



THE LEGAL YEAR 2025



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*His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah
ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam*

EXCERPTS

“Sesungguhnya adalah harapan Beta supaya pada suatu ketika nanti semua pegawai-pegawai dan kakitangan kehakiman kita akan kesemuanya terdiri dari rakyat Beta iaitu sepertimana juga kedudukan Jabatan Undang-Undang sekarang. Tetapi yang penting sekali ialah memelihara kedudukan Kehakiman yang adil dan saksama. Kearah itu Beta menggesa rakyat Beta khususnya mereka yang masih berada di bangku sekolah dan institusi-institusi pengajian tinggi untuk juga memilih mata pelajaran-mata pelajaran undang-undang supaya pada satu ketika nanti mereka dapat memainkan peranan yang penting di dalam pentadbiran kehakiman dan kepeguaman baik di sektor Kerajaan mahu pun di sektor swasta.”

Petikan Titah Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda
Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah,
Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam
sempena Istiadat Pembukaan Rasmi Bangunan Baru Mahkamah Besar
Negara Brunei Darussalam pada 15hb Mac 1984.

“Although it is my hope that one day all our judicial officers and staff would be from my subjects as can be found in the Legal Department now, but the most important factor is the maintenance of the status of a just and impartial judiciary. Towards this end I call upon my subjects especially those who are still in schools and institutes of higher learning to choose law as a subject which they should pursue so that in future they would be able to play an important role in the administration of justice and laws either in the public sector or the private sector.”

Titah of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin
Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam
at the Official Opening of the New Supreme Court Building of
Brunei Darussalam on 15th March, 1984.



CHIEF JUSTICE

SUPREME COURT

The Honourable Chief Justice
Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

As I reflect on my 20 years of service as a Registrar, it is with great pleasure and deep appreciation that I share my thoughts on the journey we have undertaken together. Being entrusted with this position has been a profound honor, and throughout the years, I have witnessed significant changes within the judiciary. When I first began my career, our workforce was considerably smaller; today, we have nearly three times the number of dedicated officers. This growth is a testament to our commitment to progress and excellence in the administration of justice.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to my seniors and mentors who have guided me along this journey. Their wisdom, leadership, and support have been invaluable in shaping my understanding of the judiciary and its responsibilities. It is because of their guidance that I have been able to navigate the complexities of this role and take on the challenges that have come my way. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me, for providing me with opportunities to learn and grow, and for fostering an environment that encourages collaboration and excellence.

During my tenure, I have observed the judiciary's evolution, particularly in our adoption of technology. Embracing digital solutions has been imperative in ensuring we remain relevant and efficient in serving the community. The transition to electronic case management systems, online hearings, and digital filing has transformed how we operate. These innovations not only streamline processes but also improve accessibility for court users, enabling us to serve a broader audience while fulfilling our commitment to justice.



ACTING CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT

Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah
Chairperson of the Organising Committee

Throughout the past two decades, we have restructured and streamlined our processes, ensuring that our registries and units are well-organized and accessible. This has not only enhanced our efficiency but has also empowered our officers to take on leadership roles within their respective fields. With a fresh influx of new officers, we are eager and optimistic about making further changes that will strengthen the functions of the judiciary. Their novel perspectives and innovative ideas will be instrumental in driving our progress forward.

In the last year alone, we have celebrated many achievements as a judiciary. We remain committed to the development of our officers, with continued rotations that benefit both their career paths and our organisational needs. By allowing our officers to experience various roles within the judiciary, we not only enhance their skills but also ensure that our units are staffed with the most qualified individuals. This practice creates a diverse and dynamic environment, essential for a responsive judiciary.

We continue to place importance on continuous legal education, understanding that the law is ever-evolving. To this end, we have facilitated opportunities for our officers to engage with contemporary developments in the law, from artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency to intellectual property. Our officers have participated in specialized courses and workshops designed to deepen their understanding and equip them with the tools needed to navigate these changing landscapes. Additionally, our judicial administration attachments have broadened our perspectives and strengthened our practices, allowing us to learn from other jurisdictions and adapt best practices to our own.

