SINGAPORE LEGAL SERVICE

2021 IN REVIEW

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Legal Service Commission is to maintain a dedicated corps of officers with integrity and ability to staff the Judiciary, the Attorney-General's Chambers and the Legal Service departments of various Ministries and other arms of Government.

SINGAPORE LEGAL SERVICE 2021 IN REVIEW

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THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch of the Legal Service is a key component of the Singapore Judiciary, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The Legal Service Officers ("LSOs") in the Judicial Branch serve in the Supreme Court Registry, the Justices' Law Clerks ("JLC") pool and the Office of the Chief Justice at the Supreme Court, the Singapore Judicial College ("SJC"), the State Courts, and the Family Justice Courts ("FJC").

The LSOs in the Supreme Court Registry are supervised by the Registrar of the Supreme Court. The JLCs and the Office of the Chief Justice, including the Office of Transformation and Innovation (Judiciary) ("OTI") and the Knowledge Management Office ("KMO"), come under the direct oversight of the Chief Justice.

The LSOs in the State Courts and the FJC are supervised by the Presiding Judge of the State Courts and the Presiding Judge of the FJC, respectively.

Supreme Court Registry and Justices' Law Clerks

The Supreme Court Registry ("Registry") is led by the Registrar of the Supreme Court, who is assisted by the Deputy Registrar, Senior Assistant Registrars, Divisional Registrars, Deputy Divisional Registrars and Assistant Registrars (collectively, "registrars"). Registrars perform a plethora of roles across three divisional registries, namely, the Division for the Court of Appeal ("CA") and the Appellate Division of the High Court ("AD"), the Division for the General Division of the High Court ("GD"), and the Division for the Singapore International Commercial Court ("SICC").

Registrars hear and determine a wide range of civil applications, trials on assessment of damages and taking of accounts, bankruptcy matters, examination of judgment debtors, taxation and enforcement matters. Registrars also ensure the smooth and expeditious resolution of Supreme Court cases through active judicial case management.

Registrars play a major role in advancing key strategic initiatives and judicial reforms to enhance the administration of justice, such as operationalising and ensuring the smooth running of the AD since 2 January 2021. The Registry drove transformative changes to our civil procedural landscape, working closely with the Civil Justice Commission and SICC Judges to design and implement the Rules of Court 2021 and the SICC Rules 2021, respectively. Beyond working on these rules, the Registry also developed the necessary supporting frameworks including Practice Directions, procedural guides and eLitigation enhancements.

The Registry introduced numerous best practices and bespoke guidelines in 2021, including: a protocol on requests for urgent hearings, a Judge Pre-Trial Conference checklist for Criminal Cases, a "summary table" approach for specified civil applications, a guide on applications for moratoria under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018, and the SICC's Technology, Infrastructure and Construction List. On the international front, the Registry supported significant international engagements including the third meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts, the 5th Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable, and communication protocols with the Federal Court of Malaysia.

The Registry has continued to build and strengthen resilience in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, working closely with the Supreme Court Bench, the Registry ensured the disposal of almost all matters affected by the COVID-19 Circuit Breaker. The Registry also worked closely with stakeholders to ensure continued access to justice during the pandemic, through facilitating remote hearings and the use of video-link testimony for overseas witnesses and amending legislation to introduce a new method of service of warrants of arrest in admiralty proceedings.

The Supreme Court Bench is also supported by the JLCs. JLCs provide research assistance to, and are mentored by, the Judges and Judicial Commissioners of the Supreme Court. In their first year, JLCs assist the GD, while in their second year, JLCs assist the CA and the AD.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 40 registrars in the Registry and 33 JLCs (excluding 13 LSOs re-deployed to the Supreme Court on 30 December 2021 and joining the 2022 cohort of JLCs).

Teh Hwee Hwee (Ms) Registrar

Supreme Court

Office of the Chief Justice

The Chief Executive (Office of the Chief Justice) oversees the Supreme Court's and the FJC's administration and operations, the OTI, the KMO, and strategic and policy matters to achieve the vision and mission of the Judiciary.

Significant milestones achieved in 2021 included:

- (a) launch of the Singapore Courts website which consolidated the websites of the Supreme Court, the State Courts and the FJC into a single revamped website;
- (b) establishment of the KMO which seeks to provide a strategic platform for the sharing of knowledge and best practices across the Judiciary;
- (c) launch of the SG Courts Mobile App with faster and better access to court files for lawyers and judges;
- (d) development of a strategic communications plan for the Judiciary;
- (e) launch of the LEARN@Judiciary digital learning platform for the Judiciary; and
- (f) the 5th Singapore-China Legal and Judicial Roundtable, which saw the a Memorandum signing of of Understanding on Cooperation on Information on Foreign Law, the instrument the first such that Supreme People's Court of the Republic People's of China has entered into with a foreign court.

As at 31 December 2021, there were four LSOs in the Office of the Chief Justice.

Juthika Ramanathan (Ms)

Chief Executive Office of the Chief Justice

Singapore Judicial College

Following the Chief Justice's announcement at the Opening of the Legal Year 2021 that the SJC was developing a Judiciary Competency Framework ("JCF"), the SJC ended the year with the JCF ready for implementation. The online presentation of the SJC's programmes continued seamlessly and its pedagogy was refined to incorporate practice classes and to facilitate more and clinics. effective remote interaction, including with members of the SJC's Senior and Judge Faculty. As a precursor to structured training under the JCF, the SJC designed and conducted two runs of a customised programme on forensic analysis of evidence and judgment writing for all State Courts judges.

The SIC enhanced its international collaborations and co-hosted several joint conferences with the China National Judges College, the Hainan High People's Court and the Judicial Research and Training Institute of the Supreme Court of Korea. The SJC also co-hosted a special edition of the Case Forum of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China ("SPC") Judicial Case Academy. This was notably the first-ever invitation extended by the SPC to any foreign judicial institution. Separately, the inaugural cohort of the Master of Laws in Judicial Studies jointly offered by the Singapore Management University and the SJC graduated this year.

Finally, to serve the needs of a new Judicial Service, a working group led by Justice Philip Jeyaretnam and Judicial Commissioner Kwek Mean Luck was tasked to undertake a bold reimagination of SJC's structure, curricula, pedagogy and faculty.

As at 31 December 2021, there were two LSOs in the SJC.

Foo Chee Hock

Dean Singapore Judicial College

The State Courts

In 2021, the State Courts pressed ahead with maintaining access to quality justice, while managing the risks posed by the pandemic. Leveraging remote and asynchronous hearings, case filings in the State Courts were cleared at an impressive rate of 110%, despite the strictures imposed by the pandemic, even as filings for the year increased.

Concurrently, the State Courts continued to step up in the country's fight against COVID-19, with its Judicial Officers ("JOs") leading various COVID-related dispute resolution panels.

The State Courts crossed several significant milestones, including:

- (a) embarking on a fundamental review of civil processes in preparation for the new Rules of Court 2021, which took effect in April 2022;
- (b) drafting a new set of Practice Directions to govern actions filed in the State Courts under the new civil regime;
- (c) enhancing internal protocols to streamline the management of interlocutory disputes; and

(d) publishing, in collaboration with the Supreme Court, a series of digests to guide court users navigating the new regime.

The specialist Protection from Harassment Court was operationalised on 1 June 2021. The legislation introducing this court enhanced the remedies available to victims of harassment, allowing them to easily file their claims online under a simplified track. JOs were also given powers for more proactive management and resolution of harassment cases.

As for criminal justice, the State Courts published the second edition of the Guidebook for Accused in Person, in collaboration with the Community Justice Centre. This Guidebook, which comes in the English and vernacular languages, seeks to guard against accused persons being inadvertently prejudiced by their unfamiliarity with the criminal process.

The State Courts also enhanced the efficacy of their operations through internal restructuring. The Criminal and Civil Registries were consolidated into a single cluster, reaping synergies from centralised registry processes and promoting greater consistency in case management policies. This also freed up JOs in the Criminal and Civil Courts Clusters to devote greater focus on honing their judge-craft.

The State Courts also designed a more structured mentoring framework, under which senior JOs impart their experience and expertise to newer JOs, through regular mentoring sessions, on-the-job sit-ins and feedback loops. This will ultimately accelerate the development of key bench skills, including judgment-writing and forensic analysis. The State Courts also invested heavily in training, as reflected in increased training hours for both JOs and officers in the State Courts in 2021 compared to 2020.

As the State Courts journey into 2022, we will continue striving for excellence and ensuring access to justice, as the State Courts begin a new chapter in an everchallenging but exciting landscape.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 100 LSOs in the State Courts.

Justice Vincent Hoong

Presiding Judge State Courts

The Family Justice Courts

In 2021, FJC pressed on with the adoption of Therapeutic Justice ("TJ") in the family justice system and continued its efforts to build the necessary TJ "hardware" and TJ "software". FJC introduced initiatives aimed at increasing accessibility to court processes and provide families with access to a wider array of complementary services.

