



## Specialist Insight Series:

# The Changing Landscape of Family Law Advocacy

10 December 2020, 21 January 2021, 25 March 2021  
Webinar

## Overview

With an increasing spotlight on appropriate dispute resolution and adopting resolution of family matters through the lens of therapeutic justice, traditional advocacy as we know it and practised in the past is changing.

In its traditional form, one thinks of advocacy as arguing and presenting your client's case in court and only persuading the judge. However, in family matters, advocacy begins when you first meet your client and takes the form of understanding your client's case and concerns, and also persuading your client to take a constructive and reasonable approach which may yield an outcome for parties, not necessarily through the litigation route.

The Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) Professional Affairs Committee's (PAC) Family Law and Children's Rights Chapter (FLCRC) is proud to present these three webinars focussed on the right approach to advocacy in family law disputes.

Module 1	The Road to a Successful Family Mediation starts with Mindful Advocacy	10 December 2020 5pm - 6.30pm
Module 2	Hearing in a Virtual World: The Art of Persuasion in Ancillary and Appellate Hearings	21 January 2021 5pm - 6.30pm
Module 3	The Increasingly Significant Role of Written Advocacy	25 March 2021 5pm - 6.30pm

Click [here](#) to register for individual modules at SGD 96.30 each.

Click [here](#) to register for all three webinars at SGD 224.70.

### SILE Attendance Policy

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes logging in at the start of the webinar and logging out at the conclusion of the webinar in the manner required by the organiser, and not being away from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <http://www.sileCPDCentre.sg> for more information.

 Webinar	LIFTED by 	<b>1 PUBLIC CPD POINT PER MODULE (TBC)</b>
	Legal Practitioner  Specialisms In-House Counsel  Specialisms Legal Support  Others	Practice Area: Family Training Level: General

## Programme

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10 December 2020 , Thursday

### The Road to a Successful Family Mediation starts with Mindful Advocacy

Mediation advocacy including pre-writ mediation is an important skill set a family practitioner should possess as it can make a significant difference to the success of mediation.

4.45pm Participants log in to webinar

5.00pm Presentation by:

- District Judge Lim Choi Ming, Family Justice Courts
- Ms Michelle Png, Assistant Senior Counsellor, THK Centre for Family Harmony
- Mr Lim Tat, Managing Partner, Aequitas Law LLP
- Mr Rajan Chettiar, Director, Rajan Chettiar LLC

6.00pm Panel Discussion and Q&A

- Moderated by Ms Angelina Hing, Managing Director, Integro Law Chambers LLC

6.30pm End of webinar

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21 January 2021, Thursday

### Hearing in a Virtual World: The Art of Persuasion in Ancillary and Appellate Hearings

This webinar will share advocacy tips and how to navigate virtual hearings including hearings with litigants-in-person and the challenges faced in ancillary matters and appellate hearings.

4.45pm Participants log in to webinar

5.00pm Presentation by:

- The Honourable Justice Debbie Ong, Presiding Judge, Family Justice Courts
- District Judge Tan Shin Yi, Family Justice Courts
- Mr Gregory Vijayendran SC, Partner, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
- Ms Loh Wai Mooi, Partner, Bih Li & Lee

6.00pm Panel Discussion and Q&A

- Moderated by Mr Yap Teong Liang, Director, T L Yap Law Chambers LLC

6.30pm End of webinar

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25 March 2021, Thursday

### The Increasingly Significant Role of Written Advocacy

This webinar will engage participants in the art of written advocacy, covering aspects of letter writing, affidavits and submissions. This webinar will share the thought process that goes into the preparation of the evidence and submissions and how to effectively persuade the court even before the hearing.

4.45pm Participants log in to webinar

5.00pm Presentation by:

- District Judge Jen Koh, Family Justice Courts
- Mr Sreenivasan Narayanan SC, Partner, K & L Gates Straits Law LLC
- Ms Tan Hui Qing, Associate Director, T L Yap Law Chambers LLC

6.00pm Panel Discussion and Q&A

- Moderated by Mr Raymond Yeo, Sole Proprietor, Raymond Yeo

6.30pm End of webinar

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## Speakers



### **District Judge Lim Choi Ming, Family Justice Courts** **District Judge, Family Justice Courts**

Lim Choi Ming has been an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore since 1996. Prior to joining Legal Service, she worked with M/s Ann Tan & Associates doing family related work, TM Hoon and Co. doing commercial and family matters, and lastly with M/s KhattarWong as a partner specializing in Family Law. She was regularly assigned cases from the Legal Aid Bureau on family law for the last 10 years.

