



**SMU**

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## EMBRACING CHANGE IN AN EVOLVING WORLD



School of  
**Law**

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# DEAN'S MESSAGE

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
GOH YIHAN**

Dean, SMU School of Law

We now live in the early stages of the fourth industrial revolution, which is characterised by the exponential explosion of technologies that fundamentally change the ways we live, work and interact. Revolutionary technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and autonomous vehicles bring to the fore legal issues that lawyers have never encountered in the past. The use of legal technology in the legal industry, whether to perform some of the more routine work or to assist in decision-making, would eventually reshape the role of human lawyers.

Although the future may appear uncertain, we at SMU School of Law see only opportunities. We have taken active steps, both in terms of teaching and research, to meet impending challenges. Most notably, last year, we won a competitive government grant of \$4.5 million, which led to the establishment of our Centre for AI and Data Governance (CAIDG). As an interdisciplinary centre, CAIDG's goal is to promote beneficial Artificial Intelligence (AI), and to interrogate and respond to emerging social issues arising from AI and data use. Through this exciting initiative, we have great expectations for the production of groundbreaking and impactful research on the area of law and technology. The intersection between law and technology is also emphasised in our teaching of the law. In consultation with our Advisory Council on Law and Technology, we have taken steps to update our legal curriculum, specifically by addressing new technological advancements in the teaching of traditional law courses and introducing new courses to directly tackle these hot topics.

These new initiatives are of course built upon the firm foundation laid for the law school in the past decade. Our distinguished faculty are educated at such reputable universities as Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard, just to name a few. Our research agenda and publications are equally top class. We author many important textbooks and frequently publish in prestigious law journals. The impact of our research is evidenced by numerous court citations. We are equally committed to preparing our students to face future challenges. Our small class seminars encourage independent thinking and knowledge creation. We emphasise presentation skills so that our students graduate both articulate and confident. Clinical work and industrial collaboration help bridge the gaps between law in the books and law in practice. We continue to view law as a noble calling, and through mandatory community service, inculcate in our students the value of giving back to society. We firmly believe that this comprehensive skillset, along with a heart to serve, would provide our students with a clear edge in the era of artificial intelligence and prepare them to meet any challenges that the future would throw in their ways.



This is why our graduates are highly sought after, well placed, and competitively remunerated. Year after year our graduates are significantly represented on the prestigious Justices' Law Clerks programme. Within a short span of just eleven years and with only seven cohorts of working graduates, many have gone on to make their mark in the profession, industry and academia. Quite a few have even struck out on their own to set up their own private practice and legal-tech start-ups. With an alumni network numbering more than a thousand and growing steadily, current students could expect to benefit from networking and job opportunities.

As a young law school, we are energetic and look forward to embracing the future. We aspire to build bridges not only between theory and reality and across disciplines, but also between the past and the future. In this annual report, we hope to provide you with snippets of our efforts towards realising our vision as well as notable achievements by our faculty, students and alumni in the past year. As we celebrate our achievements, we strive to do even better in the years to come.

# MISSION STATEMENT





# OUR PEOPLE







# OUR PEOPLE



## ADVISORY BOARD

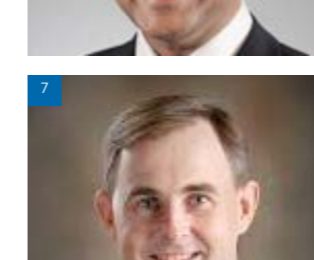
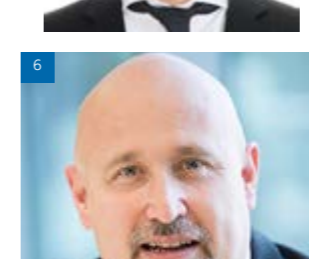
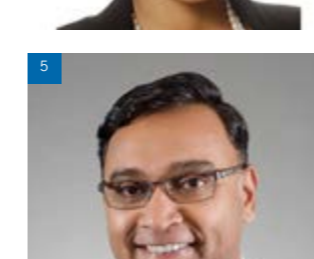
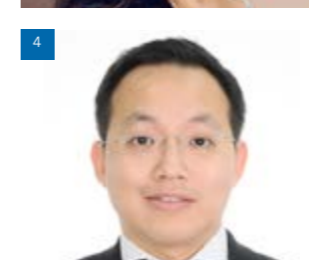
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Partner  
Linklaters Singapore Pte Ltd
- MR THAM LIJING**  
Member  
Essex Court Chambers Duxton (Singapore Group Practice)
- MR WONG TAUR JIUN**  
President  
Singapore Corporate Counsel Association

## DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS



- MR YONG PUNG HOW**  
Former Chief Justice of Singapore  
Former Chancellor of Singapore Management University
- JUSTICE CHAO HICK TIN**  
Senior Judge of the Supreme Court  
Former Attorney-General of Singapore  
Former Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Singapore
- MR V K RAJAH, SC**  
Member of Essex Court Chambers Duxton (Singapore Group Practice)  
Member of Monetary Authority of Singapore's (MAS) Board of Directors  
Former Attorney-General of Singapore  
Former Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Singapore

## ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR LAW AND TECHNOLOGY



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Legal Affairs for Asia Pacific  
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- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WARREN CHIK**  
School of Law  
Singapore Management University
- MR BRIAN YEOH**  
Deputy Director  
Monetary Authority of Singapore

# OUR PEOPLE







# OUR PEOPLE

## 43 FACULTY MEMBERS\*

BY DESIGNATION



**8 PROFESSORS**  
[INCLUDING 2 NAMED PROFESSORS]



**10 ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**



**21 ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**  
[INCLUDING 2 LEE KONG CHIAN FELLOWS]



**4 LECTURERS**

BY TRACK



**6 PRACTICE**



**1 EDUCATION**



**36 TENURE**

BY GENDER



**14 FEMALE**



**29 MALE**

BY HIGHEST DEGREE

- LLD: 1
- PHD/DPHIL/SJD: 14
- LLM/JSM/MA/BCL: 26
- LLB/BA: 2

HIGHEST DEGREE FROM

- UK: 21
- USA: 14
- AUSTRALIA: 2
- GERMANY: 2
- THE NETHERLANDS: 2
- SINGAPORE: 1
- SPAIN: 1



**4 NEW FACULTY MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN 2018**

\*The figures on this page are correct as of 31 December 2018.

# OUR PEOPLE



## OUR FACULTY





## OUR PEOPLE



### PROMOTIONS AND NEW APPOINTMENTS

Edward Ti was promoted from Lecturer to Assistant Professor of Law from 1 Jan 2018 and Kenny Chng was similarly promoted to Assistant Professor of Law from 1 July 2018. Chen Siyuan was promoted from Assistant Professor of Law to Associate Professor of Law from 1 July 2018. Alvin See was appointed as Assistant Professor of Law (Education) from 1 July 2018. He was formerly an Assistant Professor of Law on the tenure-track. We warmly congratulate all of them.

### FACULTY MOVEMENTS

Professor Howard Hunter, Professor David Smith, Associate Professor Austin Palle and Associate Professor Chandra Mohan have retired from academia in 2018. Assistant Professor Mahdev Mohan and Assistant Professor Eliza Mik have left SMU in December 2018. We wish all of them the very best in their future endeavours.

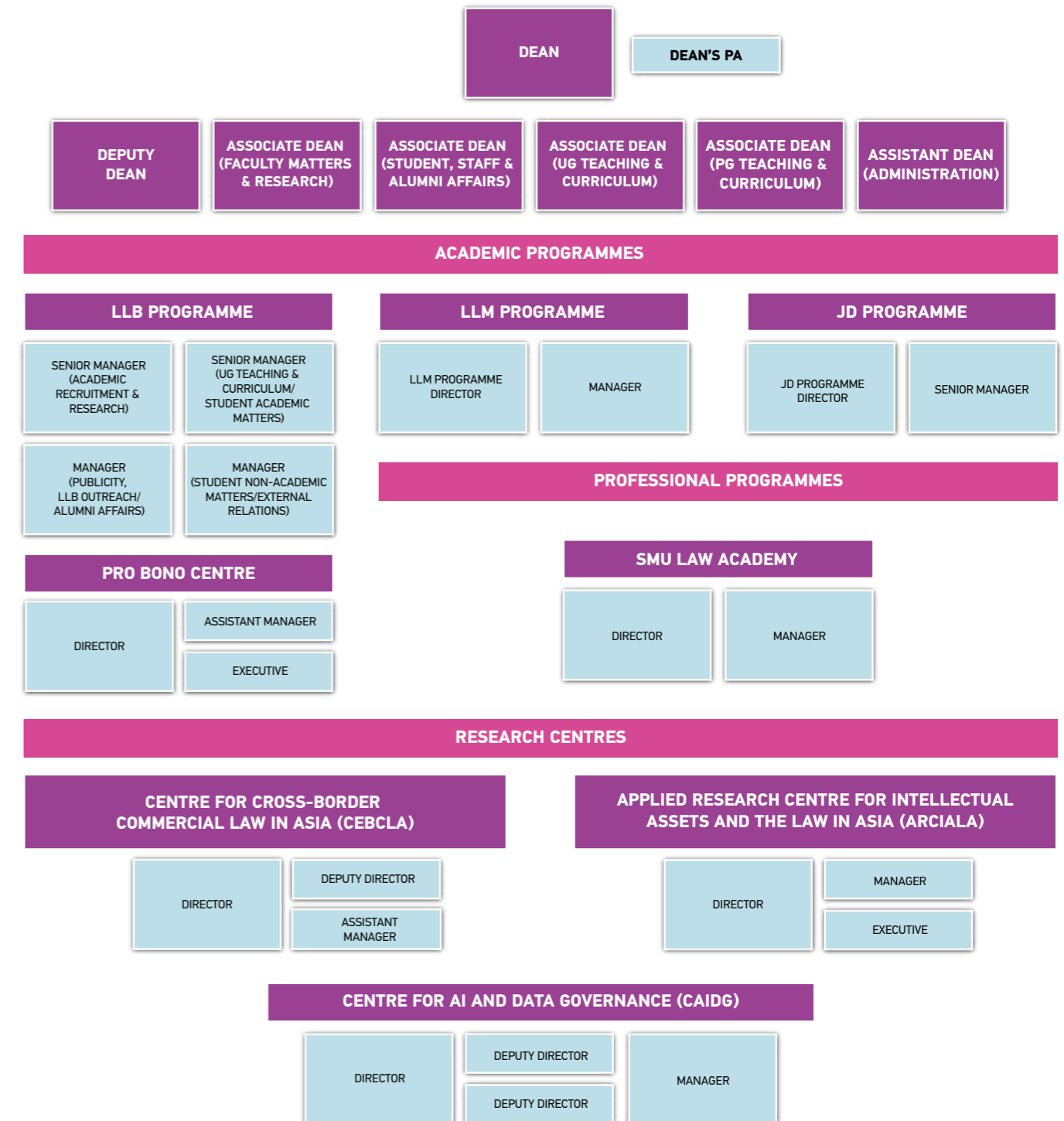
We warmly welcomed four faculty members to the School of Law in 2018. They are Aurelio Gurrea-Martinez (Assistant Professor), Lau Kwan Ho (Assistant Professor), Vincent Ooi (Lecturer) and Jerrold Soh (Lecturer).

### FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Yong Pung How Chair Professor of Law Yeo Tiong Min SC from the School of Law was awarded the Singapore Academy of Law Merit Award for 2018. The Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) Awards recognise the notable contributions of the recipients for service in promoting and advancing the objectives of the Academy in particular and to the development of Singapore law in general. The SAL Law Awards Selection Committee - which is currently chaired by the Honourable Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon - determines both the SAL Merit Awards and the Singapore Law Merit Awards. Professor Yeo and Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan (Dean of SMU School of Law) were amongst the recipients of the Singapore Law Merit Award for 2008 and 2013 respectively.



