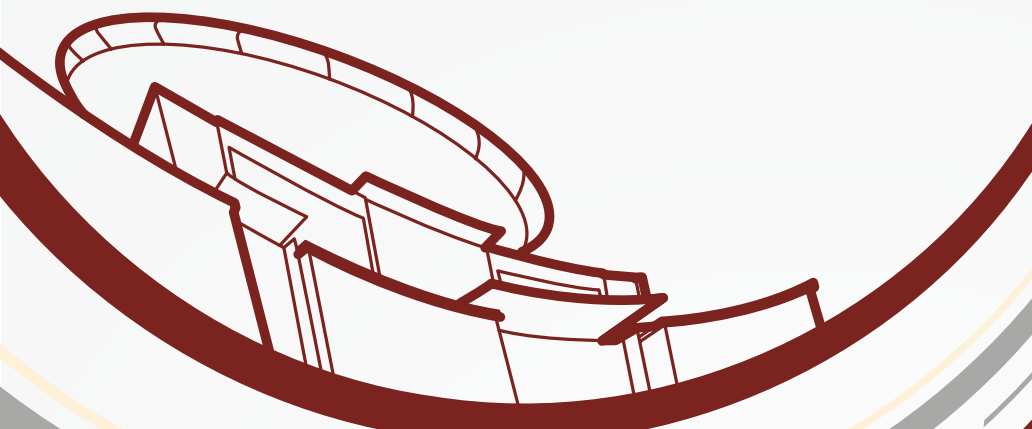


A FUTURE - READY JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT | ANNUAL REPORT 2017





ONE JUDICIARY



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

VISION

To establish and maintain
a world class Judiciary

MISSION

To superintend the
administration of justice

VALUES

Fairness

Accessibility

Independence, Integrity, Impartiality

Responsiveness

CONTENTS

Chief Justice's Message	04
Towards a Future-Ready Legal Sector	07
The Supreme Court Bench	11
Organisational Structure	25
Constitution & Jurisdiction	31
Event Highlights	37
Performance & Statistics	52

CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE



2017 was a significant year for the Courts as we took steps to respond to global trends in technology and globalisation. We made strides in embracing these developments and in strengthening partnerships with other stakeholders in the justice system, both locally and internationally, to improve our processes and enhance access to justice. This One Judiciary Annual Report showcases the work of the Supreme Court, the State Courts and the Family Justice Courts in this regard.

In April 2017, the State Courts launched the Employment Claims Tribunals to adjudicate employment disputes in a tribunal setting, thereby providing litigants with an affordable and expeditious way for resolving salary-related disputes. The Community Justice and Tribunals System, launched in July 2017, offers parties the convenience of filing and managing claims online. It also provides for electronic negotiation, which opens up the possibility that settlements may be reached without the matter even coming to court.

The Family Justice Courts similarly harnessed technology by developing the integrated Family Application Management System or “iFAMS” to streamline and simplify processes for all family violence and maintenance applications. With iFAMS, lawyers and court users can now access simplified user-friendly template application forms from convenient locations in the community.

Automation and artificial intelligence will continue to revolutionise the practice of law, and the Judiciary needs to embrace this. The Courts of the Future Taskforce has identified key initiatives to develop new capabilities for online dispute resolution and virtual hearings. Such IT-enabled services will go a long way in enabling accessibility to legal services in a timely and convenient manner.

Besides improving court processes, the Judiciary has also taken meaningful steps to work with stakeholders to improve outcomes for court users. The Victim Assistance Scheme, the product of a collaboration between the State Courts, Community Justice Centre, and the Singapore Police Force, provides victims of assault with reimbursement for medical expenses incurred as a result of the physical injuries sustained from the offence. At the

same time, family-connect @ State Courts, a collaborative effort by the State Courts and the Singapore After-Care Association, offers family members of offenders who have been, or will be, sentenced to imprisonment with access to counselling as well as social, emotional and financial support.

On the international front, judicial networks and cooperation are continuously being strengthened. The judiciaries of Singapore and China have established an annual Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable, a historic first between China and an Asian country. The first Roundtable was held in Beijing in August 2017 and I am delighted to be hosting the second Roundtable in Singapore in 2018.

The Supreme Court also attended the inaugural Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts in London in May 2017 where courts from around the world gathered to share experiences and best practices on the judicial resolution of international commercial disputes.

On the family law front, the Family Justice Courts hosted the 2nd International Advisory Council meeting in August 2017. During this event, leading global thinkers in the field of family justice discussed developments in family law practice and jurisprudence, identified potential areas of research, and explored ideas and innovations to improve family practice.

Also on the subject of family law, to achieve more consistent and cost-effective outcomes, we have devised guidelines on child maintenance awards based on actuarial data. It is hoped that the publication of these guidelines in due course will reduce the acrimony and cost of child maintenance disputes.

Judicial training and development will remain important in ensuring that our Judges are able to discharge their judicial functions effectively. It was for this reason that the Singapore Judicial College was set up. Local judges and judicial officers now have about 40 training programmes to choose from.

I am confident that my colleagues on the Supreme Court Bench as well as the judicial officers and administrators

from the State Courts and Family Justice Courts will continue to administer justice effectively and ensure access to justice for all.

I hope this Annual Report will offer you a glimpse into the work of the Judiciary over the course of the past year.

Sundaresh Menon
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Singapore

Towards a Future-Ready Legal Sector

ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Civil Justice Commission

The Civil Justice Commission to review existing civil procedure, has proposed a set of modernised rules. The Commission's recommendations will be published for consultation in due course. When the project is completed, our civil procedure is expected to change significantly, and be better suited to our present circumstances and needs.



Real-time text reporting

Arising from the strong demand for courtroom news to be transmitted to the public in a timely fashion, the Supreme Court has permitted real time reporting for all Court of Appeal hearings from February 2018.



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

The Courts of the Future Taskforce, established in 2016, has conceptualised a total of 15 key IT initiatives with three overarching objectives - developing self-help solutions for litigants, developing solutions for an efficient and effective justice system, and adopting the intelligent use of data. Four of the initiatives, identified as starter projects, relate to developing new capabilities for online dispute resolution and virtual hearings.



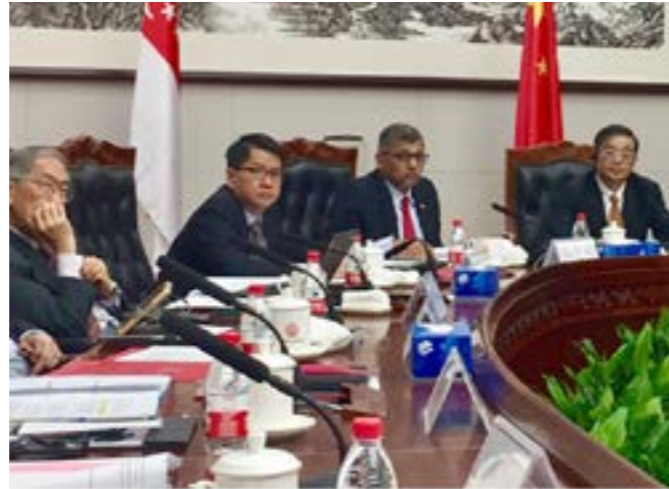
Towards a
Future-Ready
Legal Sector



Towards a Future-Ready Legal Sector

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Supreme Court of Singapore and the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China have established an annual Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable to deepen collaboration with our Chinese counterparts. The inaugural edition, a historic first between China and an Asian country, was held in Beijing in August 2017. It was co-hosted by His Excellency the President of the Supreme People's Court and The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon. The second Roundtable will be held in Singapore in 2018.



