

2 October 2022

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **LAW@CDC INKS 2-YEAR MOU WITH NEW PARTNERS TO FORM ALLIANCE ON SCAM PREVENTION**

*CDCs, LSPBS, IHLs, SCCA are partnering the SPF, NCPC and NUS Pro Bono Group to create greater community awareness on scam prevention*

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The annual Law Awareness Weeks@CDC (LAW@CDC) will be officially launched by Guest-of-Honour Mr Edwin Tong, SC, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth & Second Minister for Law, together with the five Mayors on Sunday, 2 October 2022 at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).

2 Now into its 8<sup>th</sup> year, the LAW@CDC 2022 will present a series of legal talks, both physical and online, to raise awareness on the importance of equipping oneself with basic legal knowledge to manage emerging issues and disputes. With the number of reported scam cases in Singapore doubling in 2022, the theme for this year's LAW@CDC is "*Staying Cybersafe: Protecting Yourself and the Community*" to promote awareness and understanding of legal remedies for online threats. Popular hot button topics relating to divorce, employment, legacy planning, neighbour disputes, caregivers' legal rights and other common legal issues continue to be featured this year.

3 Minister Edwin Tong will deliver his keynote address to the pro bono lawyers, law firms, law students, partners and guests at the event. Host Mayor Alex Yam of North West District, and Chairman of LSPBS, Mr Gregory Vijayendran SC will also touch on the importance of building societal resilience to scams. Around 100 lawyers, law firms and partners will be given certificate of appreciation to acknowledge their steadfast contribution and support.

4 To augment collective action on scam prevention and awareness, particularly targeting the seniors and youths, the LAW@CDC 2022 partners, comprising five CDCs, LSPBS, National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Management University (SMU), SUSS and Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA), will be joined by the Singapore Police Force, National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and NUS Pro Bono Group. The event will also witness the signing of a new two-year

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to offer enhanced integrated care for the community beyond the annual LAW@CDC programme.

5 LAW@CDC 2022 will feature 11 webinars aired ‘live’ online taking place from 27 September 2022 to 27 October 2022 led by moderators and panelists comprising lawyers and respective subject matter experts. These legal talks aim to simplify legal jargons for the general audience, provide clarification and share useful resources available.

Please visit <https://lawawarenessweeks.cdc.gov.sg> for more information and registration.

S/No	Date	List of Webinar Legal Topics for LAW@CDC 2022
1.	Tuesday, 27 September 2022	Divorce & You (Syariah)
2.	Monday, 3 October 2022	Believe It or Not! How to Spot and Avoid Scams
3.	Tuesday, 4 October 2022	Preparing for Golden Years
4.	Wednesday, 5 October 2022	Online Shopping – Is It Safe?
5.	Tuesday, 11 October 2022	Harassment at the Workplace - is help available?
6.	Wednesday, 12 October 2022	Be CyberSafe!
7.	Monday, 17 October 2022	So You Want to be a Social Media Influencer?
8.	Tuesday, 18 October 2022	Neighbour or Foe?
9.	Tuesday, 25 October 2022	Treading through the Grey Matters
10.	Wednesday, 26 October 2022	Help! I am a Victim of Online Harms!
11.	Thursday, 27 October 2022	Divorce & You (Civil)

6 The quotes of Mayors, LSPBS, IHL partners, SCCA, SPF and NCPC are in Annex A.

7 This media release is jointly issued by CDCs and the LSPBS.

### **Quotes by Mayors**

#### **Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of Mayors' Committee and Mayor of South West District**

“Over the past years, our partnership with the Law Society Pro Bono Services, NUS, SUSS and SMU has enabled residents to better understand important aspects of the law that impact their lives. This year, we’re doubling down on our fight against scams which have become a rampant threat affecting all segments of society, even the young and educated. The “ABCs” or basic defence against scams are to (a) stay alert, (b) be knowledgeable to spot a bluff and (c) cooperate as a community. With the National Crime Prevention Council joining our team of pro-bono lawyers and student volunteers, we have strengthened our all-of-community approach to boost our residents’ awareness, knowledge and resilience against scammers.”

