

MY SAL

Engaging the Legal Community

Singapore Academy of Law

Annual Report **2011/12**

OUR MISSION & VALUES

Building up the intellectual capital, capability and infrastructure of members of the Singapore Academy of Law and promoting *ESPRIT DE CORPS* among the members of the Singapore Academy of Law.

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ABOUT US



OUR MEMBERS The Singapore Academy of Law (the “Academy”) has close to 10,000 members comprising all persons who are called as advocates and solicitors of the Supreme Court or who are appointed as Legal Service Officers. The membership of the Academy comprises the Bench, the Bar, and large numbers of corporate counsel and faculty members of the local law schools.

OUR WORK The work of the Academy is focused on three key areas: supporting the growth and development of the Legal Industry; building up the intellectual capital of the legal profession by enhancing Legal Knowledge; and improving the efficiency of legal practice through Legal Technology. The work of the Academy is driven by these three core mandates. This in turn is directed towards raising the standard and quality of legal practice and building a strong and dynamic legal community in Singapore.

INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT, SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW



Mediation

Q: You were visionary in mooted mediation in 1996 when it was a fairly unknown concept outside the Subordinate Courts in Singapore. What was the impetus from either your personal experiences or work in public service or private practice that led you to introduce mediation?

A: There was no vision. In 1992, I was a member of a judicial delegation to China where our Chinese hosts enacted a mediation scenario which involved a female complainant who was a worker in a Chinese medicine firm. Her complaint was that her boss had failed to respect her as a person and discriminated against her. The mediation ended with the boss apologising to the complainant. We were told that this was how the majority of employment and other disputes were resolved in China as the China then did not have enough courts and a proper legal system.

Later, I read an article on the success of mediation in family law disputes in the US,

and I thought that we could usefully make use of mediation, and its many advantages, as a good way to resolve all kinds of disputes. When I found out that the Subordinate Courts were already experimenting with mediation in family law cases, I decided to float the idea of mediation for commercial disputes, and made the suggestion in my Opening of the Legal Year speech (as AG then) that SAL should set up a centre to do it. The idea was evolutionary.

Publishing and books

Q: What is your favourite book? Why? Can you give examples of a legal and non-legal title?

A: I read too many books on too many subjects to have a favourite book. Re a book with a legal title, my favourite book on land law is *Introduction to the Law of Property* by Frederick Henry Lawson. He explains the concepts of land law in clear and simple language. His exposition made me appreciate the genius of English land law and its role in wealth creation based

on land rights which was the foundation of economic growth in the past.

A non-legal book worth reading is David Denby's personal reflections on two humanities courses (literature humanities and contemporary civilisation), based on the Western Canon, he re-studied in Columbia University entitled *Great Books: My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf, and Other Indestructible Writers of the Western World*.

Q: What book would you recommend a young lawyer to have on his bookshelf?

A: It is better for young lawyers to receive instruction rather than to read books on instruction. Nothing sticks more in the mind than scintillating oral instruction on how to practise law. Young lawyers should read law books for entertainment. *Learning the Law* by Glanville Williams is a favourite of many lawyers. How many young lawyers know what "a wooden falsehood" is? A more recent book by Alan Dershowitz called *Letters to a Young Lawyer* is also worth the attention of young court lawyers. Locally, I can think of no better book than *A Civil Practice: Good Counsel for Learned Friends*, a *vade mecum* that is so full of wit and humour that it can only animate a young lawyer to pursue his court craft with joy.

Q: Many know you as a practitioner and Chief Justice with a deep knowledge of the law. What is your advice to someone who wishes to acquire this same degree of knowledge and understanding of the law?

A: To acquire knowledge of a particular area of the law, you need to read everything that

has been written on the subject. That is why academics who specialise in a particular subject know more about that area of the law than judges. The same reasoning applies to counsel in a particular case, especially counsel who specialise in that area of the law. His practical experience makes his knowledge even more useful to his clients.

As for understanding the law, you need more than knowledge and experience. You need to know something about the vast body of knowledge of human endeavour, especially politics, economics, history, social science, and maybe literature. I leave out hard science and medicine which the lawyer has to learn and understand if related issues arise in the cases he is handling.

Continuing legal education

Q: How can SAL provide continuing legal education that is engaging and relevant especially to the more experienced lawyers?

A: SAL has helped to establish the Singapore Institute of Legal Education. SAL has also enhanced its own legal education plans to provide a richer programme of seminars and conferences for all lawyers. If you want to learn, you will learn. Providing courses, seminars, workshops will make it easier for those who want to improve themselves to do so. But, there is a limit to mandatory learning. I believe in the adage "You can lead a horse to water, but ...". Basically, except for those who have an interest in the law for its own sake, most lawyers can and do succeed in their profession on a "need to know" basis. There is no need to know what the law is, unless it is relevant to the case in hand.

LawNet

Q: You were involved in LawNet from its early days. Do you think that it has fulfilled its potential and what would be your advice for LawNet and the use of technology for legal work in the next ten years?

A: LawNet has certainly fulfilled its potential in making available, quickly and cheaply, all the Singapore and English case law that a Singapore lawyer needs to know for his general practice. It has also made the provision of legal services fast, convenient, and therefore very efficient. Quantitative improvements can still be expected with improvements in technology. What SAL needs to acquire (or develop) is an accurate and reliable voice recognition system that can reduce oral statements into print instantly.

Law reform

Q: What role can SAL play in the area of Law reform?

A: SAL has played an important role in law reform, particularly in what we call “lawyers’ law”. Even on laws involving public policy issues, SAL can provide valuable input to the Government in areas where its members have particular experience and expertise, eg, international arbitration, commercial, financial and maritime laws. But, the utility of the role of SAL in law reform depends very much on how much importance the Minister for Law places on it.

Future of the legal profession

Q: You have been involved in SAL work in the past 24 years. What is the best role that SAL can play in the future of the legal profession in Singapore?

A: To continue to provide a forum for all the stakeholders in our legal institutions to meet and discuss, and to come up with new ideas to improve our legal system and ensure that it meets the needs of our people, our economy and social stability and law and order. In the last two decades, SAL has been able to do many things to improve the standing of the legal profession. A good example of this is Singapore Law Watch. SAL will no doubt continue to formulate and implement foundational and advanced programmes to improve its services to its members and the legal community.

Relevance of SAL in future years

Q: Under your leadership, SAL underwent a major restructuring in 2007 to focus on three major areas of work – legal industry, legal knowledge and legal technology. Why was this necessary and will SAL need further changes/refinements to ensure that it continues to be relevant?

A: Full credit for the major restructuring must go to Justice V K Rajah. I was only the Chairman of the committee that approved his report. He has been the source and inspiration of most of the new policies and programmes implemented by SAL during my tenure as Chairman. The Promotion of Singapore Law Project, one of his pet projects, has met with considerable success. We read in the press and also hear anecdotally that Singapore law is increasingly gaining acceptance in the region as an alternative to English/New York law. This would have been unthinkable a decade ago.

Another success that SAL should be proud of is its website – Singapore Law Watch –

which has created a greater sense of community within the legal community. It is a popular site and is “watched” by many at home and abroad. It has reached the critical level of “spontaneous combustion” as events are posted therein without any prompting from the webmaster.

Others who contributed are the Vice-Presidents of SAL and the chairmen of all the SAL Committees, and our Chief Executive, Ms Serene Wee. Every organisation, with functions as important as those of SAL, must relook every few years the continuing relevance of its policies, practices and programmes, to ensure that it is not falling behind in achieving its mission.

SAL and the Law Society

Q: There had been past criticism that SAL is not necessary given that there is already the Law Society? What are your views on this and what are the dual and complementary roles that these two organisations can play to meet the needs of the legal profession in Singapore?

A: The functions of SAL speak for themselves. They are very extensive. Our current outreach is far and wide, and our SAL Annual Lecture and Distinguished Speakers Lecture series are well regarded. The Law Society is doing a good job, given its very many constraints, but it would have found it difficult to start and sustain a facility like LawNet, Academy Publishing or the Singapore Institute of Legal Education, to name a few of SAL’s important contributions to the legal sector in Singapore. SAL has always considered the Law Society as a valuable partner in these endeavours, and continues to support the

Law Society in its work in tangible ways. They do not compete with each other to duplicate services to the legal community. Any initial suspicion or unhappiness on the part of the Law Society on the role of SAL in improving our legal system or law practice was wholly unwarranted. There were some members of the Bar who did not want or could not see beyond the source of its origination. I believe that the majority of lawyers appreciate the role of SAL. I should also acknowledge the invaluable role of our two law schools in raising the standard of related law services provided by SAL to the legal profession. Without them, our *Singapore Academy of Law Journal* (“SALJ”) would not have survived. It is now a respected law journal.

Role of young lawyers in SAL

Q: How would you like to see young lawyers play a role in SAL?

A: I would like to see young lawyers play a more active role in SAL. But, in the nature of things, young lawyers have less experience and knowledge of human and legal affairs than senior lawyers, and therefore are more likely to defer to the views of their more experienced colleagues. The solution may be for the chairpersons of the SAL committees to encourage them, urge them to speak up.

Plans after November

Q: What are your plans after November?

A: I have not made any plans as yet.

CHAN SEK KEONG CHIEF JUSTICE OF SINGAPORE AND PRESIDENT OF SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW

11 APRIL 2006 TO 5 NOVEMBER 2012



OUR LEADERS



The Academy is governed by the Senate which is headed by the Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong as President. On 30 July 2012, the Senate elected as Vice-Presidents of the Academy: The Honourable Attorney-General Steven Chong, SC; the Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice Chao Hick Tin; the Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong; the Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice V K Rajah; the Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice Sundaresh Menon; President of the Law Society of Singapore, Mr Wong Meng Meng, SC; and Dean of the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore, Professor Simon Chesterman. The Senate also comprises the High Court Judges, the Solicitor-General, academia and the practising profession.

