xiang** (JD, 2012) was appointed Young Amicus Curiae in the case of *PP v Tan Kok Ming Michael* [2019] 5 SLR 926.
- **Chow Zi En** (LLB, 2018) was appointed Legal Consultant at the World Bank's Operations Policy Group in Washington, DC.
- **Eunice Chan** (LLB, 2012) was appointed Associate Director at Drew & Napier. She is now an Assistant Registrar with the Supreme Court of Singapore.
- **Fabian Tan** (JD, 2011) was appointed Partner at Allen & Gledhill.
- **Fong Wei Li** (JD, 2012) was appointed Director at DC Law.
- **Ivan Lee** (LLB, 2015) was appointed Partner at Tito Isaac & Co.
- **Jo Tay** (LLB & BBM, 2012) was appointed Young Amicus Curiae in the case of *D Rashpal Singh Sandhu v PP* [2019] SGHC 25.
- **Jonathan Muk** (LLB & BBM, 2013) was appointed Counsel at LVM Law Chambers.
- **Josephine Chee** (LLB, 2012) was appointed Partner at Rajah & Tann Singapore.
- **Joshua Tan** (LLB, 2014) was appointed Partner at Aquinas Law Alliance.
- **Julian Ho** (LLB, 2012) was appointed Counsel at Allen & Gledhill.
- **Justin Ee** (LLB & B Soc Sc, 2011) was appointed Director at TSMP Law Corporation.
- **Lim Mei Shern** (LLM, 2018) was appointed Head of Compliance of capital markets platform iSTOX.
- **Loh Chun Kiat** (LLB, 2011) was appointed Partner at Rajah & Tann Singapore. He was recognised in Asialaw Leading Lawyers 2020 as a Notable Practitioner in Corporate and M&A and by The Best Lawyers in Singapore 2021 in Corporate Law.
- **Md Noor E Adnaan** (LLB, 2014) was elected to the Council of the Law Society of Singapore.
- **Michael Ng** (LLB, 2011) was appointed Lecturer of Law at the Singapore University of Social Sciences.
- **Mimi Ahn** (JD, 2013) was appointed Associate Director at Focus Law Asia.
- **Nadia A Samdin** (LLB, 2013) was appointed Associate Director at TSMP Law Corporation.
- **Nicholas Liu** (JD, 2015) was appointed Lecturer of Law at the SMU School of Law.
- **Russell Low** (LLB & BBM, 2011) was appointed the Chairman of the Board by Hoan My Medical Corporation, one of Vietnam's leading private healthcare providers.
- **Ruth Teng** (LLB, 2011) was appointed Director (Legal) at the Health Sciences Authority.
- **Soong Wen E** (LLB, 2012) was appointed Partner at WongPartnership LLP. She was also named one of the Rising Stars of the Year at the IFLR Asia-Pacific Awards 2020.
- **Tan Ruo Yu** (LLB, 2013) was appointed Director at Davinder Singh Chambers.
- **Tan Ying Ni** (JD, 2011) was appointed Partner at Dentons Rodyk.
- **Tricia Ho** (LLB, 2013) was appointed Lecturer of Law at the Singapore University of Social Sciences.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Other News

- **Chan Mei An** (LLB, 2019) achieved joint 6th place in Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations 2019.
- **Cheng You Duen** (LLB, 2019) achieved joint 6th place in Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations 2019.
- **Chong Shou Yu** (LLB, 2017) commenced his doctoral studies at King's College London (KCL) focusing on commercial arbitration, private international law and comparative private law. He is fully funded by the Centre of Construction Law at KCL on a Nash Research Scholarship and by the Society of Construction Law (UK) on a Frances Paterson Scholarship.
- **Daniel Ho** (LLB, 2017) and **Dennis Saw** (JD, 2017) won the 2020 Essex Court Chambers-Singapore Academy of Law International Mooting Competition. The other finalists were **Alexander Lee** (LLB, 2018) and **Shriram Jayakumar** (LLB, 2018). Shriram was named best Oralist.
- **Debbie Lim** (LLB, 2013) founded Millennium Law and is currently its Director.
- **Favian Kang** (LLB, 2011) was appointed a Member of the Inquiry Panel pursuant to section 84 of the Legal Profession Act.
- **Iris Ng** (LLB, 2018) achieved 1st-runner-up in the 2019 YSIAC Essay Competition.
- **Josh Lee** (LLB, 2015) received the Best Parliamentarian Award at the 2019 edition of the Singapore Model Parliament.
- **Kenny Chng** (LLB, 2012), who is currently an Assistant Professor of Law at SMU, was named the School of Law's Most Promising Teacher in 2019 and was awarded the Lee Kong Chian Fellowship in 2020 for research excellence.
- **Luo Ling Ling** (LLM, 2013) has set up her own law firm, Luo Ling Ling LLC.
- **Mark Lee** (LLB, 2012), co-founder and Joint Managing Director of WHM Law Corporation, was selected as a finalist for the Young Lawyer of the Year Award at the 15th Asian Legal Business South East Asia Law Awards.
- **Shriram Jayakumar** (LLB, 2018) and **Lee Chuan** (JD, 2019) won the CIArb-NSW Young Lawyers Moot in Sydney. **Alvin Tan** (JD, 2015) was also a finalist.

