

# [Webinar] Demystifying Therapeutic Justice and Insights for Mediation

17 February 2021  
9.00am - 10.30am  
Webinar

## Overview

Therapeutic Justice (TJ) and Mediation can be said to have much in common. Therapeutic Justice involves looking at how processes used by the courts, judges, lawyers and other stakeholders affect the psychological well-being of those going through the legal system. It is concerned with how legal rules and procedures can be applied to enhance well-being, without compromising due process. Mediation is a facilitative process which enables the parties to resolve their differences in a non-confrontational manner, focusing not just on legal positions but actual needs and concerns of the parties. It has been seen as an important tool to ensure access to justice.

This webinar will explore the interaction between Therapeutic Justice and mediation. Professor David Wexler, founder of the concept of Therapeutic Justice and part of the Advisory Research Council convened by the Family Justice Courts, will open this webinar. He will give an overview and expound on how substantive law, legal procedures, and the role of legal professionals produce therapeutic or antitherapeutic consequences for individuals involved in the legal process. He will then be joined by District Judge Kevin Ng, Dr Ronald Ng and former District Judge Mr David Lim as they share their reflections and insights on how the application of therapeutic justice principles impacted them in their approach and communication with parties in mediation across different fields such as family, healthcare, civil, and quasi-criminal matters.

Join us as we review mediation through the TJ lens.

## Programme

8.30 AM	<b>Participants to log in to Webinar</b>
9.00 AM	<p><b>Speaker</b>  <b>Professor David Wexler</b>  <i>Professor of Law, University of Puerto Rico,  Distinguished Research Professor of Law Emeritus at the James E. Rogers College of Law, The University of Arizona, and  an Honorary President of the International Society for Therapeutic Jurisprudence</i></p> <p><b>Panellists</b>  <b>Mr Kevin Ng</b> <i>District Judge and Head, Family Dispute Resolution Division, Family Justice Courts</i>  <b>Dr Ronald Ng</b> <i>MBBS (HK), FRCP (Edin), FRCP (Glasg), FAMS, Icon Cancer Centre Singapore</i>  <b>Mr David Lim</b> <i>Associate Mediator &amp; Principal Trainer, Singapore Mediation Centre</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b>  <b>Mr See Chern Yang</b>  <i>Director, Drew &amp; Napier LLC  Vice-Chairperson, Society of Mediation Professionals (Singapore)</i></p>
10.30 AM	<b>End</b>

 Webinar	LIFTED by 	1.5 PUBLIC CPD POINTS
	Legal Practitioner  Specialisms In-House Counsel  Specialisms Legal Support  Others	Practice Area: Others/Multi-disciplinary Training Level: General



## Speaker



### Professor David B. Wexler

Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of Law, The University of Arizona

David B. Wexler is Professor of Law at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Distinguished Research Professor of Law, Rogers College of Law, Tucson, Arizona. He is an Honorary President of the International Society for Therapeutic Jurisprudence.

His books include *Rehabilitating Lawyers: Principles of Therapeutic Jurisprudence for Criminal Law Practice* (Carolina Academic Press 2008); *Judging in a Therapeutic Key: Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the Courts* (with Bruce J. Winick) (Carolina Academic Press 2003); *Practicing Therapeutic Jurisprudence: Law as a Helping Profession* (with Dennis P. Stolle and Bruce J. Winick) (Carolina Academic Press 2000); *Law in a Therapeutic Key: Developments in Therapeutic Jurisprudence* (with Bruce J. Winick) (Carolina Academic Press 1996); *Essays in Therapeutic Jurisprudence* (with Bruce J. Winick) (Carolina Academic Press 1991); *Therapeutic Jurisprudence: The Law as a Therapeutic Agent* (Carolina Academic Press 1990); and *Mental Health Law: Major Issues* (Plenum Press 1981).

He received the American Psychiatric Association's Manfred S. Guttmacher Forensic Psychiatry Award; chaired the American Bar Association's Commission on Mental Disability and the Law; chaired the Association of American Law Schools Section on Law and Mental Disability; chaired the Advisory Board of the National Center for State Courts' Institute on Mental Disability and Law; was a member of the Panel on Legal Issues of the President's Commission on Mental Health; was a member of the National Commission on the Insanity Defense; served as Vice President of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health; received the New York University School of Law Distinguished Alumnus Legal Scholarship/Teaching Award; received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Center for State Courts; and served as a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mental Health and the Law. Professor Wexler has been named an Honorary Distinguished Member of the American Psychology-Law Society. In October, 2012, at its Congress in Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain, Wexler was named Honorary President of the Iberoamerican Association of Therapeutic Jurisprudence, an organization headquartered at the University of Vigo. For his work in Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Wexler was presented with the 2019 Alumni Achievement Award from Binghamton University. Therapeutic jurisprudence writing is now in seventeen languages, and some of Wexler's own work has been translated to Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese, Hebrew, Urdu, and Slovenian.

Wexler is a consultant on therapeutic jurisprudence to the National Judicial Institute of Canada and the Judicial Academy of Puerto Rico, and has served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist, lecturing on therapeutic jurisprudence in Australia and New Zealand.

Before entering law teaching, Professor Wexler practiced for the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice.

Wexler first explicated the therapeutic jurisprudence perspective in a paper written in 1987. He and Professor Bruce Winick of the University of Miami worked together to further develop the area, which is now of interest to practitioners and academics of many disciplines and nations.