Seated from left to right:
Mr Wong Meng Meng, SC
 VICE-PRESIDENT
Judge of Appeal Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong
 VICE-PRESIDENT
Attorney-General Steven Chong, SC
 VICE-PRESIDENT

Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong
 PRESIDENT
Judge of Appeal Justice Chao Hick Tin
 VICE-PRESIDENT
Judge of Appeal Justice V K Rajah
 VICE-PRESIDENT
Professor Simon Chesterman
 VICE-PRESIDENT

Standing from left to right (Row 1):

Justice Andrew Ang
 Justice Woo Bih Li
 Justice Choo Han Teck
 Justice Judith Prakash
 Justice Philip Pillai
 Justice Tan Lee Meng
 Justice Lee Siu Kin
 Justice Tay Yong Kwang
 Justice Belinda Ang Saw Ean

Standing from left to right (Row 2):

Professor Ng-Loy Wee Loon
 Mr Lee Eng Beng, SC
 Mr Philip Jeyaretnam, SC
 Mr Alvin Yeo Khirn Hai, SC
 Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC
 Solicitor-General Mrs Koh Juat Jong

Justice Chan Seng Onn
 Justice Quentin Loh
 Professor Yeo Tiong Min, SC (honoris causa)
 Mr Lucien Wong
 Mr Leo Cheng Suan
 Mr Lok Vi Ming, SC
 Ms Indranee Rajah, SC

Not in picture

Justice Lai Siu Chiu
 Judge of Appeal Justice Sundaresh Menon
 Judicial Commissioner
 Vinodh Coomaraswamy

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



1. **CHIEF JUSTICE CHAN SEK KEONG**
President of the Singapore Academy of Law

The President became Chief Justice on 11 April 2006, having served as (a) Judicial Commissioner from July 1986 to June 1988; (b) Judge of the Supreme Court from July 1988 to April 1992; and (c) Attorney-General from May 1992 to April 2006. He also holds concurrent appointments as the President of the Legal Service Commission and Chairman of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights.

2. **ATTORNEY-GENERAL STEVEN CHONG, SC**
Vice-President

Attorney-General Steven Chong, SC was appointed as the Attorney-General on 25 June 2012. He joined the Supreme Court Bench as a Judicial Commissioner in 2009 and was made a Judge the following year. Prior to his appointment to the Bench, he was the Managing Partner of Rajah & Tann LLP.

3. **JUDGE OF APPEAL JUSTICE CHAO HICK TIN**

Vice-President

Justice Chao Hick Tin is the Vice-President of the Court of Appeal. Justice Chao returned to the Supreme Court Bench in April 2008, having served as the Attorney-General from 2006 to 2008. He was a Judge of Appeal from 1999 to 2006.

1 August 2012. He served as the Attorney-General from 1 October 2010 to 24 June 2012. He joined the Singapore Legal Service as Judicial Commissioner in 2006. After his stint at the Bench, he returned to Rajah & Tann becoming the Managing Partner of that firm in August 2009, a position he held until his appointment as the Attorney-General.

4. **JUDGE OF APPEAL JUSTICE ANDREW PHANG BOON LEONG**

Vice-President

Chairman, Council of Law Reporting

Justice Andrew Phang, was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in December 2005, and appointed Judge of Appeal in February 2006. He was professor of law and chaired the department of law in the business school of Singapore Management University before he was appointed Judicial Commissioner in January 2005.

7. **MR WONG MENG MENG, SC**
Vice-President

Mr Wong Meng Meng, SC is the President of The Law Society of Singapore and a Member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He was also among the pioneer batch of 12 Senior Counsel appointed in 1997.

8. **PROFESSOR SIMON CHESTERMAN**
Vice-President

Professor Simon Chesterman is Dean of the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. He joined NUS Law in 2007, at the same time that he established the New York University School of Law Singapore Programme and became its first Director and Global Professor.

5. **JUDGE OF APPEAL JUSTICE V K RAJAH**

Vice-President

Justice V K 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 the Managing Partner of Rajah & Tann. He was also among the first batch of lawyers in Singapore to be appointed Senior Counsel in 1997.

9. **JUSTICE LAI SIU CHIU**
Chairperson, Membership and Social Committee

Justice Lai Siu Chiu was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court on 2 May 1994 and has served as a Judicial Commissioner for three years from 1991 to 1994. She was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court Bench.

6. **JUDGE OF APPEAL JUSTICE SUNDARESH MENON**

(CJ DESIGNATE)

Vice-President

Justice Sundaresh Menon assumed his new position as Judge of Appeal on



10. JUSTICE JUDITH PRAKASH
Chairperson, Publications Committee
Justice Judith Prakash was appointed a Judge in April 1995, having served as a Judicial Commissioner from April 1992. She was called to the Bar in 1975 and was in private practice, primarily in the areas of shipping and commercial law, for 18 years. She is a member of the Advisory Board to the School of Law, SMU.

11. JUSTICE TAN LEE MENG
Chairman, Annual Lecture Organising 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 in 1987 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University in 1992.

12. JUSTICE BELINDA ANG
Chairperson, Singapore Mediation Centre Board of Directors
Justice Belinda Ang was first appointed Judicial Commissioner in February 2002, and Judge in January 2003. Prior to her appointment, she was in private practice. She was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1998.

13. JUSTICE ANDREW ANG
Chairman, Legal Heritage Committee
Justice Andrew Ang was appointed as Judicial Commissioner on 15 May 2004, and appointed as Judge in the following year. He was a Senior Partner at Lee & Lee prior to his appointment to the Bench.

14. JUSTICE LEE SEIU KIN
Chairman, Electronic Litigation Systems Committee
Justice Lee Seiu Kin was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in April 2006. Between October 2002 and April 2006, he was Second Solicitor-General of the Attorney-General's Chambers. He also served as a Judicial Commissioner between 1997 and 2002.

15. JUSTICE CHAN SENG ONN
Chairman, LawNet Management Committee
Justice Chan Seng Onn was appointed a Judge on 2 July 2007. He began his career in the Singapore Legal Service in 1987 as a State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Chambers and served as Senior State Counsel in 1994. He was appointed Judicial Commissioner on 15 October 1997, and Solicitor-General on 1 June 2001. He also serves as President, Industrial Arbitration Court since October 2007.

16. JUSTICE PHILIP PILLAI
Chairman, Law Reform Committee
Justice Philip Pillai was appointed as Judicial Commissioner on 1 October 2009, and appointed as Judge on 1 June 2010. Prior to his elevation to the Bench, he was the Managing Partner/Senior Partner of Shook Lin & Bok LLP from 1992 to September 2009. He was also Joint Managing Partner of Allen & Overy Shook Lin & Bok JLJ from 2000 to 2009.

17. JUSTICE QUENTIN LOH
Chairman, Professional Affairs Committee and Promotion of Singapore Law Committee
Justice Quentin Loh was the Deputy Managing Partner of Rajah & Tann LLP, one of Singapore's leading law firms. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 1999 and appointed as Judicial Commissioner on 1 September 2009. He was appointed as Judge on 1 June 2010. He is a member of the Advisory Board to the School of Law, SMU and Chairman of the Audit Committee of SAL.

18. SOLICITOR-GENERAL
MRS KOH JUAT JONG
Chairperson, Legal Education and Studies Committee
Mrs Koh Juat Jong was appointed Solicitor-General on 11 April 2008. From 11 April 2010 to 30 September 2010, she was also the Acting Attorney-General. She also served as Registrar of the Supreme Court from 2003 to 2008. Before that, she was the Principal District Judge, Family and Juvenile Justice Division in Subordinate Courts.

19. MR GIAM CHIN TOON, SC
Chairman, Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public
Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC is currently a Director in the Board of the Singapore Mediation Centre, and a legal assessor with the Singapore Medical Council. He was among the first group of lawyers to be appointed as Senior Counsel in 1997. He was a former President of the Law Society of Singapore. He also serves as Singapore's non-resident Ambassador to the Republic of Peru and High Commissioner to Ghana.

YOUR SAY

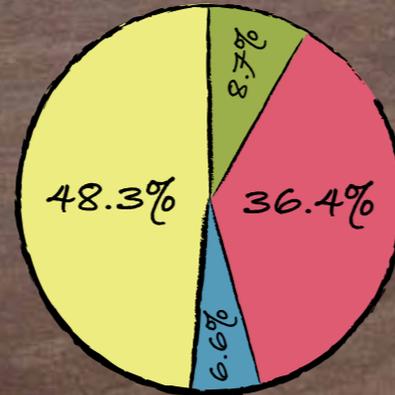
OVERALL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH SAL'S PRODUCTS AND SERVICES?

The Academy carried out a survey in March 2012 to gather feedback from members on four areas of its work: LawNet, Academy Publishing, Legal Education and Membership Services.

More than 500 SAL members representing law practitioners from large, medium, small firms, in house counsel and those in the legal service participated in an online survey as well as one-on-one telephone interviews.

