

**2006/07**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

MICA (P) 188/10/2007



**SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW**  
*Constant Progression*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Building up the intellectual capital, capability and infrastructure of members of the Singapore Academy of Law.

Promotion of *ESPRIT DE CORPS* among the members of the Singapore Academy of Law.

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## About Singapore Academy of Law

The Singapore Academy of Law is the umbrella membership body of the legal community in Singapore and has more than 7,000 members. They include all advocates and solicitors of the Supreme Court, members of the Singapore Judiciary and Legal Service officers, corporate counsel and faculty members of law schools. The President of the Academy is the Honourable the Chief Justice of Singapore.

The Academy's activities are driven by three strategic priorities – enhancing legal knowledge, improving efficiency of legal practice through the use of technology and supporting the legal industry. The work in each of these areas is directed towards raising the standards and quality of legal practice and building a strong legal community in Singapore.

Members are kept updated on the latest developments impacting the profession, through a series of continuing legal education programmes which the Academy organises every year. The Academy also supports research into law reform and legal heritage. It is the official law reporting agency in Singapore and is actively engaged in the publishing of other legal texts. On the technology front, the Academy is responsible for the development and management of LawNet, an IT portal which provides users instant access to a wide range of legal information and transactional databases.

Under its SINGAPORELAW initiative, the Academy actively promotes the use of Singapore's legal and dispute resolution services to the region. A subsidiary of the Academy, the Singapore Mediation Centre, focuses on providing commercial mediation services, and conducts mediation training workshops both locally and globally.

More information can be found at [www.sal.org.sg](http://www.sal.org.sg)

## PRESIDENT'S REVIEW

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### **What are the highlights in your first year and your plans as President of the Academy?**

The year 2006/07 was an interesting year for us. We saw the completion of the Academy's Strategic Planning Report, which was commissioned in December 2005 by my predecessor in office. It was a comprehensive report, with good research conducted on trends facing the legal profession and recommendations on how the Academy could play a pivotal role in helping its members deal with challenges in the next few years. The report was prepared by a committee chaired by Justice V K Rajah and the key recommendations were accepted by the Senate in August 2006.

In direct response to those recommendations, the Academy restructured itself into three legal clusters: legal knowledge, legal technology and legal industry. This allowed each cluster to focus on individual initiatives without losing sight of the broad strategic objectives of our work. The legal knowledge cluster has embarked on a bold publishing programme to bring out authoritative works in Singapore law, and the Academy has formed a new publishing division, Academy Publishing, to implement the programme. The legal technology cluster has launched LawNet2, a new integrated portal which brought on the official series of English case law. Under the legal industry cluster, the Academy was able to bring together the initiatives of international promotion of Singapore law and promotion of Singapore as an alternative dispute resolution destination in Asia.

Amidst all that, we encountered a difficult episode of a lawyer who disappeared with a substantial amount of his client's money. It was a grim reminder of how one man's misdemeanour can inflict enormous damage on the reputation of the profession. I moved some of the Academy's resources to address this issue, and commissioned a leading law academic, Professor Jeffrey Pinsler, to write a Code on ethics and professional responsibility. The objective is straightforward: to define the standards of conduct in the form of a Code. The legal profession should read it, and keep the principles close to heart. The book was a great success, and I hope every lawyer will have a copy on his table.

### **How can the Academy continue to play a positive role given the increasingly transnational and global nature of legal practice today?**

The practice, study and research of law are no longer domestic issues today, and much more complex than they were, say, 10 years ago. Increasingly, we will see more of our law firms opening up regional offices in parts of Asia. In the same way, our legal profession has become a mobile profession. Mid-level lawyers are going in-house where they face multi-jurisdictional legal issues as regional counsel. Young lawyers are taking up job offers overseas. Our academics are publishing and teaching overseas, and publishing in foreign law journals.

On our part, the Academy will invest its resources in making sure that no member of ours will be without affordable access to a complete library of online materials in Singapore law, and in time to come on foreign sources of law. Also, that no member will be without a clear understanding of the high standards of conduct expected of him as a representative of the Singapore legal profession.

I hope that each contact with our Singapore lawyers and academics will turn out to be a positive experience for foreigners interacting and doing business with, and in, Singapore. We will expect our lawyers to train themselves to the best knowledge and skills, and hold themselves to the standards of integrity that governs every member of this profession.

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**What kind of challenges does the Academy face and what do you see ahead as challenges for the Academy?**

One challenge I think the Academy faced in the past was that of older members who had not been happy to see the Academy formed. People then were suspicious of the motives for the formation of the Academy. Over the years, I hope these fears have subsided. The Senate has put in place a slew of signature projects and services for the profession, and members have begun to see the value of an institution like this. Distinguished visitors and overseas delegations are impressed by the work in the Academy.

The challenge now is how to create a strong identity and esprit de corps amongst lawyers, and how to put into their hands, strong tools that can help them keep up with the law. For that, the Academy needs very good people in its Directorate, who are interested in designing initiatives and programmes that can add a lot of value to the work of the profession. The job market is tight. We have reorganised the management structure and administration to support the clusters. We will need to review our pay structures to make it more attractive for those who want to do this kind of work to have rewarding long-term careers in the Academy.

**How may the Academy capitalise on its strengths to meet the needs of the profession and the industry?**

The Academy cannot do everything. It has to focus its mind on what it can do best.

We are fortunate in having a membership base that comprises members of the Judiciary, practitioners, government legal officers, in-house counsel, and members who have gone into other industries, such as banking and finance, the arts and creative industries etc. So we are able to capitalise on their experiences and views when they participate in every level of committee work. The concept of the public-private partnership, the model for engagement of the private sector participation in public sector work, has been a reality in the Academy since its inception. Ideas and problem solving for the legal industry as a whole has a live platform here. We will continue to use this PPP model as a discussion forum for the challenges of the legal profession, and to address the issues of the day.

**Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong**  
**President**  
**Singapore Academy of Law**

## THE SENATE



The Senate is headed by the Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong as President of the Academy. Members of the Senate include representatives from all parts of the legal community - the Judiciary, the Solicitor-General, academia and the practising profession.

*Seated from left to right:*

Justice V K Rajah, Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong, Attorney-General Chao Hick Tin, Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Mr Philip Jeyaretnam SC, Professor Tan Cheng Han SC

*Standing from left to right (1st row):*

Mr Quentin Loh Sze On SC, Mr Michael Hwang SC, Mr George Lim Teong Jin, Justice Judith Prakash, Justice Belinda Ang Saw Ean, Justice Lai Siu Chiu, Associate Professor Dora Neo Swee Suan, Ms Malathi Das, Justice Choo Han Teck, Mr Goh Joon Seng, Justice Woo Bih Li

*Standing from left to right (2nd row):*

Justice Chan Seng Onn, Justice Andrew Ang, Mr Giam Chin Toon SC, Justice Kan Ting Chiu, Justice Lee Seiu Kin, Mr Joseph Grimberg SC, Justice Tay Yong Kwang

*Not in picture:*

Justice Tan Lee Meng, Solicitor-General Walter Woon Cheong Ming, Professor Tan Yock Lin

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**CHIEF JUSTICE CHAN SEK KEONG**  
**President**

Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, was appointed the Chief Justice of Singapore on 11 April 2006, and has previously been the Attorney-General at the Attorney-General's Chambers. He is the first local law graduate to be appointed as Chief Justice of Singapore. Prior to joining the Attorney-General's Chambers, he was a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1988. He also holds concurrent appointments as the President of the Legal Service Commission, Chairman of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights and the President of the Singapore Academy of Law.