## ORGANISATION CHART





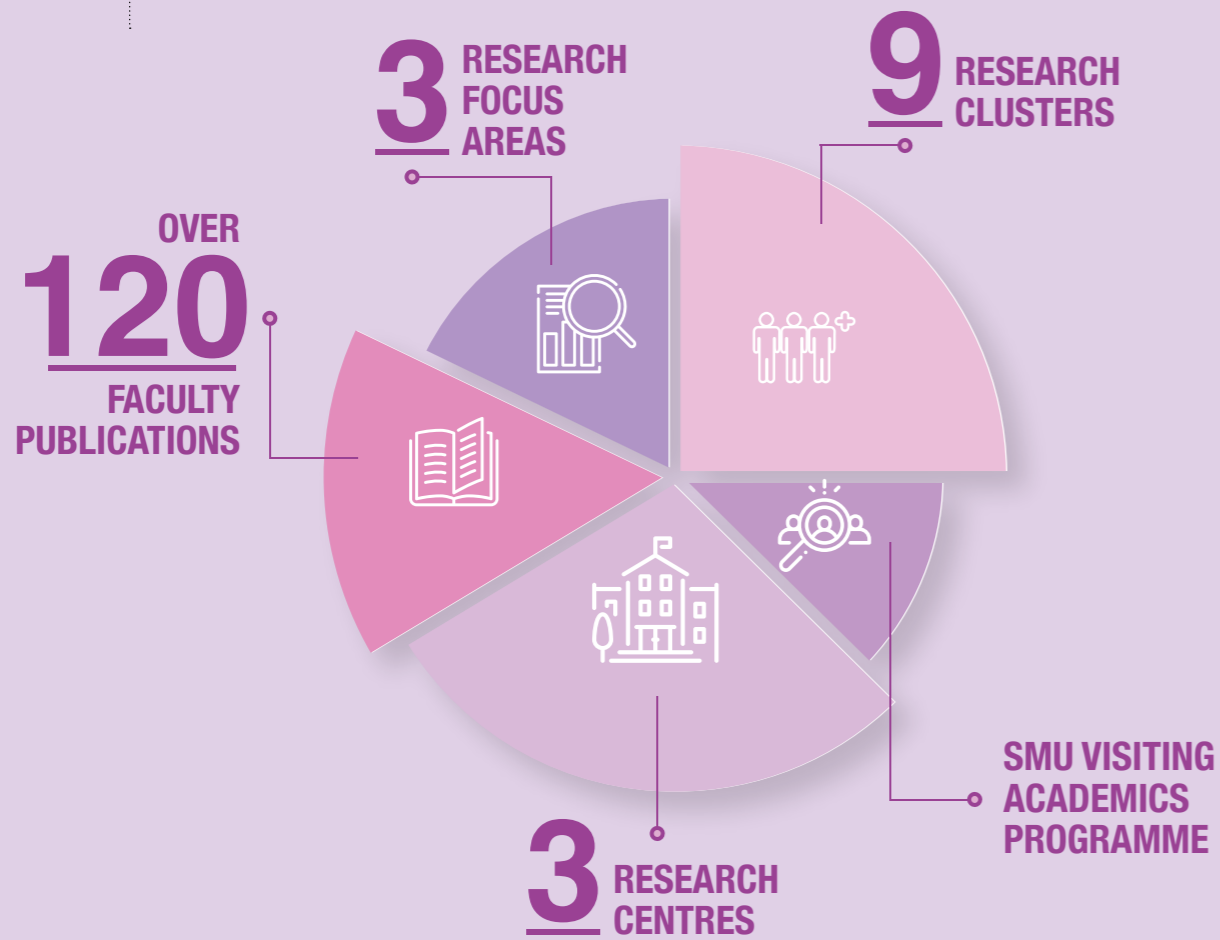
# RESEARCH







## OVERVIEW



### OUR RESEARCH FOCUS ARE:



**LAW AND TECHNOLOGY**



**TRANSNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW IN ASIA**



**DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### PUBLICATIONS IN 2018 INCLUDE:

**9**  
**BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS**

**26**  
**BOOK CHAPTERS**

**59**  
**JOURNAL ARTICLES AND CASE NOTES**



## RESEARCH

### BOOK PUBLICATIONS BY SOL FACULTY IN 2018



### FACULTY PUBLICATIONS 2018 AND CITATIONS

SMU School of Law Faculty publications have been published under the auspices of Singapore Law Watch ([at https://www.singaporelawwatch.sg/Portals/0/1801-06%20SLW%20Academic%20Publications%20Digest.pdf](https://www.singaporelawwatch.sg/Portals/0/1801-06%20SLW%20Academic%20Publications%20Digest.pdf)) for the benefit of the Singapore legal profession.

Several of our faculty members (Associate Professor Saw Cheng Lim, Assistant Professor Dorcas Quek, Assistant Professor Eunice Chua, Professor Nadja Alexander, Associate Professor Pearlie Koh, and Associate Professor Tan Seow Hon) were prominently featured in Asian Scientist in 2018 for their research focus and interests.





## RESEARCH

### NRF/IMDA RESEARCH GRANT ON AI

The SMU School of Law was privileged to receive in 2018 a research grant of S\$4.5 million from the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA) relating to research on the ethical, legal, and regulatory aspects pertaining to AI. This 5-year research programme covers three integrated streams – AI and Society, AI and Industry and AI and Commercialisation.

The Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Data Governance (CAIDG) was officially launched on 24 September 2018 by our Guest-of-Honour Senior Minister of State, Dr Janil Puthucherry. The Centre Director is Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan, and the Deputy Directors are Professor Mark Findlay and Associate Professor Warren Chik.

### RESEARCH SEMINARS

Both SMU School of Law faculty and external academics and legal professionals presented a wide array of research findings to the faculty in 2018. Amongst our faculty, Assistant Professor Alvin See started the year with a seminar on the cutting-edge developments in blockchains in relation to the Torrens registration system (SOL Private Law Cluster). In March, under the auspices of the New Voice in Commercial Law Lecture organised by our Corporate, Securities and Finance Law Cluster with Queen Mary University of London, Associate Professor Wan Wai Yee gave a seminar on the enforcement of corporate securities laws in Singapore and Hong Kong, and Associate Professor Pasha Hsieh presented on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. This was followed by a commentary on both papers from Professor Andromachi Georgosouli from the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University of London. In April, Associate Professor Tham Chee Ho enlightened us with his talk on the rule in *Dearle v Hall* (1828) under the Private Law Cluster. Associate Professor Tan Seow Hon provided interesting insights on the debates relating to traditional and gestational surrogacy from both legal and ethical perspectives in November (Legal Theory, Ethics and Legal Education Cluster).

In 2 informal sharing sessions on research on 30 Aug and 14 Nov respectively, our faculty engaged on wide-ranging topics such as corporate securities laws, autonomous vehicles, surrogacy and judicial review. These sessions seek to encourage feedback on ongoing research.

In addition, we were honoured to have foreign academics and legal professionals from Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, and North America present to our faculty in 2018. They include:

- **Professor Richard Garnett** (University of Melbourne)
- **Mr William Swadling** (University of Oxford)
- **Professor Linda MC Schoeman-Malan** (University of Pretoria)
- **Professor Robin Hui Huang** (Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- **Professor Jo Shaw** (University of Edinburgh)
- **Professor Haksoo Ko** (Seoul National University)
- **Associate Professor Jamie Glistler** (University of Sydney)
- **Mr Mark Bennett** (Victoria University of Wellington)
- **Assistant Professor Salar Ghahramani** (Pennsylvania State University)
- **Dr Maria Loannidou** (Queen Mary University of London)



### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAW CONFLICTS IN FIDUCIARY JURISPRUDENCE

The School of Law hosted a number of foreign academics and legal professionals in 2018. In March, Assistant Professor Salar Ghahramani from Pennsylvania State University shared his insights on “Public and Private Law Conflicts in Fiduciary Jurisprudence” with particular focus on the US position. In June, Mr James Lee, Reader of English Law at the Dickson Poon School of Law at King’s College London enlightened and entertained us with his talk on “Research Strategies – Thinking Like a Movie Studio”. Associate Professor Yin Huifen from Shanghai University of Political Science and Law delivered an interesting seminar on “Consumer Credit and Over-indebtedness in China” in August. Another visiting academic, Assistant Professor Dov Greenbaum from the Zvi Meitar Institute, taught a course on Introduction to Law and Technology in SMU. Professor Urs Gasser, Director from the Berkman Klein Centre for Internet and Society and Ms Malavika Jayaram, Executive Director of Digital Asia Hub were both instrumental in ensuring together with the School of Law that the AI workshop ran smoothly in September 2018. Finally, Judge Sir Howard Morrison QC visited the School of Law in October and shared his vast legal and judicial experience during his talk entitled “International Criminal Law - A Road Less Taken”.



## RESEARCH



### INAUGURAL ASIAN PRIVATE LAW WORKSHOP

The idea for an Asian Private Law workshop was jointly conceived by Associate Professor Yip Man and Assistant Professor Alvin See of the SMU School of Law and Professor Lusina Ho and Associate Professor Rebecca Lee of the Faculty of Law, Hong Kong University. The first workshop – which was held in SMU School of Law from 17–18 May 2018 – featured presenters, commentators and chairs from SMU, HKU, CityU and NUS.

#### THE PRESENTERS FOR THIS WORKSHOP INCLUDED:

- **Professor Lusina Ho (HKU)** on “Deemed Performance in Account of Profits”
- **Professor Gary Chan (SMU)** on “Search Engines and Defamation: Of Publication and Responsibility”
- **Professor Kelvin Low (CityU) and Assistant Professor Wu Ying-Chieh (SMU)** on the “The Characterisation of Cryptocurrencies in East Asia”
- **Associate Professor Rebecca Lee (HKU)** on “Account of Profits from Misuse of Trust Property in Business Ventures”
- **Associate Professor Carrie Ding (CityU)** on “The Doctrine of Precontractual Liability under Chinese Law”
- **Assistant Professor Alvin See (SMU)** on “The Persistence of Equitable Title in the Face of Torrens Indefeasibility”
- **Associate Professor Low Kee Yang (SMU)** on “Non-delegable Duty, Vicarious Liability and Agency: Moving Towards Convergence”
- **Professor Alexander Loke (CityU)** on “Disagreement Over the Illegality Defence in Private Law Claims: Contrasting Approaches and Shifting Values”
- **Assistant Professor Edward Ti (SMU)** on “Comparison of Land Use Regulations and Compensation Rights in Singapore, United Kingdom and United States”



### CRIMINAL LAW, PUBLIC LAW AND POLICY WORKSHOPS WITH EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERS

The SMU School of Law organised a number of workshops with external agencies and institutions in 2018. The Criminology seminar which took place in SMU School of Law on 13 September 2018 was co-organised by Ministry of Law and SMU School of Law. Professor Nicola Padfield (University of Cambridge) presented on “Evidence-based Policy in Criminal Justice” and thereafter, both Professor Padfield and Professor Mark Findlay participated in a Q&A panel discussion with the audience which included government legal officers.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and SMU School of Law (Professor Mark Findlay) co-organised a timely conference on 3 and 4 October 2018 on “Challenges for Global Justice: the Asian Context” to review the significant developments in international criminal justice. Dean Goh Yihan warmly welcomed the participants from the Attorney-General’s Chambers of Singapore, various judicial and legal officers from the ICC, representatives from the Embassy of the Netherlands and the European Commission, senior Singapore lawyers and legal practitioners, foreign academics and local academics from SMU (including Associate Professor Chen Siyuan) and NUS and members of civil society organisations to the conference. The SMU School of Law was gratified to have The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Her Excellency Ms Margriet Vonno deliver the opening message to the audience. The keynote address was delivered by Judge Chang-ho Chung on “Achieving Efficiency and Effectiveness in the trial at the ICC” and the session was moderated by SMU Professor Mark Findlay.