57% of the respondents were either somewhat satisfied (48.3%) or very satisfied (8.7%)

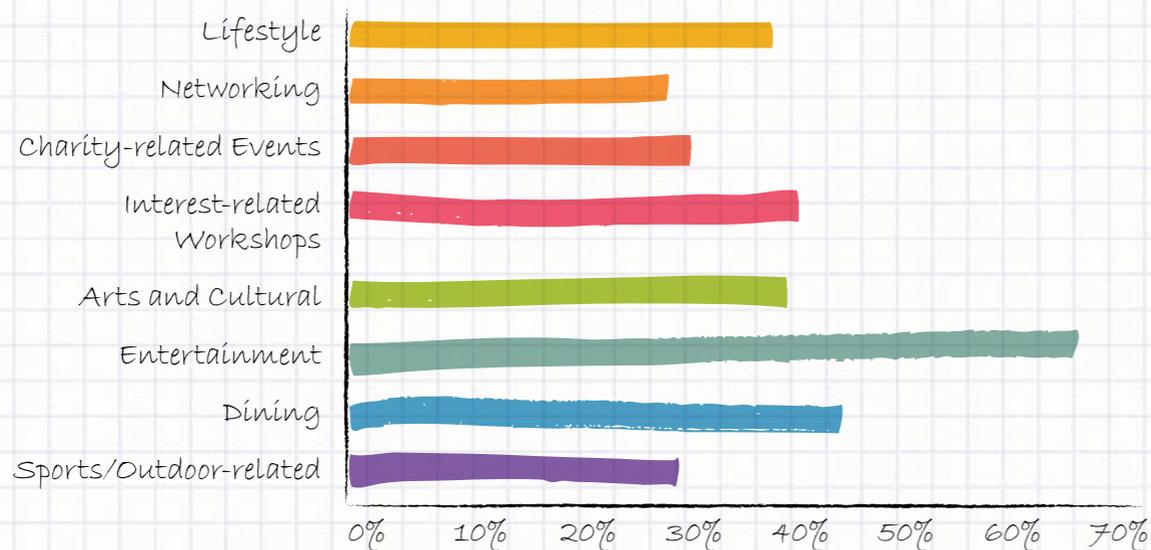
with SAL's products and services. Another 36.4% were neutral. Only a small margin of 6.6% of respondents indicated a level of dissatisfaction.



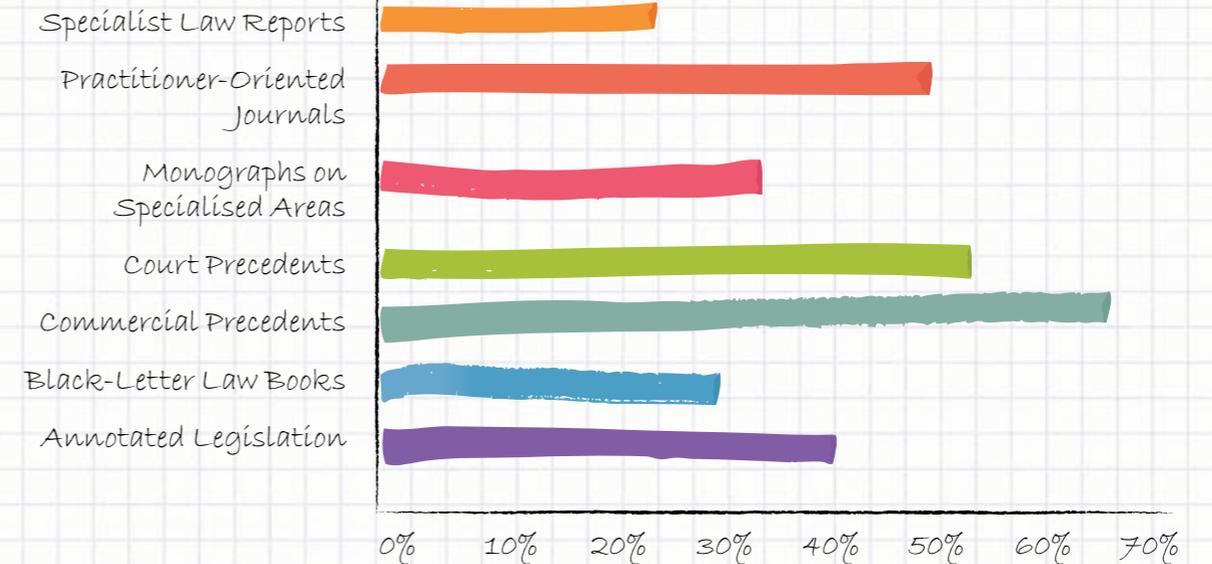
YOUR WISH LIST

1. Content to be published in print by Academy Publishing and online via Lawnet: Commercial Precedents.
2. Areas of improvement for LawNet: Breadth, depth and timeliness in content.
3. Yes to eBooks. Prefer to have this available on PC rather than tablet devices.
4. SAL conferences or seminars: more emphasis on black-letter law subjects
5. Membership activities: Have more entertainment-related events like movies and musicals.

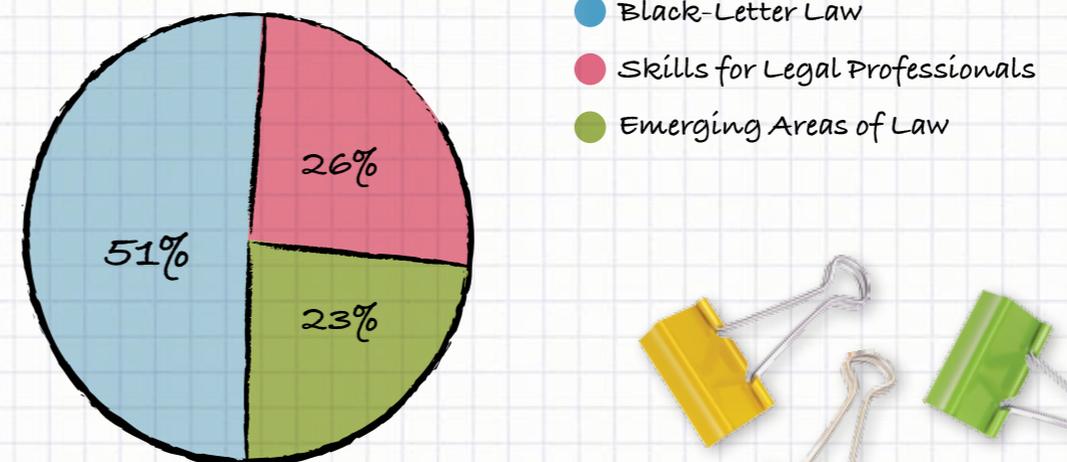
WHAT TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP EVENTS ARE YOU LIKELY TO ATTEND?



PLEASE SELECT 3 AREAS ACADEMY PUBLISHING SHOULD RELEASE TITLES ON



WHICH CONFERENCE SUBJECT MATTER WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN?



- Black-Letter Law
- Skills for Legal Professionals
- Emerging Areas of Law



FACTS, FIGURES
AND HIGHLIGHTS138 EVENTS
ATTENDED BY
7,444 PEOPLE5,722 LEGAL MATERIALS &
CASES UPLOADED ON
LAWNET45 NEW
PUBLICATIONS

8,659 SLW SUBSCRIBERS

331 DISPUTES
MANAGED
BY SMC3 NEW SENIOR
COUNSEL
APPOINTMENTS42,814 AUTHENTICATION
CERTIFICATES
ISSUED

EVENTS

- 138 events on continuing education, including 15 social activities were organised.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (“CPD”) was introduced for lawyers with post-qualification experience of five years and less. A total of 313.35 CPD hours were awarded to the regulated lawyers.
- The Academy, together with the Attorney-General’s Chambers, the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Singapore and The Law Society of Singapore organised the inaugural Criminal Law Conference.
- Over 280 participants attended The Rule of Law Conference featuring 18 prominent speakers and panellists.
- The 18th Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture was delivered by The Right Honourable Tun Zaki Tun Azmi, former Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia.

PUBLICATIONS

- 24 fortnightly parts of *Singapore Law Reports* (“SLR”).
- 3 issues of *Singapore Academy of Law Journal* (“SAcLJ”).
- 1 issue of *Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Singapore Cases*.

- 2 Law Reform Committee Reports.
- 6 new Academy Publishing titles.
- 6 volumes of *Singapore Syariah Appeals Reports (1980 – 2010)*.
- 1 *Asian Journal on Mediation*
- 1 *Inter Se*.
- 1 issue of *Singapore Construction Adjudication Review*.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A new book focusing on arbitration awards based on Singapore Law was launched at Maxwell Chambers.
- *The Criminal Procedure Code of Singapore – Annotations and Commentary* was jointly launched by The Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong and The Honourable Attorney-General Sundaresh Menon, SC at the Supreme Court Viewing Gallery.
- Minister for Muslim Affairs, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim launched the 6-volume *Singapore Syariah Appeals Reports (1980 – 2010)*.
- The Law Reform Committee Report on *Limitation Periods in Private International Law* resulted in the enactment of the new Foreign Limitation Periods Act 2012.

LEGAL DATABASES

- 5,722 legal materials and cases were uploaded on LawNet.
- More than 8,500 people have signed up to receive daily news updates from Singapore Law Watch (“SLW”).

HIGHLIGHTS

- LawNet held an International Conference on E-litigation. An iPad App on LawNet was also launched at the conference.
- The eLitigation System is targeted to be launched in phases starting with the Supreme Court, followed by the Subordinate Courts.
- The selection process for an e-Discovery service provider to offer cloud-based platform and services to law firms is underway.
- Page views of SLW hit an average of 379,255 per month.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION

- 186 mediations case-managed by Singapore Mediation Centre (“SMC”) (1 Apr 2011 – 30 Jun 2012).
- 145 cases adjudicated under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act (1 Apr 2011 – 30 Jun 2012).

HIGHLIGHTS

- SMC obtained pledges from 26 organisations after the launch of the Singapore Mediation Charter.
- Two new mediation schemes were introduced: Premier Mediation Scheme and the Neutral Evaluation Service.

APPOINTMENTS

Commissioners for Oaths:

- 567 (1 Oct 2011 – 30 Sept 2012).
- 1,137 (1 Apr 2012 – 31 Mar 2013).