In 2017, the Supreme Court variously entered into many memoranda on judicial cooperation, enforcement of money judgments and references on questions of law with the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam, the Abu Dhabi Global Market Courts, the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, the Supreme Court of Bermuda, the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre, and the Supreme Judiciary Council of Qatar.



The Supreme Court also participated in the inaugural Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts in London on 5 May 2017, together with 28 courts from around the world. The sharing of experiences and best practices would enhance the judicial resolution of international commercial disputes.

Towards a Future-Ready Legal Sector

RAISING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Professional Training of Lawyers

The Committee for the Professional Training of Lawyers was established in 2016 to examine a number of interconnected challenges, including the shortage of training contracts and the critical need to enhance the mentorship of young lawyers. The Committee consulted a wide range of stakeholders to gain deeper insight into their interests and concerns and conducted comparative studies of the professional training structures in other jurisdictions.



Singapore Judicial College

The Singapore Judicial College has made excellent progress since its establishment in 2015. The College now offers about 40 training programmes to local judges and judicial officers annually. Around 1,000 foreign judges and officials from 70 jurisdictions around the world have attended the College's training programmes. The College's empirical judicial research programme has also commissioned nine research projects, of which five have been completed, and three have been published. Another three research projects are expected in 2018. The College will continue to develop its pedagogy and augment its programmes. It is also looking into developing a specialist advanced degree or diploma programme for judges.



Our Judges

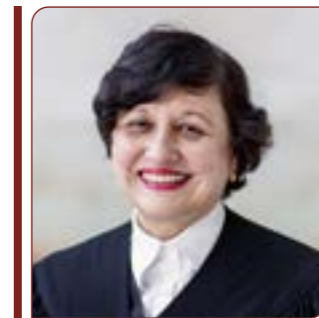
AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018



CHIEF JUSTICE
Sundaresh Menon



JUDGE OF APPEAL
Justice Andrew Phang



JUDGE OF APPEAL
Justice Judith Prakash



JUDGE OF APPEAL
Justice Steven Chong



JUDGE OF APPEAL
Justice Tay Yong Kwang



The Supreme
Court Bench

Our Judges

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018



Justice Choo Han Teck



Justice Belinda Ang



Justice Woo Bih Li



Justice Lee Seiu Kin



Justice Chan Seng Onn



Justice Quentin Loh



Justice Vinodh Coomaraswamy



Justice Tan Siong Thye

Our Judges

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018



Justice George Wei



Justice See Kee Oon



Justice Chua Lee Ming



Justice Kannan Ramesh



Justice Valerie Thean



Justice Hoo Sheau Peng



Justice Debbie Ong



Justice Aedit Abdullah

Our Judges

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018



Judicial Commissioner
Foo Chee Hock



Judicial Commissioner
Pang Khang Chau



Judicial Commissioner
Foo Tuat Yien



Judicial Commissioner
Audrey Lim

Senior Judges

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018



Senior Judge
Justice Chao Hick Tin



Senior Judge
Justice Andrew Ang



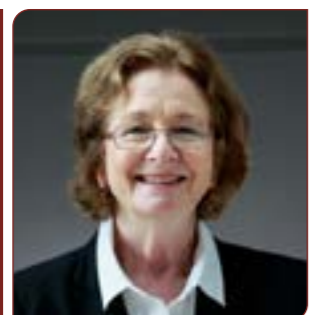
Senior Judge
Justice Tan Lee Meng



Senior Judge
Justice Lai Siu Chiu

International Judges

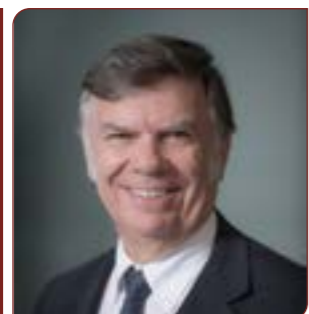
AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018



The Honourable
Justice Carolyn Berger



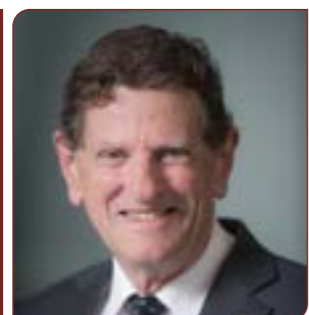
The Honourable
Justice Patricia Bergin



The Honourable
Justice Jeremy Cooke



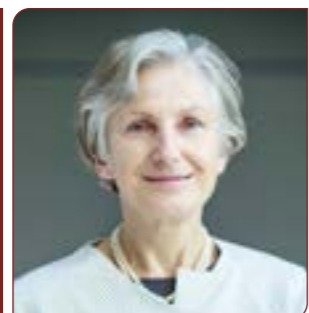
The Honourable
Justice Henry Bernard Eder



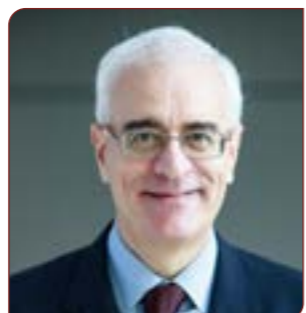
The Honourable
Justice Robert French



The Honourable
Justice Roger Giles



The Honourable
Justice Imgard Griss
(Term completed on 4 January 2018)



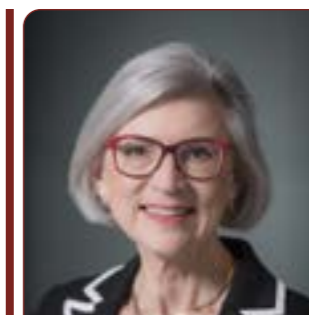
The Honourable
Justice Dominique T. Hascher

International Judges

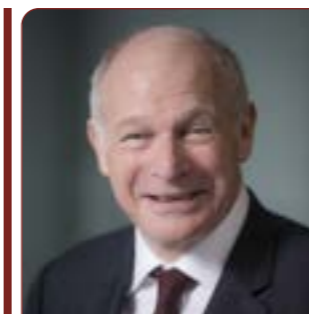
AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018



The Honourable
Justice Dyson Heydon



The Honourable
Justice Beverley McLachlin



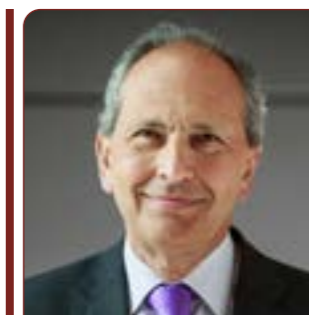
The Honourable
Justice David Neuberger



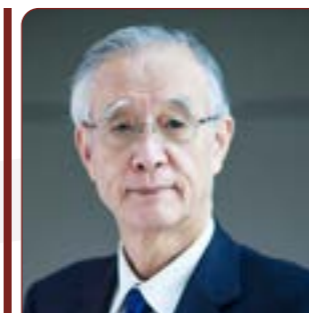
The Honourable
Justice Vivian Ramsey



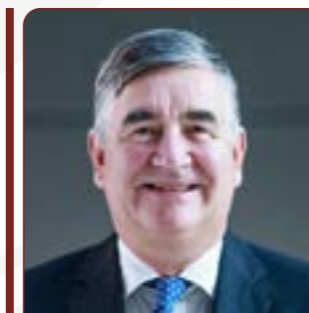
The Honourable
Justice Anselmo Reyes



The Honourable
Justice Bernard Rix



The Honourable
Justice Yasuhei Taniguchi



The Honourable
Justice Simon Thorley

SUPREME COURT BENCH

Appointment/Reappointment

2017 saw extensive local and international developments to the Supreme Court Bench which brought together a pool of judicial expertise that blends a formidable diversity of talents and backgrounds with a deeply shared commitment to excellence in the administration of justice.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE OF APPEAL

Justice Steven Chong was appointed Judge of Appeal with effect from 1 April 2017. Justice Chong was appointed as Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court in October 2009 before becoming Judge of the High Court in June 2010. Justice Chong has varied and extensive legal experience from the private sector with Drew & Napier and Rajah & Tann. He served as Attorney-General for two years.