Associate Professor Maartje de Visser from SMU School of Law together with Associate Professor Jaclyn Neo from NUS convened the ICON-S (Singapore Chapter) launch cum Workshop on “Constitutional Interpretation In and Outside the Courts” which was held in SMU School of Law on 12 Oct 2018. The keynote speech was delivered by the Honourable Mr Chan Sek Keong, former Chief Justice of Singapore. The speakers, panellists and chairpersons included senior lawyers, government legal officers and representatives from the Attorney-General’s Chambers and the Singapore Academy of Law, and professors from both SMU and NUS.





## RESEARCH CENTRES

### CENTRE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA GOVERNANCE (CAIDG)

CAIDG is managed by the Director (Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan) and two Deputy Directors (Professor Mark Findlay and Associate Professor Warren Chik). There are three streams of research: AI and Society, AI and Industry, and AI and Commercialization. Working in tandem with these three streams are the following specific projects dealing with significant developments in AI:

#### AI AND SOCIETY

1. Trustworthy AI
2. Privacy and Data Protection in the World of Data-Driven Agency
3. Transforming Labour Force

#### AI AND INDUSTRY

- Horizontal Issues for Projects 4 and 5: Legal Foundations in the Regulation of AI and Data Use
4. Automated and Connected Vehicles Policy
  5. Dispute Resolution: Managing and Preventing Disputes and the Role of Professional Advisers

#### AI AND COMMERCIALIZATION

6. Fintech Policy
7. Intellectual Property and AI
8. Data-logistics, AI and Transnational Commerce and Trading

In conjunction with launch of the CAIDG, the Singapore AI workshop – co-organised by the SMU School of Law, the Berkman Klein Centre for Internet & Society at Harvard University, and the Digital Asia Hub – took place on 24 September 2018 at the SMU School of Law.

The workshop provided a useful platform for multiple stakeholders to engage in the debates about the ethics and governance of AI which covered Singapore-specific AI developments, as well as the ethical and global governance challenges. It also conducted specific breakout sessions on Autonomous Vehicles, AI and Intellectual Property, and Government Procurement of AI followed by a wrap-up session of all 3 topics.

On 23 January 2018, Assistant Professor Dov Greenbaum (Director of the Zvi Meitar Institute for Legal Implications of Emerging Technologies) presented a lecture on “Legal and Ethical Considerations with the Advancement of AI and Machine Learning: What Can We Learn on the 200th Anniversary of Frankenstein?” in which he masterfully explained how the varied and diverse interactions between technology and society raise new and exciting legal questions and ethical concerns (such as mens rea and personhood) as well as the future of lawyers within the legal profession. The lecture was followed by an insightful commentary by Mr Chia-Ling Koh (Managing Director, OC Queen Street LLC) and moderated by Ms Candice Kwok (Partner, Marks & Clerk Singapore LLP).



## RESEARCH CENTRES

### APPLIED RESEARCH CENTRE FOR INTELLECTUAL ASSETS AND THE LAW IN ASIA (ARCIALA)

Organised a series of events in 2018, covering subject-matter in relation to intellectual assets from Standard Essential Patents to cryptocurrencies to the impact of artificial intelligence on IP. The following are some of the highlights:

#### SOUTH KOREA/JAPAN IP MONTH (JAN – MAR 2018)

ARCIALA invited two distinguished professors from South Korea and Japan respectively in the first quarter. Professor Lee Hwang from Korea University spoke on important legal and economic issues arising from the intersection between competition law and IP law, such as the Fair, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory licensing of Standard Essential Patents, and also the disputes between Qualcomm and various Fair

Trade Commissions around the world. Professor Jong Sang Jo from the Seoul National University gave us an interesting insight into the various IP issues in relation to the Korean entertainment industry. Professor Masabumi Suzuki, Dean of School of Law, Nagoya University, gave a talk on an important but oft-neglected field of damages for IP infringement. Professor Yoshiyuki Tamura from Hokkaido University shared his views on Japan’s IP Strategic Program and the way forward for Japan as an IP-based nation.

#### “THE FUTURE IS CRYPTO?: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP ON THE BLOCKCHAIN REVOLUTION”

In February 2018, ARCIALA held a workshop on cryptocurrencies and blockchain where Professor Dan Hunter from Swinburne Law School and Mr Juan Llanos from ConsenSys shared their views with Assistant Professor Eliza Mik and Associate Professor Kelvin Low from SMU School of Law on the increasing pervasiveness of blockchain and cryptocurrencies in everyday life and whether the law is able to accommodate these new areas or if a legal revolution is inevitable.







## RESEARCH CENTRES



### IP SCHOLARS ASIA 2018 (“IPSA 2018”) (MAR 2018)

In March 2018, ARCIALA organised the 3rd IPSA Work-in-Progress Conference 2018, which saw some 120 talented IP scholars worldwide congregate to share with us their current research on major issues relating to IP law.

### ASEAN IP COLLOQUIUM 2018

Under the ASEAN IP Colloquium initiative, ARCIALA invited Dr Sovath Phin from the Pāññāsāstra University of Cambodia and Dr Phan Ngoc Tam from the Ho Chi Minh City University of Law, to share insights as regards the protection and commercialisation of IP in Cambodia and the challenges to the IP enforcement system in Vietnam respectively. ARCIALA have also invited Professor Myint Thu Myaing, University of Yangon to talk about Protection and Enforcement of IP in Myanmar.

### SPONSORING ADVANCED IP STUDY

Beginning from October, ARCIALA sponsored three students for advanced IP study programs: Kelvin Sum (PhD student from the Queen Mary University of London), Huang Weijie (PhD student from the Faculty of Law, University of HK) (who stayed for 6 months to complete their PhD thesis) and Shalini Jhunjunwala (LLM student from the Tongji University of China who stayed for one month).

### THOUGHT LEADERSHIP PUBLIC LECTURES

As part of our collaboration with the SMU Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Data Governance (CAIDG), in September, ARCIALA invited Professor Reto Hilty from the Max-Planck Institute of Innovation and Competition to the inaugural Singapore AI workshop to share with us his views on how AI would impact IP in future. ARCIALA had also invited Professor Robert Merges from UC Berkeley, to give a talk in December on IP law and AI.



## RESEARCH CENTRES

### CENTRE FOR CROSS-BORDER COMMERCIAL LAW IN ASIA (CEBCLA)

This Centre facilitates research in all areas of commercial law, with a focus on the Asian context. CEBCLA aims to be the leading Asian centre of research in commercial law which is informed by a variety of research methods including doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, historical and comparative perspectives. One of CEBCLA’s key objectives is to serve as the meeting point and first port of call for scholars, leading practitioners, governments and policy makers pursuing rigorous, informed and significant research in commercial law in Asia. Through such interactions and dialogues, CEBCLA seeks to support the development of regional thought leadership in commercial law and research collaborations.

#### MAJOR EVENTS ORGANISED BY CEBCLA IN 2018 INCLUDE:

- US-Asia Comparative Corporate Conference
- Asian Financial Law Conference
- Research Forum: ‘Expanding the Scope of Dispute Resolution and Access Justice: The Use of Mediation within the Courts’
- Dentons Rodyk Dialogue: ‘International Trade in the Age of Brexit and Trump’
- Yong Pung How Professorship of Law Lecture: ‘Scope and Limits of Party Autonomy under the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements’
- Jones Day Professorship of Commercial Law Lecture: ‘Operationalizing Innovation: the New Work of Legal Operations and the Future of Work in the Legal Profession’
- Herbert Smith Freehills-SMU Asian Arbitration Lecture: ‘Investor-State Arbitration: Is There A Future?’
- Singapore Mediation Lecture: ‘On Tiptoes through the Minefield: Cultural Dimensions of Mediation’



**PROFESSOR DAVID B WILKINS**  
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
JONES DAY PROFESSOR 2018



**SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE EDWIN TONG S.C.**  
GUEST OF HONOUR, JONES DAY PROFESSORSHIP OF COMMERCIAL LAW LECTURE



**PROFESSOR TANIA VOON**  
GUEST OF HONOUR  
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL,  
MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL  
JONES DAY LECTURE 2018



**MINISTER S ISWARAN**  
GUEST OF HONOUR  
DENTONS RODYK DIALOGUE 2018







## RESEARCH CENTRES



### SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACADEMY (SIDRA)

#### 15TH ANNUAL ASLI CONFERENCE

In May 2018, Ms Aziah Hussin, Senior Researcher, presented on the paper she co-wrote with SIDRA's Academic Director, Professor Nadja Alexander, titled "UNCITRAL Convention and Model Law on Enforcement of iMSAs and Upcoming Trends in the IDR Landscape." Aziah highlighted 10 key trends in international dispute resolution, with a focus on the institutionalisation of cross-border mediation, acceptance of diversity in cross-border mediation practices, the emergence of online dispute resolution, and new features in the international framework for enforcement.

#### ABLI ASIAN EMERGENCE CONFERENCE

In July 2018, SIDRA convened a panel for the ABLI Emergence Conference titled "Feel the Earth Move: Shifts in the International Dispute Resolution Landscape." Contributing experts included Associate Professor Eunice Chua from SMU School of Law; Ms Nina Mocheva, Senior Financial Sector Specialist in the World Bank Group, USA; Mr Lok Vi Ming, SC, Managing Partner of LVM Chambers LLC, Singapore; and Mr KC Lye, Partner of Norton Rose Fulbright, Singapore; and Ms Anna Howard from Queen Mary University of London. Professor Nadja Alexander moderated the discussion. The panel explored emerging trends in international dispute resolution including cultural convergences that are impacting the development of the profession around the world.



## RESEARCH CENTRES



#### OVERSEAS MEDIATOR TRAINING

In partnership with the Singapore International Mediation Centre, SIDRA developed and implemented a series of overseas trainings for dispute resolution practitioners on mediation skills and processes. Workshops were held in Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, and Tokyo between January and June 2018. Participants received advanced tutorials from expert trainers such as Professor Nadja Alexander, Professor Joel Lee, Mr George Lim, and Mr Lok Vi Ming, SC, on the finer points of mediation practice and service provision.



#### NEW YORK CONVENTION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

In June 2018, SIDRA partnered with the SMU School of Law Centre for Commercial Cross Border Law in Asia and Herbert Smith Freehills to mark the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the New York Convention, the UN's most successful and widely-adopted Convention in its history. The keynote remarks were delivered by Justice Anselmo Reyes of the Singapore International Commercial Court. A distinguished line up of speakers and experts representing the international arbitration community in Singapore provided context and analysis about enforcement in practice around the region, including remarks from former UNCITRAL Chairman Mr Salim Moollan QC of Essex Court Chambers, Mr Alastair Henderson of Herbert Smith Freehills, and Professor Nadja Alexander.

#### CROSS-CULTURAL FLUENCY IN CROSS-BORDER MEDIATION

In April 2018, SIDRA implemented its inaugural mediator accreditation course, in partnership with SMU School of Law and the Singapore International Mediation Institute. The course focused on equipping participants with a comprehensive set of tools for cross-cultural communication during cross-border mediation processes. SIDRA innovatively opened the course to law students, graduates, SMU alumni, and community members, resulting in a diverse class of advanced and beginner candidates for SIMI Level 1 Accreditation. Training was provided by Professor Nadja Alexander and Associate Professor Lum Kit Wye of NTU School of Business.