Notaries Public:

- 169 (1 Oct 2011 – 30 Sept 2012).
- 372 (1 Apr 2012 – 31 Mar 2013).

NEW SENIOR COUNSEL
APPOINTMENTS

- First Senior Counsel (honoris causa) appointed.
- 2 new Senior Counsel appointed.

AUTHENTICATION SERVICES

- 42,814 authentication certificates issued (inclusive of 4,830 submitted under the Express Authentication Service).

STAKEHOLDING AND
CONVEYANCING MONEY
SERVICES

- As at 30 Jun 2012: \$512.4 million held.
- 1 Jul 2011 to 30 Jun 2012: 11,451 cases paid in 10,573 cases paid out.

All figures reported are for the period 1 Jul 2011 to 30 Jun 2012, unless otherwise stated.

LEGAL KNOWLEDGE



Mr Mark Agrast and Professor Brian Z. Tamanaha at the speakers' dinner

Rethinking Paradigms: Exploring the Boundaries of the Rule of Law discussion

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION AND STUDIES

The Committee on Legal Education and Studies is chaired by the Honourable Solicitor-General Mrs Koh Juat Jong.

In the period under review, the Committee organised 18 continuing legal and public education events attended by a total of 2,876 participants, a 20% increase from the previous year.

“The CCS-SAL Conference this year is bigger in terms of participants and diversity of topics. With Singapore Business Federation as partner, we were able to inject a business component. I would recommend that we make this a biennial event.”

Mr Toh Han Li, Assistant Chief Executive, Legal & Enforcement Division, Competition Commission of Singapore

Key highlights

Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (“CPD”) was introduced in 1 April 2012 for lawyers with post-qualification experience of five years and less. In the months of April and May 2012, a total of 313.5 CPD hours were awarded to the regulated lawyers at legal education events organised by the Academy.

The inaugural Criminal Law Conference was held on 13 - 14 October 2011. 35 speakers, panellists and chairpersons presented on key developments in criminal law as well as facilitated panel discussions at the Conference. The Minister for Foreign Affairs & Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam delivered the keynote address. The event was jointly organised with the Attorney-General’s Chambers, the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Singapore and The Law Society of Singapore.

A series of four lectures and panel sessions were conducted to equip and update the criminal bar on developments in Criminal Procedure and Practices. An average of 150 participants attended each session.

The third run of the Junior College Law Programme (“JCLP”) was conducted from 28 November to 9 December 2011. About 400 students from 23 pre-university institutions completed the JCLP 2011.

Mr Philip Collins, Chairman, Office of Fair Trading, UK, gave the keynote address at the Competition Law Conference, jointly organised with Competition Commission of Singapore and supported by the Singapore Business Federation. This conference was held over two days in July 2012.

The Rule of Law Conference featured 18 prominent speakers and panellists, including world renowned academics, Professor Joseph Weiler and Professor Brian Tamanaha. The event was jointly organised with the law schools of the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University.

SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW ANNUAL LECTURE 2011

The Annual Lecture Organising Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Tan Lee Meng.

The Right Honourable Tun Zaki Tun Azmi, former Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Malaysia delivered the 18th Singapore Academy of Law Annual Lecture on “The Common Law of Malaysia in the 21st Century”. The lecture was held on 28 September 2011 at the Supreme Court Auditorium, and was attended by about 500 people.



About 500 guests including Malaysian judges and judicial officers attended the 18th Annual Lecture 2011

The Right Honourable Tun Zaki Tun Azmi receiving a token of appreciation from the Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong



LAW REPORTING

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

**Summary of work from 1 July 2011
– 30 June 2012**

24 fortnightly parts of the *Singapore Law Reports* (“SLR”) were produced. A total of 207 Supreme Court decisions were reported comprising 135 High Court decisions and 72 Court of Appeal decisions. As at 30 June 2012, there were 203 subscribers (with 233 subscriptions) to the SLR.

Three more sets of *Singapore Law Reports (Reissue)* (“SLR(R)”) were sold making a total of 88 sets sold. The breakeven for printing costs of the SLR(R) has been reached.

LEGAL JOURNALS

The Publications Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Judith Prakash.

New publications during period under review

Two issues of *Singapore Academy of Law Journal* published in September 2011 and March 2012. A special issue of the *Singapore Academy of Law Journal* on Company Law featuring 10 contributors was published in December 2011 with Professor John H Farrar as guest editor.

The twelfth volume of the *Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Singapore Cases* was published in June 2012. 36 contributors authored the 23 chapters.

LAW BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

The Commissioning Panel is chaired by the Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong.

New titles published during the period review:

- The Law of Torts in Singapore* – Published on 31 August 2011.
- SAL Conference 2011: Developments in Singapore Law between 2006 and 2012 – Trends and Perspectives* – Published on 23 September 2011.
- Singapore Law on Arbitral Awards* – published on 30 November 2011. The book is launched at Maxwell Chambers on 31 January 2012.
- The Criminal Procedure Code of Singapore – Annotations and Commentary* – Co-published with the Attorney-General’s Chambers on 15 March 2012. The book was launched at the Supreme Court Viewing Gallery on 28 March 2012.



The Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong and the Honourable Attorney-General Sundaresh Menon, SC with authors of *The Criminal Procedure Code of Singapore*

- A Treatise on Singapore Constitutional Law* – Published on 30 March 2012. The book was launched at the National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law, on 23 May 2012.
- The Law of Contract in Singapore* – Published on 22 June 2012.

The current list of commissioned titles (excluding published titles) numbers 28. Upcoming titles for 2012 include volumes on Intellectual Property Law, Civil Procedure and Industrial Design Law.

New area of work

Academy Publishing ventured into contract publishing with the publication of a backset of the *Singapore Syariah Appeals Reports (1980 – 2010)* for Syariah Courts/Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura. The 6-volume set (including one volume of tables and index) encapsulating selected appeal decisions of the Syariah Appeal Board was published in March 2012 and launched by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Muslim Affairs in May 2012.

LAW REFORM

The Law Reform Committee (“LRC”) is chaired by the Honourable Justice Philip Pillai.

Two reports were published on the following matters:

- Opinion Evidence; and
- Reforming Legal and Professional Privilege.

Matters considered by the Committee included:

- Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders;
- Reforming the Inheritance (Family Provision) Act;
- Building and Construction law;
- Choice of Court Agreements; and
- Financial Products – As to Suitability Against Fitness For Purpose



The author, Mr Chan Leng Sun, SC, presenting a copy of the book to The Honourable Attorney-General Sundaresh Menon, SC



Seminars

To raise the visibility of law reform projects and to align with the Academy's broad strategic objective of increasing the skills, knowledge and practice standards of the legal fraternity, the Committee, together with the Committee on Legal Education and Studies, organised two seminars during the period under review.

- "Recent Developments in the Law of Evidence" held on 10 April 2012. The seminar which sought to examine and explain the new amendments to the Evidence Act was attended by 324 participants.
- "Amendments to the International Arbitration Act" held on 28 May 2012. A panel – comprising Mr Chan Leng Sun, SC, Ms Valerie Thean, Mr Abraham Vergis and Mr Ben Giaretta – who represented a cross-section of the arbitration community, including those who have been closely involved with the amendments, explained and discussed the latest amendments to the International Arbitration Act.

Protocols established

In the period under review, the LRC established three protocols as standing processes.

The first protocol is to elicit proposals from lawyers who, in the course of their work, regularly come across minor deficiencies or errors in the statutes and regulations.

The second protocol is to conduct an annual review of law reform/law revision initiatives in the major relevant common law jurisdictions.

The third protocol would be to act as a clearing house for law reform/revision by the legal profession, judiciary and academia. Apart from these protocols, the LRC would consider and approve ad hoc law review projects as it may receive from time to time.

LEGAL HERITAGE

The Legal Heritage Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Andrew Ang.

Oral history

In the period under review, a total of 47 hours of oral history was recorded bringing the total number of recorded hours to 182 since the project began in 2005. Another seven oral history interviews were completed and seven are in progress. The total number of completed interviews as at 30 June 2012 is 29.

Legal Heritage Database

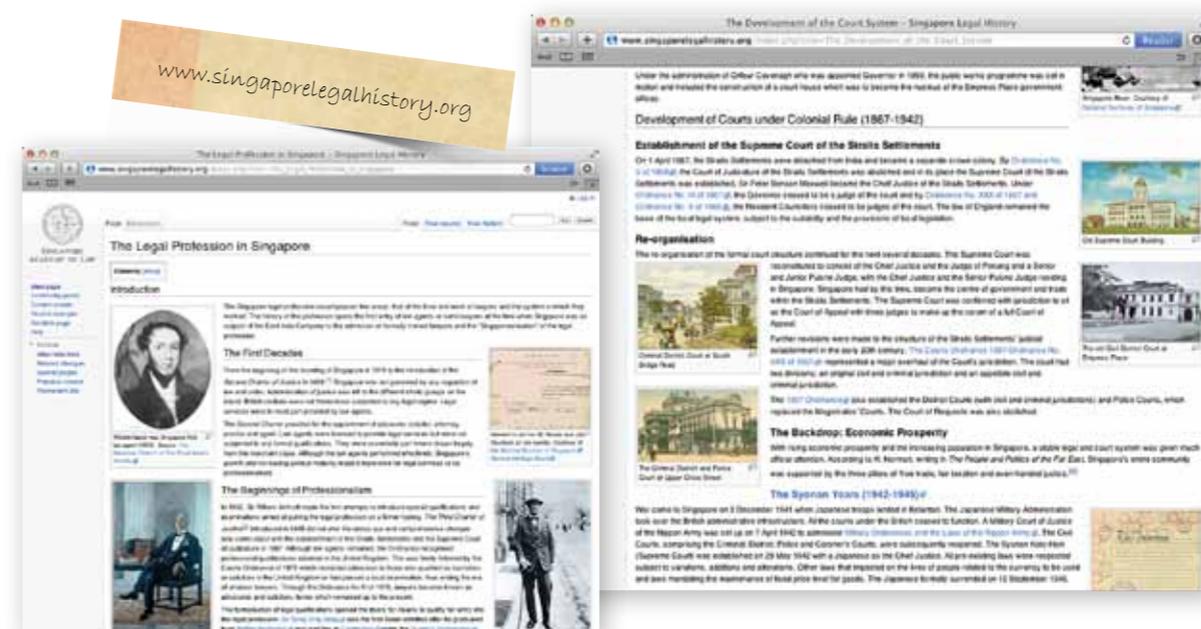
The work of building a database on legal heritage materials has commenced. The project team has identified seven major sections which will be featured on the database. These are:

- Constitutional History of Singapore;
- Development of the Singapore Court System;
- Legal Education in Singapore;
- The Legal Profession in Singapore;
- A History of the Singapore Legal Service;

- The Reception of English Law; and
- The Development of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice.

