



# Letter from the Dean

January 2016

Dear Members of the NUS Law Community,

It has been a remarkable year for Singapore and for all of us at NUS Law.

Sadness at the passing of Singapore's founding Prime Minister, **Lee Kuan Yew (LL.D. '13, Honoris Causa)**, tempered the celebrations of SG50. Yet those celebrations nevertheless highlighted all that has been achieved in a mere half-century. And, as I was reminded at various points through the year, the rule of law provided the foundation for many of those achievements.



I hope you enjoy reading this annual letter, my fifth as Dean, in which I will try to capture some of the highlights of 2015.

## Celebrating the Rule of Law

Even as Singapore celebrated its jubilee, it was an octocentennial year for the rule of law itself. The eight hundredth anniversary of Magna Carta saw the Hereford Cathedral copy travel to Singapore last November. At an event on campus we debated how much of this famed document's legacy was due to its content or the myth that has developed around it.



Magna Carta at NUS Law

Another visitor from Britain was the President of the UK Supreme Court, Lord Neuberger. He joined us for a wide-ranging (but, alas, off-the-record) discussion about privacy and technology, the role of judges in the development of the law, and how one can reach the pinnacle of the judiciary without ever completing a law degree.



Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, President of the UK Supreme Court

Though many of our activities focus on training students to practise the rule of law, we would not be a serious academic institution if we did not think deeply about its theoretical underpinnings. In February 2015 we launched our new Centre for Legal Theory (CLT), whose activities reflect a broad approach to legal theory — encompassing a variety of interests of colleagues within NUS Law as well as attracting the participation of many distinguished visitors. CLT has already hosted two international conferences, on Pluralist Jurisprudence and Public Law, to complement the annual Singapore Symposium in Legal Theory.



Centre for Legal Theory

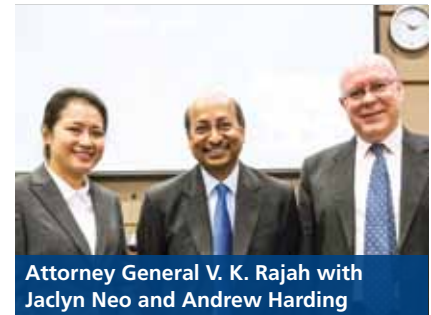
Also launched in 2015 was the Centre for Maritime Law (CML), a partnership between NUS Law and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. CML focuses on commercial maritime law research as well as enhancing knowledge and expertise among the shipping community in Singapore. It also has an important training component, supporting the teaching of maritime law for undergraduate and graduate students.



Centre for Maritime Law Launch

These new centres join more established ones. The oldest, the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year. As climate change finally becomes a priority for the international community, APCEL's ongoing relevance is clear. Among other activities, its Specialist Group on Adaptation to Climate Change published workshop proceedings in 2015. In partnership with the NUS Master of Science (Environmental Management) (MEM) programme, the NUS Bachelor in Environmental Studies (BES) Programme, the Building and Construction Authority, and City Developments Pte Ltd, APCEL also co-organised the 3rd Asia Environment Lecture 2015: *"Greening the Built Environment: Ramping up Global Progress"* by Christine Ervin, First President and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Centre for Asian Legal Studies organised a landmark conference on constitutional law at NUS Law titled *“Judging the Constitution: The Theory and Practice of Constitutional Interpretation in Singapore”*. Attorney General **V.K. Rajah ‘82** delivered the keynote speech; the papers presented sought to theorise recent constitutional developments and trigger further debate and reflection on the trajectory of constitutional law in Singapore.



The rule of law must be about more than just research, of course. I will say more about our students below, but a highlight in our teaching programme was celebrating the tenth anniversary of our partnership with the East China University of Political Science and Law (EUCPL) in Shanghai. We have now graduated more than 450 international candidates from our LL.M. in International Business Law. Taught in English with one semester in Singapore and one in Shanghai, this programme has been increasingly attractive to the growing number of students who see the importance of combining rich understanding of the rule of law with deep understanding of China. By building in internship opportunities in both Shanghai and Singapore, we aim to train the next generation of lawyers who will link China to the region, and Asia to the world.

## Recruiting and Retaining the Best Faculty & Staff

Although the lasting impact of a law school is seen in the achievements of our graduates, many prospective students and other stakeholders judge us by our faculty. It is therefore imperative that we recruit and retain the very best.

