Seminar on Public Interest Lawyering

30 May 2017, Tuesday
5.30pm – 7.10pm

55 Market Street, Level 3, Conference Room 2
Singapore 048941

No. of Public CPD Points: 1.5 Points
Practice Area: Government
Training Level: General
About the Seminar

The Public and International Law Committee of The Law Society of Singapore is pleased to present the ‘Seminar on Public Interest Lawyering’. The seminar will be presented by an esteemed panel, including Remy Choo Zheng Xi, Director, Peter Low & Choo LLC & Eugene Thuraisingam, Partner, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP.

The first speaker, Mr Remy Choo will be sharing his experience as working on an international Human Right Clinic in NYU in 2009, his background as one of the Founders of The Online Citizen back in 2006 and his first “Public Interest Case” on the SMRT bus strike case. He will also speak on the s377A challenge, the trial of The Real Singapore for Sedition, Alex Au’s contempt of Court proceedings & the case on AG vs Ting Choon Meng.

The second speaker, Mr Eugene Thuraisingam will speak on the following 4 cases.

1. James Raj s/o Arokiasamy v Public Prosecutor [2014] 3 SLR 750

The Court of Appeal was asked to re-consider its previous position that the right to counsel provided for in the Constitution cannot be immediately exercised.

2. Vijaya Kumar s/o Rajendran & Ors v Attorney-General [2015] SGHC 244

This case involved an application for leave to apply for a Mandatory Order to mandate the commissioner and / or the police officer granting the permit in respect of the Thaipusam procession of 2016 to authorise the playing of musical instruments during the Thaipusam procession of 2016.

3. Prabagaran a/l Srivijayan v Public Prosecutor and other matters [2017] 1 SLR 173

The Court of Appeal was asked to consider the important Constitutional Law issue of whether the Public Prosecutor in deciding whether or not to grant a certificate of cooperation to a convicted drug trafficker, after conviction (which would result in the Court hearing the matter having the discretion to sentence the offender to life imprisonment as opposed to death) was in substance performing a judicial function which offends against the constitutional provision reserving judicial functions to the Judiciary.

4. Attorney-General v Ting Choon Meng and another appeal [2017] 1 SLR 373

This case dealt with the fundamental liberty of free speech. We represented the Singapore current affairs website, The Online Citizen, in responding to the Government’s appeal to the Court of Appeal that the Government is a ‘person’ under the Protection of Harassment Act and was therefore entitled to bring the Online Citizen to Court to seek a declaration that certain statements made by the Online Citizen about MINDEF were false.

This will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr Jaclyn Neo – Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, where the presenters will each provide their unique perspectives based on their experiences with the various processes.
## Programme Outline

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>5.00pm – 5.30pm</td>
<td>Registration (Light Refreshment will be provided)</td>
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| 5.30pm – 5.35pm| **Introductory Remarks**  
Prakash Pillai – Chairman, Public and International Law Committee, The Law Society of Singapore |
| 5.35pm – 6.05pm| Remy Choo Zheng Xi – Director, Peter Low & Choo LLC                       |
| 6.05pm – 6.35pm| Eugene Thuraisingam – Partner, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP                    |
| 6.35pm – 7.05pm| **Panel Discussion**                                                      |
|               | Moderator  
Dr Jaclyn Neo – Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore |
|               | Panellists  
Remy Choo Zheng Xi – Director, Peter Low & Choo LLC  
Eugene Thuraisingam – Partner, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP |
| 7.05pm – 7.10pm| **Vote of Thanks**                                                       |
|               | Dr Michael Hwang, SC – Vice-Chairman, Public and International Law Committee, The Law Society of Singapore |
| 7.10pm        | End of Seminar                                                           |
Seminar on Public Interest Lawyering

Moderator/Speakers’ Profiles

Dr Jaclyn Neo – Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

Jaclyn L. Neo is an Assistant Professor of Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She specializes in constitutional law, focusing on minorities and religion. She was a recipient of two graduate scholarships from NUS under which she completed her Masters of Law (LL.M.) and Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D.) at Yale Law School. Jaclyn has published in the International Journal of Constitutional Law (I-CON), Oxford Journal of Law and Religion, Human Rights Quarterly, and the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies. Her article on domestic incorporation of international human rights law in a dualist state won the Asian Yearbook of International Law’s DILA International Law Prize. Jaclyn is an Executive Committee member of the NUS Centre for Asian Legal Studies and was also recently appointed to the editorial board of the Asian Journal of Comparative Law and the Asian Yearbook of International Law. Jaclyn was appointed as a consultant to WongPartnership in 2015.

Remy Choo Zheng Xi – Director, Peter Low & Choo LLC

Mr Remy Choo Zheng Xi co-leads Peter Low & Choo LLC, a law firm of 10 lawyers specializing in all things litigation. While he enjoys balancing a portfolio of commercial and criminal cases, Zheng Xi’s first love is public interest litigation. He was awarded the International Bar Association’s “Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award” in 2016 for his work in this field, and currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Law Society’s Young Lawyers’ Committee.

