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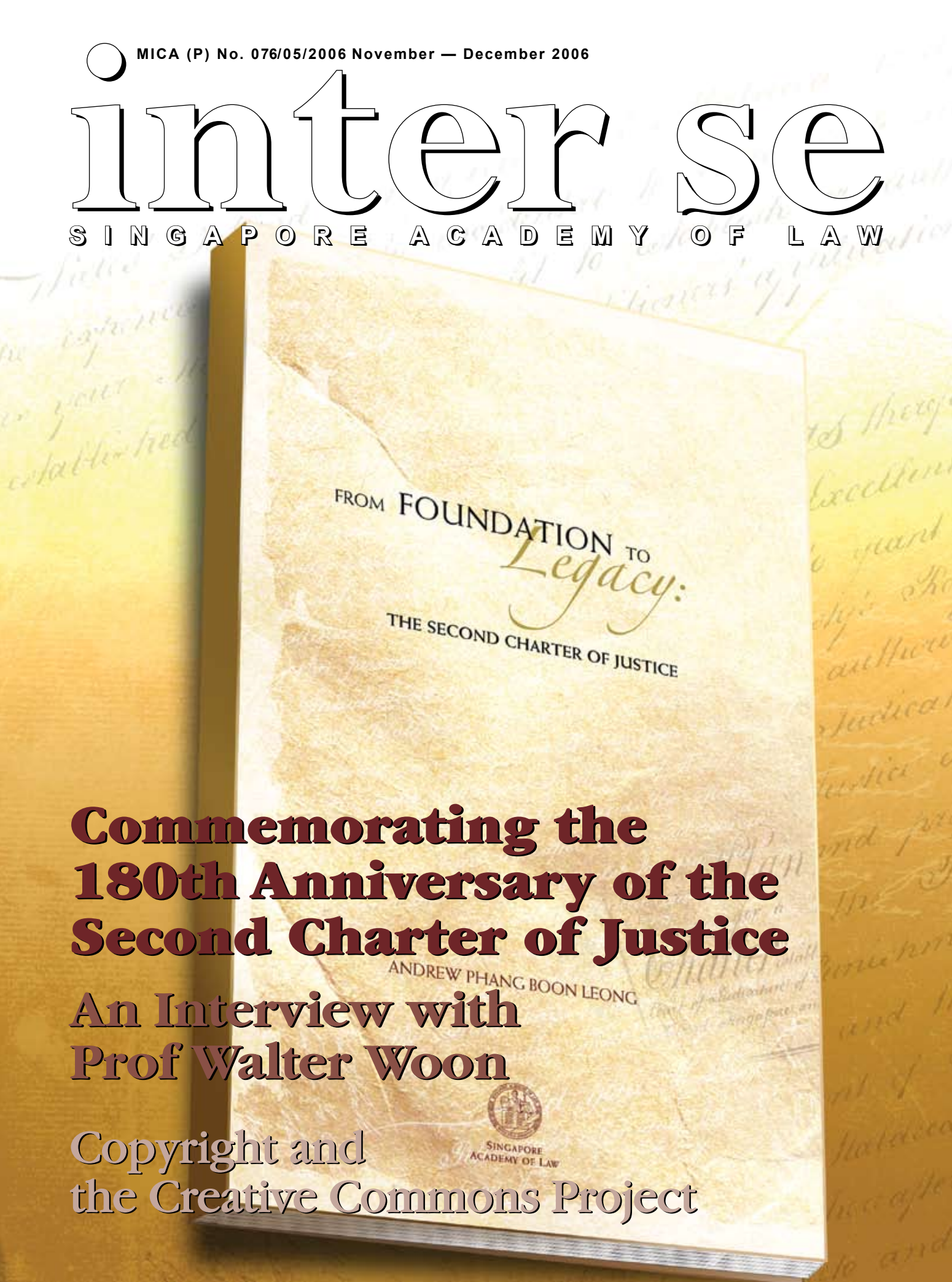
inter se

SINGAPORE ACADEMY OF LAW



Commemorating the 180th Anniversary of the Second Charter of Justice

An Interview with Prof Walter Woon

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In this issue of *Inter Se*, we commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Second Charter of Justice. This important document established a legal unity by introducing a uniform legal system based on the English common law, which did not exist in Singapore prior to 27 November 1826. Justice could now be administered by local courts which were empowered "to give and pass Judgment and Sentence according to Justice and Right", regardless of ethnicity.

This has proved to be the solid foundation upon which modern Singapore's legal institutions have flourished – fed by the rich traditions of its English common law heritage and the implicit understanding that such traditions have to be applied not in a wholesale manner, but innovatively to suit particular needs of a plural society.

The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong has done an admirable job of documenting the history and impact of the Second Charter of Justice in shaping our legal system. In this issue, we bring you reports on Justice Phang's monograph and the tireless work of the Academy's Legal Heritage Committee helmed by the Honourable Justice Kan Ting Chiu in unearthing never before seen artefacts relating to the issuance of the Second Charter of Justice.

This rare moment of regard to our legal inheritance would mean little if not for the fact that it has not been squandered. Today, it is possible not only to speak of Singapore law, but to practice it, administer it and, fittingly, disseminate it. This development of an autochthonous legal system has taken place upon a respect for the rule of law that had its beginnings in the issuance of the Second Charter of Justice. As noted by the Honourable Second Solicitor-General Professor Walter Woon, in his interview with *Inter Se*, it lies with us to continue to regard the rule of law with due respect, preserving and nurturing this, our legal inheritance and legacy, "remain[ing] mindful that we lose it at our peril".

Serene Wee
Director/Chief Executive Officer
Singapore Academy of Law

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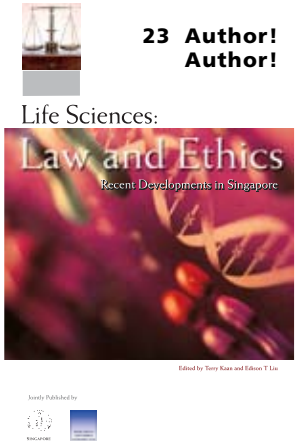

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COMMEMORATING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND CHARTER OF JUSTICE

By JACK TSEN-TA LEE, WRITER, SAL

Justice Andrew Phang (left) presenting Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong (right) with the first, signed copy of the monograph *From Foundation to Legacy: The Second Charter of Justice* at the event held to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Second Charter of Justice and launch the monograph.

A little-known anniversary of great significance to Singapore's legal history was marked on 30 November 2006 at the viewing gallery on the eighth floor of the Supreme Court by a small group of judges, lawyers, legal officers and academics. The event was held to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the Second Charter of Justice, which was granted by the British Crown to the East India Company on 27 November 1826.

Largely unknown to laypersons, and probably not uppermost in the minds of legal practitioners, the Second Charter is a founding document of Singapore's legal system as it established a proper system of courts in the Straits Settlements and introduced English law into the jurisdiction.

The First Charter of Justice of 1807 applied only to Penang, as the British had acquired that island prior to Malacca and Singapore.

ENDURING VALUES

The commemoration was organised by the Singapore Academy of Law's Legal Heritage Committee. In conjunction with the event, Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong had been commissioned with preparing a monograph on

[T]he Second Charter is a founding document of Singapore's legal system as it established a proper system of courts in the Straits Settlements and introduced English law into the jurisdiction.

Guests were treated to a mini exhibition showcasing documents connected with the issuance of the Second Charter of Justice, recently uncovered in the United Kingdom.

The Honourable Justice Kan Ting Chiu (centre), Chairman of the Legal Heritage Committee, speaking to guests at the event.

the history and impact of the Second Charter on the development of a legal system in Singapore. The monograph, titled *From Foundation to Legacy: The Second Charter of Justice*, was officially launched by the Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, President of the Academy.

In his speech, the Chief Justice said that the event was a reminder of the great legacy received from the British – the English common law – which had served and will continue to serve Singapore well.

He noted that as custodians of that law, judges and lawyers should meet together from time to time, "not to worship the common law, but to remind ourselves that we have a great responsibility to the people of Singapore to preserving the enduring values of the common law. With a sense of history of how the law came to us, we may better appreciate why we need to preserve it for the future generations of Singaporeans."

The Chief Justice ended by expressing the hope that in 20 years' time, on the bicentenary of the Second Charter, another book would be prepared assessing the development of Singapore law since 1826. The full text of the Chief Justice's speech follows.■

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SPEECH AT THE LAUNCH OF *FROM FOUNDATION TO LEGACY: THE SECOND CHARTER OF JUSTICE*

Good evening,

I am happy to see so many of you here for this evening's event. *The Straits Times* today has an article with the heading "Don't leave history buried in the past" which I thought would be an appropriate message for my speech. Today's launch is a modest affair, but it should be sufficient to remind us of the great legacy that we have received from the British, *viz*, a system of law that has served and will continue to serve Singapore well. The common law has survived, developed and endured for more than 800 years. As today's event commemorates the 180th anniversary of its reception in Singapore, it may be said that we are fortunate in having received a system of law that had already developed for more than 500 years before we received it.

We, the judges and the lawyers, are the custodians of that law, although to the extent that it is subordinate to legislation, we have no control over its destiny. But as custodians we are in a position to influence its development, and as judges, we are in a position to develop it, and indeed create it in theory. So, from time to time, we should meet together, not to worship the common law, but to remind ourselves that we have a great responsibility to the people of Singapore to preserving the enduring values of the common law. With a sense of history of how the law came to us, we may better appreciate why we need to preserve it for the future generations of Singaporeans.

On behalf of the SAL, I wish to thank Justice Kan Ting Chiu and the Legal Heritage Committee for organising today's event. For the reasons I have given earlier, I could not let such a significant event pass unnoticed and unsung, or rather undocumented, without doing something about it, however insignificant it may be. So, the burden fell on Justice Kan to organise this event and on Justice Andrew Phang to document it. He was charged at short notice to write a monograph on the Second Charter of Justice 1826. In spite of his other more onerous duties, he has done an admirable job in completing it within the time allotted to him.

