



Media Release

Yong Pung How School of Law announces change in advisory board chairmanship

Singapore, 4 July 2023 (Tuesday) – The Singapore Management University (SMU) has announced that Deputy Attorney-General Mr Ang Cheng Hock SC has succeeded Mr V K Rajah SC as the new Chairman of the SMU Yong Pung How School of Law (YPHSL) Advisory Board. His appointment began on 1 July 2023 for an initial term of three years.

The YPHSL Advisory Board, established in January 2007, provides strategic advice and guidance to the Deanery of the law school on its academic programmes, curriculum development, internships, scholarships, international student exchange programmes, employment and industry trends.

Expressing her appreciation to Mr Rajah, SMU President, Professor Lily Kong, said, “Yong Pung How School of Law has, over a short span of 16 years, developed into a leading law school in Singapore and in Asia. This is in no small part owing to the transformative leadership of Mr V K Rajah, who was among the founding Advisory Board members when our law school was inaugurated in 2007, and subsequently Chairman of the Advisory Board from 2017. Our law school is privileged to have benefited from Mr Rajah’s critical strategic leadership, drawn from his wealth of legal knowledge and experiences in the private and public sectors, which has enhanced the School’s global reputation, curriculum and research prowess.”

Professor Lee Pey Woan, Dean of YPHSL, said, “It has been an honour and privilege to work with Mr Rajah during his term. He has tirelessly advocated the need for innovation and reform in the law curriculum to meet the fast-changing needs of the society, leading to recent introduction of specialist tracks and capstone courses at YPHSL. He has also been instrumental in steering our School to develop expertise in law and technology, and has garnered wide industry support that enabled the setting up of the Centre of AI & Data Governance in SMU.”

“Furthermore, as a proponent of talent development, Mr Rajah strongly advocated for SMU’s law students to acquire greater regional and international exposure, leading to YPHSL developing more opportunities for our students to work overseas. Most recently, Clyde & Co has extended internship opportunities in China to our students. From the onset, he has also been a steadfast supporter of SMU’s mootings programme, which has grown to become the law school’s crown jewel. He has personally engaged in many of our activities and engaged our faculty and students to understand their concerns and encourage them. We sincerely thank him for being extremely generous with his time, guidance and foresight,” she added.

In welcoming Mr Ang to the Advisory Board, Professor Lee, said, “I am very pleased to welcome Mr Ang as the new Chairman of the Yong Pung How School of Law Advisory Board. Mr Ang is not new to our School. As the Chair of the SMU Centre for Commercial Law in Asia since July 2021, he has provided advice and guidance to grow the Sustainable Development and Commerce Initiative and the ASEAN Law Research Network, which has strengthened the School’s link with our counterparts in ASEAN. My colleagues and I look forward very much to working with Mr Ang as we steer the School in its next phase of growth.”

On his new appointment, Mr Ang Cheng Hock said, "I am honoured by this appointment, and look forward to working with my fellow Advisory Board members and the Dean on maintaining the Yong Pung How School of Law's high standards of achievement."

About Mr Ang Cheng Hock

Mr Ang Cheng Hock was appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court on 14 May 2018 and High Court Judge on 1 August 2019. He stepped down from the office of Judge from 30 September 2022 to take on the appointment of Deputy Attorney-General from 1 October 2022 to date.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (1st Class Honours) from the National University of Singapore in 1995 and a Master of Laws from Yale Law School in 1998. He served as a Justices' Law Clerk in the Supreme Court in 1996 and 1997. He was called to the Singapore Bar in 1996 and admitted as an Attorney & Counsellor at Law in the state of New York in 1999.

Before his appointment as a Judicial Commissioner, Mr Ang was a partner in Allen & Gledhill, and a member of its Litigation and Dispute Resolution department. His main areas of practice included civil and commercial litigation, international arbitration and corporate-related disputes such as shareholders' disputes, breaches of directors' duties, securities-related and banking litigation, defamation and professional liability. He had also represented clients in insolvency related litigation, shipping disputes and intellectual property disputes. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2009. In addition to his judicial work, Justice Ang is also the Chair of the Singapore Academy of Law's Professional Affairs and Membership Committee.

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Enclosures:

- Profile photos of Mr V K Rajah and Mr Ang Cheng Hock

Media Contact

Huang Peiling
Senior Assistant Director, Corporate Communications
Office of Corporate Communications & Marketing, SMU
Mobile: 98453361
Email: plhuang@smu.edu.sg

About SMU Yong Pung How School of Law

SMU's law school was renamed Yong Pung How School of Law (YPHSL) on 11 April 2021 to celebrate and honour the late Dr Yong Pung How, Singapore's former Chief Justice and SMU's third Chancellor.

The law school had 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 School offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Computing & Information Systems or Social Sciences; a three-year Juris Doctor programme; a Master of Laws programme; a PhD programme in Law, Commerce and Technology; as well as continuing legal education. From Academic Year 2020-2021, the School also jointly offers a new Bachelor of Science (Computing & Law) with the SMU School of Computing and Information Systems. This new degree will produce IT and legal professionals who are adept at bridging technology and law.

Research at the SMU YPHSL has a strong focus in three main inter-related areas – Law and Technology, Transnational Commercial law in Asia, and Dispute Resolution. The School has also set up legal research centres focusing on A.I. and data governance, computational law, commercial law, and international dispute resolution. www.law.smu.edu.sg

About Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative, and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU's education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative, and project-based approach to learning.

Home to over 12,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU comprises eight schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, Yong Pung How School of Law, School of Social Sciences, College of Integrative Studies and College of Graduate Research Studies. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters', and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with its schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government, and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg