

## [WEBINAR] Legal Issues Arising Out of GE2020

23 November 2020, Monday  
12.30pm – 2.30pm

*This programme is conducted as a live webinar.*

Registration Fees	
Category	Fees (Inclusive of 7% GST and course materials)
Law Society Member	<del>\$53.50</del> Free*
SCCA Member	\$96.30
Non-Member	\$107.00



No. of Public  
CPD Points:  
**2.0**

Practice Area:  
**Government**

Training Level:  
**General**

\*From 1 July to 31 December  
2020, webinars are free for all  
eligible LawSoc Members.  
*Terms and conditions apply.*

## About the Programme

This webinar examines the constitutional and legal issues arising from Singapore's 2020 General Election, held on 10 July 2020. In his keynote address, Professor Kevin Tan will highlight four issues arising from the conduct of the election:

- a) the executive discretion in the delineation of electoral boundaries and its exercise;
- b) the extension of the time allowable for voting by two hours on Polling Day;
- c) the exercise of POFMA powers by the authorities during the campaign period; and
- d) the creation of the new office of Leader of the Opposition

Following the address, the panellists will comment and elaborate on the specific issues raised.

## Programme Outline

Time	Programme
12.30pm – 12.35pm	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Prakash Pillai – Chairperson (Public and International Law Committee), The Law Society of Singapore</p>
12.35pm – 12.55pm	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p> <p>Dr Kevin YL Tan – Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore; Visiting Professor, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University</p>
12.55pm – 2.25pm	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Professor Goh Yihan – Dean, School of Law, Singapore Management University</p> <p><u>Panellists</u></p> <p>Edwin Tong, SC – Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law</p> <p>Hri Kumar Nair, SC - Deputy Attorney-General, Attorney-General's Chambers</p> <p>Choo Zheng Xi (Remy) – Director, Peter Low &amp; Choo LLC</p> <p>Eugene Tan – Associate Professor of Law, School of Law, Singapore Management University</p> <p>Eugene Thuraisingam – Managing Partner, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP</p>
2.25pm – 2.30pm	<p><b>Vote of Thanks</b></p> <p>Dr Michael Hwang, SC – Vice-Chairperson (Public and International Law Committee), The Law Society of Singapore</p>
2.30pm	<p><b>End</b></p>

## Speaker's Profile



**Prakash Pillai – Chairperson (Public and International Law Committee), The Law Society of Singapore**

Prakash is a Partner at the Singapore office of Clyde & Co.

Prakash focuses on dispute resolution and international commercial arbitration across a multitude of sectors including corporate, commercial, insolvency, trade and commodities, construction and engineering, and employment sectors. He has appeared before various arbitral tribunals in both ad-hoc arbitrations and arbitrations governed by the leading institutional rules.

Prakash also leads the insolvency practice in Singapore and his experience encompasses top tier insolvency work. He has advised and acted for liquidators, judicial managers, receivers and managers in complex restructuring and insolvency matters, focusing mainly on contentious insolvency matters, including court challenges to rehabilitation and liquidation proceedings, claims by liquidators against directors of the insolvent company and/or third parties.

Numerous leading industry journals have commended his knowledge and expertise consistently. He has been described as "*measured and strategic*" by Chambers Asia Pacific and Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific 2019 has accorded him with the title of "*Dispute Resolution Star*".

Prakash speaks regularly in conferences and seminars focusing on international arbitration. He is the chairman of the Public and International Law Committee of the Law Society and is an adjunct Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore's Law faculty teaching international arbitration law and practice. Prakash is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Prakash graduated from Queen Mary College, University of London and further obtained a Master's degree in law from Cambridge University where he specialised in public international law including investment treaty law. Prakash qualified as a Barrister-at-law at the Middle Temple in London and as an Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore.



**Dr Kevin YL Tan – Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore; Visiting Professor, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University**

Kevin YL Tan is a scholar of public law and of legal history. He graduated with an LLB (Hons) from the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore and holds an LLM and JSD from the Yale Law School. He has taught courses on Constitutional and Administrative Law, the Singapore Legal System, International Law, International Human Rights, Law and Society and Legal History and has published widely in his fields of specialisation. He has written and edited over 50 books on the law, history and politics of Singapore. Kevin has been on the editorial board of several leading legal journals. From 1998-2000, he was also Chief Editor of the *Singapore Journal of International and Comparative Law* and from 2000-2003 was the journal's Adjunct Editor. He was also previously Editor-in-Chief of the *Asian Yearbook of International Law* (2010–2016); Executive Editor of the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* (since 2016); and Editorial Board member of the *Korean Journal of International and Comparative Law* (since 2013). Kevin also serves on the Board of Governors of the Human Rights Resource Centre (HRRRC)



**Professor Goh Yihan – Dean, School of Law, Singapore Management University**

Professor Goh's research focuses primarily on the law of contract and torts, with a secondary interest in the principles of statutory interpretation and the legal process.



**Edwin Tong, SC – Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law**

Mr Edwin Tong SC was appointed Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law on 27 July 2020.

At the Ministry of Law, he focuses on the development and promotion of Singapore's legal and dispute resolution sector. He also handles wide-ranging aspects of law reform, including intellectual property, corporate restructuring and insolvency, and legal aid.

Before taking office, Mr Tong spent his entire working life at Allen & Gledhill LLP, where he practised extensively in corporate and commercial disputes, restructuring and insolvency matters, and international arbitration. In that time, he was concurrently Head of the Restructuring and Corporate Insolvency Department, Co-Head of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Department, and a member of the Exco. He was widely acknowledged to be a leading lawyer of the Singapore Bar, and was consistently cited and recommended for his expertise in dispute resolution and as a restructuring and insolvency practitioner in various leading international legal publications. In recognition of his advocacy skills, professional standing and extensive knowledge of the law, he was appointed Senior Counsel in 2015.