## RESEARCH UPDATES

### RESEARCH IMPACT

SMU School of Law faculty continue to conduct deep research in law and other interdisciplinary areas (such as law and economics, regulation and business) in 2018. They have been awarded research grants from the Singapore Government and agencies such as National Research Foundation, Info-communications Media Development Authority of Singapore, the Ministry of Education, the Singapore Judicial College, and the Competition Commission of Singapore.

Faculty members provide advisory opinions to law corporations, and are appointed as expert witnesses on Singapore law before foreign courts (Professor Yeo Tiong Min and Associate Professor Adeline Chong). Other faculty have served as amicus curiae in Singapore courts on areas as diverse as contracts (Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan and Associate Professor Lee Pey Woan), torts (Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan and Professor Gary Chan), intellectual property (Professor David Llewelyn), conflicts of laws (Professor Yeo Tiong Min) and investment disputes (Professor Locknie Hsu).

Our publications have often been cited in academic texts, journals and court judgments, and our textbooks (on Contract Law, Tort Law, and Corporate Law for example) have been widely used in law schools in Singapore.

Several faculty members have also contributed to significant law and policy debates in 2018 via op-eds (Associate Professor Chandra Mohan, Associate Professor Eugene Tan, Professor Nadja Alexander, Associate Professor Tan Seow Hon, and Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan) and interviews. Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan, Associate Professor Eugene Tan and Lecturer Benjamin Joshua Ong have provided their recommendations to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods.

Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan and Associate Professor Yip Man have continued to manage the Singapore Law Blog. Associate Professor Chen Siyuan and Assistant Professor Alvin See are Associate Editors. The law blog is dedicated to the discussion of the latest developments in Singapore law. 23 blog posts were published in 2018 alone.

Professor Locknie Hsu, Associate Professor Pearlie Koh, and Associate Professor Yip Man have published an interim research report on "Improving Connectivity Between ASEAN's Legal Systems to Address Commercial Issues" (2017). This was prominently featured and supported by industry during the recent ASEAN Economic Ministers' meeting in September 2018. (This interim report was also earlier referenced by the Secretary for Justice of Hong Kong SAR in his keynote speech given at the Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum Conference on 14 October 2017.)

The research of three School of Law faculty (Associate Professor Christopher Chen, Assistant Professor Zhang Wei and Associate Professor Wan Wai Yee on "Regulating squeeze-out techniques by



controlling shareholders: the divergence between Singapore and Hong Kong" published in the Journal of Corporate Law Studies (2017) was cited in the Singapore Exchange Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to Voluntary Delisting Regime released on 9 November 2018. The research paper was one of the deliverables completed under the MOE Tier 2 research grant awarded to the faculty members.

Deputy Dean Professor David Llewelyn's decision as an IP adjudicator of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) in a dispute over trademarks between two major American operators of market exchanges was reported in the World Trademark Review, Conventus Law, The Business Times and The Straits Times in Dec 2018. Professor Llewelyn has served as an IP Adjudicator at IPOS since 2016.

### RESEARCH GRANTS

Associate Professor Yip Man received a research grant from Chuo University (Japan) in 2018 to conduct research pertaining to Singapore in line with Chuo University's research on "Comprehensive Analysis on Diversity of Legal Systems in Asia Pacific Region and Convergence towards Establishment of Rule of Law". Associate Professor Wan Wai Yee was awarded a grant from the Singapore Judicial College to conduct research on "Empirical Study of Schemes of Arrangement as Debt Restructuring Tools in Singapore". The Competition Commission of Singapore awarded a grant to Associate Professor Eugene Tan to conduct research on "International Standards: Catalyst or Barrier for Innovative Entrepreneurship in Singapore?"



## RESEARCH UPDATES

### AWARDS

We congratulate the SMU School of Law recipients of the Lee Kong Chian Fellowship in 2018: Professor Nadja Alexander, Associate Professor Lee Pey Woan, Associate Professor Wan Wai Yee, Associate Professor Pasha, and Associate Professor Yip Man.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS AND TACKLING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

MOE Tier 1 projects of an interdisciplinary nature which were completed in 2018 include the following:

- Associate Professor Pearlie Koh and Associate Professor Tan Hwee Hoon from LKCSB on "Directors' Duties - Law and Perceptions: How do corporate directors understand and perceive their legal duties and responsibilities?"
- Assistant Professor Zhang Wei and Associate Professor Fu Fangjian (LKCSB) on "Costly Corporate Governance: Evidence from Shareholder Approval in Mergers and Acquisitions"
- Assistant Professor Zhang Wei, and Associate Professor Kelvin Low (SOL) and Assistant Professor of Finance Jianfeng Hu (LKCSB) on "The Value of Fiduciary Duties: Evidence from En Bloc Sales in Singapore"

As part of the SMU Research Capacity Building Funds, we are pleased that several SMU School of Law faculty have received grants from the university to build up their capacity to apply in the near future for external grants:

- Professor Nadja Alexander (Culture, Mediation and Law)
- Associate Professor Henry Gao (Belt and Road Initiative: Infrastructures and Institutions) with SOSS Faculty
- Associate Professor Christopher Chen (Regulatory Issues of Cross-border Payment Services and Financial Technology)
- Associate Professor Warren Chik, Associate Professor Eugene Tan, and Mr Benjamin Joshua Ong (Artificial Intelligence and Fake News: Law and Society) with LKCSB Faculty

The SMU School of Law faculty experts in the Centre for AI and Data Governance will be working with experts from other SMU Schools including the School of Information Systems, School of Social Sciences and the Lee Kong Chian School of Business to fulfil the objectives of the 5-year research programme.

### FACULTY EXCHANGES AND RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

SMU School of Law signed an MOU with City University of London (United Kingdom) to discuss and negotiate potential research collaborations. Professor Gary Chan and Visiting Professor Irene Calboli were short-term visitors to the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law in 2018. Professor Gary Chan delivered two lectures to the students on Tort Law and Legal Education respectively during the visit.







**KWA GEOK CHOO  
LAW LIBRARY**





# KWA GEOK CHOO LAW LIBRARY

## KWA GEOK CHOO TRIBUTE CORNER

"The Legacy of Madam Kwa Geok Choo" tribute corner and exhibition has been created, on level 3 of the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library. The exhibition recognises Madam Kwa's contributions as a lawyer and advocate and serves as an inspiration to current and future students studying in the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library named in her honour.

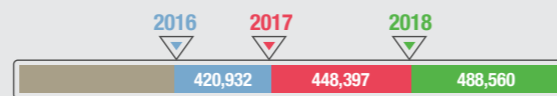


## COLLECTIONS

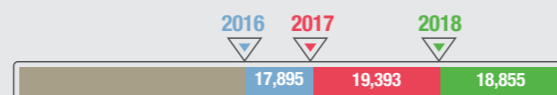
In 2017, the Maritime Law Association of Singapore (MLAS) generously donated 15 books to SMU Libraries to develop and update its maritime law collection. A full list of the titles added into the MLAS Collection can be found on the Library's website under the tab Collections.

In 2018, SMU Community has access to 488,560 electronic books, journals and databases.

### Electronic books, journals, and databases



### Physical books and journals (law only)



Librarians have been collaborating with the faculty in highlighting and developing the collection in the following key focus areas of the School of Law: Law and Technology, Dispute Resolution and Transnational Commercial Law in Asia.

To improve discoverability in these focus areas special research guides have been created and made accessible from the [Library website](#). With the increase in free resources on the internet, a research guide for Open Access Resources for Law was also created.

## LAW INTERNSHIP WORKSHOP

The law librarians collaborated with The Bar on 30 April 2018 preparing second year law students for their internship experience in May. 55 students signed up for the session. The aim of the workshop was to refresh their legal research skills before starting internship by simulating enquiries they would receive in the law firms for the students to practice research. Student mentors and law librarians engaged in discussions with the students providing insights and feedback.

## INK, SMU INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

The Library has continued to make SMU School of Law publications available to both SMU users and the broader community in Singapore. The InK institutional repository makes SMU research publications more visible and discoverable in search engines. As a result, SMU School of Law publications are frequently downloaded by both members of academic communities as well as legal practitioners. As of October 2018, there were a total of 2921 SMU School of Law research records in InK with 983 PDF full-text. These publications have been downloaded 209,885 times since 2008.

## STAFF UPDATES



ELIZABETH NAUMCZYK

In November 2018, Elizabeth Naumczyk retired as the Head, Law Library after two years of service. She took the lead in setting up the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library. Elizabeth fondly remembers overseeing the move of SMU's law collection and services into the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library, followed by the Opening Ceremony of the SMU School of Law Building and the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Elizabeth said: "I was fortunate to be involved with and meet a cross section of the wonderful people that make up the SMU Community."



YEE XIN CHAI



SAMANTHA LIM

The Law Library Team includes Yee Xin Chai, Research Librarian, Law; and Samantha Lim, Law Trainee Librarian. Both are legally trained.

Yee Xin Chai was awarded an International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) Regular Bursary to attend the 37th Annual Course "Law in Luxembourg – where local tradition meets European and international innovation" hosted at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law in September/October 2018.

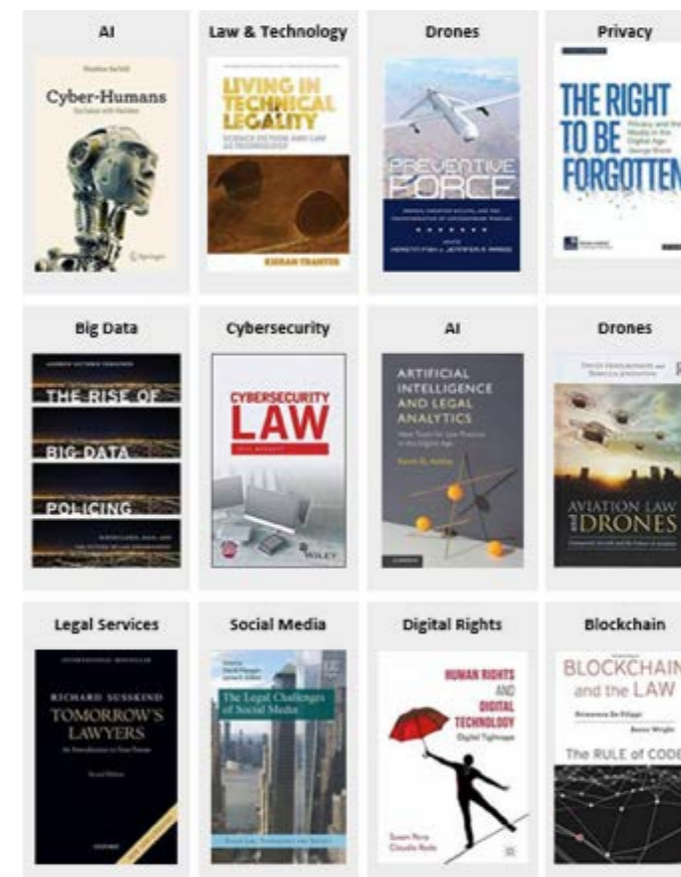


# KWA GEOK CHOO LAW LIBRARY

## CURRICULAR COLLABORATIONS WITH SCHOOL OF LAW

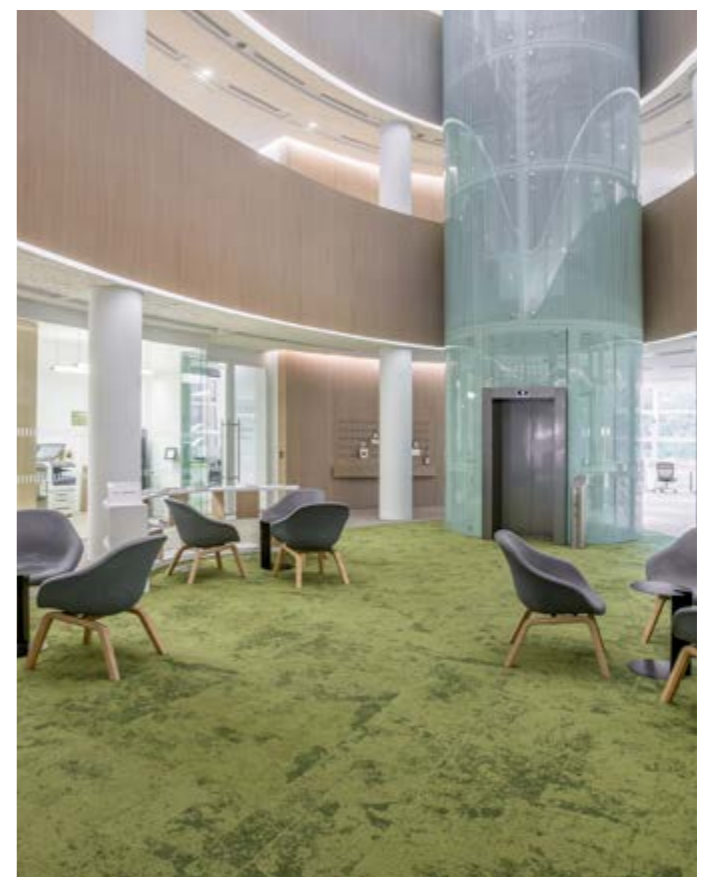
Over 1,100 students benefitted from 38 library's legal research skills sessions conducted in 2018. The librarians collaborated in the following courses:

- Legal Research and Writing: Collaboration with Assistant Professor Dorcas Quek, Assistant Professor Eunice Chua, and Lecturer Ong Ee Ing
- Public International Law: Collaboration with Assistant Professor Mahdev Mohan
- Criminal Law: Collaboration with Associate Professor Chandra Mohan
- Law Internship: Collaboration with The Bar to provide a workshop for second year students addressing key research skills required in their internships. Students also received advice from their seniors as well as librarians on what they might experience during internships.



## SMU-X BOOK DISPLAY

The Kwa Geok Choo Law Library hosted two thematic book displays during 2018: 'Famous Trials and Lawyers' and 'How does technology change the law?'. The displays promoted new titles in current areas of interest. Both students and faculty showed interest in reading such titles.



## SMU-X POSTER DISPLAY

Under the SMU-X Programme, International Mediation Law, students were paired with legal experts from countries to conduct analytical research and present policy recommendations on the potential adoption of the upcoming Singapore Convention on Mediation. In January, the Kwa Geok Choo Library displayed the student posters to the School of Law community.





**ACADEMIC  
PROGRAMMES**





# OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

**SMU SCHOOL OF LAW OFFERS THREE PROGRAMMES AND IS HOME TO A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF 768 STUDENTS.**



## BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)

The LL.B. is a 4-year meritorious honours programme with 36 course units (CU) worth of courses. The LL.B. curriculum, regularly revised to meet the needs of a fast-changing economy, was originally formulated by legal academics and practitioners after extensive discussions, and endorsed by the Ministry of Law and Singapore's then Board of Legal Education.

Overall employment rate for our LLB graduates is an impressive **97.6%**

Enrolment of **648** **166** were freshmen



## JURIS DOCTOR (JD)

The J.D. programme is a post-graduate qualifying law degree for students who have undergraduate degrees in other disciplines and those who have studied law in civil law countries and in other jurisdictions.

Student body of **94** **29** were freshmen



## MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)

The SMU LLM programme, with three specialised tracks, is carefully designed to expand the legal knowledge of a legal professional in classic and novel areas of the law, while simultaneously equipping legal professionals with the skills-sets essential to render on-point advice on cross-border transactions or deliver high-quality adjudication and judicial administration results.







## BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)



### UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND CURRICULUM

SMU School of Law is committed to a forward-looking legal education that equips its students with knowledge and capabilities that enable them to flourish in the 21st century. To that end, it has from its inception adopted an innovative curriculum that is distinguished by broad-based, cross-disciplinary elements, and that integrates doctrinal reasoning with practical skills. Our bold approach to the curriculum is supplemented by a unique pedagogy that emphasises active, collaborative and experiential learning as well as the acquisition of soft skills that will enhance the development of our students as independent and critical thinkers who can confidently navigate the complex demands of the modern workplace.



### INNOVATIVE ELECTIVE OFFERING

In keeping with our commitment to ensuring that our offering of electives meet the fast-changing needs of the market, we introduced new electives touching on law and technology in the year under review. The first was a short course entitled Introduction to Law and Technology taught by Visiting Professor Dov Greenbaum from Harry Radzyner Law School. This course introduced students to legal issues arising in the regulation of emerging technologies

in an international context. The second course, Privacy and Data Protection Law, was jointly taught by Associate Professor Warren Chik and Mr Lanx Goh, Assistant Director of Personal Data Protection Commission. Students who took this course acquired an understanding of the data economy, the regulation of data protection and its relation to privacy law.

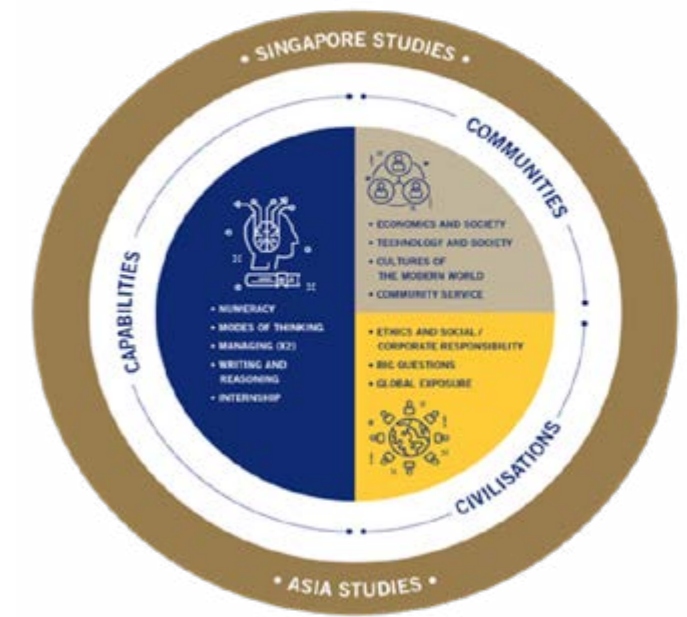


## BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)

### REFORM OF SMU CORE CURRICULUM

In 2018, we continued to take significant strides forward in ensuring the currency of our programme by reforming the SMU Core Curriculum. These reforms emanated from proposals made by the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC), a committee appointed and chaired by our Provost, Professor Lily Kong, to sharpen SMU's distinctive value proposition for undergraduates. Associate Professors Lee Pey Woan and Tan Seow Hon from the School of Law contributed to the committee's deliberations as members.

Following the BRC's proposals, the SMU Core Curriculum will be organised along three pillars of learning, viz: Capabilities, Communities and Civilisations. LLB students joining SMU from 2019 will be required to take a total of 6 courses falling within these three pillars (the diagram on the right). Significantly, under the Communities pillar, our students will be required to take at least one course touching on Technology and Society. This requirement is designed to ensure that students appreciate the impact of technology on their profession and on society generally. Another innovative feature of the revised core curriculum is the inclusion of Big Questions: Happiness & Suffering. This new course creates an opportunity for examining issues of fundamental importance to the human race from ethical, theoretical as well as practical perspectives. In addition, our students will continue to be required to subscribe for electives that pre-qualify as Singapore and Asian studies to nurture a deeper understanding of the legal, historical and social context of the burgeoning Asian region.



### EXPLORATORY COURSES AND WORK STUDY SCHEME

Apart from the significant revisions to the SMU core curriculum, the BRC recommendations introduced two other new elements into the LLB programme. The first is the introduction of a new policy that allows students to declare up to two electives as Exploratory Courses. As the passed letter grade of an exploratory course will be excluded from the cGPA computation at the end of a student's candidature, this policy is intended to encourage students to explore courses outside their own discipline or usual sphere of interest. Secondly, students will be able to embark on longer internships of up to six months under a new Work-Study Scheme that will also allow them to earn a credit in the process. Such a scheme seeks to enhance the benefits and impact of internships by interlacing institution-based learning with structured on-the-job training.

### STUDENT EXCHANGE

- A new exchange partnership was signed with Renmin University of China.
- THEMIS Network: In October, the European partners of SMU School of Law in the THEMIS Network met in Singapore for the first time for their biannual meeting.

The THEMIS Network, which consists of SMU and 8 European partners, Università Bocconi (Milan, Italy), ESADE (Barcelona, Spain), Freie Universität (Berlin, Germany), Université Paris-Est Créteil Val-de-Marne (Paris, France), Maastricht Law School (Maastricht, The Netherlands), (Switzerland), WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) (Austria), and Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal), offers students an opportunity to receive a THEMIS certificate upon the completion of various requirements such as an international exchange programme, an international internship, and the annual THEMIS seminar (or a paper in lieu). SMU has been actively involved in efforts to expand the network. At October's meeting, a new partner, Australian National University, joined the network.





## BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)



### PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Experiential learning is now a prominent feature of the SMU teaching pedagogy. This form of learning is frequently facilitated through the offering of SMU-X courses, which are project-based courses taught by SMU faculty in conjunction with an industry partner who provides close mentorship for students tasked to devise solutions for real life problems. In 2018, SMU School of Law offered 5 SMU-X electives (viz, Public International Law; Transnational Business and Human Rights; International Moots I; International Moots II; and International Mediation Law & Practice) which were subscribed by a total of 143 students. Preparation is currently underway to introduce more SMU-X courses in the forthcoming academic years to provide our students with more

opportunities to hone their problem-solving skills in practical contexts.

As we believe that teaching excellence is founded on a culture of critical self-reflection, we routinely conduct teaching forums to reflect and improve on teaching and pedagogical issues. In 2018, we held a teaching forum on 9 February that was attended by 25 faculty. The forum usefully clarified the best practices that should guide us on a wide range of issues including pedagogy, assessments, student workload, quality of course materials and grading concerns.

## BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)



### TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Guided by a strong sense of mission to provide top quality education, our faculty are fully committed to providing our students with a vibrant and nurturing environment in which they can best realise their learning potentials. For 2018, the University paid particular recognition to the extraordinary effort of one faculty – Assistant Professor Alvin See – by conferring on him the SMU Excellent Teacher Award. Using various innovative approaches, Alvin went the extra mile to enhance the classroom experience by making the learning of law engaging, fun and practical. This award is testamentary of the dedication of Alvin – and others like him – in his commitment to teaching excellence.

In addition to teaching awards conferred by the University, SMU Law also recognises outstanding teaching performance through the conferral of various annual awards. On 5 September 2018, a Teaching Awards Tea was held to celebrate excellence in teaching for the LLB programme. Top award winners received a certificate as well as a DART top-up in their account.

### FACULTY ADVISORS

Faculty advisors were once again appointed for LLB freshmen. This was the second year running of the successful scheme which started in 2017. Each group of mentees would consist of about 10–12 freshmen, and they would meet their faculty advisors on a regular basis, over tea.