A noteworthy TJ "hardware" is the Divorce e-Service, launched by FJC as a dedicated online portal designed to assist court users to file and complete divorces under the simplified track. To complement the eService, FJC published the Family Orders Guide, which serves as a common reference point for court users on the language and meaning of commonly-used court orders and as a resource to craft bespoke court orders relevant to their respective needs.

To assist court users, FJC produced a Case Highlights digital repository comprising bite-sized and easily-understood snippets of notable family law decisions. The repository helps court users better understand substantive family case law principles without offering legal advice or promoting any legal position.

Another helpful TJ "hardware" is the pilot project of the Panel of Financial Experts scheme, where financial experts are appointed to assist parties in financial assessments. This scheme builds on the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants ("ISCA"). FJC and ISCA have since reviewed the pilot project, with a view to implementing the revised scheme in 2022.

FJC also collaborated with the College of Psychiatrists, the Singapore Psychological Society, and the Singapore Association for Counselling to form a Steering Committee that would establish a Panel of Therapeutic Specialists ("POTS"). Through the POTS scheme, court users can be matched with the appropriate mental health specialists who will assist in the restorative process by providing appropriate therapeutic services.

Continuing its efforts to build TJ "software", FJC worked with the

Singapore Academy of Law and the Law Society of Singapore to launch the inaugural "Family Therapeutic Justice Certification Programme" to train legal practitioners in the practice TJ. JOs officers from of and served as FIC facilitators for the programme, which included focusing on the spirit and ethos of TJ in family practice.

On the international front, FJC supported the 8th World Congress on Family Children's Rights, Law and which focused on international cooperation on the movement of children, best family-justice practices in matters, and revisited issues such as cyber security and human trafficking. In his keynote speech, the Chief Justice set out his vision for TJ as a means of resolving familial disputes in a holistic, restorative, and forward-looking way. FJC also provided a snapshot of the milestones in its journey and its adoption of TJ.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 43 LSOs in the FJC.

Justice Debbie Ong

Presiding Judge Family Justice Courts

THE LEGAL BRANCH

THE LEGAL BRANCH

The Attorney-General heads the Legal Branch. Legal Service Officers ("LSOs") in the Legal Branch serve in the Attorney-General's Chambers ("AGC"), departments of Ministries, or statutory boards/statutory bodies with LSO positions.

The Attorney-General's Chambers

The AGC is led by the Attorney-General and the Deputy Attorneys-General. In 2021, the AGC continued under the leadership of Mr Lucien Wong Yuen Kai as the Attorney-General, and Deputy Attorneys-General Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin, Mr Hri Kumar Nair, and Mr Tai Wei Shyong.

The AGC performs a critical role as the guardian of public interest and the steward of the rule of law. As the office of the Public Prosecutor, the AGC exercises overall control and direction in the conduct of criminal proceedings independently of the Government. As the Government's chief legal advisor and drafter of laws, the AGC advises the Government on a wide spectrum of legal issues and the development of proposals for legislation, to ensure that the Government's policy objectives are advanced within the framework of the rule of law. The AGC also represents Singapore at international negotiations and dispute settlement proceedings, and acts as the central authority for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition.

The Attorney-General is assisted by the LSOs in the four legal divisions of the AGC. These are the Civil Division, the Crime Division, the International Affairs Division ("IAD"), and the Legislation Division ("LEGIS"). The LSOs in the

Advocacy Group, the AGC Academy ("Academy"), and the Legal Technology & Innovation Office ("LTiO") are also crucial pillars of the work of the AGC.

Advocacy Group

2021 saw the Advocacy Group continue its close collaboration with other AGC divisions in a range of disputes matters. Notable matters included:

- Workplace safety: The Advocacy (a) Group and Crime Division acted in two significant cases regarding workplace safety: (i) the Committee of Inquiry hearing into a fatal fire and explosion that took place at a factory in Tuas in February 2021; and (ii) the trial arising out of the collapse, in 2017, of part of a Pan-Island Expressway viaduct under construction, resulting in the convictions of the accused persons on all proceeded charges and the unprecedented imposition of an maximum fine of S\$1 million on the accused construction firm.
- (b) **Judicial review**: The Advocacy Group and Civil Division acted for statutory bodies in judicial review matters, including the Health Sciences Authority (in a case concerning Singapore's patent linkage scheme) and the Land Transport Authority (against a challenge filed by a real estate developer).

(c) International law: The Advocacy Group collaborated with the IAD to execute incoming mutual legal assistance requests, including successfully opposing five applications to the General Division of the High Court for the discharge of orders over Singapore offences in properties linked to Australia; and advise to the Government on bilateral issues involving neighbouring states.

The Advocacy Group also worked with the AGC Academy to organise a Case Theory training event for younger prosecutors. This involved conceptualising the event (which included elements of gamification), preparing case materials, and assisting with running the event.

As at 31 December 2021, there were seven LSOs in the Advocacy Group.

Kristy Tan SC (Ms) Senior Director Advocacy Group Attorney-General's Chambers

AGC Academy

In 2021, the Academy strengthened its support for the AGC's learning and knowledge management ("KM") needs.

The Academy rolled out the Emerging Leaders Programme, to enable younger leaders to gain a deeper understanding of themselves as leaders, while developing personal mastery and mentoring skills. Senior officers participated in the 2nd AGC Senior Officers' Management Programme, where they engaged with management, senior leaders and external speakers to expand their perspectives to organisational, whole-of-government, and whole-ofnation levels. At the annual AGC Leadership Retreat, senior management reflected on AGC's work and leadership in unprecedented COVID times, and looked ahead to meeting AGC's challenges in the coming years.

The Academy also enhanced its repertoire of legal training programmes in 2021. The Academy appointed a Queen's Counsel to augment its suite of training in advocacy and court craft, and engaged renowned academics to provide training in areas such as intellectual property law, tax law, forensic accounting and biomedical law. The Academy also worked with the legal divisions of the AGC to provide training attuned to their specific needs, such as a forensic interview training course to equip Deputy Public Prosecutors ("DPPs") with the necessary skills to interview vulnerable witnesses.

In addition, the Academy ramped up training through interactive e-learning platforms to enable officers to learn in their own time while working from home. The KM team was expanded to include LSOs as dedicated Divisional KM Advisory Specialists to serve the specific needs of each legal division of the AGC as well as to provide quality cross-divisional support.

As at 31 December 2021, there were seven LSOs in the Academy.

Hui Choon Kuen

Chief Executive/ Dean, AGC Academy Attorney-General's Chambers

Legal Technology & Innovation Office

In 2021, the LTiO worked on several legal technology projects to help AGC's officers work more efficiently. Where appropriate, some of these solutions were made available outside of the AGC.

One example is AutoTab, an in-house software developed by the LTiO which automates the task of preparing the table of contents for a bundle of authorities and a bundle of documents. In 2021, LTiO began extending AutoTab to other government agencies and private law firms for trial purposes.

Another example is the Legis Code System ("LCS"), which is a collaboration between the LTiO and other AGC departments. The LCS assigns a unique code to versions of provisions in statutes and subsidiary legislation, which allows officers to use applications to pull up and reference these provisions with greater precision and efficiency. This was made available to the Courts and law enforcement agencies.

Other projects in the pipeline include CADET, a program that will assist officers with drafting and reviewing treaties. The LTiO will also be embarking on projects to use existing AGC systems to automate legal services and to improve the overview of engagements with external counsel.

As at 31 December 2021, there were three LSOs in the LTiO.

Liew Kuang Ping

Senior Assistant Director Legal Technology & Innovation Office Attorney-General's Chambers

Crime Division

In 2021, the Crime Division remained steadfast in advancing public interest, through fair and independent prosecutions and providing sound advice to the Government on issues of criminal law.

(a) Continuing support to the Government in its response to COVID-19

The Crime Division prosecuted (i) widely-publicised cases involving errant offenders who committed COVID-19-related breaches such as failure to wear masks (Public Prosecutor v Phoon Chiu Yoke (SC-903516-2021, unreported) Public Prosecutor and Benjamin Glynn (SC-904719-2021, unreported)) and offenders who abused Government financial support schemes such as the Temporary Relief Fund and COVID-19 Support Grant (Public Prosecutor v Muhammad Faizal Bin Khaled (SC-907130-2020, unreported)). The Crime Division also worked closely with external agencies to establish enforcement frameworks to ensure adherence to safe management measures (eg, the Vaccination Differentiated Scheme).

(b) Sentencing frameworks developed

(i) **Rafael Voltaire Alzate v Public Prosecutor [2022] 3 SLR 993** – The General Division of the High Court substantially endorsed a sentencing framework applied by the Prosecution for drink driving offences where no damage or injury was caused, following the 2019 amendments to the Road Traffic Act (Chapter 276, 2004 Rev Ed). (ii) Tan Song Cheng and another v Public Prosecutor [2021] 5 SLR
789 – The General Division of the High Court substantially endorsed a five-step sentencing framework based on a harm-culpability analysis proposed by the Prosecution for tax evasion offences under the Income Tax Act (Chapter 134, 2008 Rev Ed).