Mr Tong was first elected into Parliament in 2011. Between 2011 and July 2018, he was the Deputy Chairman of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Law and Home Affairs. In March 2018, he was selected to be part of a 10-member Select Committee tasked to look into ways to combat deliberate online falsehoods.

Mr Tong was educated at St Joseph's Institution, Raffles Junior College and later read law at the National University of Singapore.



**Hri Kumar Nair, SC - Deputy Attorney-General, Attorney-General's Chambers**

Mr Hri Kumar Nair, S.C. was a director at Drew & Napier LLC and has more than 25 years of experience as a litigator. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2008 and assumed the office of Deputy Attorney-General on 1 March 2017.

He is recognised in the legal field as an expert in dispute resolution and arbitration. Mr Nair's main areas of practice include banking and finance, fraud and complex corporate disputes.

He has also led investigations into the affairs of banks and listed companies. He has been involved in a series of high-profile cases, including a landmark case involving fraudulently issued cashiers' orders and gaming contracts, an action involving a multi-million-dollar fraud on foreign banks and defamation actions involving political figures and international publications.

Between 2006 – 2015, Mr Nair served as a Member of Parliament in the Bishan - Toa Payoh Group Representation Constituency, and was Chairman of the Law and Home Affairs Government Parliamentary Committee.



**Choo Zheng Xi (Remy) – Director, Peter Low & Choo LLC**

Remy is a Director of litigation firm Peter Low & Choo LLC. His court-craft spans both civil/commercial and criminal defence and all levels of the Singapore Courts, including the Court of Appeal. Remy has a particular interest in litigating constitutional and administrative law cases on questions of law of public interest, and is currently one of the lawyers representing litigants seeking to declare Section 377A of the Penal Code unconstitutional. He is also currently litigating a case involving Article 14 of the Constitution, in the context of criminal defamation. He has advised on and represented clients on election related regulations.



**Eugene Tan – Associate Professor of Law, School of Law, Singapore Management University**

Eugene K.B. Tan is associate professor of law at the Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Law. At SMU, he teaches courses at the law, business, and social sciences schools at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive education levels.

Eugene's inter-disciplinary research interests include constitutional and administrative law, the government and politics of Singapore, and the regulation of ethnic conflict. His latest and forthcoming scholarly publications examined commercial judicial review, corporate social responsibility, the elected presidency, access to justice, Article 152 of the Singapore Constitution, international (technical) standards and innovative entrepreneurship, and COVID-19 and migrant worker treatment.

He consults regularly for a variety of organisations, most recently for a South Asian government for its constitutional reforms and public administration review.

An active analyst for the media on Singapore politics, government and society, Eugene commented extensively on Singapore's recent general election for international media outlets (print, television, radio, and the internet) including Asahi Shimbun, Australian Financial Review, BBC, Bloomberg, CGTN, CNBC, The Economist, El Pais, The Financial Times, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Nikkei Asia, Reuters, South China Morning Post, VICE News, and Yahoo News. He has also appeared in documentaries produced by Channel NewsAsia and Amazon Prime ('The Giant Beast That is the Global Economy (2019)).

An advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore, Eugene was educated at the National University of Singapore, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Stanford University where he was a Fulbright Fellow. Eugene served as a Nominated Member of Parliament in Singapore's 12th Parliament.



**Eugene Thuraisingam – Managing Partner, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP**

Eugene Thuraisingam is the managing partner of his eponymous law firm, specializing in disputes and investigations.

Eugene handles international arbitrations for the firm's network of clients in the Southeast-Asia region. He also acts as counsel for various cross-border commercial matters, including insolvency & restructuring disputes. He is no stranger to the realm of criminal practice and public interest litigation. He has achieved notable results for his clients charged with serious crimes. Some of these cases have gone on to serve as legal precedents. He also advises companies and businesspersons who are embroiled in criminal investigations involving white-collar crime.

Eugene is a strong advocate of pro bono work, and regularly takes up appointments with the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme and the Legal Assistance Scheme for Capital Offences (LASCO).

Accolades:

- Leading Criminal Defence Lawyer in Singapore by Doyle's Guide 2020;
- Market-Leading Lawyer in Dispute Resolution & Litigation by Asialaw Profiles 2018; and
- LASCO Award 2016 by the Supreme Court of Singapore.



**Dr Michael Hwang, SC – Vice-Chairperson (Public and International Law Committee),  
The Law Society of Singapore**

**Dr Michael Hwang S.C.** currently practices as an international arbitrator and mediator based in Singapore with a selective practice as Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore. He served as the Chief Justice of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts from 2010 - 2018. Michael's other past appointments include: Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Singapore; Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Switzerland and Argentina; President of the Law Society of Singapore; Commissioner of the United Nations Compensation Commission; Vice Chairman of the ICC International Court of Arbitration; Vice President of the International Council of Commercial Arbitration (ICCA); Visiting and later Adjunct Professor of the National University of Singapore. He was educated at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at Oxford University, where he won a college scholarship by open competitive examination. He has been conferred an Honorary LLD by the University of Sydney.

**Admin Note to Singapore Practitioners and s36B Foreign Lawyers in relation to the Mandatory CPD Scheme:**

No of Public CPD Points: 2.0

Practice Area: Government

Training Level: General

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes logging in at the start of the webinar and logging out at the conclusion of the webinar in the manner required by the organiser, and not being away from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <http://www.sileCPDcentre.sg> for more information.

Note: In the course of the event, photographs/videos/interviews of participants could be taken/conducted by the Law Society or parties appointed by the Law Society for the purpose of post event publicity, either in the Law Society's official publication/website, social media platforms or any third party's publication/website/social media platforms approved by the Law Society.