

Brunei Judiciary Training

Day 1, Thursday 8 September

Session 1: 9am - 12 noon

Session 2: 1pm - 4pm

Day 2, Thursday 22 September

9am - 12 noon

Day 3, Thursday 29 September

9am - 12 noon

Speaker Profiles

OPENING REMARKS



Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, Chief Justice, Brunei Supreme Court

Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Chong began his career as a magistrate in the Subordinate Court back in 1984, rising the ranks to eventually take a seat on the High Court bench in 2001 and was appointed the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as of 30th June 2018.

He received his initial education at St George's School Brunei, later obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree at the Dorset Institute of Higher Education. A year later, he qualified as a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, through the Inns of Court School of Law.

His Meritorious Honours include the following:

1989 1 Meritorious Service Medal (P.J.K) by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

1995 Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei 4th Class (P.S.B) by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

2002 Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei 2nd Class (D.P.M.B) which carries the title Dato Paduka by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

2019 Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei 1st Class (S.P.M.B) which carries the title Dato Seri Paduka by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam



Justice Kannan Ramesh, Supreme Court Judge

Justice Kannan Ramesh was appointed Judicial Commissioner in May 2015, and Judge of the High Court in April 2017. He was also appointed as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam (“SCBD”) on a part-time basis on 7 October 2019 where he hears both commercial and civil cases in SCBD.

He received his Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the National University of Singapore in 1990. He was then admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore in 1991, and appointed Senior Counsel in 2012.

Before his appointment as Judicial Commissioner, Justice Ramesh was Managing Partner of Messrs Tan Kok Quan Partnership from 2008, where he specialized in dispute resolution, insolvency and restructuring, and international arbitration.

He was also appointed as Board Member of the Singapore Aerospace Manufacturing Pte Ltd and M1 Limited. In the former, he had an added role as Executive Committee Member, while in the latter, he was Chairman of M1’s Risk Committee, as well as Member of their Nominating and Audit Committees.

He is a member of Singapore Academy of Law’s Law Reform Committee, and Vice President of New York’s International Insolvency Institute (III) Executive Committee and part of III’s Arbitration and Conciliation working group. He was instrumental in establishing the Judicial Insolvency Network (JIN) which issued in October 2016, guidelines for court-to-court communications and cooperation in cross-border insolvencies.

Justice Ramesh wrote Getting the Deal Through – Restructuring and Insolvency in 51 Jurisdictions Worldwide in 2010. He also authored the Singapore Chapter of the World Bank publication, Doing Business – Closing a Business Survey, published in 2009, 2010 and 2011.



Clare Wee, Regional Head Asia, INSOL International

As Regional Head for Asia, Clare leads all the initiatives and activities of the Hub. Prior to 2019, Clare was the former Head of the Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She represented ADB on UNCITRAL’s Insolvency Working Group on the Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law and on World Bank’s Advisory Panel for Insolvency systems. She initiated and was responsible for producing the first set of principles of insolvency law for Asia. She was part of the ADB team that developed the 1st Forum on Asian Insolvency Reform (FAIR) held in Bali, Indonesia, from 7-8 February 2001. FAIR remains an important bi-annual meeting for legislators from Asia.

Day 1 Session 1 Panelists



Kala Selvi Rengasamy, Director, Individual Insolvency and Debt Repayment Scheme Division, IPTO

Kala Selvi Rengasamy is the Director of the Individual Insolvency and Debt Repayment Scheme Division in the Insolvency & Public Trustee's Office Singapore (IPTO). She has about 24 years of experience in bankruptcy administration. She manages and oversees operations under Individual Insolvency and the Debt Repayment Scheme. She also oversees regulatory compliance by the Private Trustees in the administration of bankruptcy cases. Kala has also led and participated in the development of insolvency-related legislation in Singapore.



Karen Tan, Assistant Registrar, Supreme Court, Singapore

Karen Tan is an Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court of Singapore, with a concurrent appointment as a District Judge. She is part of the Company, Insolvency, Trust and Arbitration cluster of the General Division of the High Court, and her core work includes the supervision and management of Corporate and Personal Insolvency applications filed in the General Division of the High Court. Prior to joining the Supreme Court, Karen was a partner in a law practice where her areas of practice included civil and commercial litigation.



Christopher Eng, Assistant Official Assignee and Public Trustee, IPTO

Christopher Eng is an Assistant Official Assignee ("OA") and Public Trustee ("PT") of the Insolvency & Public Trustee's Office of Singapore ("IPTO"). He is also a deputy director of the Legal Advisory & Prosecution Division of IPTO. His core work includes rendering advice for complex issues arising from personal and corporate insolvency cases and representing the OAPT in court matters. He also assisted in the review and drafting of the subsidiary legislation for the Insolvency Restructuring Dissolution Act 2018.

Day 1 Session 2 Panelists



Paul Shaw, National Manager, Enforcement and Practitioner Supervision, Australian Financial Security Authority

Paul Shaw is the National Manager, Enforcement and Practitioner Supervision at the Australian Financial Security Authority (AFSA), responsible for discharging the regulatory and review responsibilities of the Inspector-General in Bankruptcy under the Bankruptcy Act. The enforcement function is responsible for investigating all alleged offences under the Bankruptcy Act and preparing briefs for prosecution. Paul has been in that position since 2013. Prior to joining AFSA Paul worked for over 20 years at the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, where he previously undertook and oversaw commercial prosecution matters including those referred by AFSA, Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC), and other Commonwealth regulators.

Paul Shaw holds both accounting and legal qualifications. He is a Legal Practitioner of the NSW Supreme Court and the High Court of Australia.



