

### **Annex 3**

#### **Fact sheet – Community service and pro bono contribution by SMU law students**

Since SMU's establishment in 2000, all students must participate in community service as a graduation requirement. This means that for students of SMU Yong Pung How School of Law, contributing to the legal community and volunteerism is an integral part of their legal education well before it became mandatory in Singapore (all law students are required from 2013 by the Singapore Institute of Legal Education to complete at least 20 approved pro bono hours before graduation).

SMU requires all Bachelor of Laws (LLB) students to fulfil 80 hours of community service before graduation, and at least 20 of the 80 hours must be in approved pro bono work. Juris Doctor (JD) students are exempted from the 80 hours of community service but are still required to fulfil 20 hours of pro bono service.

Graduates in the LLB and JD Class of 2021 contributed an average of 51.3 hours and 51.7 hours respectively in pro bono service each.

With only 20 hours of approved pro bono required of them, this is a remarkable achievement considering the many competing demands on the time of law students and the disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.