

2021



**ALSA AROUND THE WORLD  
PRO BONO CONFERENCE II**

**Information Booklet**

26 & 27 JUNE 2021 | SINGAPORE



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## WELCOME MESSAGE

### From the President of ALSA Singapore, Organising Committee of A2TW

Pro bono has always been one of the key thrusts of ALSA Singapore. Since taking over the mantle from my predecessors, there have been a chain of continuance and growth in terms of ALSA Singapore's belief in the mission of lawyers doing pro bono work, and the spread of awareness and ideas development.

In 2018, ALSA Singapore had the inaugural ALSA Pro Bono Bilateral Conference with ALSA Thailand, and this led to our Law Students' Pro Bono Conference (PBC), co-organised with NUS Pro Bono Group in 2019. PBC was attended by students who flew in from countries in the region and featured an impressive panel of notable speakers and panellists who champion pro bono in Singapore and offered an impressive range of perspectives and insights. One of the most interesting things were the incubation sessions which challenged the delegates to come with new ideas where pro bono can further address needs in their countries.

The world was struck by Covid-19, and it changed the way we work, the way we live, and the way we view the world more than anything has in the past decade. Technology and videoconferencing have been around a long time, but the pandemic made it an indispensable and unavoidable part of life as we now know. In this instalment of our Pro Bono Conference (PBC II), in collaboration and support of the ALSA International Board, we hope to bring speakers and delegates from around the world to discuss the disruption of traditional pro bono, and exchange ideas of how we can better chart the way forward together.

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ALSA, Around the World.  
ALSA, Always Be One!

Respectfully Yours,



**Ong Mori**  
**President**  
**ALSA Singapore National Board 2020/2021**



## WELCOME MESSAGE

### From the President of ALSA International

From its humble roots in 2002, the Asian Law Students' Associations (ALSA) has risen to become one of the largest law students' associations in the world. Reaching over 9,000 members in over 17 jurisdictions, it has become the premier representative body of law students in Asia. As an organization, we uphold 4 main pillars namely Internationally Minded, Legally Skilled, Academically Committed and Socially Responsible, where we always strive to implement them in every event that we have.

Reflecting the success of ALSA Singapore Probono Conference and the needs of our society as Denzel Washington said "At the end of the day it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... it's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back." We believe, ALSA shall uphold the social responsibility and legally skilled value by contributing back to our society. In relation to the initiative, ALSA International in collaboration with ALSA Singapore come back with the virtual Probono Conference so called "ALSA Around the World". The name is the manifestation of the participation and role of ALSA as international organization to accommodate the diversity of legal system and cultural background among the 17 National Chapter, we, ALSA, is around the world.

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Hope that A2TW will not only benefit the participant as it offers a wide perspective of the Probono now days, but the result will contribute to the development and the enforcement of justice in our society.

Strong Inside and Leading Outside  
ALSA, Always Be One!

Respectfully Yours,

**Griselda Audrey**  
**President**  
**ALSA International Board 2020/2021**



## ABOUT ALSA

From its humble roots in 2002, the Asian Law Students' Associations (ALSA) has risen to become one of the largest law students' associations in the world. Reaching over 9,000 members in over 17 jurisdictions, it has become the premier representative body of law students in Asia. At the international level, ALSA is regulated by the laws of Association of the Swiss Civil Code Articles 60 to 79, and is thus legitimized under the written law as having its international seat in Zurich, Switzerland.

With law students from National Chapters of Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Macau, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam as members of ALSA, and, Nepal and Bangladesh as our Observers; ALSA consisted of passionate, hard – working and determined aspiring lawyers.

Indeed, ALSA operates with the aim to provide members with understanding of the law in different jurisdictions, along with the appreciation of the diversity and languages present in our continent. More importantly, we strive to motivate law students to develop a creative spirit and be internationally minded through a network of joined activities among Asian law students.

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If you would like to find out more about ALSA International or have any questions, please feel free to contact us using any of the means below:

**Email:** [contact@alsainternational.org](mailto:contact@alsainternational.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ALSaintl/>

**Instagram:** @alsainternational

**Website:** <https://alsainternational.org/>





## ABOUT ALSA SINGAPORE

ALSA Singapore is the leading law student representative body in Singapore with a network of 400 students across 4 local chapters, the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) and Temasek Polytechnic.

