



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF SINGAPORE

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**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**25th Anniversary of the Law Society's
Criminal Legal Aid Scheme**

The Law Society celebrates the 25th Anniversary of its Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) this year. At its recent Dinner and Dance function in October 2010, volunteer CLAS lawyers were honoured for their contributions in the past 25 years to the cause of access to justice for needy accused persons who cannot afford a lawyer.

This coming Sunday 21 November 2010, the Law Society will be holding its annual fund-raising Charity Golf tournament in support of CLAS. The tournament luncheon will be attended by Senior Minister Professor S Jayakumar, The Honourable The Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam, as well as Law Society President Mr Wong Meng Meng SC.

CLAS provides legal assistance for criminal charges faced by needy accused persons who do not have the means to pay for a lawyer. Volunteer lawyers receive no fees for the legal services they render.

CLAS was launched on 2nd September 1985 by Mr Harry Elias SC, the then President of the Law Society. Mr Elias felt that every person, regardless of socioeconomic status, should be afforded access to justice and fair representation. Mr George Lim Teong Jin SC was the lawyer assigned to the very first case. Both lawyers are now Senior Counsels.

Mr Gopinath Pillai, current Chairman of CLAS, says "I am privileged to serve in CLAS. CLAS volunteer lawyers help to uphold the compassion, ideals and noble spirit of the Singapore legal community."

About the Law Society of Singapore

Established in 1967, the Law Society of Singapore is a body established under the Legal Profession Act. It carries out various statutory functions prescribed under the Legal Profession Act, including maintaining and improving the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession in Singapore, the facilitation of the acquisition of legal knowledge by members of the legal profession, and protecting and assisting the public in all matters ancillary or incidental to the law.

For media queries, please contact:

Shawn Toh
Senior Assistant Director
The Law Society of Singapore
Tel 6530 0232
Fax 6533 5700
Email communications@lawsoc.org.sg