Moreover, we have made significant strides in connecting with the international community. Engaging in discussions and entering into partnerships through several Memoranda of Understanding has enhanced judicial cooperation. These collaborations provide us with invaluable insights and resources that strengthen our judiciary's capacity to address complex legal challenges and better serve our citizens.

Our proactive engagement with stakeholders has been a cornerstone of our approach to improving our services. Through dialogues addressing various issues

from sexual offenses to matters pertaining to property transfer, we have fostered an inclusive environment that encourages collaboration and understanding. This engagement reinforces our commitment to transparency and community involvement, ensuring that all voices are heard as we work toward making informed decisions that impact our society.

As we embark on a new year, let us carry forward our momentum with renewed vigor and determination. It is essential that we continue to build upon our successes while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire judiciary for their unwavering support, dedication, and hard work. Each one of you plays a crucial role in ensuring that we deliver justice effectively and efficiently. Together, we can continue to forge a path that reflects our values and commitment to the rule of law.

In reflecting upon our journey, I am optimistic about the future of our judiciary. With our dedicated team of officers, both seasoned and new, I am confident that we will make significant strides in enhancing our judicial functions. We stand poised to tackle the challenges that lie ahead, to innovate, and to strengthen our services for court users. As we navigate these changes, let us remain unified in our mission to uphold justice, promote the rule of law, and increase access to justice for all.

In the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "*Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.*" Let us take those steps together, nurturing a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in our work. I look forward to another productive year filled with growth, learning, and achievements for our legal community.

Thank you all for your commitment to this noble profession. Together, we will shape the future of the judiciary and ensure that it serves our community with integrity, respect, and fairness.

Wassalam.

MISSION STATEMENT

OBJECTIVE

Upholding the Rule of Law

MISSION

Administration of Justice

GOALS

Securing Justice

Enhancing Access to Justice

Preserving Public Trust and Confidence

PRINCIPLE

To faithfully discharge judicial duties

To do right to all manner of people after the Laws and Usage of

Brunei Darussalam without fear or favour, affection or ill will to the best of their ability

To be faithful and bear true allegiance to Brunei Darussalam

VALUES

Taqwa, Independence, Accountability, Timelines, Accessibility, Equality and Fairness; and Integrity.

Legal Year Speeches





CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Hon. Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Minister in the Prime Minister's Office,

Honourable Attorney General,

Yang Amat Arif/Yang Berhormat Chief Syarie Judge,

President of the Law Society,

Members of the Bar,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Part I: Introduction

On behalf of the Judiciary, I am pleased to welcome you to the Opening of the Legal Year 2024. Thank you for taking the time to join us this morning and it is a pleasure to have guests from Malaysia and Singapore here today with us as well. As 2023 drew to a close, we witnessed a rapidly changing and uncertain world, from technological advancements to international conflicts. Against this backdrop, I would like to emphasize the importance of a well-functioning justice system for society, not only in terms of economic growth but also for the community as a whole.

A well-functioning justice system is one that helps individuals and families to move on and build a positive future, it includes a criminal justice system that deters people from committing crimes and is one that helps businesses move forward and function with more stability and certainty in dealing with their disputes.

The work of the courts underpins the everyday lives of those in our community and while there are obvious challenges and demands to be faced in carrying out this work, I am steadfast in my belief that our Judiciary's biggest asset is our people.

It is our people who keep the courts running and who are dedicated and tireless in their efforts to serve the public in order to meet the needs of the community. However, it is important to recognise that we do not work alone in safeguarding our community and that private practitioners, government counsel, enforcement agencies all form part of the larger picture of our justice system. We have a shared responsibility to uphold the rule of law and it is in this spirit that the legal fraternity gathers here today.