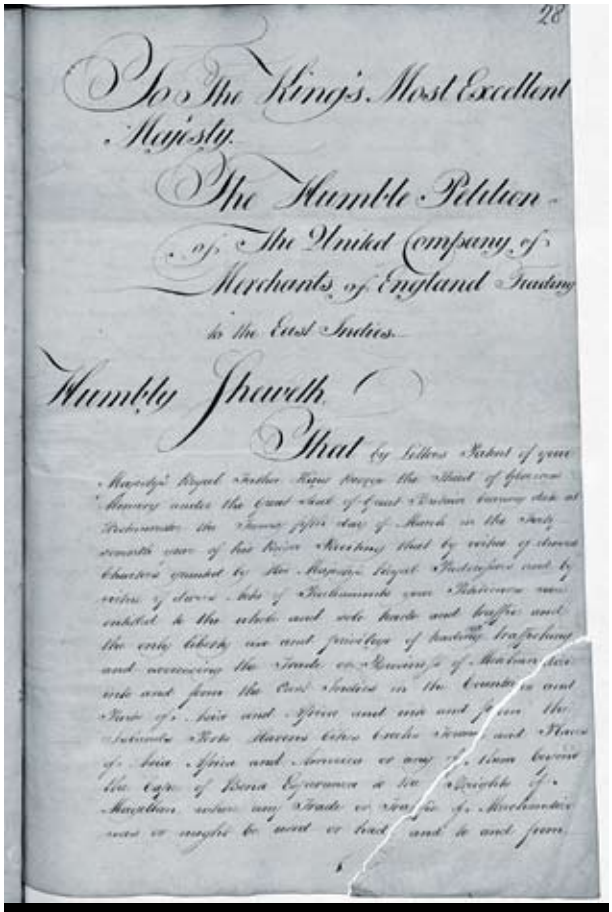
There is a nugget in his account that some of you may not be aware of or have forgotten. In 1983, an expatriate law lecturer wrote an article on the reception that never was. Naturally, it was badly received in the NUS law school, whose existence could only be justified on the basis of a reception that really was. We practitioners left it to the academics to sort this out. Justice Andrew Phang joined in this galactic battle by responding with an article on the reception that had to be. Today, as a Judge, he has the final word on this issue, and that is why we are here today. So, on behalf of the SAL, I wish to thank Justice Andrew Phang and his team of researchers for producing a short scholarly work to commemorate this victory.

I hope that today's commemoration will lay the foundation for future commemorations of the reception of English law in Singapore. Let us hope that in 20 years' time, the SAL will organise a much bigger event to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Second Charter, when participants then would be able to look back to today's event, and receive a book, not a monograph, on the development of the law in Singapore since 1826.

I am now pleased to declare that *From Foundation to Legacy: The Second Charter of Justice* is officially launched.■

THE SEARCH FOR THE SECOND CHARTER

By JACK TSEN-TA LEE, WRITER, SAL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To The King's Most Excellent Majesty.

The Humble Petition of The United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies.

Humbly Sheweth

That by Letters Patent of your Majesty's Royal Father King George the Third of glorious Memory under the Great Seal of Great Britain bearing date at Westminster the Three fifth day of March in the Forty seventh year of his Reign Reciting that by virtue of diverse Charters granted by the Kings Royal Predecessors and by virtue of diverse Acts of Parliament your Petitioners were entitled to the whole and sole Trade and Traffic and the only liberty use and privilege of trading Trafficking and navigating the Trade or Navigation of Merchandize into and from the East Indies in the Countries and Parts of Asia and from and into the Islands Ports Havens Cities Creeks Towns and Places of Asia Africa and America or any of them beyond the Cape of Bona Esperance & the Straights of Magellan where any Trade or Traffic or Merchandize was or might be used or had and to and from

First page of the Petition for the Second Charter presented to the King by the East India Company.

The Singapore Academy of Law's Legal Heritage Committee had tried for a number of years to locate the original Second Charter of Justice, but without much success.

However, the Committee redoubled its efforts after receiving a note from the Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong in July last year that the 180th anniversary of the grant of the Second Charter in 2006 should not go unmarked.

With the assistance of the National Archives of Singapore and a professional researcher working in the UK, certain relevant documents were located at the British Library in London and the National Archives at Kew in Richmond, Surrey.

These included numerous letters relating to the preparation of the Charter, its delivery to the Straits Settlements, and the appointment and subsequent dismissal of Sir John Thomas Claridge as the first Recorder of Prince of Wales' Island (that is, Penang), Singapore and Malacca.

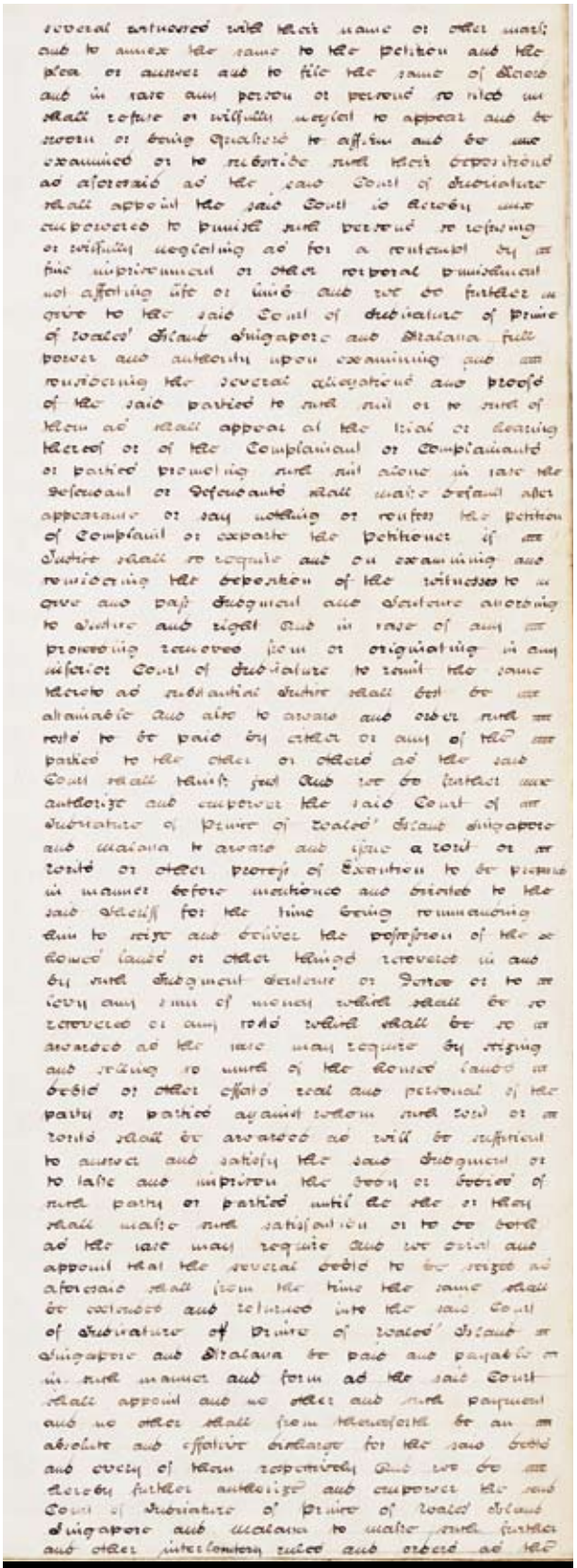
Two of the most significant documents were the petition to the Crown for the Charter and an enrolled copy of the Charter itself. Photographs of extracts of these documents were reproduced in the monograph, and also exhibited at the event commemorating the Charter's anniversary.

The petition, inscribed in a beautiful copperplate hand, was prepared on behalf of the British East India Company. It is a request for the grant of Letters Patent establishing "such Courts and Judicatures for the due administration of Justice and the security of the persons rights and property of the Inhabitants and the Public Revenue of and the Trial and Punishment of Capital and other Offences committed and the repression of vice within the said Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island Singapore and Malacca …".

Letters Patent are documents issued by the Crown in connection with all kinds of public business such as grants of offices and honours to persons; and grants of land, licences and privileges to individuals and corporations.

"Patent" in this case means "open", as opposed to private business which is recorded in "Closed Rolls". Original Letters Patent are impressed with the monarch's seal.

A note dated 14 January 1826 on the last page of the petition indicates that it was referred to the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General "for their opinion on what may be properly done therein".



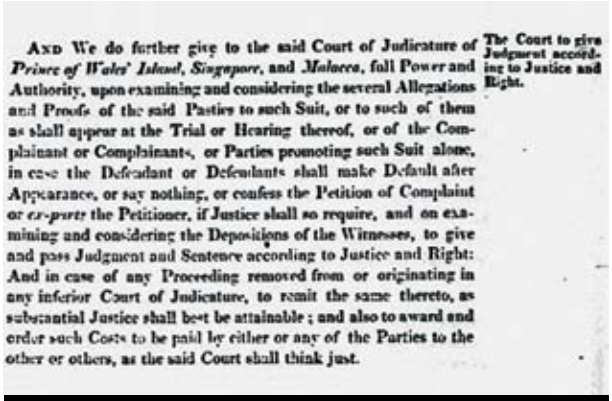
First page of the enrolled copy of the Second Charter.

The Government's legal advisers duly reported on 29 May 1826 that they saw no objection to His Majesty King George IV granting a charter of justice to the Company in the terms of an annotated draft transmitted with the report.

Although the point is not entirely clear, it is possible that the draft was prepared by the East India Company. Some commentators have remarked that authorship of the Charter by a commercial entity would explain some of the clauses included in it.

Another notable document that was unearthed is an enrolled copy of the Second Charter of Justice. Literally in the form of a roll consisting of pages stitched together, it is a handwritten copy of the text of the Charter without any paragraphing. It was most likely copied by a clerk whose job it was to enter such documents onto what are known as the "Patent Rolls". Although this is not the original sealed Charter, it is one of the earliest official copies extant, apart from a typeset version that was published in London in February 1827.

The Legal Heritage Committee is not giving up hope of finding the original document. Said its chairman, Justice Kan Ting Chiu, "Our efforts will not stop here, and we shall continue to try to track down the elusive Charter."



AND We do further give to the said Court of Judicature of *Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore*, and *Malacca*, full Power and Authority, upon examining and considering the several Allegations and Proofs of the said Parties to such Suit, or to such of them as shall appear at the Trial or Hearing thereof, or of the Complainant or Complainants, or Parties promoting such Suit alone, in case the Defendant or Defendants shall make Default after Appearance, or say nothing, or confess the Petition of Complaint or *ex-parte* the Petitioner, if Justice shall so require, and on examining and considering the Depositions of the Witnesses, to give and pass Judgment and Sentence according to Justice and Right: And in case of any Proceeding removed from or originating in any inferior Court of Judicature, to remit the same thereto, as substantial Justice shall best be attainable; and also to award and order such Costs to be paid by either or any of the Parties to the other or others, as the said Court shall think just.

The Court to give Judgment according to Justice and Right.

The "Justice and Right" clause in the printed copy of the Second Charter.

If you are interested in donating artefacts, documents and photographs (originals or copies) relevant to Singapore's legal heritage, the Academy's Legal Heritage Committee would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Ranald Or at 6332 4226 or ranald_or@sal.org.sg.■

REVIEW OF *FROM FOUNDATION TO LEGACY: THE SECOND CHARTER OF JUSTICE*

By JACK TSEN-TA LEE, WRITER, SAL

Title:	*From Foundation to Legacy: The Second Charter of Justice*
Author:	Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong
No of Pages:	Softcover, 102pp
Publisher:	Singapore Academy of Law, 2006
Price:	$21.00 (incl GST)

Justice Andrew Phang is uniquely qualified to prepare this work. A portion of its contents formed the subject-matter of his LLM dissertation at Harvard Law School in 1984.

