

Just Makan

Justice Is Served



LAW SOCIETY
PRO BONO SERVICES

29 March 2019

Fullerton Hotel

With Compliments



Far East Organization

INSPIRE BETTER LIVES



Mr Gregory Vijayendran, SC

President, The Law Society of Singapore
Chairman, Law Society Pro Bono Services

"Do good even if no one is watching you and do it as if everyone is watching you." - Israelmore Aiyor

Welcome to the Law Society Pro Bono Services' (LSPBS) marquee fundraising cum awareness event, **Just Makan: Justice is Served**.

Tonight's gala dinner is significant. By recognizing and appreciating volunteers who do good well, we inspire other do-gooders and serve as role models for younger generations in promoting law awareness, access to justice and access to counsel.

In this last year alone, LSPBS helped close to 10,000 persons by providing legal awareness, advice, assistance and advocacy through multifarious initiatives. In this booklet, you will read heartwarming stories shared by altruistic volunteers and grateful beneficiaries. These narratives reveal the power of how one caring lawyer can make a world of difference to the least, the last and the lost in law.

On behalf of LSPBS, I record my heartfelt gratitude to the many stakeholders gathered here tonight who have given generously of their time, treasure and talent to our pro bono cause since inception. Your contributions are like little drops of water that collectively make a mighty wave of compassionate justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in Singapore.

I also express our great appreciation to our CLAS Fellowship sponsors.

- Allen & Gledhill LLP
- Dentons, Rodyk & Davidson LLP
- Drew & Napier LLC
- Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
- WongPartnership LLP

Your pioneering support ensure the glitter in our crown jewel of CLAS.

Last but not least, kudos to our Supporting Partners without whom, tonight would have been a pipedream.

Just Makan and enjoy yourselves this evening while LSPBS continues to catalyse a caring community!



Mr Thio Shen Yi, SC

Chairman,
Just Makan Organising Committee

"We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice." - Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court.

Welcome to **Just Makan: Justice is Served**. This is our first charity gala dinner, with a specially curated justice-themed menu to pamper your taste buds, and top-class entertainment by our very own legal alumni talent, Chain Reaction and Guilty As Charged.

We are delighted to have all of you here tonight and will do our best to ensure that you get your Just Desserts. Your generous support is critical in helping LSPBS achieve its aspiration of ensuring access to justice to those in our society who need it most. We thank you for your partnership in this cause, and for sharing our vision of an inclusive society where the needy and vulnerable are not forgotten, and where justice truly reaches every corner of our country.

Tonight would not have been possible without the exuberance, hard work and dedication of many who are here tonight with us. Thank you for your compassion, enthusiasm and commitment.

I am especially excited about the items that will be coming up for auction tonight, and I look forward to some high octane and competitive bidding.

Finally, nothing satisfies the senses more than good food and great conversation. We hope you take this opportunity to chill, reflect and enjoy the meal and company tonight.

God bless you all.



Eugene
Thuraisingam
LLP

With Compliments



*Take a
look inside*

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Ms June Lim
Pro Bono Ambassador 2018

