



20 July 2015

A JOINT CDC-LAW SOCIETY MEDIA INVITATION

BRINGING LAW AWARENESS TALKS TO ALL DISTRICTS Launch of Law Awareness Week @ CDC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ❖ **First Time** the 5 CDCs and the Law Society are collaborating to organise Law Talks across all districts
- ❖ **First Time** involvement of Law students to help organise the talks across all districts
- ❖ **3,000 residents** islandwide are expected to benefit from Law Awareness Week
- ❖ **30 Law Talks** to be organised across all five districts
- ❖ **22 Topics and sub-topics** from a customized menu on Family Law, End of Life issues, Consumer Protection etc
- ❖ **40 lawyers volunteered** both as organisers and speakers for a series of Law Talks
- ❖ **150 law students** from NUS and SMU to assist in organising the talks

Ms Indranee Thurai Rajah, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education will be the Guest-of-Honour to launch Law Awareness Week @ CDC on 22 July 2015 at Queenstown Community Centre. For the first time, the Community Development Councils (CDCs) and the Law Society are bringing Law Awareness Week to all districts.

2 Back in September 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the CDCs and the Law Society of Singapore to launch the Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network to assist needy Singaporeans and Permanent Residents who are seeking free legal advice.

3 The top five common legal issues raised by the community are Divorce, Employment, General Product/Service (Contract), Estate (Wills & Probate) and Harassment/Assault. The number of residents who registered for pro bono legal services at the law clinics has increased by about 40% to 2,510 residents in 2015

(Figures are as at September 2014 to May 2015) as compared to 1,010 in 2014 (Figures are as at January 2014 to August 2014 before the MOU signing on 12 September 2014). In view of the increasing needs for legal advice, the CDCs and the Law Society have come together to offer a more holistic legal service to the community by introducing a series of legal talks to the residents.

4 Through Law Awareness Week @ CDC, the CDCs and Law Society aim to reach out to 3,000 residents through 30 law talks and equip them with basic legal knowledge on common legal issues and encourage lawyers/law students to volunteer within their home districts and expose them to community work.

5 “Every resident should have access to basic legal awareness. Central Singapore CDC is proud to spearhead this collaboration between the 5 CDCs and the Law Society. Through these talks, we hope to find ways on how we can provide greater access to important legal knowledge to our residents and better empower them in life.” said Ms Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore District.

6 The talks will cover topics such as Family Law, End of Life issues, Consumer Protection etc. These topics are chosen based on the emerging needs of the districts. Residents may sign up for the talks through the CDCs or Community Clubs/Centres (CCs). Please refer to **Annex 1** for the list of talks.

7 A total of 40 lawyers will be involved as volunteer/speakers and another 150 law students from National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore Management University (SMU) will help to organise the talks, together with CDCs and other grassroots volunteers. Through the engagement, the students will get to network with community stakeholders and community partners for more learning experience and exposure, and to encourage them to give back to the community.

MEDIA INVITATION

8 Members of the media are invited to the Launch of Law Awareness Week @ CDC. The programme is at **Annex 2**. Upon request, interviews can be arranged with the Mayors, the pro-bono lawyers and law students supporting the Law Awareness Week@CDC. Kindly confirm your attendance and RSVP by 21 July 2015 to the contact persons below.

Date: Wednesday, 22 July 2015
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Venue: Queenstown Community Centre
365 Commonwealth Avenue
Singapore 149732

ABOUT THE LAW SOCIETY

The Law Society of Singapore was established in 1967 under the Legal Profession Act. It carries out various statutory functions prescribed under the Act, including maintaining and improving the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession in Singapore, the facilitation of the acquisition of legal knowledge by members of the legal profession, and protecting and assisting the public in all matters ancillary or incidental to the law.

The Pro Bono Services Office (PBSO) is an initiative by the Law Society of Singapore to help bring free legal assistance to those in need in our community. It is part of the Law Society's stated mission to ensure access to justice for all. The PBSO runs various programmes to (a) serve the community (b) support our volunteers and (c) assist or collaborate on pro bono initiatives with other agencies. For more information, please refer to this link - <http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg/About-Us/Our-Services/>.

ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (CDCs)

There are five Community Development Councils, namely, North West CDC, North East CDC, South East CDC, South West CDC and Central Singapore CDC. Mayors of the Districts are Chairmen of the respective CDCs. The CDCs' mission is to build a Caring and Cohesive Community, where we Assist the Needy, Bond the People, Connect the Community. The Office of the Mayors are:

- a) Mayor Dr Teo Ho Pin, Chairman of Mayor's Committee; and Chairman of North West CDC;
- b) Mayor Mr Teo Ser Luck, Chairman of North East CDC;
- c) Mayor Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman, Chairman of South East CDC;
- d) Mayor Ms Low Yen Ling, Chairman of South West CDC; and
- e) Mayor Ms Denise Phua, Chairman of Central Singapore CDC.