Before I address our key developments over the last year, I would like to recount some welcome additions and changes to our Bench and the legal profession.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to The Right Honourable Sir Peter Gross who was appointed and sworn in as a Judicial Commissioner to our Court of Appeal in October 2023. Sir Peter Gross is a leading international commercial judge with a legal career spanning over 40 years. He brings a wealth of experience and his appointment will strengthen the breadth and depth of the Bench.

Secondly, I extend my congratulations to our new cohort of five judicial officers who joined us last year. I welcome them all to the Bench and look forward to seeing them in their new roles as magistrates and registrars. Both of these appointments give me optimism and confidence in helping to expedite the disposal of criminal and civil cases and reducing backlogs, while ensuring that we maintain our standards and deliver quality justice.

I also wish to congratulate the five senior members of our Judiciary on their appointment as Judge Advocates to the Judge Advocates General (JAG). It is my hope that these additional appointments will further strengthen the Bench with a broad and varied range of judicial experiences and skills.

Next, I extend my deepest appreciation to Justice Michael Peter Burrell on ending his term as President of the Court of Appeal. I am grateful for his contribution to the Court of Appeal during his time as President and welcome his extension of service where he will continue to sit in the Court of Appeal as a Justice of Appeal. I would also like to extend my appreciation to

Justice Kannan Ramesh who completed his term as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court in October 2023. It has been a pleasure to work with Justice Ramesh over the last four years and we are grateful for his invaluable contribution to our Judiciary. His successful tenure left an indelible mark on us and set a high standard for our judges and judicial officers to follow.

I wish also to thank Judicial Commissioner Haji Abdullah Soefri bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin on ending his term as Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court. I am grateful for his numerous contributions and distinguished service in his capacity as Chief Registrar. His leadership was instrumental to the implementation of many key reforms in the Judiciary and I am delighted that he will continue his service with us as Judicial Commissioner.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Ms. Nur Azizah binti Dato Seri Paduka Hj Ahmad and Mr. On Hung Zheng on being elected as President and Vice President of the Law Society. I look forward to working with you both to strengthen relations between the Bench and the Bar and I extend my best wishes to you.

Part II: The Past Year

I will now give an account of our progress in the past year and begin with a brief overview of our court's statistics.

Statistics

The Magistrates' Courts serves as a court of first instance in criminal and civil matters within the scope of its jurisdiction and is the main entry point for many proceedings in the country. In measuring its performance, we can gauge the court's efficiency in disposing of cases across all four districts.

I am pleased to report that for the 12-month period ending in December 2023, the clearance rate of criminal matters in the Magistrates' Courts stands at 80% whereas the clearance rate for civil matters stands at 83%, marking an improvement from the previous year's rates of 77% and 63%, respectively. In terms of time taken for the delivery of judgments in the Magistrates' Courts, data has shown that **91.8% of judgments for criminal matters and 80% of judgments for civil matters were delivered within our target of between 1 to 3 months from the close of submissions.**

The Official Receiver's Chambers has also made initiatives to provide more resources online on the Judiciary website on bankruptcy processes and procedures and a step by step video on the stages on bankruptcy was also made available for members of the public.

The Probate Registry also had a busy and productive year with a marked increase in the number of applications received and granted. I am pleased to report that in 2023, a total of 737 applications were received for letters of administration with **780 applications granted, compared to the previous year where a total of 621 applications were received for letters of administration with 375 applications granted.**

In 2023, we saw the number of applications for registration of marriages and divorce petitions drop. The number of criminal cases filed in Bandar Seri Begawan Magistrates' Court also saw a **decrease from 454 in 2022 to 361 cases filed in 2023.** Conversely, we found there to be slight increases in the number of criminal cases filed in the Tutong and Kuala Belait Magistrates' Courts.

