



21 October 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

A Collaborative Approach to Enhance Legal, Community and Social Care at Launch of LAW@CDC 2023

The ninth Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC (LAW@CDC) will be 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 Saturday, 21 October 2023 at Max Atria (Singapore Expo). The launch event will feature a **keynote address by Minister Edwin Tong** to guests comprising pro bono lawyers, law firms, law students, and partners. **Host Mayor Fahmi Aliman of South East District, and Chairman of Pro Bono SG, Mr Gregory Vijayendran, SC** will also touch on the importance of a holistic approach in enhancing access to legal aid and uplifting lives.

2 **Led by the five Community Development Councils (CDC) and Pro Bono SG (PBSG)**, LAW@CDC 2023 adopts the theme **“Collective Impact – A Community in Action”**, underscoring CDCs’ commitment to leverage its expansive network to provide enhanced wraparound care and support to its residents. The event will also mark the signing of a new 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with current and new partners, launching a new collaboration that introduces social care into CDC’s existing community-legal care framework to improve last mile delivery of support to residents.

3 The CDCs recognize that with the rise of complex needs in society, residents seeking legal assistance often may also require additional social, financial and/or emotional support to navigate their challenges and uplift their lives. Understanding the important role that social workers play as the key points of contact for vulnerable residents in need, the CDCs onboard new partner, the **Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW)**, to work together with existing partners – PBSG, National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Social Science (SUSS) and Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA) – to improve coordination between these agencies, and better provide residents with a holistic community-legal-social support system that integrates legal assistance, legal knowledge and cross-referrals to relevant support schemes in the community.

4 Our new partner SASW will also contribute its distinctive expertise and insights to some webinar topics featured at this year’s LAW@CDC, such as divorce and custody



issues, family violence and advance legal planning. This partnership will also encompass networking sessions, fostering valuable knowledge exchange between the CDCs and new and in-service social workers to help them better assist their clients.

5 The five CDCs and PBSG will sign a second MOU to renew their commitment to the Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network. Renewing for the fourth time, the Network serves to enhance residents' access legal support through the Community Legal Clinics @ CDC which has supported over 1,000 residents in 2022.

6 LAW@CDC is a nationwide effort to promote awareness and knowledge of the law in the community through simplified legal talks and webinars on common legal issues. Since 2015, LAW@CDC has engaged over 13,100 participants physically and virtually. This year, taking place from 23 October 2023 to 27 November 2023, LAW@CDC 2023 will feature 14 webinars aired 'live' online, led by moderators and panelists comprising lawyers and respective subject matter experts. Additionally, in-person legal talks will be held at Community Centres and Clubs for community partners that had signed up through PBSG. See [Annex A](#) for list of webinar topics. Residents can register for the webinars at <https://go.gov.sg/lawcdc2023>.

7 The quotes of Mayors, Institutes of Higher Learning partners, SCCA, SASW are in [Annex B](#). Interviews with lawyers and partners can be arranged upon request. Event photos and transcripts of speeches by GOH, Mayor Fahmi and PBSG Chairman will be shared at the end of the programme.

8 This media release is jointly issued by the five CDCs and PBSG.

Annex A

List of webinar topics

S/N	Date / Time	Legal Webinar Topics for LAW@CDC 2023
1	Monday, 23 October 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	与邻居的冲突 — 这可以解决吗？
2	Tuesday, 24 October 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Conflicts with Neighbours – can this be resolved?
3	Wednesday, 25 October 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Divorce Matters and Concerns - Custody, Care and Control
4	Monday, 30 October 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	离婚事宜和顾虑 - 监护、照顾和控制
5	Tuesday, 31 October 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Dealing with Creditors
6	Wednesday, 1 November 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	What is Workplace Harassment and how do I deal with it?
7	Monday, 6 November 2023, 7.30pm – 9.00pm	Syariah Divorce and Related Matters
8	Tuesday, 7 November 2023, 7.30pm – 9.00pm	Protect Yourself - How to Spot and Avoid Scams
9	Wednesday, 8 November 2023, 7.30pm – 9.00pm	Perceraian di Mahkamah Syariah dan hal berkaitan dengannya
10	Thursday, 9 November 2023 7.30pm – 9.00pm	处理或遭遇家庭暴力？
11	Tuesday, 14 November 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	保护自己 — 如何发现和避免诈骗
12	Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Dealing with or Encountering Family Violence?
13	Monday, 20 November 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	关于遗嘱和临终事宜的高级法律规划



14	Monday, 27 November 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Advance Legal Planning on Wills and End-of-Life Matters
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Annex B

Quotes by Mayors

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

“Over the nine years of LAW@CDC, the CDCs have grown our network of partners and expanded the initiative to address the evolving needs of our community. We are grateful for our enduring partnership with Pro Bono SG, the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association, and the IHLs - NUS, SMU and SUSS.