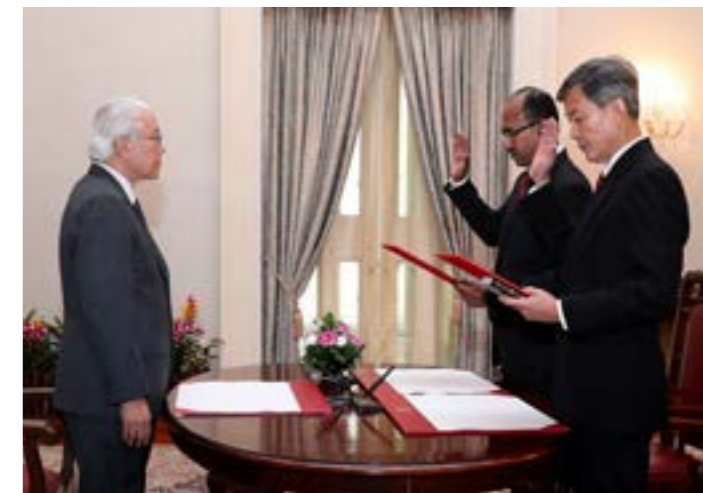


SUPREME COURT BENCH

Appointment/Reappointment

APPOINTMENT OF HIGH COURT JUDGES

Justice Tan Siong Thye returned to the Bench on 1 April 2017, after serving as the nation's first Deputy Attorney-General. He started his legal career as a Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Attorney-General's Chambers in 1979 and has since held various key appointments. He was appointed a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court in October 2013 and Judge of the High Court in July 2014.



Justice Kannan Ramesh was elevated to Judge of the High Court with effect from 1 April 2017. He joined the Supreme Court as Judicial Commissioner in May 2015. He was Managing Partner of Messrs Tan Kok Quan Partnership, where he specialised in dispute resolution, insolvency and restructuring, and international arbitration. He is a Member of Singapore Academy of Law's Law Reform Committee, and New York's International Insolvency Institute (III).



(From Left to Right: Justice Tan Siong Thye, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Former President Dr Tony Tan, Mrs Mary Tan, Justice Steven Chong and Justice Kannan Ramesh)

SUPREME COURT BENCH

Appointment/Reappointment

APPOINTMENT OF
HIGH COURT JUDGES

Justices Valerie Thean, Hoo Sheau Peng, Debbie Ong and Aedit Abdullah were elevated to Judges of the Supreme Court on 30 September 2017.

(From Left to Right: Justice Debbie Ong, Justice Valerie Thean, President Halimah Yacob, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Justice Hoo Sheau Peng and Justice Aedit Abdullah)



Justice Valerie Thean served as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court from 30 September 2014 and as the Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts. She has held various posts within the Singapore Legal Service, such as Senior District Judge, Family Division at the State Courts, Deputy Secretary (Law) at the Ministry of Law and Senior State Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers.

Justice Hoo Sheau Peng began her career as a Justices' Law Clerk, and has been in the Singapore Legal Service for more than 20 years. She has served as Senior District Judge and Registrar of the State Courts in 2014, Deputy Chief Counsel (Advisory and Administration), Attorney-General's Chambers and Deputy Chief of Staff, Singapore Legal Service. She joined the Supreme Court as a Judicial Commissioner on 30 September 2014.



Justice Debbie Ong joined the Supreme Court in 2014 as Judicial Commissioner, and was appointed Judge of the High Court on 30 September 2017. Her legal career began as an Associate Professor at National University of Singapore Law Faculty in 1989, specialising in family law. Justice Ong has taken over the reins from Justice Thean as the Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, for a term of three years.

Justice Aedit Abdullah was appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court in 2014. He began his career as a Justices' Law Clerk. He taught at the National University of Singapore Law Faculty before re-joining the Singapore Legal Service. He has served as a Deputy Public Prosecutor, Deputy Senior State Counsel, District Judge and was appointed Chief Prosecutor at the Attorney-General's Chambers in 2011.

SUPREME COURT BENCH

Appointment/Reappointment

REAPPOINTMENT OF
HIGH COURT JUDGE

Justice Quentin Loh was re-appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court for a term of three years with effect from 25 December 2017. He started his legal career in the private sector as Managing Partner of Cooma, Lau & Loh, a firm he co-founded in 1978. Subsequently, he moved to Rajah & Tann and was appointed Deputy Managing Partner in 2003. Justice Loh will continue serving as the Judge-in-charge of the Singapore International Commercial Court.

(From Left to Right: Justice Quentin Loh, President Halimah Yacob and Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon)



SUPREME COURT BENCH

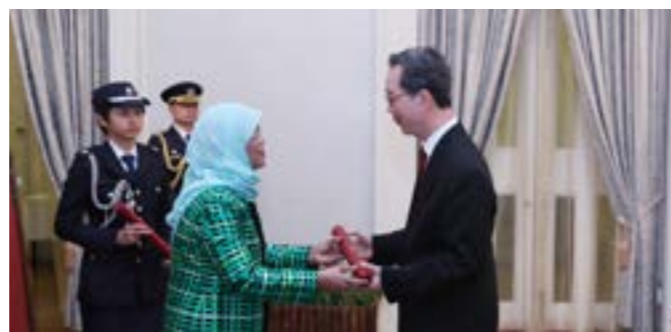
Appointment/Reappointment

APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT
OF SENIOR JUDGES

Justice Chao Hick Tin was appointed Senior Judge of the Supreme Court with effect from 5 January 2018. Justices Andrew Ang, Tan Lee Meng and Lai Siu Chiu were re-appointed for further terms of three years each, with effect from 5 January 2018.



Justice Chao Hick Tin began his career as a State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Chambers in 1967 and rose to the position of Senior State Counsel in 1979. He joined the Supreme Court as a Judicial Commissioner in 1987, was appointed a High Court Judge in 1990 and subsequently elevated to a Judge of Appeal in 1999. In 2006, he was appointed Attorney-General. He returned to the Supreme Court in 2008 as a Judge of Appeal and Vice-President of the Court of Appeal, a position he held until his retirement on 28 September 2017.



Justice Andrew Ang began his legal career in 1972 as a lecturer in the University of Singapore (now National University of Singapore) Law Faculty. He joined Lee & Lee in 1974 where he became a Partner in 1975. Two years later, he became a Senior Partner.



Justice Tan Lee Meng joined the University of Singapore Law Faculty in 1972 and became a Professor in 1988. He served as the Dean of the Law Faculty from 1987 to 1992, after which he became Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the NUS in 1992. He joined the Supreme Court as Judicial Commissioner in 1997 and became Judge in the same year.



Justice Lai Siu Chiu began her legal career in Sim Teow Gok & Co in 1973. Within the same year, she moved to Allen & Gledhill where she became Senior Partner. She left the firm in May 1991 to join the Supreme Court as Judicial Commissioner in 1991 and Judge in 1994. She retired in 2013 before returning as Senior Judge in 2015.

SUPREME COURT BENCH

Appointment/Reappointment

APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT
OF INTERNATIONAL JUDGES

11 International Judges of the Singapore International Commercial Court who were first appointed in 2015 have been reappointed on 5 January 2018 for new terms that will expire in three years. Four new International Judges who are immensely respected jurists were appointed with effect from 5 January 2018.



The Honourable Robert French was a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia for about 22 years before being appointed the Chief Justice of Australia in 2008. After his retirement as Chief Justice in January 2017, he accepted the appointment of non-permanent Judge in the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal. Justice French has a special interest in intellectual property, competition, commercial and public law.