Statistics have also shown that online hearings continue to be a feature of the courts where in 2023, a total of 1,065 proceedings were conducted online in the High Court, Intermediate Court and Magistrates' Courts. The Judiciary continues to encourage and support the use of online hearings in order to improve access to justice and progress cases more efficiently and effectively.

International Engagement

Over the course of last year, we continued our international collaboration through various initiatives and agreements with foreign courts. In February 2023, I called on The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, The Right Honourable The Lord Burnett of Maldon and The President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, Lord Reed of Allermuir. Meetings were held with senior judges of the Judiciary of England and Wales and visits were also made to the Royal Courts of Justice, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Privy Council) and the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales.

I am pleased to report that fruitful discussions were held on areas including judicial cooperation in continuing judicial education and training, best practices in commercial dispute resolution, developments in insolvency resolution processes and the modalities of appellate hearings now conducted online by the Privy Council, which is relevant to us as in Brunei Darussalam parties for civil cases are able to appeal to the Privy Council provided that both parties agree beforehand.

Our engagement with the Judiciary of England and Wales continued in September 2023 through the visit of The Right Honourable the Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice in England and Wales, Sir Geoffrey Vos. He delivered lectures to the legal fraternity on 'Technology and Access to Justice: England and Wales' Revolution in Dispute Resolution and the Creation of the Digital Justice System' and on 'The Transformation of the Legal Profession through Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI): Implications for Legal Service Delivery and Dispute Resolution, including the Courts.

In May 2023, we formalised judicial cooperation through the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong SAR) to strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation on issues relating to dispute avoidance and resolution.

The signing of the MOC is a testament to the long history between Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong SAR, where Hong Kong SAR has been a part of Brunei Darussalam's legal heritage for over 60 years. I called on the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC of the Department of Justice and Chief Justice Andrew Cheung, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal and held productive discussions on areas including case management, judicial training, the use of mediation, arbitration and developments on the use of technology in court.

In July 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Supreme Court of Singapore which put in place an institutional framework for the continuation and strengthening of co-operation between our two Judiciaries. Building on from this, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore will hold annual consultations in furtherance of the MOU and a working group was established with judges and judicial officers from the two Judiciaries that will consult with myself and Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon as to the programme for judicial cooperation, which is to be developed with concrete deliverables and tangible areas of collaboration in mind.

In July 2023, I also called on The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, Chief Justice of Malaysia for a bilateral discussion on judicial cooperation and made my first visit to the Palace of Justice in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The delegation and I had constructive meetings with members of the Malaysian Judiciary on areas of interest including the use of technology in court, transcription of proceedings and the use of mediation in the courts and we look forward to strengthening bilateral ties with our Malaysian counterparts in the years to come.

Regionally, we continue to engage actively amongst ASEAN counterparts and attended the 7th Joint Judicial Conference between the judiciaries of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore and the inaugural Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) retreat. Both forums serve as a valuable platform for the longstanding friendship among our regional partners and we remain committed to strengthening such judicial cooperation.

Part III: Looking Ahead

Legal Profession

On to the legal profession, I wish to mention the difficulty we have faced in getting practitioners to take on legal aid assignments for capital cases. Reasons for refusal given by counsel include fees being too low and their ongoing work commitments. While the Judiciary is aware of the various challenges of practice at the Bar, I stress the need for a change of mindset in the profession. It is a tremendously important and worthwhile undertaking when providing legal aid as a public service and legal aid assignments for capital cases supports the Judiciary's central priorities to ensure access to justice in assisting defendants who cannot afford legal representation.

Following from this, I suggest that the Chief Registrar's office, Attorney General's Chambers and the Law Society form a committee to introduce a mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme where such assignments may count towards CPD points. There is a real need to incentivise legal aid programmes and while doing so, we can also encourage practitioners to achieve core competencies at different stages of their legal practice in order to maintain high professional standards.