Last year saw several banner hires, as well as our second intake of Sheridan Fellows — the programme designed to ensure that we have sustainable expertise in Singapore law for years to come.

Named after NUS Law’s founding Dean, we appointed six Sheridan Fellows in 2014. Last year we recruited our seventh in **Kenneth Khoo ‘15**, who graduated from NUS Law with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Economics) (First Class Honours). He also received the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Economist Service) Prize for Best Thesis in Economics. Kenneth has research and teaching interests in the hybrid areas where law and economics intersect, such as Law and Economics, Empirical (Statistical) Legal Analysis, and Competition Law/Antitrust; as well as in Evidence and Proof. Prior to joining NUS Law he worked at the Competition Commission of Singapore.



We also welcomed **Paul Myburgh** who joined us as an Associate Professor in May 2015. He previously held faculty positions at the University of South Africa, Victoria University of Wellington, and the University of Auckland. Paul is the author of *New Zealand Transport Law* (part of the *International Encyclopaedia of Laws*) and has published a significant number of book chapters and journal articles in leading international journals. He is currently working on a scholarly treatise on maritime private international law and serves as Deputy Director of the Centre for Maritime Law.



**Vincent-Joël Proulx** joined NUS Law in 2015 as an Assistant Professor after serving a three-year term as Special Assistant to the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Vincent-Joël is the author of *Transnational Terrorism and State Accountability: A New Theory of Prevention* (Hart Publishing 2012), for which he was awarded the 2014 Myres McDougal Prize for best book in Law, Science and Policy by the Society of Policy Scientists. He holds LL.L. and LL.B. degrees (*cum laude*) from the University of Ottawa, an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from NYU School of Law, and a doctorate in international law from McGill University, where he was the recipient of several awards and scholarships.



NUS Law also welcomed back **Teresa Tan Hsien-Li (Ph.D. '09)**, who was until recently Senior Research Fellow and Executive Director of the ASEAN Integration Through Law Project at the Centre for International Law. Hsien-Li researches on the role and the rule of law and institutions in ASEAN Integration, public international law, human rights and peace and security. She wrote the first book on the ASEAN human rights system (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and will soon publish two more books on ASEAN's dispute settlement mechanisms and human rights. Hsien-Li is an editor of the *Asian Journal of International Law* and the general co-editor (together with **Joseph Weiler**) of the *ASEAN Integration Through Law Book Series* (Cambridge University Press).



A last new hire to mention was also featured in the last issue of *LawLink*. **Alec Stone Sweet** is a leading American academic in the fields of international law and comparative law. He left a tenured position as the Leitner Professor of Law, Politics and International Studies at Yale University to join us in January 2016 as the inaugural Saw Swee Hock Centennial Professor of Law. The chair is generously supported by Professor Saw Swee Hock, President's Honorary Professor of Statistics at NUS, who has supported numerous education and research related ventures at universities worldwide, and it represents one of the most distinguished appointments at NUS.



Even as we welcome new faces, we also take pride in acknowledging members of the faculty who have served NUS Law over the decades. In August, the Faculty presented **Jeffrey Pinsler**, **Ho Hock Lai '89**, **Debbie Ong '89**, **Michael Ewing-Chow '95**, and **Burton Ong '99** with long service awards in recognition of their dedication and hard work in moulding generations of NUS Law students.



Long Service Awards Recipients

For the first time, we also extended the award to our adjunct professors who have completed ten academic years or more of teaching at NUS Law: **Leena Pinsler '82**, William Ricquier, Stanley Lai, James Leong, **Lawrence Boo '80 (LL.M. '88)**, Neale Gregson, **Winston Kwek '90**, and **Lee Kiat Seng '89**.

In other staff matters, we were sad to farewell **Trina Gan '04**, who had served for four years as our Associate Director for Alumni Relations & Development, a portfolio that she managed with dedication and distinction. To pick just a few figures that demonstrate the impact she had, the number of alumni donors who help support NUS Law financially has doubled, while the total amount of philanthropic donations has tripled. More importantly, as an alumna herself, she was a wonderful ambassador for NUS Law both in Singapore and abroad.

Filling her designer shoes is **Jo-Ann Chan '97**. Another alumna of NUS Law, Jo-Ann was in private practice for several years before going in-house as Legal Counsel at SGX. Jo-Ann and I look forward to seeing you at alumni events in the near future!



## Research Excellence

These new colleagues join a faculty that continues to produce outstanding scholarship across the spectrum of legal research.