ALSA Singapore has a strong track record of hosting student-led regional events such as the ELSA Moot Court Competition (Asian Regional Rounds) in 2016, the ALSA Annual Forum in 2017, the Asia-Pacific Regional Rounds of the John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition in partnership with the World Trade Organisation in 2019, and have successfully won the bid to host the 2022 ALSA Conference.

ALSA Singapore is also proactive in organising other regional events, and our chain of pro bono events have been mentioned in the welcome message of our President.

If you would like to find out more about ALSA Singapore or have any questions, please feel free to contact us using any of the means below:

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**Email:** [nationalboard@alsasingapore.com](mailto:nationalboard@alsasingapore.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/alsa.singapore/>

**Instagram:** @alsa.sg

**Website:** <https://www.alsasingapore.com>





## ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Ong Mori  
Executive Director



Damian Quek  
Deputy Executive Director  
(Panellist)



Elizabeth Boey  
Deputy Executive Director  
(Public Relations)



Felicia Tee  
Honorary General  
Secretary



Ksheshin Cheong  
Finance & Sponsorships  
Director



Jill Phua  
Programmes & Academics  
Director (COVID-19)



Tan Shi Hui  
Programmes & Academics  
Director (LegalTech)



Faye Anne Ho  
Programmes & Academics  
Director (Public Defender's  
Office)



Ong Ying Fei  
Operations & Virtual  
Logistics Director



Valerie Lim  
Public Relations &  
Marketing Director



Nicole Lai  
Public Relations &  
Marketing Director

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Philip John Duggan  
Virtual Logistics  
& Manpower Director  
(NUS)



Jaslyn Lee Hui Min  
Virtual Logistics  
& Manpower Director (SMU)



Masita Binte Bakti  
Manpower Director  
(SUSS)



Dylan Suresh Mulchand  
Manpower Director  
(TP)



## MAIN THEME

### Disruption of Traditional Pro Bono: The Way Forward

2020 was been an exceptional year. The Covid-19 pandemic, with its immense economic and social impact has resulted in an increase in disputes across all levels of society. While legally sophisticated parties would have “pre-empted” this unexpected event in the form of force majeure clauses, the majority would not have done so. The unfortunate result of this, is an increase in litigation and a pressing need for legal assistance from the public.

Alas, even traditional Pro Bono methods have been severely affected by Covid-19. Due to social restrictions, beneficiaries in need of legal assistance are unable to interact directly with law professionals in the traditional way. How then can we turn this adversity into an opportunity?

This Pro Bono conference has been specially designed in light of the Covid-19 context. The sessions would enable you to conceptualise the development and adoption of Legal Technology in Pro Bono, explore how Pro Bono has adapted to a crisis situation such as Covid-19, and learn more about the upcoming role of the Public Defender’s Office in Pro Bono. So, seize this opportunity to participate in this Conference, and join the global Pro Bono movement to increase access to justice even in unprecedented times!

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor Helena Whalen-Bridge (Moderator)  
National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law  
*Associate Professor of Law*



Leonard Lee  
Community Justice Centre  
*Executive Director*



Professor Munin  
Pongsapan  
Thammasat University  
*Dean of Faculty of Law*



Zheng Shaokai  
Legal Aid Bureau  
*Deputy Director*

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Gregory Vijayendran SC  
Singapore Law Society  
*President*



Julia Mayerhofer  
PILnet Hong Kong  
*Director*





## ACADEMIC THEMES

### Pro Bono and the Development of Legal Technology

The legal community has traditionally been known to be resistant to change. However, in light of the Covid-19 travel restrictions and the Work-From-Home policy, legal professionals and the courts have had to rapidly adapt to the use of technology. Perhaps every cloud has a silver lining after all!

In this Academic Session, we will learn about the recent LegalTech developments and discuss how LegalTech has been adopted and implemented in different countries and court systems. We will also explore how LegalTech can be utilised and harmonised with Pro Bono to increase accessibility and efficiency. Through discussion, we hope that delegates can utilise their new-found knowledge and apply it to Pro Bono platforms in an innovative manner.

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Zane Cheong (Moderator)  
NUS Law Alt+Law  
President



Nicholas Khoo  
Winning Team of the NUS Legal  
Tech Competition 2020



Bimo Prasetyo  
Smart Legal ID  
Founder



Josh Lee Kok Thong  
Asia-Pacific Legal Innovation  
and Technology Association  
Chairperson



Agatha Low  
Clifford Chance LLP  
Legal Tech Advisor

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## Pro Bono in Crisis Situations: Covid-19

With COVID-19 pandemic limiting face-to-face contact, what changes have been implemented in how Pro Bono work is traditionally done? Is video conferencing a viable substitute in the short-term?

