

RAISING THE BAR WITH ALL-ROUND EXCELLENCE



SMU

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY

A Different U



SCHOOL OF LAW



DEAN'S ADDRESS

Law, whether as a discipline or a profession, is at a crossroads. While some see only uncertainty, we here at SMU School of Law see opportunities. From the legal implications of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and smart contracts, to Singapore's legal and economic opportunities in ASEAN and with the two emerging Asian giants, you can find our faculty providing thought leadership. Our faculty are culled from distinguished international universities, and their world-class research frequently find their way to you in the classroom.

We are prime movers in the legal education landscape. Pioneering small class teaching and superior learning experience, we continue to bridge the distance between instructor and student. Through clinical work and industry collaboration, we have gone beyond the traditional teaching of theory to incorporating practical experience in the classroom. What helps is the proximity of our new state-of-art building to the courts, Parliament, and the legal and financial heart of Singapore. This fosters an almost natural synthesis between law in the books and law in practice. We emphasise presentation skills so that our students graduate both articulate and confident. Presciently, ours is the first law school in Singapore to require graduates to engage in community outreach; this was such a success that pro bono hours thereafter became mandatory for law schools nation-wide. We continue to view law as a noble calling, and therefore it is our responsibility to inculcate in our students the value of giving back to society. In

short, our LLB programme is carefully designed and curated to nurture intellectual curiosity and creativity, meeting the demands of the ever-changing market, while at the same time helping our graduates find their proper place as leaders in society.

This is why our graduates are highly sought after, well placed, and competitively remunerated. Our graduates are significantly represented on the prestigious Justices' Law Clerks programme and have gone on to make their mark in the profession, industry and academia. What is more, within a short span of ten years and with only six cohorts of working graduates, quite a few of our graduates have already struck out on their own to set up their own private practice and legal-tech start-ups. With an alumni network numbering more than a thousand and growing steadily, current students truly benefit from networking and job opportunities.

The SMU law student is a reflection of the SMU law school: brimming with youthful energy, proactive and prosocial, and, without a doubt, the face and future of our legal profession. If you are resolutely determined to make a lawyer of yourself, to borrow from Abraham Lincoln, the thing is more than half done already. Join us and let us take you the other half of the way.

Associate Professor Goh Yihan
Dean, SMU School of Law

WHY SMU SCHOOL OF LAW?

Expert Faculty

Our faculty members are highly qualified and accomplished, having obtained postgraduate degrees from world-renowned universities, and bring with them a wealth of practical experience from past in varying leadership roles.



Global Exposure

Our partnerships with law schools and various organisations worldwide allow our students to spend meaningful time abroad to gain comparative insights into how the law works across borders.



Forward-Looking Education

Through our carefully designed curriculum and unique seminar-style teaching, we prepare our students not just to be experts in the law but also to be highly adaptable individuals with the necessary practical and soft skills to meet the demands of the modern legal and business world.



Vibrant Life

Our strategic proximity to the courts, the Parliament and the central business district allows our students many opportunities to experience first-hand how laws are created, how legal disputes are adjudicated, and how laws affect businesses, and to learn experientially through internships with top city law firms. More than just work, our state-of-the-art building and dynamic city campus make for a vibrant student life outside of studies as well.



Promising Career Pathways

Our students are competitive at the global stage, having achieved notable successes at prestigious mooted competitions and having gone on to pursue postgraduate degrees in world-renowned institutions. This means that our graduates are highly sought after, having close to full employment soon after graduation, with higher average starting salaries than their peers from other universities, and many recruited for top positions.





EXPERT FACULTY

Strength in Diversity

All our faculty have postgraduate degrees from world-renowned universities, such as the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, Harvard University and Yale University; about one third have PhD qualifications.

In both research and teaching, we draw on our diverse backgrounds and experience. Some of our faculty members are practising lawyers and legal consultants. Others are appointed to leadership roles in institutions such as the Singapore Institute of Legal Education and the Singapore Judicial College. In addition, a number of us have contributed towards the development of law by appearing before the courts in leading cases, in Singapore and abroad, as counsels; amici curiae ('friends of the court'); or expert witnesses. We are sure that this diverse array of practical experience will benefit you as a student.