She is currently a District Judge and Assistant Registrar of the Family Justice Courts since 2010, a full time Judge-Mediator and a SIMI certified Family Mediator.



### **Ms Michelle Png** **Assistant Senior Counsellor, THK Centre for Family Harmony**

Michelle is an Assistant Senior Counsellor at THK Centre for Family Harmony @ Commonwealth, one of six Divorce Support Specialist Agencies in Singapore. She has 9 years of experience in the counselling arena, specializing in Divorce Counselling & Emotionally-Focused Couple Therapy

Her previous work experiences include counselling in Singapore's largest private healthcare provider, delivering evidence-based psychosocial and emotional counselling for cancer patients as they cope with their diagnosis, treatment processes and care plans. She was also a pioneer member of a local psychological consultancy, specializing in happiness at work, family and life. She had researched, co-developed and organized psycho-education workshops on organizational behaviour, the culture of leadership, people-development and workplace mental wellness.

As a counsellor with THK Centre for Family Harmony @ Commonwealth, Michelle is passionate about working with couples and families: strengthening marriages, empowering parents, and fostering emotional wellness in Children.

Michelle graduated with a Master of Social Science in Professional Counselling with Swinburne University of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications from Oklahoma City University. She is a Registered Counsellor with the Singapore Association for Counselling (SAC) and Association of Psychotherapists and Counsellors Singapore (APACS), and a clinical member of International Centre for Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy (ICEEFT).

## Speakers



### **Mr Lim Tat**

**Managing Partner, Aequitas Law LLP**

Tat Lim is an IMI-certified mediation advocate and an IMI-certified mediator.

He has been involved in over 500 mediations, which include energy, construction, environmental, intellectual property, joint venture and family disputes. His family practice includes appointments as counsel, collaborative family practitioner, child representative and mediator in domestic and international family and child abduction cases.

Tat is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and International Academy of Mediators. He is a Weinstein JAMS International Fellow and is on the international panels of many distinguished mediation institutions, including SMC, SIMC, JIMC, CEDR, HKMAAL and AAA-ICDR. He is a regional consultant and mediator of the Compliance Advisory Ombudsman, International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group and a member of the Global Mediation Panel of the Office of the Ombudsman for the United Nations Funds and Programmes. Tat has been ranked for his litigation practice in The Legal500 and recognized by Who'sWhoLegal:Mediation as one of three leading individuals in Singapore.

He serves as Chair of the Mediation Committee Advisory Board of the International Bar Association, Co-Chair of the Law Society of Singapore Mediation Committee, Chair of the Society of Mediation Professionals (Singapore), a member of IMI's Independent Advisory Committee and the Editorial Board of IBA's Dispute Resolution International.



### **Mr Rajan Chettiar**

**Founder and Director, Rajan Chettiar LLC**

After having qualified as a barrister-at-law in England and admitted to the Singapore Bar in March 1997, Rajan Chettiar worked in one of the oldest and prestigious law firms in Singapore. Having caught the entrepreneur bug and a strong desire to use his legal skills to assist individuals, he then set up the firm of Rajan Chettiar & Co in 2003 which specialises in all aspects of family and personal laws. He is currently the Managing Director of Rajan Chettiar LLC.

He is an Associate Mediator of the Singapore Mediation Centre and a Court appointed volunteer mediator of the State Courts and Family Justice Courts in Singapore. He mediates civil, criminal and family matters. He also runs one of the first private mediation company in Singapore, Resolvers Pte Ltd which offers mediation services to assist parties to resolve their matters through mediation instead of resorting to litigation.

He is one of the first collaborative lawyers in Singapore and handled the first collaborative family law case in Singapore in early 2013. He is appointed as a Child Representative by the Family Justice Courts to assist the Court on complex child custody and access cases. He is a trained Parent Coordinator and a Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI) Certified Mediator. He is also qualified to mediate cross border family disputes. In 2016, he was recognised as an Outstanding Volunteer (Advocate and Solicitor category) by the State Courts in Singapore. He has also been recognized for his contributions to the Law Society of Singapore on 2 occasions.

