SUPREMECOURT
SINGAPORE

The Opening of the Legal Year 2019
Response by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon

CONSOLIDATING OUR CHANGES

Strengthening Dispute Resolution Frameworks

Family Justice
The recommendations by the inter-agency Committee to Review and Enhance Reforms in the Family Justice System will further strengthen the family justice framework.

Civil Justice
The recommendations by the Civil Justice Commission and the Civil Justice Review Committee, released for public consultation in October 2018, aim to improve the civil justice system.

Criminal Justice
Empanelling of three-Judge benches for Magistrates' Appeals and issuance of guideline judgments have enriched Singapore's sentencing jurisprudence and the Criminal Justice Reform Act enacted in 2018 will strengthen the criminal justice framework.

Fortifying International Ties and Partnerships

Deepening engagement with ASEAN through regular meetings.

Strengthening ties with China's Supreme People's Court through the annual Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable.

Fortified relations with other judiciaries through active participation in, and hosting of, international meetings.

Appointments of Singapore Judges in overseas courts reflect the growing international standing of our Judges.

THE NEXT CHAPTER IN OUR JOURNEY

CONFRONTING FUTURE CHALLENGES

The Challenge

Legal landscape is being changed by forces of globalisation, technology and the growing commercialisation of law. Together, these form a "wicked problem".

This will affect:

a. the design of courts and dispute resolution mechanisms

b. the development of the law

c. the practice of the law and the demand for legal services

Charting the Course

Need for a spirit of togetherness, and a multi-pronged approach.

The Chief Justice will start a new series of conversations on the impact of the three forces on the profession, with three broad areas of focus:

a. the reform of legal education

b. professional training and continuing development

c. transformation and innovation within the Judiciary