

SINGAPORE JUDICIAL COLLEGE
Annual Report 2015



UNLOCKING A NEW
BEGINNING

JUDICIAL EDUCATION • EMPIRICAL RESEARCH • THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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About the SINGAPORE JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Established under the auspices of the Supreme Court of Singapore, the Singapore Judicial College (SJC) is dedicated to the training and development of Judges and Judicial Officers (JOs). The SJC consists of a Local Wing and an International Wing, and Empirical Judicial Research.

THREE PILLARS:



Local Wing

The Local Wing oversees the needs of the Singapore Judiciary, from induction to continuing education to research and developmental programmes.



International Wing

The International Wing builds on the excellent reputation of Singapore's well-developed legal system to offer Singapore as a forum of judicial training that encompasses induction training, development of core competencies (such as judging, judicial ethics, case management, use of technology and judicial administration), recent developments on areas of legal interest and useful interdisciplinary studies.



Empirical Judicial Research

The SJC serves as an Empirical Judicial Research laboratory with the aim of serving as a test bed for innovation in judicial studies and practices. The empirical research will allow new or existing practices in the courts to be tested and validated.

How It All STARTED

"In the course of my Response this morning, I have touched upon many areas where we are pushing the boundaries of our work within the justice system. These efforts would not be possible without a strong judiciary. Our judges have been at the core of our legal development and they must continue to lead this effort in changing times. It is therefore imperative not only that the right people are appointed, but also that they are provided with ample opportunities for continuing education and development.

With a relatively small pool of judges, judicial training has hitherto been largely decentralised, with each court taking the responsibility for organising programmes suited to its own needs. When I took office a little over two years ago, one of my early aspirations was to institutionalise and pull together the various judicial education programmes that had been discretely developed. I considered that the time for this had come, not least because judges today are faced with a vastly different operating climate.

I am delighted to announce that after a period of study and reflection, I have taken the decision to establish the Singapore Judicial College which will manage and develop these efforts. It gives me great pleasure to officially launch the College today. Mr Foo Chee Hock will be its first Dean and will undertake this responsibility alongside his judicial duties.

District Judge Mr Tan Boon Heng will run the day-to-day operations of the College as its Executive Director. The assignment of two senior judicial colleagues to drive the initiative to upgrade our training efforts marks a historic step for us.

The immediate objective is to bring all our judicial training under the auspices of the College and to develop and strengthen the curricula so as to enhance our ability to discharge our judicial functions. This will cover induction as well as continuing training and development of our Judges and judicial officers; but it will also extend to technical assistance and educational programmes that we may offer to colleagues from other jurisdictions to share experiences including the experience we have built up over the years in such areas as organisational excellence, the use of technology, active case management and other judiciary-led reforms.

In addition to this, a very special and unique dimension that the College will develop is an empirical judicial research laboratory with the aim of serving as a test bed for innovation in judicial studies, practices and policies. The empirical research will allow new or existing practices in the courts to be tested and to have the premises or assumptions that underlie them validated (or not as the case may be). We can experiment with new ideas and study the findings to identify areas for improvement. To move this forward, the College has invited the Faculty of our two law schools to submit research proposals for consideration and I am given to understand that these are in the works.

The Judicial College will be guided in the development of policies by a Board of Governors that consists of Judges and academics, chaired by Justice Andrew Phang with Justice Quentin Loh as the Deputy Chairman. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to each of them. I also wish to thank Justice Heydon and Professor Joseph Weiler for readily accepting my invitation to serve on the Board. I know that all of you will join me in wishing the College every success."

— An excerpt from the Response by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, on the integral role of the Singapore Judicial College, at the Opening of the Legal Year 2015



FOREWORD

From the Chief Justice

The progress made by the Singapore Judicial College (SJC) since its official launch on 5 January 2015 has been nothing short of spectacular, and this led me to suggest that we should record the remarkable progress of this first year with our inaugural Annual Report.

The core mission of the SJC is to provide continuing professional training and education for our Judges and Judicial Officers (JOs) and this has been achieved with distinction. Judges and JOs benefitted from more than 40 judicial education programmes that were offered by the SJC recording an overall attendance exceeding 1,000, all in a span of less than 12 months. I am especially pleased that the SJC rolled out the inaugural Judiciary-Wide Induction Programme (6 – 9 October 2015) for all newly appointed Judicial Commissioners and JOs across all courts. The suite of topics covered at this national induction programme was wide-ranging and they include judicial wellness, judicial conduct, cybersecurity and the evolving nature of judicial work within a changing operating environment in Singapore. I also commend the thematic approach that was used by the SJC in planning the curriculum and in the process for ensuring a well-balanced faculty with representation from the Bench, academia and practitioners who are noted content experts.

Of course, the SJC has a wider mission and in the international arena, its record in its first year has been just as impressive. A total of nine courses for foreign judges and officials were designed and delivered in 2015. More than 250 international participants from more than 40 countries attended one of the various programmes run by the SJC on case management, court technology, court excellence and innovating justice. Through the sterling efforts of the SJC, not only did the Singapore Judiciary have the benefit of sharing our experiences with our colleagues from other judiciaries, the friendships forged with our colleagues from abroad will undoubtedly advance future prospects for mutual collaboration.

I am also delighted that the SJC has taken up membership with the International Organisation for Judicial Training as well as International Consortium for Court Excellence. I must take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Technical Cooperation Directorate for their strong support in partnering with the SJC's International Wing to organise numerous courses under the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

The Empirical Judicial Research initiative has also taken off on a good note. In consultation with the SJC's Board of Governors, we have approved four proposals and at least another two are in the pipeline. I am delighted by the tremendous support from the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore and School of Law of the Singapore Management University. I await with eager anticipation the completion of the first project and look forward to receiving more Empirical Judicial Research proposals.

The quality of justice depends on the quality of our Judges. The SJC plays a critical role in ensuring that our Judges receive relevant and robust continuing education. I urge all my judicial colleagues to give the SJC their fullest support and to make the most of the excellent opportunities that will be available in the coming years to upgrade skills, craft and knowledge.

Lastly, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the entire SJC team for a superb first year of notable achievements. I have every confidence that they will scale even greater heights moving forward. Finally, my heartfelt appreciation to my judicial colleagues, Justice Andrew Phang and Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock and the members of the Governing Board for their leadership in bringing the SJC to this point; and especially to District Judge Tan Boon Heng, the Executive Director of the SJC for the energy, passion and ability with which he has managed the SJC.

Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon
Supreme Court of Singapore

Chief Justice
SUNDARESH MENON



JUSTICE ANDREW PHANG, JUDGE OF APPEAL

Chairman of the Board of Governors

When the idea of establishing a judicial college was first mooted by CJ Menon in 2014, few would have envisaged the remarkable as well as robust growth the SJC has attained within the span of only a year. This exceptional transformation from idea to reality within such a short space of time is due not only to the vision of CJ Menon but also the prodigious and tireless efforts of the Dean, the Executive Director and their staff. I am also very grateful to the Board of Governors for selflessly giving their time and energy to oversee as well as guide the SJC in all its multifarious aspects.

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER FOO CHEE HOCK

Dean

I recall the day CJ Menon shared the vision of the SJC as an integral component of his strategic judicial reforms. Since then, the SJC has pushed off the starting blocks to secure some significant achievements in its first year of operations. The work of the Local Wing saw the SJC invested in one way or another, in the overall training and continuing development of judges in Singapore. Through the programmes of the International Wing, a network comprising over 250 participants from across some 40 countries has started taking shape, paving the way for further collaboration. Alongside these developments, considerable progress has been made in the SJC's other role as an Empirical Judicial Research laboratory. I am especially gratified by the diverse research proposals that test current assumptions and practices; and have the potential to uncover practical insights and lead to better ways of doing things. The foundations have been firmly laid and the momentum set for an exciting journey of passion and innovation to realise the SJC vision.

DISTRICT JUDGE TAN BOON HENG

Executive Director

Never in my wildest imagination did I think I would be involved in assisting to establish the SJC for generations of judicial colleagues to come. This is a truly significant milestone in my career as a judicial officer. I am honoured and privileged to be part of this momentous institutional initiative. I cannot thank CJ Menon enough for entrusting me with this critical and exciting task. Special thanks to Justice Andrew Phang and the Dean for their unfailing guidance. I am especially grateful to Mr Jam Chee Chong and Mr Ng Shun Geng for their fabulous efforts in managing the secretariat. While the 'rocket' has been launched, this is I believe, only the beginning of a thrilling and exploratory journey for the SJC with many challenges ahead. It is only with the fullest support from our Judges and Judicial Officers that the SJC will be a trailblazer with new breakthroughs.



VISION

To achieve excellence in judicial education and research

MISSION

To provide and inspire continuing judicial learning and research to enhance the competency and professionalism of judges

About the CORPORATE LOGO



The SJC's logo features a stylised disc that alludes to the iconic architecture of the Supreme Court Building. The disc is also a distinct feature of the Supreme Court's corporate logo, reinforcing the shared vision of fairness and impartiality in the administration of justice.

A book, an icon of knowledge, is positioned below the disc, and reinforces the SJC's vision built on strong structure with solid foundations that are designed to withstand assault and the ravages of time.

The solid colours of dark green, black, grey and white embody growth through judicial training and scholarship in a nurturing and dignified environment.

The Aspirations of SINGAPORE JUDICIAL COLLEGE



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Thought leadership and scholarship in the areas of judicial training and development

SHARE 'KNOW HOW'

Impart value-neutral technical skills relevant to judges, contextualised within an Asian society

BRIDGE BUILDING

Forge friendships with our foreign counterparts

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Chairman
Justice Andrew Phang
Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court



Deputy Chairman
Justice Quentin Loh
Judge, Supreme Court

MEMBERS

Justice John Dyson Heydon AC QC
Retired Judge, High Court of Australia
International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court

Judicial Commissioner See Kee Oon
Presiding Judge, State Courts

Judicial Commissioner Valerie Thean
Presiding Judge, Family Justice Courts

Professor Joseph H H Weiler
President, European University Institute

Professor Jeffrey Pinsler, SC
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

Associate Professor Goh Yihan
School of Law, Singapore Management University

Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock
Dean, Singapore Judicial College

District Judge Tan Boon Heng
Executive Director, Singapore Judicial College

OUR STAFF

Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock
Dean

District Judge Tan Boon Heng*
Executive Director

Mr Jam Chee Chong
Deputy Director, Secretariat

Mr Ng Shun Geng
Assistant Director, Secretariat



(L-R): Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Ng Shun Geng and Jam Chee Chong

JUDICIAL EDUCATION LIAISONS



(L-R): District Judge Yarni Loi (Family Justice Courts); Assistant Registrar James Elisha Lee (Supreme Court); and District Judge Jasbendar Kaur (State Courts)

The SJC works closely with the appointed Judicial Education Liaisons (JELs) from the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts to advance the objectives of the SJC for the benefit of the organisations and the Judiciary as a whole.

* On secondment from the State Courts

AREAS OF FOCUS IN JUDICIAL EDUCATION

To provide more synergy in the SJC’s offerings, key areas of judicial education have been identified through understanding the nature of past judicial training programmes and consultation with judges on their training needs.

The areas of focus are set to expand to enhance the judiciary’s ability to discharge judicial functions. Two new areas — “Judicial Leadership” and “Technology and Sciences” — will be introduced in 2016 to fulfil the requirements of evolving training needs.



The Local Wing TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Working with the JELs of the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts, the Local Wing of the SJC oversees the needs of the Singapore Judiciary, from induction to continuing education programmes. The SJC augments the local offerings by organising high impact programmes such as the Judiciary-Wide Induction Programme for newly appointed Judges and Judicial Officers and refresher programmes on fundamental areas including Civil Procedure and Evidence Law.