He has been appointed to be a director of the Board of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals in the United States of America. He is the second Asian to serve on the Board. An active member of the Law Society of Singapore, he was a past member of the Council of the Law Society of Singapore and currently serves in its various committees. He is regularly featured in the local newspapers, radio and television in Singapore on family related issues. A prolific writer, he writes a monthly column in the Singapore Law Gazette.

## Moderator



### **Ms Angelina Hing**

**Founder & Managing Director, Integro Law Chambers**

Angelina has extensive experience in the legal field. In the early years of her career, Angelina was an established litigator, handling high-value corporate disputes. She is also an Attorney and Counsellor at Law, in the courts of the State of New York.

She was most recently a District Judge of the Family Justice Courts, from 2009 to 2016. She has a wealth of experience mediating complex issues relating to child custody involving difficult issues of international relocation and allegations of child abduction, as well as all financial issues relating to divorce.

She is an accredited Principal Mediator with the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC) and sits on the Family Panel of the SMC. She is also an appointed adjudicator at Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre Limited (FIDREC).

At an international level, Angelina is a Certified Mediator with the Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI) and an accredited Mediator with the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), which is the largest conflict management and resolution consultancy in the world.

## Speakers



### **The Honourable Justice Debbie Ong** **Presiding Judge, Family Justice Courts**

Justice Debbie Ong joined the Supreme Court in 2014 as Judicial Commissioner, and was appointed Judge of the High Court on 30 September 2017 and Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts on 1 October 2017.

She earned her Bachelor of Laws from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1989 and Master of Laws at the University of Cambridge in 1991.

Justice Ong began her legal career as a law academic at NUS's Faculty of Law. A published writer, her works are prolific in the law on the family, children and international issues in family disputes. She published the book entitled *International Issues in Family Law in Singapore* in January 2015, and has contributed numerous articles in local as well as international scholarly journals. As Presiding Judge of the Family Justice Courts, Justice Ong is a specialist Judge responsible for much of the recent legal jurisprudence in family law.

Justice Ong co-chaired the inter-agency Committee to Review and Enhance Reforms in the Family Justice System and currently oversees the implementation of various reforms and the building of a problem-solving family justice system.



### **District Judge Tan Shin Yi,** **District Judge, Family Justice Courts**

District Judge Tan Shin Yi obtained her Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the National University of Singapore in 2003. She was admitted as an advocate and solicitor in Singapore in 2004 and as a solicitor in the United Kingdom in 2008. She began her legal career specialising in family law at Harry Elias Partnership, where she was lead counsel in her first Court of Appeal case in 2008.

In 2009, she joined the Singapore Legal Service as State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Chambers and in January 2012, she was appointed as a District Judge in the Family and Juvenile Justice Division of the Subordinate Courts (renamed as the State Courts in 2014). In 2014, she was awarded the Legal Service Commission Scholarship and obtained a Master of Laws (International and Comparative Law) from the National University of Singapore in 2015. She currently serves as a District Judge in the Family Justice Courts.

## Speakers



**Mr Gregory Vijayendran SC**  
Partner, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

Gregory has considerable experience and expertise in various spheres of civil and commercial litigation and arbitration and dispute resolution. His present practice encompasses a specialization in banking and corporate insolvency as well as litigation and arbitration of commercial contracts to company and shareholder disputes and chancery matters. He is also a recognized expert in charities governance.

Gregory graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1992 with an LLB (Hons) and was placed in the Top 10 of the Postgraduate Practice Law Course of his batch. He was one of the main speakers in the university's moot team in 1992 that emerged world runners-up at the 1992 Jessup International Law Moot Competition in Washington D.C. Gregory was thereafter admitted to the Singapore Bar in 1993 and joined Rajah & Tann LLP after being in practice in two other leading law firms for 15 years (jointly heading the Banking and Insolvency Litigation Practice group of another leading law firm). Gregory was appointed Senior Counsel in 2019.

Among others things, he has been judicially commended by the Supreme Court in reported judgments for "meticulous professionalism", "demonstrating what it is (and ought to be) like to practice the law in its best (indeed, its highest) tradition." and being "valiant."