Further, as the select bibliography in the monograph indicates, he authored no less than nine articles on the subject during his previous incarnation as an academic. It is understood that the text of the work was written in no more than a few months.

The work is a slim volume – it took about two hours to read – but the subjects it deals with are fairly substantial ones. It begins with a discussion of the grant of the Second Charter of Justice and its interpretation, particularly how the key clause conferring on the Court of Judicature of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca "full Power and Authority … to give and pass Judgment and Sentence according to Justice and Right" was judicially construed to introduce English law into the Straits Settlements.

The monograph goes on to consider what the author considers the Second Charter's "intermediate offspring" (the specific reception of English mercantile law in Singapore through s 5 of the Civil Law Act (Cap 43, 1988 Rev Ed)) and its "final offspring" (the Application of English Law Act (Cap 7A, 1994 Rev Ed)).

Hitherto unpublished photographs of extracts from the petition of the East India Company requesting the Second Charter, the draft Second

Charter and the enrolled copy of the Second Charter in the Patent Rolls are set out in an appendix.

As befits a work of its size and purpose, there is no attempt to exhaustively examine the Second Charter and the legislation that followed in its wake. Instead, the main issues that they raise and the problems they engender are ably summarised.

One matter, perhaps, calls for slightly more exposition. An important concept regulating the quantum of English law received in Singapore is said to be the "cut-off date", that is, the precise point of time at which English law was received.

In the seminal decision of *Regina v Willans* (1858) 3 Ky 16 at 36–37, it was held by the Recorder,

Justice Andrew Phang signing copies of the monograph at its official launch.

Sir Peter Benson Maxwell, that the cut-off date was the date of the Second Charter, that is, 1826. Thus no English statute passed after 27 November 1826 formed part of Straits Settlements law.

Justice Phang characterises the adoption of this date as the cut-off date as "both reasoned and principled" (*From Foundation to Legacy*, 19).

The ensuing discussion canvasses why the dates of the First and Third Charters of Justice (1807 and 1855 respectively) were considered inappropriate as cut-off dates. However, to my mind it is not very clear why a cut-off date needed to be implied at all, as opposed to a continuing reception of English statute law subject to the concepts of suitability and modification.

The Second Charter itself is silent on the point. In *Willans*, Maxwell R merely cited Sir Benjamin Malkin's decision in *Rodyk v Williamson* (1834) for the proposition that the Second Charter introduced the law of England as it stood in 1826.

Unfortunately, as Justice Phang indicates, no report of *Rodyk v Williamson* has been found to date; indeed, it appears that the decision has been missing since as early as 1846. Hence, the reasoning underpinning this bald statement is unknown. It would have been illuminating to hear Justice Phang's views on this issue.

Later in the monograph, the author refers to s 8 of the Application of English Law Act, which empowers the relevant Minister to make orders modifying or substituting provisions in any English enactment specified in the First Schedule to the Act for the purpose of removing any difficulty arising from local conditions or circumstances in the application of such provisions.

The author comments that s 8 neither provides for the situation where entire English statutes (or parts thereof) have been inadvertently omitted from the Act, nor where it is desired that specific English statutes which are wholly unrelated to the ones listed in the Act be adopted.

He suggests that s 8 should have been phrased in more general terms to provide for either the addition to, or deletion of, entire statutes or provisions thereof (*From Foundation to Legacy*, 48).

In addition to the author's point that this would militate against certainty, it would seem that the short answer is that the purpose of s 8 is to empower the Minister to effect only limited changes to scheduled English legislation. The task of deciding whether legislation should be included or excluded is for Parliament alone.

The matters covered in the work dealing with the interpretation of the Second Charter and s 5 of the Civil Law Act are academic these days; they no longer form part of the law undergraduate syllabus. However, they will be pertinent to those interested in legal history and in better appreciating the foundations for the exercise of the rule of law in this country. Also of interest are the author's concluding thoughts on the Second Charter's lasting legacy – the concept of legal autochthony and the future development of Singapore law.

In the final analysis, the monograph as a whole reads well and demonstrates Justice Phang's mastery of and obvious enthusiasm for the subject.

From Foundation to Legacy: The Second Charter of Justice *by Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong is available from the Singapore Academy of Law. To purchase the book, please call the Academy at 6332 4388.*

Additional reporting by Ranald Or, Assistant Director, SAL.■

WALTER WOON ON ...

Additional Reporting by ANITA PARKASH, EDITOR, SAL

The Honourable Second Solicitor-General Professor Walter Woon Cheong Ming has been Vice-Dean at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He became a full Professor of Law in 1999 and has authored numerous academic publications, the most celebrated being *Walter Woon on Company Law*, which is into its third edition. Professor Woon has been a Nominated Member of Parliament during which time he mooted the idea of what eventually became the Maintenance of Parents Act – to date, the only Act passed by Parliament not initiated by the Government. He has served as legal advisor to the President and to the Council of Presidential Advisors, and as a director of several large companies. For the last nine years, Prof Woon has been seconded to the Foreign Service, serving as Singapore's Ambassador to Greece, Belgium and Germany, the European Commission, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the Holy See. On 3 October 2006, Prof Woon was appointed Second Solicitor-General. *Inter Se* features an interview with the man who candidly confesses that law was not his first choice of study in University, but whose career thus far is ample evidence that a curious, questioning mind and being open to new experiences go a long way in making the best out of any situation.

Second Solicitor-General Professor Walter Woon Cheong Ming.

1) With the benefit of hindsight, how has your legal training prepared you for and helped you to deal with challenges that have arisen in your varied career thus far?

The law is the infrastructure upon which a civilised society is built. It runs through everything – business, finance, even buying simple things like furniture and groceries. Knowledge of the law brings with it a knowledge of how a modern commercial society functions, from the big-picture constitutional framework to the everyday business of living as a consumer. The law was of direct use when I was a director of Intraco and Natsteel – in fact I was appointed because of my legal training. It was invaluable when I was in Parliament. In diplomacy, law was less directly helpful for day-to-day affairs; however, knowledge of the legal framework of government, the courts and parliament was useful when explaining to foreigners what made Singapore tick. Besides, I had gotten used to reading a lot quickly while in University, which was a definite asset when ploughing through the mountains of information that an ambassador has to process.

2) As legal advisor to the President and to the Council of Presidential Advisors, and the Nominated Member of Parliament who mooted the idea of the Maintenance of Parents Act, what ideals were the driving force behind your work in these areas?

The Maintenance of Parents Act came about because during the debate on the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax, I pointed out that there was a lacuna in the law: while children had a right of maintenance from their parents and wives from their husbands, parents did not have a similar right. My concern was that while rebates to cushion the impact of the GST were being given out to those who paid income tax, the elderly retirees were not within the net; there was no way that they could oblige their children to cushion the blow. The then-Minister of Finance, Dr Richard Hu, challenged me in his avuncular way to draft suitable legislation. Perhaps he meant it as a joke, but I took it seriously and eventually produced a draft. The Ministry of Community

Development (under Mr Abdullah Tarmugi at the time) was very supportive and the present form of the Act is principally due to their input. Specifically, as a private member, I could not promise the creation of any specialist tribunal, which is what the Ministry eventually did.

As for my work with the President, that arose because of the disagreement between then-President Ong Teng Cheong and the Government over the interpretation of certain provisions of the Constitution relating to Presidential powers. The case went to the Constitutional Tribunal. I was privileged to have been led by one of the best advocates in Singapore, Mr Joseph Grimberg SC. After the case (which we lost), the President asked me to carry on helping by advising him on various questions of law which arose from time to time, which I was honoured to do.

To attribute these to "ideals" is probably putting it too high. If there was a common thread, it was the desire to ensure checks and balances for the proper functioning of the system. That, and to establish that there is a place for independent voices in Singapore.

3) What is it about the law that most engages you and how do you keep yourself interested in the law?

I am not interested in the law *per se*. I don't read law books for pleasure. To me the law is interesting because of the light it sheds on society and human behaviour. Some people look at law as a purely intellectual, philosophical exercise. I was never one of them. I am interested in how laws, rules and regulations impact on real people in the real world and the way they react. It is basically the study of society rather than law as such that holds my interest.

4) What do you foresee as some immediate and long term challenges facing the local legal community and how might we best deal with these challenges?

The most immediate problem is to develop a core of legal expertise not only domestically, but also internationally. The Bar today is far better than it was when I graduated 25 years ago. But we face a challenge to project ourselves internationally. Singapore law is not like English law or that of New York. It is not the law of choice for most international deals. Nevertheless, we have the advantages of being basically English-speaking and having a sound legal training, as well as an exceptionally competent Judiciary. We need lawyers who can function abroad, whether in regional or international practice, or in the realm of public international law. With the raw material at hand we have a good chance of making a mark, but it will take considerable effort. I am optimistic. With the rise of Asia, Singapore-trained lawyers have an excellent opportunity to establish a niche for themselves.

5) Your name is synonymous with prolific academic writing with the third edition of *Walter Woon on Company Law* published in 2005 and described as "an essential for every practitioner and student in Singapore". A lesser known fact is that you have two works of fiction to your name as well. Tell us a little about Dennis Chiang.

Chiang is a young Baba lawyer returned from England to pre-War Singapore. I deliberately chose that period because that was the most interesting from the point of view of action – in the 'thirties, 'forties and 'fifties we had the War, the Emergency and the prelude to Merger and Independence. There are also fascinating issues to explore – race and culture, racism and colonialism, empire and independence, communism and capitalism. Basically, Chiang is culturally English in a non-English society, at a time when racism on the part of the English community was rife. I wanted to explore how such a person would interact in such a world, which is what I did in *The Advocate's Devil*. Chiang meets with all sorts of characters – westernised Asians, asianised Westerners, colonial bigots, Chinese bigots, royalty and commoners. I also wanted to document our fast-vanishing Baba heritage – I received some very positive comments about this aspect of the books from several people, including our late-President Wee Kim Wee, a Baba himself. The second book, *The Devil to Pay,* has more action, being set at the eve of the Second

World War. The primary plot is based on fact – it is not perhaps so well-known today how deeply the Japanese had spread their spy network in Malaya. The story of how the British lost Malaya has always been told from an European point of view. We only hear European voices in all the books set in that period. I wanted to tell the story from the point of view of the "natives", whom the British were supposed to protect but failed so miserably in doing.

But basically, *The Advocate's Devil* and *The Devil to Pay* were written because I find writing relaxing. Being a lawyer, one comes across fascinating cases. The stories in the books mostly have a grounding in fact somewhere – forgotten cases from our past, memories of a vanished time. And writing fiction is a lot easier than writing law textbooks.

6) The father of detective and crime fiction, Edgar Allan Poe, invoked the genre as a way to explore the complex relationship between criminality and the law. Apart from obvious parallels, is there any reason why the protagonist of your fictional writing is a young lawyer?