(c) High-profile cases

- (i) Public Prosecutor v Chow Tuck Keong Benjamin and others [2021] SGDC 232 – Three Singaporeans involved in a corrupt arrangement to bribe the former Labour Attaché of the Indonesian Embassy were prosecuted. All three accused persons were convicted on their charges after trial and sentenced to jail terms ranging from one month to 17 months. The convictions and sentences were upheld on appeal.
- (ii) Public Prosecutor v Gaiyathiri d/o Murugayan [2021] SGHC 187 -The Crime Division prosecuted a woman who ill-treated and eventually caused the death of her foreign domestic worker. Over a period of about nine months, the offender starved and physically abused the deceased, including pressing a heated steam iron against the deceased's forehead. The offender pleaded guilty and was sentenced to an aggregate sentence of 30 years' imprisonment. The accused's sentence was upheld on appeal.

(iii) Public Prosecutor v Lange Vivian
[2021] SGMC 11 – This was the first prosecution for an offence under section 5 of the Payment Services Act 2019 for carrying on a business of providing a type of payment service without a licence. The offender accepted a job online to receive over S\$3,000 in her bank account and to use the monies to purchase and transfer cryptocurrencies as directed. She was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment.

(d) Other important cases

(i) Roshdi bin Abdullah Altway v Public Prosecutor and another matter [2022] 1 SLR 535 – The Court of Appeal clarified the scope of the Prosecution's additional disclosure obligations. While the Prosecution has a duty to disclose to the Defence statements of witnesses who would be expected confirm or contradict an to accused's defence in material aspects, the Prosecution is not required to speculate as to the defences the accused might raise. These disclosure obligations are only triggered if (a) the offender raises a defence; and (b) the Prosecution has such statement(s). Further, there is no legal duty on the Prosecution to direct further investigations where а new material witness is identified, though it may risk having failed to discharge its evidential burden if this pertains to facts that have properly come into issue.

- (ii) Public Prosecutor v Takaaki Masui and another [2022] 1
 SLR 1033 – The Court of Appeal clarified the scope of section 13(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act (Chapter 241, 1993 Rev Ed), stating that it served a disgorging function to ensure that an offender does not retain his ill-gotten gains.
- (iii) Teo Seng Tiong v Public Prosecutor [2021] 2 SLR 642 – The Court of Appeal held that an offender's compounded offences may be considered as an aggravating factor when sentencing an offender under the Road Traffic Act (Chapter 276, 2004 Rev Ed), or under any other law.

(e) Other initiatives

- (i) In July 2021, the Office of the Public Prosecutor initiative was rolled out to seven Police Land Divisions and the Traffic Police Division. Over 30 DPPs were deployed to assist with early review of investigation papers ("IPs") and provide timely advice and directions for the prosecution of criminal cases. This led to an increase in the clearance rate of IP-related requests to 91% within five months and fostered relationship stronger working between DPPs and investigators.
- (ii) From 1 July 2021, the Crime Division implemented a followthrough system of assignment for all criminal cases. The same DPP oversees a case from its pre-trial

stage to its conclusion. With a view to resolving cases more efficiently, this streamlining of the assignment process enables DPPs to better manage their cases and provides a consistent contact point for enforcement officers and Defence counsel.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 219 LSOs in the Crime Division.

Tan Kiat Pheng

Chief Prosecutor Crime Division Attorney-General's Chambers

International Affairs Division

The IAD advances and protects Singapore's interests as negotiators, advocates, and advisors to the Government in international law. It is also the central authority for mutual legal assistance and extradition requests, and the central coordinating body for all treaty-making activities in Singapore.

In 2021, the IAD advised government agencies on wide-ranging international law matters, including the development of the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea and formulation of the wholeof-government positions on Information and Communication Technologies ("ICT") regulation.

Despite COVID-19, the IAD was involved in numerous international meetings and negotiations across various time zones, mostly held in hybrid or virtual format. Major meetings and negotiations that the IAD participated in included:

- (a) negotiations between Singapore and neighbouring and regional states concerning maritime and airspace issues;
- (b) two concurrent United Nations ("UN") cybersecurity processes – the Open-Ended Working Group on developments in ICT in the context of international security, and the Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace;
- (c) the 76th UN General Assembly;
- (d) the 26th UN Climate Change Conference;
- (e) Singapore's 3rd Universal Periodic Review under the auspices of the UN Human Rights Council;
- (f) Singapore's 8th Trade Policy Review at the World Trade Organisation ("WTO");
- (g) the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement, Digital Economy Agreements with the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea, and the Pacific Alliance-Singapore Free Trade Agreement; and
- (h) Singapore's participation as Third Party in WTO disputes.

International legal cooperation in criminal matters continued its upward trend in 2021, with the IAD processing more requests compared to 2020. 2021 also saw the successful resolution of a matter involving many years of co-operation between Singapore and an ASEAN Member State, which resulted in the recovery of funds from illegal online gambling activities.

To profile Singapore's thought leadership, the IAD collaborated with the Centre for International Law and the Economic Development Board to organise а webinar on "Outer Space and International Law", featuring international experts and 353 attendees from 81 countries. IAD officers also served in significant international roles, such the as Rapporteur of Working Group III of the UN Commission on International Trade Law and the Rapporteur of the International Civil Aviation Organization's ("ICAO") Working Group for reviewing ICAO's dispute settlement rules.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 45 LSOs in the IAD.

Daphne Hong Fan Sin (Ms)

Director-General International Affairs Division Attorney-General's Chambers

Civil Division

The Civil Division is the Government's principal legal advisor. In 2021, the Civil Division advised the Government on various issues, including: (a) the implementation of the national policy on workplace vaccination in the public sector; (b) the taking of regulatory action against errant enterprises for flouting COVID-19-related regulations; (c) the measures to ensure a stable and reliable supply of electricity in Singapore in the face of unprecedented volatility in natural gas markets; and (d) the Government's initiatives to encourage the private sector to participate in carbon emission reduction activities.

The Civil Division reviewed and vetted many contracts, including whole-ofgovernment ICT contracts in areas such as cybersecurity and the development of application software using Agile methodology. The Civil Division also the Public organised Procurement Conference, which was held virtually for the first time and was well-attended by public sector lawyers and Public Service officers.

The Civil Division represented the Government in various legal matters. Notable cases included:

(a) Re The Online Citizen Pte Ltd [2021] SGHC 285

The Attorney-General successfully defended the Info-Communications Development Authority Media ("IMDA") against judicial review proceedings brought by The Online Citizen Pte Ltd ("TOC"). The General Division of the High Court held, agreeing with the Attorney-General that, upon IMDA's suspension of TOC's class licence to provide licensable broadcasting services, IMDA had acted lawfully in directing TOC to disable access to all of its websites and social media platforms.

(b) Mah Kiat Seng v Attorney-General [2021] SGHC 202

The Attorney-General represented the Singapore Police Force ("SPF") and successfully argued that copies of closed-circuit television footages of restricted areas of the police lock-up should not be granted to the plaintiff on grounds of common law public interest immunity. The plaintiff was allowed to inspect the footages at the police station.

(c) The Online Citizen Pte Ltd v Attorney-General [2021] 2 SLR 1358

The Attorney-General represented the Government in two appeals by the TOC and the Singapore Democratic Party against the dismissal of their respective applications to set aside the Corrective Directions issued against them under the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019 ("POFMA"). The Court of Appeal affirmed the constitutionality of POFMA, Attorney-General's accepting the arguments.

The Civil Division also assisted the Child Protector (the Ministry of Social and Family Development's Child Protective Service) to obtain care and protection orders in a record number of 63 cases in 2021, thereby protecting the most vulnerable members of our society.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 68 LSOs in the Civil Division.

Low Siew Ling (Ms)

Chief Counsel Civil Division Attorney-General's Chambers

Legislation Division

As the Government's central law drafting office and the guardian of the Singapore Statute Book, LEGIS drafts all legislation for the Government and all public sector agencies. LEGIS also aims to make legislation accessible to the public, by providing free online access to Singapore's legislation and modernising legislative language for readability.

In 2021, 43 Bills (2,072 pages) were drafted for introduction in Parliament. Thirty-eight published, Acts were including the Interference Foreign (Countermeasures) Act 2021, the Copyright Act 2021, and the Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Act 2021. One thousand and eighty-two pieces subsidiary legislation of (7,181 pages) were made and 1,441 pieces of advice were rendered.

Throughout 2021, LEGIS continued to support the Government's efforts to combat the pandemic by drafting new legislation as the COVID-19 situation evolved. LEGIS drafted four Bills in response to the pandemic. These four Bills amended the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 to meet Singapore's changing needs amidst pandemic landscape, such the as implementing financial relief and limiting the use of personal contact tracing data. LEGIS also drafted 163 pieces of COVID-19-related subsidiary legislation, including regulations for vaccinations and vaccination-differentiated measures.