The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin was the longest-serving Chief Justice of Canada. She retired in December 2017 after 28 years at the Supreme Court of Canada. Justice McLachlin has dealt with administrative law, family law, commercial and business law, press rights and intellectual property.



The Right Honourable Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury was the retired immediate past President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom from 2012 to 2017. In 1996, he was appointed to the Bench and became a Judge of the Court of Appeal in 2004. Lord Justice Neuberger has extensive experience in most areas of law including commercial law.



The Honourable Sir Jeremy Cooke was the former Judge in charge of the Commercial Court of England and Wales. He was appointed High Court Judge, Queen's Bench, Commercial Court in 2001 and retired in 2016 after 15 years on the Bench. He served as the Judge in charge of the Commercial Court for a period of time and is highly respected for his expertise in commercial law.

Organisational Structure

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018

SUPREME COURT REGISTRY

The Supreme Court Registry is headed by the Registrar of the Supreme Court. The Registrar oversees the Registry's judicial functions in the Supreme Court, and ensures the timely and efficient disposal of cases.

REGISTRAR



Mr Vincent Hoong

The Registrar is assisted by the Deputy Registrar, Senior Assistant Registrars and Assistant Registrars, who perform judicial functions in the Supreme Court.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR



Divisional Registrar (Court of Appeal)
Divisional Registrar (Singapore International Commercial Court)
Ms Teh Hwee Hwee

SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRARS



Divisional Registrar (High Court)
Ms Cornie Ng Teng Teng



Mr Christopher Tan



Mr Edwin San Ong Kyar

Organisational
Structure

Organisational Structure

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018

ASSISTANT REGISTRARS



Ms Chong Chin Chin



Ms Cheng Pei Feng



Mr James Elisha Lee Han Leong



Mr Paul Quan Kaih Shiuh



Ms Janice Wong Shi Hui



Mr Paul Chan Wei Sern



Ms Una Khng



Ms Jean Chan Lay Koon



Mr Ramu Miyapan



Ms Karen Tan Teck Ping



Mr Jay Lee Yuxian



Mr Teo Guan Kee



Ms Lim Sai Nei



Mr Colin Seow Fu Hong



Mr Justin Yeo Rong Wei

Organisational Structure

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018

ASSISTANT REGISTRARS



Ms Li Yuen Ting



Ms Jacqueline Lee Siew Hui



Ms Wong Baochen



Mr Bryan Fang Hao Wen



Mr Scott Tan Chun Wen



Mr James Low Yunhui



Mr Paul Tan Wei Chean



Ms Norine Tan Yan Ling



Mr Navin Anand



Ms Zeslene Mao Huijing



Mr Elton Tan Xue Yang



Mr Jonathan Ng Pang Ern

Organisational Structure

AS OF 31 JANUARY 2018

JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

The Chief Executive oversees the administration and operations of the Supreme Court, ensuring the efficient running of the court and provision of effective services to court users.

The Chief Executive is supported by a team of Directors with specialised functions and roles.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

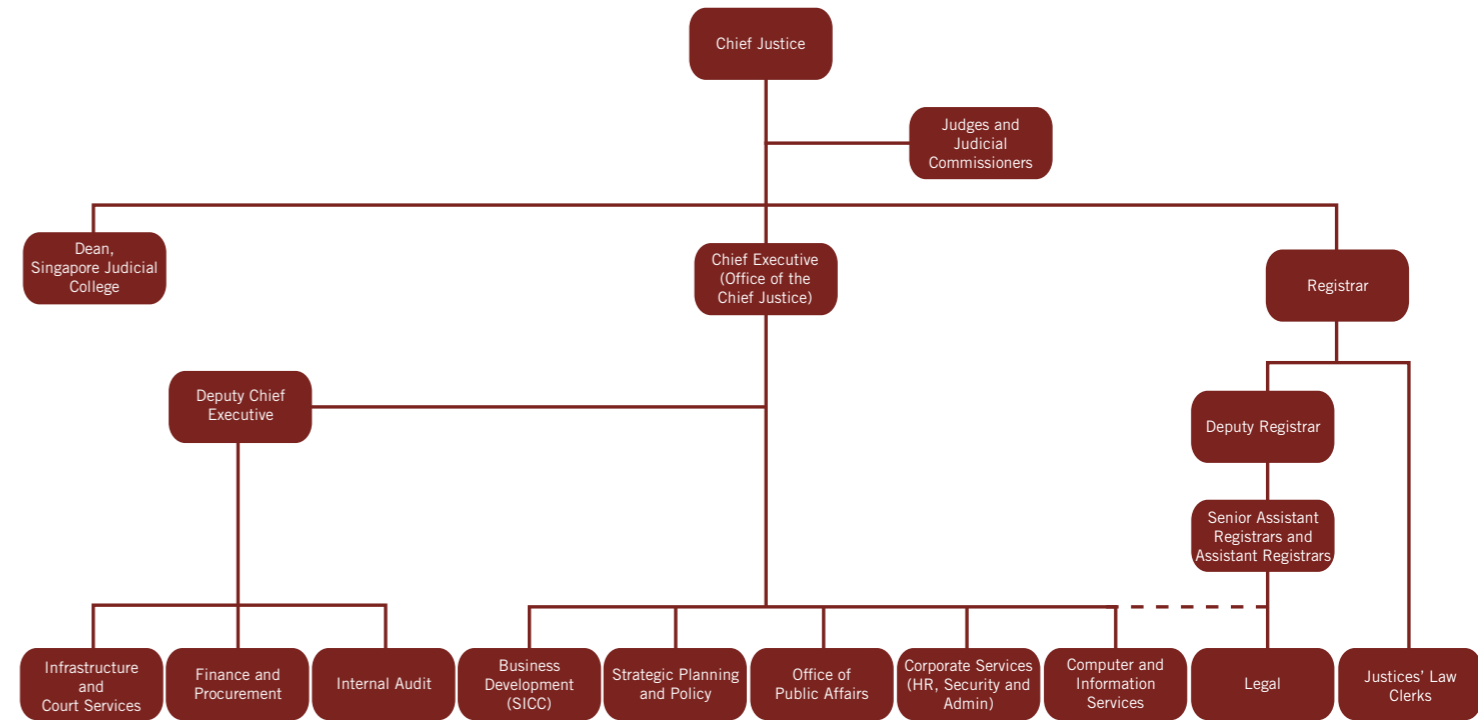


Ms Juthika Ramanathan



Seated (left to right): Santhanam Srinivasan, Chief Information Officer | Theresa Yeo, Director (Corporate Services) | Clara Goh, Deputy Chief Executive | Dexter Tan, Director (Finance) | Juthika Ramanathan, Chief Executive | Jack Lim, Director (Infrastructure and Court Services) | Julie Sim, Director (Office of Public Affairs)

Standing (left to right): Joseph Yew, Chief Technology Officer | Ho Shee Yan, Chief Internal Auditor | Carol Liew, Director (Legal) | Shirlynn Loo, Director (Strategic Planning and Policy) | Laurence Wong, Senior Director (Business Development), Singapore International Commercial Court



Infrastructure and Court Services

Strategises the use of resources and services that best support the hearing process; includes the Infrastructure Section, Court Reporting Services Section and Interpreters Section.

Corporate Services

Oversees the Supreme Court's Human Resource and Administration Section, Security Section and Library.

Finance and Procurement

Promotes proper stewardship of the Supreme Court's resources.

Office of Public Affairs

Oversees the planning and execution of public engagement and communication efforts to position the Supreme Court as a forward-thinking and outward-looking organisation with effective public service delivery.

