

# Use of Zoom and Asynchronous Hearings at State Courts Trials

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1 December 2020, 5.00pm - 6.30pm  
Fireside Chat

## Overview

Covid-19 has accelerated the pace of our adoption of technologies. Hear from the State Courts about the latest developments on trial, interlocutory applications and pre-trial conferences using Zoom and Asynchronous Hearings; clearing sovereignty issues (for overseas witnesses); swearing in of witnesses; filing/screening of exhibits; how many authorities to include; unauthorised recordings; practical and technical issues; and common mistakes encountered, etc. Learn what preparations and compliance with Practice Directions are required for these remote hearings. A chat with district judges that you would not want to miss!

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The first of a two-part series of informal fireside chats by judicial officers and judges will start off with the Judges of the State Courts discussing how the Courts have harnessed technology during this pandemic in trials and hearings. Details of the new initiatives introduced by the Courts this year, such as virtual criminal trials and asynchronous civil hearings, will be shared during this session.

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4.45PM	Participants log in to platform
5:00PM	Fireside Chat hosted by: Shaiffudin bin Saruwan, District Judge, State Courts of Singapore Georgina Lum, District Judge, State Courts of Singapore
6.00PM	Q&A moderated by Carolyn Woo, District Judge, State Courts of Singapore
6.30PM	End

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Registration is free.  
Click to register.

Register by  
25 November 2020

## Speakers



**Shaiffudin Saruwan**  
District Judge, State Courts of Singapore

Shaiffudin joined the Singapore Legal Service upon his graduation in 1990. He was posted to the Attorney-General's Chamber as a Deputy Public Prosecutor (DPP) and State Counsel. As a DPP, he prosecuted capital cases and argued appeal cases in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. He also prosecuted numerous criminal cases in the State Courts. In 1996, he was posted to the State Courts as a District Judge, where he had presided as Judge in the Traffic Court, Criminal Mentions Court, Criminal Trial Court, the Coroner's Court as State Coroner and the Community Court. Presently, he sits as a criminal court judge in the Criminal Justice Division. He is the executive sponsor of the Automated Traffic Offences Management System (ATOMS) which enables offenders of minor traffic and regulatory offences to plead guilty electronically. He conducted the first remote criminal trial via the video-conferencing platform, Zoom, which paved the way for remote/hybrid trials in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the period 1999-2001, he was seconded to the Syariah Court as Registrar where he helped set up its e-Case Management System and enhanced its court processes. He holds concurrent designation as Ad-hoc President of the Syariah Court and member of the Appeal Board constituted under the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS).



**Georgina Lum**  
District Judge, State Courts of Singapore

District Judge Georgina Lum graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2003 and was called to the Bar in 2004. In 2009, she became a partner in Shook Lin & Bok LLP and spent 11 years in private practice as a litigator. During her years of practice, she was involved in a broad range of work in international commercial arbitration and commercial litigation. In addition to being admitted to practice in Singapore, she is also admitted to practice in New South Wales.

In 2015, Georgina was appointed as a District Judge in the Civil Justice Division of the State Courts of Singapore. She was involved in the creation and implementation of the asynchronous hearings within the Civil Justice Division including the issuance of Registrar's Circulars No. 11 and 13 of 2020. She is also presently the appointed Lead for the Asynchronous Hearings counter within the Civil Justice Division.

## Moderator



**Carolyn Woo**  
District Judge, State Courts of Singapore

Carolyn graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1999 and joined the Legal Service after a short stint in private practice, starting as an Assistant Director in the Legal Aid Bureau. Since joining the then-Subordinate Courts in 2005, she has presided over a wide range of legal issues during her postings to the Family and Juvenile Court (now Family Justice Courts) and the Civil Division of the then-Subordinate Courts. Carolyn is currently a District Judge with the State Courts Centre for Dispute Resolution, as well as the Deputy Chairman of the Ministry of Finance Valuation Review Board and hears appeals in property tax matters. She is also a SMC accredited mediator and a certified SIMI mediator.