#### **Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District**

“It is critical to protect our seniors and vulnerable segments of the community who may be less digitally-savvy. Digitalisation has created an online world where opportunities are limitless. To ensure safe usage, arming Singaporeans, especially the vulnerable, with knowledge to protect themselves from potential online threats is crucial. I am thankful for the CDCs’ strong partnership with the Law Society Pro Bono Services, along with new partners such as the National Crime Prevention Council and National University of Singapore. Having partners from the legal, professional and community sectors come together for LAW@CDC 2022 helps to provide our residents with multi-prong access to seek legal assistance. I hope that this will empower our residents to foster greater resilience. This way, they can be better protected in both physical and virtual spaces.”

#### **Mr Desmond Choo, Mayor of North East District**

“As our world gets increasingly digitalised and interconnected, the threats of cyber-attacks are on the rise. This year’s LAW@CDC is appropriately themed “Staying Cybersafe – Protecting Yourself and the Community” to raise awareness on cybercrimes and safe surfing. As online scams continue to evolve, it is important for everyone to be aware about how we can keep ourselves and our loved ones safe from cyber criminals. With the strong support of Law Society Pro Bono Services over the years, we have brought useful and practical legal knowledge to the community. This year, I am glad that we have with us new partners such as the National Crime Prevention Council and National University of Singapore to bring a more holistic legal support to the community.”

**Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District and Host Mayor of LAW@CDC 2022**

“North West CDC is pleased to host the launch of Law Awareness Weeks@CDC 2022. This year’s theme of staying cybersafe comes at an important time, as online scams become more common-place. Such scams are now more sophisticated that even digitally vigilant Singaporeans may not be able to safeguard themselves when faced with such situations. I therefore urge residents to attend the various webinars, jointly organised by our partners, with their family and friends, so as to equip themselves with not only the legal awareness, but also learn how to better protect themselves and their loved ones from potential scams. This way, the community as a whole can gain more knowledge and support one another in defending against scams.”

**Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District**

“The Covid-19 pandemic has increased our digital consumption and expedited our digitalisation journey significantly. As we adapt to increased digitalisation in the post-pandemic world, we need to protect ourselves against cyber threats and online scams. Through workshops organised by our valued partners, such as the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), we hope to better equip our residents with skills and knowledge to safeguard themselves and their loved ones and stay cyber safe. I strongly encourage all residents to come join us for LAW @ CDC, to not only educate yourselves on cyber security, but also get empowered with practical knowledge on topics such as Employment, Legacy Planning, and Family and Civil issues.”

**Quote by Law Society Pro Bono Services**

**Mr Gregory Vijayendran SC, Chairman of Law Society Pro bono Services**

“We have come a long way as a team in building this national legal literacy programme. As the world grows more complex in the future, and new problems plague, our society will continue to evolve and grow. Together, with our partners, we will continue in quiet confidence to build on our strength, reach, and experience to sustain impactful outreach activities in the years to come.”

**Quotes by Institutes of Higher Learning**

**Associate Professor Helena Whalen-Bridge, Faculty Advisor, NUS Pro Bono Group**

“NUS Law has had a leading role in developing and supporting many different opportunities for student pro bono, including the student-run Pro Bono Group. In turn, the Pro Bono Group has developed pro bono projects to serve community legal needs, and is honoured to support Law Awareness Weeks@CDC and work regarding cyber security and protection against financial scams. As we increasingly operate different aspects of our lives online, more people are falling victim to a variety of scams including bank and government related phishing, e-commerce scams, and social media impersonation. The impact of such scams can go beyond financial losses, and

victims can suffer harm to their social, emotional, and mental well-being. Against a backdrop of flourishing tech businesses and rising legal concerns regarding cybersecurity and data protection, there is a very real need for law students to learn how to identify and manage underlying risks. This work therefore represents a valuable learning opportunity, and it is a meaningful way for our students to continue the mission to provide service to the community and play a part in raising awareness and protecting the vulnerable.”