Internal Audit

Promotes a culture of risk awareness and ensures adequacy of internal controls and compliance.

Strategic Planning and Policy

Sets long-term and sustainable goals, and conducts research to identify emerging trends regionally and internationally.

Computer and Information Services

Ensures the Supreme Court is at the forefront of new IT trends and developments; anticipates and renders IT solutions for the organisation.

Legal

Oversees the processing and maintenance of all court documents and records so that they are available to court users. Provides administrative support to the Registrar to ensure the efficient and expeditious disposition of all cases.



Constitution and Jurisdiction

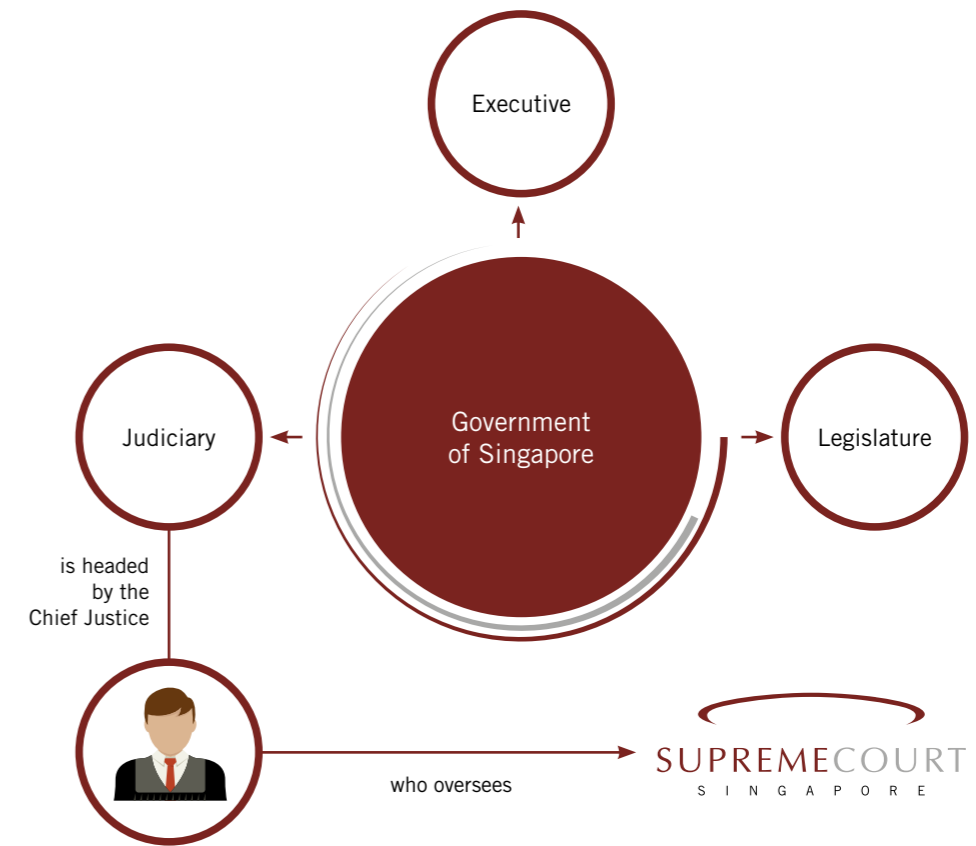
Our Role

CONSTITUTION AND JURISDICTION

The Judiciary is one of the three branches of government, alongside Executive and Legislature.

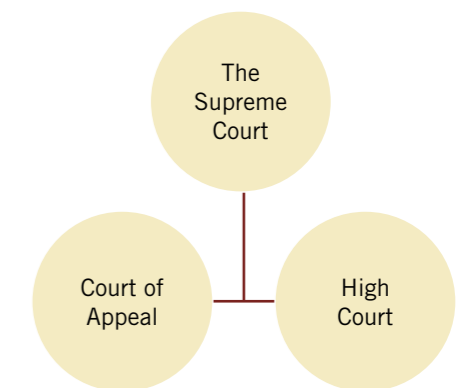
accessible to all. The Chief Justice is appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Headed by the Chief Justice, the Judiciary is a system of courts that upholds the law and ensures justice is



STRUCTURE OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court, comprising the Court of Appeal and the High Court, hears both civil and criminal matters. The Supreme Court Bench consists of the Chief Justice, Judges of Appeal, Judges, Senior Judges, International Judges and Judicial Commissioners. Justices' Law Clerks, who work directly under the charge of the Chief Justice, assist the Judiciary by carrying out research on the law, particularly for appeals before the Court of Appeal.



Our Role

COURT OF APPEAL

The Court of Appeal generally hears appeals against the decisions of the High Court in both civil and criminal matters. Since 8 April 1994, when the system of appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was abolished, it became Singapore's final court of appeal.

The Chief Justice sits in the Court of Appeal together with the Judges of Appeal. A Judge, Senior Judge, International Judge and Judicial Commissioner may sit in the Court of Appeal as such occasion as the Chief Justice requires.

An International Judge may sit in the Court of Appeal against a judgment or order of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) on such occasion as the Chief Justice requires. The Court of Appeal is presided over by the Chief Justice, and in his absence, a Judge of the Supreme Court or a person appointed by the Chief Justice to preside where the Court of Appeal does not include any Judge of the Supreme Court.



Chief Justice



Judges of Appeal

May sit in the Court of Appeal



A Judge



A Senior Judge



An International Judge



A Judicial Commissioner

The Court of Appeal is usually made up of three judges. However, certain appeals may be heard by only two judges, including those against interlocutory orders.

If necessary, the Court of Appeal may comprise five or more uneven number of judges.



Judge 1



Judge 2



Judge 3

Our Role

HIGH COURT

The High Court consists of the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court. A Judge of Appeal may sit in the High Court on such occasion as the Chief Justice requires. A Senior Judge or Judicial Commissioner may also sit in the High Court on such occasion as the Chief Justice requires. An International Judge may sit in the SICC division of the High Court on such occasion as the Chief Justice requires.

Proceedings in the High Court are heard before a single judge, unless otherwise provided by any written law. The High Court may also appoint one or more persons with expertise in the subject matter of the proceedings to assist the court.



Chief Justice



Judges

May sit in the High Court



A Judge of Appeal



A Senior Judge



A Judicial Commissioner

May sit in the SICC division



An International Judge

Our Role

The High Court hears both criminal and civil cases as a court of first instance. The High Court also hears appeals from the decisions of District Courts and Magistrate's Courts in civil and criminal cases, and decides points

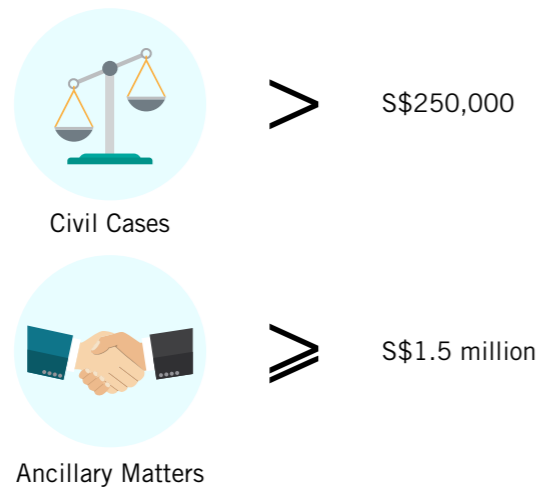
of law reserved in special cases submitted by a District Court or Magistrate's Court. In addition, the High Court has general supervisory and revisionary jurisdiction over all courts in any civil or criminal matter.