Some examples of practical experience that our faculty members bring with them

Former District Judges/Magistrates

Dorcas Quek Anderson, Gary Chan, Tham Chee Ho

Former Justices' Law Clerks/Assistant Registrars

Goh Yihan, Chen Siyuan, Eunice Chua, Gary Low

Former partners in law firms

David Llewelyn, Wan Wai Yee, Stephen Bull

Nominated Members of Parliament

Mahdev Mohan (present), Eugene Tan (former)

Former prosecutors

David Smith, Edward Ti





Some examples of how our faculty members contribute to the legal profession

Amici curiae

Goh Yihan, Yeo Tiong Min,
Lee Pey Woan, David Llewelyn,
Locknie Hsu

Member of the Strata Titles Boards

Tang Hang Wu

Singapore Judicial College

Goh Yihan
(Member, Board of Governors)

Singapore Institute of Legal Education

Goh Yihan (Member, Board of Directors),
Yeo Tiong Min (Professorial Fellow)

Asian Business Law Institute

Yeo Tiong Min (Academic Director)

IP Academy Singapore

David Llewelyn (Professorial Fellow)



Active Contribution to the Development of Law

We believe that the best law teachers are those who contribute to developing and definitively professing the law. Our faculty members have written many of the leading Singapore law textbooks. Not only do they help students navigate the complexities of the law, these books are also regarded by practising lawyers and the courts alike as leading authorities in their fields. As a student, you will learn from those who have helped shape the very law they teach.

Leading textbooks which our faculty members have written or contributed to include

- 1) *The Law of Torts in Singapore, 2nd edition*: Gary Chan & Lee Pey Woan
- 2) *The Law of Contract in Singapore*: Goh Yihan, Tham Chee Ho, Lee Pey Woan & Pearlie Koh
- 3) *Tan Sook Yee's Principles of Singapore Land Law, 3rd edition*: Tang Hang Wu & Kelvin Low
- 4) *Understanding Criminal Law, 2nd edition*: Chandra Mohan
- 5) *Corporate Law*: Pearlie Koh & Lee Pey Woan
- 6) *Mergers and Acquisitions in Singapore: Law and Practice*: Wan Wai Yee
- 7) *Company Law, 3rd edition*: Pearlie Koh
- 8) *The Law of Sales in Singapore*: Howard Hunter
- 9) *Principles of Singapore Business Law, 2nd edition*: Loo Wee Ling
- 10) *The Law of Evidence in Singapore, 2nd edition*: Chen Siyuan
- 11) *Singapore Family Law Procedure*: Chen Siyuan & Eunice Chua
- 12) *Guide to Legal Analysis and Writing*: Ong Ee-Ing
- 13) *The Law of Guarantees in Singapore & Malaysia*: Low Kee Yang



Cutting-Edge Research

Our faculty members conduct research into a broad variety of subjects, from traditional disciplines such as the law of property and company law, to rapidly developing areas such as information technology and data protection law (Warren Chik, Saw Cheng Lim, Kelvin Low and Eliza Mik). We frequently publish in leading law journals such as the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies, the Cambridge Law Journal, the Law Quarterly Review, the Modern Law Review and Legal Studies.

Leading monographs authored by our faculty members include

- 1) *Choice of Law for Equitable Doctrines*: Yeo Tiong Min
- 2) *Invisible Gold in Asia: Creating Wealth through Intellectual Property*: David Llewelyn
- 3) *International Commercial Disputes: Commercial Conflict of Laws in English Courts*: Adeline Chong
- 4) *Justice as Friendship: A Theory of Law*: Tan Seow Hon
- 5) *Constitutional Review in Europe: A Comparative Analysis*: Maartje de Visser
- 6) *Trade, Investment, Innovation and their Impact on Access to Medicines: An Asian Perspective*: Locknie Hsu
- 7) *Law's Regulatory Relevance? Property, Power and Market Economies*: Mark Findlay
- 8) *International and Comparative Mediation: Legal Perspectives*: Nadja Alexander

We are also known for exchanging ideas with leading scholars worldwide at prestigious conferences and conducting seminars that share cutting-edge legal knowledge with the legal community. As a student, you will be exposed to this process through research papers, the Directed Research elective, and opportunities to be engaged as Research Assistants.

Engagement with the Community

Our faculty members also lead the School of Law's specialist research centres, the Centre for Cross-Border Commercial Law in Asia (CEBCLA), helmed by Professor Tang Hang Wu and Associate Professor Yip Man, and the Applied Research Centre for Intellectual Assets and the Law in Asia (ARCIALA), helmed by Professors Liu Kung-Chung and Irene Calboli. These are centres of excellence which forge strong links with international business and academic communities through rigorous, relevant, and innovative research with practical applications across Asia.