**Professor Chan Wing Cheong, Director, SMU Pro Bono Centre**

“From the very start, SMU Yong Pung How School of Law has advocated a pro bono culture among students through various pro bono programmes. We are therefore delighted to take part in this year’s Law Awareness Weeks@CDC. Through their participation, students learn about how the law ultimately affects people, and how they should always do their utmost to use their knowledge and skills to help those in need.

Awareness and education are key in combating cyber scams and promoting cyber safety. A group of SMU Law students had, in fact, come together on their own accord to put out a flyer to educate fellow students about harassment (including online harassment) and also gave a talk on the topic in January this year (<https://pbc.smu.edu.sg/sites/pbc.smu.edu.sg/files/covid19/Harassment%20Brochure.pdf>). Law Awareness Weeks@CDC is a wonderful opportunity for our students to extend their efforts beyond the campus and serve the larger community in Singapore.”

**Associate Professor Ferlin Jayatissa, Head of Law Programmes, Singapore University of Social Sciences School of Law**

"The primary mission of the Singapore University of Social Sciences School of Law is to produce law graduates imbued with a passion for the community. We envision our graduates becoming effective lawyers engaged in the legal issues faced by the community at large, especially in the areas of criminal justice and family law practice. We continually encourage our students to go beyond only addressing these legal problems and to also recognise and assist those in need to handle the social issues which the law may not address entirely. SUSS is pleased to support LAW@CDC collaborating with NCPC, which is in line with SUSS’ vision to raise lawyers who deal with real-life issues faced by the more vulnerable members of our community in practical and holistic ways."

**Quotes by Singapore Corporate Counsel Association**

**Serene Gan, Board member & Treasurer, Singapore Corporate Counsel Association; Co-chair of SCCA Pro Bono Chapter**

“With the increase of reported scams, it is important to raise awareness and reduce risks of cybersecurity issues. The Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Pro Bono

Chapter is proud to be part of this community effort and for this opportunity for in-house counsels to contribute their skills and knowledge to the community.”

### **Quotes by Singapore Police Force**

#### **David Chew, Director Commercial Affairs Department, Singapore Police Force**

“Scammers are constantly finding new ways to prey on victims’ vulnerabilities. Whilst the Police endeavour to safeguard the public from scams, enforcement alone will never be sufficient. The scammers will adapt and find a way around our measures. Combatting scams is a whole-of-society effort, and the best defence against scams is an alert and discerning public. The Police strongly support this community effort to raise scam awareness. We will continue to work closely with our stakeholders in the public and private sectors to achieve our vision of a Scam-Smart nation.”

### **Quotes by National Crime Prevention Council**

#### **Tan Puay Kern, PBM, PPA(P), AMBCI, Vice-Chairman National Crime Prevention Council**

“The number of scam cases in Singapore has been rising rapidly in recent years. Figures released by the police showed that the total amount cheated for the top ten scam types increased to \$504.4 million in 2021; almost three times more as compared to 2020. NCPC is glad to support LAW@CDC to work with strategic partners to educate Singaporeans on scams. Besides providing speakers and volunteers for outreach events, we will also encourage participants to download our ScamShield phone app that detects scam SMSes and blocks scam calls.”

## **About LAW@CDC**

Since 2014, the CDCs have partnered with LSPBS to establish the Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network and the annual Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC (LAW@CDC) event which has been held since 2015. LAW@CDC is a nationwide effort to promote awareness and understanding of the law in the community through a series of legal talks for six weeks. The CDCs hoped that through this collaboration, residents would have a platform to know their rights and be empowered when faced with common legal issues.