#### MOST OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD:

Assoc Prof Tan Seow Hon

#### DEAN'S TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD:

Assoc Prof Adeline Chong

Asst Prof Alvin See Wei-Liang

Prof David Smith

Prof Gary Chan

Assoc Prof Low Kee Yang

Assoc Prof Maartje De Visser

Prof Nadja Alexander

Assoc Prof Yip Man





# MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)



## LAUNCH OF AN LLM IN JUDICIAL STUDIES, OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SINGAPORE JUDICIAL COLLEGE

On 26 July 2018, the SMU School of Law and the Singapore Judicial College (SJC), Supreme Court, announced today that they will jointly offer a new Master of Laws in Judicial Studies from August 2019. A first of its kind in the region, the new postgraduate degree programme is designed to provide advanced training for serving judges and judicial aspirants both in and outside of Singapore.

The official launch, which took the form of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between SJC and the School of Law, was held on the side-lines of the ASEAN Law Association (ALA) Conference, and witnessed by the Heads of Delegation and participants of the Conference, including CJ Menon and Supreme Court Justices from other ASEAN jurisdictions.

The coursework of the LLM in Judicial Studies has been carefully curated to enhance participants' knowledge and competencies in core areas of the law such as the law of obligations and business law taught from a comparative perspective; it also equips them for modern day adjudication and judicial administration through core modules such as "Judgecraft" and "Law and Technology", alongside electives such as "Leadership, Management and Professional Effectiveness" and "Contextual Judging". Participants will be taught by experienced Singapore judges alongside standing faculty at the SMU School of Law, and will amongst others enjoy the immersive experience of a mandatory attachment programme with the Singapore judiciary.

## CHANGE IN LOCATION AND START DATE FOR THE DUAL LLM IN COMMERCIAL LAW (SINGAPORE AND LONDON)

The Dual LLM track will not be offered in AY2019-20. It will be re-introduced in AY2020-21, starting in January 2020 in London. Students will move to SMU in August 2020 for the Singapore Leg of the programme. They will sit for the same 6 modules offered to the students on the Cross-Border Business and Finance Law in Asia track during Terms 1 and 2. The overall duration of the revised programme will be 16 months. The expectation is that this change will be well-received by practicing lawyers eager to advance their commercial law knowledge across regions and boost the number of participants enrolled in this track.

## STANDARDIZATION OF LLM PROGRAMMES

The LLM in Cross-Border Business and Finance Law in Asia and the Dual LLM in Commercial Law (Singapore and London) will be changed to tracks under a single Master of Laws programme, alongside the new LLM in Judicial Studies track. While there will be no change in the overall number of credit units that must be obtained, students across all tracks must complete three common core courses – "Law and Technology: Asian and Global Trends"; "Advanced Law of Obligations" and "Mediation" – that aim to provide a shared foundation to all LLM students and as such, give the School of Law's LLM programme its unique identity. In addition, the candidates for each track are required to take three track-specific courses as well as two electives. The standardization of the School's LLM offerings and, in particular, the common core courses, will undoubtedly boost their appeal to practicing lawyers and others thinking of embarking on an LLM degree and interacting with like-minded individuals.



# JURIS DOCTOR (JD)



## CURRICULUM CHANGES

The 30 hours of community service that used to be part of J.D. students' graduating requirement will be removed with effect of the 2018 cohort to allow the School of Law to develop the identity of the J.D. programme consistent with other postgraduate programmes offered within SMU. The other graduating requirements – i.e. internship and pro bono work – will remain in place.

## CORE LAW MODULES WEIGHTAGE CHANGE

The core law module of Legal Research and Writing has been expanded from 1 cu (3 hrs per week) to 1.5 cu (4.5 hrs per week). Legal Systems, Methods and Analysis has been changed to Singapore Legal Systems and reduced from 1 cu to 0.5cu. The changes above are part of a wider curriculum reform, which may entail some courses being shifted to improve the learning experience and quality of the JD programme for the candidates.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Jasmine Toh (Class of 2017) was in joint 4th position in the 2017 Part B of the Singapore Bar Exams. Her JD classmate, Chen Xizi, was awarded the Best Candidate in Wills, Probate and Administration Practice. John Tan (Class of 2011) was listed as one of the most promising legal professionals 40 and below in Singapore Business Review (Feb 2018).







# SNAPSHOT OF STUDENT EVENTS

## LLB PROGRAMME OUTREACH FOR PROSPECTIVE AND INCOMING STUDENTS



The SMU Annual Open House took place in early March 2018 as a lead to the recruitment exercise for new LLB students of August 2018. To attract the best students to join SMU School of Law, a panel discussion comprising Mr Paul Tan, Mr Lionel Leo, Assistant Professor Eunice Chua and Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan was conducted on the first day of the Open House, which was then followed by mock seminars conducted by Associate Professor Tan Seow Hon, Associate Professor Low Kee Yang and Assistant Professor Alvin See.

A Scholar's Lunch was then held for offerees who were awarded scholarships on 28 April 2018. Faculty members from the Selection Committee, the Dean, and Dean of Students Professor Paulin Straughan were present to encourage them to take up the offer and the scholarship.



In early May 2018, the School of Law co-organised a tea session with Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Assistance (OUAFA) for the LLB offerees and their parents (known as "Destination SMU"). The event started with the screening of a new promotional video on SMU School of Law, followed by a panel discussion with Professor Paulin Straughan, Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan, Professor Ong Siow Heng and the guest of

honour Mr Andre Maniam, SC. Offerees were directed to 4 seminar rooms where they heard presentations from faculty members, current students as well as LLB alumni. At the end of Destination SMU, the offerees were invited to take part in a pilot scheme called The SMU Campus Adventure, organised by OUAFA, which was to provide bonding opportunities for these offerees through games and activities.



# SNAPSHOT OF STUDENT EVENTS



## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Commencement Ceremony in August 2018 saw the creation of a fresh batch of alumni with 162 graduating with an LLB, 28 with JD, and 9 with LLM. Among the LLB graduands, 9 received the highest award of summa cum laude while 32 received magna cum laude. Among the graduands were also 52 winners of subject prizes and awards for exemplary performance. SOL also celebrated its first recipient of the DBS Bank School Valedictorian Award in Law, Ms Iris Ng Li Shan, since the first batch of LLB graduates from 2011. Mr Loi Guan Lin, Caspar received the Kwa Geok Choo Top Law Student Award.

## AWARD CEREMONY

This year's Award Ceremony, which celebrates academic achievements of our current students, was held on 21 September. Mr Darien The Chun Yiu won the Lai Kew Chai Prize for the Top First Year Law Student. He and Ms Low Jia Na jointly won the Rajah & Tann Prize for the Best First Year Law Student. Mr Daryl Gan Han Qi received the Rajah & Tann Prize for the Best Second Year Student. Mr Nguyen Sinh Vuong won the Punch Coomaraswamy Prize for the Top Third Year Law Student.







**PROFESSIONAL AND  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENTS**





## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

### PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS



SMU  
LAW  
ACADEMY



PRO  
BONO  
CENTRE



COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

SMU School of Law has continued its active engagement with the legal fraternity and the wider community in 2018. The SMU School of Law's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) arm has been rebranded as the SMU Law Academy. In 2018, SMULA partnered continuing education providers such as SIDRA and SAL and organised the Law Firm management Symposium in 2018. The Pro Bono Centre organised Expert Panel meetings, student leaders Trainings, Coffee Series Talks and visits to raise social awareness for law students. The SMU School of Law held the Biennial Judiciary Lunch for Supreme Court Judges and the School of Law Faculty.

We are grateful to our Donors and Sponsors who have generously contributed in 2018 to bursaries, study awards, prizes, and scholarships for the benefit of our law students.



### SMU LAW ACADEMY

#### REBRANDING OF CLE AS SMU LAW ACADEMY (SMULA)

In line with the nationwide SkillsFuture movement, and to support current and future training and development needs of Singapore's legal fraternity, the SMU School of Law's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) arm was rebranded as the SMU Law Academy in January 2018. The official launch took place on 2 February 2018 with a special seminar featuring Justice Aedit Abdullah, who spoke on "Proving the Case: Beginning with the End in Mind" for an audience made up of more than 70 senior practitioners. His address was followed by a roundtable discussion featuring Professor Tang Hang Wu (SMU); Mr Francis Goh (Harry Elias) and Ms Marina Chin (Tan Kok Quan Partnership) and moderated by the Dean of the School of Law. To mark the occasion and introduce members of the legal fraternity not familiar with SMU to the SMU Law Academy, a corporate video has been produced that can be viewed via the School's website as well as its social media channels.

The rebranding has been accompanied by a new standard time-slot for SMULA events, which now take place (almost) every Friday, from 2:30pm onwards and are well-attended across the board. In response to feedback and past participation statistics, the Law Academy has ramped up its scheduling of "Updates and topical developments" seminars, one of the three categories of seminars on offer, the other two being "Foreign and Comparative Law" and "Fundamentals of Law".



## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS



#### PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS

In late December 2017, the SMU Law Academy concluded a partnership with the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy (SIDRA), under which all SIDRA CPD programmes will be organised in collaboration with SMULA.

In September 2018, SMULA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) as part of the latter's LIFTED framework, under which SMULA is designated as its preferred provider of CPD-bearing events in the realm of technology, corporate and commercial law; and legal/business ethics. The intention is that the seminars and workshops organised under this banner can be taken in a modular fashion to lead to certification by SMU and SAL jointly.



#### LAW FIRM MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM FEATURING LEADING AUTHORITY PROF DAVID WILKINS (HARVARD)

On 30 August 2018, the SMU Law Academy hosted the inaugural Law Firm Management Symposium for senior practitioners from the Singapore Bar and nearly all ASEAN jurisdictions, which event was graced by Permanent Secretary at MinLaw, Mr Ng How Yue, as the Guest of Honour. Professor David Wilkins (Harvard Law School), a leading authority in the field, delivered the keynote address in which he vividly described how and the extent to which the landscape in which law firms ply their trade is changing, and offered suggestions on how law firms could cope with the demands and opportunities presented by innovation. This provided a natural link to the first panel session of the afternoon, kickstarted by a TED Talk by Sophie Mathur (Linklaters), on how lawyers are embracing technology to become more efficient, price effective and innovation. The speakers on the second panel outlined practical tools for implementing change, including with reference to first-hand experiences of executing change in the legal arena and other industries. The Symposium closed with a session in which general counsel from HSBC, PayPal, and Honestbee shared their experiences and views concerning their companies' relationship with law firms and the latter's embrace of change and innovation. The Symposium was organised in collaboration with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and benefited from the financial support of Jones Day which allowed Prof Wilkins to join for the event.





## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS



### SMU PRO BONO CENTRE

**SMU Pro Bono Centre (SMU PBC)** runs the SMU Pro Bono Centre Helpdesk daily, where students take instructions from applicants via the Pro Bono Centre hotline by interviewing and recording the case synopses. The applicants registered at the Helpdesk are scheduled for SMU PBC Legal Clinics on Friday evenings (excluding Public Holidays). Volunteer lawyers at the clinics render face-to-face legal advice on personal matters with no citizenship restrictions.

SMU PBC organised an “out of the box” forum discussion focusing on the business of law and pro bono. Held on 26th January 2018, the speakers were Mr Rajan Menon, Founder - Senior Consultant, RHTLaw Taylor Wessing LLP and Mr Benjamin Szeto, Partner, RHTLaw Taylor Wessing LLP and the session was moderated by the SMU PBC, Centre Director, Associate Professor Rathna N Koman.