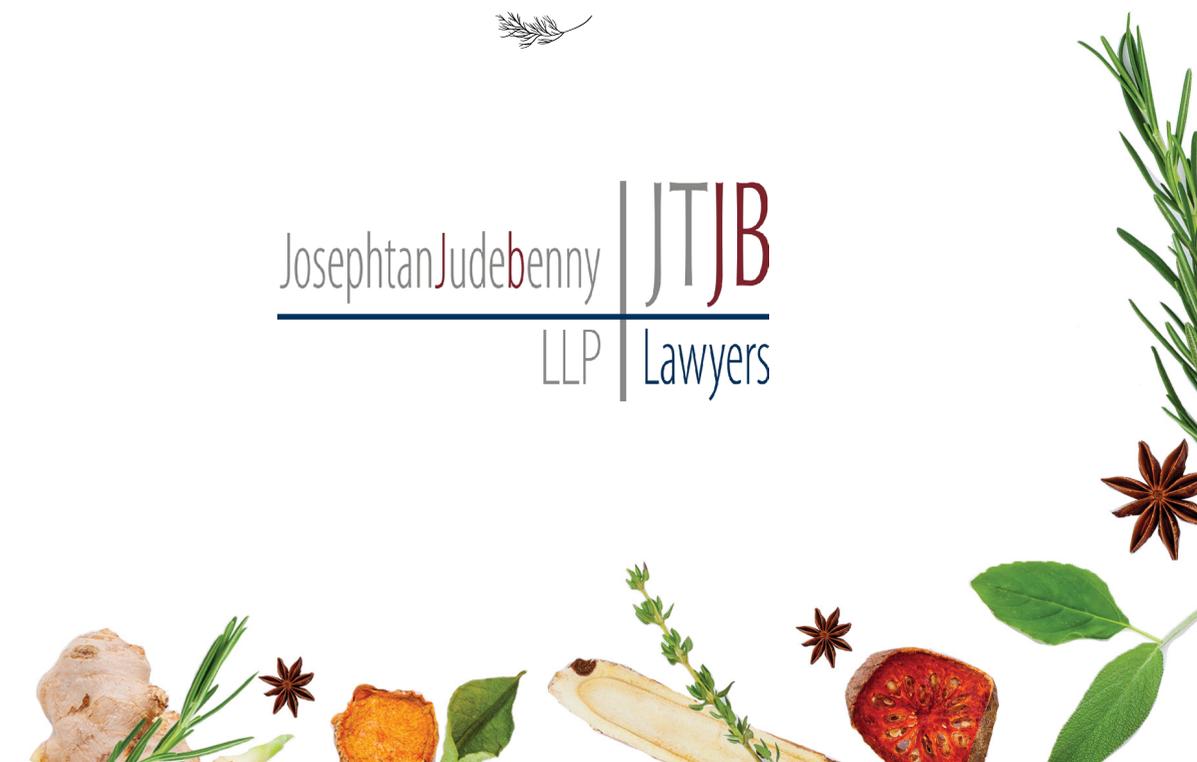
Making a difference in the lives of the underprivileged was my sole motivation to attend law school. In various capacities, I have been heavily involved in pro bono work since my time at NUS Law some 15 years ago.

As I entered practice in 2008, it was natural for me to continue volunteering with LSPBS – at the Community Legal Clinics, with the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS), and now with the CLAS and Law Awareness Committees.

Being appointed the Pro Bono Ambassador 2018 was a great honour, and a fantastic opportunity to underscore the work done by the LSPBS team. During my term, I have decided to launch an initiative to highlight LSPBS' Ad Hoc Pro Bono Scheme, and its extension of pro bono legal aid to foreign spouses in Singapore. This initiative is known as Project LEAF (Legal Empowerment and Assistance for Foreign spouses).

Project LEAF was borne out of my visits to several crisis shelters and FSCs, where I gave pro bono advice to foreign spouses with Singaporean children on their matrimonial disputes. Although 1 in 3 marriages in Singapore involve a foreign national, foreign spouses are not eligible for legal aid at the Legal Aid Bureau (LAB) when their marriages break down because of their immigration status – even if they would pass the LAB's means test as indigent persons and even if they have Singaporean children. These children will invariably be impacted by their parents' inability to bring their maintenance and custody cases to Court, and thus it is vital for these foreign spouses to receive legal assistance and representation. We aim to represent 50 foreign spouses residing in crisis shelters with their matrimonial, custody and immigration cases in 2019, with plans for a social media campaign and expansion of the project if successful, so please get involved!

With Compliments





Five Pillars

Welcome to Law Society Pro Bono Services ("LSPBS")

The Law Society of Singapore is the representative body for lawyers, admitted to the Singapore Bar. While the Law Society serves those in the legal profession, and the community, by sustaining a competent and independent bar – our role at LSPBS is to look after the very important mission of ensuring **access to justice**.

Five key pillars make up our LSPBS initiatives. We help with personal legal matters at our **Community Legal Clinics** – see a volunteer lawyer, free of charge, for a one-on-one consult and advice. When it comes to criminal matters, impecunious accused persons are not alone there either. We have a dedicated **Criminal Legal Aid Scheme**, located at the State Courts, that assists them through legal advice and representation. In **AssistNPOs**, we match community organisations with a volunteer law practice, to share and provide pro bono corporate advice, and in **Law Awareness** – we focus on bringing the law to the man on the street. We teach rights and responsibilities under the law, so the community is better informed. Finally, under our **Ad Hoc Pro Bono Assessment Scheme**, we help litigants who fall outside existing legal aid schemes but nevertheless require assistance due to exceptional circumstances, so that they have a fair chance in court.