This year, we will introduce social care to boost our current community-legal care framework and improve our last-mile support delivery to residents. We welcome our new partner, the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW), onboard LAW@CDC. The social workers will enhance our circle of care by connecting residents with legal needs and queries to relevant schemes and resources in the community for more comprehensive social, financial and emotional support.”

Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District

“The needs of our residents today are increasingly complex. Those seeking legal assistance may require additional support in their social, financial, or emotional well-being. To effectively address these multifaceted challenges, a holistic framework that encompasses cross-agency collaborations and a community-legal-social support system is crucial.

I am heartened by the strong partnership between the CDCs and Pro Bono SG, as well as the involvement of new and existing partners. Through this integrated approach, LAW@CDC 2023 is poised to foster greater resilience and empower our residents. This initiative underscores our commitment to working together to create a more inclusive and supportive society for all Singaporeans.”

Mr Desmond Choo, Mayor of North East District

“In recent years, societal needs have become increasingly complex. We have observed that residents seeking legal assistance often find themselves in need of not only legal support but also additional assistance in areas of social, financial, and emotional well-being. We are glad to have dedicated partners alongside us, to offer comprehensive support in these areas so that our residents can tackle their challenges with greater ease.”



Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District

“Over the years, LAW@CDC have brought in various like-minded partners to partners to support and equip residents with legal resources in area such as advance legacy planning and addressing community disputes. Many of our residents have benefitted from these community support networks such as the Community Legal Clinics @ CDC.

I’m glad to see that LAW@CDC 2023 will strengthen our community partnerships and enhance its care and support to our residents. With the new collaboration to provide social care, residents can expect to benefit from a holistic support system of legal assistance and access to legal resources relevant in the community.”

Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District

“At South East CDC, we have always emphasised the importance of having access to legal aid and empowering our residents with the resources to navigate through their legal challenges. We understand that individuals can feel overwhelmed when faced with legal challenges, especially when they are unsure of their legal rights. Through LAW@CDC, we hope to create a safe and fair space for our residents to not only uplift their lives but to also and build a stronger and more equitable community. I am also glad to have the Singapore Association of Social Workers onboard this year as together, we will be better equipped to provide more holistic support to our residents, beyond legal assistance.”

Quotes by Pro Bono SG

Mr Gregory Vijayendran, SC, Chairman, Pro Bono SG

“The importance of collective impact cannot be overstated. In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected and complex, we must recognise that change requires a unified effort. When different individuals, organisations and sectors come together, we harness a diverse range of skills, resources, and experiences. This collective impact enables us to tackle complex challenges from multiple angles, amplifying our ability to effect positive change in society. Through collaborations like the ones continued and forged here today, we maximise our potential to create lasting impact in the legal education landscape in Singapore.”

Quotes by Institutes of Higher Learning



Professor Andrew Simester, Dean, NUS Faculty of Law

“NUS Law is excited about renewing our ongoing continued collaboration with the CDCs for the 9th year during Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC. Through this initiative, our students are provided with an excellent opportunity to contribute to the community by promoting awareness and understanding of the law, and empowering vulnerable individuals with invaluable knowledge of how one can have access to justice. Working with the Centre for Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education, NUS students have been volunteering to participate in clinics and workshops. We are grateful to the CDCs for giving our students an opportunity to see the difference for good that a lawyer can make, and for helping them to make that difference themselves.”

Professor Lee Pey Woan, Dean, Yong Pung How School of Law; Professor of Law

“At the Yong Pung How School of Law, we nurture a robust pro bono ethos, instilling in our students the vital role of expanding access to justice from the moment they join us. In today's complex legal landscape, this societal imperative looms larger than ever. Empowering lay individuals to grasp fundamental legal concepts stands central to enhancing access to justice. We are therefore very excited and grateful to support this initiative and look forward to working with all the other partners. These initiatives will provide our students with the opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation of challenges in legal access and to innovate solutions to meet the gaps. In doing so, they will gain not only new skills and knowledge but also a deeper empathy for those in need.”

Professor Leslie Chew SC, Dean, SUSS School of Law

“At the Singapore University of Social Sciences, one of our twin purposes is to transform society through applied social sciences. The SUSS School of Law has, therefore, always adopted a multi-disciplinary and applied approach to the training of our students, with a special focus on criminal and family law. More importantly, in line with the SUSS core value of Passion for Community, the SUSS School of Law gives great emphasis to having graduates with a strong sense of community – our graduates proudly serve the community as part of the community.

Since the original MOU (between the five CDCs and the three law schools) was signed six years ago, our law students have participated actively in various initiatives within the five CDCs. With the addition of Singapore Corporate Counsel Association three years later, we began looking at broader community issues, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic ravaged our gig economy and threatened the existence of our SMEs. This year, with the addition of the Singapore Association of Social Workers,



our collective impact will certainly be enhanced. We look forward to having our students work much more closely with social workers to better understand many of the problems faced by the most vulnerable members of our society and to provide holistic solutions together.”