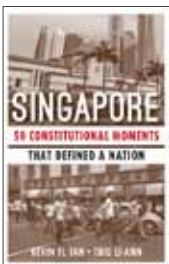
As in past years, faculty produced dozens of scholarly articles and book chapters, and scores of conference papers. In addition, the following new books appeared in 2015:



*International Issues in Family Law in Singapore* by **Debbie Ong '89** (Academy Publishing)



*Resistance and Change in the International Law on Foreign Investment* by **M. Sornarajah** (Cambridge University Press)



*Singapore: 50 Constitutional Moments that Defined a Nation* by **Kevin Tan '86** and **Thio Li-ann** (Marshall Cavendish)



*Corporate Law* by **Hans Tjio, Pearlie Koh '89** and **Lee Pey Woan** (Academy Publishing)



*The ASEAN Charter: A Commentary* by **Walter Woon '81** (NUS Press)



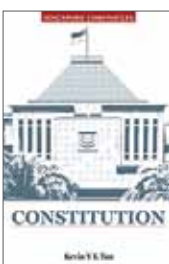
*From Community to Compliance? The Evolution of Monitoring Obligations in ASEAN* by **Simon Chesterman** (Cambridge University Press)



*Law of Partnerships in Singapore Including LLP and LP* by **Yeo Hwee Ying '80** (LexisNexis)



*Singapore Chronicles: Presidency* by **Thio Li-ann** (Straits Times Press)



*Singapore Chronicles: Constitution* by **Kevin Tan '86** (Straits Times Press)

We also welcomed the following new editions:



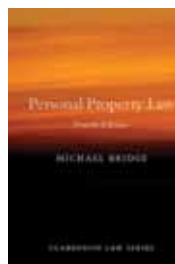
*Criminal Law in Malaysia and Singapore* (Revised 2nd Edition) by **Stanley Yeo '76**, Neil Morgan and **Chan Wing Cheong** (LexisNexis)



*Evidence and the Litigation Process* (5th Edition) by **Jeffrey Pinsler** (LexisNexis)

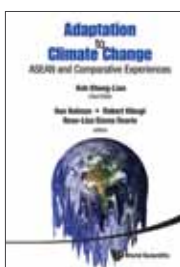


*Strata Title in Singapore and Malaysia* (5th Edition) by **Teo Keang Sood** (LexisNexis)



*Personal Property Law* (4th Edition) by **Michael Bridge** (Oxford University Press)

Our faculty also edited major works on a variety of topics of national and international significance. These include:



*Adaptation to Climate Change: ASEAN and Comparative Experiences* edited by **Koh Kheng Lian '61** (Editor-in-Chief)



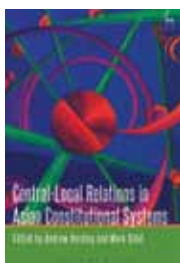
*Sustainability Matters: Environmental and Climate Changes in the Asia-Pacific* edited by **Lye Lin Heng '73** (Chief Editor), Victor Savage, Kua Harn-Wei, Chou Loke Ming and Tan Puay-Yok (World Scientific)



*Bullen, Leake and Jacob's Singapore Precedents of Pleadings* edited by **Jeffrey Pinsler** (General Editor) (Sweet & Maxwell)



*Historical Origins of International Criminal Law: Volumes 1 and 2* edited by **Cheah Wui Ling '03**, Morten Bergsmo and Yi Ping (Torkel Opsahl)



*Central-Local Relations in Asian Constitutional Systems* edited by **Andrew Harding** and Mark Sidel (Hart)



*Cartels in Asia: Law & Practice* edited by Thomas Cheng, Sandra Marco Colino, and **Burton Ong '99** (Wolters Kluwers)



*Land Grabs in Asia: What Role for the Law?* edited by Connie Carter and **Andrew Harding** (Routledge)

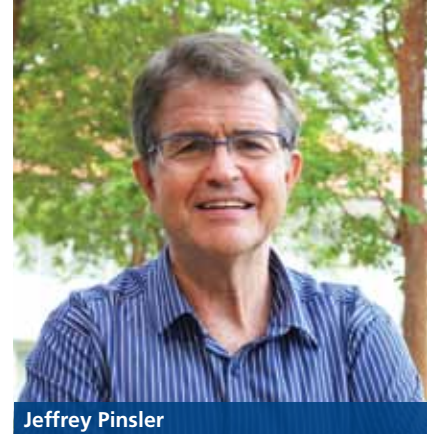


*Good Faith and International Economic Law* edited by Andrew D. Mitchell, **M. Sornarajah**, and Tania Voon (Oxford University Press)

## Impact

In addition to producing scholarship that changes the way we think about the law, many colleagues also had a direct impact on how it is practised.

