

## 1. 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### Refinement of our Justice System

- The **Appellate Division of the High Court** has been established, allowing the Judiciary to utilise appellate judicial resources more optimally.
- The **Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Act 2021** empowers the courts to: (1) conduct proceedings asynchronously without oral arguments, and (2) require parties to attempt amicable resolution in appropriate circumstances. It marks an important step towards the transformation of our justice system and to enhance access to justice.



### International Engagements

- Continued contribution to international conversations and engagements.

Participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Information on Foreign Law with the Supreme People's Court of China.

Deepened links with the Supreme Court of Rwanda.

Deepened links with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea.

Implemented two sets of protocols with the Federal Court of Malaysia in proceedings concerning admiralty and cross-border corporate insolvency matters.

Hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the *Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts*. Continued to play a leading role in the *International Consortium for Court Excellence*.

### Development through Tripartite Efforts

- Significant initiatives such as the **new Rules of Court 2021**, the **new SICC Rules** and updating the **Costs Guidelines** were realised through the collaborative efforts of the AGC, the Bar and the Judiciary.



## 2. LOOKING AHEAD

### The Rules of Court 2021 and new SICC Rules come into force in 2022

#### Rules of Court 2021

- Guided by 5 ideals: (1) fair access to justice, (2) expeditious proceedings, (3) cost-effective and proportionate processes, (4) efficient use of court resources, and (5) fair and practical results suited to the needs of the parties.
- Commencement date on 1 Apr 2022.
- Transitional learning phase from 1 Apr – 30 Jun 2022.

#### New SICC Rules

- Drawn from international best practices and driven by 3 principles: (1) expeditious and efficient administration of justice according to law, (2) procedural flexibility, and (3) fair, impartial and practical processes and procedures, compatible with and responsive to the needs of international commerce.
- Builds on innovative practices of the SICC, such as the additional case management features for matters placed on the SICC's Technology, Infrastructure and Construction List.
- Enhances the SICC's status as a leading commercial court and, in turn, Singapore's standing as a major centre for legal services.



### Innovations to better support practitioners



- **New LawNet** will be launched in 2022 to serve as a single digital hub to access all of Singapore Academy of Law's content and services.
- Singapore Mediation Centre's **Online Dispute Resolution Service** will be launched by Q1 2022 targeted at reducing the costs of resolving lower value cases such as consumer disputes by using technology and automation.
- **Data and Digital Economy Specialist Accreditation Scheme** is expected to be finalised in Q2 2022 to expand the opportunities for lawyers to advance their professional competence and standing and provides users of such services with some indication of special experience.

### Establishment of the Judicial Service Commission (14 Jan 2022)



- Imminent restructuring of the existing Legal Service into the reconstituted Singapore Legal Service and the dedicated Singapore Judicial Service.
- The restructuring enhances the ability of each Service to maximise the opportunity for specialist training and development.
- The work that will be involved includes various facets (1) enhancing, deepening and broadening the judicial skill set, (2) integrating within the judicial mindset, the critical importance of securing and enhancing access to justice, and (3) developing bespoke models of justice having regard to different classes of dispute, such as the Therapeutic Justice model for family matters, and in the area of hypercomplex disputes.
- Establishment of the Singapore Judicial Service allows the opportunity to develop these facets.