With a few limited exceptions, the High Court has jurisdiction to hear and try any action where the defendant is served with a writ or other originating process in Singapore, or outside Singapore in the circumstances authorised by the Rules of Court, or where the defendant submits to the jurisdiction of the High

Court. Generally, except in probate matters, a civil case must be commenced in the High Court if the value of the claim exceeds \$250,000. In addition, ancillary matters in family proceedings involving assets of S\$1,500,000 or more are also heard in the High Court.

Cases commenced in the High Court:

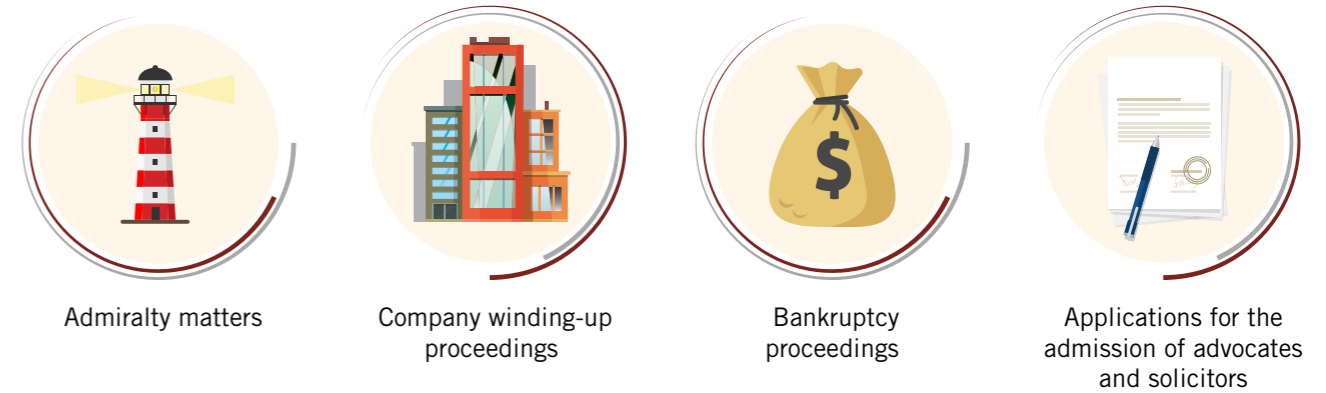


Our Role

The following matters are also exclusively heard by the High Court:

The High Court has jurisdiction to try all offences committed in Singapore and may also try offences committed outside Singapore in certain circumstances.

In criminal cases, the High Court generally tries cases where the offences are punishable with death or imprisonment for a term which exceeds 10 years.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Opening of the Legal Year



OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR CEREMONY

9 January 2017
Supreme Court

An annual key event in the judicial calendar, the Legal Year 2017 was opened by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon. Close to 600 guests came together to mark the start of the legal year, including local and foreign representatives from the legal fraternity and academia, as the Chief Justice set out the direction and highlighted the main initiatives that the Judiciary would be undertaking this year.



Event
Highlights

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Opening of the Legal Year



OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR DINNER

16 January 2017
The Istana

Following the ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year, the Judiciary and the legal fraternity jointly hosted a dinner at the Istana, which was graced by the former President, Dr Tony Tan and Mrs Mary Tan.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Thought Leadership

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL COURT CONFERENCE

10–11 January 2017
Supreme Court

The annual Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) Conference returned for its third edition, which saw the Judiciary and International Judges convening over two days to review the work of the SICC, and to set further strategic goals for its development.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Valedictory Reference

HONOURING JUSTICE CHAO HICK TIN

27 September 2017
Supreme Court

A Valedictory Reference was held in honour of Justice Chao Hick Tin who retired as a Judge of Appeal on 27 September 2017. Attended by about 520 guests, which included the Judiciary, former Chief Justices, political leaders, and senior legal officers, the Reference saw the legal fraternity paying tribute to Justice Chao for his contributions to the legal landscape in Singapore and more than five decades of public service.

Justice Chao was also presented with a compendium of essays written in honour of his legal career.

Titled "A Judge for the Ages", the publication was launched after the Reference and narrates his contributions to the Singapore legal system and jurisprudence.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Mass Call

ADMISSION OF ADVOCATES AND SOLICITORS

28–29 August 2017
Supreme Court

An annual event held over three sessions to welcome new lawyers into the legal fraternity, Mass Call 2017 took place at the Supreme Court Auditorium and saw 483 newly-appointed advocates and solicitors admitted to the Singapore Bar.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholder Engagement

INSOLVENCY STAKEHOLDERS' LUNCHEON

23 February 2017
Supreme Court

The Supreme Court hosted an inaugural luncheon for various stakeholders in the insolvency sector to discuss new initiatives and issues concerning the sector. It was attended by 40 guests from the Judiciary, legal fraternity, financial regulatory authority, and academia. Plans are in place to hold the luncheon once every six months, with the various stakeholder groups taking turns to host.



TRIPARTITE LUNCHEON

7 April and 1 November 2017
Supreme Court

More than 100 guests from the Judiciary, the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) and the Law Society of Singapore attended the Tripartite Luncheon hosted by the Supreme Court. The Luncheon provides a platform for members of the Bench, the Singapore Bar and the Prosecution to network and engage in discussion of pertinent issues. This biannual event is hosted alternately by the Supreme Court, the AGC and the Law Society.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholder Engagement

LUNCHEON AND DIALOGUE WITH THE CRIMINAL BAR

17 July 2017
Supreme Court

Hosted by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, the luncheon and dialogue session for the Judiciary was organised by the Criminal Bar and the Criminal Practice Committee of the Law Society of Singapore. It is part of continuing efforts for the Bench and the Criminal Bar to remain engaged on issues and initiatives concerning criminal law.



LUNCHEON WITH THE SMU SCHOOL OF LAW

2 August 2017
Supreme Court

The Supreme Court organised its inaugural luncheon for the Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Law, hosted by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon. It was attended by 35 guests from SMU and the Judiciary, who exchanged views on prevailing legal issues and the administration of justice. The Supreme Court and SMU will take turns to host this biannual affair.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholder Engagement

JUDICIARY VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATION DINNER 2017

14 September 2017
Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel

Jointly organised by the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts, this signature event was held to appreciate the contributions of volunteers towards pro bono work at the three Courts. Close to 300 guests, including members of the Judiciary, attended the appreciation dinner.

The Legal Assistance Scheme for Capital Offences (LASCO) Award, conferred by the Supreme Court, was presented to Mr James Masih for his contributions to LASCO and the community.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholder Engagement

THE SUPREME COURT AND SENIOR COUNSEL FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

29 September 2017
Alma by Juan Amador, Goodwood Park Hotel

Hosted by the Senior Counsel Forum this year, the dinner is held annually to strengthen ties between the Judiciary and the Senior Counsels. The Supreme Court and the Senior Counsel Forum take turns to host this annual dinner.



LUNCHEON WITH THE GUEST SPEAKER, SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW ANNUAL LECTURE

15 November 2017
Supreme Court

The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon hosted a luncheon for The Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, Chief Justice of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal, who was invited to deliver the Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture 2017. Both Chief Justices exchanged tokens of appreciation following the lunch.