Quote by Singapore Corporate Counsel Association

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

“Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Pro Bono Chapter is proud to be part of the continued efforts to raise public awareness of common legal issues that impact the community. This initiative gives in house counsels the opportunity to leverage their expertise and experience to help the community and bring practical on-the-ground insights to certain issues.”

Quote by Singapore Association of Social Workers

Ms Tan Sze Wee, President of the Singapore Association of Social Workers

“Social Workers have a vital role in supporting and empowering vulnerable communities. Social Workers across various Social Service Agencies have worked closely with the CDCs and community partners to support their clients. Formalising this alliance with CDCs, Pro Bono SG, the Institutes of Higher Learning, and Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Pro Bono Chapter through this MOU enables Social Workers to expand our reach to support even more individuals in need and connect them to available community resources.”



About LAW@CDC

Since 2014, the CDCs have partnered with Pro Bono SG (formally known as Law Society Pro Bono Services) 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.

For more information on the programme, please visit <https://go.gov.sg/lawcdc2023>.

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

About Pro Bono SG

Pro Bono SG is a registered charity with the status of Institution of a Public Character and a company limited by guarantee. Since 2007, we've expanded our legal initiatives and programmes, helping over 132,000 people with legal awareness, guidance, and representation.

For more information, please visit www.probono.sg.



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 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://laws.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

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

About the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA)

The Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Limited (“SCCA”) is the pioneer national organisation representing the interests of in-house lawyers working for companies and other entities based in Singapore. It prides in building reputable regional training programs, leadership and industry conversations, legal counsel career toolkits, competency frameworks encompassing technical knowledge, skills, and the right attitude and character for corporate lawyers. SCCA Pro Bono Chapter aims to encourage volunteerism and the pro bono spirit among the in-house community. For more information, please visit www.scca.org.sg

About the Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW)

Established in 1971, the Singapore Association of Social Workers is the national professional body that represents social workers in Singapore. The key objectives of the association are to promote the well-being of social workers, advance social work as a profession and foster a high standard of social work in Singapore.

GLOSSARY AND TRANSLATION OF KEY TERMS

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation	Tamil Translation
1.	A ggregator of Needs and Resources	顺应需求, 汇集资源	Aggregat keperluan dan sumber	தேவைகளையும் வளங்களையும் ஒருங்கிணைப்பது
2.	B uilder of Capabilities and Capacities	提升能力, 扩大网络	Pembina Keupayaan dan Kebolehan	ஆற்றல்களையும் செயல்திறன்களையும் வளர்ப்பது
3.	C onnector of Communities	加强联系, 造福社群	Penyambung Komuniti	சமூகங்களை இணைப்பது

CDC

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation	Tamil Translation
4.	Community Development Council (CDC)	社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat	சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
5.	Central Singapore CDC	中区社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Singapura Tengah	மத்திய சிங்கப்பூர் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
6.	North East CDC	东北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Timur Laut	வடகிழக்கு சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
7.	North West CDC	西北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Laut	வடமேற்கு சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation	Tamil Translation
8.	South East CDC	东南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Tenggara	தென்கிழக்கு சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
9.	South West CDC	西南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Daya	தென்மேற்கு சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
10.	Mayor	市长	Datuk Bandar	மேயர்
11.	Ms Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District Chairperson, Mayors' Committee	刘燕玲女士, 西南区市长 市长委员会主席	Cik Low Yen Ling, Datuk Bandar Kawasan Barat Daya Pengerusi, Jawatankuasa Datuk Bandar	திருவாட்டி லோ யென் லிங், தென்மேற்கு மாவட்ட மேயர், மேயர்கள் குழுத் தலைவர்
12.	Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District	潘丽萍女士, 中区市长	Cik Denise Phua, Datuk Bandar Kawasan Singapura Tengah	திருவாட்டி டெனிஸ் புவா லே பெங், மத்திய சிங்கப்பூர் மாவட்ட மேயர்
13.	Mr Desmond Choo Mayor of North East District	朱倍庆, 东北区市长	Encik Desmond Choo, Datuk Bandar Kawasan Timur Laut	திரு டெஸ்மண்ட் சூ, வடகிழக்கு மாவட்ட மேயர்
14.	Mr Alex Yam Ziming, Mayor of North West District	任梓銘, 西北区市长	Encik Alex Yam, Datuk Bandar Kawasan Barat Laut	திரு அலெக்ஸ் யாம் ஸிமிங், வடமேற்கு மாவட்ட மேயர்

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation	Tamil Translation
15.	Mr Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Mayor of South East District	阙贺米, 东南区市长	Encik Mohd Fahmi Aliman, Datuk Bandar Kawasan Tenggara	திரு முகமது ஃபாமி பின் அலிமான், தென்கிழக்கு மாவட்ட மேயர்
16.	Pro Bono SG	新加坡法律义务办事处 (Pro Bono SG)	Perkhidmatan Guaman Pro Bono Singapura (Pro Bono SG)	சிங்கை சட்ட தொண்டுழிய சேவை (Pro Bono SG)