We are also home to the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy (SIDRA), helmed by Professor Nadja Alexander. SIDRA engages in leading research on negotiation and dispute resolution, and provides practical training to professionals, from local counsel to international arbitrators. Our students benefit from opportunities to attend events such as seminars by leading speakers, and to assist in innovative research.

In addition, we serve the broader Singapore community through the Pro Bono Centre (PBC), helmed by Associate Professor Rathna Koman. PBC promotes the ideal of equal access to justice for all parts of society. It is spearheaded by faculty members who have both expertise in criminal law and rich practical experience, and who have cultivated links to agencies such as the Law Society of Singapore and the Community Justice Centre at the State Courts. As a result, our faculty members equip students with practical professional skills while empowering them to exercise a strong sense of social responsibility.



FORWARD-LOOKING EDUCATION

Unique Teaching Style

As a student, you will be taught in an interactive style, where a single instructor leads a class of around 40 students through 12 weeks of rigorous seminars. This departure from the traditional lecture-and-tutorial mode of learning will allow you to acquire knowledge and problem-solve at the same time. You are expected to prepare for each seminar by completing pre-assigned readings so that you can participate in vibrant class discussions. Group presentations, written assignments, and active class participation are means additional to exams in which you are evaluated.

For skills-based courses, the focus is on hands-on work and closely supervised assignments. Legal practitioners and alumni are regularly invited to give talks to students, providing practical perspectives on how theory is applied. In SMU-X courses, experiential learning is taken to the next level as students engage in projects that require interdisciplinary knowledge and active mentoring. Our holistic pedagogy ensures our students graduate as dynamic, articulate, and analytically agile individuals ready to thrive in legal practice.

Rigorous Internship Programme

Through our internship programme, we train you to be practice-ready graduates who can thrive in a range of environments. Internships are critical in exposing students to the practical workings of the legal system. Our students are required to complete at least 10 weeks of internships before graduation. They may choose to intern with the wide variety of law firms, legal departments, and government bodies we have partnered with. Our vast network even makes it possible for students to intern overseas.

Conscientious Community Service and Pro Bono Work

As a student, you will learn the importance of law as a noble calling through giving back to society. Our students are required to complete at least 80 hours of community service before graduation, of which 20 hours constitute pro bono work. Besides contributing to access to justice through the campus legal clinics run by our Pro Bono Centre, our students undertake pro bono projects in conjunction with institutions such as the Law Society and the Community Justice Centre. Through assisting practicing lawyers providing these services, our students are sensitised to the wider legal needs of our community.

Law as Calling

Ultimately, we believe that law is not only a practice, but also a calling. Under a programme put together and personally sponsored by our faculty, students attend lunch time talks given by having experience in work that complement the institution or practice of law. The objectives are to give our students an opportunity to be inspired by people who have persevered in doing good, to facilitate their understanding of the role that law and the profession play alongside other structures in society, and to help them see the “human” side of law.

“The pedagogy of SMU School of Law is an eclectic blend of praxis grounded in sound legal doctrines. Professors often brought their extensive industry experience into the classroom, where we grappled with legal issues not in a vacuum, but with a keen attention to context. It is said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Here at SMU Law, the faculty are always there to walk with you on your journey to graduation, and beyond.”

Lyndon Seow
Admission Year 2016



“Internships allowed me to experience the practical aspects of what I have studied in the classroom, and gain first-hand experience of what legal practice actually entails. SMU’s central location was very beneficial to my internship experience. As SMU is only one train station away from the places I interned at, I could easily visit the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library to research on difficult topics that I have been tasked to address.”

Cheng You Duen
Admission Year 2015



CURRICULUM



This suggested pathway is subject to change. Students are encouraged (where possible) to spread the required non-law courses across all 4 years of study.

Electives

Commercial

- 1) Banking Law
- 2) Competition Law
- 3) Construction Law
- 4) Corporate Insolvency Law
- 5) Domestic & International Sales
- 6) Financial Securities & Regulation
- 7) Insurance Law
- 8) Intellectual Property Law
- 9) Law of International Trade
- 10) Law of Mergers & Acquisitions
- 11) Legal & Commercial Principles in Project Financing Transactions
- 12) Legal Issues in E-Commerce
- 13) Lending & Security
- 14) Personal Property Law
- 15) Principles of the Law of Restitution
- 16) Shipping & Admiralty Law
- 17) Trade & Investment Law

Regional/International

- 1) Chinese Contract Law
- 2) Comparative Constitution Law
- 3) Information & Communication Technology and Law: Intermediaries