TRAINING CALENDAR 2015

Category	Date	Title	Instructor(s)
Local Wing			
Bench Skills	10 Feb	Roundtable on Judge-Led Processes Under the Family Justice Rules	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, Singapore Judicial College (SJC)
	5 Mar	A Practical Refresher on Contempt in the Face of the Court	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC Panellists: (i) The Honourable Justice Belinda Ang; (ii) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner See Kee Oon; and (iii) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC
	16 Apr	Conflict Coaching and Management	(i) District Judge David Lim, State Courts; and (ii) District Judge Dorcas Quek, State Courts
	22 Apr	Strategies for Responding to Litigants with Difficult Behaviour	Ms Sophia Ang, Director of Counselling and Psychological Services, Family Justice Courts (FJC)
	12 May	Adjudicating Intellectual Property Disputes: Challenges and Pitfalls	The Honourable Justice George Wei, Supreme Court
	14 Jul	Challenges and Pitfalls in Adjudicating Matrimonial Disputes	The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Debbie Ong, Supreme Court
	29 Jul	New Trial Technology by Magnum	Ms Serena Lim, Director, Opus 2 International Singapore
	19 Aug	Injunctions; Proprietary and Mareva Injunctions	The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC
	17 Sep	Making Good Mediation Orders	Mr Michel Kallipetis QC
	22 Sep	Judicial Reforms: Reflections on Design and Delivery	The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC
Legal Development	6 – 9 Oct	Annual Induction Programme (Part B) for Newly Appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers	
	27 Oct	Technology Showcase: Atlas.ti Doing Legal Work	The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC
	22 Jan	Highlights of Civil Procedure 2014	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
	23 Jan	A Discussion on Mental Capacity Act Cases	(i) District Judge Colin Tan, FJC; and (ii) District Judge Shobha Nair, FJC
	13 Feb	Workability of Care and Control and Access Orders: Discussion on Precedent Orders	(i) District Judge Lim Choi Ming, FJC; and (ii) Ms Nur Izzah Amir, Counselling and Psychological Services, FJC
	3 Mar	Enforcement of Matrimonial Maintenance Payment	Ms Jennifer Lee, Senior Manager, DP Information Group, Credit Bureau Singapore (CBS)
	9 – 11 Mar, 13 Mar	Registrars' Refresher on Civil Procedure	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, SJC; (iii) Senior Assistant Registrar Cornie Ng, Supreme Court; (iv) Senior Assistant Registrar Chris Tan, Supreme Court; (v) Senior Assistant Registrar Wendy Yap, Supreme Court; (vi) District Judge Lorraine Ho, State Courts; (vii) Assistant Registrar Teo Guan Kee, Supreme Court; and (viii) Mr Yeong Zee Kin, Civil Division, Attorney-General's Chambers
	25 Mar	The Challenge of Principled Gap-Filling: A Study of Implied Terms in Comparative Context	The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang, Supreme Court
	26 Mar	"Interests of Justice" in the Evidence Act	Professor Ho Hock Lai, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS)
	7 Apr	HDB Regulations for HDB Flats and Divorce Orders	Ms Sharon Chua Siew Hong, Senior Estate Manager, Branch Operations, Housing Development Board (HDB)
5 May	Work of the Syariah Court and Legal Principles of Syariah Law	Ms Rahayu Bte Mahzam, Deputy Registrar, Syariah Court	
7 Jul	Overview of Alternative Dispute Resolution for Family Disputes	District Judge Kevin Ng, FJC	
18 Aug	An Overview to Environmental Law for Judges	Professor Lye Lin Heng, Director, Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), NUS	
20 Aug	Recent Developments in IP Law: Starbucks (HK) Ltd & Anor v British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC & Ors [2015] UKSC 31	The Honourable Justice Simon Thorley, International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court	
2 Sep	Sentencing Forum	(i) The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon; (ii) The Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin; (iii) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner See Kee Oon; and (iv) District Judge Siva Shanmugam	

Category	Date	Title	Instructor(s)
Local Wing			
Legal Development	6 – 9 Oct	Annual Induction Programme (Part B) for Newly Appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers	
	20 Oct	Principles of Contract Law: Recent Developments in 2015	Associate Professor Goh Yihan, School of Law, Singapore Management University
	3 Nov	Family Law Reforms: New Amendments to Various Statutes	District Judge Shobha Nair, FJC
Judicial Ethics	1 Dec	Reforms in the Singapore Family Justice System	i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Valerie Thean; and ii) Senior District Judge Chia Wee Kiat, FJC
	28 May	Judicial Behaviour, the Dreaded and Desired: From the Lawyers' Lenses	Panellists: (i) Mr Edwin Lee (Eldan LLC); (ii) Mr Willy Tay (Ari, Goh & Partners); and (iii) Mr Julian Tay (Lee & Lee)
	30 Jun	Maintaining Judicial Impartiality	Professor Jeffrey Pinsler, Faculty of Law, NUS
	27 Aug	Etiquette Between the Bench and the Bar	Mr Thio Shen Yi, S.C., President of the Law Society
	6 – 9 Oct	Annual Induction Programme (Part B) for Newly Appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers	
Social Awareness	3 Nov	Nurturing Judicial Temperament	(i) The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon; (ii) The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang; (iii) The Honourable Justice Judith Prakash; and (iv) Principal District Judge Tan Puay Boon
	27 Feb	Overview of Rehabilitation and Protection Group of MSF	Ms Jennifer Teoh, Deputy Director, Senior Principal Forensic Psychologist, Clinical and Forensic Psychology Branch (CFPB), Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF)
	5 Mar	Preliminary Evaluation Findings from an Evidence-Based Approach to the Rehabilitation & Reintegration of High-Risk Drug Offenders	Dr Gabriel Ong, Senior Psychologist, Senior Assistant Director, Singapore Prisons Services
	17 Apr	Child Development—Psychopathology & Sexual Development	(i) Dr Janice Tan, Assistant Director, Senior Clinical Psychologist, CFPB, MSF; and (ii) Dr Joy Low, Senior Clinical and Neuropsychology Psychologist, CFPB, MSF
	26 Jun	Understanding Trauma and Trauma Informed Care	Ms Pamela Ong, Assistant Director, Principal Clinical Psychologist, CFPB, MSF
	6 Oct	How to Handle Litigants with Mental Issues in Family Justice Courts	Dr Ong Say How, Chief of Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Institute of Mental Health
	6 – 9 Oct	Annual Induction Programme (Part B) for Newly Appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers	
	16 Oct	Family and Parenting Assessment	(i) Dr Eric Hoo, Manager, Senior Clinical Psychologist, CFPB, MSF; and (ii) Dr Elizabeth Lau, Assistant Manager, Senior Clinical Psychologist, MSF
	26 Oct	The Community Justice Centre	Mr Leonard Lee, Executive Director, Community Justice Centre
	20 Nov	Spousal Violence and Child Abuse/Maltreatment	(i) Ms Tan Li Jen, Senior Assistant Director, Senior Principal Clinical Psychologist, CFPB, MSF; and (ii) Dr Melvinder Singh, Senior Assistant Director, Senior Clinical Psychologist, CFPB, MSF
International Wing			
6 – 10 Apr	Strategies of Case Management: Challenges, Solutions and Innovation, Singapore	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; and (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	
6 – 10 Jul	End-To-End Court Technology: A Compendious Survey, Singapore	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC; and (iii) Others	
27 – 30 Apr	International Framework for Court Excellence, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	
8 May	Recent Singapore Judgments: Demonstrating a Pro-Arbitration Stance	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	
19 – 22 May	International Framework for Court Excellence, Yangon, Myanmar	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	
2 – 5 Jun	International Framework for Court Excellence, Vientiane, Lao PDR	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	
28 – 31 Jul	International Framework for Court Excellence, Hanoi, Vietnam	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	
15 – 16 Oct	eFiling Workshop for the Solomon Islands' Judiciary, Honiara	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; and (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	
18 – 19 Nov	Innovating Justice Workshop, Singapore	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; and (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC	

SPECIAL SERIES

As part of the SJC's ongoing commitment to constantly refresh and reinvigorate our suite of engagement programmes to enhance continuing education of our judges, three main streams of speaker series have been launched. They include the Supreme Court Bench Series, Professorial Series and Practitioners' Series.