At the inaugural meeting for the expert panel of the SMU PBC on 5 February 2018 which was chaired by Justice Tan Siong Thye, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis was prepared for pro bono placements served by students upon the advice of the expert panel. The SWOT analysis was instrumental in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of individual pro bono placements, and opportunities to improve such placements for the community and students. During the second Expert panel meeting held on 24 August 2018, the panel discussed the findings from the SWOT Analysis.

SMU PBC conducted the Student Leaders Training Workshop on 19 April 2018 to train the 24 trainee student leaders on the rules and procedures of the SMU PBC Legal Clinics.

SMU PBC also organised study visits to raise awareness of law students on certain issues, not limited to social justice matters. The law students visited the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) on 8 February 2018 and Health Sciences Authority (HSA) on 3 May 2018.

On 17th August 2018, SMU PBC had the privilege to host delegates from the Royal Thai Embassy and various heads of Government Departments of Thailand. The session was hosted at the request of the Royal Thai Embassy to facilitate an understanding of the operations and modus operandi of SMU PBC work.

SMU PBC Expert Panel launched the first of the Coffee Series Talks on 24 August 2018. The purpose of the Coffee Series is to allow for and encourage further interactions between practitioners and students in order to enhance the students’ awareness of social justice issues. The opening address was delivered by Mr Tan Chong Huat which highlighted RHT Rajan Menon Foundation’s pro bono initiatives. Thereafter, the session focused on gathering feedback and views on the compulsory pro bono service requirement. The session finished with Justice Tan Siong Thye’s closing address.

Dr Winslow - a renowned psychiatrist, well-known for his work in addiction medicine and impulse control disorders - was invited for the Coffee Series Talk on 21 September 2018. His talk focused on mental issues/affliction resulting in a crime. The last of the Coffee Series Talks was presented by Ms Shalini Jayaraj on 12 October 2018. Ms Jayaraj is an SMU alumni and also the Head of Office, Singapore of Justice Without Borders (JWB).

Pursuant to the Thai visit, Centre Director, Associate Professor Rathna Koman worked with Dr. iur. Pawat Satayanurug, Department of International Law, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, to develop a similar pro bono centre at their University. The arrangements cover the sharing of the modus operandi of SMU PBC, legal clinics and helpdesk, their faculty and students attending at SMU PBC and learning of its operandi, and SMU PBC Centre Director and students attending at the Thai University to share our learning outcomes and experiences with faculty and students.

Given increasing technological advances in the case management of law, the Pro Bono Centre has decided to partner with Asia

## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS



Law Network to use end-to-end practice management software known as Tesseract. io to handle all aspects of our pro bono legal practice. The system contains case management, client management, knowledge management and accounting among others. Asia Law Network has agreed to offer Tesseract.io to our Pro Bono Centre for free so as to better assist us in our pro bono work. For the purposes of pro bono, Tesseract.io will provide a consolidated platform for the entire team to:

1. Track incoming inquiries
2. Manage applicant and case details
3. Manage documents before, during and after the consultation
4. Perform data analytics for internal tracking of case progress

Last but not least, Pro Bono Centre held the annual Pro Bono Centre Appreciation Lunch on 7th December 2018, for all its volunteer lawyers, stakeholders and its students.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

#### DONORS AND SPONSORS

Donors and sponsors of prizes and awards were invited to SMU School of Law to witness the SOL Student Awards Ceremony on 21 September 2018. Award winners were able to interact with them, and the ceremony provided a good opportunity for both sides to know each other better.

Donors continued to make generous gifts that supported bursaries, study awards, prizes, and scholarships. The Law Society sponsored the Law Society Distinguished Scholar Award to recognise law students who have demonstrated understanding of the underlying

values and foundations of law and legal practice through excelling in two core courses, Ethics and Social Responsibility and Legal Theory and Philosophy. Anonymous donors sponsored the Kwa Geok Choo Female Trailblazer Award which recognises a female law student who, amongst other things, has demonstrated perseverance in overcoming adversity, financial hardship or other difficulties, or service towards community, or leadership qualities.



#### THE JUDICIARY LUNCH

The Judiciary Lunch was held on 14 March 2018 at the SMU School of Law function lounge. Both the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and Dean Associate Professor Goh Yi-han welcomed the guests. A total of 27 judges and 28 faculty mingled informally and had a wonderful lunch.









# STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Our degree programmes have proven to bring our students access to careers in a wide variety of fields. Besides rising through the ranks in private practice, our alumni have excelled in fields such as legal technology start-ups; academia; and service as Justices' Law Clerks.

OUR GRADUATES FROM THE CLASS OF 2016, AFTER TIME TO COMPLETE THEIR TRAINING CONTRACTS AND BAR EXAMINATIONS, ACHIEVED...

97.6% OVERALL EMPLOYMENT RATE

\$4,778 MEAN BASIC MONTHLY SALARY

\$4,941 MEAN GROSS MONTHLY SALARY

Our students and alumni continued to excel in fields well beyond the classroom. In 2018, we continued our unrivalled track record of extensive participation and achievement in the international moot scene, with championships in the International Criminal Court Moot and LAWASIA Arbitration Moot, and appearances in the championship rounds of the Price Media Law Moot and the Air Law Moot.

We also participated in three international ADR competitions, two for the first time.

Our alumni, too, carried on the proud tradition, winning top prizes in various competitions such as the Maritime Law Association of Singapore Moot, the CIArb/New South Wales Young Lawyers Moot, and the YSIAC essay competition. Our alumni have also given back to the School by volunteering their time as coaches and mentors for our students' various competitions.

IN 2017/2018, WE PARTICIPATED IN...



WORLD RECORDS WE HAVE SET:



# STUDENTS' INITIATIVES & ACHIEVEMENTS

## GET TO KNOW PRACTICE SERIES



The Get to Know Practice Series, launched in AY2018/2019, is a platform for legal practitioners and others in related fields of interest to law students to deliver short talks to acquaint students with practical dimensions of law and legal practice. This series complements talks by associates from the industry who speak in existing courses. Speakers have shared on practice in international law firms and technology capabilities for lawyers.

## LAW AS CALLING SERIES

The Law as Calling Lunch Series was started to provide students with an opportunity to be inspired by people who have persevered in doing good, to facilitate the students' understanding of the role that law and the profession play alongside other structures in society, and to help them see the human side of law. The series kicked off with a talk by Jason Wong, former Deputy Director/Chief of Staff of the Singapore Prison Service, who also started the Yellow Ribbon Project. His talk was titled, "Transforming Lives In and Out of Prison". He was accompanied by Mr Anil David, CEO of Agape Connecting People, an ex-convict who overcame odds to set up a call centre which hires inmates, the disabled, and others. Other speakers in the Series include Law Society President Gregory Vijayendran who spoke on doing good as lawyers, Harvard Law Professor David Wilkins on the key roles and responsibilities as lawyers in the 21st century, and Straits Times Singaporean of the Year 2017, Dr Goh Wei Leong, on serving the under-served communities.



## NEW STUDENT CLUB: LEGAL INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (LIT) SOCIETY

The Legal Innovation and Technology (LIT) Society, a student initiative, was launched on 18 July 2018 to create awareness of legal technology and emerging technology laws, and to equip fellow law students with essential technology skills to ready them for the future of legal practice. The society holds coding workshops and hosts talks. In August 2018, the society invited Serena Lim from Bizibody to chair a workshop on Legal Innovation and Technology Today. Among the student-led innovations introduced by the society include the LawNet Reading List Downloader (by Wan Ding Yao, Ng Jun Xuan, and Gabriel Tan) and the LawSkuBot (by Wan Ding Yao). LawSkuBot is a Telegram bot designed to make legal studies a little easier. It features image optical character recognition, a rapid Singapore case search engine, keyword extraction from long text, synonym discovery, and abbreviation checking. In October 2018, LIT helped the Community Justice Centre with improving the accuracy and usefulness of their Pro Bono Chatbot.







# STUDENTS' INITIATIVES & ACHIEVEMENTS

## LEXICON

SMU Lexicon, which was set up in mid-2017, is off to a great start. A student-run SMU law blog which publishes legal articles by SMU students, it has published more than 30 articles to date. It is also in a collaboration with the Supreme Court, where SMU Lexicon members write summaries on selected court judgments. The Supreme Court distributes these summaries to the Law Society and other selected stakeholders, and also publishes them on the Supreme Court's website.

## CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL LAW CLUB

### BLACKOAK TRANSACTIONAL NEGOTIATION COMPETITION 2018

Organised together with BlackOak LLC, the competition simulates realistic negotiations between various stakeholders in a boardroom. Unlike a typical moot, the interactive format allows teams to negotiate not only with one another, but also with the judges. This year, the competition saw over 80 participants from both SMU and NUS. The finals were judged by Mr. Ashok Kumar – Director of BlackOak LLC; Mr. Vincent Low – Senior Partner at HPEF Capital Partners; Dean Goh Yihan; and Associate Professor Stephen Bull.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW PANEL DISCUSSION 2018

Sponsored by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Students' Association, the Intellectual Property Law Panel Discussion is an interactive session for Year 2 and Year 3 law students to learn more about a career in the IP law industry. The panel consisted of Professor David Llewelyn, Deputy Dean of SMU, as the moderator; Mr. Li-Ming Goh, Associate Director of JurisAsia LLC; Mr. Cheah Yew Kuin, Senior Counsel of 21st Century Fox and Ms. Terri Koh, from the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

### PANEL DISCUSSION ON "DEVELOPING A REGIONAL LAW PRACTICE"

Organised in collaboration with SMU Center for Cross-Border Commercial Law in Asia, "Developing a Regional Legal Practice" is a panel discussion where senior practitioners engage in a discussion on the state of legal practice in the Southeast Asia region. The event sought to encourage students across all years to consider legal practice outside of Singapore. The panel comprised of Mr. Darius Tay, Director of BlackOak LLC, as the moderator; Mr. Nandakumar Ponnaya, Partner of Baker McKenzie; Ms. Marina Chin, Joint Managing Partner of Tan Kok Quan Partnership; and Mr. Abraham Vergis, Managing Partner of Providence Law Asia.

## MOOT COURT CLUB

DATE	EVENT	MCC'S ROLE
January	Maritime Law Association of Singapore (MLAS) Moot	Host (only for final round)
February	WongPartnership International Commercial Arbitration Moot (ICAM) Kickstarter*	Host
February	Drew & Napier Advocacy Cup Kickstarter	Host
March	WongPartnership ICAM	Host (only for semifinal round)
July - September	Howard Hunter Moot	Host (all rounds)

## CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB

Key events organised include conversations with Dr Kevin Tan and Mr V K Rajah, SC a freshmen workshop to give first year students study tips, and a talk by a director from the Singapore Police Force on how counterfeit currency was identified by the police and about common scams in Singapore.

## SMU LAW ATHLETES

**Law Fraternity Games:** A total of 93 participants from SMU School of Law took part in 12 sports in this annual sporting event pitting the law schools and Law Society against one another. The SMU Law students did us proud by emerging 2nd behind overall champion Law Society. Impressive finishes include 1st place for tennis and 2nd place for touch rugby, women's floorball, basketball, pool, badminton and volleyball.

**Inter-Faculty Games:** This regular series of games held throughout the school semester sees participants from the different SMU faculties challenging each other in various sports. SMU Law was represented in games such as football, touch rugby, and handball.

