

NICHOLAS LIU*Senior Lecturer**Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law**LL.M., Harvard University**J.D. (summa cum laude), Singapore Management University**B.A. (Hons., First Class), National University of Singapore**Advocate & Solicitor, Supreme Court of Singapore*Email: nicholasliu@smu.edu.sg**CAPSULE BIOGRAPHY**

I write on and teach private law doctrine and jurisprudence, with a focus on the law of torts, and legal skills. Before joining SMU in 2019, I served as a Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Attorney-General's Chambers, a Justices' Law Clerk at the Supreme Court, and a commercial disputes resolution lawyer at a leading Singaporean law firm. I draw on my diverse experiences in my teaching, emphasising the commercial, social, and philosophical context of the law and its role as a practical and principled response to recurring human problems.

APPOINTMENTS

Senior Lecturer (from 2026), Assistant Professor (2022–2026), Lecturer (2019–2022), SMU Yong Pung How School of Law	2019–present
Associate Counsel, REVLaw LLC	2020–2024
Associate, Commercial & Corporate Disputes, WongPartnership LLP	2018–2019
Tutor, Part A Bar Examinations, Singapore Institute of Legal Education	2017–2018
Justices' Law Clerk, Supreme Court of Singapore	2016–2018
Deputy Public Prosecutor/State Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers	2015

EDUCATION**Master of Laws, Harvard University (2022)**

Long paper topic: "Preventing Wrongs: Notes Towards a Prophylactic Theory of Tort Law", supervised by Professor John C.P. Goldberg

Dean's Scholar Prize, Private Law Workshop; Dean's Scholar Prize, Law & Philosophy Workshop; Student Fellow, Project on the Foundations of Private Law

Juris Doctor (summa cum laude), SMU (2015)

Wee Chong Jin Prize for the Most Outstanding J.D. Graduate, AY 2014/2015; Kwa Geok Choo Postgraduate Scholarship, AY 2012/2013 and AY 2014/2015; various moot court competition prizes including runner-up (team) in the international championship round of the Philip C Jessup Moot (2014) and champion of the Harry Elias–SMU Moot (2013), Howard O Hunter Moot (2013), NUS Advocacy Cup (2013), and WongPartnership Commercial Arbitration Moot (2012)

Bachelor of Arts (Hons., First Class), National University of Singapore (2010)

Valedictorian (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) and NUS Society Gold Medal (2010); Special Book Prize for the Top Student in English Literature (2008)

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

- “Rethinking Bank Accounts” (journal article, co-authored with Sagi Peari)
- “Jurisprudential Underpinnings of Governmental Interventions in Crisis” (book chapter, forthcoming in a collection on Singapore’s legal responses to the commercial/private law effects of COVID-19)
- “Illegality in Tort in Singapore” (co-authored with Professor Gary Chan and Justin Tan) (book chapter, forthcoming in *Understanding Illegal Tort Claims: Comparative Legal Reasoning in Global Perspective*, Matthew Dyson ed)
- “Misrepresentation” and “Frustration” (book chapters, co-authored with Low Kee Yang, forthcoming in *Principles of Singapore Business Law*, 4th ed, Loo Wee Ling ed)

Book chapters

- “The ‘Contracting Problem’ Revisited: Explaining the Formation of Algorithmic Contracts under the Common Law” in *Digital Technologies and the Law of Obligations* (Zvonimir Slakoper and Ivan Tot, eds) (Routledge, 2021) ch 8
- “‘In Case of Emergency, Break Contract’? The Case for a Unified Regime for Changed Circumstances in Singapore Law” in *Law and COVID-19* (e-book) (Aurelio Gurrea-Martínez, Mark Findlay, and Goh Yihan, eds) (Singapore Management University School of Law, 2020) ch 7 at pp 69–77. Available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3686357