LEGIS also completed the universal revision of Singapore's Acts of Parliament. The 2020 Revised Edition of Acts, comprising 510 Acts (31,226 pages including legislative history and complementary matter), came into operation on 31 December 2021. The universal revision aimed to improve the

readability of Singapore's legislation. The revision also gave more historical context to each Act, by including the year of enactment in its title, and enhancing its legislative history with information about its predecessor Acts which were repealed more information and about the progress of the Bill through Parliament. In tandem with this universal revision, Legis Codes for offences under the revised Acts were provided to the Courts, the SPF and agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

LEGIS also worked to enhance the accessibility of Singapore's legislation to the public. Subject to specific conditions, it is no longer necessary to seek approval from the AGC to reproduce Singapore's legislation print in or electronically. As part of its Plain Laws Understandable by Singaporeans Project, LEGIS also completed the second part of a video series (published in end January 2022), which provides an in-depth guide into the structure of and terminologies used in a typical Act of Parliament that is presented in a manner that can be easily understood by laypersons.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 33 LSOs in LEGIS.

Jeanne Lee (Ms)

Chief Legislative Counsel Legislation Division Attorney-General's Chambers

MINISTRIES, LEGAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS AND STATUTORY BOARDS/ STATUTORY BODIES

MINISTRIES, LEGAL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS AND STATUTORY BOARDS/STATUTORY BODIES

LSOs may be posted or seconded to Ministries, Legal Service departments and statutory boards/statutory bodies.

When posted to the Ministries, LSOs act as representatives of the Attorney-General. They provide tailored legal support to facilitate a Ministry's work. This support can take the form of legal advice, reviewing or assisting with the drafting of legislation, contracts or other instruments and, where necessary, prosecution services or legal aid. LSOs may also be responsible for the efficient administration of personnel and finances under their charge and be called upon to formulate policy. LSOs who are posted or seconded to statutory boards/statutory bodies also undertake a wide variety of work, including the implementation of legislation or policy. Some take on public facing functions to serve Singaporeans directly.

Senior LSOs have the opportunity to hold leadership or managerial positions within the Ministries, such as leading a department or a team.

In 2021, LSOs were posted or seconded to:

Ministries

Communications and Information; Culture, Community and Youth; Defence; Education; Finance; Foreign Affairs; Health; Home Affairs; Law; Manpower; National Development; and Social and Family Development.

Legal Service departments and statutory boards/statutory bodies

Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority; Commercial Affairs Department; Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore; Defence Science and Technology Agency; Economic Development Board; Health Sciences Authority; Home Team Science and Technology Agency; Info-Communications Media Development Authority; Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore; Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office; Intellectual Property Office of Singapore; Land Transport Authority; Legal Aid Bureau; Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura; Monetary Authority of Singapore; National Environment Agency; Public Service Commission Secretariat; Singapore International Mediation Centre; Singapore Land Authority; Singapore Medical Council; Syariah Court; and the Office of the Public Guardian.

Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence's ("MINDEF") Legal Services Department ("MLS") provides legal support to MINDEF, the Singapore Armed Forces ("SAF") and MINDEF-related organisations. MLS is headed by the Director, Legal Services, who is also the Chief Military Prosecutor.

In 2021, MLS officers advised on various SAF operations, including the Republic of Singapore Air Force's deployment of a tanker-transport aircraft to evacuate Afghanistan refugees, and the Republic of Singapore Navy's operations to protect Singapore's sea lines of communications. MLS officers also worked closely with policy departments on MINDEF's inputs to the Inter-Agency Working Group supporting Singapore's participation in the United Nations international cyber policy discussions.

Throughout officers the vear, MLS participated in SAF exercises as Operations Law Advisors, providing realtime legal support to SAF commanders. These included Exercise Tiger Balm, the flagship bilateral exercise between the Singapore and United States Armies, and Exercise Forging Sabre, an integratedstrike exercise conducted at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, USA.

For the second year running, MLS officers rendered significant advice on issues posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as cancellation or changes to national events like the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue and the National Day Parade. MLS also

worked with stakeholders on legal issues connected to cutting edge areas like autonomous capabilities.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 saw the continuation of MLS' efforts to enhance efficiency and facilitate remote work arrangements. To this end, many of its military prosecution work digitalised, processes were including transitioning electronic case to investigation materials and digital storage of concluded cases. The military law practice group also organised virtual training for SAF Defending Officers for the first time, which included online from experienced lectures members of the criminal bar on preparing representations, mitigation pleas, and conducting trials. This ensured the continued supply of trained officers to represent SAF servicemen facing court martial.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 14 LSOs in MLS, practising domestic civil law, military law and prosecution, operations law, as well as public international law.

Leong Kwang Ian

Director Legal Services Department Ministry of Defence & Singapore Armed Forces

Defence Science and Technology Agency

The Defence Science and Technology Agency ("DSTA") is a statutory board under the MINDEF which harnesses and exploits science and technology to support and meet Singapore's defence and national security needs.

The Legal Department ("LD") provides legal and policy advice to the DSTA and its subsidiaries on procurement, general contract, intellectual property, building infrastructure and estate/facilities management, data protection and human resources issues.

In 2021, the LD provided legal support for BrainHack 2021 and the Singapore Defence Tech Summit 2021 - global events organised by the DSTA. The LD was also involved in drafting agreements to support the DSTA's collaborations with suppliers on advances in digital technologies, including data analytics and the creation of new data pipeline infrastructure. Additionally, the LD developed and launched a new legal seminar series aimed at upskilling procurement staff.

As at 31 December 2021, there were three LSOs seconded to the DSTA.

Douglas Chi

Director (Legal) Legal Department Defence Science and Technology Agency

Ministry of Law

The Ministry of Law's ("MinLaw") International & Advisory Group ("IAG") and Legal Policy Group ("LPG") steer policy and legislative reforms to uphold the rule of law, strengthen access to justice, and ensure a sound, progressive legal framework.

The IAG comprises the International Legal Division ("ILD") and the Policy Advisory Division ("PAD").

The ILD develops and implements progressive international legal policies to advance Singapore's interests, and represents Singapore at international fora including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN"), the Hague Conference on Private International Law ("HCCH"), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ("UNCITRAL"). In 2021, the ILD:

- (a) hosted the 1st ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting Working Group on the ASEAN Extradition Treaty;
- (b) oversaw Singapore's accession to the Apostille Convention and chaired the HCCH Apostille Special Commission meeting; and
- (c) formed part of the national delegation for Singapore's 3rd Universal Periodic Review and review on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The PAD provides policy departments with legal support and expertise in areas including legal industry development and regulation, land matters, and intellectual property. The PAD also

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undertakes independent law reforms relating to litigation funding, insolvency, and restructuring. In 2021, the PAD:

- (a) introduced a new conditional fee agreements framework under the Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill;
- (b) extended the third-party funding framework to domestic arbitration proceedings, certain Singapore International Commercial Court proceedings, and related court or mediation proceedings;
- (c) played a key role in insolvency-related negotiations at the UNCITRAL; and
- (d) provided technical assistance to foreign governments on the Singapore Convention on Mediation bilaterally, and as part of the UNCITRAL Academy.

The LPG comprises the Civil & Legislative Policy Division and the Criminal Policy Division. LSOs in the LPG work closely with the Judiciary, Ministries and other agencies to drive reforms in civil, criminal, family, community justice and governance matters. This involves identifying emerging issues facing Singapore and developing solutions to pressing challenges. The LPG works closely with also the legal profession, key industry groups, and the public on consultations and feedback. In 2021, the LPG:

 (a) supported the digital transformation of the Judiciary and the introduction of the Rules of Court 2021 through the Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Bill which introduced, amongst others, legislation expanding the use of paper and remote hearings, simplified court terminology, provided a statutory framework for the Attorney-General to intervene in court proceedings, and enabled interim relief to be granted in aid of foreign court proceedings;

- (b) worked with the State Courts to operationalise the Protection from Harassment Court;
- (c) secured public trust in the effectiveness of Singapore's criminal justice system through measures such as increasing penalties for certain sexual offences under the Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, and the formation of Sentencing Advisory Panel;
- (d) introduced the Coroners (Amendment) Bill which provided Singapore the flexibility to accede to foreign states' requests for deaths to be exempted from certain provisions of the Coroners Act 2010;
- (e) engaged members of the bar on women's issues as part of the Conversations on Women's Development; and
- (f) introduced legislative amendments to restructure the Singapore Legal Service.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 39 LSOs in the MinLaw.

Sharon Ong Su Min (Ms)

Director-General (International & Advisory) Ministry of Law

Colin Chow Zhiquan

Director-General (Legal Policy) Ministry of Law

Legal Aid Bureau

The Legal Aid Bureau ("Bureau") provides legal advice, assistance and court representation for persons of limited means in civil matters. In 2021, the Bureau handled about 6,651 cases registered for legal aid, assistance and advice, supported by 171 Assigned Solicitors from private practice and 11 Volunteer Assistant Directors of Legal Aid. The Bureau dealt with 1,798 cases registered for legal aid and assistance in-house, which included 77 complex civil, family and Syariah Court cases (*ie*, contested cases, or cases involving more complex legal issues).