For more information on LSPBS, please refer to our website probono.lawsociety.org.sg



Law Awareness

Bringing the law to the man on the street.

Empowering everyday people by teaching rights and responsibilities under the law.



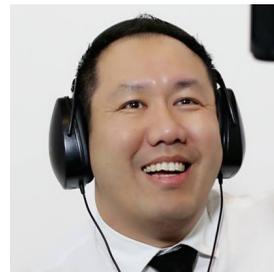
Dharma Jayaram
Volunteer

Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

That mission is exactly what the bedrock of LSPBS is. The projects and endeavours designed and sustained by the unsung heroes of LSPBS is to me, the pulse of the legal profession. As lawyers, it is so easy to get lost in the grind of our daily commitments to our work, staff, colleagues and clients, often losing the real soul of what a lawyer should be. The call to be a lawyer is far more than billings and profits and the good people at LSPBS play a crucial role in reminding lawyers that when we use our knowledge to help people expand their state of life, our lives as lawyers also expand.

One such initiative by LSPBS that did that for me is Project Schools. Taking time-out from my work day and making a trip down to a school to share with students the landscape of law and how it plays an intrinsic role in their lives has been more rewarding than some of the court room victories I've had.

From young, I have always believed that actions to benefit others are not separate from actions to benefit oneself and our lives and the lives of others are ultimately inseparable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank LSPBS who have helped me realise the truth of that belief.



Richard Siaw
Volunteer

I am often mistaken as a PRC because of my impeccable Mandarin. Residents are often stunned when I start using Singlish and dialect. That is when they realise that I am indeed a son of Singapore.

I provide anecdotal stories and inject humour into my session to excite the audience, draw them in and encourage participation. I also make it a point to invite residents to raise questions so I can address their specific concerns. Through story telling, humour, dialect and Singlish, I simplify the message to get my point across in a manner that is easy to understand and relatable to the audience.

I enjoy taking time off to talk to residents as it is a good way to relieve stress. I am especially touched, when residents come up to me afterwards to thank me for the talk. That is a reward unto itself. I firmly believe that no matter how good the law is, to be truly effective, people must be able to understand and apply them to protect their legal rights for justice to be served.



CHIJ Katong Convent
Secondary School
Collaborator

CHIJ Katong Convent started collaborating with LSPBS as early as 2012 with the inception of the Project Schools initiative aimed to create greater awareness of the law amongst youth. We integrated the course content with our Character and Citizenship Education curriculum as well as conducted lessons during post-exam activities. LSPBS provided training for our teacher facilitators as well as the plug and play toolkit, which was easy to use. The learning videos were well dramatized and this was helpful in reinforcing of the course content as well as capturing the attention of the students.

In 2015, Katong Convent furthered her partnership with LSPBS by inviting lawyers for legal talks.

LSPBS also organised a State Courts visit for a group of at risk students in 2018, which was not only informative but eye-opening for our students. They gained a better understanding of the court systems, toured the State Court and had the privilege to view a court proceeding.

It takes a village to raise a child. CHIJ Katong Convent is grateful for the partnership with LSPBS and their support through the years. We look forward to more years of partnership!



CHIJ St Theresa's Convent
Secondary School
Collaborator

CHIJ St Theresa's Convent has been partnering with LSPBS in the Project Schools programme for the last 6 years.

Laws and legal terms are usually perceived as incomprehensible and boring. However, we find the Project Schools curriculum easy for teachers to facilitate and for students to understand.

The highly anticipated talks by the lawyers were engaging and informative as the students heard first-hand experiences and clarifications to their questions and misconceptions.

A big thank you to the coordinators and lawyers who took time to educate the next generation, helping them not just to be citizens who are law-abiding but also to appreciate and understand the role of the law in building a safe and cohesive society.



Association for People with Special Needs (APSN)

Collaborator

LSPBS has worked with APSN in numerous ways, including representing APSN's beneficiaries in criminal cases and conducting legal talks for caregivers. More recently, LSPBS and APSN jointly conducted a capacity building talk for lawyers (VolCapB series) entitled "Seeing the Invisible: Dealing with persons with disabilities", which covered the difficulties that lawyers may face when dealing with clients with disabilities, and ways to overcome them. The aim was to equip lawyers with the necessary skills to volunteer in this area.