The principal reason (apart from the fact that this is the field I am most familiar with) is that lawyers have the widest range of experience. If the protagonist was a doctor or accountant or businessman, the stories would have far less scope. Chiang's work takes him into all the nooks and crannies of colonial Singapore. Besides, there is a wealth of fascinating material for the novelist locked away in the law reports. Each dry case has a human-interest story buried in it somewhere. Making Chiang and his colleagues lawyers allowed me to tap into this treasure-trove.

7) Throughout your appointment to the diplomatic service and now the Attorney-General's Chambers, you have remained on secondment leave from the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore. Is teaching something you see yourself returning to eventually? Why?

Yes, hopefully. As I said before, we have a good chance to put Singapore-trained lawyers on the global map. To do this, those who have experience must be prepared to share it with the next generation. It's no use to us if all the experience evaporates when the older generation of lawyers passes on. We have some excellent international lawyers in Singapore – one need only mention Prof Tommy Koh and Prof S Jayakumar, both of whom incidentally also retain their link with the Law Faculty. We should be nurturing the next generation, not only for public international law but also for regional and international legal practice. This can only be done if we can persuade some of the best lawyers to come to the universities and pass on their expertise.

8) Finally, as an Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore, you have travelled extensively. What are some life lessons you have learnt? Is it true that people are the same everywhere?

I have learnt three main lessons. First, life in Singapore is actually very comfortable even compared with the so-called developed societies in the West. One generally doesn't appreciate this until one has lived abroad.

Second, people aren't the same everywhere. There are some societies where dishonesty seems to be a way of life and tourists are not honoured guests but rather pigeons to be plucked. There are other societies where people are spontaneously friendly, courteous and helpful. The choices a society makes today in raising its children will determine what it will be like in a generation's time.

Finally, respect for the law makes life in a crowded society more pleasant for everybody. When people feel that, in the name of freedom, they are justified in ignoring rules that are inconvenient or with which they disagree, sooner or later everyone will find that life is disagreeable, frustrating and sometimes even downright dangerous. Respect for the law can be lost in a very short time; it takes generations to regain it. We have to remain mindful that we lose it at our peril.

Inter Se *congratulates Prof Woon on his appointment and wishes him the best.*■

COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS & NOTARIES PUBLIC 1 OCTOBER 2006 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Singapore Academy of Law ("SAL") invites applications for the appointment/reappointment* of commissioners for oaths and notaries public for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. **Applications should be received by SAL before 4.00pm, Wednesday, 31 January 2007. Late applications will not be considered.**

Officers in the employment of government ministries, departments, statutory boards and government-linked companies (*ie* those who are not advocates and solicitors), court interpreters and employees of designated non-profit organisations may apply for appointment as commissioners for oaths. **To be eligible for appointment, first-time applicants who are not advocates and solicitors, and employees of designated non-profit organisations must have attended a briefing for commissioners for oaths.**

All commissioners for oaths and notaries public will be issued with expiry-date stamps for use on documents administered in exercise of their appointments. Commissioners for oaths and notaries public are required to maintain a register of these documents.

Advocates and solicitors are required to pay annual fees of $500 for appointment/reappointment as commissioners for oaths and $500 for appointment/reappointment as notaries public (please see the tables below for internal guidelines used for the appointment/reappointment of commissioners for oaths and notaries public). Applicants who are not advocates and solicitors, and employees of designated non-profit organisations pay an annual fee of $100 for appointment/reappointment as commissioners for oaths.

For more information on the appointment/reappointment of commissioners for oaths and notaries public, please contact Ms Sheeba Said at tel: 6332 4117/6. Application forms may be downloaded from the SAL website at www.sal.org.sg or obtained from:

Singapore Academy of Law
Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public
1 Supreme Court Lane
Level 4
Singapore 178879

Subject to the Board of Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public's ("the Board") discretion, the internal guidelines used for the fresh appointments of advocates and solicitors as commissioners for oaths and notaries public are as follows:

Commissioners for Oaths (as at 1 April 2007)	Notaries Public (as at 1 April 2007)
– those with not less than ten years' experience in active legal practice and/or legal service; and – those who are not less than 35 years of age.	– those with not less than 15 years' experience in legal practice; and – those who are not less than 40 years of age.

The Board will, otherwise than in exceptional cases, apply a quota for the appointment of commissioners for oaths and notaries public, depending on the size of the firm in which the applicant practises. The table below is for general guidance:

1 to 5 lawyers	1 commissioner and 1 notary
6 to 10 lawyers	2 commissioners and 2 notaries
11 to 50 lawyers	3 commissioners and 3 notaries
51 to 80 lawyers	4 commissioners and 4 notaries
81 to 100 lawyers	5 commissioners and 5 notaries
101 to 150 lawyers	6 commissioners and 6 notaries

*Commissioners for oaths and notaries public whose appointments expire on 30 September 2007 should apply in July 2007.■

WAIVER OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is a reminder to members that r 4 of the Singapore Academy of Law ("SAL") Rules (Cap 294A, R1, 2002 Rev Ed) sets out the procedures for waiver of annual subscriptions. Comprehensive details relating to the granting of waivers and the application process, as well as the relevant application form, may be found on the SAL website under the Membership section at http://www.sal.org.sg/. For enquiries, kindly call (65) 6332 4384 or e-mail membership@sal.org.sg, or fax (65) 6333 9747.

GROUNDS FOR WAIVER

Members may apply for waiver of annual subscriptions under r 4 if (for any period of not less than six months) they will –

(a) be continuously absent from Singapore;
(b) not be ordinarily resident or domiciled in Singapore;
(c) not be in the profession of law; or
(d) not be gainfully employed.

A member shall be deemed "not to be in the profession of law" where he does not have in force a practising certificate and is not any of the following:

(a) a member of the Senate;
(b) a legal officer;
(c) a teacher in law at any university or institution of higher learning;
(d) a person employed to perform legal work or the duties of a lawyer by the Government, a statutory body, a corporation or an unincorporated association; or
(e) such other person who, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, is carrying on activities so closely connected to the law or the profession of law as to be regarded as being in the profession of law.

PERIOD OF WAIVER

The minimum period of waiver is six months. Applications for waivers for any period less than six months will be rejected.

TIME FRAME ALLOWED FOR APPLICATION FOR WAIVER

An application for waiver shall be made in writing one month prior to or during the period to which the application relates, and in any case not later than three months after the expiry of each period of six months referred to.

WAIVER EXPIRY

There is no automatic renewal or extension of waiver. Renewals or extensions must be made in the prescribed waiver form at least one month before the waiver expiry date.■

LAW-MEDIA DEBATE:
AN EVENING OF WIT AND *WAYANG*

By DEBORAH TAN, LEGAL SERVICE OFFICER, AND SHERINA CHAN, ASSISTANT MANAGER, MEMBERSHIP AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, SAL

Once again, the friendly rivalry between the debaters from the legal profession and media played itself out, in a volley of wit and good old-fashioned *wayang*, at the Supreme Court Auditorium on Friday, 13 October 2006. This venue for the second Law-Media Debate organised by the Singapore Academy of Law ("SAL") comfortably seated the over 400 audience members who turned up to revel in the riveting repartee.

Having lost in their previous (verbal) scuffle with the media team back in 2005, the legal team (comprising Harry Elias SC, Adrian Tan, Jason Chan and Sarala Subramaniam) set out, determinedly, to make their case opposing the motion: "Lawyers – better off in the media!" It fell to the media team (comprising Ramesh Panicker, Viswa Sadasivan, Hamish Brown and Ken Kwek) to play the role of the strenuous proposition. The guest chairperson was the "blog maestro" himself, mr brown (aka Lee Kin Mun). The judges for the evening were the Honourable Judicial Commissioner Sundaresh Menon, Mr John Knight (Managing Director of JP Morgan Chase) and Mr Ivan Fernandez (editor of *The New Paper*).

After a pre-debate reception with good food and free-flow of fine wine, audience members (in high spirits) settled down in eager anticipation of the war of words about to be waged. Soon enough, mr brown outlined the terms of the debate an laid down ground rules. To "encourage" the debaters to keep within their allotted speaking times for the debate, mr brown declared that speakers, in the final minute of each of their speeches, would have to perform various antics to make that final minute more challenging. These antics included having speakers deliver the final minute of their arguments whilst standing on one leg, striking poses, or punctuating every sentence with an outrageous exclamation like "lah" or "check it

And the Debate begins!

out". This time-keeping technique met with some resistance from debaters initially, but audience members' vocal support of this novel approach to time-keeping had the debaters submitting eventually.

The first speaker of the night was Ramesh Panicker who rose to propose the motion. He dove into a discourse about the many possible interpretations of the word "media" in the motion, perhaps not keeping a careful enough eye on the clock, and in his final minute delivered the remainder of his speech in a charming baritone melody. He concluded with gusto (and for best effects, sing this to yourself as you read it): "Eventually, lawyers, you will all end up in the media – it's those pages in the back we call the obituaries!". Okay, so maybe singer-songwriter is not on the horizon for Mr Panicker – but the gauntlet was surely thrown with that lilting challenge.

Sarala Subramaniam then rose to speak for the opposition – and speak she did with passion as she launched into a fervent tirade against the portrayal of lawyers in the media as dishonest men and air-headed women. Why then, she queried, would lawyers be better off in the media? Even when compelled to deliver the final minute of her speech whilst standing on one leg, Ms Subramaniam was all grace and unwavering conviction.

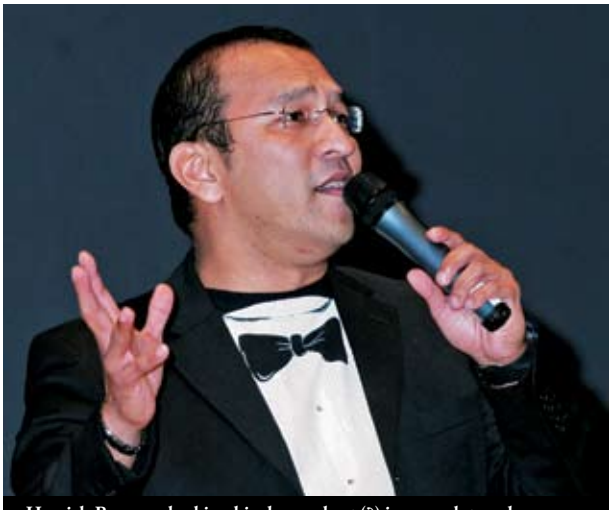
The second speaker for the proposition, the other Mr Brown present that evening, was all pomp and pageantry meets dime-store chic in his T(ux)-shirt as he remarked: "Just look at the chasm, the rift, that divides your sense of dress and ours … While you deal in fact, we put it on the 10 o'clock news, splash it across tabloids …". Hamish Brown concluded his speech by entreating lawyers to follow their true calling and join the media – all the while striking dramatic poses to the elicit raucous laughter from the audience.