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL CHAO HICK TIN**  
**Vice-President**  
Chairman  
Board of Legal Education  
Publications Committee

Attorney-General Chao Hick Tin was appointed the Attorney-General of Singapore on 11 April 2006. Before his appointment, he was Judge of Appeal from 1999 to 2006. He is Vice-President of the Academy and Chairman of the Board of Legal Education and the Academy's Publications Committee.



**JUSTICE ANDREW PHANG BOON LEONG**  
**Vice-President**  
Chairman  
Committee on Legal Education and Studies  
Council of Law Reporting  
Commissioning Panel

Justice Andrew Phang, was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in December 2005, and appointed Judge of Appeal in February 2006. He was a professor of law and chaired the department of law in the business school of Singapore Management University (SMU) before he was made Judicial Commissioner in January 2005. Justice Phang is Vice-President of the Academy and Chairman of the Academy's Committee on Legal Education and Studies, Council of Law Reporting and Commissioning Panel.

**JUSTICE V K RAJAH****Vice-President**

Chairman

Professional Affairs Committee

International Promotion of Singapore Law Committee

Justice Rajah was appointed a Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court on 11 April 2007. Prior to his elevation to the Bench in 2004, he was appointed Senior Counsel in 1997 and was the Managing Partner of Rajah & Tann. Justice Rajah is Vice-President of the Academy and Chairman of the Academy's Committees on Professional Affairs and International Promotion of Singapore Law.

**MR PHILIP JEYARETNAM SC****Vice-President**

Mr Philip Jeyaretnam SC leads the Projects, Construction and Investment Practice Group in Rodyk & Davidson LLP's Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group. Mr Jeyaretnam was appointed a Senior Counsel in 2003. He has been President of The Law Society of Singapore since 2004. Mr Jeyaretnam is also Vice-President of the Academy.

**PROFESSOR TAN CHENG HAN SC****Vice-President**

Professor Tan Cheng Han SC is Dean of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He is also a Consultant at TSMP Law Corporation. He was appointed a Senior Counsel in 2004. He is also Vice-President of the Academy.

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



### JUSTICE KAN TING CHIU

Chairman  
Legal Heritage Committee

Justice Kan Ting Chiu, was appointed a Judicial Commissioner in May 1991 and became a Judge of the Supreme Court in May 1994. He joined the Singapore Legal Service in 1970, and resigned in 1976 as Senior Magistrate to go into private practice as a general litigator. He is the Chairman of the Academy's Legal Heritage Committee.



### JUSTICE LAI SIU CHIU

Chairperson  
Membership and Social Committee

Justice Lai Siu Chiu was appointed a Judicial Commissioner on 2 May 1991 and a Judge of the Supreme Court on 2 May 1994. She was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court Bench. Before her elevation to the Bench, Justice Lai was a senior partner at Allen & Gledhill, then and now the largest law firm in Singapore. Justice Lai is Chairperson of the Academy's Membership and Social Committee.



### JUSTICE JUDITH PRAKASH

Chairperson  
Law Reform Committee

Justice Judith Prakash was appointed a Judicial Commissioner in April 1992 and appointed Judge in April 1995. She was called to the Bar in 1975 and practised law for 18 years before she was made a Judicial Commissioner. Justice Prakash is the Chairperson of the Academy's Law Reform Committee.



### JUSTICE TAN LEE MENG

Chairman  
Annual Lecture Organising Committee  
Staff Committee

Justice Tan Lee Meng was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in August 1997. Before his elevation to the Bench, he was Dean of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. Justice Tan is also Chairman of the Academy's Annual Lecture Organising Committee and Staff Committee.



### JUSTICE LEE SEIU KIN

Chairman  
LawNet Management Committee  
Electronic Litigation Systems Committee

Justice Lee Seiu Kin was appointed Second Solicitor-General of the Attorney-General's Chambers in October 2002, and appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in April 2006. Justice Lee is also Chairman of the Academy's Committees on LawNet Management and Electronic Litigation Systems.



### MR JOSEPH GRIMBERG SC

Chairman  
Board of Commissioners for  
Oaths and Notaries Public

Mr Joseph Grimberg SC was appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court in 1987. Mr Grimberg re-joined Drew & Napier as a Consultant in 1989 and is now the Senior Consultant. He was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1997. Mr Grimberg is Chairman of the Academy's Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Academy events and new services

1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007

# 2006

### MAY

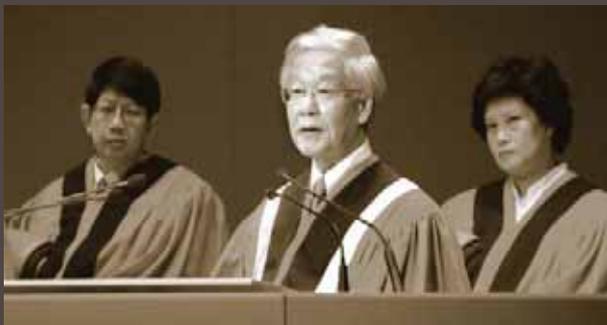
Justice Andrew Ang took over the chairmanship of Singapore Mediation Centre (“SMC”) from Attorney-General Chao Hick Tin with effect from 2 May.



The SINGAPORELAW committee held a seminar, “Singapore: A Bridge for Chinese Businesses”. Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng was the Guest-of-Honour.

### APRIL

The Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong was sworn in as the third Chief Justice of the Republic of Singapore on 11 April.



A Welcome Reference for Chief Justice Chan was held in the Supreme Court Auditorium on 22 April. The event was attended by some 480 guests who came to offer their well-wishes to the Chief Justice on his appointment.

### AUGUST

The Electronic Filing System (“EFS”) was enhanced. New front-end features were introduced which provided greater convenience and ease of access to documents in the EFS case file.

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Academy’s Senate was held on 17 August. This was the first meeting of the Senate presided over by Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong in his capacity as President of the Academy.

SMC launched the new Small Case Commercial Mediation Scheme to provide mediation services for cases where the quantum of claim is \$30,000 or less.

## SEPTEMBER



151 delegates attended the Journal of Contract Law Conference – Contract and the Commercialisation of Intellectual Property, jointly organised by the Academy and the Singapore Management University on 29 September.

As part of its regionalisation efforts, SMC embarked on its first road-show to Changsha, China

## AUGUST (Continued)

The Academy was appointed as the stakeholder for money relating to flats under the Housing and Development Design-Build-and-Sell Scheme.

The Right Honourable The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales delivered the 13th SAL Annual Lecture, entitled “Terrorism and Human Rights”.

Professor Hikmahanto Juwana, Dean of the Faculty of Law of University of Indonesia, was appointed as the first Distinguished Visitor by the SINGAPORELAW committee. During his visit to Singapore, he delivered a lecture on Indonesia’s legal development with particular emphasis on the enforcement of foreign arbitration awards.

## OCTOBER



About 400 people attended the second Law-Media Debate organised by the Membership and Social Committee. The motion of the debate was “Lawyers – better off in the Media!”