The dedication of volunteer lawyers from LSPBS has been a great support in APSN's work with persons with Mild Intellectual Disability (MID). The "invisible" nature of MID often results in our beneficiaries being processed and possibly tried at degrees of culpability that is higher than what they are cognitively capable of. Without the pertinent legal advice and representation by the LSPBS volunteer lawyers, our beneficiaries would be grossly disadvantaged and possibly be denied their rightful due process as persons with intellectual disabilities.

The many heartfelt post-talk responses by the audience at the recent LSPBS VolCapB series highlighted the timeliness of openly sharing about the struggles of people with special needs and their caregivers. We are hopeful that this will bring forth more volunteer lawyers who would be passionate in advocating for people with special needs.



Good Shepherd Centre

Collaborator

To maximize effectiveness, LSPBS tailors its law awareness outreach to suit the needs of the audience.

Good Shepherd Centre approached LSPBS as it wanted to create greater legal awareness among its residents, many of whom were litigants in person. Besides holding a legal talk, LSPBS also organized a tour of the State Courts to help them familiarize with the premises as well as court processes.

As a result of the legal talk and court tour, the residents were able to understand their case better and respond to their case in a positive manner.

One of the residents shared that she was thankful for the tour as it gave her the confidence to be able to sit in the witness chair, express herself well during court and stand in front of her perpetrators even though she was trembling on the inside. Another resident shared that because of what she learnt at the talk, she was able to request for an interpreter, which allowed her to articulate her traumatic experiences during the trial.

We at Good Shepherd Centre would like to send our deepest gratitude to the LSPBS team for taking their time to organise this talk and tour for our residents.

Community Legal Clinics

/CLC/

Offering pro bono consults and advice on personal legal matters to Singaporeans and PRs who cannot afford a lawyer.



Lam Chen Meng

Volunteer

I was first involved with pro bono work in 2007, while I was practicing as a corporate lawyer in New York. My first case opened my eyes to the many vulnerable people who face legal challenges, but lack representation.

After I relocated back to Singapore and embarked on a career in academia, I reached out to LSPBS. The LSPBS team was very encouraging, and identified that I'd be well-suited to their CLCs. The CLCs provide basic legal advice to disadvantaged and vulnerable people. I began as a volunteer lawyer in 2015, and have mostly handled family violence cases, divorce and maintenance orders, harassment, employment issues, and housing matters.

A stand out case for me was helping an applicant who had suffered continuous harassment from debt collectors after her husband had borrowed money and abandoned the family. The applicant broke down crying as she recounted her plight to me. She was clearly very traumatised. I was able to refer her case to the Legal Aid Bureau so she could seek more comprehensive legal aid and assistance. At the end of the consultation session, the applicant held my hands and thanked me for the guidance and comfort provided.

The expression of gratitude by the applicants is probably the most rewarding experience I can ever get from doing pro bono work. My pro bono involvement brings me peace of mind, both professionally and personally. My heartfelt gratitude to LSPBS for making it possible for me to volunteer and contribute.



Vincent Jun'an Lim

Volunteer

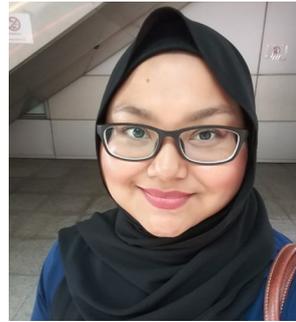
My involvement in pro bono started back in University. I first learned of how law students and lawyers could utilise their skill sets for the greater good, through my University's Pro Bono Club. From there it wasn't long before I signed up for an internship with LSPBS.

My time at LSPBS exposed me to the work of their CLCs. I had the opportunity to interview CLC applicants, as well as attend and take notes for the volunteer lawyers. Not having any friends or family in the legal fraternity before entering law school, the clinics were a real eye opener. I witnessed how lawyers, by providing a listening ear and simple guidance to the applicants, were able to make a difference in people's lives. I promised myself that if I was fortunate enough to become a full-fledged lawyer, that I too would volunteer in that capacity again.

I was called to the bar in 2011 and was lucky to be in a firm with a strong pro bono spirit. I found myself with the opportunity to volunteer at the CLCs, this time as a junior lawyer. I have experienced how my legal knowledge is able to help people with not just their legal problems, but the problems in their daily life as well. There is an immediacy to the client's gratitude that we do not usually get in practice. This immediacy helped me tremendously during those early years, and I have continued volunteering to this day.