In stark contrast to Hamish's hamming-it-up for the audience, Jason Chan from the legal team cut right to the chase and pleaded his main


The Judges: (Left to right) Ivan Fernandez, John Knight and Sundaresh Menon JC.

argument: "Lawyers are great people. The media are not." Loud applause issued from the lawyers in the audience countered by hisses from their media counterparts. Being the consummate legal professional he is, Jason then pleaded his case in the alternative: "Even if lawyers are scum, the media is scummier. And ultimately, even if the lawyers are REALLY scummy, we are a higher class of scum." Faced with Jason's compelling statement of his case, the media team stalked across the stage to take matters into their own hands. But thanks to an intervention by chairman mr brown, onstage fisticuffs were avoided as both sides agreed to "settle outside later".

Ken Kwek was the next speaker for the proposition and he began by confessing that his entrance into the media was the result of a failed attempt to gain admission into the Faculty of Law. "The media," he said with a sigh, "is in a sorry state, awash with people who if they had not been in the media would have best become marketing executives, mimes or molesters." On cue, his team mates covered their faces in mock shame. Gesturing at the legal team, Ken continued, "What the media has been deprived of are men of talent, principles, intellectual rigour and charm." He proceeded to list numerous individuals who had made the jump from the legal profession to the media and had done well for themselves and the media profession. If not for sentences liberally peppered with "check it out, y'all", one would have been hard-pressed to tell if Mr Kwek was kidding or not as he delivered his speech in his classic deadpan style.



Hamish Brown – looking his dapper best (?) in a mock tuxedo.

Adrian Tan – still recovering from voting results (for Singapore Idol, of course!)

"This has been a traumatic year for all of us, ladies and gentlemen. We have had watershed elections where the media has driven us to vote for absolutely the wrong winner. It's a big tragedy that the results have been manipulated by the members of the press." For a minute there, Adrian Tan, the third speaker for the opposition, had everyone concerned that the debate was about to turn serious. Thankfully, it turned out that Adrian was lamenting the fact that his favourite "Idol" had not won the Singapore Idol competition held recently by accusing the media of undue influence. With aplomb, Adrian added after revealing his disappointment: "Of course, that was the only time the media ever did that this year." Adrian continued to dismiss the media, declaring: "There are some who are born to reach for the stars, and there are some who are born to write about the stars. You in the media are just bystanders!"

The last speaker for the opposition, Harry Elias SC, chose to begin his closing arguments with a nod in the direction of a few good men: "We who studied law in England and now in Singapore too, grew up with the mystical and absolutely delightful gentleman known as the man on the Clapham omnibus. Now, he is the man on the Toa Payoh bus. Now you tell me, you want me to go to the media where I won't have this Clapham man, this Toa Payoh man? And what about the man who is held so close to our hearts, the Reasonable Man?

From left to right: (Top row) Sundaresh Menon JC, Harry Elias SC, Sarala Subramaniam, Ramesh Panicker, Viswa Sadasivan, Chelva Rajah SC, Hamish Brown and John Knight. (Bottom row) Lee Kin Mun, Jason Chan, Adrian Tan and Ken Kwek.

You would take him away from me?" The lawyers in the crowd laughed heartily at this "inside" joke while the media team sat looking, understandably, bewildered. Mr Elias continued: "The occupational disease of newspapers is megalomania. They will dominate and become too big for their breeches and be exposed in the end. Do you want us to be hauled to court for indecent exposure?"

Rising to sum-up the media team's arguments and respond to Mr Elias's challenge for a valid reason why lawyers would be better off in the media, Viswa Sadasivan noted: "The media needs help. The media needs people like lawyers to join us to give us serious dignity. It's a pathetic state that the media is in. We can't even make a case!" He went on to bemoan the tarring of the Singapore media by foreign media as Government lapdogs and apologists. He then proclaimed, "The media needs your legal brains so that we can proceed to systematically sue the foreign media and their host countries for libel!" He closed the debate with a request that law and media meet each other half way, but not without taking the expected pot shot at his adversaries: "The motion does not require you to give up your legal profession but merely to be a presence in it. And with your love for profit and profiteering, I can promise that you will benefit from it."

After a short break to confer, the judges for the evening unanimously awarded the victory to the legal team – a moment of vindication which the legal team relished with glee. The prize for Best Speaker for the evening was given to Adrian Tan, making this rematch a complete victory for the legal team. The real winners, one suspects, were audience members who were treated to an evening of much laughter elicited by barbed exchanges borne out of mutual respect and a healthy, friendly rivalry.■

A WALK IN THE GARDENS

By SHERINA CHAN, ASSISTANT MANAGER, MEMBERSHIP AND CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, SAL

On an early Saturday morning in mid-November this year, 46 nature lovers, budding garderners and part-time explorers from the Singapore Academy of Law ("SAL") put on their walking shoes for an exclusive guided tour of the newly launched Botany Centre at the Singapore Botanic Gardens ("the Gardens").

The tour offered members an insight into the Botanic Gardens' backroom operations. The visit to the Orchid Breeding and Micropropagation Laboratory which has been responsible for producing colourful orchid hybrids for display in the National Orchid Garden and for naming after VIPs and celebrities was especially exciting.

The Botany Centre houses the heart and soul of the Botanic Gardens – its research and educational facilities. These enhanced facilities, which include the herbarium, laboratories and library, will play an important role in furthering the Gardens' position as a leading tropical botanic garden and a renowned institution for research and education. The Singapore Herbarium, for example, houses an international collection comprising more than 6,500 unique plant specimens. The oldest specimens date back to 1790! For those interested in botany, you can also engage in research on plants, plant care, botany and horticulture at the Reference Library which has existed since 1875. The library is one of the oldest in South East Asia with more than 30,000 journals and books in its collection.

Taking centrestage at the Botany Centre is the green pavilion featuring Singapore's first pitched "green roof". A celebration of Nature's resilience, the green roof showcases hardy plants like epiphytes, the Bird's Nest Fern (*Asplenium nidus*) and the Tiger Orchid (*Gramatophyllum speciosa*). The green roof is a pilot project and forms part of the National Parks Board's ("NParks") efforts to leverage on new technology to promote skyrise greenery.

Sharing the design philosophy behind the Botany Centre, Mr Ng Lang, Chief Executive Officer of NParks noted: "Before the development of the Botany Centre, the Botanic Gardens' main attraction featured gardenscapes, plants and flowers. With the redevelopment, we will bring the science of botany upfront so that the public can better appreciate the science behind the Botanic Gardens."

The leisurely Saturday morning walk around the Gardens ended with an appetising buffet breakfast in a private roof-top garden.■

What members had to say about the event …

It was a good programme. We enjoyed it very much. Thanks for taking the trouble to organise the event.

Second Solicitor-General Prof Walter Woon, Attorney-General's Chambers

The event was enjoyable and informative. It was also a good social event as it enabled me to catch up with a few lawyers that I hadn't seen for years and would not have met in the normal course of work. Thanks.

Selina Chin, Far East Organisation Centre Pte Ltd

APPELLATE ADVOCACY

By MOHAMED FAIZAL AND PAUL TAN, JUSTICES' LAW CLERKS, SUPREME COURT

As part of its ongoing efforts to raise the standards of advocacy in Singapore, the Singapore Academy of Law ("SAL") was fortunate to have an eminent barrister, Mr Michael Brindle QC of Fountain Court Chambers, speak on appellate advocacy as part of SAL's Continuing Legal Education programme. The talk was held on 26 October 2006 at the auditorium of the Supreme Court building.


Mr Michael Brindle QC.

To say that Mr Brindle QC is an eminently qualified speaker on the topic would be to state the obvious. Since being called to the Bar in 1975, Mr Brindle QC, who took silk in 1992, has had extensive experience litigating, at both trial and appellate levels, various sophisticated, complex and often groundbreaking cases that range across banking and financial services, company law, professional negligence in financial and commercial matters, insurance, arbitration and international trade. Among the landmark cases handled by Mr Brindle QC are *Caparo v Dickman* (1992) involving negligence in the provision of professional services; *Marks & Spencer v William Baird* (2000), which involved the certainty of contract and estoppel by convention; and *Barings v Coopers & Deloittes* (2001-2002), involving the negligence of auditors. Mr Brindle QC also has the unique experience of sitting on the Bench, first as a Deputy High Court judge in 1999 and then as a Recorder of the Crown Court two years later.

Lest it be suggested that a good advocate can walk into any courtroom and impress without prior preparation, Mr Brindle QC kicked off the talk by observing that good advocacy ultimately and inevitably necessitates an in-depth mastery of the facts of one's case as well as the authorities that reinforce or undermine the case. However, Mr Brindle QC also noted that knowledge of facts and law are not the only elements that would assist advocates in being persuasive in an appellate court. Taking cognisance that judges, much like anyone else, inevitably have different working styles and nuances, he stressed the importance of knowing the disposition of the various judges that are hearing the matter so as to tailor one's arguments accordingly. He recalled, to much laughter from the audience, how an advocate had mistaken a male judge for a female judge because he had forgotten who was sitting in the coram.

Highlighting the fact that an appellate court often sits as the apex court of a particular jurisdiction, Mr Brindle QC observed that it would be useful for a persuasive advocate to highlight how a decision in his favour would allow the law to develop in an advantageous manner. This, of course, depends on

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which side of the fence one is on. If, for example, a judgment in one's client's favour would be the thin end of a dangerous wedge, an advocate would do well to highlight the means and ways in which the impact of the decision could be circumscribed.

As a matter of style, Mr Brindle QC noted that one should attempt to have an opening that would arrest the attention of the coram rather than merely trot down the tried and tested route of opening with: "This is an appeal against…". That said, he was quick to highlight the importance of ensuring that an advocate does not go over-the-top to arrest attention, lest he irritates the judges.

In terms of strategy, Mr Brindle QC also stressed the importance of choosing arguments wisely, for the submission of too many issues would tend to obfuscate and confuse rather than clarify and persuade. This was, in his view, an especially important principle in appellate advocacy because most, if not all, of the issues would have already received an airing before the court below. As such, an advocate should be in the position of knowing which arguments are almost certain to fail and those which are eminently arguable. As a corollary, Mr Brindle QC keenly observed that it would, in most circumstances, be best to structure one's arguments such that the most important point is aired first, unless that is impossible as a result of the logical or chronological sequence that the case demands. The motivations underlying such advice are two-fold: first, the judge's attention would be drawn to key points in the earliest stages of the submission; and second, this would go a long way in being assured that one did not get called out of time even before one started on the pivotal arguments. To that end, Mr Brindle QC also noted that, in general, it would seldom be wise to continually reiterate a point *ad nauseum* when such a point did not appear to be particularly well-received by the coram. This, however, did not represent an immutable principle and there was some virtue to pressing such a point further if at least one of the judges appeared to be persuaded by the logic of such an argument. This is especially so if an advocate feels that the judge who appears inclined to his view may hold the swing vote.