To enhance service delivery to its applicants and extend its outreach during the pandemic, the Bureau:

- (a) expanded its video-conferencing legal advice service at Family Service Centres ("FSCs") and Social Service Offices ("SSOs") to 23 FSCs and 24 SSOs, so that applicants can obtain legal advice at these locations without travelling to the Bureau's office.
- (b) conducted an impact study on the implementation of its Applicant Portal, which allows applicants to register cases, do means tests and give instructions online, and made improvements accordingly.
- (c) added more modules to the Intelligent Legal Assistance Bot ("iLAB") (a chatbot providing tailored legal information), namely Syariah Court divorce, deputyship matters and Deeds of Separation. Users can now generate simple Deeds of Separation using iLAB.

The Bureau also automated the process of sending certain correspondence, reminders and case documents to its applicants and Assigned Solicitors on its GENIE system, saving the Bureau hundreds of man-hours per year.

Bureau developed Finally, the the first chapter of the Legal Aid Bureau Practitioner's Guide on accident and personal injury claims, aimed at providing practitioners а better understanding of the law and enabling them to deal with such cases competently. The chapter was disseminated to the State Courts. Law Society Pro Bono Services, and Assigned Solicitors.

As at 31 December 2021, there were 20 LSOs in the Bureau.

Lim Hui Min (Ms) Director Legal Aid Bureau

Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office

The Insolvency and Public Trustee's Office ("IPTO"), a department under MinLaw, is headed by the the Official Assignee, who is concurrently the Official Receiver, Licensing Officer, Public Trustee, Registrar of Moneylenders, and Registrar of Pawnbrokers. IPTO's LSOs advise on legal issues in administering insolvencies and trusts, and in regulating moneylenders and pawnbrokers. They also conduct civil litigation before the High Court in relation to bankruptcies, and corporate insolvencies trusts under IPTO's purview, and prosecutions in the State Courts for offences IPTO oversees, such as bankruptcy offences.

With the LSOs' assistance, **IPTO** significantly reduced the total number of undischarged bankruptcies to below 10,000 (about 5,000 of which are IPTOadministered bankruptcies). On the technology front, with the recent rollout of the new Public Trustee's Office system, IPTO will soon be fully digitalised with the Corporate Insolvency Management and the revamped Debt Repayment Scheme systems going live in 2022.

The LSOs contributed extensively to the ongoing national effort in alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through the operationalisation of the Simplified Insolvency Programme, providing simpler, faster and lower-cost restructuring and winding up proceedings for eligible businesses severely impacted by COVID-19. IPTO and its parent Ministry worked with the AGC and the Central Provident Fund ("CPF") Board to introduce amendments to the Central Provident Fund Act 1953 to simplify the procedure for distributing un-nominated monies, through a Beneficiary CPF Representative approach.

On the regulatory front, IPTO lifted restrictions supply the on the of unsecured loans for higher-income foreign borrowers of licensed moneylenders. IPTO's new Licensing and Regulation of Insolvency Practitioners Division, which oversees the licensing and regulation of insolvency practitioners in Singapore, processed more than 200 licensing applications, of which about 180 were granted in its inaugural year.

As at 31 December 2021, there were seven LSOs in IPTO.

Tan Boon Heng

Official Assignee, Official Receiver, Licensing Officer, Public Trustee, Registrar of Moneylenders and Registrar of Pawnbrokers Insolvency Office, Public Trustee's Office and Registries of Moneylenders & Pawnbrokers

Singapore International Mediation Centre

Established in 2014, the Singapore International Mediation Centre ("SIMC") specialises in cross-border mediation services.

In 2021, the SIMC achieved record-breaking caseload, with a weekly average of one to two filings. Many cases were complex and high-stakes disputes, including SIMC's first Investor-State mediation.

The SIMC led the organisation of the India-Singapore Mediation Summit, which saw unprecedented participation by leaders of judiciaries, governments and the private sector to discuss the role of mediation in resolving disputes.

Internationally, the SIMC built on the SIMC COVID-19 Protocol by launching joint protocols with its Japan and India counterparts.

Training engagements included the UNCITRAL Academy Industry Capacity-Building Workshop and mediation workshops for а large international organisation.

As at 31 December 2021, one LSO was seconded to the SIMC.

Teh Joo Lin

Deputy Chief Executive Officer Singapore International Mediation Centre

Singapore Land Authority

The Singapore Land Authority ("SLA") is the primary agency in Singapore responsible for safeguarding and optimising the use of State land and properties, and is responsible for maintaining accurate and reliable land ownership and land boundary systems.

SLA Legal & Regulatory Division ("Legal") comprises the Advisory Division and the Legislation & Projects Division. Legal's work includes:

- (a) drafting and advising on State land documents such as State leases, tenancy agreements and temporary occupation licences;
- (b) reviewing legislation affecting State land, including the State Lands Act 1920, Foreshores Act 1920 and State Lands Encroachments Act 1883;
- (c) drafting memoranda of understanding to facilitate collaboration and research projects with public research institutions, foreign governments and private entities; and
- (d) conducting in-house legal seminars for business units.

With the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Leasing of Retail Premises, SLA, as the agent of the biggest landlord, adopted the relevant recommended clauses and created seven tenancy and licence templates, some of which are also used by other government agencies that grant tenancies and licences for State properties.

2021 saw the enactment of the new Land Betterment Charge Act 2021 to centralise under SLA the imposition and collection of land betterment charge (formerly Differential Premium and Development Charge collected by URA and SLA respectively).

As at 31 December 2021, there were three LSOs seconded to the SLA.

Bryan Chew Chee Wan

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Regulatory) Registrar of Titles & Deeds Singapore Land Authority

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore ("IPOS") is a statutory board under the MinLaw. The IPOS focuses on developing and promoting Singapore's innovation and intellectual property ("IP") ecosystem to drive economic growth.

The IPOS marked its 20th anniversary in 2021. Key highlights included the introduction of the Singapore IP Strategy 2030: a 10-year blueprint to strengthen Singapore as an IP and intangible assets ("IA") hub and maintain a top-ranked IP regime. In this vein, the IPOS launched initiatives to attract and nurture innovative businesses and create future-ready skills and jobs.

The Copyright Act 2021, which provides for how content is created, distributed and used in the digital age, entered into force, capping the largest comprehensive review of Singapore's copyright regime. Additionally, the Intellectual Property (Amendment) Bill 2021 proposed enhancements to different IP-related statutes.

IPOS continued to grow its international presence with activities including organising the 10th IP Week @ SG 2021. The hybrid event brought together global IP and business leaders to discuss the role of IA/IP amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

In recognition of its achievements, IPOS was ranked third in the World Trademark Review's study of the world's most innovative IP offices.

As at 31 December 2021, two LSOs were seconded to the IPOS.

Rena Lee (Mrs)

Chief Executive Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Ministry of Home Affairs

The Legal Division ("LD") of the Ministry of Home Affairs ("MHA") is the first port of call for divisions within the MHA and Home Team agencies seeking legal advice. The LD undertakes a broad range of legal work, from advising on policy, operational and legislative matters, to providing support in transactional work and disputes. The LD also oversees the administration of the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act 1955. It staffs a full-time secretariat, which provides legal and administrative support at hearings as well as review meetings of the Criminal Law Advisory Committees.

In 2021, the LD provided legal support in the Ministerial Statement on the Review of the Sentencing Framework for Sexual and Hurt Offences. The LD also advised on legislative amendments to the Police Force Act 2004, the Private Security Industry Act 2007, the Sedition Act 1948, the Prisons Act 1933, and supported the introduction of the Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act 2021 and the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 2021. The LD also conducted training sessions for officers within the MHA and the Home Team on matters such as the conduct and management of statutory appeals.

Apart from the LD, an LSO was also seconded from the AGC to the MHA's Policy Development Division ("PDD"), where he was involved in the formulation and review of policies on criminal justice, including the reforms to the Penal Code 1871 under the Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2021. As at 31 December 2021, there were seven LSOs in the LD and one LSO in the PDD.

Tan Wen Hsien (Ms)

Senior Director Legal Division Ministry of Home Affairs

Commercial Affairs Department, Singapore Police Force

The Commercial Affairs Department ("CAD") is Singapore's principal whitecollar crime enforcement agency. CAD also houses the Suspicious Transaction Reporting Office, Singapore's Financial Intelligence Unit.

In February 2021, CAD investigated Ng Yu Zhi, the alleged mastermind behind a billion-dollar nickel investment fraud, and seized in excess of S\$100 million in suspected criminal proceeds. In 2021, 75 cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust, fraudulent trading and money laundering charges were brought against Ng Yu Zhi.

Working with foreign law enforcement agencies and partner banks, CAD identified more than 3,000 shell companies created to launder criminal proceeds, and seized US\$33 million in their bank accounts.

To combat increasing scams, the Anti-Scam Division ("ASD") was formed to coordinate the Police's anti-scam investigation and enforcement efforts. The ASD successfully dismantled 16 transnational syndicates in joint operations with foreign law enforcement agencies. The Anti-Scam Centre coordinated the arrests and investigations against more than 7,500 scammers and money mules, and recovered over S\$102 million in scam proceeds.

On 3 September 2021, a CAD officer gave presentation on public-private partnerships and its role in multi-jurisdiction cooperation and asset seizure at the 11th Lausanne Seminar organised virtually by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

As at 31 December 2021, one LSO was seconded to the CAD.