In 2020, CDCs renewed the two MOUs with their existing partners – LSPBS, three Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) – NUS, SMU, SUSS, and SCCA. For more information on the programme, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov.sg/lawawarenessweeks>

## **About the CDCs**

Since 1997, the CDCs have been bridging communities by strengthening social infrastructure, building social resilience and social capital, and promoting a culture of giving back, through the following ways:

- (a) Aggregator of Needs and Resources
- (b) Builder of Capability / Capacity in Partners and Networks
- (c) Connector of Communities

There are five Community Development Councils (CDCs), namely, Central Singapore, North East, North West, South East and South West CDCs. Mayors of the Districts are Chairman of the respective CDCs. The Office of the Mayors comprises:

Ms Low Yen Ling	Chairman of Mayors' Committee
	Mayor of South West District
Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng	Mayor of Central Singapore District
Mr Desmond Choo	Mayor of North East District
Mr Alex Yam	Mayor of North West District
Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman	Mayor of South East District

For more information, please visit [www.cdc.gov.sg](http://www.cdc.gov.sg) and [www.pa.gov.sg](http://www.pa.gov.sg)



## **About the Law Society Pro Bono Services**

LSPBS is a registered charity and Institution of a Public Character (UEN: 201700430E).

LSPBS is an initiative by the Law Society of Singapore to help bring free legal assistance to those in need in our community as part of the Law Society's stated mission to ensure access to justice for all. LSPBS runs various programmes to (a) serve the community (b) support its volunteers and (c) assist or collaborate on pro bono initiatives with other agencies. For more information, please visit [www.lawsocprobono.org](http://www.lawsocprobono.org)

LSPBS will be rebranded as Pro Bono SG in late 2022.

## **About National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law**

NUS Law is Asia's Global Law School. Widely regarded as the region's leading law school, it sees itself as part of a global conversation about the study and practice of law. Its diverse faculty includes 60 full-time academics together with many adjuncts and visiting professors; its 1,200 undergraduate and postgraduate students include Singapore's top school leavers as well as outstanding scholars from around the globe. The faculty is a major source of research on legal issues affecting Singapore, the region and beyond. NUS Law's alumni are a who's who of Singapore's legal community and include leaders in the profession, government ministers, Supreme Court judges, ambassadors, CEOs and many other alumni go on to careers that take them to the heights of the profession around the world. For more information, please visit <http://law.nus.edu.sg>

## **About Singapore Management University (SMU) Yong Pung How School of Law**

Singapore Management University (SMU) Yong Pung How School of Law proudly welcomed its first cohort of 116 students in August 2007. Taught by a dynamic faculty with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities, the School aims to nurture its students to become excellent lawyers who will contribute significantly to society. Trained with the ability to contextualise legal expertise and to think across disciplines and geographical borders coupled with SMU's interactive pedagogy, SMU's law graduates are confident articulate and analytically agile.

The SMU Yong Pung How School of Law offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Information Systems or Social Sciences, and a Master of Laws programme. The School has also launched a full-time graduate programme, the Juris Doctor Programme which can be completed within three years,

and in some cases, accelerated for completion within two years. For more information, please visit [www.law.smu.edu.sg](http://www.law.smu.edu.sg)

### **About Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) School of Law**

SUSS's School of Law trains and produces highly motivated lawyers specialising in the areas of criminal law and family law. Our programmes adopt a pedagogy that emphasises applied learning and a multi-disciplinary approach to problem-solving. The School of Law offers both the Juris Doctor (JD) and Bachelor of Laws (LL B) programmes. For more information, please visit [www.suss.edu.sg](http://www.suss.edu.sg)

### **About the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA)**

The Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Limited, is the national association serving the in-house community in Singapore since 2002. As connectivity is imperative to in-house lawyers in their day-to-day projects and tasks, to make sensible and important resolutions to the organization they serve, the SCCA aims to serve the needs of just that.