A seminar entitled “Appellate Advocacy” was presented by Mr Michael Brindle QC. A Question and Answer session was chaired by then Judicial Commissioner Sundaresh Menon.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Academy events and new services

1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007

### NOVEMBER



The Legal Heritage Committee organised an event to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Second Charter of Justice. A monograph, titled *From Foundation to Legacy: The Second Charter* by Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong was officially launched by Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong.

SINGAPORELAW committee organised a road-show to Shanghai and a marketing trip to Indonesia to promote the use of Singapore law and Singapore as a dispute resolution venue.

SMC and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (“CTO”) signed an MoU to jointly promote mediation services.

The Singapore Academy of Law Stakeholding (Amendment) Rules 2006 was gazetted on 3 November 2006

SMC presented two mediation workshops overseas, one in Suva, Fiji for the Fiji Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, and another in Middle East with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry (“DCCI”).

### DECEMBER



A hundred underprivileged children from the Marine Parade Family Service Centre had their wishes fulfilled within 24 hours by members from the legal profession in the first charity project organised by the Academy. The gifts were handed to the children at an event hosted at the Supreme Court by Justice Lai Siu Chiu, Chairperson of the Membership and Social Committee.

The SINGAPORELAW website was revamped to make it more user friendly. Users can now view some of the articles in both Chinese and Bahasa Indonesia.

An end-of-year party was co-organised by Singapore Academy of Law and The Law Society of Singapore to mark the completion of another legal year.

SMC conducted a workshop in Singapore for the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand.

2007

## FEBRUARY

A record 85 students turned up at the forum “Law – A Rewarding Profession” held at the National University of Singapore Bukit Timah campus.



*Life Sciences: Law and Ethics – Recent Developments in Singapore* was jointly published by the Academy and the Bioethics Advisory Committee.

The last bi-monthly issue of *Inter Se* was published. *Inter Se* will be re-formatted into a monthly e-magazine and a print version that will be published twice a year.

SMC began a series of three seminars to raise awareness of the adjudication regime under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act.

The Law Reform Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the Penal Code amendments proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## JANUARY

The Academy was restructured to focus on three strategic clusters of work – Legal Knowledge, Legal Technology and Legal Industry.

Mr Sant Singh, Mr Nehal Harpreet Singh and Mr Toh Kian Sing were appointed as Senior Counsel.

The Academy’s Senate elected Mr Yong Pung How, retired Chief Justice of Singapore and former President of the Academy as Honorary Member and Fellow for Life.

The SINGAPORELAW committee made a presentation at a seminar on alternative dispute resolution in Hui Zhou, China.

## MARCH

The SMC board accredited five persons to its International Panel of Mediators: Professor Tommy Koh, Mr Martti Ahtisaari, Mr Ali Alatas, the Honourable Michael J Beloff, QC and Ambassador K Kesavapany.

A Law Reform Committee report entitled “The Review of the Parol Evidence Rule” was published.

# OUTPUT AT A GLANCE

## MEMBERSHIP

378 waivers approved  
19 social events; 1,375 persons attended

## STAKEHOLDING SERVICES

5,194 payment-in cases  
6,740 payment-out cases

## LEGAL EDUCATION AND STUDIES

24 legal education events conducted  
1,631 persons attended

## LAWNET TRAINING CENTRE

83 classes conducted  
1,195 persons attended

## LAWNET SERVICES

Number of users as at  
31 March 2007: 3,472

Number of transactional databases: 28

Number of legal research databases:

- Primary legal material (including legislation, parliamentary and case material):

24 (1 new database added)

- Journals and legal articles:

24

- Textbooks, research reports and precedents:

11 (2 new databases added)

## ACADEMY MAGAZINE (*Inter Se*)

5 issues published

## SINGAPORE LAW REPORTS

25 parts published

## ANNUAL REVIEW OF SINGAPORE CASES (2005)

1 issue published

## SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW JOURNAL

3 issues published

## LAW REFORM

9 matters considered

## SENIOR COUNSEL

3 persons appointed

## COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS

1,525 persons appointed

## NOTARIES PUBLIC

458 persons appointed

## AUTHENTICATION SERVICE

22,665 certificates issued

## SMC MEDIATION

67 new cases registered; 63 mediated  
26 adjudications concluded

## SMC TRAINING

41 workshops; 878 persons attended

## PRE-IMPRESS EDITING

205 judgments received for editing

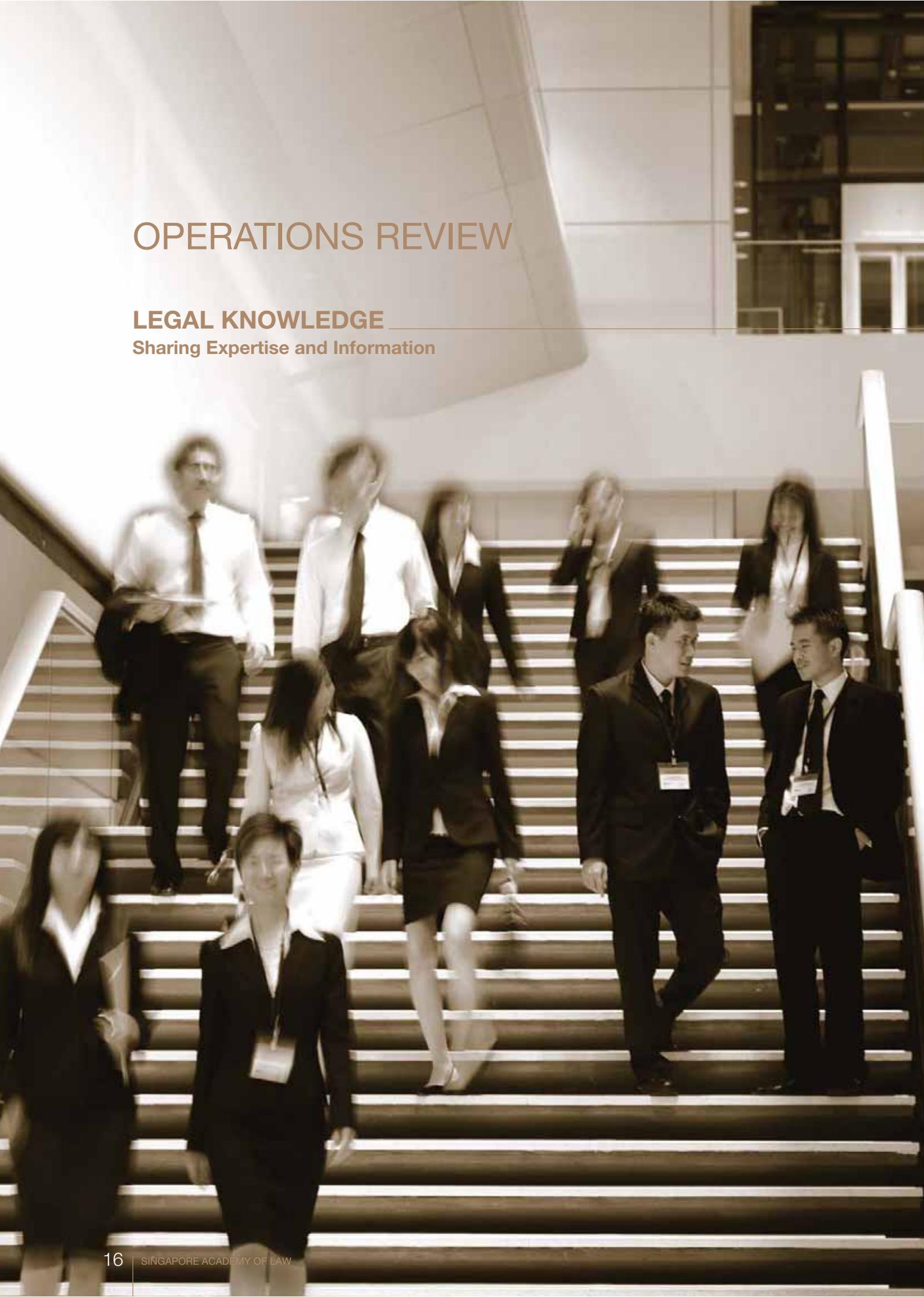
## PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

3 lunchtime talks with Experts  
1 Roundtable discussion with Experts  
247 persons attended

# OPERATIONS REVIEW

## LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

Sharing Expertise and Information



The practice of law is a life-long learning experience. The Academy provides opportunities for post-qualification learning through the numerous legal education seminars and conferences that it organises, and through the range of legal texts that it publishes.