- 4) Intellectual Assets & the Law in Asian Economies
- 5) International Commercialisation of Intellectual Property
- 6) International & Comparative Insolvency Law
- 7) Law Study Mission to Asia
- 8) WTO: Law & Policy

Public/Regulatory

- 1) Corporate Crime
- 2) Family Law
- 3) International & Comparative Criminal Justice
- 4) Law & Regulation
- 5) Public International Law
- 6) Transnational Business & Human Rights

Theory

- 1) Economic Analysis of Law
- 2) Jurisprudence: Modern & Critical Theories of Law

Inter-disciplinary

- 1) Information & Communication Technology And Law: Transactions
- 2) Introduction to Chinese History, Culture, Economics & Law
- 3) Law & Psychology
- 4) Medical Law & Health Policy
- 5) Privacy & Data Protection Law

Dispute Resolution

- 1) Advocacy
- 2) Appellate Practice in Civil Litigation
- 3) Deal-making & Dispute Resolution: Negotiation in an Age of Disruption
- 4) Evidence, Litigation & the Criminal Process
- 5) International Commercial Arbitration
- 6) International Mediation Law & Practice
- 7) International Moots 1 & 2
- 8) Introduction to Civil Procedure
- 9) Pre-trial Practice in Civil Litigation

Transactional

- 1) Drafting in Corporate Practice
- 2) Professional Mediation Skills

GLOBAL EXPOSURE

As a student, you can expect to experience some aspect of global exposure, be it as an exchange student, an overseas intern, part of a law study mission, or a competitor in an overseas mooting competition.

Exchange



>80 Exchange partners



>55% law students who went on exchange

We partner with universities worldwide in direct law-to-law and university-wide exchange programmes and are continually expanding our international exchange programme offering. We are the only Asian university in the THEMIS network of renowned European universities.

“Our exchange at Ghent University has been a challenging yet exciting semester. While we are familiar with class presentations as a normal part of SMU’s curriculum, the Masters Programme in Ghent University, from which we were allowed to pick courses, challenged the norms of continual assessment: from having the class conduct a student-led public conference, to the emulation of a court hearing before the Court of Justice of the European Union (“CJEU”). We also had the opportunity to deepen our understanding of European Union law through an organised visit to the CJEU in Luxembourg, and from our interactions with the diverse composition of European students in our classes.”

*Benedict Chan Wei Qi, Ng Pei Qi and Zinia Ang
Admission Year 2014*



Internships

Students may intern overseas with reputable law firms and related organisations of their own choosing. Our partnership with the New York State Bar Association further provides our students with the opportunity to intern with firms in New York.

Law Study Mission

Our Law Study Mission course allows students to gain a better understanding of the legal system, business and culture of selected countries. Students will visit these countries and engage in participant activities at law firms, legal institutions, governmental agencies and businesses.

International Moot Competitions

As a student, you will also have the opportunity to participate in our leading programme on international moots. Mooting is essentially a simulation of the resolution of a dispute before a court or tribunal. Although our International Moots Programme was only launched in 2010, our students have regularly placed in the top 3 worldwide in the most prestigious international moot competitions (known as "grand slam moots") that attract participations from hundreds of universities, including:

2013 / 2014

Philip C Jessup
(Washington DC)
Public International Law
SMU has also won
4 of the last 5 national
rounds.

2015 / 2016

Willem C Vis (Vienna)
*International Commercial
Arbitration*

2015 / 2016 / 2017

Willem C Vis East
(Hong Kong)
*International Commercial
Arbitration*

**2010 / 2012 / 2015
2016 / 2017**

Price (Oxford)
International Human Rights

2015 / 2017

(Frankfurt)
*International Investment
Arbitration*

2015 / 2016 / 2017

International Criminal Court
(The Hague)
*International Humanitarian
Law*

SMU also holds records in the most number of international moot finals reached in a season (9) and most finals won in a season (5).



VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE

Our strategic location near the courts, Parliament and the central business district gives our students the opportunities to experience first-hand how laws are created, how legal disputes are adjudicated, and how laws affect businesses. Our location also means that judges, top lawyers and legal service officers frequently give talks to our students or even teach full courses.

More than work, our location between Fort Canning Park, Orchard Road and the Central Business District means our students have ready access to plenty of good food, fun and opportunities for experiential learning.

