



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CDCs, Law Society Pro Bono Services and 3 Institutes of Higher Learning sign 2 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to bring pro bono legal services closer to the community

Singapore, 28 September 2017 - The Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network was launched by the 5 Community Development Councils (CDCs) and Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS) back in 2014 to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of pro bono legal services in Singapore, as there was increasing demand from the ground for such services. The collaboration has been very successful, thus the CDCs and Law Society PBS have renewed and expanded the scope of the MOU. In addition, as part of SG Cares @CDC, the CDCs and Law Society PBS have signed a new MOU with three Institutes of Higher Learning [National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Management University (SMU) and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)] to formalise ongoing as well as future collaborations beyond the Network. Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Law, Ms Indranee Rajah presided over the signing of both MOUs.

2 The CDCs and Law Society PBS also launched the Law Awareness Weeks (LAW) @CDC 2017, a nationwide event to promote public legal literacy in the community through talks given by volunteer lawyers. Due to popular demand of the talks, we now name it as 'Law Awareness **Weeks** @CDC', as it is not possible to schedule all the talks within a week.

3 Speeches by Chairman of Law Society PBS, Mr Gregory Vijayendran, host Mayor Dr Teo Ho Pin and GOH SMS Indranee Rajah are attached in Annex A.

4 More than 28 lawyers and hundreds of students are involved in the LAW @CDC 2017 to bring legal awareness and advice closer to the community.

5 For media enquiries, please contact the following.

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About the CDCs

This year, the CDCs celebrate their 20th Anniversary in Community Development. There are five Community Development Councils (CDCs), namely, Central Singapore, North East, North West, South East and South West CDCs. Mayors of the Districts are Chairman of the respective CDCs. The CDCs' **ABC** mission is to **A**ssist the Needy, **B**ond the People and **C**onnect the Community. The Office of the Mayors comprises:

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| a) Ms Low Yen Ling | Chairman of Mayors' Committee & Mayor of South West District |
| b) Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman | Mayor of South East District |
| c) Dr Teo Ho Pin | Mayor of North West District |
| d) Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng | Mayor of Central Singapore District |
| e) Mr Desmond Choo | Mayor of North East District |

For more information, please visit www.cdc.org.sg, www.pa.gov.sg, and OurCommunity.sg

About the Law Society Pro Bono Services

Law Society Pro Bono Services (LSPBS) is a registered charity and Institution of a Public Character (UEN: 201700430E).

LSPBS is an initiative by the Law Society of Singapore to help bring free legal assistance to those in need in our community as part of the Law Society's stated mission to ensure access to justice for all. LSPBS runs various programmes to (a) serve the community (b) support its volunteers and (c) assist or collaborate on pro bono initiatives with other agencies.

For more information, please visit <http://probono.lawsociety.org.sg>

About National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law

NUS Law is Asia's Global Law School. Widely regarded as the region's leading law school, it sees itself as part of a global conversation about the study and practice of law. Its diverse faculty includes 60 full-time academics together with many adjuncts and visiting professors; its 1,200 undergraduate and postgraduate students include Singapore's top school leavers as well as outstanding scholars from around the globe. The faculty is a major source of research on legal issues affecting Singapore, the region and beyond. NUS Law's alumni are a who's who of Singapore's legal community and include leaders in the profession, government ministers, Supreme Court judges, ambassadors, CEOs and many other alumni go on to careers that take them to the heights of the profession around the world.

For more information, please visit <http://law.nus.edu.sg>

About Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Law

Singapore Management University (SMU) School of Law 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 SMU School of Law offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Information Systems or Social Sciences, and a Master of Laws programme. The School has also launched a full-time graduate programme, the Juris Doctor Programme which can be completed within three years, and in some cases, accelerated for completion within two years.

For more information, please visit www.law.smu.edu.sg

About Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) School of Law

SUSS's School of Law trains and produces highly motivated lawyers specialising in the areas of criminal law and family law. Our programmes adopt a pedagogy that emphasises applied learning and a multi-disciplinary approach to problem-solving. The School of Law offers both the Juris Doctor (JD) and Bachelor of Laws (LL B) programmes.

For more information, please visit www.suss.edu.sg