#### **Legal Education and Studies**

The Committee on Legal Education and Studies is chaired by the Honourable Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong.

Twenty-four continuing legal education events were organised during the year which was attended by a total of 1,631 participants.

The highlight was the Journal of Contract Law Conference held in September 2006. This one-day conference, jointly organised by the Academy and the Singapore Management University, featured 22 speakers with The Honourable Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong delivering the keynote address. A total of 151 delegates attended this conference. Other notable and well-attended events included “Recent Developments in the Law of Data Protection, Digital Signatures and Electronic Evidence”, the “Appellate Advocacy” seminar and a full-day seminar on Commercial Contract Law.

#### **Law Reform**

The Law Reform Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Judith Prakash and it held nine meetings during the period under review.

Matters considered by the Committee include the review of the parol evidence rule, the review of opinion evidence, a re-examination of leave to appeal, the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, a preliminary study on enacting a Powers of Attorney Act and the final report on reforms to the Limitation Act.



### Law Reporting

The Council of Law Reporting is chaired by the Honourable Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong.

The Academy edited a total of 205 pre-*Impress* judgments for the period under review, out of which 59 were Court of Appeal judgments, and 146 were High Court judgments. Of these, 110 were selected for reporting in the Singapore Law Reports (“SLR”).

For the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, 25 fortnightly parts of the SLR were produced. A total of 213 cases were reported, of which 166 were High Court decisions and 47 were Court of Appeal decisions. Of the cases reported, 36 were criminal cases and the remaining 177 were civil cases. According to statistics collected by the Council Secretariat, 96% of Court of Appeal decisions and 70% of High Court decisions were selected for reporting. As at 31 March 2007, there were 367 subscribers to the SLR.

The Academy continued with the project to re-headnote the judgments in the Singapore Law Reports (Reissue) series (“SLR(R)”). As at end March 2007, 12 out of the 50 volumes of the SLR(R) have been re-headnoted by members of the Legal Service, and 10 out of 50 volumes have been approved by the Editorial Board. The project is now targeted for completion in early 2009, with the entire SLR(R) series from 1965 to 2008 published in bound volumes in mid 2009.

After a review of the Academy Digest and the range of other publications produced by the Academy, it was decided that it was important for timely case updates to be delivered to all members. The subscription-based Academy Digest was therefore discontinued and replaced by a “Case Updates” service incorporated into the new *Inter Se Online* and made available free of charge to all members.

### Publications

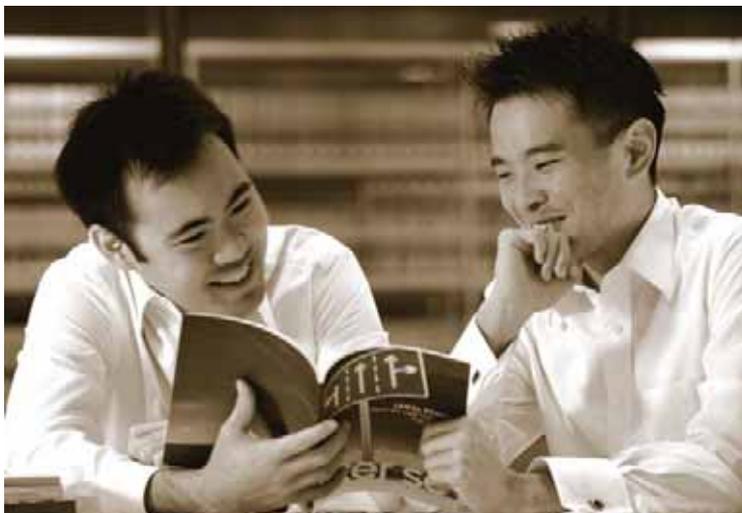
The Publications Committee is chaired by the Honourable Attorney-General Chao Hick Tin.

During the year under review, two new books were published. *“From Foundation to Legacy – The Second Charter of Justice”*, a monograph tracing the origin of the Charter and its legacy on our legal system, was written by Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong and officially launched by Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong on 30 November 2006.

*“Life Sciences: Law and Ethics – Recent Developments in Singapore”*, a collection of 12 essays written by eminent experts in the fields of moral philosophy and ethics, law, medicine and biotechnology, was jointly published by the Academy and the Bioethics Advisory Committee in February 2007.

In addition, the Academy published the March 2006 and September 2006 issues of the Singapore Academy of Law Journal. The September 2006 issue of the Journal included a special volume on Shipping Law under the editorship of Professor Francis Reynolds, QC. The Academy also published the Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review and the sixth issue of the Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Singapore Cases 2005, which included one new chapter and three new contributors.

Five issues of *Inter Se* were published and distributed to members. The last bi-monthly issue of *Inter Se* was distributed to members in February 2007. From June 2007, *Inter Se* was re-formatted as *Inter Se Online*, a monthly e-magazine and *Inter Se Print*, a bi-annual print magazine.



### Board of Legal Education

The Board of Legal Education is chaired by the Honourable Chao Hick Tin in his capacity as the Honourable Attorney-General. The Board operates under the aegis of the Academy pursuant to s 6(1) of the Legal Profession Act (Cap 161).

In 2006, the Board provided training places for 272 law graduates in its Postgraduate Practical Law Course ("PLC") comprising 198 law graduates from the National University of Singapore, one solicitor from England and 73 holders of the Diploma in Singapore Law. All the PLC students were successful in their examinations.

For PLC 2006, the Board contracted Law Society to conduct the advocacy training classes in various aspects of litigation through lectures and demonstrations. The Board also arranged for PLC students to have hands-on-training in the Electronic Filing Systems ("EFS") with the Academy. PLC students were also required to learn their trade "on-the-job" by means of short attachments to a network of legal advice clinics. For PLC 2006, the Board introduced a Case Study where students were required to analyse and give their opinion as part of an assessment for the Professional Responsibility Paper.

For PLC 2007, the Board will review the pedagogy underpinning the PLC and the way it is taught. It will also explore ways to maintain an acceptable level of consistency in how tutorials are run and to study how technology can be harnessed to deliver teaching material in a more effective and optimised manner.