**Jeffrey Pinsler**, for example, was cited by the Singapore Judiciary in more than 40 cases in 2015, including *Gimpex Ltd v Unity Holdings Business Ltd* where the Court of Appeal cited his book and article on Evidence multiple times on the subject of hearsay evidence. **Walter Woon's '81** various works have been cited 13 times in Court of Appeal and High Court in Singapore. The Singapore High Court in *Attorney-General v Au Wai Pang* cited with approval an article published by **David Tan** in *Media & Arts Law Review* on scandalising the judiciary. In *Nava Bharat v Straits Law Practice*, the High Court also referred to an article by David in the *Torts Law Journal* on the duty of care in the law of negligence.



**Teo Keang Sood's** book on strata title was cited by both the Singapore Court of Appeal in *Lim Li Meng Dominic v Ching Pui Sim Sally* and in the High Court in *Tunas Pte Ltd v Management Corporation Strata Title Plan No 562*. Several propositions from **Yeo Hwee Ying's '80** book, *Partnership Law in Singapore*, was relied on and cited with approval by Chief Justice Menon in *Chiam Heng Hsien v Chian Heng Chow*. The Court of Appeal also discussed **Jaclyn Neo's '03** blogpost in *Yong Vui Kong v Public Prosecutor*.

As many of you will know, **Debbie Ong '89** was appointed Judicial Commissioner in September 2014. Her book, *International Issues in Family Law in Singapore*, and her first judgment (*TAA v TAB*), were also both cited (with approval) by the Court of Appeal in *BNS v BNT*.

Our faculty also had an impact on the practice of law outside Singapore. **Christian Hofmann's (LL.M. '13)** chapter on distribution of corporate gains to shareholders in an edited volume on German company law was cited by the German Federal High Court. As well as being cited by the New South Wales Court of Appeal, **Andrew Simester** was cited twice by the New Zealand Supreme Court and some four times by New Zealand's Court of Appeal.

## Faculty Achievements

Our faculty achieved significant milestones in many other areas.

Two of our colleagues were awarded tenure as Associate Professors. **Wee Meng Seng '93** joined NUS Law in 2005 as an Assistant Professor having completed his legal studies at NUS and Oxford (BCL '00, DPhil '02). He teaches Company Law and Corporate Insolvency Law and these are also his areas of research focus. Meng Seng has also taken on the role of Deputy Director of the Asian Law Institute (ASLI) which is a key institutional network for NUS Law that links us to a growing network of law schools and scholars.





**Umakanth Varottil (Ph.D. '10)** was also promoted. One of NUS Law's very best doctoral students, he had earlier distinguished himself during his undergraduate and graduate studies in Bangalore and NYU. Umakanth is part of the Company Law team and he also teaches electives in Mergers & Acquisitions and Indian Business Law. He has received the faculty's teaching excellence award in 2011 and 2013 and the University-level Annual Teaching Excellence Award in 2013.



**Stephen Girvin** was appointed the first MPA Professor of Maritime Law funded by the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore. Stephen has been a full professor at NUS Law since 2008 with principal expertise in the field of commercial maritime law. He was also appointed Director of the Centre for Maritime Law (CML) which was launched in September 2015. Stephen also served as Vice Dean (Research) at NUS Law from 2010-2014 and has been appointed as Visiting Professor at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University, as well as Guest Professor of the International Shipping Law School at the East China University of Political Science and Law.



NUS also recognised other faculty members for their contributions. **Swati Jhaveri** and **Walter Woon '81** were awarded University-level Annual Teaching Excellence Awards. **Hans Tjio** joined **Dora Neo** as Co-Director of our Centre for Banking & Finance Law (CBFL). **Elizabeth Ng Siew Kuan** succeeded **Lan Luh Luh '89** as Deputy Chair of the Centre for Law & Business (CLB). She had already been deeply involved in CLB as Director of its Intellectual Property programme.