- **Sui Yi Siong** (LLB, 2014) won the Joseph Grimberg Outstanding Young Advocate Award. The award "recognizes young lawyers in good standing who exhibit professional excellence, service to the profession and the bar [and] service to the community".
- **Susanna Abigail Yim** (LLB, 2019) completed 139.8 pro bono hours, the highest in the LLB cohort, during her time at SMU.
- **Tan Wei Chieh** (JD, 2019) completed 104.5 pro bono hours, the highest in the JD cohort, during his time at SMU.
- **Tan Ruo Yu's** (LLB, 2013) article, "Causation in Equitable Compensation: The Brickenden Rule in Singapore" (2014) 26 SAclJ 724, was cited by the Singapore Court of Appeal in *Sim Poh Ping v Winstaholding Pte Ltd & M Development Ltd* [2020] SGCA 35.



Registrations are now open for the [SMOO Challenge](#)! You are invited to put your best foot forward to run, walk or even kick-box your way to making this SMU's **largest** virtual event with 5000 participants globally. We are aiming to accomplish 20,000km (equivalent to halfway around the world) together in 20 days, from 1 to 20 September 2020! Nett proceeds from the registration fee will go towards supporting our students in need, so that they can experience a holistic SMU education. Grab a couple of your friends and register [here!](#)