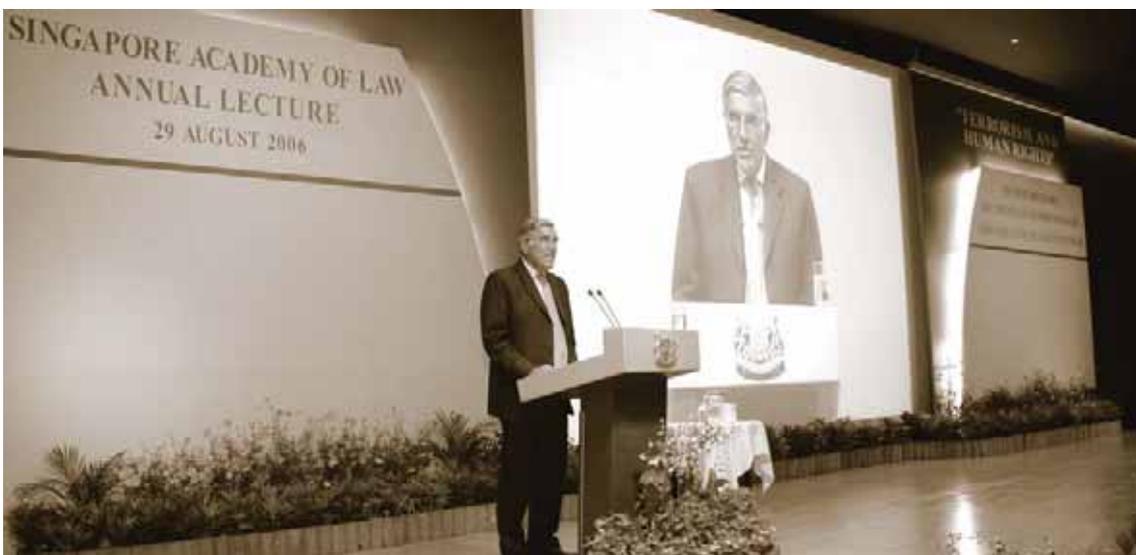
### The Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture 2006

The Right Honourable The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, delivered the 13th Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture. Lord Phillips spoke on "Terrorism and Human Rights". The lecture was held on 29 August 2006 at the Supreme Court Auditorium, and was attended by 690 people.

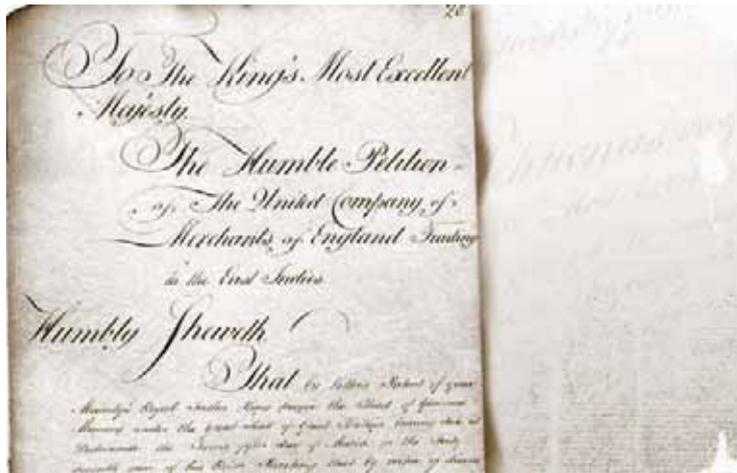
### Scholarship and Prizes

No Scholarship was awarded by the Academy for FY 2006/2007 as there was no suitable candidate.

The winners of the Academy's prizes for FY 2006/2007 are Mr Chew Ee Kai Daryl, the top final-year student at the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Law; Mr Ng Chee Kheng David, the top student in a



Lord Phillips delivering the 13th SAL Annual Lecture.



The first page of the petition for the Second Charter

Law Elective for the degree of Master of Business Administration, Nanyang Technological University and Ms Choo Lay Teng, the best final-year student in the Diploma in Law & Management, Temasek Polytechnic.

### Legal Heritage

The Legal Heritage Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Kan Ting Chiu.

To commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Second Charter of Justice, the Committee organised an event and mini exhibition at Supreme Court viewing gallery on 30 November 2006. In conjunction with the event, Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong was commissioned to write a monograph on the history and impact of the Second Charter on the development of a legal system in Singapore. The monograph was officially launched by Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong at the event.

Further progress was made on the oral history interview with former Chief Justice Mr Yong Pung How and plans were made to interview other members of the judiciary as well as the legal service and academia including Professor Lionel Astor ("Lee") Sheridan, Mr T S Sinnathuray and Mr Geoffrey Abishganaden.

The Committee also agreed to undertake a project to publish a tribute to the former Chief Justice Wee Chong Jin containing a biography, his judgments and a commentary on his judgments and legal philosophy. The time frame for the project is expected to be between 12 to 24 months depending on when a suitable writer can be appointed.

## LEGAL INDUSTRY

Bringing the Profession Together





As legal practice in Singapore goes global, the Academy is in the forefront of creating awareness of Singapore law internationally and promoting Singapore as a choice venue for alternative dispute resolution.

#### **International Promotion of Singapore Law Committee**

The International Promotion of Singapore Law Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice V K Rajah.

The SINGAPORELAW website was revamped in December 2006, making it more user-friendly. Users were also able to view some of the articles in both Chinese and Bahasa Indonesia.

During the period under review, the Committee expanded its marketing strategy beyond conducting seminars to include the identification of influential foreign personnel who would champion the use of Singapore law. To this end, the Head of the Indonesia Team recommended Professor Hikmahanto Juwana as the Indonesian advocate for SINGAPORELAW. Professor Hikmahanto would endorse Singapore law to govern cross border transactions and the use of Singapore as the alternative dispute resolution venue for commercial disputes.

Several marketing events were organised in Singapore and overseas to promote the use of Singapore law and Singapore as a dispute resolution centre. These include:

- A seminar in May 2006 entitled “Singapore: A Bridge for Chinese Businesses” with Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng as the Guest-of-Honour;
- A roadshow to Shanghai in November 2006;
- A seminar on alternative dispute resolution, held in Hui Zhou, China in January 2007; and
- A marketing trip to Indonesia from 28 March to 4 April 2007 as part of the IE Singapore mission.



### **Singapore Mediation Centre**

The Singapore Mediation Centre (“SMC”) mediated 63 cases in the period under review, a 40% increase from the previous year. The settlement rate was 75%.

In its second year as the Authorised Nominating Body under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act, SMC registered 25 adjudications under the scheme, an increase of 21 cases from the previous year when the SOP Act came into force. Three seminars were conducted to raise awareness of the adjudication regime as well as the standard of adjudication determinations.

The training function of SMC continued to grow. In the period under review, SMC conducted 41

workshops, including training at the Singapore Management University. It also designed new training modules to cater to the needs of its institutional clients, such as the special mentorship programme for the MinLaw Community Mediation Centre Master Mediators. SMC also ventured abroad to conduct workshops in Fiji and Dubai. Five more members were selected by the SMC to its International Panel of Mediators to strengthen its position as a regional provider of mediation services.

SMC ended FY 2006/2007 with a net profit after tax of \$133,227, bringing the retained earnings as at 31 March 2007 to \$1,051,714.

### **Professional Affairs**

The Professional Affairs Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice V K Rajah. During the period under review, the Committee met on six occasions. One sub-committee was convened in the aftermath of a lawyer's misappropriation of clients' monies. Another sub-committee was set up to consider the feasibility of appointing technical experts as referees to determine questions of fact of a technical nature.

