YOUR PARTNER IN PROGRESS

Singapore Academy of Law
Annual Report 2022-2023

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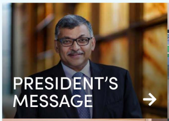
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The legal services sector today is experiencing a time of transformation, precipitated in particular by the rise of generative artificial intelligence ("AI"). Faced with this reality, the Academy has nonetheless remained steadfast in its mission to future-proof its systems and equip its members for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. There are three particular points I would highlight.

First, we have developed and diversified our resources to provide models and standards for our members. We launched a new series of Singapore Law Reports featuring selected decisions of the State Courts, the Family Courts and the Youth Courts, to promote awareness of these important aspects of our local jurisprudence. We also enhanced our efforts to serve the needs of corporate lawyers by forming the Corporate Law Practice Committee.

Second, we continued to invest in intellectual capital by introducing a suite of new learning and development programmes. The Junior Lawyers Professional Certification Programme, which will be offered to lawyers with less than five years of post-qualification experience from 2025, aims to set the industry standard for the holistic development of young lawyers. The Academy's specialist accreditation scheme for Data and Digital Economy has also been extended to suitable in-house counsel.

Third, we have harnessed technology as a key enabler in the delivery of the Academy's services. Several improvements have been made to the LawNet portal to make the research experience more intuitive for users. We are also exploring the integration of generative AI with LawNet, as the Academy collaborates with the Infocomm Media Development Authority to fine-tune a large language model for Singapore law using the LawNet dataset. The Academy Library has also developed from an online reader to an online library, where subscribers enjoy unlimited access to its collection of Academy Publishing resources, as well as better search, cross-referencing and footnoting features.

On behalf of the Academy, I thank our members and staff for their invaluable contributions and continuing support, which have made these achievements possible. I am confident that the Academy's work will continue to play a critical role in supporting the legal services sector as we navigate the road ahead.

Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon

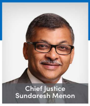
President, Singapore Academy of Law

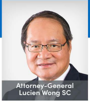
ABOUT US

The Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) is on a mission to make Singapore the legal hub of Asia by equipping its members with the insights and tools they need to stay ahead.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

as of 1 December 2023


Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon


Attorney-General Lucien Wong SC

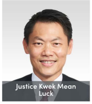
Mr Jason Chan SC

Justice Aedit Abdullah

Justice Andre Francis Maniam

Justice Debbie Ong

Justice Kannan Ramesh


Justice Kwek Mean Luck

Justice Goh Yihan

Deputy A-G Ang Cheng Hock SC

Deputy A-G Lionel Yee SC

The SAL Senate →

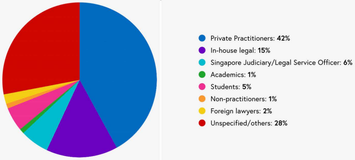
The SAL Leadership Team →

SAL MEMBERSHIP

13,345

Active SAL Members

Including the 430 who were inducted at Mass Call 2023



SAL 35

1988 - 2023

Honor est in Honorante

The Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) marked its 35th anniversary in 2023 with

A RENEWED DEDICATION TO HONOUR AND SERVICE.

Photo credit: SG Courts

The SAL motto, *honor est in honorante*, is a reminder that honour lies in honouring: one becomes honourable only through the honour one bestows upon fellow members of the profession, the court and the public.

The motto was introduced by SAL's first President Chief Justice Wee Chong Jin in 1988, at the address he delivered at that year's Annual Dinner of the Law Society.

The SAL motto honor est in honorante was central in the design of SAL's first logo which continues to be used as its ceremonial crest today

STARTING A NEW TRADITION

From 2023, a lapel pin in the shape of SAL's ceremonial crest bearing the motto will be issued to every SAL member. The pin will also bear the member's unique admission number. The start of this new tradition was announced by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon at Mass Call 2023.

> *This pin serves not only to identify the wearer as an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore, but also serves as a reminder of our obligation to uphold the high standards and ethics of this noble profession. I hope you will wear it with honour and a profound sense of service whenever you discharge your duties as an officer of the court.*
>
> **Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon**
> President, SAL

More than 430 Advocates and Solicitors who were called to the Bar at Mass Call 2023 were the first the be issued with a custom lapel pin from SAL. Pictured above, new SAL member Mr Matthew Cheng and his parents.

SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW
MASS CALL 2023

Singapore Academy of Law
SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW

New SAL members and their loved ones celebrate being called to the Bar at Mass Call 2023.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022 – 2023

EXPLORING THE METAVERSE

TechLaw.Fest 2022

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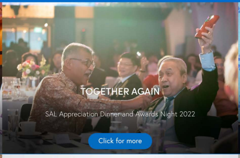

TOGETHER AGAIN

SAL Appreciation Dinner and Awards Night 2022

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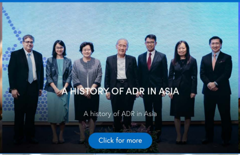

A HISTORY OF ADR IN ASIA

A history of ADR in Asia

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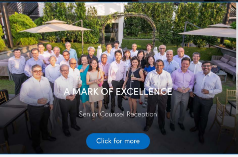
A CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE

SAL Annual Lecture 2022

Click for more



A MARK OF EXCELLENCE

Senior Counsel Reception

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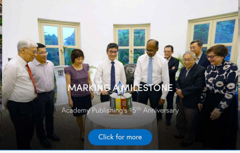

MARKING A MILESTONE

Academy Publishing's 15th Anniversary

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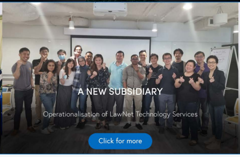

A NEW SUBSIDIARY

Operationalisation of LawNet Technology Services

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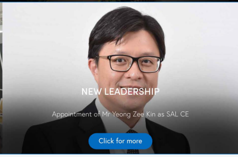


NEW LEADERSHIP

Appointment of Mr Yeong Zee Kin as SAL CE

Click for more

CUTTING-EDGE CONTENT

The content developed by SAL continues to be a standards-bearer in the industry, raising the profile of Singapore law and helping members make sense of it in a clear and accessible manner. The content is developed by dedicated teams at Academy Publishing and the Asian Business Law Institute ("ABLI"), a subsidiary of SAL.