David Chew Siong Tai

Director Commercial Affairs Department Singapore Police Force

Home Team Science and Technology Agency

The Home Team Science and Technology Agency ("HTX"), a statutory board under the MHA, develops science and technology capabilities to support the Home Team Departments' operations and transform the homeland security landscape.

The Legal Division of HTX provides legal advice to HTX on matters ranging from general contract issues (arising from HTX agreements, MHA contracts and scientific or technological cooperation managed by HTX under the Home Team Science and Technology Agency Act 2019) to intellectual property, building infrastructure and facilities management, human resource, and regulatory compliance matters. A key focus for 2021 was raising legal awareness in HTX, with the Legal Division conducting talks and clinics on legal topics for different groups of HTX officers. As at 31 December 2021, two LSOs were seconded to the HTX.

Daphne Chang (Ms)

Director Legal Division Home Team Science and Technology Agency

Ministry of Manpower

The 52 officers of the Ministry of Manpower's ("MOM") Legal Services Division ("LSD") provide legal advice, prosecute offenders for contravention of MOM-related Acts and adjudicate work injury claims and infringement cases.

Amongst the 308 cases prosecuted in Prosecution 2021, the Department successfully prosecuted an employer and its corporate officer for failing to send its foreign employees for Rostered Routine Testing ("RRT"). The MOM's RRT regime requires employers to send its employees for RRT every 14 days so that work can be restarted safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. LSD also prosecutes Workplace Safety and Health Act 2006 violations. Notable cases included: (a) the prosecution of a worker who operated forklift without а undergoing any training; and (b) a worker who had used a forged certificate to obtain an appointment as a formwork supervisor. The latter is part of MOM's efforts to crack down on the use of forged safety certificates.

MOM's Civil Branch collaborated with its Work Pass Division and the AGC in successfully defending a judicial review application against the MOM and the Economic Development Board regarding the non-renewal of employment passes. It also worked with AGC and the POFMA Office in the issuance of Correction Directions to the Singapore Democratic Party. It advised the Labour Relations and Workplaces Division to facilitate a successful resolution of salary disputes between unpaid vaccinators and a healthcare firm, and worked with policy and enforcement departments in considering new legislation against discriminatory employment practices.

The Adjudication Branch reviewed and calibrated the enforcement framework for illegal deployment of migrant domestic workers. It successfully defended the first application to file an appeal out of time to the Appeal Board constituted under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act 1990. The Board accepted that it had no statutory power to extend time and the appellant had in any event failed to show good reason for his delay in lodging the appeal. It collaborated with the Tripartite Alliance for Dispute Management to assess cases electronically and introduced the Instalment Payment Scheme for financial penalties. Finally, as part of digital transformation, it also accepted evidence adduced virtually by an overseas witness for a work injury compensation hearing.

As at 31 December 2021, there were seven LSOs in the LSD.

Alvin Koh Meng Sing

Chief Legal Officer and Divisional Director Legal Services Division Ministry of Manpower

Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education's ("MOE") Legal Services Branch ("LSB") provides legal services to MOE Headquarters and Government schools. The LSB advises on a wide range of matters, including MOE's regulatory powers under the Education Act 1957 and the Compulsory Education Act 2000, implementation of existing or intended education policies, administration, contract family law, disciplinary matters, civil claims, and intellectual property rights.

In 2021, LSB continued to advise on COVID-19 related matters, including the enforcement of COVID-19 related offences in the education sector and application of vaccination and testing requirements in educational settings. LSB also advised schools on mitigating legal risks in school operations and implementing new policies, such as the blended learning model. On the contractual front, LSB reviewed several complex tenders, including an outcomebased procurement of an artificial intelligence-enabled automated marking system to be used in all MOE schools. As part of its outreach efforts, LSB also worked closely with policy divisions to author and vet various guides for several aspects of school management, including managing difficult situations with parents, data management in schools, school dealing safety and with non-intact families.

As at 31 December 2021, there were six LSOs in the LSB.

Cheryl Siew May Yee (Ms) Director Legal Services Branch Ministry of Education

Ministry of National Development

The Ministry of National Development's ("MND") Legal Services Unit ("LSU") provides a comprehensive suite of legal services to the MND in support of its vital role in national land use and development planning. This includes advising the MND on a diverse range of issues including administrative and constitutional law, statutory interpretation and reform, intellectual property and data sharing, public housing and town councils, statutory appeals, and contract drafting and management. The LSU also provided extensive legal support for the MND's response to the various challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, some of the significant matters that the LSU advised on included:

- (a) the conservation of one of the first modern, large-scale, strata-titled developments in Singapore;
- (b) various agreements with both public and private sector partners for an Integrated Municipal Operations Pilot in the eastern part of Singapore; and
- (c) the incorporation of pandemicresilient practices into public sector construction contracts so as to better support the Built Environment sector during COVID-19.

As at 31 December 2021, there were two LSOs in the LSU.

Crystal Ong Wai Mun (Ms)

Senior Director (Legal) Legal Services Unit Ministry of National Development

Ministry of Health

The Legal Office ("LO") of the Ministry Health ("MOH") provides of а comprehensive suite of legal services to MOH. These include advising on healthcare policy and sector operations, drafting transactional vetting and documentation, conducting prosecutions of MOH offences, managing potential disputes and assisting with the promulgation of and amendments to health legislation.

Throughout 2021, the LO provided extensive legal support for various workstreams in connection with the transition Government's towards COVID-19 resilience. It remained heavily involved in legislative work required for the implementation of safe management and vaccination-differentiated measures, which have required adaptations towards endemicity and the country's gradual regular reopening. included This amendments to the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020, as well as the promulgation of the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 Access Restrictions and Clearance) Regulations 2021 and the Infectious Diseases (Antigen Rapid Test Providers) Regulations 2021. The LO also advised MOH and other Government agencies on COVID-19 policies and operations, such as vaccination, isolation/quarantine, contact-tracing, travel, service testing and recovery. For COVID-19 offences, the LO performed assessments and prosecutions for those enforcement by MOH's investigated divisions, and also promulgated and refined enforcement frameworks for use across other COVID-19 enforcement The LO continued to agencies. be instrumental in conducting procurement negotiations for COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, and facilitating the donations and swaps of COVID-19 vaccines to and with Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Australia.

Aside from COVID-19 related work, the LO continued to service MOH for key healthcare initiatives in 2021. The LO advised on the licensing of various healthcare services for the implementation of Phase 1 of the Healthcare Services Act 2020, an initiative marking the shift from premises-based licensing to services-based licensing. The LO worked closely with AGC LEGIS and the Singapore Dental Council on amendments for the Dental Registration Act 1999 requiring all foreign-trained dentists to pass a qualifying examination to be eligible to practice in Singapore. The LO also provided legal support for amendments to the Food Regulations, which will subject beverages sold in Singapore to new Nutri-Grade labelling requirements and advertising prohibitions. To proactively address MOH divisions' queries on the sharing of patient and other personal/confidential data within the Government and to the healthcare clusters, the LO also authored the inaugural Primer on Public Sector Data-Sharing, a reference manual that has since been made available for all public sector agencies.

For the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, the LO rendered 304 pieces of legal advice, processed 627 prosecution files, vetted or drafted 174 contractual agreements (including extensive negotiations for around 30 COVID-19 vaccines or therapeutics contracts), reviewed 48 statutory appeals, and was involved in promulgating 145 pieces of primary and subsidiary legislation. As at 31 December 2021, there were nine LSOs in the LO.

Tan Sze Yao

Director Legal Office Ministry of Health

Singapore Medical Council

The Legal Division ("Division") provides legal support to the Secretariat of healthcare Professional Boards ("SPB"). The SPB is the body which supports the mandate and operational functions of healthcare professional councils as well as boards. These include the Singapore Medical Council ("SMC"), Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner's Board, Singapore Dental Council, Singapore Nursing Board and Singapore Pharmacy Council.

The Division advises on matters pertaining to professional conduct and ethics, registration, accreditation, surveillance, investigation, procurement, legislation, and policies. It will also gradually take on the functions of prosecuting cases before the SMC's Disciplinary Tribunals and appeals to the General Division of the High Court, and provide increased support to the committees of the SMC.

As at 31 December 2021, five LSOs were seconded to the SMC/SPB.

Andrew Tan

Director (Legal) and General Counsel Singapore Medical Council

Health Sciences Authority

The Legal Department ("LD") of the Sciences Authority ("HSA") Health provides a comprehensive range of legal services, including rendering legal advice on wide-ranging operational and policyrelated matters, and vetting and drafting transactional documentation between HSA and key entities in the public healthcare sector. The LD also conducts criminal prosecutions involving illegal health and tobacco products, and provides training for HSA's forensic experts who regularly testify in criminal proceedings.

Throughout 2021, the LD provided critical legal support arising from HSA's role as the national regulatory agency for health and therapeutic products during the COVID-19 pandemic. These included the procurement of vaccines and medical devices via newly-legislated authorisation routes, and legal agreements to facilitate crucial regulatory information exchanges with international bodies such as the World Health Organisation. The LD assisted with key amendments to the Coroners Act 2010 and various subsidiary legislation under HSA's purview, and in judicial review proceedings initiated by a patent proprietor pharmaceutical company against HSA.