**CJ's Cup & Quahe, Woo and Palmer Legal Fraternity League:** The SMU Law football team had been very active in 2018, having taken part in various invitational tournaments. Two of them were CJ's Cup and QWP League. In the former, the team emerged victorious in the charity futsal tournament which featured a total of 17 teams consisting of law firms, law schools and halfway houses. In the latter, the team faced off against NUS Law, fought valiantly throughout the match with many goal-scoring opportunities, but ultimately fell to a 4-1 defeat to NUS Law.



# STUDENTS' INITIATIVES & ACHIEVEMENTS



DISON SQUARE GARDEN



## GLOBAL LEGAL HACKATHON

A multidisciplinary team of students and an alumnus from the School of Law, the SIS, and the SOE participated in the Singapore round of the Global Legal Hackathon and proceeded to represent Singapore for the final round in New York.



## MASS CALL PARTY

The School of Law celebrated with the Class of 2017 as most of the cohort was called to the bar in the mass call ceremony this year. The annual Mass Call Party organised by the School around the date of mass call has become a staple of alumni events.





## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI: ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMPETITIONS

**SMU students participated in the following international moot competitions during the 2017/18 moot season:**

### 20TH ASIA CUP

**Venue:** Tokyo  
**Teams:** ~ 35  
**Results:** National round  
1st-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
3 championships in  
6 finals

### 2ND FLETCHER INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY

**Venue:** Vancouver  
**Teams:** ~ 20  
**Results:** 2nd-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
1 championship and  
1x 2nd-runners-up  
(tournament leader)

### 11TH INVESTMENT ARBITRATION

**Venue:** Frankfurt  
**Teams:** ~ 55  
**Results:** Quarter-finalist  
**Track record:**  
1 championship in  
2 finals

### 16TH RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

**Venue:** Hong Kong  
**Teams:** ~ 100  
**Results:** 2nd-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
1 championship final and  
5x 2nd-runners-up

### 15TH VIS EAST COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

**Venue:** Hong Kong  
**Teams:** ~ 140  
**Results:** 2nd-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
1 championship in 2 finals  
and 2x 2nd-runners-up

### 25TH VIS COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

**Venue:** Vienna  
**Teams:** ~ 350  
**Results:** Round of 64  
**Track record:**  
2 championship finals  
and 6x 2nd-runners-up

### 15TH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**Venue:** Oxford  
**Teams:** ~ 60  
**Results:** Qualified for  
international rounds  
**Track record:**  
Qualified twice

### 11TH PRICE MEDIA LAW

**Venue:** Oxford  
**Teams:** ~ 100  
**Results:** 1st-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
3 championships in 5 finals  
and 1x 2nd-runners-up  
(tournament leader)

### 9TH AIR LAW

**Venue:** Seoul  
**Teams:** ~ 40  
**Results:** 1st-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
1 championship final

### 5TH PRIVATE LAW

**Venue:** Sydney  
**Teams:** ~ 20  
**Results:** 2nd-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
1 championship final and  
2x 2nd-runners-up

### 59TH JESSUP

**Venue:** Washington  
**Teams:** ~ 700  
**Results:** Won national round  
**Track record:**  
2 championship finals

### 19TH INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ARBITRATION

**Venue:** Brisbane  
**Teams:** ~ 30  
**Results:** Quarter-finalist  
**Track record:**  
1 championship final and  
1x 2nd-runners-up

### 4TH NUREMBERG

**Venue:** Nuremberg  
**Teams:** ~ 120  
**Results:** 2nd-runners-up  
**Track record:**  
2x 2nd-runners-up

### 6TH ASIAN LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Venue:** Yangon  
**Teams:** ~ 40  
**Results:** 5th  
**Track record:**  
2 championships in 3 finals  
(tournament leader)

### 11TH INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

**Venue:** The Hague  
**Teams:** ~ 120  
**Results:** Won national round  
**Track record:**  
3 championships in 4 finals  
(tournament leader)



## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI IMPACT

With these results, SMU's overall track record in international moots since the launch of its IM Programme in 2010 stands at **23 championships, 22 1st-runners-up titles, and 20 2nd-runners-up titles to go along with almost 150 Best Memorial and Best Oralist titles.** While the world records for **most number of international moot final appearances in a single season** (9, set by SMU in 2015/16) and **most number of international moot championships in a single season** (5, set by SMU in 2014/15 and again in 2016/17) continue to stand firm, there were still noteworthy results this year in 2 of the Grand Slam moots -- ie, moots that are considered class-leading and also attract a substantial number of teams.



The first was SMU's 4th consecutive championship final appearance in the International Criminal Court Moot in June (team pictured above with ICC Judge Henderson), which was also marked by the winning of its 3rd championship, thereby extending its tournament records for most wins and championship finals appearances (4) in this moot. Team member Tracy Gani also became the third student in world international moots history to win multiple Grand Slams (she also won Price'17), joining Saw Teng Sheng'17 (who won ICC'16 and Price'17).



But it was not only our students who excelled in moot competitions. Our alumni -- many of whom return to coach and mentor their juniors -- also shone in various competitions. In the Maritime Law Association of Singapore Moot in January, Chow Zi En'17, representing Rajah & Tann, emerged champion in a field of some 40 participants after defeating her opponent from Drew & Napier in the final. In the CIArb/New South Wales Young Lawyers Moot in September, Nicholas Liu'15 and Tan Jun Hong'16 -- Singapore's first ever team to this competition -- took top honours after defeating a team from Australia in the final. In the ASEAN Law Conference in

July, Nicholas Poon'11 represented a select team from the private sector that competed against a team from the Legal Service in a mock trial. In the YSIAC essay competition in April, Tan Jun Hong'16 came in tops, marking the second time an SMU alum has won this competition sponsored by Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.



SMU is also beginning to make its mark in international ADR competitions. For instance, in July, our Consensual Dispute Resolution Competition team (pictured below) came in 2nd-runners-up in SMU's debut in the mediation-negotiation competition held in Vienna, while our team that made SMU's debut in the Advocate Maximus competition in December placed 2nd in a field of 30+ teams. With an increasing pool of alumni who have expertise in ADR, SMU students can look forward to greater participation and success in more ADR competitions.







## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI IMPACT



Apart from competitions, there have been many tremendous testaments to the quality and rigour of our legal education. First, the majority of Justices' Law Clerks now hail from SMU. This has been the case for the last 5 years, and this year, 5 of the 9 JLCs recruited from local schools were SMU graduates (pictured above).



Secondly, our alumni have increasingly been pursuing postgraduate studies in leading law schools around the world. Kenny Chng'12 (pictured above) was one of them, after he was awarded the MOE-START scholarship to complete his LLM at Harvard. Upon graduation, he returned to SMU as an Assistant Professor, becoming the first SMU alumnus to join the SOL faculty as a full-time staff. Chow Zi En'17 (pictured above) was another, having been awarded the SOL postgraduate scholarship, Dean's Graduate Award, Kathryn Aguirre scholarship, and Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice scholarship for her LLM in New York. Zi En will also be commencing a fellowship with the World Bank in 2019.



Finally, our alumni -- and students -- have been regular contributors to various leading legal publications. Notable examples this year include an article on non-delegable duties in Tort Law Review by Aaron Yoong'19, an article on the regulation of internet intermediaries in Singapore Academy of Law Journal by Chia Chen Wei'18, an article on sub judice contempt in Singapore Law Review by Sui Yi Siong'14; and a book on intellectual property law, Cases, Materials and Commentary on Singapore Intellectual Property Law (published by the Singapore Academy of Law) by Nicole Oh'12 and Ng Hui Ming'14 (pictured above) co-authored with Professor David Llewelyn. Sustaining an intellectual curiosity about the law, regardless of one's vocation, is very much part of the ethos of SMU's legal education.

## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI IMPACT



## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI: IMPACTING THE PROFESSION

Though our students and alumni are still relatively young -- SMU's first batch of law students only graduated in 2011 -- this has not stopped them from leaving an impact on the legal profession.

One means of doing so has been the contribution to public debate and public education. An example of the former was when Sui Yi Siong'14 led a team (pictured above © gov.sg) comprising Lyndon Choo'18, Aaron Yoong'19, and Chen Lixin'19 to make representations before the Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods in March (our faculty, Dean Goh Yihan, Associate Professor Eugene Tan, and Lecturer Benjamin Ong also made representations in their capacity as academics); previously, SMU students had also made representations to the Constitutional Commission convened to review the Elected Presidency.

An example of the latter was the launch of the Supreme Court Initiative. Under this collaboration, SMU students reported on selected Court of Appeal judgments so as to foster greater public awareness of these cases and their implications. The summaries prepared by these students can be found on both the Supreme Court and Lexicon websites. With respect to alumni, an increasing number are involved in SMULA seminars and academic conferences. Examples this year include Chow Zi En'17 (seminar on drones), Sui Yi Siong'14 (seminar on the Criminal Procedure Code), and Alexander Lee'18 (conference on the International Criminal Court).



Another indicator of our alumni's impact has been their steady rise through the ranks in the private practice. This year, several of them (pictured above) became the first ever SMU alumni to make partner/director in a Big Four firm: Chew Xiang'12 and Matthew Teo'11 of Rajah & Tann, as well as Nicholas Poon'11 of Drew & Napier (Nicholas has since started his own practice, Breakpoint). In addition, John Tan'11 and Jolie Giouw'17 were listed as being among the most promising legal luminaries aged 40 and under by the Singapore Business Review.

Outside mainstream practice, some of our alumni have been at the forefront of harnessing and promoting the use of legal tech. Intelllex -- fronted by Chang Zi Qian'11 and Edmund Koh'11 -- has now become a well-known brand in knowledge management and this year, they set up a new base in London as part of its expansion in operations. Another example is Rodney Yap'18, one of the drivers of tesseract.io, a start-up on firm management systems.





## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI IMPACT



### ALUMNI MENTORSHIP

Our alumni play an important role in educating our students, be it in adjunct teaching, mentoring, or coaching them for competitions. For instance, all the coaches of our ADR competitions are alumni. As another example, coaches in the IMAG or International Moots Alumni Group (some of whom are pictured above) continue to help out with the running of the IM1 and IM2 electives (both of which are SMU-X courses). This is an important contribution, considering that each of the 15 IM teams requires hundreds of hours of close supervision every year to achieve the consistent successes they have.

In terms of fundraising, IMAG members have been equally instrumental. In April, some of the coaches helped broker a renewal of the sponsorship and training agreement with WongPartnership. Then in July, the screening of the documentary, All Rise -- in which the 2014 SMU Jessup team starred -- resulted in pledges of almost \$50,000 from some 50 IM alumni.



This year, all four School of Law alumni groups (LLB, LLM, JD, and IMAG) were consolidated under the SOL Alumni Chapter and a new executive committee was created. The committee comprises Shaun Pereira'13, Nicholas Poon'11, Chua Jian Zhi'14, Leow Jiamin'13, Xian Zheng'14, and Eden Li'16. The Dean and Associate Dean (Student, Staff & Alumni Affairs) Tan Seow Hon met up with the former and new office holders in a dinner in April (pictured above).

## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI IMPACT



### ALUMNI

#### SCHOOL OF LAW IMAGINE BETTER CAMPAIGN

The School of Law embarked on the School of Law Imagine Better Campaign, the central theme of which is giving – not just alumni giving back to their alma mater, but the School of Law initiating a one-year community service and outreach project to give to the larger community, a project which the School hopes will continue beyond the Imagine Better Campaign. The project, helmed by the



student-run Law Outreach Club, enables volunteers to give to the larger community by raising awareness of law, by educating the public about legal rights and liabilities in areas pertinent to the public, and by imparting basic mediation and similar skills to lay persons. This is done through talks hosted by community clubs, voluntary welfare organisations and schools.





SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT  
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