## Panellists



### District Judge Kevin Ng

Head, Family Dispute Resolution Division, Family Justice Courts

District Judge Kevin Ng is Head, Family Dispute Resolution Division at the Family Justice Courts (FJC). Since 2005, Kevin has focused on the area of amicable dispute resolution in family matters. In 2006, he helped conceive and set up the FJC's Family Resolutions Chambers and in 2011, the Child Focused Resolution Centre. These departments, together with the FJC Counselling and Psychological Services, handle the provision of mandatory counselling and mediation to divorcing couples who have children, and the mediation of probate, adoption and mental capacity matters. He oversees the support schemes of FJC, including the Child Representative (lawyer for the child), Parenting Coordination and the various counselling programmes. Kevin has been accredited as a mediator by the Singapore Mediation Centre, the Singapore International Mediation Institute and the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution.

## Panellists



### Dr Ronald Ng

MBBS (HK), FRCP (Edin), FRCP (Glasg), FAMS, Icon Cancer Centre Singapore

Dr Ronald Ng is a specialist in Internal Medicine/Hematology with extensive experience mediating medical cases under the auspices of Singapore Mediation Centre and Ministry of Health Holdings, other non-medical cases at the Small Claims Tribunal, Magistrates' Complaints, financial disputes, and even some Divorce cases in the Family Court. Having been an accredited mediator since 2010, a Fellow and Principal Mediator of the Singapore Mediation Centre since 2014, and a Volunteer Mediator at the State Courts, Dr Ng believes in mediation as a means of dispute resolution, particularly in the highly emotive nature of disputes in the healthcare sector.

Being trained and involved in mediation he realises that managing patients and communicating different aspects of their well-being to them is more than just scientific knowledge, it is an art form.

Dr Ng has passion for lifelong learning and believes in having cross-domain knowledge. The 140 courses that he has taken online included courses in philosophy, and legal subjects such as contract law and philosophy on what is meant by justice.

Dr Ng was a medical teacher and researcher before at various well-known institutions and was a member of the Singapore National Medical Research Council. He is currently a member of the Centralised Institutional Review Board (Oncology) of SingHealth group of hospitals which reviews the ethical aspects of the various oncology research projects.



### Mr David Lim

Associate Mediator & Principal Trainer, Singapore Mediation Centre

David Lim is an Associate Mediator and Mediation Trainer with the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC). He is also a Certified Mediator of the Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI).

He graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1988 with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (Honours) degree. Upon graduation, he joined the Singapore Legal Service and served as a Deputy Registrar & Magistrate at the (then) Subordinate Courts (1988-90), as an Assistant Registrar in the Supreme Court (1990-92) and as a Legislative Draftsman in the Attorney-General's Chambers (1992-2011). He returned to the judiciary as a District Judge in 2011 and was a judge-mediator at the State Courts Centre for Dispute Resolution (SCCDR) from 2013 until August 2020 when he retired to focus on his personal interests. David still keeps up with his interest in mediation as a freelance private mediator and mediation trainer.

As a mediator, David has successfully resolved many cases involving a wide range of subject matters and law. He has also undergone training with the Regents University, London, in the application of psychotherapeutic techniques in mediation; with the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law (Malibu, California), in the mediation of litigated cases; and with the RAKMO Institute (Ljubljana, Slovenia) in the practice of transformative mediation.

A passionate teacher at heart, David holds an Advanced Certificate in Training and Assessment (ACTA) from the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL), Singapore, and has conducted many training courses and workshops on mediation and negotiation for the SMC and also for the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE) in the course for admission to the Singapore Bar.

During his time at the SCCDR, David was actively involved in the training of judicial and volunteer mediators and delivered many lectures to them on a wide range of mediation-related subjects. He was also one of the lead trainers in the International Judicial Mediation Workshop 2018 that was jointly organised by the Singapore Judicial College, the SCCDR and the SMC.

In addition to mediation, David has a keen interest in coaching and has undergone training as a solution-focused coach with Erikson College International (Canada) in their coach training programme - the Art and Science of Coaching, and is an

## Moderator



### Mr See Chern Yang

Director, Dispute Resolution, Drew & Napier LLC

Chern Yang is a Director at Drew & Napier LLC, the most celebrated dispute resolution practice in Singapore.

Chern Yang is a seasoned mediator and has attended advanced mediation training by the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University School of Law and the Harvard Negotiation Institute, Harvard Law School.

Chern Yang is one of the youngest to be appointed as a Principal Mediator of the Singapore Mediation Centre, and as an International Mediator at the Singapore International Mediation Centre. He regularly teaches mediation and has done so for the Judiciary in Brunei, Thailand and Myanmar and government officials in Fiji.

Chern Yang also has an active litigation practice and handles a wide range of disputes involving commercial matters, professional misconduct or negligence, data protection matters and matrimonial matters.

Chern Yang regularly speaks at disputes and mediation conferences. He has authored a number of mediation and family law chapters, the most recent being *Mediation: A Better Approach to Managing Business Disputes*, *Singapore Venture Capital & Private Equity Guide 2019*.

The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2019 edition has praised Chern Yang as “a good team player” and “strategic thinker”. He is presently vice-chairperson of the Law Society’s Mediation Committee and Society of Mediation Professionals (Singapore).

Registration SGD 96.30 (Inclusive of 7% GST)

Register online at  
[www.sal-e.org.sg](http://www.sal-e.org.sg)

Register by  
**16 February 2021**

#### 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.