

HARNESSING THE EXPERTISE OF THE REGISTRY

Not only do the SG Courts' dedicated registrars perform judicial work, but they are also influential in developing and implementing strategic initiatives and reforms, speaking at local and international fora, and serving on various disciplinary bodies.

Constant and Mutual Learning

To keep abreast of the latest legal developments, the SG Courts Registry regularly curates and circulates noteworthy case summaries. It also conducts monthly seminars and internal training sessions, for instance, to prepare registrars for the implementation of the new Rules of Court 2021.

In 2021, the Supreme Court Registry launched a Sharing and Support Programme to facilitate the sharing of experiences and feedback among registrars. Each of the three specialised clusters of registrars gathered every quarter to discuss work challenges as well as contemporary legal issues or judicial decisions that contain valuable learning points and/or judicial best practices. An additional cross-cluster session was held to enable sharing between different clusters.

Moreover, several registrars have undergone training as judicial educators and been co-opted into the Singapore Judicial College (SJC) Faculty, where they assist in delivering specialist training for tri-court judicial officers. They also organise regular fireside chats with Supreme Court Judges to hear the Judges' perspectives on judicial best practices and specialised legal topics.

Speaking Engagements and Opportunities

Here are some key speeches and papers delivered by registrars, as well as panels on which they spoke, in 2021:

- 13 January – "Introduction to the Singapore International Commercial Court" (at the Joint Seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative, organised by the SJC and the National Judges College of the People's Republic of China)
- 6 March – "Singapore Convention on Mediation and Its Impact on Practice" (at the Japan Institute for International Arbitration Research and Training webinar series, co-sponsored by Chuo University Research Project on Comparative Law and Culture)

- 10 March – "The New Singapore International Commercial Court Rules: An Overview" (at the SICC Symposium)
- 22 April – Paper summarising the changes to be made by the Rules of Court 2021 (at the Litigation Conference Workshop 2021, organised by the Civil Practice Committee of the Law Society of Singapore)
- 23 July – "The SICC in Action" (at the Joint Conference on International Commercial Law, organised by the SJC and the Hainan High People's Court)
- 14 September – "Promotion of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Region, Including Development of UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency" (at the Forum on Asian Insolvency Reform 2021, co-hosted by INSOL International and the World Bank Group)

External Bodies

Disciplinary bodies which Supreme Court registrars serve on include:

- Review Committees and Inquiry Committees constituted under the Legal Profession Act 1966;
- Disciplinary Tribunals constituted under the Medical Registration Act 1997; and
- Copyright Tribunals and the panel of Intellectual Property Adjudicators at the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

In some cases, the Registry provides administrative support to these bodies. For example, several Supreme Court registrars serve on the Secretariat of the Disciplinary Tribunals constituted under the Legal Profession Act 1966. Another concurrently serves as the Registrar of the Appeals Board (Land Acquisition).

Supreme Court registrars also contribute to the development of international instruments such as conventions and model laws. As members of the Singapore delegations to working groups of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), they have provided technical assistance and substantive inputs on draft instruments.



Learning from one another allows SG Courts staff to gain new knowledge and skills that they can integrate into their work.

PROMOTING SOCIAL SCIENCE IN FAMILY JUSTICE

The Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) team at the Family Justice Courts (FJC) consists of mental health professionals with specialist training or expertise in the fields of counselling, psychology and social work. Given such diversity, a CAPSule series of webinars was birthed in June 2021 as a platform for CAPS Specialists to engage in co-learning and professional exchange. Court administrators and judicial officers were also invited to join the webinars to broaden their knowledge.

Held every alternate month, the bite-sized webinars covered current social science topics that were curated by different CAPS Specialists and relevant to the FJC's work, such as mental health and theories on family relations and dynamics. Focus was given to practical knowledge that would help participants better support court users.

Six CAPSule webinars have been organised to date, drawing a total of 228 participants within the FJC. Out of these, about 40% were non-CAPS Specialists. Positive feedback was garnered from the participants. For example, after the webinar on dementia, many shared that they would be more mindful and empathetic when interacting with elderly court users, particularly vulnerable adults, and with the elderly in their personal lives.

These affirmations have encouraged CAPS to continue organising CAPSule webinars in 2022.

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