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The art of reply to questions from the Bench was also expounded upon by Mr Brindle QC. He noted the importance of not waffling when uncertain of the appropriate response since this would only serve to irritate the judges. Instead, he advised that

A persuasive oral presentation could swing even those judges who had thought that they had made up their minds. However, it was acknowledged that the fact that the judges would have read the written submissions meant that it was not necessary for counsel to traverse each and every point already submitted in the written briefs.

if a question truly stumps an advocate, there is no shame in admitting it candidly and requesting for time to confer or to file a supplemental submission after the hearing. Mr Brindle QC also told the audience that judges usually ask questions in order to clarify their doubts or test the theory being advocated further. Advocates should therefore treat such questions as being of assistance to their case rather than treating such questions with suspicion or cynicism. This would put them in the right frame of mind and demeanour and would allow the advocate to come across more as an *amicus* or friend of the court as opposed to its enemy.

Mr Brindle QC then turned to touch briefly on advocacy in an arbitration setting. Dispelling any notion that arbitration necessarily operates in a more informal and therefore less adversarial setting, Mr Brindle QC was of the view that the above principles apply with equal, if not more, force to arbitration proceedings. Indeed, given that the result of an arbitration is seldom appealable, he stressed the added importance of knowing the composition of the arbitral tribunal and how to hold their attention.

The talk was concluded by a question-and-answer session chaired by the Honourable Judicial Commissioner Sundaresh Menon. One of the questions asked was whether oral arguments made any difference in the present day where counsel would submit their written briefs before the hearing. Both Menon JC and Mr Brindle QC said that while judges would probably enter the hearing with questions of their own, this did not mean that they would have prejudged the issue. A persuasive oral presentation could swing even those judges who had thought that they had made up their minds. However, it was acknowledged that the fact that the judges would have read the written submissions meant that it was not necessary for counsel to traverse each and every point already submitted in the written briefs. Rather, they should focus their oral argument on the salient issues.

What the audience brings back from the one-and-a-half hour session is some very sound advice: at the end of the day, hard work, perseverance, brevity and initiative are qualities that are necessary before one can become skilled in the art of appellate advocacy.■

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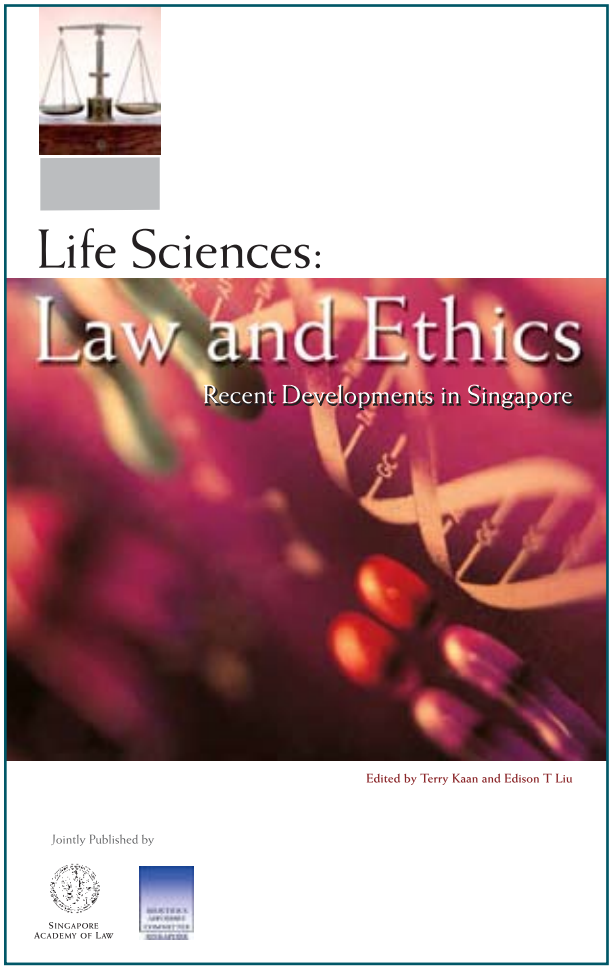
LIFE SCIENCES AND THE LAW:
THE COLLECTED ESSAYS REVIEWED

By THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE CHOO HAN TECK, SUPREME COURT

Title:	*Life Sciences: Law and Ethics – Recent Developments in Singapore*
Editors:	Terry Kaan and Edison T Liu
No of Pages:	Softcover, 232pp
Publisher:	Singapore Academy of Law and Bioethics Advisory Committee
Price:	$18.00 (excl GST) (SAL members) $30.00 (excl GST) (non-SAL members)



The Biopolis was built to encourage research in life sciences in Singapore, and to encourage experts and scientists to come here carry out their research. It requires more than the modern infrastructure of the Biopolis for Singapore to emerge in the forefront of such research. Scientists must also find in this country, a legal and cultural environment conducive to their work. This is pertinent because scientists continue to meet opposition on two fronts. First, the age-old battle against superstitious fears especially of illness and death, and secondly, the new-age battle against obscure contemporary public language that continually misrepresents the role and objectives of science. It is, therefore, appropriate that scientists and thinkers have come together to produce a book that marks the beginning of the life science research enterprise in Singapore as well as, it may be hoped, a nascent curiosity, gradually developing into awareness, and eventually, a fuller and more mature understanding of the scientific and moral spheres of that venture. Ronald Dworkin reminded us that "the crucial boundary between chance and choice is the spine of our ethics and our morality, and any serious shift in that boundary is seriously dislocating".[1] Professor Ten Chin Liew, expounding Dworkin's view, states: "The boundary between chance and choice has moved, and our current notion of moral responsibility cannot remain unchanged."[2] The two views, though not contradictory, illustrates the need to think about moral responsibility in a modern context.[3] Has genetic science really moved the boundary of chance

1 *Sovereign Virtue* (Harvard University Press) at p 444.

2 *Life Sciences: Law and Ethics* (Singapore Academy of Law, 2006) at p 15.

3 Dworkin's emphasis was on the insecurity that people feel whenever science increases man's power over nature. Professor Ten was urging us to make adjustments, as Dworkin seemed also to acknowledge, so that philosophy and law remain contemporaneous and relevant.

Has genetic science really moved the boundary of chance and choice and, if so, should our notions of moral responsibility change as well? These are some of the issues that *Life Sciences: Law and Ethics* will inexorably lead its readers to think about.

and choice and, if so, should our notions of moral responsibility change as well? These are some of the issues that *Life Sciences: Law and Ethics* will inexorably lead its readers to think about.

The book begins with an informative introduction by Professor Lim Pin on the creation and work of the Bioethics Advisory Committee and its two principal subcommittees, The Human Stem Cell Research Subcommittee and the Human Genetics Subcommittee. Professor Ten Chin Liew then considers the relevance of moral theory in a world rapidly changing by the advances in biotechnology and, implicitly, the importance for the public to be educated in this regard. In spite of the benefits of science, there are many, including intellectuals like Francis Fukuyama, who would make a case for the world to languish in the scientific dark ages, foregoing the opportunities to rid it of natural "evils" because they believe that mankind's character is forged from despair. That argument is refuted with a reasoning marked by simplicity and clarity. Perhaps Fukuyama's well-intended route to preserving the quality of nobleness is misplaced and, it seems, unrealistic.

A series of essays on the advancements made in the life sciences, and the legal and moral challenges that lie ahead, follows after Professor Ten's essay. Liew Woon Yin discusses some of the problems concerning patent rights and biotechnology. One of the most divisive issues relates to the question whether the results of biotechnology research ought to be protected by patent laws. Liew outlines the main legislative law in this area and her essay will invite further debate into both the legal and moral issues that pervade this aspect of biotechnology. Tam Wai Leong and Dr Lim Bing as well as Dr Kon Oi Lian, Assistant Professor Denise Goh, and Dr Lee Soo Chin contribute helpful essays pertaining to the technical aspects of genetic science. These contributions appear to be written with the uninitiated in mind and constitute a significant context in which law and morals can be better appreciated. Professor Leong Wai Kum discusses the law and its implications on paternity testing. Her essay indicates that there is much to consider so that law and morals can jointly help us reap the full benefits of science in this area. Dr Edison T Liu addresses the conflicts that can arise between what is for the public good and the reverence for the individual's privacy and autonomy. He proposes a way towards the harmonisation of the two by, first, according the recognition to them as "fundamental realities" and, as a further measure, utilising technology itself as a solution to problems of privacy. As he states, "with each technology that raises a threat, society has come up with equally clever technological solutions".[4]

Dr John Elliott's "Ethical Considerations in Human Stem Cell Research" provides various arguments for and against stem cell research, but the more potent issue he discusses concerns not ethics, but metaethics, the study of what principles determine the right of way in the event of an impasse in ethical positions. This is an important area in the study of ethics and morals because, ultimately, seemingly intractable conflicts will arise, and the resolution of such conflicts would require a deep examination of all that lies at the bedrock of morals. Metaethicism is both deep and wide. We need, first, to extract that which is in the domain of normative ethics from that which properly lies in metaethics. Dr Elliot suggests

4 *Life Sciences, supra* n 2 at p 112.
5 *Life Sciences, id* at p 73.

that "utilitarian compromises favouring a balance of benefits over costs are in fact an ethical method".[5] Dr Elliot may well be right, but there is much to defend in taking utilitarianism as a metaethical nirvana. I mention this by way of example and not criticism, because it was obvious that the context did not permit nor require Dr Elliot to provide a more comprehensive discussion of this topic, yet it was essential for this book for this topic to be raised because the thrust and purpose of this book would be insufficiently served were it to be omitted.

Another ancillary, but crucial aspect of metaethics concerns the question whether metaethics is objective or subjective. This is a difficult area. Strictly speaking, an act is objectively wrong not because everyone believes it to be wrong, but that it is wrong even though no one thought it to be so.[6] The arguments critical of and those in defence of moral objectivism will occupy many volumes.[7] In this regard, while one might prefer other principles for establishing ethical norms to Dr Liu's proposition that ethical guidelines are a matter for "societal consensus and not a set of absolute commandments", it is because of Dr Liu's clear and precise writing that debate is possible. No debate is meaningful if the protagonists cannot articulate clearly the points that invite discussion. The precision and clarity in the writing that permeats the book is a reflection of intellectual honesty, a quality that is often obscured when verbiage and rhetoric are used in place of arguments.