Zheng Xi is a firm believer in what he calls “holistic lawyering”. He keeps himself constantly motivated by striking the right balance between contributing to his personal development, the profession, and society.

Eugene Thuraisingam – Partner, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP

Mr Eugene Thuraisingam read law at the National University of Singapore when he was placed on the final year Deans List with a good Second Upper Bachelors Degree in Law. He commenced practice at Allen & Gledhill in June 2001 and quickly rose through the ranks to be made a partner of the firm in January 2007. He then joined Stamford Law Corporation in 2009 as a Director and was one of the pioneers of its Dispute Resolution Department until he left in 2012 to set up his own practice. He now leads a firm of 10 lawyers specialising in Criminal and Commercial Litigation.

Prakash Pillai – Chairman, Public and International Law Committee, The Law Society of Singapore

Prakash Pillai is the chair of the Public and International Law Committee of the Law Society. He is also a partner of Clyde & Co Classis Singapore, where he focuses on international arbitration and is recognised as a leading lawyer in various journals including Chambers Global and the Global Arbitration Review. He was formerly a Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and prior to that specialised as a postgraduate student in Public International Law at Cambridge University.
Dr Michael Hwang, SC – Vice-Chairman, Public and International Law Committee, The Law Society of Singapore

Dr Michael Hwang was educated at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at Oxford University. He was called to the Singapore Bar in 1968, when he joined Allen & Gledhill. He became a partner in 1972 and retired from the firm at the end of 2002 after having served as Head of its Litigation and Arbitration Department for 10 years.

Dr Michael Hwang served as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court from 1991-1992, and was one of the first twelve Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1997. He now practices primarily as an International Arbitrator with a selective practice as Senior Counsel. Dr Michael Hwang has written extensively on international arbitration and mediation. He is active in domestic and international arbitrations (under ICC, CIETAC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, ICSID, ICDR, HKIAC, DIAC, BANI, Swiss and SIAC Rules) and also acts as mediator both locally and internationally. Dr Michael Hwang was President of the Law Society of Singapore from 2008-2010, and currently serves as non-resident Chief Justice of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts.
Registration Fees

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<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Fees (Inclusive of 7% GST and course materials)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Law Society Member / Employee of Small Law Firm (Singapore law Practice with 5 or less lawyers)</td>
<td>$86.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Law Society Member / Employee of a Law Practice (except from Small Law Firm)</td>
<td>$96.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Members of Law Society</td>
<td>$128.40</td>
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To register, please visit our website at: [http://www.lawsoc.org.sg/en-gb/events.aspx](http://www.lawsoc.org.sg/en-gb/events.aspx). For enquiries, please contact us at cpd@lawsoc.org.sg or 6530-0211.

Terms and Conditions

- Allocation of seats is on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- Registration closes on **23 May 2017, Tuesday (5.00pm)**, or when all seats are filled.
- The registration fee is due and payable upon registration and must be received prior to the event.
- Payment must be made by the closing date stated. Registration will only be confirmed upon receipt of full payment.
- The Law Society reserves the right to refuse to register or admit any participant, and to cancel or postpone the course or seminar.
- If you are unable to attend, a substitute delegate is welcomed, provided that the Law Society is notified in writing of the name and particulars of the substitute delegate at least 3 working days before the seminar.

Cancellation and Refund of Fees

- Allocation of seats is on a first-come-first-served basis and limited seats for each seminar. Registration closes on **23 May 2017, Tuesday (5.00pm)**, or when all seats are filled.
- Participant who cancels their registration before the commencement date shall be liable to pay the percentage of the seminar fee set out as follows:
  i. 20 days before commencement date: 25% of seminar fee.
  ii. 19 to 8 days before commencement date: 50% of seminar fee.
  iii. 7 days or less before commencement date: 100% of seminar fee.
- Participant who is unable to attend the seminar due to medical exigencies will be subjected to a cancellation fee of 50% of seminar fee.

Admin Note to Singapore Practitioners in relation to the Mandatory CPD Scheme:

No of Public CPD Points: 1.5 Points  
Practice Area: Government  
Training Level: General

Participants who wish to claim CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. This includes signing in on arrival and signing out at the conclusion of the activity in the manner required by the organizer, and not being absent from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to [http://www.silecpdcentre.sg/](http://www.silecpdcentre.sg/) for more information.

Note: In the course of the workshops, seminar, conferences or events, photographs of participants/videos or interviews of the participants could be conducted by the Society, or its appointed vendors, for the purpose of post event publicity of the respective workshops, seminar, conferences or events, either in the Society’s official publication/website or any third party’s publication/website approved by the Society.