Pro Bono work has also traditionally been associated more commonly with Criminal Law. In light of COVID-19 and its far-reaching consequences on many businesses, has Pro Bono legal services been extended to areas outside of Criminal Law?

In this Academic Session, we will explore some of these questions under the broader theme of how the mode and accessibility of Community Pro Bono has changed in lieu of COVID-19. Perhaps we can glean some lessons that will be applicable for future crisis situations.

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Lim Lei Teng (Moderator)  
Allen & Gledhill LLP  
Co-Head of Pro Bono  
Programme



Eugene Thuraisingam  
Eugene Thuraisingam LLP  
Managing Partner



Chan Wing Cheong  
Singapore Management University,  
Yong Pung How School of Law  
Professor of Law



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Committee  
Dr. Kalpeshkumar L Gupta  
Pro Bono India  
Founder



Iram Majid  
Indian Institute of Arbitration &  
Mediation  
Director



Chan Hian Young  
Allen & Gledhill LLP  
Co-Head of Pro Bono  
Programme



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Lionel Leo  
WongPartnership LLP  
Partner



Jonathan Wong  
Law Guide Singapore  
Founder



Davyd Wong  
Pro Bono Hong Kong  
Founder





## Pro Bono and Public Defender's Office

In many countries, there are government employed lawyers who defend those facing Capital Offence charges. In other countries, legal help may also be extended to non-Capital Offence charges based on means or merit testing. However, because of constraints on public funds and resources, some countries have been cautious in extending help to individuals and may only extend help in the most exceptional of circumstances.

In this Academic Session, we will learn about the State of Affairs of the Public Defender's Office and understand more about the feasibility concerns with government employed lawyers. Finally, we will also explore into what constitutes a "proper and suitable" means and merit testing system.

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Professor Kumaramalingam  
Amirthalingam (Moderator)  
National University of Singapore,  
Faculty of Law  
Professor at Law



Collin Andrew  
Bar Council Legal Aid  
Centre (Kuala Lumpur)  
Former Chairman



M. Ravi  
K. K. Cheng Law LLC  
Advocate & Solicitor



Gopinath Pillai  
Law Society Pro Bono Services  
(Criminal Legal Aid Scheme)  
Director

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Choo Zheng Xi (Remy)  
Peter Low & Choo LLC  
Director



Tan Cheow Hung  
Beacon Law Corporation  
Director





**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**  
**Held on Zoom, Free of Charge**

Day/Time	26 June 2021	27 June 2021
0900 – 1000	A2TW Welcome Videos & Opening Ceremony	Day Opening Ceremony Free & Easy Networking
1000 – 1300	Keynote Speakers Panel Discussion <b>Disruption of Traditional Pro Bono: The Way Forward</b>	Panel Discussion: <b>Pro Bono and Public Defender's Office</b>
1130 – 1300		<b>Seniors' Sharing on coping with Pro Bono in school</b>
1300 – 1400	<b>Lunch</b>	
1400 – 1600	Chambers for Sub-theme position presentations	Position Presentations by winning groups with Q&A
1600 – 1730	Panel Discussion: <b>Pro Bono and the Development of Legal Technology</b>	Panel Discussion: <b>Pro Bono in Crisis Situations: Covid-19</b>
1730 – 1800	Day Closing Ceremony  Prize Presentation for Position Presentations  Photo-taking	Photo-taking  A2TW Closing Ceremony

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## Our invitation to You!

Your support and sponsorship would be invaluable in ensuring the success of this Conference. It is our sincerest hopes that you will take this invitation into your kind consideration and join us in making A2TW a fulfilling experience for your firm and law students from around the region to discuss about pro bono and the way forward.

Should you have further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at [nationalboard@alsasingapore.com](mailto:nationalboard@alsasingapore.com).

We look forward to having you with us!

Respectfully yours,



### Ong Mori

Head of Organising Committee  
ALSA Around the World Pro Bono Conference II  
President, Asian Law Students' Association (ALSA) Singapore

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### Griselda Audrey

President  
ALSA International Board 2020/2021