Gregory presently serves as President and Executive Committee Member of the Law Society. He serves as Vice President on the Executive Board of Singapore Academy of Law and is a member of its Audit Committee and the Specialist Accreditation Board. He served for close to a decade as Law Society Publication Committee Chairman from 2005 to 2014. He has previously served on the Inquiry Panel of the Law Society of Singapore, as Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Insolvency and Practitioners' Association of Singapore ("IPAS") and as inaugural Subject Coordinator for the Part B Elective on Wills, Probate and Administrations (appointed Senior Teaching Fellow) of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education. He regularly conducts nationwide and professional wide seminars and counts as his personal teaching highlights being part of Summer School Faculty in Handong International Law School (teaching International Business Transactions in 2008 and 2009), a lecturer on company law developments to the ACCA Annual Conferences for several years and lecturing for the LKY School of Public Policy in 2014 on Non Profit Management for the 21st Century. He serves as a Member of the Tribunal for Maintenance of Parents as well as the Bioethics Advisory Committee (receiving the Long Service Award in November 2016).



**Ms Loh Wai Mooi**  
Partner, Bih Li & Lee

Loh Wai Mooi is a lawyer of more than thirty years practice. She started practice in the area of civil litigation and upon the founding of Bih Li & Lee LLP more than twenty years ago, specialised in family law. Her practice involves many aspects of family law ranging from contentious custody matters of the most challenging types to seemingly congenial cases of lives saved by "simple" adoption matters. Besides being an advocate for parties involved in family matters, Wai Mooi is also a Mediator and a Child Representative. All of these require interactions with clients and for them, with Judges, fellow lawyers and persons who choose to represent themselves (often called "Litigants in Person"). Such interactions in family matters always involve persuasion and the challenge is how to do it effectively across the spectrum of persons one will have to interact with as a family practitioner."

## Moderator



### **Mr Yap Teong Liang** Director, T L Yap & Associates

Yap Teong Liang was called to the Bar of England and Wales (Middle Temple) in 1991 and admitted as an Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in June 1992. On 10th June 2002, he set up his boutique law firm specialising in Family Law.

Teong Liang has represented high net worth clients and handles cases involving foreign marriages, cross-border international complex child abduction and relocation cases, as well as jurisdictional and forum issues (Australia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America), child custody and access cases, maintenance for the child and wife, division of matrimonial assets and family violence. He is listed as a Preeminent and Leading Family & Divorce Lawyer in the Doyle's Guide.

Teong Liang also practices as a Collaborative Family Practitioner, Parenting Coordinator and is an Associate Mediator with the Singapore Mediation Centre and an Accredited Mediator with the Family Justice Courts and Regent's University, London (Mediation and Psychology). He is on the panel of Cross-Border Family Mediators of Mediation bei Internationalen Kindschaftskonflikten (MiKK), Berlin, Germany and the Cross-Border Family Mediator's Network.

He was Chairperson of the Family Law Practice Committee of the Law Society of Singapore from 2006 to 2015. He is currently the Chairperson of the Family Law and Children's Rights Chapter of the Professional Affairs Committee of the Singapore Academy of Law, Chairperson of the Family Law and Family Rights Section and Vice President of LAWASIA.

He is appointed by the Chief Justice as a member of the Family Justice Rules Committee constituted pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Family Justice Act and appointed onto the panel of Child Representatives by the Family Justice Courts since October 2014.

Teong Liang has presented papers at both local and overseas family law conferences over the years and recently co-authored the Chapter on Dispute Resolution Options in the book "The Art of Family Lawyering" (2019 Special Edition) and authored the chapter on Ancillary Relief: Orders That Can be Made in "The Law and Practice of Family Law in Singapore".

## Speakers



### **District Judge Jen Koh** **District Judge, Family Justice Courts**

District Judge Jen Koh graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1990 and was admitted to the Singapore Bar in March 1991. After six years of matrimonial and civil litigation practice, she started Koh Ong & Partners in April 1996. In 2003/2004, she was voted by her peers through Asian Legal Business as one of five leading matrimonial lawyers in Singapore. In 2006, she started her own law firm Jen Koh & Partners, a boutique law firm specialising in family law where she handled complex cases often involving high net worth parties, foreign marriages with cross-border and cross-jurisdictional issues and specialized in complex child custody cases. In January 2008, she joined Harry Elias Partnership as a Consultant in their matrimonial department.