As at 31 December 2021, one LSO was seconded to the HSA.

Eunice Lau (Ms)

Director Legal Department Health Sciences Authority

Ministry of Social and Family Development

The Legal Services Unit ("LSU") of the Ministry of Social and Family Development ("MSF") provides legal services to the MSF in support of its mission to nurture resilient individuals, strong families, and a caring society.

Throughout 2021, the LSU provided legal support to the MSF on various policy reviews, such as those relating to the Women's Charter 1961 and the recommendations by the Family Violence Task Force. The LSU also advised on the administration of legislation under MSF's purview, including the proposed exercise of regulatory powers in relation to a Children and Young Persons' Home.

of operationalising recent As part amendments to the Child Development **Co-Savings** 2001 and related Act regulations, LSU reviewed the the forms for the Government-Paid Leave Schemes and the terms and conditions for the Child Development Account.

The LSU also vetted contracts needed to implement and support various MSF programmes, including the Strengthening Families Programme@Family Service Centre, Adult Disability Homes, and the "Start Small Dream Big" movement. Further, the LSU worked closely with the Early Childhood Development Agency in its pilot of the Inclusive Support Programme at selected preschools for children requiring medium levels of early intervention support. As at 31 December 2021, there were six LSOs in the LSU.

Zhong Zewei

Director Legal Services Unit Ministry of Social and Family Development (with effect from 1 January 2022)

Office of the Public Guardian, Ministry of Social and Family Development

The Mental Capacity Act 2008 ("MCA") was amended on 6 July 2021 to establish an online system ("OPGO") to make and register Lasting Powers of Attorney ("LPAs"). Electronic deeds may be created using digital signatures, with remote witnessing of LPAs. To protect the Donor, the Public Guardian may disclose to him, the number of LPAs his prospective Donee had been appointed in. The changes would enhance convenience, efficiency and the security related to LPAs for the public and contribute to our national digitalisation efforts. The amendments will be brought into effect with the launch of the OPGO, which can be expected in 2022.

As part of the work of the Office of the Public Guardian ("OPG") to encourage the take-up of LPAs, the registration fee waiver for LPA Form 1 for Singapore citizens is further extended to 31 March 2023.

The OPG received 39,874 LPAs in 2021, a 38.5% increase from 2020. Four thousand, three hundred and eighty-two deputies were supervised in 2021, a 27.7% increase

from 2020. 2021 also saw a 82.4% increase in reports (62) furnished to the Court and a 42.5% increase from in Professional Deputies (61) registered with the OPG.

As at 31 December 2021, one LSO was seconded to the OPG.

Regina Chang (Ms)

Public Guardian Office of the Public Guardian Family Development Group Ministry of Social and Family Development

Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth's ("MCCY") Legal Unit ("LU") provides legal services to MCCY divisions, including its autonomous agency, the National Youth Council ("NYC"), supporting the MCCY's vision to inspire Singaporeans through the arts and sports, engage the youth, strengthen community bonds and promote charitable giving.

In 2021, the LU assisted with MCCY's response to the COVID-19 pandemic across the sports, community and arts/ culture sectors, including:

- (a) piloting of programmes for resumption of activities such as live performances;
- (b) supporting the continuation of various permitted activities and the preparations for vaccination for religious organisations' workers; and
- (c) regulating and enforcing safe management measures for public health and safety.

The LU continued to support MCCY divisions on a slew of programmes in 2021. These included various national projects, such as the NYC YouthTech programme, the SG Cares movement, the Stories of Us campaign, the Mentoring Alliance for Action project, the upcoming International Conference on Cohesive Societies 2022 as well as other initiatives to strengthen the charities, co-operatives, youth and other sectors under the MCCY's domain.

As at 31 December 2021, there were three LSOs in the LU.

Ang Ching Pin (Ms)

Senior Director (Legal) Legal Unit Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Syariah Court

The Syariah Court ("SYC") constituted under the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966 determines disputes on marriage and divorce. In 2021, about 1,700 divorces were registered. SYC also issues Inheritance Certificates in respect of Muslim persons' estates to facilitate distribution thereof.

The LSOs in SYC are the Senior President, Registrar and Deputy Registrars who carry out statutory functions and helm the judicial, legal and administrative leadership of SYC.

In 2021, the LSOs undertook significant work on legislative amendments, legal reforms and enhancement of SYC's processes. These included a review of SYC's powers, the extension of support programmes to ensure parity of services within the family justice system, and the improvement to the *hakam* process.

Digitalisation efforts continued and culminated in the first phase of SYC's new integrated electronic filing and case management system. The LSOs worked closely with legal and policy officers within the Ministry and other government agencies to develop plans for effective outcomes for the community.

SYC is a significant contributor to the promotion of legal education on Muslim family law. The LSOs in SYC participated at events such as the Family Conference, and wrote and reviewed various legal publications.

As at 31 December 2021, there were four LSOs in the SYC.

Shahrinah Binte Abdol Salam (Ms)

Registrar Syariah Court Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

The Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura ("MUIS") administers all matters relating to the Muslim religion and Muslims in Singapore. It oversees mosques, Islamic education, madrasahs, charitable contributions, charitable endowments, and advises the President of Singapore on matters relating to Islam in Singapore.

In 2021, the Legal Unit ("LU") of MUIS rendered 427 pieces of legal advice on wide-ranging issues, including contracts, affidavits, notices, and letters. The MUIS Code of Conduct was also revised to include new procedures for workplace harassment. The LU also initiated the appointment of Legal Compliance Officers for each cluster within MUIS and conducted a lecture and tutorial on "Legal Compliance and Legal Awareness" for MUIS officers.

In addition, the LU chaired a workgroup to review amendments to the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966.

As at 31 December 2021, one LSO was seconded to MUIS.

Shahla Taufiq (Ms) Director (Legal)

Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Ministry of Communications and Information

The Legal Services Department ("LSD") of the Ministry of Communications and Information ("MCI") provides legal support to MCI and the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore in forging a thriving and secure digital future for Singapore. In 2021, the LSD's key workstreams included:

- (a) negotiating, drafting and advising on a range of transactions and agreements, including digital economy agreements, whole-of-government demand aggregation contracts, and agreements supporting public communications, research, innovation and enterprise efforts;
- (b) reviewing, and updating laws and policies to guard against and counter falsehoods, foreign interference, and harmful communications;

- (c) serving on the Secretariat for the SG Together Alliance for Action to tackle online harms against women and girls;
- (d) developing and implementing laws and policies for telecommunications, 5G, data centres, and other digital infrastructure;
- (e) advising on initiatives for enhancing digital security, including investigating cybersecurity incidents, deploying security systems, combating scams, and reviewing cybersecurity laws and policies;
- (f) developing the SG/Passion Made Possible brands in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board and Economic Development Board;
- (g) developing SG Translate Together, a data-driven machine translation engine; and
- (h) assisting to revamp the Technology Law Cluster to better meet fastevolving technology law needs.

Since 2019, an LSO has been seconded to the MCI's Information Policy Division. Rapid technological changes in the online media space necessitate the constant review and updating of Singapore's media regulation framework and legislation. The LSO helps to oversee this, and to coordinate the Government's overall strategies and responses to online harms such as misinformation. The LSO also led collaborative engagements with international counterparts and supported trade negotiations on media regulation issues, among other matters.

As at 31 December 2021, there were five LSOs in the LSD and one LSO in the Information Policy Division.

Vanessa Yeo Xue Ying (Ms) Director

Legal Services Department Ministry of Communications and Information

Info-Communications Media Development Authority, Data Innovation & Protection Group

The Data Innovation and Protection Group ("DIPG") enforces and administers the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 ("PDPA") and guides industries on artificial intelligence and data-sharing. Amendments to the PDPA and its regulations came into force in 2021, and numerous advisory guidelines were amended accordingly. The DIPG helped to organise ATxSG 2021 and ATxAI 2021, which were flagship events on the intersection between technology and society. The DIPG launched the "Better Data Driven Business" programme, to help businesses generate insights from their existing data, and released updated guidance on data protection practices. A team from the DIPG also represented Singapore in inter-governmental consultations for the "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence". The UNESCO's General Conference adopted this instrument in November 2021. Finally, to meet evolving needs, the Info-Communications Media Development Authority ("IMDA") initiated secondments has of

LSOs to its info-communications policy, strategic policy, and operations teams.

As at 31 December 2021, five LSOs were seconded to the IMDA.

Yeong Zee Kin

Assistant Chief Executive (Data Innovation & Protection Group) Info-Communications Media Development Authority/ Deputy Commissioner Personal Data Protection Commission

Ministry of Finance

The Legal Directorate ("LD") of the Ministry of Finance ("MOF") provides legal advisory services to MOF directorates across a wide range of subjects, including Government finance and reserves. domestic international and taxation, corporate governance, procurement and statutory appeals. The LD also provides legal and operational support, as well as policy direction, to the Boards of Review constituted under the Income Tax Act 1947, Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 and Property Tax Act 1960.