During the period under review, a three-year workplan for the Committee was developed and accepted in July 2006. Five chapters were formed to complement the work of the various sub-committees. The five chapters are the corporate counsel chapter, offshore lawyers chapter, professional development and practice chapter, professional values chapter and young members chapter.

The Committee continued to leverage on the success on talks delivered by experts. In the period under review, the Committee organised talks by Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Mr Ngiam Tong Dow, Chairman Surbana Corporation on 20 July 2006 and 31 January 2007 respectively.





Three new Senior Counsel: Mr Toh Kian Sing, Mr Sant Singh and Mr Nehal Harpreet Singh.

#### **Appointment of Senior Counsel**

The Senior Counsel appointed by the selection committee for 2007 were Mr Sant Singh, Mr Nehal Harpreet Singh and Mr Toh Kian Sing, bringing the total number of persons who have been conferred this distinguished title since 1997 to 48.

#### **Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public**

The Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public is chaired by Mr Joseph Grimberg SC. In the year under review, a total of 422 commissioners for oaths and 115 notaries public were appointed for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007, and 1,103 commissioners for oaths and 343 notaries public for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

The Rules for the Commissioners for Oath were amended to provide for the inclusion of a schedule of designated non-profit organisations whose employees would be eligible for appointment as commissioners and this came into operation on 15 May 2006.

#### **Authentication Services**

The number of authentication certificates issued in FY 2006/2007 totalled 22,665. This is an increase of 44.69% over the number of 15,664 authentication certificates issued in FY 2005/2006.

### Membership and Social Activities

The Membership and Social Committee was chaired by Mr George Lim Teong Jin till 16 August 2006. The Honourable Justice Lai Siu Chiu took over the leadership from the remaining period under review.

The Committee organised more than a dozen events for its members. The members' movie nights continued to be well received with 571 members and guests attending the four movie nights. A forum entitled "Law – A Rewarding Profession" aimed at providing law students with insights into the profession and the different fields of practice was held at the National University of Singapore. It attracted a record 85 students.

Close to 400 people attended the second Law-Media Debate. The motion of the debate was "Lawyers – better off in the Media!" This is the fourth year in a row that such a debate series had been organised, and is by far the most popular event with members of the Academy.

To bring a new dimension to the Academy's membership and social activities, the Committee made a concerted effort to reach out to the less privileged in the community. The Academy organised its first charity project in December 2006, with a special charity event at the Supreme Court building for underprivileged children from the Marine Parade Family Service Centre ("MPFSC"). More than \$16,000 was donated to children and youth-related projects and MPFSC's programmes for the elderly.

Membership of the Academy stood at 7,467 as at 31 March 2007, representing a 3.2% increase from the previous year's figure of 7,234. In the period under review, 249 new members joined the Academy, and 378 members applied for waivers of membership fees, mainly on the grounds of being continuously absent from Singapore or not being in the profession of law.



## LEGAL TECHNOLOGY

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Improving Efficiency



Advances in technology are enabling our economy and society to actively participate in the global community. The Academy plays a key role in educating our members on the best ways to use available legal technologies to improve the efficiency of practice.

#### LawNet

The LawNet Management Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Lee Seiu Kin.

In the period under review, additional material including Security of Payments, Articles on Singapore Law and Singapore Academy of Law Conference 2006 were added to broaden the content of the Legal Prospector 2 (“LP2”). In addition, various enhancements were also introduced to LP2 in response to user feedback and internal review.

The LawNet Training Centre (“LTC”) continues to operate in conjunction with CrimsonLogic to provide focused training on IT courses for lawyers and law firm employees. During the period under review, LTC provided training for 845 participants in total. To ensure a smooth migration to the new LawNet portal, the Centre also conducted free training for 350 appointed administrators of law firms.



The new LawNet2 portal which integrates current LawNet content, together with English case law, was launched on 5 July 2007. Display of the Singapore Law Reports citation on the global legal citator website, JUSTCITE, was also completed.

The new subscription rates for the Legal Workbench (“LWB”) was implemented in October 2007. An earlier restriction that only foreign libraries could subscribe to LWB was also removed to allow for a larger category of users.

“Since 1995, the Academy has been assuming a greater role in efforts to develop legal infrastructure and other value-added services for the legal community.”

### **Electronic Litigation Systems**

The Electronic Litigation Systems Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Lee Seiu Kin.

Various enhancements to the Electronic Filing System (“EFS”) Front End have been implemented during the period under review. To make it easier for law firms to conduct electronic filing, technical standards will also be introduced to the EFS Front End.

Funding for the *integrated* Electronic Litigation System (“iELS”) project was secured with the iELS Project Office set up at the Supreme Court serving both the Supreme Court and Subordinate Courts. The Academy supports the Courts on all initiatives pertaining to EFS Front-End. In the coming years, the Academy will be working closely with the project office in consultation with The Law Society, in the development of the iELS.



## CORPORATE SERVICES

Promoting esprit de corps





The Academy strives to bring together the various branches of the legal fraternity in a spirit of mutual respect and camaraderie. It plays a vital role in engendering a shared pride in the practice, learning and dissemination of the law.

#### Stakeholding Service

The number of stakeholding transactions decreased in the period under review. The total number of payment-in transactions decreased from 8,034 cases in FY 2005/2006 to 5,194 cases in FY 2006/2007. The total number of payment-out transactions similarly decreased from 9,724 cases in FY 2005/2006 to 6,740 cases in FY 2006/2007.

On 28 August 2006, HDB gazetted the Housing and Development [Design-Build-and-Sell Scheme – Form of Contract] (“HDB DBSS”) Rules 2006. The Academy was appointed as the stakeholder for the HDB DBSS flats. The Singapore Academy of Law Stakeholding (Amendment) Rules 2006 was approved by the Academy’s Senate on 17 August 2006 to include stakeholding money relating to the flats under the HDB DBSS. This amendment was gazetted on 3 November 2006 and a new set of stakeholding instructions, forms, guidebook and circular was issued on the same day.



#### **Investment**

For FY2006/2007, investment income from the Academy's three fund management accounts increased by \$0.39 million when compared to the previous financial year. The increase was mainly due to capital gains, dividends and interest income. As at 31 March 2007, the market value of the Academy's investments stood at \$27.4 million while the book value was \$24.7 million.

#### **Changes to the SAL Act**

Section 23 of the SAL Act was amended. The Academy is now an institution of public character under the Charities Act (Cap 37) instead of under the Income Tax Act (Cap 134). This took effect on 1 March 2007.

Sections 2, 5(1) and 16(1) of the SAL Act were amended for the Dean of the Singapore Management University (SMU) law faculty to be given a seat on the Academy's Senate. These provisions came into effect on 1 June 2007.

### **SAL Group Finance and Administration**

In FY 2006/2007, income for the SAL group increased by 6.8% from S\$13,416,320 in FY 2005/2006 to S\$14,322,822 and expenditure increased by 2.9% from S\$7,617,167 to S\$7,834,586. The net surplus for the SAL group after income tax and contribution to the consolidated fund, decreased by 6.9% from S\$5,983,015 in FY 2005/2006 to S\$5,569,937 in FY 2006/2007.