Each of these sections feature write-ups, photographs, images of key legal documents and references as well as links to other relevant websites. For ease of access by researchers, these sections will reside as Wikipedia pages but hosted under a separate domain www.singaporelegalhistory.org. There is also a link from the SAL website to these pages. To date, four sections: Constitutional History, the Legal Profession, Legal Education and Development of the Court System have been completed and uploaded. The target is to complete the other three sections by the end of 2013.

A publication featuring oral history interviews with legal personalities collected by the Academy and the National Archives Oral History Centre will be published by end 2013. It will be in an e-book format and the sale of the hard copy including a CD-Rom will be available through a print-on-demand service.



LAWNET

The LawNet Management Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Chan Seng Onn.

Key highlights

The inaugural Electronic Litigation (“E-Litigation”) Conference, organised by the Singapore Academy of Law and supported by the Supreme Court of Singapore was held on 11 – 12 August 2011 at Marina Mandarin Singapore. Close to 400 delegates from 33 jurisdictions; with more than 60 members of foreign judiciaries attended the conference. It was decided that a similar conference will be held once every three years so that there could be periodic updates on this rapidly evolving field. The next conference would be held in 2014.

The LawNet iPad application was launched at the E-Litigation Conference. Feedback from both lawyers and the Judiciary has been positive. About 35% of LawNet subscribers have downloaded the app.

Subscriptions fees for Legal Workbench were reviewed in consultation with the Law Society. Special care was taken to ensure that the increase for small law firms was kept at an average of 10% while medium-sized law firms at an average of 23%. The increase for large firms was capped at 40%. The subscriptions for standard rate users was increased by 35% across all scales while ad-hoc usage via credit card payment was increased by 45%. The same charging mechanism of charging a lower rate for every subsequent hour(s) purchased will be retained. The new fees have since been approved by the President, and was implemented from 1 August 2012.

The LawNet Secretariat finalised specifications for LawNet3. This new system would rationalise the disparate sources of content in LawNet and streamline processes to support the flow of information between LawNet, its content providers and users. LawNet3 is targeted to be implemented by the fourth quarter of 2013.

Subscriber base

Growth in subscriptions to Legal Workbench was consistent with that of the previous financial year. There was an increase of 3% for firms on preferential rate (including corporate counsel) and 6% for corporations under the standard rate. As at 30 May 2012, the subscriber base stands at 4,408.

“LawNet ... plays an essential role in helping me deliver in my work. ... I look forward to seeing it grow its services in the years ahead.”

Mr Lim Wee Teck, Director - Knowledge Management (Practice Development) of WongPartnership

An iPad App was launched at the 2-day E-Litigation Conference

**E-LITIGATION**

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

The integrated Electronic System (branded as the eLitigation System) will be launched in phases starting with the Supreme Court in October 2012, followed by the Subordinate Courts Civil Justice Division in 2013.

The e-Discovery practice directions were reviewed in November 2011 and updated in March 2012.

In the period under review, plans were finalised for a cloud-based e-Discovery platform to be offered to the legal profession in Singapore. The Call for Collaboration (“CFC”) was released in June 2012 to select a vendor to partner the Academy in offering an e-Discovery cloud-based platform and services to law firms. To encourage law firms to sign up for e-Discovery services, the Secretariat worked with the InfoComm Development Authority of Singapore (“IDA”) to provide a funding package that would allow firms to claim up to 70% of their e-Discovery subscription, training and consultancy expenses in the first two years of the initiative.

KEY BENEFITS

- EASY TO USE WEB-BASED SERVICE
- SECURE AND CUSTOMISABLE ACCESS VIA SINGPASS.
- FLEXIBLE. FILING CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE OR SAVED FOR SUBMISSION AT A LATER TIME.
- SAVES TIME. PARTY DETAILS AND CASE NUMBERS WILL ONLY HAVE TO BE ENTERED ONCE FOR THE SAME MATTER
- PAPERLESS. COURT DOCUMENTS ARE REPLACED BY ELECTRONIC FORMS.
- FULL ACCESS TO ALL DOCUMENTS IN A CASE FOR AS LONG AS THE CASE REMAINS ACTIVE
- PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CASE FILES THROUGH E-MAIL, SMS AND REMINDER ALERTS

LEGAL INDUSTRY

PROMOTION OF SINGAPORE LAW

The Promotion of Singapore Law Committee (“PSL”) is chaired by the Honourable Justice Quentin Loh and organised under three desks chaired by Mr Lok Vi Ming, SC (China Desk), Mr Cavinder Bull, SC (India Desk) and Dr Wong Kien Keong (Indonesia Desk).

Marketing activities

A number of marketing activities were carried out to promote the use of Singapore law as a neutral governing law in cross-border transactions and Singapore as a neutral venue for alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”). These include:

- Two seminars and a networking dinner in Jakarta from 20 – 22 July 2012. About 225 people attended these activities, organised in partnership with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (“KADIN”).
- A workshop with Nanyang Technological University (“NTU”) Mayor’s Class on 20 September 2011. The Committee was invited by NTU to brief 32 Chinese officials from Guangzhou city on the Singapore legal system, laws and dispute resolution.
- A roadshow to Zhejiang and Ningbo from 25 – 29 September 2011 led by three members of the PSL China desk. They visited 10 Chinese law firms and legal-related institutions and conducted a seminar each in Hangzhou and Ningbo. About 160 Chinese lawyers and officials attended the two seminars.



NTU Mayor’s Class panel discussion on Arbitration and Mediation in Singapore



“With more Chinese and foreign companies agreeing to have their arbitrations administered by [the] Singapore International Arbitration Centre (“SIAC”), Singapore has emerged as one of the most preferred venues in Asia for dispute resolution.”

Mr Wang Qiang, General Counsel, China National Machinery Industry Corporation (SINOMACH)



Law students from Santa Clara University interact with local lawyers



- A tour to Supreme Court and a seminar on 7 December 2011 for 50 Chinese officials studying in the NTU Mayors’ Class. This is the Committee’s second collaboration with NTU.
- A series of small group feedback sessions with Temasek-linked companies (“TLCs”) on 16 November 2011, 12 and 26 January 2012 and a dialogue session between TLC and law firms on 14 May 2012. These sessions were useful in reminding the TLCs to use Singapore law as the governing law and Singapore as an ADR venue for their cross-border contracts. The dialogue session provided law firms with a clearer picture of the requirements of TLCs wishing to engage external legal assistance.
- A joint roadshow and seminar in Suzhou, Wuxi and Shanghai from 30 May – 1 June 2012 with Rodyk & Davidson LLP. The committee members met up with members from the Suzhou and Wuxi Bar Associations, Wujiang Foreign Enterprises Association and some Chinese law firms,

- such as Sunwu Co & Partners and New Talent Law Firm. A seminar on offshore dispute resolution using international arbitration was also held in Shanghai on 1 June 2012. This seminar was targeted at Chinese in-house counsel and about 80 of them attended the session.
- A presentation and networking reception for 20 postgraduate law students from Santa Clara University on 5 June 2012. The networking reception offered a good platform for the postgraduate students to interact with other PSL members and lawyers from local law firms.
- The Committee invited 10 legal luminaries from foreign jurisdictions to Singapore from 10 – 13 June 2012 under its Singapore Law Visitors Programme. The objectives of the programme are to give the guests a more in-depth understanding of the Singapore legal sector and to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas between members of the legal profession and/or Judiciary and the guests.



Panel discussion at the 1st National Conference on Construction Adjudication - Tactics & Strategies

Revamped SLW and SingaporeLaw websites

Singapore Law Watch (“SLW”) launched a revamped website with improved readability, earlier news delivery and enhancements such as summaries of headline news and sharing capability via Facebook and Twitter. SLW can now be read via iPhone and Android apps. Commentaries also include contributions that cover the latest legal happenings on the international stage that may have an impact on Singapore law and business. The average number of email subscribers and page views per month increased by 34.03% and 15.41% respectively compared to last year.

A revamped *SingaporeLaw* website featuring enhanced content will be launched by end 2012, together with mobile applications for both iPhone and Android.

MEDIATION & OTHER ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Singapore Mediation Centre (“SMC”) is the Honourable Justice Belinda Ang Saw Ean.

Key highlights

SMC launched the Singapore Mediation Charter on 9 September 2011, obtaining pledges from 26 organisations to consider mediation as the first step in their dispute resolution needs. As of 30 June 2012,

a further 10 organisations have signed on to the Singapore Mediation Charter.

The 1st National Conference on Construction Adjudication - Tactics & Strategies was held on 20 October 2011 and attended by more than 180 industry professionals.