In October 2008, she was appointed as a District Judge in the Family and Juvenile Division of the Subordinate Courts, as it then was. In October 2014, Jen was appointed as the first Deputy Registrar of the Family Justice Courts when it was set up as its own court, where she remains to date. Jen assists the Registrar with management of the registries of the Family Court as well as the High Court Family Division whilst still sitting as a District Judge dealing with complex matrimonial cases. Jen was a volunteer lawyer with the pro bono legal assistance scheme as well as at a Family Service Centre.



### **Mr Sreenivasan Narayanan SC** **Partner, K & L Gates Straits Law LLC**

Mr Sreenivasan Narayanan is a senior counsel and has practiced extensively over 34 years in civil litigation and arbitration. He is also well recognized in the areas of business crime and financial regulatory matters. Mr. Narayanan is a fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of the UK and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. Upon graduation, he commenced his legal career as a legal service officer in the Singapore Legal Service in 1985. In 1990, he entered into private practice and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2013.



### **Ms Tan Hui Qing** **Associate Director, T L Yap Law Chambers LLC**

Tan Hui Qing graduated from the National University of Singapore and is called to the Singapore Bar. She currently practices Family Law in a boutique family law specialist firm, T L Yap Law Chambers LLC. In the course of her practice, Hui Qing has dealt with divorces, annulments, adoptions, custody issues and financial issues such as the division of matrimonial assets and maintenance. These include complex cases which involved cross-border jurisdiction and forum issues, relocation, and foreign assets. She has also advised and drafted Separation Deeds, Pre-Nuptial Agreements and agreements relating to matrimonial proceedings and financial issues, represented clients in trials involving family violence and maintenance matters. Hui Qing had also been involved in a number of international child abduction cases under The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Apart from litigation, Hui Qing's practice also substantially involves other forms of dispute resolution, including mediation and Collaborative Family Practice, amongst others. Hui Qing believes that there is no one size fits all and would explore the various dispute resolution options to find the one that is most suitable for each client. Hui Qing is also an accredited mediator who sits on the Family Panel of family law mediators, and a Collaborative Family Practitioner with the Singapore Mediation Centre.

## Moderator



### **Mr Raymond Yeo** **Sole Proprietor, Raymond Yeo**

Raymond was called to the Bar in England in 1996 and was admitted to the Supreme Court of Singapore on 21 March 1998 as an Advocate and Solicitor.

Raymond started his professional career as a Legal Assistant handling a wide range of work including civil and contractual claims such as personal injuries and general litigation work, corporate secretarial work and criminal practice with the primary focus on family law. Raymond remains in active litigation practice from 1998 to date, handling cases commencing in the Family Justice Courts to prosecuting and defending cases in the High Court and in the Court of Appeal.

Raymond has since developed a specialist area of practice and he runs his own boutique law firm providing services in the area of family and matrimonial law. He undertakes a wide variety of cases relating to matrimonial and family law ranging from applications under the Mental Capacity Act to foreign divorces with complex cross-border jurisdictional and foreign claims. He has extensive litigation experience in cases concerning acrimonious custody disputes as well as division of assets of substantial values.

Raymond was also appointed by the Family Justice Courts as an Amicus Curiae and he is listed as a Child Representative with the Family Justice Courts for cases involving custody disputes.

Raymond is also a trained Parenting Coordinator, having completed his Advanced Parenting Coordination Training Program jointly organized by the Family Justice Courts together with the Law Society of Singapore as well as completed a training course on Parenting Coordination with the Hong Kong Academy of Law.

Raymond also has extensive experience in Solicitors' work including drafting of Wills, Deeds and Pre-Nuptial Agreements.

Raymond also presents papers and speaks on Family Law issues and moderates at Conferences and Seminars, both locally and abroad.

Raymond is the author of the Chapter on the Law Relating to Children in the Law and Practice of Family Law in Singapore. He is also the co-author of a Chapter on Children's Issues in the Art of Family Lawyering (2019) Special Edition as well as the co-author of the Revised Chapter on Custody Care and Control and Access in the 2nd Edition of the book, The Art of Family Lawyering, a publication of the Law Society of Singapore in 2013.

Raymond has also attained a Certificate in Practical Counselling (Basic) with the School of Counselling.

Raymond also sat as a Member and Consultant on Review Committees on family law issues.