Other publications

- “The Broader Impact of the New Section 37 of the Civil Law Act on Professional Negligence”, *REVLaw Insights* (May 2021), available at: <https://www.revlawllc.com/insights-2/>
- “Town Councillors’ Fiduciary Duties and the Legal Risks of Discontinuing the Punggol East Lawsuit”, *Singapore Law Blog* (30 July 2020). Available at: <https://www.singaporelawblog.sg/blog/article/248>
- “Equitable Compensation and the *Brickenden* ‘Rule’ After *Winsta Holding Pte Ltd v another v Sim Poh Ping and others*”, *Singapore Law Gazette* (April 2019). Available at: <https://lawgazette.com.sg/feature/equitable-compensation-and-the-brickenden-rule/>
- Headnotes for 19 reported Singapore Court of Appeal and High Court judgments

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Asia-Pacific Private Law Conference 2025, Thammasat University, Bangkok (26–27 May 2025), “Justice in Error: Tort Law for an Imperfect World”
- Private and Commercial Law Annual Conference 2024, University of Western Australia (9–10 December 2024), “Faulty Reasoning in Tort Theory: Moving Beyond the ‘Basis’ Paradigm”
- Workshop on Understanding Illegal Tort Claims: Comparative Legal Reasoning in Global Perspective, University of Oxford (2–3 February 2024), “Illegality in Tort in Singapore” (co-presented with Professor Gary Chan; co-authored with Professor Gary Chan and Justin Tan)

- SMU–Sydney–HKU Law & Sustainability Conference 2023, SMU (13–14 July 2023), “Doing Justice to Ourselves: Intergenerational Torts and the Protection of Present Rights”
- Asia-Pacific Private Law Conference 2023, HKU (24–25 May 2023), “Inefficient Deterrence: Notes Towards a Prophylactic Theory of Tort Law”
- Torts Law Reform in Asia and Beyond Conference, CCTL Obligations Lab Asia, Chinese University of Hong Kong (13 May 2022), “Codifying Professional Standards of Care in Negligence: Problems and Promises”
- Asia-Pacific Private Law Conference 2021, SMU (20–21 May 2021): “Section 37 of the Civil Law Act: A Doctrinally Consistent Expression of Patient Autonomy” (revised)
- Faculty research seminar, SMU (18 March 2021): “Section 37 of the Civil Law Act: A Doctrinally Consistent Expression of Patient Autonomy”
- Society of Legal Scholars Virtual Conference 2020, University of Exeter (1–4 September 2020): “Resolving the Counterfactual Conundrum in Equitable Compensation for Breach of Fiduciary Duties” (revised)
- Asian Private Law Workshop 2020, SMU (28–29 May 2020): “Resolving the Counterfactual Conundrum in Equitable Compensation for Breach of Fiduciary Duties”
- Zagreb International Conference on the Law of Obligations 2019, University of Zagreb (12–13 December 2019): “Formation and Vitiating of Algorithmic Contracts – A Way Forward for the Common Law”

PROFESSIONAL LECTURES/COURSES

- “Digital Trade Facilitation”, module delivered to participants of the 2024 Korea-Singapore Cooperation Program, Capacity Building on Digital Economy and Cooperation for ASEAN Countries, 11–12 September 2024
- “Establishing the Rule of Law in Singapore”, lecture delivered to participants of the Suzhou Industrial Park Software Transfer Project: Modernisation of Social Governance study trip at the invitation of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Civil Service College, 25 June 2024

SERVICE

Editorial and peer reviewing: Peer reviewer, Asian Journal of Law and Society, 2026; Peer reviewer, Singapore Academy of Law Journal, 2020, 2024; Case brief editor, SMU Lexicon, 2019–2023 (edited eight case briefs written by law students in a collaboration with the Supreme Court of Singapore)

Committees: Faculty Senate, 2026; Member, YPHSL Futures Committee, 2020; International Chamber of Commerce Singapore Arbitration Group Next Generation Committee, 2019–2020

Moot court coaching: Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (champions, 2025; semi-finalists, 2023; quarter-finalists, 2024; national round champions, 2017 and 2018); International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (champions, 2016 and 2018; runners-up, 2017; joint first place, unofficial Asia-Pacific rounds (held in lieu of the official competition cancelled due to COVID-19), 2020); Asia Cup International Law Moot (champions, 2021); Herbert Smith Freehills Computational Law e-Moot (runners-up, 2021)