Two new schemes were implemented:

a. Together with the Subordinate Courts of Singapore, SMC developed a Premier Mediation Scheme, aimed at encouraging disputants involved in higher-value civil suits commenced in the Subordinate Courts to mediate their cases using SMC.



The Honourable Justice Belinda Ang presenting a token of appreciation to the conference's Guest of Honour, The Honourable Justice Lee Seiu Kin

b. The Neutral Evaluation Service was launched on 2 May 2012. In the lead up to the launch, the Neutral Evaluation Rules were drafted and a distinguished Panel was constituted.

The 2009 volume of the *Singapore Construction Adjudication Review (“SCAdjR”)* was published on 20 August 2011 by Sweet & Maxwell. The 2010 and 2011 volumes of *SCAdjR* will be published by Academy Publishing in the second half of 2012.

Training workshops

From 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2012, SMC conducted 42 workshops in Singapore and overseas including Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei and Sri Lanka.

Its retained earnings as at 31 March 2012 was S\$1,554,739.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

The Professional Affairs Committee (“PAC”) was chaired by the Honourable Justice Steven Chong up to 24 June 2012.

The following activities of the various chapters and sub-committees of the PAC during the period under review are highlighted:

- a. Corporate Counsel Chapter: A small working committee, which also includes members of the Bar, was formed to study a regulatory framework for in-house counsel.
- b. Foreign Lawyers Chapter (“FLC”) focused on developing plans to involve foreign lawyers in pro bono work in Singapore.

Number of cases handled

Work done	1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012	1 April 2012 – 30 June 2012
Mediation matters	144	42
Adjudication cases #	112	33

SMC administers adjudication cases under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act.

- FLC is studying the possibility of having foreign lawyers support the Pro Bono Clinic of the Law Society of Singapore in its administration or knowledge management.
- c. Professional Practice and Development Chapter (“PDPC”) focused on the following activities:
- i. Following up from its earlier initiative to work with the Law Society on having more law firms to be Prime Law certified, the Prime Law publication was circulated to all Law Society members by October 2011.
 - ii. The second PAC Roundtable Forum on Quantum and Transparency of Legal Costs was held on 26 January 2012. More than 50 participants attended.
 - iii. A civil litigation checklist was prepared and circulated via the Academy’s website. The checklist was also given to the Singapore Institute of Legal Education, Temasek Polytechnic and the National University of Singapore (“NUS”) and Singapore Management University (“SMU”) law faculties for them to consider using it as a training tool.
- d. Professional Values Chapter (“PVC”) collaborated with the Academy’s Membership & Social Committee to organise a dialogue with law undergraduates from NUS and SMU on 2 September 2011. The panel consisting of legal professionals from private practice and the Legal Service shared their experiences relating to professional values, practice and ethical issues.
- e. Young Members’ Chapter (“YMC”) organised the following events: The Revenue Business Cycle – Processes, Risks & Controls, a joint seminar organised with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore (“ICPAS”) on 5 July 2011.
- YMC assisted with the organisation of the Mass Call on 27 August 2011. 257 petitioners were admitted as advocates and solicitors of the Supreme Court.
- The Christopher Bathurst Essay Competition 2011. Participants were asked to submit an essay of not more than 1,300 words on the topic “*In International Commercial Arbitrations, What System of Law should the Arbitral Panel Apply to Resolve Disputes and Why?*” The winning essay was submitted by Mr Tng Sheng Rong, Deputy Public Prosecutor, State Prosecution Division, Attorney-General’s Chambers who won an all-expense-paid fortnight internship at Fountain Court Chambers in London.
- A tea reception was hosted by the Honourable Justice Steven Chong for 13 young lawyers (with post-qualification experience of 7 years or less) on 31 October 2011.
- The Developments and Realities of Legal Practice in Singapore, a dialogue session for NUS and SMU law undergraduates was held on 3 February 2012. The session chaired by the Honourable Justice Steven Chong saw a high level of interaction between the students and the panellists from private practice and the Legal Service.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC DIRECTION

A Strategic Directions Committee (“SDC”) chaired by President, SAL was set up on 30 May 2011, to, *inter alia*, decide on the main strategic directions for the plans and activities of the Academy. The SDC will also co-ordinate and synergise the efforts of the SAL Senate Committees.

A Strategic Planning Brainstorming Exercise (“SPBE”) headed by the Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice V K Rajah was carried out on 13 July 2011. Prior to this brainstorming exercise, a survey was carried out from 16 June 2011 to 5 July 2011 to gather views on the pressing issues facing the legal fraternity. The SPBE resulted in a Rapporteurs’ Report which identified three strategic objectives for the Academy:

- a. Establishing a member-centric organisation;
- b. Raising standards of legal practice; and
- c. Growing Singapore’s legal industry – Developing and branding “Singapore Legal Inc”.

The recommendations of the SDC were endorsed by the SAL Senate and the Heads of the Legal Industry and Legal Knowledge clusters met with the chairpersons of the various SAL Committees to finalise their work-plans based on these recommendations.

APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR COUNSEL

The Senior Counsel Selection Committee is chaired by the Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong.

The Senior Counsel appointed for 2012 are Professor Yeo Tiong Min (*honoris causa*), Mr Kannan Ramesh and Mr Aedit Bin Abdullah, bringing the total number of persons who have been conferred this distinguished title under section 30(1) of the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161) to 63.



Senior Counsel:
Professor Yeo Tiong Min
(*honoris causa*), Mr Kannan Ramesh
and Mr Aedit Bin Abdullah

SAL INNOVATIONS AND IDEAS SCHEME

The SAL Innovations and Ideas Scheme ("SALIIS") was established in March 2012. The objectives of the scheme are to encourage members of the legal community to develop and implement new schemes/ ideas that can benefit the legal industry and/ or wider community and to set aside funding to develop these ideas.

A Committee for Innovation and Ideas ("CII") was formed to oversee and manage the scheme. CII is chaired by the Honourable Judge of Appeal Justice V K Rajah.

SALIIS funding is open to application from all SAL Ordinary, Associate and Associate-Student members. Two proposals were received in the period under review. The CII met and interviewed the applicants in July 2012.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS AND NOTARIES PUBLIC

The Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public ("the Board") is chaired by Mr Giam Chin Toon, SC.

In the year under review, 567 commissioners for oaths and 169 notaries public were appointed for the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012, and 1,137 commissioners for oaths and 372 notaries public for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

AUTHENTICATION SERVICES

The number of authentication certificates issued in FY2011/2012 totalled 42,814. Of the 42,814 certificates, 4,830 were submitted under the Express Authentication Service. This is an increase of 10% over the number 38,822 of authentication certificates issued in FY2010/2011.

SAL OVERSEAS ATTACHMENTS AND PRIZES

In 2012, SAL Overseas Attachments were granted to Ms Ho May Kim, Ms Vimaljit Kaur, Ms Tan Weiyi and Mr Jordan Tan. The three-month attachments were with Essex Court Chambers and/or Fountain Court Chambers.

The winners of the SAL Prizes for 2011/2012 were:

- Mr Xu Jiexiong, Daryl, top final-year student at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore;
- Mr Dai Zhongyu, the top student in a Law Elective for the degree of Master of Business Administration, Nanyang Technological University; and
- Mr Ng Guen Wen, Colin, the top student in the Diploma in Law & Management, Temasek Polytechnic.

"Very glad to volunteer and help out in this meaningful event, to cheer up the children's lives!! Sometimes, we think of the misfortune of others and our own life pales in comparison."

*Mr John P. H. Ng, Consultant,
AsiaLegal LLC*

MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Membership and Social Committee is chaired by the Honourable Justice Lai Siu Chiu.

The Committee organised 15 events for members in the period under review.

The SAL Charity Project 'Ice Cream + Charity = A Sweet Combination' was held on 3 December 2011, in support of The Yellow Ribbon Fund/The Salvation Army Prison Support Services - 'Kids in Play' Programme.

48 beneficiaries, aged nine to twelve years old, were taken in a fleet of Ferraris, Porsches and Lamborghinis from the ExotiCars Club to Udders Ice Cream at Siglap for a hands-on

ice cream making session and an ice cream buffet. The children also received gifts and NTUC vouchers. Members of the Academy and members from the ExotiCars Club donated \$24,134.06 which was channelled to the Yellow Ribbon Fund to fund programmes for children of ex-offenders and inmates.

SAL MEMBERSHIP

SAL's total membership as at 30 June 2012 stood at 9,565, representing a 10% increase over the previous year's figure of 8,703. Out of the 9,565 members, 2,364 have been granted a waiver of membership fees pursuant to Rule 4 of the SAL Rules.



The Honourable Justice Lai Siu Chiu handing out gifts to the children from The Salvation Army Prison Support Services - 'Kids in Play' Programme



The children were chauffeured in a fleet of sports cars from ExotiCars Club to Udders Ice Cream

CORPORATE SERVICES

STAKEHOLDING AND CONVEYANCING MONEY SERVICES

With effect from 1 August 2011, the Academy was one of the Appointed Entities designated by the Minister for Law with which conveyancing money may be held for the purposes of the Conveyancing and Law of Property (Conveyancing) Rules 2011. The role of the Academy is to serve as an independent depository to both buyer and seller in place of a law firm's conveyancing account.

The total number of payment-in transactions handled increased from 8,934 in FY 2010/2011 to 9,169 in FY 2011/2012. The total number of payment-out transactions handled increased from 9,254 in FY 2010/2011 to 11,926 in FY 2011/2012. The stakeholding and conveyancing money held as at 31 March 2012 was \$510.2 million compared to \$714.7 million in the last financial year. There was a 7% decrease in interest income and service fee, from \$1.9 million in FY 2010/2011 to \$1.8 million in FY 2011/2012. This was mainly due to the significant decrease in stakeholding money

held, the decrease in banks' interest rate and the placement of an additional \$20 million of the stakeholder fund with our fund manager with effect from 11 January 2011. The income relating to the \$50 million with the fund manager is now classified as investment income.

