

FOREWORD

This is the first Special Issue devoted to Family Law. It is timely not only because of the great public interest in the subject but also because changes in social mores and developments in technology pose new challenges to the contemporary family. The articles in this Special Issue address legal questions and problems posed by developments like surrogacy and the growing trend of international abduction of children by parents. Changes in social attitudes make us question parental rights long taken for granted like inflicting corporal punishment on one's child: there is an interesting discussion on this topic. Other subjects dealt with include the ethical duties of family lawyers' and the differences between civil and syariah family law. Besides local perspectives, most of the articles consider approaches from other countries such as Australia and the UK, with the aim of providing readers with extensive insights into each selected topic.

Academy Publishing is privileged to have Malathi Das and Lim Hui Min as the Guest Editors for this Special Issue. Ms Das is a Director of Joyce A Tan & Partners LLC. She has long been providing *pro bono* services in several areas of family law including promoting awareness of legal ethics and child and elder issues as well as training other professionals. Ms Lim has extensive experience of the issues confronting Singapore families, having served as a District Judge in the Family & Juvenile Courts, as a policy officer, and subsequently as a legal counsel, in the Ministry of Social and Family Development, and as a legal officer in the Legal Aid Bureau. She is presently the Director of Legal Aid. Ms Lim has also written extensively on civil procedure, family and juvenile law.

The Guest Editors have, throughout the reviewing stages, helped bring out the best in all the articles by, among other things, pointing out where and how informational breadth and/or depth could be enhanced in each piece for the benefit of all readers. They also took prompt action whenever their expert assistance was required, delivering guidance and suggestions with precision and clarity, as well as enabling smooth project execution.

Special thanks are also due to our contributors, who are each distinguished professionals in their respective fields. They are: Professor the Honourable Nahum Mushin AM; the Honourable Chief Justice John Pascoe; Judge Geoffrey Monahan; Ms Jennifer Hyatt; Ms Elizabeth Keogh; Dr Bruce Smyth; Dr Alexander Masardo; Professor Chan Wing Cheong; the Right Honourable Sir Mathew Thorpe; Professor Leong Wai Kum; District Judge Kevin Ng; District Judge Yarni Loi; Ms Sophia Ang; Ms Sylvia Tan; Ms Carmelia Nathen;

Ms Lee Yoke Wen; Ms Rachel Gan; Mr Ahmad Nizam Abbas; Ms Jennifer Teoh; Ms Grace S Chng and Mr Chi Meng Chu. I am very grateful to them for agreeing to contribute to this Special Issue and for taking the time and effort to produce articles of both depth and breadth.

Lastly, I thank the Secretariat for their editorial support throughout the publication process.

I look forward to further collaboration opportunities between Academy Publishing and our valued Guest Editors and contributors.

JUDITH PRAKASH
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