Legal Profession Act

While on the topic of professional standards, I would like to emphasize the need for rules governing conduct in relation to fees and the professional duty to provide clients with information on fees. Lawyers have a duty to facilitate access to justice and charge clients fairly for work done and it is the lawyer's duty to furnish adequate information to clients such as:

- (a) The basis on which fees will be charged and the manner fees are to be paid by clients;
- (b) informing clients of any other reasonably foreseeable charges;
- (c) Providing clients with fee estimates;
- (d) Ensuring actual fees charged do not vary substantially from estimate unless client is informed of change in circumstances; and
- (e) Informing clients of the right to apply for review of fees by taxation of bill of costs.

To address this issue, I suggest the Chief Registrar's office to chair a committee comprising of members from the Attorney General's Chambers and the Law Society to look into enacting rules on adequate professional services in order to prescribe standards of client care. Ultimately, this is to protect members of the public by ensuring that lawyers are transparent with their clients with what their fees are likely to be and to explain the fees in a manner understood by their clients.

The Use of Artificial Intelligence

I turn now to discuss the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and the impact of the use of AI on the legal profession. This comes in response to the increasing adoption and use of AI such as ChatGPT and its ability to generate original content in response to user prompts. I encourage the Chief Registrar's office, Attorney General's Chambers and the Law Society to jointly study and consider the issues and concerns of the use of AI which will potentially transform how the legal profession works, particularly in areas such as contract review, legal research and drafting of legal documents. There is a need to ensure that AI is used responsibly and ethically so that legal professional standards of honesty and integrity can be upheld.

Fundamental Principles

In a recent criminal appeal, the respondent made an application to the Court of Appeal for the judgment in the appeal to be delivered in camera. The Court of Appeal refused the application but ordered that there be no publication of the names of the victims or any particulars which might lead to the victims' identities. Judges and Judicial Officers maintain the rule of law and administer civil and criminal justice according to the law. In so doing, Judges and Judicial Officers must bear in mind a number of fundamental principles such as judicial independence, impartiality, fairness, transparency and competence.

Members of the public can attend open court hearings in accordance with the principle of open justice. Judges and Judicial Officers sit in open court giving reasons for their decisions and are subject to review by a higher court. The work of the Judiciary is therefore open to public scrutiny and provide a form of accountability that is consistent with judicial independence.

The Judiciary adheres to these fundamental principles in striving to provide an efficient, effective, fair and accessible administration of justice. The respect of society for the law and public trust and confidence in the Judiciary go hand in hand when upholding the rule of law.

In Memoriam and Appreciation

Before I conclude, I would like to pay tribute to our members of staff who passed on late last year. We mourn their passing and remember their many contributions to the Judiciary. We extend our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones and in honouring their memory, express our gratitude for their dedicated service.

Lastly, please allow me to convey my appreciation to the Acting Chief Registrar and the Opening of the Legal Year organizing committee for the preparations made for today. I also wish to thank the Prime Minister's Office, State Judiciary Department, Department of Adat Istiadat Negara, Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation and the Accident and Emergency Department of RIPAS Hospital for their invaluable assistance and continued support. I am also grateful to the Commissioner of Police for the Guard of Honour Parade. Thank you very much for your attendance today and my best wishes and good health to you all for the year ahead.



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Hon. Dato Seri Paduka Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa

My Lord Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong,

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim,

Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office,
Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II,

Yang Berhormat Chief Syar'ie Judge (Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar),

Honourable Justices

(My Learned Friend) President of the Law Society,

(Excellencies/Members of the Diplomatic Corp)

Members of the Bar,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Lord,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to address Your Lordship on this important day in the legal calendar – the Opening of the 2024 Legal Year. Firstly, allow me to extend my heart-felt appreciation to the Judiciary for a warm welcome on this special occasion.

Capacity Building and Collaboration

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, it is natural to look back and acknowledge both triumphs and challenges, gain insights into lessons learnt and growth achieved. In my address last year, I called our attention to the Rule of Law and the AGC's ongoing plans of collaboration and engagement in the pursuit of impartial justice, fair processes, equal treatment and accountability.