Calvin Ho contributes an essay entitled, "Privacy in Biomedical Research". He not only tracks the concerns of this issue in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, but also indicates his concern that the governance of biomedical research might generate confusion through "the bureaucratisation of research governance". He maintains thus:

> To be sure, this is not to say that bureaucracy is always a problem, but even bureaucracy, for its promise of efficiency, must know its proper place. Perhaps one reason for its emergence is the application of bioethics principles as legal requirements, thereby confusing ethics-morality with law. If this is so, then the many conflicts involving the church and state over the centuries are resuscitated and replayed in biomedical research today.[8]

Ho thus touches on a point that is also alluded to by Prof Ten in the second chapter of the book, namely, the proper, if that be the right word, formulation of policy in any legislative control of scientific research. Ho surveys the developments in regard to the law of privacy in the context of biomedical ethics and concludes with a persuasive call for a review of the law to produce a fairer, more cogent and cohesive structure that will have the benefit of both virtue and clarity.

If the public wishes to have its voice in bioethics and law heard, it must maintain a dialogue with the scientists and philosophers through the common language of reason and proof. To speak thus, it behooves the public to be educated in the ways of science and think more deeply and rationally about moral principles. Scientists and philosophical thinkers, on the other hand, must recognise a duty to provide the kind of education that is needed for the public to better understand the scientific and ethical issues that are involved in their work. This book must be seen as an important first step towards a much needed public education. Without an understanding of what it is they do and how they do it, unjustified fears will hamper the public from welcoming them as benevolent members of the community, important as their work might be. As Dworkin said: "Playing God is indeed playing with fire. But that is what mortals have done since Prometheus, the patron saint of dangerous discovery. We play with fire and take the consequences, because the alternative is cowardice in the face of the unknown." Education will help us overcome the fear of fire.■

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6 The issue is thus one as to how such a wrong can be objectively obtained. There are also many variants and degrees involved in this point (*eg* would female circumcision be wrong even if an entire nation believed it to be right?).

7 See for example, Ronald Dworkin, *Objectivity and Truth: You'd Better Believe It*, Philosophy and Public Affairs vol 25 (1996) at 87; and cf Richard Double, *Metaethical Subjectivism* (Ashgate Press, 2006).

8 *Life Sciences, supra* n 2 at p 198.

COPYRIGHT AND THE CREATIVE COMMONS PROJECT

By VINOD SABNANI, LECTURER, SCHOOL OF FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES, NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC

COPYRIGHT TODAY

Whenever anyone creates a work of any importance, he has a choice how he would like everyone else to treat his work. Either they have to ask his permission to use it (because he retains the copyright[1]), or he releases it into the public domain. Until recently, there has been no easy way to achieve the middle ground. For example, there has been no quick way for an author to inform the world that they may use his works for non-commercial purposes, or that derivative works are permitted, or that he wishes only to be attributed as the author of the original work. The Creative Commons project[2] hopes to fix this situation by offering various easy-to-use licences as an alternative to the traditional "all rights reserved" approach.

Refining an existing system to make it better is always useful, and has been the way law traditionally develops. However, more than simply clarifying the intent of authors, Creative Commons addresses a more fundamental issue – the growing imbalance between the rights of authors over their works and the right of the public to enjoy those works. A brief historical digression will assist.

COPYRIGHT YESTERDAY

When the first copyright law was introduced in England to restrict the right to copy books, it was done with the express purpose of the "Encouragement of Learning".[3] Similarly, when copyright law was first included in the Constitution of the United States, it was done in order "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts".[4] In other words, the original intent of copyright law was to ensure that the public domain was ultimately enriched.

To achieve this end, copyright lasted for a short duration, after which the works belonged to the public. In England, this duration was 21 years for new works and 14 years for existing works,[5] while in the US, copyright lasted for 14 years, with a possibility of extension by another 14 years.[6]

We have moved a long way from these 14/21/28 year limits for original work. Now, countries that follow the US position, as well

... Creative Commons addresses a more fundamental issue – the growing imbalance between the rights of authors over their works and the right of the public to enjoy those works.

1 Sections 31–34 and 103–105A of the Copyright Act (Cap 63, 2006 Rev Ed) provide that a person who does any act comprised in a copyright without the permission of the copyright owner commits infringement.
2 See http://creativecommons.org/about/history for the origins of the project.
3 Statute of Anne, 1710.
4 Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 of the US Constitution.
5 *Supra* n 3.
6 US Copyright Act of 1790.

Creative Commons, a non-profit corporation based in Massachusetts, USA, has come up with a set of licences that authors can use freely to mark their work. The Creative Commons website lets authors customise their own licences by answering a few simple questions about what permissions they wish to give to the world.

as the European Union, have extended the duration of copyright to include the *entire remaining life of the author plus a further 70 years*.[7] In addition, the scope of works that may be protected has increased in tandem with the length of protection. What used to be simply a restriction on the copying of books has now grown to encompass restrictions on the copying of songs, plays, paintings, photographs, films, computer software, *etc*, as well as additional restrictions on the types of things one can do with these works. To compound the situation, the Berne Convention[8] has made it unnecessary for any person to reserve his rights – by default, authors now retain the rights to all their newly created works, whether or not this reflects their true intention. Clearly, the emphasis on authors' rights has eclipsed any concern for the right of the public to enjoy creative works.

COPYRIGHT TOMORROW

One voluntary association hopes to redress this imbalance. Creative Commons, a non-profit corporation based in Massachusetts, USA, has come up with a set of licences that authors can use freely to mark their work. The Creative Commons website[9] lets authors customise their own licences by answering a few simple questions about what permissions they wish to give to the world. An author may select any combination of the following options:

a) **Attribution.** Others may use the work as long as the original author is credited.
b) **Non-commercial.** Others may use the work freely, but not for profit.
c) **No Derivative Works.** The work may be used freely in its original form only.
d) **Share Alike.** Derivative works may be created, but only if the same permissions apply to the new works.

Quite apart from the benefit of giving authors a choice between the two extremes referred to earlier, the inclusion of the "Share Alike" clause in any licence promises to rebuild the public domain by encouraging the growth of new creative works based on what has developed before. An author who includes this clause in his licence permits others to create derivative works, provided the same permissions apply to those derivative works. For example, a novelist who publishes under the "Share Alike" licence allows musicians to turn his prose into song lyrics. In turn, these musicians must allow their new songs to be sampled by others, who must

7 For the European position, see Council Directive 93/98/EEC of 29 October 1993 harmonising the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights. For the Singapore position, which follows US law, see s 28 of the Copyright Act.

8 For the full text of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, see http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/berne/trtdocs_wo001.html.

9 http://creativecommons.org/license/.

grant similar permission to others to use their works, and so on.[10]

The use of this type of licence has even benefited original authors financially. In 2003, science fiction author Cory Doctorow licensed his first novel under a Creative Commons licence that permits others to circulate the electronic version freely, as well as to write fan fiction set in the same fictional world. The success of the novel has been attributed, at least partly, to free licensing terms which helped to build an audience for the author.[11]

Creative Commons has worked actively in jurisdictions all over the world to make sure their standard form licences are valid under the various national laws. Having regard to the recent alignment of our copyright laws with US laws, there is no reason why the licences should not apply with some simple modifications, or would not convey the same benefits locally.

Indeed, a licensing system which more accurately reflects the intention of authors will nicely complement Singapore's drive to create more interactive digital media, as new authors will have more freely available source material to work with. Hopefully, the Creative Commons will soon become a permanent, and familiar, part of the copyright landscape in Singapore.■

[10] Using copyright licences this way is not new, especially in the world of software development. See for example, the Debian Free Software Guidelines at http://www.debian.org/social_contract, or the terms of the GNU General Public Licence at http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html.

[11] According to Cory Doctorow himself! See his Wikipedia entry at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cory_Doctorow, which he admits to editing.

Mr Vinod Sabnani graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the National University of Singapore. He is currently a lecturer at the School of Film and Media Studies in Ngee Ann Polytechnic, where he teaches Media Law. Mr Sabnani was formerly a State Counsel with the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) and an associate at Drew and Napier LLC before that.

LEGISLATION WATCH

By Joyce Chng and Emily Teo, Legislation Division, Attorney-General's Chambers

[Note: A complete and detailed list of legislation may be found online at http://www.sal.org.sg/media_newsltter.htm]

Subsidiary Legislation published in September and October

The **Money-changing and Remittance Businesses (Exemption from Section 9B) Notification 2006** (GN No S 530/2006, wef 8 September 2006) provides that the Monetary Authority of Singapore (the Authority) has exempted any person who becomes a substantial shareholder of American Express International Inc. from having to obtain approval of the Authority in accordance with s 9B of the Money-changing and Remittance Businesses Act (Cap 187).

The **Animals and Birds (Prevention of Avian Disease in Non-Commercial Poultry) Rules 2006** (GN No S 534/2006, wef 12 September 2006) provide, amongst other things, that —

(a) no person shall keep more than ten non-commercial poultry in any premises except with the approval of the Director-General, Agri-Food and Veterinary Services ("the Director-General"); and

(b) where the Director-General or an authorised officer is satisfied that there is an outbreak or imminent outbreak of any avian disease, or thinks it necessary and expedient for

the prevention of an outbreak or spread of any avian disease, he may issue a directive to any person who breeds or keeps non-commercial poultry to require the person to take such measures as may be specified for the containment, or for the prevention of an outbreak or spread, of the avian disease.

The **Delegation of Powers (Ministry of National Development) (No 2) (Amendment) Notification 2006** (GN No S 538/2006, wef 13 September 2006) amends the Delegation of Powers (Ministry of National Development) (No 2) Notification 2005 (GN No S 535/2005) to provide that the Minister for National Development has deputed the Minister of State, Ministry of National Development to exercise the powers of the Minister set out in the following provisions:

(a) Section 24C(3) of the Town Councils Act (Cap 329A); and

(b) Rules 18(1) and 18(2) of the Town Councils (Polling for Lift Upgrading Works) Rules 2005 (GN No S 772/2005).

The Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports has, with effect from 15 September 2006, appointed the Pertapis Centre for Women and Girls at 42 Surin Avenue, Singapore 535638 —

(a) to be an approved school and an approved home for the purposes of s 56(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act (Cap 38) *vide* the **Notification relating to Approved School and Approved Home — Certificate of Appointment** (GN No S 545/2006);

(b) to be an approved institution for the purposes of the Probation of Offenders Act (Cap 252) *vide* the **Notification relating to Approved Institution** (GN No S 546/2006); and

(c) to be a place of safety for the purposes of Pt XI of the Women's Charter (Cap 353) *vide* the **Women's Charter (Place of Safety) (No 2) Order 2006** (GN No S 547/2006).

The **Rubber Industry (Exemption) Order 2006** (GN No S 555/2006, wef 22 September 2006) provides that the provisions of the Rubber Industry Act (Cap 280) shall not apply to any person who brokers in, purchases or sells rubber by means of a futures contract within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Act (Cap 289).