Bryan
CLC Beneficiary

"I first approached Law Society Pro Bono Services because I was in a situation where I had to pay for another person's mistake. It got to a point where I needed help, but I wasn't sure if any of my close ones could help me out. I then googled and found out that there was a pro bono legal service clinic, and am really thankful that Law Society Pro Bono Services advised me on what to do. In the end, I resolved the issue peacefully through greater knowledge of my own situation, so that I know what to act on. My volunteer lawyer was very assuring in administering his advice. To that lawyer – I want to express my gratitude for your advice. I am thankful for people like you."



Nurfatimah
CLC Beneficiary

"Hello everyone. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the volunteer lawyer who I met at the Pro Bono legal [clinic] at Wisma Geylang Serai. The lawyer was very attentive, understanding and empathetic.

He listens to my story and answer my question patiently and with great knowledge. His advice was realistic and direct to the point. After the session, I am clear and know what I need to do to build up the case if I wish to continue the fight for my compensation and damage. Such pro bono legal advice really helps people like me to make an informed decision. Thank you Mr Lawyer."



Pandian
CLC Beneficiary

"I am one of the beneficiaries from your CLCs organised by LSPBS. I am writing to share my experience and how I benefited from your program. I would like to thank LSPBS for your kind and great service to our community through the CLCs.

As a beneficiary, I realised how valuable and helpful your services are for people in Singapore who are like me. In my case, I was seeking legal opinion or advice to solve my problem by legal action. I searched the State Court website and found this service for free legal advice by CLCs sponsored by LSPBS. My experience was very good. I felt comfortable while meeting with the volunteer lawyer. He spoke with me effectively and I received good advice as to what to do. I want to personally thank him for his valuable time in giving to the community without any expectation. I know that lawyer's services are very expensive in Singapore. I am thankful to CLCs, LSPBS, volunteer lawyers, other volunteers and sponsors for helping the needy people in our community."



Criminal Legal Aid Scheme /CLAS/

Providing pro bono criminal representation for needy accused persons facing non-capital charges, regardless of nationality.



Kalidass Murugaiyan Volunteer

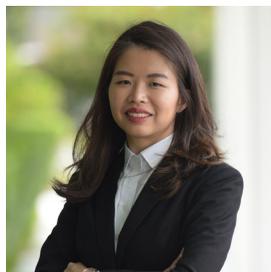
Notwithstanding the time pressures of active practice, pro bono work has been a fulfilling part of my career.

Countless criminal cases see individuals who, despite having a strong defence, are unable to engage counsel due to financial constraints. It is here that lawyers are afforded a unique privilege – to step up and contribute.

One particular case I was assigned in 2016 exemplifies the difference legal representation can have on a case. The Accused faced 3 drug trafficking charges, all of which the Prosecution proceeded on at trial. The charges invited the danger of two consecutive sentences, totaling up to 10 years imprisonment with 10 strokes of the cane. I argued to have an inculpatory statement ruled inadmissible by the Court. The Court agreed that the statements could not be admitted into evidence as the Accused was labouring under the influence of drugs when the statement was recorded. The charges were amended to a lesser offense of drug possession. He was sentenced on those lower charges. Given time already served in remand, he was released soon after.

This case stands out for me, not only for what happened in Court, but for the human element. This man secured gainful employment after his release. He is now a star performer in a company, has plans to further his education, and intends to get married soon. He has kept in contact with me and has informed that I will be invited to his wedding! The positive change in his life has resulted in a sequence of ripples which have benefited his family as well.

Being able to play a, not insignificant part, in a person's life – is to me the draw that pro bono has. Kudos to the LSPBS team and the excellent stewardship of its management, which provides us with a commendable platform to contribute to the community.



Chong Yi Mei Volunteer

From my first interaction as a law student, to a 2016 CLAS Fellow and beyond, I have always borne in mind the importance of pro bono. I have seen how daunting even simplified legal processes can be, for the average person who needs the help of the law.

CLAS gives the opportunity for lawyers to provide representation – the ultimate assistance that can be given. I have found joy in explaining and guiding CLAS applicants as much as I can, every step of the way.