Matthew J. Osborne, Principal Legal Officer, Australian Financial Security Authority

Matthew J. Osborne is the Principal Legal Officer responsible for providing advice on legal strategy, law reform, and governance issues relevant to the Australian Financial Security Authority (AFSA). Prior to joining AFSA, Matthew served as a Director in various policy areas in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Matthew's qualifications include BA/LLB (Hons), B.Litt. (Asian Studies), Grad. Dip (App. Econ.), Grad. Dip (Legal Practice) M Pub Law (ANU); M. Mgt (ANU). He is a Legal Practitioner of the ACT Supreme Court and a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Australia.

Day 2 Panelists



Scott Atkins, President INSOL International

Scott Atkins is Chair & Head of Risk Advisory of Norton Rose Fulbright Australia. He is a Partner in the internationally acclaimed Financial Restructuring & Insolvency practice. Scott is President of INSOL International and an INSOL Fellow. INSOL International is the world's peak insolvency and restructuring association. Scott is Immediate Past President of the Australian Restructuring Insolvency and Turnaround Association - ARITA. He is ranked in global legal directories, most recently by Chambers, as Australia's only Eminent Practitioner.

Scott's practice straddles the globe – a reflection of his deep expertise in cross-border insolvency. He has unique experience in advising nations and their governments on insolvency and restructuring law reform, including the systemic and structural reforms required across economies to facilitate and support the effective operation of such laws. Scott's perspective on financial system reform is drawn from his prior role as a senior inhouse counsel at a major Australian bank.

Scott drafted new insolvency and corporate rescue laws for Myanmar. He has also advised the governments of Brunei and Nauru. He was a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute's Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code, resulting in the publication of a landmark report proposing extensive reforms. Scott is part of a World Bank global taskforce focused on MSME insolvency law reform.



Neil Cooper, Past President INSOL International, Consultant INSOL International, Senior Insolvency Consultant World Bank

Mr. Neil Cooper has specialized in asset recovery and cross-border insolvency issues since early in his career, when he joined a major international accountancy firm and undertook cases in the UK, Africa, the Pacific Rim, North America, Australasia and Continental Europe until he retired from practice. He was heavily involved in the formulation of the Model Law on Cross-border insolvency developed by the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law and all the subsequent work of UNCITRAL Working Group V from 1993 until recently. He has assisted the World Bank developing insolvency principles and guidelines. Neil is past President of INSOL International, Honorary Life President of INSOL Europe and an Honorary Professor at Nottingham School of Law, Nottingham Trent University.



Aurelio Gurrea-Martinez, Assistant Professor of Law and Head SGRI, SMU

Aurelio Gurrea-Martínez is an Assistant Professor of Law and head of the Singapore Global Restructuring Initiative at Singapore Management University. He is a member of the Academic Steering Committee at INSOL International as well as co-chair of the SMU-3CL Cambridge Roundtable on Corporate Insolvency. He has taught, studied and conducted research at several institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom, Continental Europe, Asia and Latin America, including Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, Columbia Law School, Stanford University, and the University of Oxford. He has been invited to present his academic work before various regulators, governmental agencies, and international organizations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). His research interest lies in the intersection of law and finance, with particular emphasis on corporate governance, financial regulation, corporate finance, and corporate insolvency law, and how legal and institutional reforms may promote entrepreneurship, innovation, access to finance and economic growth.

Day 3 Panelists



Andres F. Martinez, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank

Andres is a senior financial sector specialist with the World Bank. Andres has been a lawyer for over 20 years, has a Masters degree in Corporate law and specializes in insolvency and creditors' rights. For over a decade, Andrés has been advising countries from Latin America, Middle East, Europe, and Asia on legal reforms with focus on debt recovery, including insolvency laws and workout mechanisms. Before joining the World Bank in 2008, Andres worked in private practice representing large creditors in debt recovery and insolvency cases. Andres is an "INSOL Fellow", co-chairs the World Bank Insolvency Task Force and chairs the World Bank and INSOL Legislative and Regulatory Colloquium.



Harold Foo, Senior Assistant Director, Ministry of Law

Harold Foo is a Senior Assistant Director in the Policy Advisory Division and Counsel for Parliamentary Affairs at the Ministry of Law. He has been closely involved in insolvency policy development and legislative reform, including the Companies (Amendment) Act 2017, Companies (Amendment) Act 2018 and Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act.

At the international level, Harold has been part of the Singapore delegation to UNCITRAL Working Group V (Insolvency Law) since 2017. He is also Chair of the Working Group, since his election in December 2019, leading the deliberations and finalization of the Legislative Guide on Insolvency of Micro and Small Enterprises. He was also elected Vice-Chair of the UNCITRAL Commission at its July 2021 session.

Prior to joining the Singapore Legal Service, Harold was part of an insolvency team at one of Singapore's largest law firms.



David Chew, Partner, DHC Capital

David is a Partner at DHC Capital based in Singapore.

He has over 25 years of experience in restructuring and special situations having worked as an advisor with Ernst & Young and Arthur Andersen, investment banker with Morgan Stanley, in senior management as a CRO, CFO and interim CFO and Board member to distressed companies.

He has worked with and advised private and publicly listed corporates, bank creditors, bond holders, alternative capital providers and distressed investors across the full range of the restructuring transaction cycle, including crisis stabilization, operational restructuring and turnaround, debt restructuring and schemes of arrangement, liquidity management initiatives, distressed M&A, rescue financing, refinancing and recapitalizations.

As an investment banker, he was involved in the sourcing, structuring and execution of high yield and distressed investment opportunities across Asia Pacific for Morgan Stanley prop books.