New students begin this exciting journey by participating in Law Camp, an orientation camp for first year law students before the academic term. To help ease students in their transition to law school, all first-year students are assigned to members of the faculty, whom they may reach out to for academic advice. There is also a buddy system where first year students are paired with second year students. To continually engage with the students, the Dean conducts a townhall session with them every term.

“There is never a dull moment in law school! The study of law here goes far beyond plain memorisation of legal concepts. As students, we are constantly presented with real life examples, which has no doubt trained my analytical and creative skills. During seminars, our professors also engage us in lively debates on unsettled areas of the law. This is what makes law at SMU so exciting and challenging.”

*Jarren Koh
Admission Year 2016*





At law school, our students may choose to join a number of student-run law clubs. The SMU Law Society, fondly known as The Bar, is the representative body for students and organises a variety of events. There are also seven sub-clubs, each of which provides the opportunity to engage in more specific areas of interest.



SMU Law Society (The Bar)



International Relations Club



SMU Law Outreach Club



Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice Club



Corporate and Commercial Law Club



SMU Moot Court Club



SMU Law Athletes



Lexicon: An SMU Law Student Publication

ALUMNI RELATIONS

Recognising that our students are important stakeholders, we strongly believe in the importance of engaging them and listening to what they have to say. Even after our students graduate, we continue to regard them as part of our family and do our best to stay connected.

We celebrated the mass call to the bar of our first cohort of LL.B. graduates, the Class of 2011, in 2012 with a mass call party, an event which has since become a yearly tradition.

Apart from fun gatherings for all alumni such as a recent barbecue on the rooftop of our new building, we actively seek the feedback and involvement of our alumni for the school's future, such as by holding a town hall in August 2017 which saw an attendance of over 60 alumni on a Thursday night!

Although we are only 10 years old, we have an extensive and supportive alumni network that spans across various industries, from the conventional private law firms to government legal service to legal tech start-ups which have been featured in the local press.

Our alumni have also gone on to pursue graduate studies in renowned institutions such as Harvard Law School, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and Columbia University.

Many of our alumni, despite hectic schedules in the early years of their careers, readily return to volunteer in school events, such as our open house, panels to share with our students, and admissions interviews.

More than 200 alumni regularly help out with our International Moots Programme through judging, coaching, and vetting written work. This way, knowledge is passed down the generations, giving our students an edge in competitions. The success of our moot programme has been testament to the unstinting commitment of alumni who went through the programme first as students.

“SMU has not only provided me with a rigorous legal education, it also gave me the training and opportunities to compete with some of the best law students from around the world. The combination of theoretical depth and practical exposure prepared me immensely for professional life after graduation.”

*Shaun Pereira, LLB (Summa Cum Laude), Class of 2013
Assistant Registrar, Supreme Court of Singapore*



“SMU's seminar style teaching with its emphasis on defending one's argument and questioning all premises have been something which I apply in each day of my practice to deliver my best in each of my cases.”

Darius Tay, LLB (Magna Cum Laude), BCL (Oxford), Class of 2011, Director, BlackOak LLC



PROMISING CAREER PATHWAYS

Our graduates are highly sought after, having close to full employment soon after graduation, with higher average starting salaries than their peers from other universities. Based on the Graduate Employment Survey published annually by the Ministry of Education, the overall employment rate for our graduates has been consistently above 95% and our graduates draw the highest average gross monthly salary. This is a testament to the quality of our graduates and shows that our education approach fits market demands.

Many of our graduates have gone on to make their mark in the profession, industry and academia. Despite having only six cohorts of working graduates, a number of our graduates have already struck out on their own to establish their own private practice and legal-tech start-ups. With an alumni network numbering more than a thousand and growing steadily, current students truly benefit from networking and job opportunities.

“At SMU, you learn to take charge of your own learning, balance different interests and trade offs. It is tough but very rewarding. It's like running your own startup. The Start Up of you.”

*Chang Zi Qian (School of Law 2011),
Co Founder CEO*

*Edmund Koh (School of Law 2011),
General Counsel & Chief Content Officer*

*Ellery Jeremiah Sutanto (School of Economics 2011),
Chief Business Officer*

“I was deeply influenced by my professors at SMU. I saw in them a vision to nurture deep reflectiveness and intellectual sharpness in their students, and a passion to bring this vision to life by taking the time and effort to mentor students individually. They showed me what a difference a true educator could make in students' lives, and instilled in me a conviction to follow in their footsteps.”

*Kenny Chng, LLB (Summa Cum Laude),
Class of 2012, Lecturer of Law, SMU,
currently pursuing LLM at Harvard in 2017-2018*



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A Different U

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