In 2021, the LD continued to support the MOF's work of ensuring the Government's fiscal sustainability and strengthening the Singapore economy amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, by advising on the preparation of the Budgets, as well as the development of various policies and legislation across domain areas, including tax. The LD also advised on Government borrowing workstreams such as the introduction of Reserves Management Government Securities and the Significant Infrastructure Government Loans Act 2021, as well as the merger of the Local Treasury Bills Act 1923 into the Government Securities (Debt Market and Investment) Act 1992.

As at 31 December 2021, there were seven LSOs in the MOF LD.

Ng Shi Zheng Louis

Chief Legal Officer Legal Directorate Ministry of Finance

Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority ("ACRA") is the national regulator of business entities, public accountants and corporate service providers. The Chief Legal Officer supervises the LSOs seconded to the Legal Services Department ("LSD") and the Prosecution Department ("PD") in ACRA.

The LSD LSOs provide legal advice to ACRA's departments on contractual matters, name complaints, statutory appeals, cross-agency projects and interpretation of ACRA-administered legislation.

The LSD is also involved in law reform. In 2021, LSD worked on a Corporate Registers (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill to enhance Singapore's regime on transparency and beneficial ownership of companies and limited liability partnerships. It was passed by Parliament in January 2022. LSD was also involved in three public consultations:

- (a) a Bill consultation on amendments to the Accountants Act 2004 to promote audit quality;
- (b) a policy consultation on the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005 to update the limited partnership framework and enhance Singapore's attractiveness as a fund management and fund domiciliation hub; and
- (c) a policy consultation on amendments to the Companies Act 1967 relating to data, digitalisation and corporate transparency.

The PD LSOs prosecute offenders under ACRA-administered legislation. They work closely with the AGC and law enforcement agencies to combat accounting fraud, accounting standards breaches, use of shell companies to commit money laundering, and other corporate offences.

In 2021, the PD LSOs were also involved in law reform. They reviewed the prescribed maximum sentences for Companies Act offences, enforcement powers under the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority Act 2004, and regulation of corporate service providers. They provided advice on enforcement and compliance issues to other ACRA departments, such as the suspension or cancellation of registration of filing agents and qualified individuals, and acted as prosecuting counsel in disciplinary inquiries against public accountants. As at 31 December 2021, there were 10 LSOs in the ACRA.

Leong Weng Tat

Divisional Director/ Chief Legal Officer Law Division Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

The Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore ("IRAS") is a statutory body under the MOF. The Law Division advises the IRAS on a broad range of legal and tax issues. This includes rendering advice across the various tax types, including individual and corporate income tax, property tax, goods and services tax and stamp duty, and providing corporate legal support. The Law Division represents the IRAS in tax disputes at the tax tribunals, as well as the General and Appellate Divisions of the High Court. It also prosecutes tax-related offences such as goods and services tax fraud. In addition, the Law Division is involved in the drafting of tax legislation.

As at 31 December 2021, five LSOs were seconded to the IRAS.

Tang Siau Yan

Chief Legal Officer Law Division Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore

Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore

The Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore ("CCCS") is a statutory body under the Ministry of Trade and Industry ("MTI"). CCCS administers and enforces the Competition Act 2004 ("CA") and the Consumer Trading) Act Protection (Fair 2003 ("CPFTA") and seeks to maintain and enhance efficient market conduct and fair-trading practices in Singapore.

In relation to the CA, CCCS received a record number of merger notifications in 2021. Six mergers were cleared unconditionally, and one was conditionally cleared after CCCS accepted commitments from the merging parties.

CCCS also completed the review of a number of its Guidelines on the CA in 2021. In particular, the revised Guidelines include clarifications on the assessment of market power and types of potentially abusive conduct in the context of multisided platforms and digital markets. CCCS also issued a guidance note on common business collaborations, such as joint production or joint purchasing arrangements, so that businesses can work together more confidently for more efficient outcomes without harming competition.

On the consumer protection front, CCCS successfully applied for an injunction against a supplier of fire extinguishers for engaging in unfair trade practices under the CPFTA, including making false representations on prices, discounts, the need for its goods, and its affiliation to government organisations. CCCS also secured an undertaking from a beauty salon to cease its false claims relating to the benefits of its treatments and products and to stop engaging in pressure sales tactics.

CCCS continues to work closely with foreign counterparts to enhance the development of competition policy and effective enforcement the of competition law. In 2021, CCCS signed Memorandums of Understanding with the State Administration for Market Regulation of The People's Republic of China and also with the Philippine Competition Commission to facilitate cooperation in the field of competition law.

As at 31 December 2021, six LSOs were seconded to CCCS.

Sia Aik Kor (Ms)

Chief Executive Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore

Economic Development Board

The Economic Development Board ("EDB") is a government agency under the MTI responsible for strategies that enhance Singapore's position as a global business centre.

The Legal Division ("Division") advises on tax and financial incentives for the promotion of investments, training, productivity, and research and development in Singapore. The Division also advises on the EDB's regulatory functions under the Control of Manufacture Act 1959, trade issues, procurement, and human resource and data protection matters.

In addition, the Division is the legal advisor to Design Singapore Council Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of the EDB.

In 2021, the Division advised the EDB on matters relating to the procurement of vaccines for COVID-19 variants and the implementation of initiatives to streamline the administration of the EDB's incentives.

As at 31 December 2021, two LSOs were seconded to the EDB.

Edrick Guo Zhixian General Counsel Legal Division Economic Development Board

Monetary Authority of Singapore

The Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS") is Singapore's central bank and financial services regulator.

In 2021, MAS' investigations led to proceedings criminal against 11 orders individuals and prohibition against 17 individuals. The MAS imposed composition amounting to \$5 million on financial institutions for breaches of MAS' regulations on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism. The MAS' Enforcement Department and the CAD also launched a high-profile joint investigation with the Hong Kong securities regulator and law enforcement agencies, into a pump-and-dump scam on stocks listed in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Approximately \$4.4 million suspected to be proceeds from the pump-and-dump scam was seized in Singapore.

The MAS' Prudential Policy Department ("PPD") collaborated with banks on financial inclusion initiatives to facilitate account opening for previously unbanked higher-risk individuals, as well as on further mortgage and unsecured debt relief measures for borrowers affected by the pandemic. The PPD also closely monitors developments in the industry, such as Buy-Now-Pay-Later schemes and decentralised finance, to formulate regulatory frameworks where needed.

As at 31 December 2021, two LSOs were seconded to the MAS' Enforcement Department, one to the PPD and one to the Markets Policy and Infrastructure Department.

Peggy Pao-Keerthi Pei Yu (Ms)

Executive Director Policy, Payments and Financial Crime Group Enforcement Department Monetary Authority of Singapore

National Environment Agency

The Legal Division ("LD") of the National Environment Agency ("NEA") supports NEA in its mission to achieve a clean and sustainable environment.

The LD renders civil and regulatory advice on a broad range of NEA matters, and prosecutes offences under NEAadministered legislation.

2021, the LD advised on the In establishment of a S\$3 billion multicurrency medium term note and a green bond framework to finance the development of sustainable waste management infrastructure, as well as a number of high value contracts involving breaches and novation. On the regulatory front, the LD continued to advise on the implementation of measures and enforcement in COVID-19 matters as well as the enforcement of table-littering regulations to encourage tray-return.

LD also supports NEA's engagement in environmental issues including treaties and conventions.

As at 31 December 2021, two LSOs were seconded to the NEA.

Andy Sim Yock Ann

Director Legal Division National Environment Agency

Public Service Commission Secretariat

The Public Service Commission ("PSC") safeguards the fundamental principles of integrity, impartiality, and meritocracy of the Singapore Public Service. The PSC Secretariat supports PSC's role in selecting and developing scholarship holders, appointing senior management, and maintaining discipline across the Singapore Public Service.

The PSC Secretariat also supports PSC to exercise its disciplinary authority in accordance with the Public Service (Disciplinary Proceedings) Regulations and other relevant disciplinary legislation, and reviews disciplinary legislation to effect new processes and policies.

The PSC Secretariat processed a total of 300 disciplinary cases in 2021, including 128 cases that had been brought forward from 2020.

As at 31 December 2021, one LSO was seconded to the PSC Secretariat.

Faith Boey (Ms) Legal Counsel PSC Secretariat

Land Transport Authority

The Land Transport Authority's ("LTA") Legal Subgroup ("LTA Legal") consists of the Legal (Public Transport & Infrastructure) Division, the Legal (Vehicles & Technology) Division and the Legal (Prosecution & Systems) Division.

On the contracts front, major projects in 2021 included the negotiation of the Grantor Agreement for the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System and support for the ongoing construction of the Circle Line, the Jurong Region Mass Rapid Transit line and the North-South Corridor.

On the legislation front, the LTA Legal was engaged in land transport-related safedistancing legislation, import controls for small motorised vehicles, new regulatory frameworks for shared mobility enterprises and point-to-point transport services, as well as facilitating trials of driverless bus services.

As at 30 April 2021, one LSO was seconded to the LTA.

Paul Chia

Deputy General Counsel Legal Subgroup Land Transport Authority (until 30 April 2021)

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