-  **Supreme Court Bench Series**
– talks conducted by Judges and Judicial Commissioners of the Supreme Court;
-  **Professorial Series**
– talks conducted by law academics, including faculty from other relevant disciplines; and
-  **Practitioners' Series**
– talks conducted by Judicial Officers and selected private practitioners on procedures and practice.

Feature on the SUPREME COURT BENCH SERIES

19 August 2015, Venue: State Courts
Injunctions; Proprietary and Mareva Injunctions

Organised by the Family Justice Courts under the auspices of the SJC, Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock shared with participants the law and requirements for injunctions.



(L-R): Justice Simon Thorley with Justice George Wei

20 August 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Recent Developments in IP Law: Starbucks (HK) Ltd & Anor v British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC & Ors [2015] UKSC 31

Justice Simon Thorley (Singapore International Commercial Court's International Judge) helped participants gain a better appreciation of the reasoning of the judgments discussed and their significance to the development of Intellectual Property Laws.

Feature on the SUPREME COURT BENCH SERIES

24 March 2015, Venue: State Courts
The Challenge of Principled Gap-Filling: A Study of Implied Terms in Comparative Context

Justice Andrew Phang (Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court) gave participants a better appreciation of the use of implied terms to gap-fill.

12 May 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Adjudicating Intellectual Property Disputes: Challenges and Pitfalls

Justice George Wei gave participants a greater awareness of the challenges and pitfalls when called upon to adjudicate Intellectual Property disputes, whether in open court or in chambers. In particular, participants learned how they can best prepare themselves for the hearing and also identify the pertinent disputed/undisputed facts and the salient applicable laws.



2 September 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Sentencing Forum

This was the first of the panel series led by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon. Key sentencing principles and considerations in a range of challenging scenarios were discussed.



The panel consisted of The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Justice Chao Hick Tin, Judicial Commissioner See Kee Oon and District Judge P Siva Shanmugam



22 September 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Judicial Reforms: Reflections on Design and Delivery

Drawing from past experience as the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock shared his reflections on the conceptualisation, planning and implementation of judicial reforms.



14 July 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Challenges and Pitfalls in Adjudicating Matrimonial Disputes

Judicial Commissioner Debbie Ong spoke on the challenges and pitfalls in adjudicating over matrimonial disputes. Her Honour shared useful and effective techniques in managing family proceedings.

3 November 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Nurturing Judicial Temperament

Participants had the benefit of hearing insights from the panellists on what it means to have judicial temperament and how to work towards it.



The panel consisted of The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, the Honourable Justice Andrew Phang, the Honourable Justice Judith Prakash and Principal District Judge Tan Puay Boon

Feature on the PROFESSORIAL SERIES

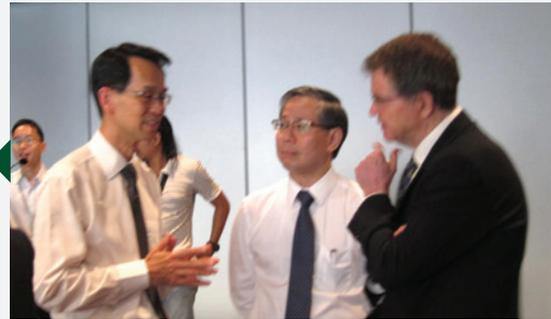


26 March 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
“Interests of Justice” in the Evidence Act

Professor Ho Hock Lai (Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore) gave participants a deeper appreciation on how the “interests of justice” could possibly be interpreted under the Evidence Act.

30 June 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Maintaining Judicial Impartiality

Professor Jeffrey Pinsler (Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore) helped participants develop a greater awareness of the need to maintain judicial impartiality and the means to manage and/or avoid situations of apparent bias.



(L-R): Judicial Commissioner See Kee Oon, Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock with Professor Pinsler

18 August 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
An Overview to Environmental Law for Judges

Professor Lye Lin Heng (Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore) gave participants an introductory understanding as to what Environmental Law entails.



(L-R): Justice Judith Prakash with Professor Lye Lin Heng

20 October 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Principles of Contract Law: Recent Developments in 2015

This talk covered the significant contract cases decided by the Singapore courts in 2015.



Feature on the PRACTITIONERS’ SERIES

22 January 2015, Venue: State Courts
Highlights of Civil Procedure 2014

Organised by the State Courts under the auspices of the SJC, District Judge Tan Boon Heng (Executive Director, SJC) gave participants a quick survey on the key developments in 2014 on civil procedure ranging from selected Court of Appeal decisions to amendments of the Rules of Court.



10 February 2015, Venue: State Courts
Judge-Led Approach in the Family Justice Rules: Comparative Lessons from the Rules of Court

District Judge Tan Boon Heng (Executive Director, SJC) provided participants with a quick survey on the decisions emanating from civil litigation that may impact on the *pari materia* provisions and concepts on the Judge-Led Approach in the Family Justice Rules.

5 March 2015, Venue: State Courts
Practical Refresher on Contempt in the Face of the Court

District Judge Tan Boon Heng (Executive Director, SJC) provided participants with a clear understanding on why, when and how committal proceeding are to be initiated for contempt in the face of the court. District Judge Tan also introduced a “simple tool” to help Judicial Officers who are less familiar with the procedure. Rounding off the session, Justice Belinda Ang chaired a panel that discussed the topic in further depth.

28 May 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Judicial Behaviour, the Dreaded and Desired: From the Lawyers’ Lenses

Participants heard from the panel, comprising Mr Edwin Lee (Eldan LLC), Mr Willy Tay (Ari, Goh & Partners) and Mr Julian Tay (Lee & Lee), a range of dreaded and desired judicial habits from the practitioners’ perspective. The light-hearted interaction allowed judges to reflect on the feedback and decide how best to conduct themselves on the Bench.



(L-R): Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock with Mr Edwin Lee

17 September 2015, Venue: Supreme Court
Making Good Mediation Orders

In a session moderated by Judicial Commissioner See Kee Oon, Mr Michel Kallipetis QC helped participants gain a better appreciation of the critical role that a judge plays in making good mediation orders and referring suitable cases for mediation.



Feature on the JUDICIARY-WIDE INDUCTION PROGRAMME



A comprehensive Judiciary-Wide Induction Programme held at the Supreme Court has been formalised for all newly appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers of the Singapore Judiciary to attend within the year of their appointment.

Over and above the operational induction programmes organised by the respective courts, this intensive 4-day Induction Programme is facilitated by instructors including members of the Supreme Court Bench and high-level Singapore government officials. In 2015, we were honoured to host judges from Brunei and Sri Lanka too.