> *While Covid might have cloistered us in our home offices for most part of the past three years, Academy Publishing's work did not abate. In total, 16 volumes of law reports, 17 new books, 27 journals, 83 SAL Practitioner articles and the monthly Civil Litigation Update were published in (the pandemic) period.*
>
> THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE KANNAN RAMESH
>
> CO-CHAIR, LEGAL RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE, SAL

DID YOU KNOW?

Almost all of SAL's content is distributed through LawNet, which is continually improved to support new content forms. This past year, Academy Library, SAL's e-reading service, was enhanced with better search, cross-referencing and footnoting features. A subscription service was also launched in August 2023. This follows a similar improvement to LawNet Asian Insights, which was enhanced with summaries of key Asian news, content-specific access control, and previews of latest articles in April 2022.

14 New legal publications
with 39 in the pipeline

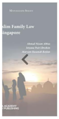
7 journal issues

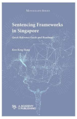
21 SAL Practitioner journal articles

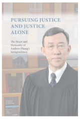
1 Law Reform report

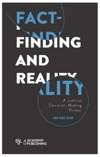
23 ABLI reports

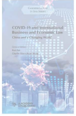
Other forms of content



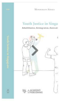

Monograph Series
Sentencing Frameworks in Singapore
Quick Reference Guide and Roadmap
Kow Keng Siong
SAL ACADEMY PUBLISHING


PURSUING JUSTICE AND JUSTICE ALONE
The Heart and Humanity of Andrew Phang's Jurisprudence




Commercial Law in Asia Series
COVID-19 and International Business and Economic Law
China and a Changing World
SAL ACADEMY PUBLISHING

Law Practice Series
SINGAPORE RULES OF COURT
A Practice Guide
2023 Edition
Editor-in-Chief
Chua Lee Ming
General Editor
Paul Quan
SAL ACADEMY PUBLISHING



A LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF CHOICE

INSEAD
The Business School for the World
SAL-INSEAD Legal Leadership Programme (SILLP)
23 – 25 March 2023

The learning and professional development of the legal profession has been the raison d'être for SAL since day one. In the years since, it has emerged as a learning and development institute of choice for the profession, with a blend of standard-setting signature events, structured training and topical discussions on pertinent topics. More than 6,500 members attended at least one SAL training programme last year.

Grooming the next generation of leaders is key to realising SAL's vision of making Singapore the legal hub of Asia. In line with this, SAL makes leadership training a priority, with flagship programmes like the SAL-INSEAD Legal Leadership Programme enjoying record attendance last year. SAL also organises training sessions that help members make sense of dicey and complex legal issues. Through these, they are also exposed to legal trends and developments in overseas jurisdictions.

> *Attending the SAL – INSEAD Legal Leadership Programme made me rethink my approach to work trips, to be more structured and strategic. I now map out what sectors interest me and potential clients in that jurisdiction and think about how to connect with them.*
>
> MS SHOBNA CHANDRAN
> MANAGING DIRECTOR, SHOBNA CHANDRAN LLC

Recognising excellence

Every year, SAL presents scholarships, prizes and awards to expand access to the legal profession and recognise excellence within it:

- **Senior Counsel**
- **Special Accreditation**
- **SAL Scholarships**
- **The Singapore Law Merit Award**
- **The SAL Merit Awards**
- **Other Prizes**

PROVIDING TRUST SERVICES

SAL remains SAL's a trusted custodian of confidential information and documents, with several statutory functions.

Authentication of notarial certificates and legalisation of public documents.

SAL provides stakeholding services for sale and purchase transactions

For newly developed private residential properties, commercial properties and executive condominiums under certain statutory schemes

SAL manages the national Wills Registry

Through which the public can deposit and enquire about wills deposited in the registry.

SAL helped bring alternative dispute resolution into the mainstream in 1997, when it set up the Singapore Mediation Centre, a first-of-its-kind institution.

Today, it continues to be a market leader, mediating 366 matters in the past year. Training remains an important activity for SMC, with courses for fresh graduates (Part B Mediation Course), non-legal professionals and SAL members as well.

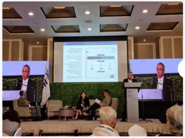
The appointment of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public

495	794	241	359
Commissioner for Oaths	**Commissioner for Oaths**	**Notaries Public**	**Notaries Public**
Appointed from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023	Appointed from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023	Appointed from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023	Appointed from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Sharing Beyond Borders

As a symbol of its excellence, SAL has been invited to share its experience in managing and digitalising public trust services with global partners.

The SAL team with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, during the latter's study visit to Singapore in August 2022.



SAL's Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer Mr Paul Neo introducing the e-Register system at the HCCH Conference in Manila in October 2022.

Annual Report 2022-2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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