Faculty members were also recognised by Singapore's legal profession. **Jeffrey Pinsler** and **Walter Woon '81** were appointed subject coordinators for the new Part A Examinations, which are now administered by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE). Jeffrey oversees Evidence; Walter oversees Company Law. Jeffrey was also appointed a member of the Board of Governors of the Judicial College, a member of the Professional Conduct Council (which oversees the professional conduct infrastructure of the Legal Profession), a member of the Civil Justice Commission and Professorial Fellow of the Attorney-General's Chambers Academy. **Tan Lee Meng '72** and our Distinguished Fellow **Chan Sek Keong '61** were appointed Senior Judges of the Supreme Court.



The Minister of Finance appointed **Stephen Phua '88** as a member of the Income Tax Board of Review for a 3-year term. Stephen was also appointed Senior Consultant at RHTLaw Taylor Wessing and guest professor at the University of Zurich, Faculty of Law. **Koh Kheng Lian '61** was included in the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore.

**Walter Woon '81** was appointed Chairman of the regional law firm RHT Law Taylor Wessing and also patron of the Gunong Sayang Association, which keeps Baba culture alive through its annual Wayang Peranakan. Walter also delivered the David Marshall Lecture on "*Building the Rules-Based ASEAN Community: Strengthening the Centre*" which was attended by Professor **S. Jayakumar '63**, former Deputy Prime Minister,



George Yeo, Walter Woon, Simon Chesterman, Tommy Koh, S. Jayakumar and Robert Beckman

and Chairman of the NUS Law Advisory Council and the Centre for International Law (CIL) International Advisory Panel; Professor **Tommy Koh '61**, Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large and Chairman CIL Governing Board; and Mr George Yeo, former Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister.

**Cheah Wui Ling '03** and **Ng Pei Yi '11** were awarded grants by the Singapore National Heritage Board and the Singapore Academy of Law for a public outreach project on post-WWII trials in Singapore. Wui Ling also joined forces with **Davinia Aziz '02**, **Gérardine Goh Escolar '02**, **Koh Swee Yen '04**, **Diane Tan '06**, **Charis Tan '07** and Sarala Subramaniam to launch WIL.S (Women in International Law, Singapore), a group that hopes to facilitate the careers of women in public international law and recently implemented its inaugural mentorship program. **Jaclyn Neo '03** was appointed consultant to Wong Partnership. She and **Arif Jamal** organised the first major conference on law and religion at NUS Law, entitled "*Regulating Religion: Normativity and Change at the Intersection of Law and Religion*".



Jaclyn Neo

NUS Law's research also garnered international recognition. **Jean Ho '03** completed her doctorate on state responsibility for breaches of investment contracts, which was passed by Cambridge University without corrections. A paper by **Ivan Lee '14** on Chinese secret societies in British Malaya was shortlisted for the Best Paper Prize by the Society of Legal Scholars. **Lin Lin (LL.M. '06, Ph.D. '11)** was one of ten scholars who were chosen to present their work at Stanford's International Junior Faculty Forum.

**Lynette Chua '03** received the 2015 Distinguished Book Award from the Sociology of Law Section of the American Sociological Association and the 2015 International Convention of Asian Scholars' Accolade for Ground-Breaking Matter for her book *Mobilizing Gay Singapore: Rights and Resistance in an Authoritarian State* (Temple University Press). She was also selected as a finalist for the 2015 Hart Socio-legal Book Prize for Early Career Academics. Socio-legal Studies Association (UK), and shortlisted for the EuroSEAS Social Science Book Prize 2015.



Lynette Chua

**Andrew Simester** was elected to the Edmund Davies Chair in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. This is King's most prestigious chair in Law; its previous occupants include Andrew Ashworth, Alan Norrie and Jeremy Horder. It is a signal honour that King's was willing to offer the chair to Andrew on a fractional basis so that he can continue his work at NUS Law. Andrew was also appointed to the editorial board of the *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, the top-rated legal theory journal in the world. This is the first time someone has been appointed to the journal's editorial board from outside Oxford.



Andrew Simester

**Lye Lin Heng '73** was elected a member of the Board of Governors of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, representing Southeast Asia, to serve a term of 3 years. **Michael Bridge** was elected to the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law.



Lye Lin Heng



Michael Bridge

## Student Achievements

The lifeblood of NUS Law is our students. The academic calendar is marked by classes and exams, of course, but we also have rich traditions from Orientation to Rag & Flag, from the Law IV Musical to Commencement. Above and beyond the normal rigours of law school studies, these events shape the experience of our students and the memories of our alumni.