My first CLAS case left a lasting impact on me. A woman in her early 40s was a repeat theft offender and had stolen items from the supermarket. Through the legal system, she was found to be suffering from a depressive disorder and sentenced to a Mandatory Treatment Order. She had a much older son from a previous marriage, a bankrupt husband, and a young son in primary school. She was the sole bread winner of the family, and often stressed about making ends meet.

At this point in time in 2013 and 2014, community-based sentences were fairly new. It was rewarding being able to assist her, by advising on the sentencing options available. In the course of the proceedings, it was also evident that she and her family became closer after they were made aware of her depressive disorder and rallied around to support her. I was glad to have been a part of that.

John* CLAS Beneficiary

In 2018, John*, an adult offender aged 25, faced a money laundering charge under s44(1) of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking, and other Serious Crimes Act. He was accused of transferring Alipay credits on instruction and allowing his bank account to be used for a syndicate. Co-accused persons, of similar age, had already been sentenced to jail terms spanning several months.

The CLAS lawyer assigned to John's case was able to convince both the Prosecution (who initially sought a custodial term on par with those co-accused) and the Court that probation was an appropriate sentencing option, notwithstanding John's age and the seriousness of the offence. Counsel highlighted John's good character over the years, his commitment to further education, his role as the sole and primary caretaker of his disabled mother, and the one-off nature of the offence having fallen in with the wrong crowd – a group of people John had met on the Internet.

John describes his CLAS experience with great gratitude:

"CLAS has helped me settle my court case with a minimum punishment. I am very grateful and thankful to the lawyer they assigned to me, who has given me a second chance in life."

*not his real name

Peter* CLAS Beneficiary

Peter*, an adult offender aged 33, faced a housebreaking charge under s456 of the Penal Code in 2018. He was accused of entering an HDB housing unit at night, having unfastened a window, and for loitering within. Prosecution sought a 3-month imprisonment term, in light of previous occasions where Peter had received warnings and fines for similar conduct.

The CLAS lawyer assigned to Peter's case persuaded the court that probation was the most appropriate sentencing option. Peter was suffering from 'cyclothymic disorder', a condition that explained the modus operandi for his string of offences. Unlike typical housebreakers, Peter would enter a unit and loiter without taking items.

Counsel sought probation conditional upon psychiatric treatment and close monitoring by Peter's family, to ensure he does not re-offend. Counsel argued that such probation would serve far greater interests than a short custodial term, that would have otherwise estranged Peter from his family – those best placed to nurture his rehabilitation – and possibly even worsened his condition, as stated in an Institute of Mental Health report obtained by counsel. For CLAS' efforts, Peter was extremely grateful:

"CLAS has been very helpful since day one and they have a good pool of lawyers with sincere services rendered. Thank you. More lawyers should be placed on pro bono work."

*not his real name

AssistNPOs

Building capacity in the non-profit, charitable, and social enterprise sector, volunteer firms share corporate advice, so community organisations can flourish.



On 23 June 2018, the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise (raiSE), together with LSPBS, conducted a legal awareness day for over 60 aspiring social entrepreneurs.

The conference was part of raiSE's "LeapForGood" programme, designed to help passionate change-makers take innovative ideas and turn them into sustainable business solutions. In 2018, LeapForGood focused on finding solutions to improve the 'Work, Life, and Play of Seniors and Caregivers returning to work' in particular.

The session featured a panel of three volunteer lawyers who shared information from LSPBS' "Legalese" handbook. It was then followed by breakout sessions for the 12 shortlisted special enterprise (SE) teams, helmed by volunteer lawyers. The teams then had 1-on-1 consultations with a law firm.

Through this legal awareness conference, attendees had the opportunity to address a range of legal concerns. Sessions like these play an integral role in ensuring that successful social entrepreneurship can flourish.

raiSE extends our appreciation to the lawyers who supported the session with their time, knowledge and advice, as well as to LSPBS for co-creating a session that met the needs of our aspiring entrepreneurs. We look forward to collaborating with LSPBS again.

Morgan Lewis Stamford

As a firm, Morgan Lewis have always been driven by our commitment to the communities in which we live and work around the world. Having engaged in a great deal of pro bono work over the years, we have made it a pillar of our identity.

Each year, we aim to provide more than 1,800 pro bono clients worldwide with the highest level of service, and for 2017/2018 alone, our lawyers dedicated in excess of 2000 hours to pro bono activities. So what's our principal takeaway from the past 24 months? Collaboration is key – both among our lawyers and staff, and with external organisations. LSPBS is a shining example of this. Together with LSPBS, we have been connected with a wide variety of pro bono opportunities here in Singapore.