INVESTMENTS

For FY 2011/2012, the Academy's surplus funds managed by the fund manager on a discretionary basis made a loss of \$1.19 million as compared with a profit of \$1.67 million in the previous financial year. The decrease was mainly due to capital loss during disposal. As at 31 March 2012, the market value was \$31.15 million, \$0.72 million higher than the book value of \$30.43 million.

In January 2011, an additional sum of \$20 million of stakeholder funds was placed out with the fund manager. The decisions relating to the movement of the counters in the fund management account for the stakeholder fund was undertaken by the seven-man SAL Investment Committee chaired by the President, SAL. For the financial year ended

31 March 2012, the net investment gain for the stakeholder fund with the fund manager was \$1.06 million. As at 31 March 2012, the market value of the portfolio was \$53.09 million, \$3.09 million higher than the amount placed out with the fund manager.

SAL GROUP FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Financial Performance of SAL Group

In FY 2011/2012, total operating income for the SAL Group increased by 6% from \$12.05 million in FY 2010/2011 to \$12.79 million and total operating expenditure increased by 0.7% from \$10.57 million in FY 2010/2011 to \$10.64 million. The operating surplus for the SAL group increased by 45% from \$1.48 million in FY 2010/2011 to \$2.15 million in FY 2011/2012.

There was a net investment loss of \$0.13 million in FY 2011/2012 compared to an investment gain of \$2.61 million in FY 2010/2011. After taking into account the grant utilised of \$50,948 in FY 2011/2012 (FY 2010/2011: \$4,116), the surplus before consolidated fund contribution and income tax was \$2.08 million compared to a surplus of \$4.10 million in FY 2010/2011, a decrease of 49%.

With a consolidated fund contribution and income tax expense of \$0.36 million for FY 2011/2012 (FY 2010/2011: \$0.49 million), SAL Group ended with a surplus of \$1.72 million compared to a surplus of \$3.61 million in FY 2010/2011, a decrease of 52%.

Financial Performance of the Academy

In FY 2011/2012, the Academy's own operating income increased by 7% from \$10.30 million in FY 2010/2011 to \$11.08 million and total operating expenditure for the Academy

decreased by 0.5% from \$8.89 million in FY 2010/2011 to \$8.84 million.

With a net investment loss of \$0.13 million in FY 2011/2012 (FY 2010/2011: investment gain of \$2.61 million), the Academy ended with a surplus of \$2.12 million before consolidated fund contribution compared to a surplus of \$4.02 million in FY 2010/2011, a decrease of 47%. After consolidated fund contribution, the Academy's surplus is \$1.76 million compared to a surplus of \$3.54 million in FY 2010/2011, a decrease of 50%.

The operating surplus in FY2011/2012 was higher than FY2010/2011 mainly due to higher income earned from the authentication of signatures of notaries public of \$0.2 million and a one-off recovery of expense from Singapore Institute of Legal Education (a Statutory Body) of \$0.4 million. However, with a fall in investment gain, the surplus after investment was lower in FY2011/2012.

HUMAN RESOURCE

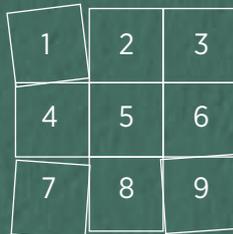
The approved staff establishment for SAL and SMC as at 30 July 2012 was 90 of which 72 positions were filled by full-time staff.



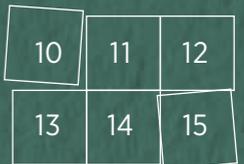
Team Building:
SAL staff put
their cooking
skills to the test at
the SAL's Cook-
Out Challenge



KEY EXECUTIVES



- 1. MS SERENE WEE**
Chief Executive
- 2. MS SABIHA SHIRAZ**
Deputy Executive Director
Singapore Mediation Centre
- 3. MR LOONG SENG ONN**
Senior Director
Legal Industry Cluster
- 4. MS TEO LAY ENG**
Senior Manager
Human Resource & Administration
- 5. MS LAI WAI LENG**
Assistant Director
Finance, Membership & Authentication
- 6. MR GAY WEI PING**
Chief Technology Officer
SAL Technology
- 7. MR BALA SHUNMUGAM**
Director
Academy Publishing
- 8. MS GRACE LEE-KOK**
Assistant Director
Legal Education
- 9. MS LOW HUI MIN**
Chief Financial Officer
Stakeholding, Finance
(Membership) & Investment



- 10. MS FOO KIM LENG**
Assistant Director
Corporate Communications
& Events Management
- 11. MS TAY BEE LIAN**
Senior Director
LawNet
- 12. MS LINA TONG**
Assistant Director
Appointments and Awards, Promotion
of Singapore Law & Professional Affairs
- 13. MR ANDREW YEOH**
Assistant Director
Academy Publishing (Editorial Operations)
- 14. MS DEANNA KWOK**
Assistant Director
Academy Publishing (Contract Publishing
& Special Projects)
- 15. MS MELISSA GOH**
Consultant
Law Reform



FINANCIAL REVIEW

for the financial year ended 31 March 2012

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of the Singapore Academy of Law

The accompanying summary financial statements of the Singapore Academy of Law (the "Academy") and its subsidiaries (the "Group"), which comprise the summary consolidated balance sheet of the Group and the summary balance sheet of the Academy as at 31 March 2012, the summary consolidated income and expenditure statement and summary consolidated statement of comprehensive income of the Group, and the summary income and expenditure statement and summary statement of comprehensive income of the Academy for the financial year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Academy and its subsidiaries for the financial year then ended. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 30 July 2012.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Singapore Financial Reporting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Academy and its subsidiaries.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with the Section 21 of the Singapore Academy of Law Act (Cap. 294A, 1997 Revised Edition) (the "Act"). In preparing the summary financial statements, Section 21 of the Act requires that the summary financial statements be derived from the annual financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2012 and be in such form and contain such information as may be specified by rules made thereunder applicable to summary financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Singapore Standard on Auditing 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements of the Academy and its subsidiaries for the financial year ended 31 March 2012 from which they are derived in accordance with the requirements of Section 21 of the Act.



PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Public Accountants and Certified Public Accountants
Singapore, 30 July 2012

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2012

Important Note

These summary financial statements as set out on pages 40 to 45 are derived from Singapore Academy of Law ("the Academy") and its subsidiaries ("the Group")'s financial statements and the independent auditor's 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 independent auditor's 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 statements do 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 independent auditor's 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 Institute*;
- (g) to refer to the Law Society or the Institute* proposals and suggestions regarding matters which in the opinion of the Senate require consideration by the Law Society or the Institute*;
- (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;
- (ka) to hold moneys, whether as stakeholder or in any other capacity, for the purposes or members of the legal profession in Singapore or under any written law; and
- (l) to exercise the functions and duties conferred on the Academy under any written law.

* "Institute" refers to the Singapore Institute of Legal Education established under section 3 of the Legal Profession Act (Cap.161).

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES**SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2012

Summary Income and Expenditure Statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2012

	The Group		The Academy	
	2012 \$	2011 \$	2012 \$	2011 \$
Operating income/ (expenditure)				
Operating income	12,787,062	12,049,846	11,084,556	10,297,425
Operating expenditure	(10,634,578)	(10,565,590)	(8,841,737)	(8,889,692)
Surplus from operating activities	2,152,484	1,484,256	2,242,819	1,407,733
Investment income/ (expenditure)/ Other gains from investment - net				
Investment income	2,569,036	2,040,124	2,569,036	2,040,124
Other gains from investment - net	(2,497,335)	761,910	(2,497,335)	761,910
Investment expenditure	(198,214)	(188,727)	(198,214)	(188,727)
Surplus from investing activities	(126,513)	2,613,307	(126,513)	2,613,307
Total operating and investment income/(expenditure)				
Total income	12,858,763	14,851,880	11,156,257	13,099,459
Total expenditure	(10,832,792)	(10,754,317)	(9,039,951)	(9,078,419)
Surplus from operating and investing activities	2,025,971	4,097,563	2,116,306	4,021,040
Grants utilised	50,948	4,116	-	-
Surplus before income tax and contribution to Consolidated Fund	2,076,919	4,101,679	2,116,306	4,021,040
Contribution to Consolidated Fund and income tax expense	(356,144)	(490,046)	(359,821)	(484,800)
Surplus after income tax and contribution to Consolidated Fund	1,720,775	3,611,633	1,756,485	3,536,240

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2012

Summary Statements of Comprehensive Income for the financial year ended 31 March 2012

	The Group		The Academy	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Surplus after income tax and contribution to Consolidated Fund	1,720,775	3,611,633	1,756,485	3,536,240
Other comprehensive income:				
Financial assets, available-for-sale, net of contribution				
– Fair value gains	1,691,722	(1,345,216)	1,691,722	(1,345,216)
– Reclassified on disposal	(1,542,663)	967,123	(1,542,663)	967,123
Total comprehensive income	1,869,834	3,233,540	1,905,544	3,158,147

Summary Balance Sheets as at 31 March 2012

	The Group		The Academy	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Property, plant and equipment	370,655	418,516	362,112	405,629
Intangible asset	1,654,820	1,868,345	1,654,820	1,868,345
Available-for-sale financial assets	24,132,892	30,090,735	24,132,892	30,090,735
Current assets	533,435,079	732,527,042	530,615,352	726,925,072
Current liabilities	(515,034,014)	(722,194,622)	(513,866,816)	(718,327,495)
Non-current liabilities	(335,533)	(355,951)	(229,199)	(198,669)
	44,223,899	42,354,065	42,669,161	40,763,617
Accumulated surplus	43,104,870	41,384,095	41,550,132	39,793,647
Fair value reserves	1,119,029	969,970	1,119,029	969,970
	44,223,899	42,354,065	42,669,161	40,763,617

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2012

1. Stakeholding funds

Included in current assets and current liabilities are stakeholding funds, held in accordance with the Singapore Academy of Law (Stakeholding) Rules, amounting to \$510,928,451 [Note 1(a)] (2011: \$715,333,441) and \$510,201,387 (2011: \$714,652,656) respectively.