In line with the theme of collaboration and engagement, my Chambers participated in many international conferences such as the 13th ASEAN-China Prosecutors-General Conference, the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers commemorating 40 years of ASEAN-Japan relations, and the inaugural Interface Session between the Justice Ministers of ASEAN and the G7. These were key milestones in building trust and enhancing cooperation in the field of law and justice in the region and beyond.

Within Brunei, we were active in various programs and events. Highlights include the successful hosting of the 1st ASEAN Ministers/Attorney General's Meeting of the Central Authorities on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. We also had the honor of welcoming a legislative drafting consultant, a former Parliamentary Draftsman from the Singapore AGC, whose expertise was gladly received.

Our outreach efforts of training and lectures to relevant stakeholders continued apace in 2023 particularly in the area of law enforcement and prosecution. One notable outcome was the Public Prosecutor's success in the Court of Appeal whereby an acquittal for the offence of aggravated outraging modesty by a person in a position of trust was reversed.

One initiative for the Criminal Justice Division that I am especially anticipating this year is the escalating of our relationship with the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore. We will be sending a number of officers to Singapore to not only undergo a Basic Prosecutor's Course but also for extended work attachments within the Singapore Attorney-General's Chambers.

This is an invaluable opportunity for counsel to gain first-hand experience learning from and working alongside their experienced counterparts in Singapore.

I would like to take this moment to express my sincere gratitude to Your Lordship and the Law Society for extending invitations to my Chambers to participate in events and talks organised by the Judiciary and the Law Society; as well as our external partners for making these valuable learning opportunities possible.

Peace and Stability

The AGC continues to be guided by our vision of Excellence in Legal Service to uphold the Rule of Law and safeguard Brunei's interests. The AGC plays a pivotal role in supporting the Government with its efforts to ensure peace and stability, as well as social security for our people. In addition to advising the Government on the proper implementation of the law, it is crucial to ensure fair governance and accountability for all administrative bodies. It is incumbent on us to guide regulatory authorities and enforcement agencies with the proper interpretation of the law, and the adoption of good governance in conformity with the laws, regulations and policies.

Our duty and authority as custodians of the Rule of Law has been clearly expressed in His Majesty's Titah during an unscheduled visit to an enforcement agency in 2022 where His Majesty stated: "*... sekiranya betul berlaku jenayah, maka pada ketika itu, memang menjadi hak dan kewajipan bagi pihak berkuasa untuk menangani dengan undang-undang untuk memutuskan salah atau tidak.*".

The Legislative Drafting Division has advised and worked with various Ministries, departments and agencies to translate policy decisions into legislation.

These have included:

- a. The National Retirement Scheme Order, 2023 together with the National Retirement Scheme Rules, 2023, which will improve the provision of social security facilities for all employees in Brunei Darussalam; and
- b. The Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023 where establishing a baseline level of compensation for workers is a strong step towards ensuring social stability.

Further, the AGC has worked closely with Government agencies to respond to the challenge of an increasingly interconnected world where digital landscapes transcend physical borders and high-tech crimes are on the rise. Brunei is not immune to these cybersecurity threats and has experienced several small-scale attacks from intrusions and online fraudulent activities to radicalising propaganda. The importance of robust cybersecurity measures cannot be overstated.

The Cybersecurity Order, 2023 is one initiative aimed at safeguarding our peace and stability in the digital domain. It is the culmination of a long running campaign by the AGC since 2013 to raise awareness on the dangers of cybercrime. This Order strengthens our ability to quickly respond to threats and facilitate investigations and prosecutions of such crimes.

I look forward to the establishment of additional guidelines and laws such as the Personal Protection Order and Code of Practice for Critical Information Infrastructure. Such guidelines will facilitate the implementation of the Cyber Security Order towards a safer digital environment. As our society's digital transformation accelerates, vigilance and cooperation between legal counsel and organisations is required.