For the Academy, income increased by 5.2% from S\$13,128,344 in FY 2005/2006 to S\$13,814,560 in FY 2006/2007. Expenditure decreased by 0.1% from S\$7,240,591 in FY 2005/2006 to S\$7,236,038 in FY 2006/2007. The net surplus for the Academy after income tax and contribution to the consolidated fund decreased by 8.1% from S\$5,913,555 in FY 2005/2006 to S\$5,436,712 in FY 2006/2007.

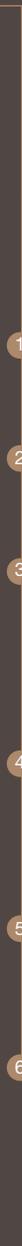
Starting from FY 2006/2007, the Academy has to make contributions to the consolidated fund in accordance with s 3 of the Statutory Corporations (Contributions to Consolidated Fund) Act (Cap 319A). The Academy contributed S\$1,193,425 which consequently resulted in a lower net surplus for the Academy and SAL group in FY 2006/2007.

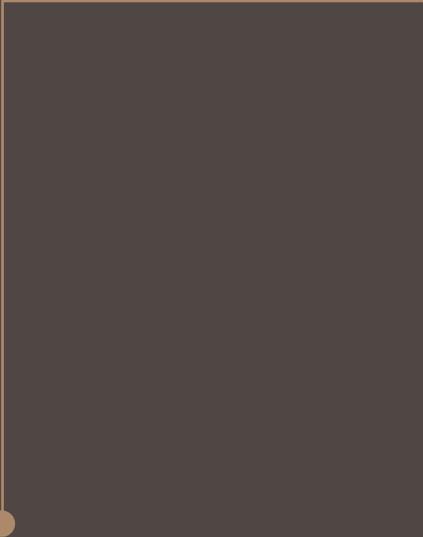
The approved staff establishment for the Academy and SMC as at 31 March 2007 was 81, of which 71 positions were filled by full-time staff and three positions were filled by part-time staff.



# KEY EXECUTIVES



- 
- 1 Ms Serene Wee  
Chief Executive
  - 2 Ms Teh Hwee Hwee  
Assistant Chief Executive
  - 3 Mr Loong Seng Onn  
Director,  
Alternative Dispute Resolution  
and International Promotion  
of Singapore Law
  - 4 Ms Low Hui Min  
Director,  
Stakeholding,  
Finance & Investment
  - 5 Ms Hung Ning Shing  
Chief Editor,  
Pre-Impress Editorial Services
  - 6 Mr Gay Wei Ping  
Chief Technology Officer
  - 7 Mr Ranald Or  
Deputy Director,  
Law Reporting
  - 8 Mr Bala Shunmugam  
Deputy Director,  
Publishing
  - 9 Mr Joachim Sim  
Deputy Director,  
Strategic Planning
  - 10 Ms Lai Wai Leng  
Assistant Director,  
Finance & Membership
  - 11 Ms Deanna Kwok  
Managing Editor
  - 12 Ms Carol Liew  
Assistant Director,  
Professional Affairs &  
Membership Affairs
  - 13 Mr Clifford Wong  
Assistant Director,  
LawNet Portal & E-Publishing



**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2007

**THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW  
AND ITS SUBSIDIARY**  
*(Incorporated in Singapore)*

### Important Note

This summary financial statement as set out on pages 39 to 41 is derived from the Academy and the Group's financial statements and auditors' report thereon, which are available for inspection by all members of the Academy at the premises of the Academy during the Academy's office hours. Any member who wishes to have copies of the financial statements and auditors' report may notify the Academy; and the Academy shall furnish these free of charge to that member within 21 days of its receipt of the member's notification.

The summary financial statement does not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the results and state of affairs of the Academy and of the Group. For further information, the full financial statements and the auditors' report on those statements should be consulted.

**Objectives of the Academy** in accordance with the Singapore Academy of Law Act (Cap 294A, 1997 Revised Edition) are:

- (a) to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and learning of the members of the legal profession in Singapore and the standing of the profession in the region and elsewhere;
- (b) to promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of the laws and the legal system;
- (c) to promote legal research and scholarship and the reform and development of the law;
- (d) to provide continuing legal education for its members;
- (e) to provide for the training, education and examination, by the Academy or by any other body, of persons intending to practise the profession of law;
- (f) to consider proposals and suggestions regarding matters which are referred to the Academy by the Law Society or the Board\*;
- (g) to refer to the Law Society or the Board\* proposals and suggestions regarding matters which in the opinion of the Senate require consideration by the Law Society or the Board\*;
- (h) to promote good relations and social interaction amongst members and between members and law students and persons concerned in the administration of law and justice in Singapore;
- (i) to appoint persons as notaries public or commissioners for oaths and to authenticate their signatures;
- (j) to undertake activities and projects relating to the study, development and operation of laws and legal systems and the facilities, information technology and infrastructure in support thereof;
- (k) to provide consultancy and other services relating to the study, development and operation of laws and legal systems and the facilities, information technology and infrastructure in support thereof; and
- (l) to exercise the functions and duties conferred on the Academy under any written law.

\*\*Board" refers to the Board of Legal Education established under section 3 of the Legal Profession Act (Cap 161, 2001 Revised Edition).

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Continued)

For the financial year ended 31 March 2007

### SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2007

	The Group		The Academy	
	2007 \$	2006 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
Total income	<b>14,322,822</b>	13,416,320	<b>13,814,560</b>	13,128,344
Total expenditure	<b>(7,834,586)</b>	(7,617,167)	<b>(7,236,038)</b>	(7,240,591)
Surplus from operations	<b>6,488,236</b>	5,799,153	<b>6,578,522</b>	5,887,753
Grants utilised	<b>273,650</b>	188,962	<b>51,615</b>	25,802
Surplus before income tax and contribution to consolidated fund	<b>6,761,886</b>	5,988,115	<b>6,630,137</b>	5,913,555
Income tax and contribution to consolidated fund	<b>(1,191,949)</b>	(5,100)	<b>(1,193,425)</b>	-
Surplus for the financial year after income tax and contribution to consolidated fund	<b>5,569,937</b>	5,983,015	<b>5,436,712</b>	5,913,555

### SUMMARY BALANCE SHEETS

As at 31 March 2007

	The Group		The Academy	
	2007 \$	2006 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
Property, plant and equipment	<b>1,592,714</b>	1,755,929	<b>1,578,030</b>	1,735,804
Other investments	<b>27,402,735</b>	19,835,939	<b>27,402,735</b>	19,835,939
Other non-current asset	<b>806,001</b>	409,824	<b>806,001</b>	409,824
Current assets *	<b>162,919,622</b>	179,158,254	<b>161,200,279</b>	177,382,561
Current liabilities *	<b>(155,402,491)</b>	(170,001,382)	<b>(155,327,226)</b>	(169,953,136)
	<b>37,318,581</b>	31,158,564	<b>35,659,819</b>	29,410,992
General fund	<b>28,067,259</b>	22,588,454	<b>26,945,076</b>	21,598,040
Other funds	<b>6,403,124</b>	6,311,992	<b>6,473,593</b>	6,383,917
Accumulated surplus	<b>34,470,383</b>	28,900,446	<b>33,418,669</b>	27,981,957
Fair value reserves	<b>2,241,150</b>	1,377,420	<b>2,241,150</b>	1,377,420
	<b>36,711,533</b>	30,277,866	<b>35,659,819</b>	29,359,377
Grants	<b>607,048</b>	880,698	-	51,615
	<b>37,318,581</b>	31,158,564	<b>35,659,819</b>	29,410,992

\* Included in current assets and current liabilities are stakeholding moneys amounting to \$150,799,562 (2006: \$167,612,980) held in accordance with the Singapore Academy of Law (Stakeholding) Rules.