Participation in international moots saw a bumper year with more than 50 students representing NUS Law in a variety of moots around the world, on topics ranging from humanitarian law to private commercial law. Some teams were initiated by students on an ad hoc basis, with support and encouragement from our active Mooting and Debating Club. Others were assembled and led by faculty members. We continue to make good on our philosophy that participation in an international competition is an amazing growth experience that ought to be available to many students.

Every team made us proud. Signal achievements included victories in national and international competitions. After a week of 10 intensive rounds (that included donning uniforms to better role-play different stakeholders in international humanitarian law disputes), **Huang Peide '16**, **Lee Ji En '17** and **Zulhafni Zulkeflee '15** emerged the overall champion of the 2015 Jean-Pictet Competition. This was NUS Law's first win after multiple appearances in the finals.



Law undergradates Peide, Zulhafni and Kelvin scored moot wins

In the 22nd Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, **Kelvin Chong Yue Hua '15** was awarded the Martin Domke Award for Best Individual Oralist. He is both the first NUS student and the first member of an Asian team to have achieved this result.



Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot Winners

A team of final-year NUS Law students comprising **Jeremiah Lau '15**, **Lisa Tan '15** and **Benjamin Wong '15** also won the Herbert Smith Freehills Competition Law Moot 2015 held at King's College London. All three speakers won individual prizes as oralists with Lisa Tan taking home the Best Oralist prize.

In the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot, the team comprising **Chow Qilei Cassandra '16**, **Dinesh Sabapathy '15**, **Syazana Yahya '15**, **Tay Jia En '15**, and **Tay Shi En Hannah '15** won the Championship trophy and Winner of Oral rounds plaque.



International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Winning Team

NUS Law also won a clean-sweep of the 2015 International Air & Space Law Academy International Finals in Sydney, Australia, becoming international champions as well as winning the Best Memorials and Best Oralists awards. The moot was a small invitation affair and NUS Law sent **Tan Han Feng**, **Chester Matthias '17**, **Meaghan Tsi Hui Lim '17**, and **Lim Sheng Kang Shaun '18** under the leadership of **Bryan Chan Qing Rui '15**, who took home the Best Oralist trophy.



DM Harish Moot Winners with their trophy

NUS Law Final-year students **Foo Guo Zheng Benjamin '15**, **Teh Jing Yong Marc '15** and **Lau Jia Jun Jeremiah '15** managed to edge out the competition to win the 16th D.M. Harish Memorial Government Law College International Moot Court Competition held in Mumbai, India.

NUS Law mooters continued to dominate the local mooting scene: **David Isidore Tan '16** won the Drew & Napier Advocacy Cup; **Jonathan Wah '17** won the Wong Partnership International Commercial Arbitration Moot; **Joel Zhang '18** won the Mallal Moot (organised by Allen & Gledhill); and **Anand Tiwari '16** and **Joshua Hiew '17** won the Attorney General's Cup.



Wong Partnership International Commercial Arbitration Moot

On behalf of all our students, I note my great appreciation of the support given by the incredible team of alumni who prepare our mooters for battle. I would also like to thank the family of the late Harry Lee Wee for their generous donation of the Harry L. Wee Mooting Fund. The fund partially finances the growing number of students who want to try out new moots on their own or cut their teeth, as juniors, on a moot before enrolling in our upper level mooting programme.

Our students also triumphed in other competitions, including a second consecutive year as victors of the Asian British Parliamentary Debating Championships, organised by Beihang University in Beijing. **Kelvin Chong '15** was named the best speaker in the finals; teammates **Xiao Hongyu '14** and fellow law student **Bryan Chan '15** were among the top ten speakers in the competition.

An NUS Law team consisting of **Joshua Hiew '17**, **Pek Wenjie '17**, and Senior Lecturer **Sheila Hayre** won the annual LawMed Debates as part of the closing ceremony to the LawMed Games. Our DOTA2 team also did the Faculty proud by winning the first Inter Faculty Games Gold Medal in 3 years, in a team-based video game competition.

Student life is about more than just competitions, of course.

The Innocence Project (Singapore) has established itself as one of NUS Law's most visible student activities, seeking to provide recourse to individuals that may have been wrongfully convicted. In February 2015, it was featured in the *Straits Times* after a student team had successfully secured a discharge amounting to an acquittal for an applicant wrongfully convicted of a drug consumption offence. It was also recognised at the NUS Student Achievement Awards 2015.