LUNCHEON WITH THE NUS LAW FACULTY

22 November 2017
Botanico at The Garage, Botanic Gardens

The National University of Singapore (NUS) Law Faculty hosted a luncheon for the Supreme Court Bench on 22 November at Botanico at The Garage, Botanic Gardens. The annual event, alternately hosted by the Supreme Court and the NUS Law Faculty is an ongoing effort to engage members of the academia on developments in legal education and the legal landscape.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

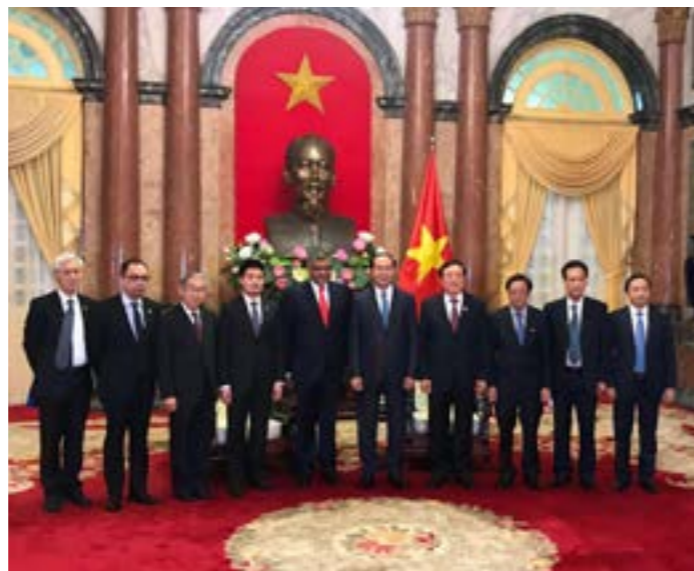
Regional and International Participation

SUPREME COURT OF SINGAPORE AND VIETNAM SUPREME PEOPLE'S COURT SIGN MOU OF JUDICIAL COOPERATION

16–18 February 2017

Vietnam Supreme People's Court

The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, together with officials from the Supreme Court of Singapore and the Singapore Embassy in Vietnam met with Chief Justice Nguyen Hoa Binh of the Vietnam Supreme People's Court, Nguyen Thuy Hien, Deputy Chief Justice, Judges and officials of the Vietnam Supreme People's Court to discuss and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of judicial cooperation between Vietnam and Singapore courts. The MoU focused on cooperation in the areas of IT applications in court operations, international commercial dispute settlement, judicial training, and increasing efficiency in court management.

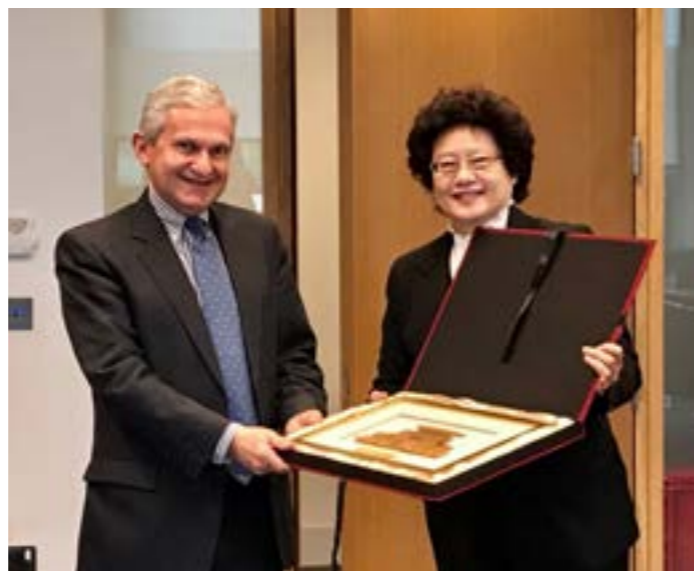


STUDY TRIP TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

20–22 February 2017

United Kingdom

The Honourable Justice Belinda Ang led a delegation comprising Registrar Mr Vincent Hoong and other Supreme Court officials, to visit judges in the United Kingdom from 20 – 22 Feb 2018, and learn more about their case management systems as well as judicial wellness programmes. The UK Judges who had met up with the delegation included the Chancellor of the High Court Sir Geoffrey Vos, High Court Judge Mr Justice Richard Snowden and Senior Presiding Judge Lady Justice Macur.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

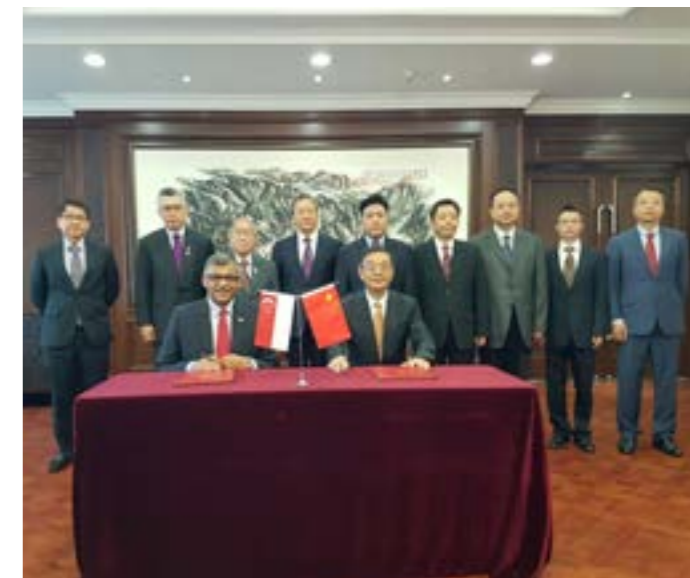
Regional and International Participation

SINGAPORE-CHINA LEGAL AND JUDICIAL ROUNDTABLE

21 August 2017

Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China

With the theme "Judicial Justice in the New Century", the inaugural Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable convened for the first time in Beijing, China. The Roundtable served to enable the Singapore and China judiciaries to strengthen exchanges and deepen cooperation. Leading a delegation of senior Judges and officers from the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Law, The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon co-chaired the Roundtable with President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Zhou Qiang.



JUDICIAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY / TOKYO 2017 IP DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN ASEAN PLUS THREE (JAPAN-CHINA-REPUBLIC OF KOREA)

30 October - 1 November 2017

Tokyo

Justice George Wei, together with Senior Assistant Registrar Edwin San, and Assistant Registrars Cheng Pei Feng and Wong Baochen, attended the Judicial Symposium on Intellectual Property held in Tokyo from 30 Oct to 1 Nov 2017. Justice Wei was hosted to a dinner reception by the Japan Minister of Justice, Her Excellency Yoko Kamikawa and in return, Justice Wei presented a gift to Minister to show our appreciation.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Regional and International Participation

VISITS BY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

The Supreme Court hosted visits by delegates from various foreign courts and government agencies in 2017. In addition to calling on The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and our judges, the visiting delegates were also keen to learn more about our court technology, our legal processes, and the Singapore International Commercial Court. Such visits enabled us to strengthen relations and explore potential collaborative opportunities with other judiciaries around the world.



The Honourable Christopher Finlayson QC
Attorney-General of New Zealand
28 February 2017



His Excellency Justice Shamlan Al Sawalehi
Dubai International Financial Centre Courts
19 May 2017



His Honourable Truong Hoa Binh
Permanent Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam
14 July 2017



The Honourable John Rau
Deputy Premier of South Australia
6 September 2017

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Regional and International Participation



Her Excellency Yoko Kamikawa
Minister of Justice of Japan
12 September 2017



His Excellency Kairat Kelimbetov
Governor of Astana International Financial Centre
15 September 2017



The Right Honourable The Lord Keen of Elie QC
Advocate General for Scotland
5-6 October 2017



His Excellency Masood Bin Muhammad Al-Ameri
Chief Justice and President of the Qatar Supreme
Judiciary Council
16 October 2017



His Excellency Jawed Ashraf
High Commissioner of India to Singapore
25 October 2017



The Honourable Justice Anthony Gates
Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Fiji
1 December 2017

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Serving The Community

JUDICIARY CARES

6 December 2017
MINDS Singapore

Judges and Court Administrators from the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts accompanied some 90 beneficiaries from Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS) and their minders from Kidzania in Sentosa for a fun-filled day. Children from MINDS had the opportunity to interact with the larger community and have a fun time. The three Courts raised close to \$32,000, which the Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, Justice Debbie Ong, presented to MINDS Chairman, Mr Huang Cheng Eng.



