

Two new High Court judges appointed

Fabian Koh

Judicial Commissioners See Kee Oon and Chua Lee Ming have been elevated to High Court judges.

They were appointed by President Tony Tan Keng Yam, on the advice of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement yesterday. They will assume office on Jan 31, and their swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for Feb 1 at the Istana.

With the appointments, the Supreme Court will have 16 judges, including four Judges of Appeal and the Chief Justice, along with nine Judicial Commissioners, five Senior Judges and 12 International Judges.

Mr See, 50, was appointed judicial commissioner on April 14, 2014, for three years.

With more than two decades of judicial experience, he had earlier been appointed, on Oct 1, 2013, as Chief District Judge of the then Subordinate Courts, now known as Presiding Judge of the State Courts. He still holds this appointment.

While he was judicial commissioner, he juggled managing the State Courts while also taking on adjudication work, including presiding over the City Harvest Church trial.

He chaired numerous committees, such as the Probation Committee, the Community Justice Centre and the Criminal Legal Assistance Steering Committee.

He is also deputy president of the Industrial Arbitration Court, a member of the Rules of Court Committee and the Sentencing Council, and sits on the board of the Singapore Judicial College and the Singapore Mediation Centre.



Mr See (far left) and Mr Chua will assume office on Jan 31, and are scheduled to be sworn in at the Istana on Feb 1.

He is also part of the Monetary Authority of Singapore's appeals advisory panel, Military Court of Appeal and various committees in the Singapore Academy of Law.

Mr Chua, 57, joined the legal service in 1984, and was appointed judicial commissioner on Feb 1, 2015, for two years. He started as a deputy registrar, magistrate and coroner of the then Subordinate Courts.

He served in the Supreme Court Registry for three years before becoming a deputy public prosecutor in the Attorney-General's Chambers.

In 1991, he became a partner of law firm Lee & Lee.

He joined Singapore's global investment firm GIC in 1998, where he became general counsel before joining the Bench.

Mr Chua has contributed significantly to the field of company law.

He is a member of the Civil Justice Commission, Civil Justice Steering Committee, the Singapore Management University School of Law Advisory Board and the Lawnet Management Committee of the Singapore Academy of Law.

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