Daniel Ho, Dennis Saw, Alexander Lee & Shriram Jayakumar



Josh Lee



Tan Wei Chieh & Susanna Abigail Yim



Sui Yi Siong

ALUMNI UPDATES

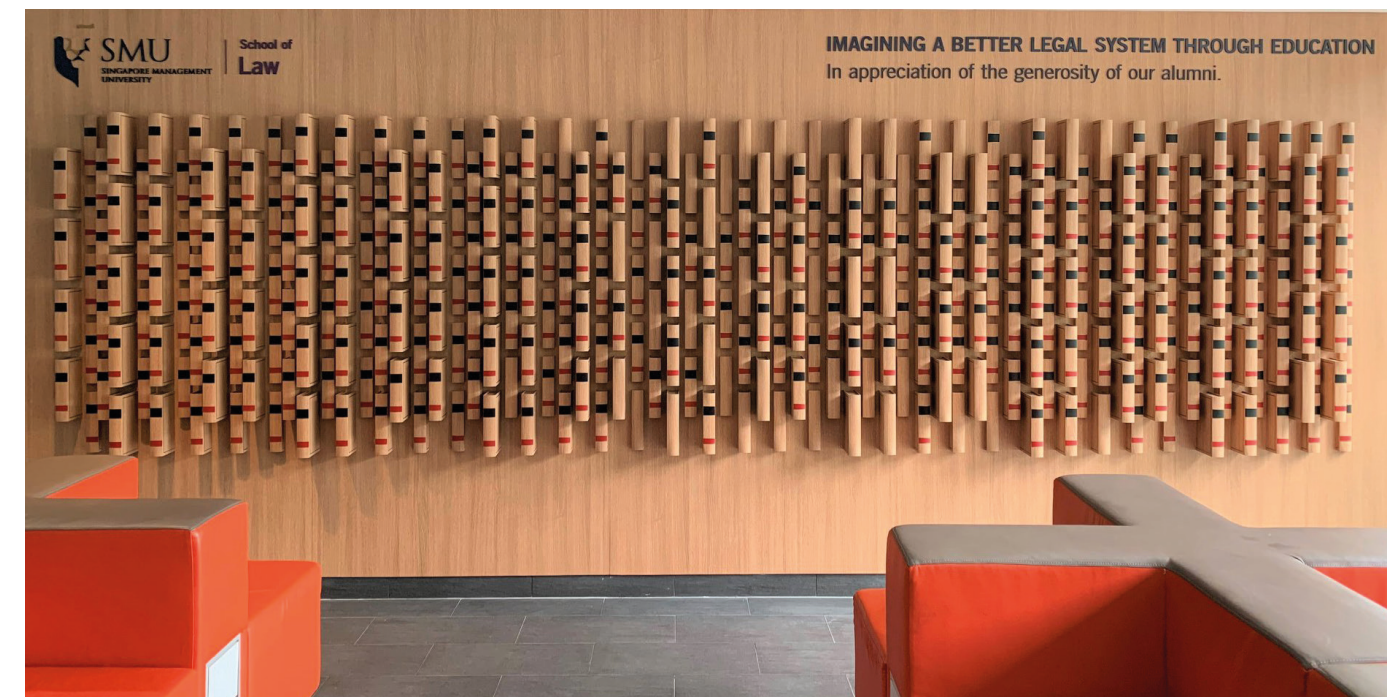
Publications

- **Clayton Chong** (LLB, 2014) authored an [article](#) entitled “Section 440 of the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018: Restrictions on *Ipsa Facto* Clauses” in the SAL Practitioner series.
- **Chong Shou Yu** (LLB, 2017), who is a doctoral student at King’s College London, has several [publications](#) in 2019. Most notably, he co-authored (with Professor Nadja Alexander) a book entitled “The Singapore Convention on Mediation: A Commentary” which has been warmly received.
- **Iris Ng** (LLB, 2018), **Melissa Ng** (LLB, 2018) and **Andre Soh** (JD, 2017) co-authored an [article](#) entitled “Five Recurring Problems in International Arbitration: The Relationship Between Courts and Arbitral Tribunals” in the Indian Journal of Arbitration Law.
- **Jonathan Muk** (LLB & BBM, 2013) co-authored (with Debby Lim) an [article](#) entitled “Consciously Uncoupling: Court of Appeal Becomes Conscious to Unconscionability in BOM v BOK” in the Singapore Law Gazette. The article won Best Feature Article.
- **Josh Lee** (LLB, 2015) was Co-Chief Editor (with Lecturer of Law Jerrold Soh) of a [report](#) entitled “The State of Legal Innovation in Asia-Pacific”, which was supported by the Singapore Academy of Law and the Singapore Judicial College.
- **Lee Yingqi** (JD, 2018) co-authored (with Adjunct Associate Professor Chandra Mohan) an [article](#) entitled “Sexual Grooming as an Offence in Singapore” in the Singapore Academy of Law Journal.
- **Makoto Hong** (LLB, 2013) co-authored two articles in the Singapore Academy of Law Journal: one (with Wong Huiwen Denise) on “Delegation of Powers for Modern Government: Statutory Mechanisms, the *Carltona* Principle and Suggestions for Reform” and [another](#) (with Hui Choon Kuen) titled “Towards a Digital Government: Reflections on Automated Decision-making and the Principles of Administrative Justice”.
- **Nicholas Seng** (LLB, 2012) authored an [article](#) entitled “Restraint of Trade Covenants in Commercial Agreements” in the SAL Practitioner series.
- **Regina Lim** (LLB, 2015) co-authored (with Lim Gerui) an [article](#) entitled “Wrongful Dismissal: What Choice Does an Employee Have?” in the SAL Practitioner series.
- **Samuel Yap** (LLB, 2015) co-authored (with Wong Woon Kwong) an [article](#) entitled “Adducing Fresh Evidence on Appeal: Guidance from Recent Court of Appeal Decisions” in the SAL Practitioner series.
- **Sarah Ong Hui’en** (LLB, 2011), co-authored (with Tang Shangjun) an [article](#) entitled “Sentencing Considerations for Offences Involving Bicycles and Personal Mobility Devices” in the SAL Practitioner series.
- **Shaun Pereira** (LLB, 2013) authored a [case note](#) entitled “The Preemptive Case Management Stay” in the Lloyd’s Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly.
- **Stella Chen** (LLB, 2015) authored an [article](#) entitled “Microsoft Word Hacks for Young Lawyers: Introduction to Using Styles” in the Singapore Law Gazette.
- **Sui Yi Siong** (LLB, 2014) authored an [article](#) entitled “Trial Advocacy and Appellate Advocacy — As Different as Chalk and Cheese?” in the Singapore Law Gazette.
- **Tricia Ho** (LLB, 2013) co-authored (with Associate Professor Chen Siyuan) a chapter on [Family Law](#) in the Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Singapore Cases.

Donations

- Annabelle Teo Li Ping** (LLB, 2015)
- Beverly Lim Kai Li** (LLB, 2017)
- Clement Yong Hong Kit** (LLB, 2011)
- Dominic Liew Junior** (LLB, 2018)
- Eden Li Yiling** (LLB, 2016)
- Jacob Quek Teck Liang** (LLB, 2015)
- Josh Lee Kok Thong** (LLB, 2015)
- Linus Koh Ngee Soon** (LLB, 2014)
- Md Noor E Adnaan** (LLB, 2014)
- Melissa Ng Li Ling** (LLB, 2018)
- Nick Chiam Zhi Wen** (LLB, 2017)
- Ong Chin Kiat** (LLB, 2015)
- Qabir Singh Sandhu** (LLB, 2015)
- Shriram Jayakumar** (LLB, 2018)
- Thia Zhang Jie** (LLB, 2019)
- Timothy Tan Ziming** (LLB, 2019)

We are immensely grateful to all our alumni for their generous donations. Every donation will go a long way in helping us advance our educational, research and community service goals. We hope for your continuous support.



For a donation of \$300 or more, your name will be inscribed on our Alumni Wall. For information on how to donate, please contact Mr Adrian John Neo at adrianjneo@smu.edu.sg



 <https://law.smu.edu.sg>

 www.facebook.com/smusol

 [SgSMUSOL](https://twitter.com/SgSMUSOL)

 [smusol](https://www.linkedin.com/company/smusol)