Currently, the SCCA reaches out to over 3000 in-house counsel in Singapore representing a wide spectrum of lawyers in different industries. It continues to grow its network and connections in the region and around the world with counsel ranging from 10,000 in APAC to 100,000 around the world.

It prides in building reputable training programs, toolkits, competency frameworks and skills required by domestic and regional corporate lawyers and will continue to be committed in this endeavor. For more information, please visit [www.scca.org.sg](http://www.scca.org.sg)

### **About Singapore Police Force**

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) is a uniformed organisation under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The mission of the SPF is to prevent, deter and detect crime. We do this to ensure the safety and security of Singapore, and to keep Singapore as one of the safest countries in the world. For more information, please visit <https://www.police.gov.sg>

### **About National Crime Prevention Council**

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting public awareness of and concern about crime and to

propagate the concept of self-help in crime prevention. The Council comprises representatives from the commercial and industrial sectors, as well as from the public sector and the Singapore Police Force (SPF). The NCPC is incorporated as a charity and depends on donations and sponsorships to run its programmes and activities. It is registered as a society with the Registry of Societies. For more information, please visit <https://www.ncpc.org.sg/index.html>

## GLOSSARY AND TRANSLATION OF KEY TERMS

### Law Awareness Weeks@CDC 2022

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
1.	Law Awareness Weeks@CDC	法律意识周	Minggu Kesedaran Undang-undang di Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat
2.	Community Legal Clinic	社区法律咨询诊所	Klinik Masyarakat Undang-undang
3.	Law Society Pro Bono Services	义务律师办事处	Pusat Perkhidmatan Pro Bono
4.	Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network	社区法律无偿服务联网	Rangkaian Perkhidmatan Perundangan Masyarakat Pro-bono
5.	Webinar	网络研讨会 在线研讨会	

### Mission

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
6.	<u>A</u> ssisting the Needy	协助贫困居民	Membantu Yang Memerlukan
7.	<u>B</u> onding the People	增强民众凝聚力	Mengeratkan Ikatan Masyarakat
8.	<u>C</u> onnecting the Community	与社区密切联系	Menghubungkan Masyarakat

## Functions

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
9.	<u>A</u> ggregator of Needs and Resources	顺应需求, 汇集整合资源	Aggregat keperluan dan sumber
10.	<u>B</u> uilder of Capabilities and Capacities	提升能力, 扩大网络	Pembina Keupayaan dan Kebolehan
11.	<u>C</u> onnector of Communities	加强联系, 造福社群	Penyambung Komuniti

## CDC

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
12.	Community Development Council (CDC)	社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat
13.	Central Singapore CDC	中区社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Singapura Tengah
14.	North East CDC	东北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Timur Laut
15.	North West CDC	西北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Laut
16.	South East CDC	东南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Tenggara
17.	South West CDC	西南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Daya
18.	Mayor	市长	Mayor / Datuk Bandar (formal address)
19.	Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District Chairperson, Mayors'	刘燕玲女士, 西南区市长 市长委员会主席	Ms Low Yen Ling, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Barat Daya Pengerusi, Jawatankuasa Datuk Bandar

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation
	Committee		
20.	Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District	潘丽萍女士, 中区市长	Ms Denise Phua, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Singapura Tengah
21.	Mr Desmond Choo Mayor of North East District	朱倍庆, 东北区市长	Mr Desmond Choo, Datuk Bandar, Daerah Timur Laut
22.	Mr Alex Yam Ziming, Mayor of North West District	任梓铭, 西北区市长	Mr Alex Yam, Datuk Bandar, Kawasan Barat Laut
23.	Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District	阙贺米, 东南区市长	Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Datuk Bandar, Kawasan Tenggara
24.	District Councillors	社区理事	Ahli Majlis Daerah
25.	Grassroots Advisers	基层组织顾问	Penasihat Akar Umbi
26.	Grassroots Organisations (GROs)	社区基层组织	Persatuan Akar Umbi