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# Financial Issues in Matrimonial Disputes

24 May 2011, 2.00pm – 5.30pm, Supreme Court Auditorium

## Introduction

This seminar considers recent developments in the law on division of matrimonial assets, marital agreements and discovery in family proceedings. In addition, the participants will be introduced to how trust law is being used in wealth management and its relevance in the division of matrimonial assets. This seminar will be led by two academics from the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore and two leading practitioners in family law practice.

## Speakers



### **Associate Professor Debbie Ong, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore**

Associate Professor Debbie Ong is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore where she has taught Family Law, Law & Sociology of the Family and the Law of Torts. She has served as a Court Mediator in the Family Court for a decade and currently serves as Resource Person to the Law Society's Family Law Practice Committee. She publishes widely in family law and is a member of the International Advisory Board of the UK Child & Family Law Quarterly Journal.

Debbie is serving her second term on the Advisory Board of 'Marriage Central', an initiative under the umbrella of the National Family Council dedicated to strengthening marriages in Singapore. She is also currently a member of the Child Abuse Review Team, a part of the Child Protection Division of the MCYS. She is presently also the Chairperson of the Centre Governance Board of Tampines Family Service Centre.



### **Ms Foo Siew Fong, Partner, Harry Elias Partnership LLP.**

Ms Foo Siew Fong is a Partner at Harry Elias Partnership LLP. She heads the Family and Matrimonial Law and the Private Client and Wealth Management Practice Groups. Siew Fong deals with all aspects of Family and Matrimonial law. Asian Legal Business named Siew Fong as one of Singapore's Pre-eminent Family Law Practitioners in Legal Who's Who in 2002.

Siew Fong was the President of the Singapore Association of Women's Lawyers (SAWL) from 2001 to 2009 and is currently the honorary advisor. She authored "When Marriages Break Down:- Rights Obligations And Division of Property" and was appointed a member of the Committee by the Chief Justice under Section 139 (1) of the Women's Charter.

Siew Fong is also a member of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, where membership is open only to family lawyers with experience in matrimonial international disputes.



### **Dr. Tang Hang Wu, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore**

Dr. Tang Hang Wu is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. Hang Wu is particularly known for his work in property, trusts and restitution and he is one of the co-editors of the third edition of Tan Sook Yee's Principles of Singapore Land Law. He has given expert evidence on fiduciary law and advised members of Singapore's legal profession and relevant government ministries on complex legal issues pertaining to restitution, land, equity, trusts and charities.

He is a member of the Strata Titles Board, a director of the Special Needs Trust Company, a Volunteer Assistant Director at the Legal Aid Bureau and a member of the Licensing and Practice Committee of the Council of Estate Agencies

## Speakers (cont'd)



### Mr Alfred Dodwell, Partner, Advocatus Law LLP

Mr Alfred Dodwell is a partner at Advocatus Law LLP. Prior to that he had practiced in large, medium and small firms in Singapore, Alfred has an active court and arbitration practice. He has conducted litigation at all levels of Courts in Singapore, both as assisting and lead Counsel covering interlocutory matters, trials and appeals. His substantive area of legal practice includes family law, contracts, probate & trust. He has taken on and handled many matrimonial cases from the Singapore Family Court to the Singapore Court of Appeal. He specializes in matrimonial cases involving medium to high value or complex divorces, including separation, cohabitation and financial issues arising from the breakdown of relationships.

He has acted for many high net worth individuals and families in matrimonial disputes. Alfred also advises high net worth individuals on succession planning, asset protection, setting up trusts, foundations, charities and non-profit organizations on tax, regulatory and compliance matters as part of an overall planning that is required for clients who are either in matrimonial disputes or have just come out of one and require to reorganize their affairs.

He also heads the pro bono team of lawyers for the Special Needs Trust Company and a member of the CLAS committee of the Law Society of Singapore. Alfred graduated with an LLB (Hons) from University of Warwick in 1994 and was called to the Singapore bar in 1996.

## Chairperson



### Ms Malathi Das, Senior Commercial Litigation Lawyer

Ms Malathi Das is a senior commercial litigation lawyer with a special interest in family and gender issues. She heads the litigation and dispute resolution department of M/s Joyce A Tan & Partners. She is currently Presidentelect of LAWASIA and Singapore's representative on the Bar Issues Committee on Pro Bono and Access to Justice at the International Bar Association (IBA).

She is a member of the Family Law Practice Committee of the Law Society of Singapore. Malathi is 2nd Vice-President of the Singapore's Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO) and Chair of Public Affairs of the Zonta Club of Singapore, which promotes the advancement of women and girls. She has also organised three LAWASIA Children and the Law Conferences and currently serves on the SCWO CEDAW Shadow Report Committee.

## Programme

2.00pm Registration  
2.25pm Division of Matrimonial Assets by  
Associate Professor Debbie Ong  
3.00pm Marital Agreements by Ms Foo Siew Fong  
3.35pm Q & A  
3.45pm Tea Break

4.10pm Divorce and Trust Law by Dr. Tang Hang Wu  
4.45pm Discovery in Proceedings for Financial  
Reliefs by Mr Alfred Dodwell  
5.20pm Q & A  
5.30pm End of Seminar

## REGISTRATION FORM

(Closing date: 17 May 2011)

- Registration for the event may be made:
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  - by fax to: (65) 6334 4940 or email to [les@sal.org.sg](mailto:les@sal.org.sg)
  - by mail to: LES Department, Singapore Academy of Law, 1 Supreme Court Lane, Level 6 Singapore 178879
- Registrations received on or before the closing date are confirmed unless otherwise notified.
- A sum of **S\$21.40 (inclusive of 7% GST)** will be levied for administrative charges for any cancellation received in writing on or before the closing date.
- For enquiries, please call Tel: (65) 6332 4149 or email [les@sal.org.sg](mailto:les@sal.org.sg)
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Please register the following person for the above seminar. A cheque (no. \_\_\_\_\_) for S\$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "Singapore Academy of Law" is enclosed. Please write the title of the event on the back of the cheque.

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