“ Judging is much more than (simply a matter of changing the direction you happen to face when in the courtroom) and it is this recognition that prompted me to ask the College to design a customized program that will essentially be conducted by Judges for Judges. ”

“ I was delighted. It far surpasses anything that we have hitherto done to prepare one for a judicial career. ”

Opening Address by The Chief Justice

Dear colleagues,

Good morning and let me first extend a very warm welcome to our colleagues from Brunei Darussalam and Sri Lanka for joining us in this 4-day programme. Our colleagues:

From the Bandar Seri Begawan Magistrate's Court are:

- Magistrate Dewi Norlelawati Hamid
- Magistrate Ervy Sufitriana Rahman

And from the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka is:

- Justice Shanthi Eva Wanasundera

I also specially wish to welcome 27 of our newly appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers (JOs) who are participating in this inaugural Judiciary-Wide Induction Programme. I, once again, take this opportunity to extend to you my heartiest congratulations on your appointment and my sincerest wishes for a long, happy and immensely satisfying career as Judges.

We are exactly 1 month short (to the very day) of 3 years since I took office as Chief Justice and among the foundational ideas I had discussed at that time with my judicial colleagues was my commitment to work towards the idea of One Judiciary. While it is true that we do our work in different courts, I did not find the notion of a hierarchical judicial culture to be helpful in promoting the opportunities for day-to-day 'cross-fertilisation' and the development of fresh ideas. In fact, I fear that such an approach might tend to stifle learning and innovation and breed insularity. I believe that breaking down the barriers that segregate first instance Judges from appellate Judges, for instance, will enhance interaction and promote the free exchange of ideas and thoughts. This is especially critical for our Judiciary because we are so small with less than 200 Judges nation-wide. On the other hand, our modest size makes it easier for us to bond and to strengthen cohesiveness within our community if we put our minds to the task.

This was one of the ideas that drove me to establish the Singapore Judicial College (SJC), where all our Judges can come together and learn from each other. After less than a year in existence, the College has already helped us make remarkable progress towards the goal of One Judiciary. In its judicial education programmes, judges of the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the State Courts and the Family Justice Courts have come together to learn from and with one another. Since the beginning of this year, SJC has conducted more than 40 judicial education programmes under the Local Wing of the College, as a result of which Judges and Judicial Officers have had the opportunity to meet about once a week.

At a wider level, the presence of our colleagues from abroad at this Programme, as well as the presence of our International Judges in the Singapore International Commercial Court, serves to remind us that we are all part of a larger global family of Judges who are bound by a common purpose and desire to do right. These transnational exchanges will further open our minds to the practices of our judicial colleagues from other jurisdictions.

I mooted the idea of a Judiciary-Wide Induction Programme to the SJC at the beginning of this year and I am delighted that the College promptly took up the challenge to plan for this. Considering that 27 Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers have been appointed since September 2014, this Induction Programme could not have been timelier. In keeping with the notion of One Judiciary, newly appointed Judicial Commissioners of the Supreme Court and Judicial Officers from the first instance courts will come together over the next few days to learn and discuss the fundamentals of being a good and effective judge. For convenience, I have termed this phase of the training of new Judges as Part B of the Induction Programme.

Part A on the other hand is the Orientation Program conducted immediately on appointment and which covers the 'nuts and bolts' of the daily operations of the court that every new Judge and Judicial Officer would have to come to grips with in order to conduct hearings. Hence, much of Part A of the Induction Programme involves Judges and Judicial Officers sitting-in to observe different types of hearings, as well as receiving briefings or having discussions and conversations with other more Senior Judges. As for Part B of the Induction Programme, this 4-day programme is akin to a judicial retreat. Having undertaken judicial duties for several months, most of you would already have some idea as to what is entailed in being a Judge. At its finest, judicial work promises the satisfaction of work that consists, in essence, of simply doing the right thing each day and being entrusted with the unique privilege and opportunity to dispense justice. But along with this comes the usual stresses of the job such as having to deal with difficult litigants and their counsel, writing judgments and recognizing that there are constraints on your conduct that apply both on and off the Bench as a result of your accepting this vital appointment.

Judging is a unique career path in the law. Of course the knowledge and skills we acquire in our past lives as lawyers, law academics or legal officers will give us the basic equipment to undertake the task of judging; but it would be wrong to pretend that it is simply a matter of changing the direction you happen to face when in the courtroom. Judging is much more than that and it is this recognition that prompted me to ask the College to design a customized program that will essentially be conducted by Judges for Judges. When I first had sight of the draft programme, I was delighted. It far surpasses anything we have hitherto done to prepare one for a judicial career. So here is a snapshot of what you can expect in the next 4 days: (i) Transitioning to the Bench; (ii) Judicial Health; (iii) Judicial Conduct; (iv) Managing Court Hearings (including managing a "Hellish Trial"); (v) Handling Difficult Litigants; (vi) Forensic matters such as assessing Credibility of Witnesses; (vii) Concurrent Tracks on Civil, Criminal and Family Procedural Laws; (viii) Maintaining Judicial Authority in the Courtroom; (ix) Judgment Writing and (x) Optimising Your Time and Resources. This gives you a sense of the breadth of the material that you will be exposed to.

I also cannot over-emphasise how important it is for Judges to have a good appreciation of the environment in which they will be operating. An awareness of what is incubating will sensitize Judges to possible pitfalls and challenges when deciding a case. I am therefore very pleased that the SJC has arranged two special talks by guest speakers ie "Changing Landscapes in Singapore" by Mr Peter Ho, former Head of the Civil Service and "Cyber Security and the Judge" by Mr Sean Duca, Regional Chief Technology Officer, Palo Alto Network, arranged through the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, Cyber Security Agency and Singapore infocomm Technology Federation. I have no doubt that you will be enriched at the end of the next 4 days.

At the same time, it is not all work! The week's programme will conclude with a closing dinner featuring a poolside BBQ, and I have been told that despite being poolside, you will dine in air-conditioned comfort. That may sound like a contradiction in terms but we shall doubtless be surprised and I am sure we will all have a splendid evening together.

I look forward to interacting with you the next 4 days. Besides the sessions that I am conducting, I'll take time to join you in the discussions when I can. Finally, let me again wish you a fruitful, memorable and enriching 4 days at this inaugural, indeed historical, Judiciary-Wide Induction Programme for Newly Appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers.

Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon
Supreme Court of Singapore

Special Feature on the **REGISTRARS' REFRESHER 2015**

The 4-day intensive course on Civil Procedure covered a wide spectrum of most commonly seen applications in Civil Procedure ranging from *ex parte* to *inter partes* applications and matters arising from pre-trial to post-judgment (except appeals) typically handled by registrars. Participants were updated on various aspects of law and procedure in civil litigation and familiarised themselves with the best practices to adopt and pitfalls to avoid when hearing such matters.