### Changes in structure of the Academy

There are no material changes in the structure of the Academy for the financial year ended 31 March 2007 except that with effect from April 2006, the Academy is required to make contributions to the Consolidated Fund equivalent to the prevailing income tax rate, in accordance with the Statutory Corporations (Contributions to Consolidated Fund) Act (Cap 319A).

### Donations

Tax deductible donations of \$22,806 (2006: \$970) were received by the Academy and the Group during the financial year. An amount of \$26,240 (2006: \$7,737) of the cumulative donations received has been utilised during the financial year.

The donations were utilised in accordance with the objectives of the Academy.

### Summary of significant related party transactions

Summary of significant related party transactions between the Academy and its subsidiary and related government bodies, at terms agreed between the parties concerned, are as follows:

#### (a) Income and expenditure for services

	The Group		The Academy	
	2007 \$	2006 \$	2007 \$	2006 \$
Management fee income received from subsidiary	-	-	438,900	456,767
LawNet levy income received from related government bodies	331,788	340,431	331,788	340,431
Food and beverage income received from subsidiary	-	-	35,941	44,979
Seminar fees and workshop income and food and beverage income received from related government bodies	62,561	38,780	62,461	32,615
Office rental and secondment charges paid to related government bodies	518,019	548,085	498,538	536,184

	The Group and Academy	
	2007 \$	2006 \$
(b) Key management personnel compensation	1,490,670	1,425,880

DATED THIS 16TH AUGUST 2007



CHIEF JUSTICE CHAN SEK KEONG  
PRESIDENT  
SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW

## **SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Continued)**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2007

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW**

We have examined the summary financial statement set out on pages 39 to 41, which has been prepared by the Academy's management.

In our opinion, the summary financial statement is consistent, in all material respects, with the full financial statements of The Singapore Academy of Law and its subsidiary for the financial year ended 31 March 2007 from which it is derived and complies with the requirements of s 21 of the Singapore Academy of Law Act (Cap 294A, 1997 Revised Edition) and regulations made thereunder, applicable to the summary financial statement.

For a full understanding of the results and state of affairs of the Academy and the Group, the summary financial statement should be read in conjunction with the full financial statements of The Singapore Academy of Law and its subsidiary for the financial year ended 31 March 2007.

We have issued an unqualified audit report dated 16 August 2007 on the full financial statements of The Singapore Academy of Law and its subsidiary for the financial year ended 31 March 2007, which is as follows:

### **“INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Singapore Academy of Law (the “Academy”) and its subsidiary (the “Group”) set out on pages 2 to 34 for the financial year ended 31 March 2007, which comprise the income and expenditure statements, balance sheets and statement of changes in funds and reserves of the Academy and of the Group, and the consolidated cash flow statement of the Group, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### **Senate's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Academy's Senate is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Academy of Law Act and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion,

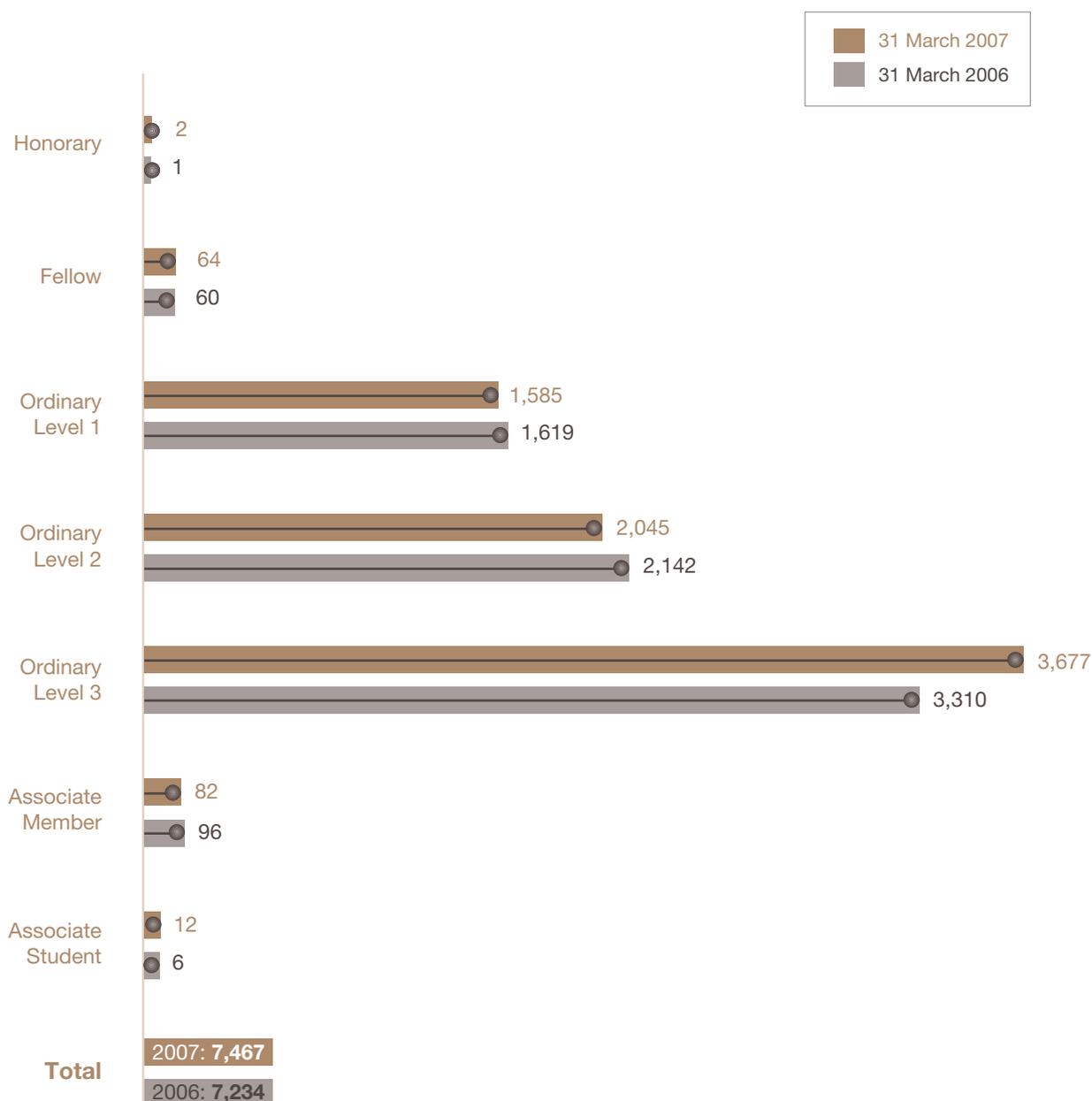
- (a) the accompanying income and expenditure statements, balance sheets and statement of changes in funds and reserves of the Academy and of the Group and the consolidated cash flow statement of the Group are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Academy of Law Act (the "Act") and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Academy and of the Group as at 31 March 2007, the results and changes in funds and reserves of the Academy and of the Group, and the cash flows of the Group for the financial year ended on that date, and
- (b) the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Academy and by the subsidiary of which we are the auditors have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act."



PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Certified Public Accountants  
Singapore

**16 August 2007**

## STATISTICS ON COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS





## SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW

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