Digital technologies have also introduced new challenges and opportunities for people to innovate. The establishment and safeguarding of strong IP

frameworks demonstrate a commitment to the Rule of Law and encourages economic development. I wish to recognise the Intellectual Property Office of Brunei Darussalam (BruIPO) for their efforts and initiatives to promote inclusivity, innovation, creativity, technology and entrepreneurship. Their successful organisation of the annual World Intellectual Property Day celebration gathered almost 200 participants from various industries. The theme of "Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creation" advocated for more women entrepreneurs and creatives to be part of the Intellectual Property system.

I also congratulate BruIPO on the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Universiti of Brunei Darussalam. The establishment and safeguarding of strong IP frameworks demonstrate a commitment to the Rule of Law and encourages economic development and attracts foreign investment.

AGC Strategic Plan

In keeping with the rise of technology, the AGC Strategic Plan 2021-2023 focused on human resource management and the adoption of legal technology. There has been good progress in utilising technology to enhance the efficiency of the management of the AGC. The Electronic Document Management System is scheduled to go live this year, which will enable the AGC to better manage and track the large volume of correspondence we receive.

The next step is to progress with the Legislative Electronic Drafting and Online System and formulate a new strategic plan to further increase the efficiency of our legal services.

Promotions

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to share the recent promotion of Pengiran Hajah Siti Rahmah binti Pengiran Haji Mohammad on her promotion from Principal Counsel to Assistant Solicitor General, and and Dayang Norismizan binti Haji Ismail from Principal Counsel to Legal Draftsman.

I wish them the best in their new role and hope that their success serves as inspiration for other officers to aim for career advancement.

Of course, I cannot fail to acknowledge the recent appointment by the Law Society of Miss Nur 'Azizah Ahmad as their new, and first, lady President. My warmest congratulations to her on this well-deserved achievement and milestone in her law career.

Concluding Remarks

As we look forward, let us embark into the new year with a sense of purpose ready to confront and overcome challenges with the determination to embrace new opportunities.

The AGC remains committed to the principles that underpin our legal system. We must continue to invest in the skills of our officers particularly in specialised areas. Our ability to navigate the complexities of a constantly evolving legal and social landscape depend on a comprehension of the law that goes beyond mere memorisation of statutes and case law.

The legal profession calls for an appreciation of the balance between the rights of the individual and societal needs, a keen awareness of the parameters of the law and a recognition of the limits of discretionary and enforcement powers. It is this understanding that empowers us to be effective advocates, impartial arbiters and agents of positive change within our community.

My Lord, I shall conclude by extending my best wishes to Your Lordship, Honourable Judges, the legal fraternity and everyone a healthy, joyful and prosperous 2024.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT OF LAW SOCIETY

Nur Azizah binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Ahmad

My Lord Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong,

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim, Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Minister in the Prime Minister's Office,

Yang Amat Arif Chief Syarie Judge,

The Honourable Justices of the Supreme Court,

The Honourable Attorney General Dato Seri Paduka Hj Ahmad Bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa,

Your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps,

My learned friends from the legal profession,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

A very good morning to one and all at this distinguished occasion, the Opening of the Legal Year 2024. I also extend a very warm welcome to the members of foreign bars that have kindly taken the time out of their undoubtedly busy schedule to join us from around the region: -

- i) Ms Lisa Sam Hui Min, President of the Law Society of Singapore.
- ii) Mr Mohamad Nazim Maduarin, President of the Sabah Law Society;
- iii) Mr Gurvir Singh Sandhu, President of the Advocates Association of Sarawak;
- iv) Encik Mohamad Ezri Abdul Wahab, Vice-President of the Malaysian Bar; and
- v) Mr Roger Chin, Immediate-Past President of the Sabah Law Society.

Thank you for being here; your presence is much appreciated.