Sharing by Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock



Talk conducted by District Judge Lorraine Ho



The International Wing **TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

The International Wing of the SJC positions it as a forum of choice for our foreign counterparts, offering a wide menu of judicial training programmes driven by demand that includes induction, core competencies (such as case management, use of court technology, judicial administration, judicial ethics and bench skills), recent developments on areas of legal interest and useful interdisciplinary studies.

STRATEGIES OF CASE MANAGEMENT: Challenges, Solutions and Innovation

6 – 10 April 2015, Rendezvous Grand Hotel, Singapore

In conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), the SJC developed and conducted its first international programme. The 5-day programme leveraged on the SJC's experience in case management and also introduced participants to the International Framework for Court Excellence. In addition to interactive 'classroom' sessions, participants were taken on learning journeys to the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts to experience first-hand deployment of case management strategies.



The programme was well-received by the 33 participants from 23 countries

END-TO-END COURT TECHNOLOGY: A Compendious Survey



6 – 10 July 2015, Ramada Singapore at Zhongshan Park, Singapore

Held in affiliation with the SCP, the SJC organised a 5-day course on court technology for foreign judges and officials.

An overwhelming response was received, with 32 participants from 27 countries who were introduced to the various information technology (IT) systems used in the Singapore Judiciary and agencies, such as eLitigation, LawNet, eLex, Integrated Criminal Case Management and Filing System (ICMS), Regulatory Offences Management System (ROMS), Sentencing and Information Repository (SIR), Legislation Editing and Authentic Publishing (LEAP) System and Versioned Legislation Database (VLDB).

These systems have made the Singapore Judiciary and legal profession a more integrated, effective, efficient, user-centric and a paper-less system. Participants were introduced to the thinking behind each of these systems including the vendors that designed and developed each of the systems. To allow the participants to see for themselves the use of court technology on the ground, learning journeys to the Supreme Court, State Courts, Family Justice Courts, Singapore Academy of Law, Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) and IT consultants' premises (i.e. CrimsonLogic Pte Ltd and Ecquaria Technologies Pte Ltd) were weaved into the programme.



INITIATIVE FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION: International Framework for Court Excellence

27 – 30 April 2015, Cambodia-Singapore Training Centre, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
12 – 15 May 2015, Myanmar-Singapore Training Centre, Yangon, Myanmar
2 – 5 June 2015, Lao-Singapore Training Centre, Vientiane, Lao PDR
28 – 31 July 2015, Vietnam-Singapore Training Centre, Hanoi, Vietnam

In conjunction with SCP, under the auspices of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), the SJC was appointed to conduct 4-day workshops on the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) for judges and justice-related officials at the following training centres:



Cambodia-Singapore Training Centre, Phnom Penh



Myanmar-Singapore Training Centre, Yangon



Lao-Singapore Training Centre, Vientiane



Vietnam-Singapore Training Centre, Hanoi

More than 120 participants were trained on the IFCE over the four workshops held in Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Over the course of four days, the participants learnt about the:

- Founding of the International Consortium for Court Excellence (ICCE) leading to the establishing of the IFCE;
- *Raison d'être* of the IFCE and the benefits of adopting the IFCE;
- Seven criteria of the IFCE;
- Setting-up a self-assessment team and the tools and resources available to administer the evaluation;
- Administering the self-evaluation using the IFCE Checklist; and
- Mapping an action plan after the self-assessment.

Participants also benefitted from the experience of the Singapore Judiciary in implementing the various aspects of the IFCE to enhance the administration of justice. To provide participants with a foretaste of what it would be like to conduct a self-assessment using the IFCE Checklist, they were divided into five teams each to evaluate a courthouse that they were acquainted with. Different items of the criteria were selected for interaction cooperatively so that the participants could share the rating accorded and why they had rated it as such. To make the workshop more interactive and engaging, the other groups were also invited to share how they would have rated that item having heard the justifications provided. To round off the self-assessment, each team was required to identify the areas for improvement and map an action plan for the courthouses they evaluated. The workshop concluded with each group presenting their action plan.

The participants found the IFCE to be a helpful tool to implement reforms in the administration of justice. Instead of reinventing the wheel, courthouses can attempt the checklist to identify areas for improvement and close the gaps.

DEMONSTRATING A PRO-ARBITRATION STANCE: A Survey of Recent Singapore Judgments

8 May 2015, Supreme Court, Singapore

Conducted by the SJC for a delegation from the Thailand Judiciary, the "Recent Singapore Judgments: Demonstrating A Pro-Arbitration Stance" programme was held at the Supreme Court Viewing Gallery.

The 15 participants included Judge Montri Sillapamahabundit, Court of Appeal, Region 1; Judge Ruangsit Tankarnjananurak, Presiding Judge of the Central Tax Court; and Judge Wisan Wanasaksrisakul, Central Intellectual Property and International Trade Court.



(L-R): Senior Assistant Registrar Wendy Yap; District Judge/Executive Director Tan Boon Heng; Judge Montri Sillapamahabundit; and Judge Ruangsit Tankarnjananurak



eFILING WORKSHOP For the Solomon Islands



15 – 16 October 2015, Honiara, Solomon Islands

At the invitation of the Chief Justice of the Solomon Islands, this was a specially customised 2-day workshop for the Judiciary and Legal Profession of the Solomon Islands on conceptualising, planning, developing and implementing eFiling in the courts.

INNOVATING JUSTICE WORKSHOP



18 – 19 November 2015, Supreme Court, Singapore

Bearing in mind the hectic schedule of judges, this concise programme was for the SJC to share and interact with participants on the highlights and best practices of the Singapore Judiciary's innovation over the last 20 years. A smorgasbord of high impact topics critical to judges desiring to innovate the justice system was covered, including conceptualising and designing innovative judicial reforms, harnessing state-of-the-art court technology, and creating legislative frameworks to facilitate innovating justice. Tailored for adult learners and legal professionals, the workshop was an interactive, engaging and stimulating programme with group dynamics. The workshop adjourned on a high note with contemplation of future courts.



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR JUDICIAL TRAINING (IOJT)

8 – 12 November 2015, Recife, Brazil

Journal of the IOJT

The SJC contributed an article¹ titled "Judicial Education: The Singapore Brand" for publication in the Journal of the IOJT.

7th International Conference on the Training of the Judiciary

Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC, represented the SJC at this conference, organised by the IOJT. He was a panel member at the plenary session, "Principles of Judicial Education". He also presented on the SJC at the workshop session, "Judicial Institutes: Governance, Funding and Infrastructure".