**LAUNCH OF LAW AWARENESS WEEK @ CDC
WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2015
AT QUEENSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

List of talks

Note: Residents may sign up through the various Community Development Councils or Community Centres (CCs). There are three types of talks which are (1) free talks, (2) closed event (by invitation only) and (3) ticketed event.

S/NO	DATE	VENUE	CONTACT NO.	TOPIC	REMARKS
Central Singapore District					
1	22 July, Wednesday	Radin Mas CC	62735294	Criminal Law	
2	25 July, Saturday	Radin Mas CC	62735294	Family Law	
3	30 July, Thursday	Kampong Glam CC	62950741	Advance Planning	
4	30 July, Thursday	Kampong Glam CC	62950741	Advance Planning	
5	2 August, Sunday	Toa Payoh West CC	63534487	Advance Planning	
6	5 August, Wednesday	Silver Ace SAC @ Whampoa	62540281	Advance Planning	<i>Not open to Public.</i>
North East District					
1	19 July, Sunday	Tampines Changkat CC	67811806/ 67839279	Consumer Protection Law	
2	22 July, Wednesday	Punggol Meridian RC MPH	63120508	Advance Planning	

S/NO	DATE	VENUE	CONTACT NO.	TOPIC	REMARKS
3	25 July, Saturday	Sunlove Senior Activity Centre	6297 5818	Advance Planning	
North West District					
1	24 July, Friday	Chong Pang Wellness Centre	6100 1201	Advance Planning	<i>Not open to Public. Attendance by invitation only.</i>
2	24 July, Friday	Zhenghua CC	63106702	Employment Law	
3	25 July, Saturday	Woodgrove CC	63666615/ 63669010	Consumer Protection Law	
4	25 July, Saturday	Woodgrove CC	63666615/ 63669010	Protection from Harassment, Nuisance & Defamation	
5	25 July, Saturday	Woodlands CC	63689938	Advance Planning	
6	25 July, Saturday	Woodlands CC	63689938	Protection from Harassment, Nuisance & Defamation	<i>Not open to Public. Attendance by invitation only.</i>
7	26 July, Sunday	Senja-Cashew CC	62194561	Advance Planning	
8	26 July, Sunday	Zhenghua CC	63106702	Advance Planning	
9	26 July, Sunday	Canberra CC	67556369	Family Law	

S/NO	DATE	VENUE	CONTACT NO.	TOPIC	REMARKS
South East District					
1	24 July, Friday	Changi Simei CC	67875265	Protection from Harassment, Nuisance & Defamation	
2	25 July, Saturday	Katong CC	63458258	Advance Planning	
3	25 July, Saturday	Katong CC	63458258	Advance Planning	
4	26 July, Sunday	Changi Simei CC	67875265	Consumer Protection Law	
South West District					
1	5 July, Sunday	Jurong Green CC	65671374	Criminal Law	
2	12 July, Sunday	Yuhua CC	65604490/ 65600465	Consumer Protection Law	
3	21 July, Tuesday	Boon Lay CC	62619947/ 62619947	Buying/ Selling Residential Property	
4	22 July, Wednesday	Boon Lay CC	62619947/ 62619947	Advance Planning	
5	26 July, Sunday	Lam Soon CC	67694194	Advance Planning	
6	26 July, Sunday	Choa Chu Kang CC	67692594 67655002	Criminal Law	
7	26 July, Sunday	Jurong Spring CC	65624066, 65690484	Advance Planning	

**LAUNCH OF LAW AWARENESS WEEK @ CDC
WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2015
AT QUEENSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PROGRAMME

- 6.30 pm Arrival of Media & Registration
- 7.00 pm Arrival of Guest-of-Honour (GOH)
Ms Indranee Thurai Rajah
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education
- 7.05 pm - Opening speech by Law Society
- Welcome Address by Host, Mayor Denise Phua
- Address by GOH
- 7.30 pm GOH presents certificates of appreciation to Lawyers and Student
Volunteers
- 7.50 pm - Launch of Law Awareness Week 2015 @ CDC
- Group Photo with GOH, Mayors, PA CED and President of Law
Society
- 7.55 pm Networking Reception
- 8.30 pm End of programme
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