Performance & Statistics

WAITING PERIODS

The Supreme Court sets targets for waiting periods in various court processes as part of its commitment to provide quality public service and we endeavour to achieve at least 90% compliance with all targets set. In 2017, all the set targets were achieved.

With effect from March 2017, the targets for appellate criminal jurisdiction were revised to 15 weeks after the week of receipt of the last confirmation of the Records of Proceedings (“ROP”) for appeals to the Court of Appeal and 12 weeks from the date of receipt of the ROP from the State Courts in respect of appeals to the High Court from the State Courts.

TYPE OF PROCEEDINGS	TARGET
ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION	
Trials in Suits	8 weeks from the date of setting down
Originating Summonses (OSes)	
(i) Inter partes	6 weeks from the date of filing of the OS
(ii) Ex parte	3 weeks from the date of filing of the OS
Bankruptcy OS	6 weeks from the date of filing of the OS
Company Winding-Up OS	4 weeks from the date of filing of the OS
Summonses (SUM)	
(i) Applications for summary judgment pursuant to Order 14 of the Rules of Court	5 weeks from the date of filing of the SUM (statutory minimum period)
(ii) All other summonses	3 weeks from the date of filing of the SUM
Bankruptcy SUM (Applications for discharge)	4 weeks from the date of filing of the SUM

Performance & Statistics

TYPE OF PROCEEDINGS	TARGET
ORIGINAL CRIMINAL JURISDICTION	
Trials of Criminal Cases	6 weeks from the date of the final Criminal Case Disclosure Conference or Pre-trial Conference before trial (whichever is later)
APPELLATE CIVIL JURISDICTION	
Appeals to the Court of Appeal	
(i) Before 2 Judges	Ready to be heard in 15 weeks from the date of Notification to collect the Records of Proceedings (ROP)
(i) Before 3 or more Judges	Ready to be heard in 19 weeks from the date of Notification to collect the ROP
Registrar's Appeals to the High Court Judge in Chambers	3 weeks from the date of filing for other appeals 4 weeks from the date of filing for appeals involving assessment of damages
Appeals to the High Court from the State Courts	4 weeks from the date of receipt of the ROP from the State Courts
APPELLATE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION	
Appeals to the Court of Appeal	15 weeks after the week of receipt of the last confirmation of the ROP
Appeals to the High Court from the State Courts	12 weeks from the date of receipt of the ROP from the State Courts

Performance & Statistics

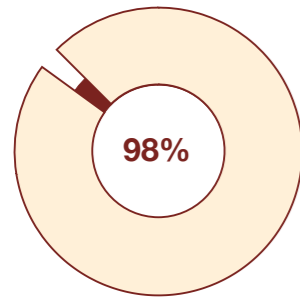
WORKLOAD STATISTICS

The Supreme Court received a total of 14,417 new civil and criminal matters in 2017. A total of 14,063 matters were disposed of in the same corresponding period. The clearance rate for all civil and criminal matters for 2017 was 98%.

The following shows the breakdown of the filing and disposal and clearance rates of the civil and criminal proceedings for 2017.

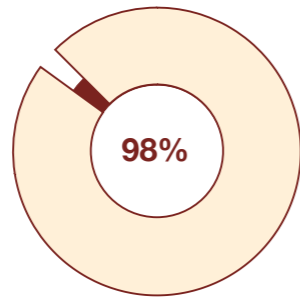
CIVIL JURISDICTION

Civil Originating Processes



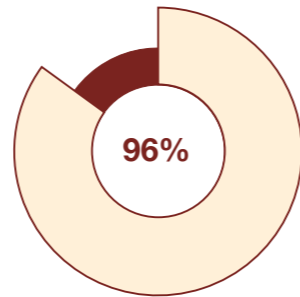
No. of cases filed: 6,953
No. of cases disposed of: 6,819
Clearance rate: 98%

Civil Interlocutory Applications



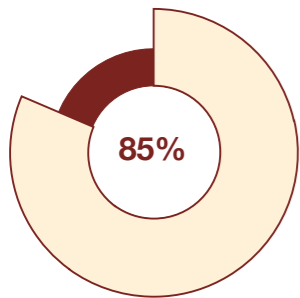
No. of cases filed: 6,039
No. of cases disposed of: 5,897
Clearance rate: 98%

Appeals before the High Court



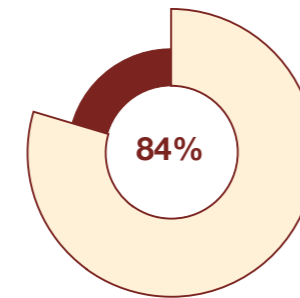
No. of cases filed: 428
No. of cases disposed of: 411
Clearance rate: 96%

Appeals before the Court of Appeal



No. of cases filed: 245
No. of cases disposed of: 208
Clearance rate: 85%

Applications before the Court of Appeal

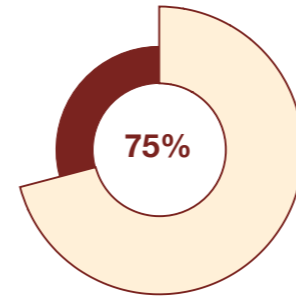


No. of cases filed: 157
No. of cases disposed of: 132
Clearance rate: 84%

Performance & Statistics

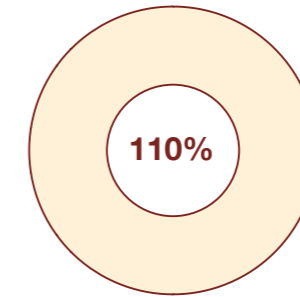
CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

Criminal Cases



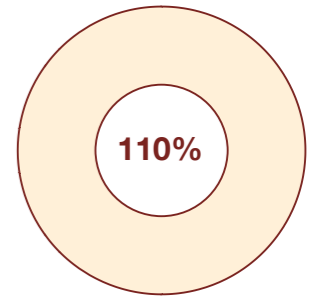
No. of cases filed: 93
No. of cases disposed of: 70
Clearance rate: 75%

Criminal Motions



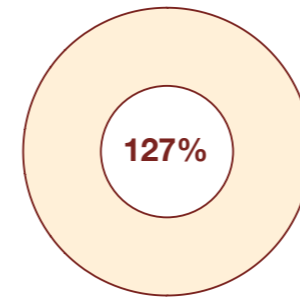
No. of cases filed: 90
No. of cases disposed of: 99
Clearance rate: 110%

Magistrate's Appeals



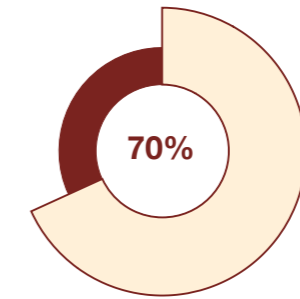
No. of cases filed: 332
No. of cases disposed of: 365
Clearance rate: 110%

Criminal Revisions



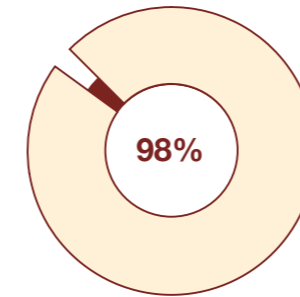
No. of cases filed: 11
No. of cases disposed of: 14
Clearance rate: 127%

Criminal Appeals



No. of cases filed: 69
No. of cases disposed of: 48
Clearance rate: 70%

GRAND TOTAL



No. of cases filed: 14,417
No. of cases disposed of: 14,063
Clearance rate: 98%

* Based on the information compiled as at 23 January 2018.



Supreme Court of Singapore

1 Supreme Court Lane Singapore 178879



www.supremecourt.gov.sg