(a) Stakeholding funds comprise the following:

	The Group and Academy	
	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Included in current assets:		
Cash at bank	262,713,690	540,241,018
Deposits with financial institutions	201,000,000	143,003,084
Financial assets, available-for-sale	49,235,776	33,140,150
Financial assets, available-for-sale - accrued income	345,630	258,925
Amount owed to the Academy	(2,366,645)	(1,309,736)
	510,928,451	715,333,441
Represented by:		
Stakeholding funds included in current liabilities	510,201,387	714,652,656
Fair value gain on financial assets, available-for-sale	727,064	680,785
	510,928,451	715,333,441

The Academy has engaged a professional fund manager to manage a portion of the Stakeholding funds [Note 1(b)].

(b) Stakeholding funds with fund manager comprise the following financial assets/liabilities:

	The Group and Academy	
	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Funds with fund manager:		
Available-for-sale financial assets (included in current assets)	49,235,776	33,140,150
Cash and cash equivalents (included in current assets)	3,512,303	18,591,446
Accrued income (included in current assets)	345,630	258,925
	53,093,709	51,990,521
Less: Fund management fee payable (included in current liabilities)	(17,637)	(16,318)
	53,076,072	51,974,203

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2012

2. Funds of the Academy with fund manager

Included in the available-for-sale financial assets, current assets and current liabilities of the Group are funds of the Academy placed with a fund manager amounting to \$31,029,501 [Note 2(a)] (2011: \$32,096,575).

(a) Funds with fund manager comprise the following financial assets/liabilities:

	The Group and Academy	
	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Funds with fund manager:		
Available-for-sale financial assets	24,132,892	30,090,735
Cash and cash equivalents (included in current assets)	6,838,151	1,892,227
Derivative financial instruments [included in current assets/(liabilities)]		
- assets	-	41,562
- liabilities	(3,826)	(49,163)
Accrued income (included in current assets)	82,848	142,413
	31,050,065	32,117,774
Less: Fund management fee payable (included in current liabilities)	(20,564)	(21,199)
	31,029,501	32,096,575

3. Grants

Included in the non-current liabilities of the Group are government grants amounting to \$106,334 (2011: \$157,282).

4. Accumulated surplus

The accumulated surplus of the Group and the Academy include other funds of \$6,681,421 (2011: \$6,499,457) and \$6,752,170 (2011: \$6,570,206) respectively that are set up by SAL for specific purposes. There was a transfer of \$190,000 (2011: \$190,000) from general fund to other funds during the financial year.

5. Changes in structure of the Academy

There are no material changes in the structure of the Academy for the financial year ended 31 March 2012.

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2012

6. Summary of significant related party transactions

These were the following significant related party transactions at terms agreed between the parties concerned:

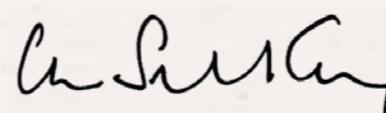
(a) Income and expenditure for services

	The Group		The Academy	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Secondment fees and other income received from subsidiary	-	-	711,052	557,626
LawNet levy income received from related government bodies	329,345	359,235	329,345	359,235
Food and beverage income received from subsidiary	-	-	77,164	40,520
Seminar fees, workshop income, food and beverage and other income received from related government bodies	104,458	164,632	86,038	141,727
Office rental, secondment and other charges paid to related government bodies and related entities	792,336	688,406	749,834	657,649

(b) Key management personnel compensation

The Group and Academy	
2012	2011
\$	\$
1,631,488	1,649,850

Dated this 30 July 2012



Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong
President
Singapore Academy of Law

**EXTRACT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON
THE FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

An unmodified audit report dated 30 July 2012 has been issued on the full financial statements of the Singapore Academy of Law and its subsidiaries for the financial year ended 31 March 2012. The audit report is reproduced as follows:

*INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW***Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Singapore Academy of Law (the "Academy") and its subsidiaries (the "Group") set out on pages xx to xx*, which comprise the consolidated balance sheet of the Group and the balance sheet of the Academy as at 31 March 2012, the consolidated income and expenditure statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and reserves and statement of cash flows of the Group, and the income and expenditure statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and reserves of the Academy for the financial year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of the Singapore Academy of Law Act (the "Act") and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair profit and loss accounts and balance sheets and to maintain accountability of assets.

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 about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit 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 of financial statements that give a true and fair view 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 management, 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.

*INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW (continued)**Opinion*

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements of the Group and the income and expenditure statement, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in funds and reserves and the balance sheet of the Academy are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Singapore Financial Reporting Standards so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and of the Academy as at 31 March 2012, and of the results, changes in funds and reserves of the Group and of the Academy and the cash flows of the Group for the financial year ended on that date.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Academy and by those subsidiaries incorporated in Singapore of which we are the auditors, have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Public Accountants and Certified Public Accountants

Singapore, 30 July 2012

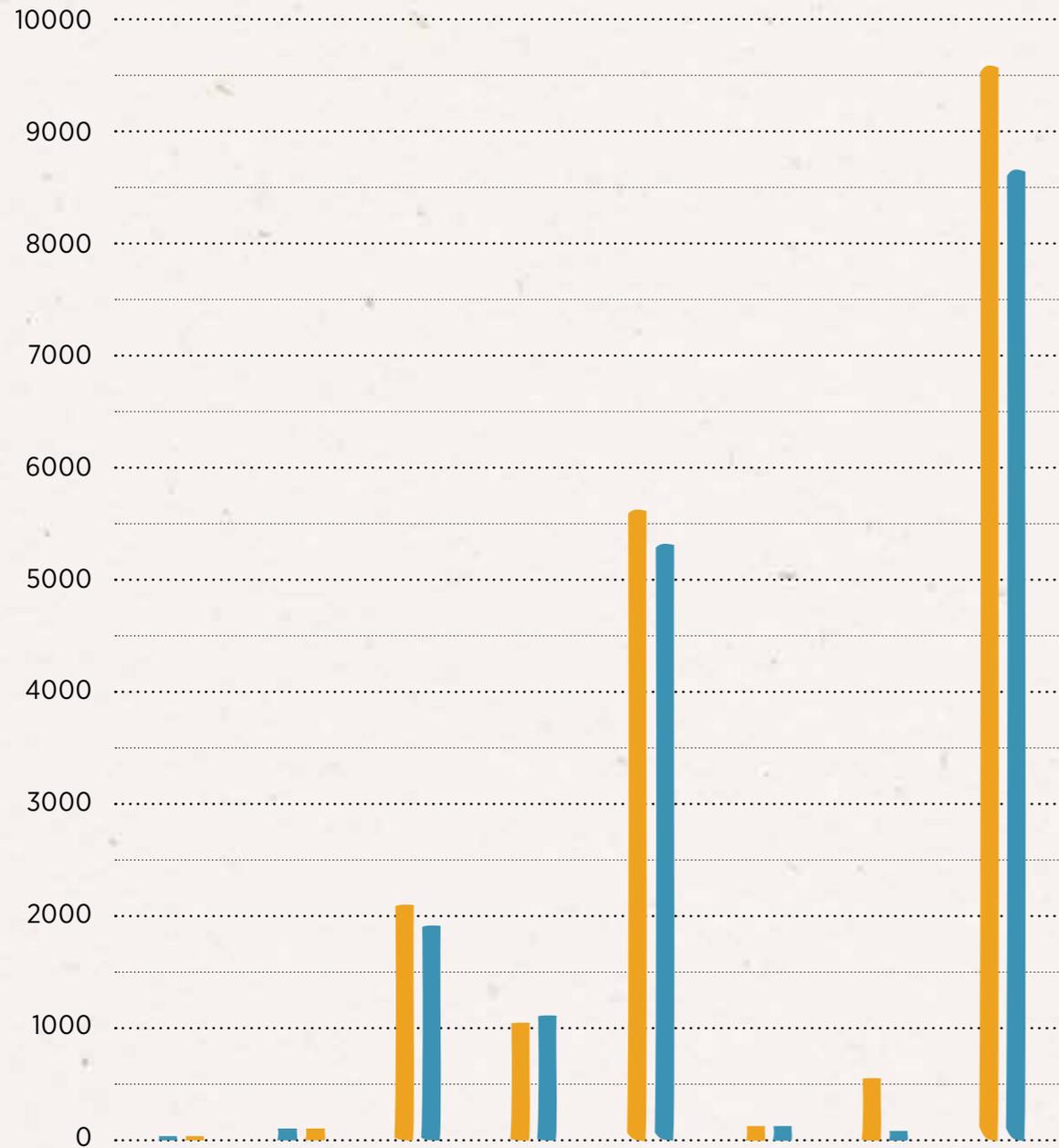
*The page numbers are as stated in the Independent Auditor's Report dated 30 July 2012 included in the Singapore Academy of Law's financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2012.

THE SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2012

STATISTICS ON COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS



CATEGORY

*This includes three foreign lawyers practising under section 130I and/or section 130L of the Legal Profession Act.



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