THE 16TH CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES OF ASIA & THE PACIFIC



6 – 9 November 2015, Sydney, Australia

At the 16th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia & the Pacific, District Judge Tan Boon Heng (Executive Director, SJC) was featured as a speaker in the segment on "Developing Better Judicial Education" (with a specific focus to "understanding technology to improve personal efficiency and court performance").

District Judge Tan Boon Heng's presentation was titled "Innovating Justice" wherein he showcased how Judicial Officers in the State Courts of Singapore have improved their personal efficiency and court performance with the simple use of the Samsung Galaxy Tablet to arraign accused persons who are hospitalised and could not have been brought to court within 48 hours of their arrest.



¹ For a copy of the article, please visit https://www.supremecourt.gov.sg/docs/iojt_journal_judiednsgr

TRAINING CALENDAR 2016

Category	Date	Title	Instructor(s)
Local Wing			
Bench Skills	12 – 13 Jan	Judgment Writing Workshop	Emeritus Professor Edward Berry, University of Victoria, British Columbia
	2 Feb	Managing Media Pressure in Judicial Duties	Panellists: (i) The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon; (ii) The Honourable Justice Quentin Loh; (iii) District Judge Jasvender Kaur; and (iv) District Judge Victor Yeo
	11 Feb	Effective Case Management in the Family Justice Courts	The Honourable Justice Quentin Loh, Supreme Court
	5 May	Good Courtroom Communication	The Honourable Justice Choo Han Teck, Supreme Court
	9 May	Case Management	Senior Assistant Registrar Cornie Ng, Registrar (High Court Division)
	26 May	Grounds of Decision, the Dreaded and Desired: From the Practitioners' Lenses	Panellists: (i) Mr Edmond Pereira; (ii) Mr Adrian Tan; and (iii) Ms Malathi Das
	25 Aug	Effective Engagement of LIPs	To be announced
Legal Development	26 Jan	Recent Trends in Judicial Review: New Zealand Experience	Justice Matthew Palmer, Judge of the High Court of New Zealand
	4 Feb	Highlights of Civil Procedure 2015	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, Singapore Judicial College (SJC)
	15 Feb	Whither Joint/Co-Parenting in Matrimonial Disputes	Professor Leong Wai Kum, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS)
	29 Feb	Civil Penalties	Ms Gillian Tan, Director, Secondary Markets Conduct & Enforcement Division, Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)
	3 Mar	Highlights of Recent Developments in Intellectual Property Validity Issues	Associate Professor Elizabeth Ng Siew Kuan, Faculty of Law, NUS
	9 Mar	Criminal Justice Refresher Series: Developments and Trends	To be announced
	22 Mar	Costs Management and Guidelines	(i) The Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin; and (ii) The Honourable Justice Vinodh Coomaraswamy
	28 Mar	Costs Budgeting and Scheduling	Assistant Registrar Teo Guan Kee, Supreme Court
	5 Apr	Cross-Border Trends in Family Law	The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Debbie Ong, Supreme Court
	8 Jul	Civil Justice Refresher Series: Developments and Trends	To be announced
	21 Jul	Principles, Policies and a Practical Approach to <i>Forum Non Conveniens</i>	Professor Yeo Tiong Min, Dean, School of Law, Singapore Management University (SMU)
	29 Aug	Amendments to the Bankruptcy Act	Director, Insolvency & Public Trustee's Office
	15 Sep	Recent Developments on Unjust Enrichment	Professor Tang Hang Wu, School of Law, SMU
27 Sep	An Overview on ASEAN Environmental Law	Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian, Faculty of Law, NUS	
10 Nov	Recent Developments on Judicial Review	Professor Thio Li-ann, Faculty of Law, NUS	
Judicial Ethics	27 Jul	When to Recuse?	The Honourable Justice Vinodh Coomaraswamy, Supreme Court
	18 Aug	Judicial Ethics and Dilemmas on the Bench	Panellists: (i) The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon; (ii) The Right Honourable Lord David Neuberger, President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom; (iii) The Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin; and (iv) The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang
Social Awareness	26 Jan	Family Work — The Wider Social Fabric	To be announced
	5 Jul	The Child's Welfare — Topical Issues	To be announced

Category	Date	Title	Instructor(s)
Local Wing			
Science & Technology	25 Jan	Forensic Document Examination: Handwriting Examination Is Only the Tip of the Iceberg	(i) Ms Nellie Cheng, Senior Forensic Scientist, Health Sciences Authority (HSA); and (ii) Mr Yap Bei Sing, Consultant Forensic Scientist, HSA
	21 Mar	The Autopsy: Medico-Legal Considerations	Dr Marian Wang, Consultant (Forensic Pathologist), HSA
	19 Apr	Metabolism of Drugs	Dr Lui Chi Pang, Senior Consultant Forensic Scientist, Drug Abuse Testing Unit, Analytical Toxicology Lab, HSA
	4 Jul	Crime Scene Reconstruction	Mr Peter Wilson, Senior Consultant Forensic Scientist, Forensic Chemistry and Physics Lab, HSA
	1 Sep	Is DNA the Magic Bullet?	Associate Professor Christopher Syn, DNA Profiling Lab and DNA Database Lab, HSA
	18 Oct	Revisiting eDiscovery	To be announced
	21 Nov	Courts of the Future	Mr Tan Bee Teck, Cluster Director (Justice & Law), Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore
Judicial Leadership	5 Jan	A Roundtable on Equipping for Court Leadership	Panellists: (i) Mr Vincent Hoong, Registrar, Supreme Court; (ii) Ms Jennifer Marie, Deputy Presiding Judge / Registrar, State Courts; and (iii) Senior District Judge Chia Wee Kiat, Registrar, Family Justice Courts (FJC)
	14 Apr	Court Leadership Traits	Panellists: (i) Ms Teh Hwee Hwee, Deputy Registrar, Supreme Court; (ii) Principal District Judge Ong Hian Sun, Criminal Justice Division, State Courts; (iii) District Judge James Leong, Principal Director, State Courts Dispute Resolution Centre, State Courts; and (iv) District Judge Jen Koh, Deputy Registrar, FJC
	6 Sep	Challenges of Court Leadership	Panellists: (i) Senior Assistant Registrar Cornie Ng, Supreme Court; (ii) District Judge Victor Yeo, Senior Director, Strategic Planning and Technology Division, State Courts; (iii) District Judge Wong Peck, Group Manager, Civil Registry, State Courts; and (iv) District Judge Muhammad Hidir, Group Manager, Family Protection & Support, FJC
	11 – 12 Feb	Basic Judicial Educators' Workshop	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; and (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
Special Programmes	4 – 7 Oct	Annual Induction Programme (Part B) for Newly Appointed Judicial Commissioners and Judicial Officers	Organised by the SJC
International Wing			
	18 – 20 Jan	Institutional Exchange with the Omani Judiciary, Muscat, Oman	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
	22 – 26 Feb	Court Dispute Resolution for ASEAN Judges	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC; and (iii) Others
	4 – 8 Apr	Strategies of Case Management: Challenges, Solutions and Innovation, Singapore	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
	11 – 15 Jul	End-To-End Court Technology: A Compendious Survey, Singapore	(i) The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC; (ii) District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC; and (iii) Others
	26 – 29 Apr	International Framework for Court Excellence, Cambodia	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
	17 – 20 May	International Framework for Court Excellence, Myanmar	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
	31 May – 3 Jun	International Framework for Court Excellence, Lao PDR	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
	28 – 30 Jun & 1 Jul	International Framework for Court Excellence, Vietnam	District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC

Note: This forecast is subject to approval and changes.

About the EMPIRICAL JUDICIAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE



Empirical Judicial Research has long established roots in the West and yet, much of the published findings are not entirely relevant to judiciaries in Asia. It has also been observed that there are tremendous benefits from Empirical Judicial Research. Therefore, an important and unique dimension that the SJC will develop is an Empirical Judicial Research laboratory which will serve as a test bed for innovation in judicial studies, practices and policies. Unless the foray into Empirical Judicial Research is made, it will never be known if the current practices are actually yielding benefits and if so, what the areas for improvement are.

Probably the first of its kind in Asia, the Empirical Judicial Research initiative will result in research findings and recommendations that bear a special significance not only to Singapore but potentially other parts of Asia and the Middle-East, given Singapore's Asian focus and perspective.



With Empirical Judicial Research, new or existing practices in the courts can be tested and the underlying premises of prevailing policies or practices can be validated. With this initiative, we are able to experiment with new ideas and study the findings to identify areas for refinement or implementation.

It further provides an impetus to local law academics to embark on legal research with a quantitative analysis. Hitherto, legal research in Singapore is premised on legal and intellectual reasoning. With the Empirical Judicial Research initiative, the SJC is pushing the frontiers for local legal research to incorporate quantitative analysis.



BOUQUETS

Thank you for the assistance and guidance given by the SJC... Indeed, I have acquired immense knowledge during this programme.

**- Mrs Maheshi M Jayasekera,
Registrar, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka**

The course was very informative and helpful for future improvement of our judiciary. I appreciate your endorsement and promise of future assistance. Your excellent skills and courteous personality has helped me tremendously through my journey in experiencing the Singapore judicial system. I look forward to future collaborations.

**- Mr Amer Almarat, Business Analyst,
Ministry of Justice of Jordan**

I am very much delighted by the programme on End-to-End Technology in Judicial Administration convened by the SJC. I am personally acknowledging the interest shown by you to see us comfortable during our stay. On behalf of the Supreme Court of India, I am extending my regards to you and your team at the SJC. Once again thank you for making us part of your team. I look forward to continuing this association.

**- Mr Avadhani Vedantam Seetha Rama,
Secretary General, Supreme Court of India**

I have attended many trainings, seminars and workshops, and have not been as impressed as I was by this training. I was impressed by your knowledge of the law, your familiarity of the topics under discussion, and most of all, by the way you made your presentations. I learnt a lot from this training, and I assure you that your contributions and that of the Government of Singapore will not go to waste.

**- Judge Ugyen Tshering,
Thimphu District Court, Bhutan**

I like the course very much. It is very useful for reducing backlog.

**- Township Judge Ohn Yee Myint,
Yekyi Township Court, Myanmar**

This is an innovative course which gives information and new ideas for case management.

- Mr Lung Kim-wan, Chief Registrar of High Court, Hong Kong

Thank you for everything you have done for us. I am sharing with some of my colleagues the amazing Singaporean experience and your exceptional hospitality. I am really thankful for being a participant.

**- Judge Cristian Pup,
Civil Division, Court of Appeal, Romania**

It was very relevant to my duty/job. Everything that has been discussed was further illustrated by field trips to the courts where the systems were implemented.

**- Mrs Hilmiah Yusof, Deputy Registrar (Managing),
High Court of Kuala Lumpur (Civil), Malaysia**

Sessions were very interesting and informative. Interactive but not cheesy.

**- Survey on Judicial Education Programmes
(Jan – Apr 2015)**

(The) discourse between the High Court judges and the State Court judges was eye-opening.

I received excellent feedback from our participants of the recent 5-day workshop conducted by the SJC. Let me take this opportunity to thank you and the team for accommodating the Fiji Judiciary and providing a very efficient and high quality workshop. I look forward to continue our relationship. I look forward to working closely with you for any future training and implementation of Fiji e-filing system.

**- Mr Yohan Liyanage,
Chief Registrar, Supreme Court of Fiji**

The knowledge collected during our stay would be an asset in my daily work as the President of the (Appeal) Court in Ukraine.

- Mr Victor Gorodovenko, President, Court of Appeal of Zaporizhia region, Ukraine

Firstly, thank you to the SJC for organising the class and thank you to all the lecturers. Top class.

This course may be more suitable for newer Assistant Registrars/Deputy Registrars (ARs/DRs). For the "older" ARs/DRs, they are assumed to be aware of the legal principles. Perhaps any update on any latest development and more practical sharing on actually conducting hearings may be more useful.

The speakers were well-prepared for their respective topics. While the substantive matters discussed during the course were useful refreshers, it was an added benefit that the course was conducted in a light-hearted and humorous way. Special mention must be made of the high energy levels contributed by the Dean and the Executive Director.

(The course) can be shortened. For this audience, I think the presentations were a little basic and could have touched on the more controversial parts.

- Feedback from Registrars' Refresher on Civil Procedure

COLLABORATIONS

The SJC is pleased to have explored collaborative opportunities both locally and internationally with the following organisations:

Local Collaborations



International Collaborations



MEMBERSHIPS

With effect from 2015, the SJC is a member of the following entities:

International Organisation for Judicial Training



International Consortium for Court Excellence



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editorial Committee

Judicial Commissioner Foo Chee Hock, Dean, SJC
District Judge Tan Boon Heng, Executive Director, SJC
Mr Jam Chee Chong, Deputy Director, SJC - Secretariat
Mr Ng Shun Geng, Assistant Director, SJC - Secretariat

In Consultation with

Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon
Justice Andrew Phang, Judge of Appeal

With Warmest Appreciation to

Every stakeholder, partner and alumni who has contributed in one way or another to the work of the SJC and this inaugural Annual Report 2015.





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