So what do these collaborative efforts look like? From defending those who can't afford basic criminal representation, to supporting Legal Clinics, and building capacity in the charitable and non-profit sector – our opportunities to contribute to the pro bono landscape, with the help of LSPBS, have been far-reaching and diverse. Highlights from our 2017/2018 pro bono efforts include – over 600 hours committed by our firm's litigation department, primarily to the LSPBS' CLAS, and a similar amount of time spent in the law awareness space, such as helming the legal clinics for social enterprises at the 2018 raiSE LeapforGood Conference – to name a few.

We believe it is important for our lawyers to use their time and skills to ensure access to justice for people who otherwise could not afford it. From our interns and trainees, who regularly work on ongoing pro bono representations, to the Directors of our firm, many of whom serve as honorary legal advisors or sit on non-profit and charity boards, we encourage all of our lawyers to become involved with public service at the earliest stages of their careers. In conjunction with LSPBS, we continue to bring these values to the heart of our operation as a business.

Ad Hoc Pro Bono Assessment Scheme

/AHPBAS/

Providing pro bono legal representation on a referral basis, to exceptional clients who fail existing legal aid schemes.



Cai Chengying
Volunteer

I started volunteering with LSPBS' programmes as a practice trainee in a large local law firm. Starting practice in such a large organisation meant that while I received intensive training and exposure, the opportunity to manage my own files and appear in Court as lead counsel were few and far between. Volunteering with LSPBS opened such doors and allowed me to slowly gain confidence in my abilities.

My work with LSPBS has also brought more gratitude into my life. A visit to an applicant in remand, a meeting with a tearful parent anxious over the outcome of her intellectually-disabled child's criminal case – all these encounters often make my own worries seem inconsequential and petty and remind me to count my blessings.

What often strikes me is that with very little effort on our part, we can make a big difference to the applicants' lives.

I strongly encourage all young lawyers to volunteer with LSPBS' programmes. Without a doubt, over the years, you will also benefit from this experience.



Rajan Chettiar
Volunteer

As an ardent supporter of pro bono work, I have been involved in the pro bono services of the Law Society's Pro Bono Services Office [predecessor of LSPBS] since its inception in 2007. I have been involved in AHPBAS for more than 10 years. I usually handle divorce cases and criminal cases.

AHPBAS allows me an opportunity to assist individuals who truly need legal services but are unable to afford them. Working with these individuals gives me an invaluable opportunity to meet and understand the needs and concerns of these individuals, whom I otherwise will not meet. I recall a case of a Singaporean man who was imprisoned in a foreign country and who needed help to defend himself in his divorce proceedings. I never spoke to him and all instructions were through correspondence he wrote to me from his prison cell. Though it has been many years since the case has been completed, this case is etched in my mind.

Work with AHPBAS has been emotionally satisfying and an enriching experience for me. I encourage my legal associates to take up these cases as well.

Rosie***AHPBAS Beneficiary**

I am a foreigner who divorced my Singaporean husband. I have been raising up my daughter in my own country. She is a Singapore Citizen.

My ex-husband stopped paying maintenance after a few years. Even though I have a court order I had no way to enforce it as I live in other country. I work part time due to my poor health, and I can't afford to engage a lawyer or fly to Singapore to apply for enforcement of the court order on my own. Once I approached LSPBS, they were very concerned about my situation and assigned a volunteer lawyer for us quickly. The lawyer was very supportive and tried various ways to settle the matter. We recovered all the arrears and my ex-husband has been making payment monthly so far. Thanks to LSPBS and the volunteer lawyer, my daughter can continue her studies to fulfill her dream to be a medical doctor. They saved my daughter's dream!

*not her real name

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A Taste of LSPBS

LSPBS is a registered charity with IPC status (UEN: 201700430E). It was set up by the Law Society of Singapore as part of its mission to ensure access to justice for all.

We provide pro bono legal assistance to the needy and marginalized in our society.

Our work is supported by volunteers who give their time and expertise generously and selflessly, and by financial contributions from individual lawyers, law practices, private donors, and key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Law, the State Courts, the Singapore Academy of Law, and various community partners.

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Address: 17 Phillip Street
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Tel: +65 6536 0650
Email: enquiry@lawsocprobono.org

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