

# 'We both act for a living'

In a run-in with the law, how helpful would the stars of *The Pupil* be?



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MEDIACORP TV Channel 5 has boldly taken on the genre of the courtroom drama.

*The Pupil* is a series, inspired by actual cases, that follows the story of Wendy Lim, a fresh graduate who begins an apprenticeship at the firm of Roberts and Fong while seeking the truth about her missing father.

But amid the gavel-banging, all-rising and your-honour-ing, how convincing is the cast when it comes to owning the courtroom?

Sure, they might look sharp in monochrome, but have they mastered their legalese?

Actually, they have no excuse to be anything less than first-rate. Of the cast's six main actors, half have honest-to-goodness

legal training under their belts.

Rebecca Lim, who takes on the role of Wendy, graduated just last year with a law degree from the Singapore Management University (SMU); Adrian Pang, who plays caustic and conflicted junior partner Dennis Tang, left practice to pursue acting; and Vadi PVSS, who plays Dennis's best friend and a partner at a rival firm, is currently pursuing his Juris Doctor degree at SMU.

And as for Lim Kay Tong, who plays the firm's founding partner Harris Fong, and Janice Koh, who plays bitter divorcée Angela Ang, they nearly entered the legal profession themselves.

"My father wanted me to do law. I noticed that in all the syllabuses, he marked out law courses," Kay Tong shared.

"I personally applied to some universities to read drama and English Literature."

Janice similarly revealed that immediately after her A-levels, she had applied to law school and gone for an interview.

"It went pretty well until they asked me, 'Why do you really want to be a lawyer?', at which point I gave up and said: 'I can't

lie. I really want to be an actress. I'm here because my parents want me to be here.'

That year, the theatre studies programme started at the National University of Singapore, so that's what I did."

And then there's Suria's familiar face Elfaeza Ul Haq, who plays associate Nisa Muhammad Noor.

She has such a smart mouth on her, she gave all the others a run for their money in our tongue-in-cheek interviews to test the legal knowledge of the stars of *The Pupil*.

We had lots of burning questions in the vein of: "If it's one for the money and the free rides, and two for the lie that you denied, how many lawyers does it take to change a light bulb?"

But then we enlisted the help of actual legal eagles (read: Our best friends from school) and came up with some even better ones — and some totally random ones thrown in just for good measure. Because *dura lex sed lex ... et cetera*.

Catch *The Pupil* on Thursdays at 8.30pm on MediaCorp TV Channel 5.



**REBECCA LIM**

*Can a person be convicted for being a jerk? If he's not that extreme a jerk, he should be able to get off with maybe a fine or a warning? Or maybe just a real bad scolding.*

*We hear there's a high court judge who raps male lawyers for bright ties and female lawyers who don't button up. Have you ever been taken to task for indecent attire? You could call it a minor case of indecent exposure. I attended a girls' school for 11 years. Entering JC, you're not used to having guys around. We had to change into our PE attire, so we just took off our pinafores in front of all the guys. We got scolded by the discipline master: "You're supposed to go to the toilet to do that!" We were like: "Why? We have shorts on underneath!"*



**VADI PVSS**

*In the landmark tort case, Donoghue v Stevenson, what was found in the ginger beer bottle? Aiya, it's a snail. The remains of a decomposing snail! (Correct!)*

*I danced naked around my house. My neighbour looked into my flat, saw me, and reported me to the police. Can I sue him in return for peeping and outraging my modesty? Good question. "Invasion of privacy"*

*has not been well-developed in Singapore. You may not have the proper tools to actually work on a successful case. If he literally used binoculars or jumped through the window or jumped up on the railings to peep at you, you have a case. If it is very exposed, then maybe not. You have to define public and private space well first. (If we get our day in court, we want Vadi on our side.)*