The **Infectious Diseases (Measures to Prevent or Control the Spread of Infectious Diseases) (Amendment) Regulations 2006** (GN No S 558/2006, wef 1 October 2006) amend the Infectious Diseases (Measures to Prevent or Control the Spread of Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2004 (GN No S 13/2004) —

(a) to provide the types of medical examinations that any person arriving in or departing from Singapore is to undergo at such places as the Director of Medical Services may direct; and

(b) to include Avian influenza as an infectious disease specified for the purposes of regs 3 and 4 of the Infectious Diseases (Measures to Prevent or Control the Spread of Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2004.

The **Medicines (Oral Dental Gums) (Specification) (Amendment) Order 2006** (GN No S 573/2006, wef 9 October 2006) amends the Medicines (Oral Dental Gums) (Specification) Order (Cap 176, O 19) to clarify that oral dental gum (when used in the context of the Order) does not include any chewing gum which is manufactured or imported into Singapore solely for research and development purposes by

a person who is registered under the Control of Manufacture Act (Cap 57) in respect of the manufacture of chewing gum.

The **Legal Profession (Practising Certificate) (Amendment) Rules 2006** (GN No S 578/2006, wef 1 November 2006) amends the Legal Profession (Practising Certificate) Rules (Cap 161, R 6) principally to provide that an application for a practising certificate shall be made —

(a) in such form as Registrar of the Supreme Court (the Registrar) may require;

(b) using the practising certificate electronic filing system in accordance with any practice direction for the time being issued by the Registrar.

The **Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) (Amendment No 2) Rules 2006** (GN No S 587/2006, wef 16 October 2006) amend the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules (Cap 161, R 15) principally to provide —

(a) that a person may apply to the Board of Legal Education (the Board) for an exemption from any of the requirements in r 8(2)(ii)(A), r 9(1)(a), r 9(1)(2)(a), r 9(1)(2A)(a) or r 9A(1)(b) if —

(i) the person is a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore;

(ii) in the case of exemption from any of the requirements in —

(A) rule 8(2)(ii)(A), the person has attainted at least lower second class honours or the equivalent thereof in relation to the degree referred to therein; or

(B) rule 9(1)(a), r 9(2)(a), r 9(2A)(a) or r 9A(1)(b), as the case may be, the person has been ranked by the institution of higher learning referred to therein as being amongst the highest 70%, in terms of academic performance, of the total number of the graduates in the same batch referred to therein; and

(iii) either the person —

(A) is a solicitor of England and Wales or of Hong Kong; or

(B) has, after obtaining the degree referred to in sub-paragraph (ii), been engaged in work of a legal nature for at least three years and obtained relevant legal experience; and

(b) that in deciding whether to grant or refuse an exemption, the Board may —

(i) require the applicant to appear before an interview panel appointed by the Board under r 10A of the Legal Profession Rules (R 3);

(ii) consider the report of the interview panel; and

(iii) consider the academic performance, work experience and work performance of the applicant, and such other qualifications of the applicant or any other factor that the Board thinks fit.

The **Legal Profession (Amendment) Rules 2006** (GN No S 588/2006, wef 16 October 2006) amend the Legal Profession Rules (Cap 161, R 3) to provide —

(a) that the applicant for an exemption under r 15A of the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules (R 15) shall —

(i) if required by the Board of Legal Education (the Board), appear before an interview panel appointed by the Board at such time and place as the Board may notify him;

(ii) produce to the Board any certificate or a certified copy thereof relating to the qualifications by virtue of which he seeks the exemption and any other document as the Board may require;

(b) that the Board may from time to time appoint one or more interview panels consisting of at least two members and each interview panel shall consider and report to the Board on all applications for exemption under r 15A of the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules (R 15) referred to it by the Board; and

(c) for the form of an application for an exemption and the form of the certificate of exemption granted by the Board under r 15A of the Legal Profession (Qualified Persons) Rules.

The **Notification relating to the Criminal Procedure Code — Deputy Public Prosecutors and Assistants** (GN No S 597/2006, wef 20 October 2006) specifies that the Attorney-General has appointed —

(a) the Deputy Public Prosecutors to assist him and to act as his deputies in the performance of the functions and duties of the Public Prosecutor under the Code set out in Pt I of the Schedule thereto; and

(b) the following persons to assist him in the performance of the functions and duties of the Public Prosecutor under the Code set out in Pt II of the Schedule thereto:

(i) the Assistant Public Prosecutors;

(ii) all gazetted police officers;

(iii) all Inspectors of Police;

(iv) all senior officers of customs appointed under s 4(4) of the Customs Act (Cap 70);

(v) all immigration officers of the rank of Inspector and above; and

(vi) the Director, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors and all officers of the Legal Services Department, Ministry of Manpower, who have been designated by that Ministry as prosecuting officers.

The **Education Endowment Scheme (Edusave Merit Bursaries) (Amendment) Regulations 2006** (GN No S 602/2006, wef 1 November 2006) amend the Education Endowment Scheme (Edusave Merit Bursaries) Regulations (Cap 87A, Rg 5) to provide that one of the conditions that a pupil of a primary or secondary school or a junior college or a full-time pupil of a training institute has to fulfil before being eligible for the Edusave Merit Bursary in any year is if the total amount of the gross monthly incomes of his parents, and of every of his siblings who is living with him in the same household, is less than $4,000 for that year.

Act brought into operation in October

The **Accountants (Amendment) Act 2006** (Act 11 of 2006) (wef 6 October 2006 *vide* GN No S 575/2006)

Revision of Act

The Law Revision Commissioners have published, in loose-leaf form, the Companies Act (Cap 50) as in force on 1 October 2006 (wef 31st October 2006 *vide* GN No S 596/2006).■

LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2007 TO MARCH 2007

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKERS/TRAINERS	ORGANISER(S)
5 Jan (Fri) Session 1: 9.00am–12.00pm Session 2: 2.00pm–5.00pm	EFS Phase 4B (Filing to Family Courts) (Auto-generation of Court Doc)	CrimsonLogic	LTC
8–10 Jan (Mon–Wed) 9.00am–5.00pm	Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Excel XP (Core)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
9–11 Jan (Tue–Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	PCDT-ICDL Certificate in Spreadsheet (Using MS Excel)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
10–12 Jan (Wed–Fri) 9.00am–5.00pm	PCDT-ICLDL Certificate in Presentation (Using MS Powerpoint)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
12 Jan (Fri) Session 1: 9.00am–12.00pm Session 2: 2.00pm–5.00pm	EFS ROC Changes Phase 2	CrimsonLogic	LTC
15 Jan (Mon) 9.00am–5.00pm 11.30am–2.30pm	MS Word for Legal Professionals	CrimsonLogic	LTC
16–18 Jan (Tue–Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	EFS Front-End Web Based Full Course	CrimsonLogic	LTC
17–19 Jan (Wed–Fri) 9.00am–5.00pm	PCDT-ICDL Certification in Database (Using MS Access)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
18 Jan (Thur) 1.30pm–5.30pm	STARS eLodgment	BiziBody	LTC
19 Jan (Fri) Session 1: 9.00am–12.00pm Session 2: 2.00pm–5.00pm	EFS ROC Changes	CrimsonLogic	LTC
22–24 Jan (Mon–Wed) 9.00am–5.00pm	Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Powerpoint XP	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
25 Jan (Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	Intereq & STARS eLodgment Workshop	CrimsonLogic / BiziBody	LTC
29 Jan (Mon) 9.30am–5.30pm	LawNet Services at a Glance	CrimsonLogic	LTC
30 Jan–11 Feb (Tue–Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Access XP	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
1 Feb (Thur) 9.00am – 5.00pm	EFS ROC Changes Phase 1 & 2	CrimsonLogic	LTC

2 Feb (Fri) Session 1: 9.00am–12.00pm Session 2: 2.00pm–5.00pm	EFS Phase 4B (Filing to Family Courts)	CrimsonLogic	LTC
5–7 Feb (Mon–Wed) 9.00am–5.00pm	Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Excel XP (Core)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
6–8 Feb (Tue–Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	PCDT-ICDL Certificate in Spreadsheet (Using MS Excel)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
7–9 Feb (Wed–Fri) 9.00am–5.00pm	PCDT-ICLDL Certificate in Presentation (Using MS Powerpoint)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
9 Feb (Fri) Session 1: 9.00am–12.00pm Session 2: 2.00pm–5.00pm	EFS ROC Changes Phase 2	CrimsonLogic	LTC
12 Feb (Mon) 9.00am–5.00pm 11.30am–2.30pm	MS Word for Legal Professionals	CrimsonLogic	LTC
13–15 Feb (Tue–Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	EFS Front-End Web Based Full Course	CrimsonLogic	LTC
14–16 Feb (Wed–Fri) 9.00am–5.00pm	PCDT-ICDL Certification in Database (Using MS Access)	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
15 Feb (Thur) 1.30pm–5.30pm	STARS eLodgment	BiziBody	LTC
16 Feb (Fri) Session 1: 9.00am–12.00pm Session 2: 2.00pm–5.00pm	EFS ROC Changes	CrimsonLogic	LTC
21–23 Feb (Mon–Wed) 9.00am–5.00pm	Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Powerpoint XP	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
23 Feb (Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	Intereq & STARS eLodgment Workshop	CrimsonLogic / BiziBody	LTC
26 Feb (Mon) 9.30am–5.30pm	LawNet Services at a Glance	CrimsonLogic	LTC
27 Feb–1 Mar (Tue–Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	Microsoft Office Specialist Certification Access XP	NTUC Learning Hub	LTC (Partnership Program with NTUC Learning Hub)
1 Mar (Thur) 9.00am–5.00pm	EFS ROC Changes Phase 1 & 2	CrimsonLogic	LTC

For SAL events: Please note that all information is correct at the time of printing. While every effort is made to retain the original arrangements, changes may sometimes be necessary. An updated version of this calendar is available at the following web-site: http://www.sal.org.sg/events_calendar.htm

For enquiries and more information, please contact the respective organisers:

- LawNet Training Centre (LTC): Ms Helen Leong at 6332 4256 or Ms Aida Bte Abdul Rahman at 6332 4382 or e-mail ltc@sal.org.sg

FOR THE RECORD

12 January 2007	Friday	"We ... Thank You Party" Time: 7.00pm–9.30pm | Venue: The Academy Bistro, Level 1, Supreme Court, S178879 Price: Complimentary
20 January 2007	Saturday	"Reflections at Bukit Chandu" Time: 10.00am–12.00noon | Venue: 31-K Pepys Road, S118458. Price: $2 per person.
2 February 2007	Friday	Law Student Event (open to only law students) Time: 6.00pm–8.00pm | Venue: National University of Singapore, Eu Tong Sen Building, 469G Bukit Timah Road, S259776. Price: Complimentary
March 2007		SAL Movie Night Time: 6.15pm–9.30pm | Venue: Eng Wah – Suntec (Hall 3, Third Level, above Carrefour)

*Please note that SAL reserves the right to make any amendments to the calendar if warranted by circumstances beyond its control.
For inquiries on events, please contact Sherina Chan, tel: 6332 0078 or e-mail sherina_chan@sal.org.sg

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