Our Pro Bono Group continued its engagement with migrant workers through "Law & You", which brings workshops on legal rights and Singapore's laws to foreign domestic workers with the aim of empowering them with knowledge to better navigate life in Singapore. The team has conducted two workshops covering a range of topics including salary issues and the criminal justice process in Singapore. Regional interest in student pro bono at NUS Law prompted an invited plenary presentation by law student **Charmaine Yap '18** on migrant worker projects at the 4th Annual Asia Pro Bono Conference at Mandalay University in Myanmar.

**Jaclyn Neo '03** and **Sheila Hayre** started a clinical module "Employment Law and Migrant Workers Clinic" and collaborated with the Ministry of Manpower to put together a pilot internship programme for NUS Law students. The NUS Law clinical programme was also featured in the chapter "Clinical Legal Education in Singapore", published by **Helena Whalen-Bridge (LL.M. '02)** (co-authored by Rathna Koman) in the volume *Clinical Legal Education in Asia: Accessing Justice for the Underprivileged* (Palgrave).

The student-led *Singapore Law Review* was honoured to have the Honourable Justice **Quentin Loh '74** deliver the 27th Annual Lecture on the Singapore International Commercial Court.

The Class of 2015 continued the hallowed tradition of giving back to the community by producing a musical to raise funds for charity. The 2015 Law IV musical was graced by Professor **Tommy Koh '61** and raised more than \$28,000 for their chosen charity, the Society for the Aged Sick and the Class of 2015 seed fund.



LawIV: On the Upper Quad

We launched a new partnership with Citi and Rajah & Tann in February to meet the increasing and evolving needs of the financial and legal industries. Nine students were selected from 80 applicants to be attached to a senior counsel for three months, gaining exposure to the in-house legal function at Citi. All interns are granted a guaranteed interview opportunity with Rajah & Tann and the best performing among them will be chosen by Citi and Rajah & Tann to receive a training contract. The Citi Legal Internship Programme will accept up to 10 law students each year, with the next intake commencing in early 2016.



Citi Legal Internship Programme

## Alumni Relations & Development

Our alumni continued to make us proud, with many achievements worthy of recognition. The following is merely a sample.

Last November NUS conferred its highest alumni honour, the Eminent Alumni Award, on Professor **Tommy Koh '61**. This award is presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves nationally or internationally for their excellent and sustained contributions and achievements in public and community service; arts, sports, culture or entrepreneurship; or in a profession or scholarly field.

Of the ten young alumni who received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award for their leadership and outstanding contributions to their chosen fields, two were from NUS Law: **Priscilla Shunmugam '06**, Her World Young Woman Achiever 2015 and Founder and Designer of Ong Shunmugam; and **Min-Liang Tan '02**, co-founder, Chief Executive Officer and Creative Director of Razer.



Priscilla Shunmugam



Min-Liang Tan

Other award winners included **Davinder Singh '82**, who was named Disputes Star of the Year at inaugural Asialaw Asia-Pacific (APAC) Dispute Resolution Awards. **Jacqueline Chan '98** was named among PFM's "30 under 40", recognising the most influential private equity lawyers around the world under 40 years of age. **Mohd Faizal Mohamed Abdul Kadir '05** received the 2015 President's Award for Youth from President Tony Tan; the award recognises those who have set benchmarks of excellence in encouraging the spirit of giving in Singapore. On the arts front, **Ong Keng Sen '88** was listed in the top 10 on the ST Life's Power List 2015 for his contributions as festival director of the tremendously successful Singapore International Festival of the Arts 2015.



Davinder Singh

Among the recent appointments of our alumni, **Cheong Aik Hock '97** was appointed Group Executive Vice President of Hyflux, **Daren Tang '97** was appointed Chief Executive of IPOS, and **Daryl Lim '04 (LL.M. '06)** was appointed Director of the Center for Intellectual Property, Information and Privacy Law at the John Marshall Law School.

We were thrilled to see a bumper crop of Senior Counsel appointed from among our alumni, including **Lee Kim Shin '85**, **Mavis Chionh Sze Chyi (LL.M. '05)**, and **Edwin Tong '94**. In addition, **Chan Sek Keong '61**, **Kan Ting Chiu '70 (LL.M. '88)**, **Andrew Ang '71**, **Tan Lee Meng '72**, and **Lai Siu Chiu '72** were all appointed Senior Judges. **Foo Chee Hock '84** and **Chua Lee Ming '83** were appointed Judicial Commissioners; **Vincent Hoong Seng Lei '82** was appointed Registrar.

Another concrete example of the impact of our alumni in Singapore was on display in the recent General Election, which saw a full dozen of the 89 seats in Parliament filled by NUS Law graduates, representing both the People's Action Party and the Workers' Party: **Halimah Yacob '78 (LL.M. '01)**, **K Shanmugam '84**, **Indraneel Rajah '86**, **Sylvia Lim '88**, **Lim Biow Chuan '88**, **Edwin Tong '94**, **Patrick Tay '95**, **Desmond Lee '01**, **Amrin Amin '03**, **Rahayu Mahzam '03**, **Christopher De Souza (Dip. Sing. '02)**, and **Vikram Nair (Dip. Sing. '05)**.



GE2015 - NUS Law Alumni in Parliament



Support from alumni remained strong. In addition to making important financial contributions, alumni serve in many other ways, including the 93 alumni mentors who are currently participating in the third year of our NUS Law Alumni Mentorship Programme (LAMP). LAMP links first and second year NUS Law students with recent alumni, who can provide insights and guidance to the practice of law. We also often have alumni back with us as adjunct professors or speakers at our career talks.

A significant boost to our bursaries came from **Dilhan Pillay '88** who established the Nesadevi Sandrasegara Bursary in honour of his mother, **Nesadevi Sandrasegara '61**, who was one of the inaugural batch of law students at NUS Law together with **Tommy Koh '61**, former Chief Justice **Chan Sek Keong '61** and Dr **Thio Su Mien '61**. She practised law for a short time, then spent the rest of her professional life in the public sector where she headed the legal department of PSA from 1971 to 1996. Both her sons are alumni of NUS Law. Each year, the Nesadevi Sandrasegara Bursary will support 5 students with a bursary of \$10,000 each — a significant help in meeting their expenses. Bursary recipients will be encouraged to give back to the community through social service.



Nesadevi Sandrasegara

It is particularly gratifying to be able to work with donors to create legacies in education and philanthropy in NUS Law. If you would like to discuss opportunities within NUS Law to honour a family member, a friend, or your organisation, please contact **Jo-Ann Chan '97** ([joann.chan@nus.edu.sg](mailto:joann.chan@nus.edu.sg); 6601 2248) or myself.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore built on its longstanding support for NUS Law to create the new MPA Professorship in Maritime Law. In addition, the Maritime Law Association of Singapore set up two subject prizes in Carriage of Goods by Sea and Charterparties. These prizes will recognise the top student in these subjects with an award of \$1,000 each.

There was an unprecedented number of reunions last year, with the Classes of 1979, 1980, 1985, 2000 and 2005 celebrating their anniversaries. We also hosted overseas reunions in Shanghai and London.



Shanghai Reunion



London Reunion

Anniversary reunions have always been a hallmark in our calendar. If you belong to the **Classes of 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 or 2006** and wish to hold a class reunion this year, please let us know. We are usually able to provide each class with logistical support as well as a small subsidy — so do take advantage of it! We also hope to be able to meet with our overseas alumni on a regular basis, so if you are currently residing overseas and would like to work with us on a reunion in your area do let us know.

I cannot overstate how much our alumni have contributed to the successes of NUS Law. Your achievements inspire and challenge us all, raising our profile and establishing our reputation. The opportunities you create for our students, through advice, internships, and employment are what transform these young men and women into lawyers. And your financial support makes possible our mission of being one of the very best law schools in the world — while making sure that no deserving student is left behind.

If you would like to discuss any of the ways in which you might advance the mission of NUS Law, please do contact **Jo-Ann Chan '97** (joann.chan@nus.edu.sg; 6601 2248) or myself directly.

## Stay in Touch

I do hope that you find these annual updates on NUS Law interesting. If you would like to know more, or if you think that there may be ways in which you could get involved in the life of the faculty, do not hesitate to let me know.

Together with all my colleagues, please accept my best wishes to you and your loved ones for the calendar and lunar New Years. I hope that they bring you peace, happiness and fulfilment.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Simon Chesterman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

*Simon Chesterman  
Dean, NUS Law*



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- NUS Law Fund (enables the Dean to channel resources where they are most needed within NUS Law)
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