My Lord, it is with the deepest honour and an overwhelming sense of gratitude and humility that I address Your Lordship today as the first female President of our esteemed law society.

First and foremost, I want to express my appreciation to the Council of the Law Society for having the confidence to entrust me with this historic responsibility. It is an honour that I do not take lightly and as the thought of today loomed over me, especially when thinking of what to say in this speech, the more acutely aware I became of the significance of this moment. To my fellow members of the Bar, I stand here today not only as your learned friend, but I hope also as a representative of the growth and inclusivity of the Society, as well as the limitless potential that exists within our profession.

I would not be here without the leaders who came before me, who, with their hard work, dedication and passion to serve, laid the foundation upon which I now stand. To my predecessors, some of whom continue to serve in Council, I extend my gratitude for your enduring contributions to the Society.

I am grateful to not be on this journey alone; for behind every successful leader is a team of dedicated individuals who share a common vision, and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the individuals serving in Council this term. They are:

- i. Mr Zheng On – Immediate Past President and Vice-President
- ii. Ms Nabilah Zainal Abidin – Treasurer
- iii. Ms Navrita Kaur – Secretary
- iv. Mr Ahmad Basuni Haji Abbas
- v. Mr Pg Izad-Ryan bin PLKDR Pg Hj Bahrin
- vi. Mr Hj Mohammad Zainidi bin Haji Abdul Hamid
- vii. Mr Jonathan Cheok

- viii. Ms Evelyn Lee
- ix. Mr Cornelius Yong
- x. Mr Cedric Loo
- xi. Datin Nurhayana Janis binti Abdullah Lim – AGC representative
- xii. Ms Veronica Rajakanu – Foreign Counsel

If I may be so bold, My Lord, I think that together with this current Council, we form a dynamic team ready to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with each member bringing a wealth of experience and diversity of perspective. I look forward to doing meaningful work with them over the next 2 years.

Although I may be the first female President of the Law Society, female leadership in the legal profession in Brunei is, I think, nothing new – one need only look to the Attorney-General’s Chambers or the number of women in private practice who are Partners, Managing Partners, or Sole Practitioners for example – to see that female empowerment is alive and well in our legal fraternity. In fact, we have one of the highest ratios of women to men in private practice in the region. So perhaps, it would have only been a matter of time that we saw a woman in this role.

Nevertheless, it is a testament to the growth and development of our legal fraternity that the time has now come – 18 years since its establishment – for female leadership at the Law Society. It is said that “When more women are empowered to lead, everyone benefits. Decades of studies show women leaders help increase productivity, enhance collaboration, inspire organizational dedication, and improve fairness” and I certainly intend on making this true with the work I shall undertake over the next 2 years in service to the Society.

Challenges and Opportunities

My Lord, as we look ahead to the challenges that await us in the coming legal year, it is incumbent on me to confront the many pressing issues the legal profession faces. Among these, I wish to highlight 3 in my speech today.

Integrity of the Legal Profession

My Lord, over the last few years, we have seen a number of complaints against practitioners. As a result of some of these complaints being heard in court, the legal profession seems to be under the spotlight recently in a distinctly unfavourable light. I think Your Lordship will agree that this cannot be allowed to continue.

Brunei, like any other country, is not immune to complaints against lawyers in the legal profession. Although an uncomfortable process, the ability to raise concerns regarding conduct and standards of a lawyer is part of a healthy ecosystem. However, instances of misconduct or ethical lapses, if left unaddressed, can erode the public's trust in the legal system.

This state of affairs is unfortunate but the complaints procedure is necessary to ensure the integrity of the legal profession as we know it. The role of a lawyer is not an easy one; it is a calling that expects resilience and strength of heart from those who choose to practice it. At any given time, we as lawyers, play many roles for our client; their ardent defender, their teller of hard truths, their trusted counsel – very often taking on their emotional burden with the expectation that we readily have the knowledge to resolve issues that are in their best interests. In a good lawyer-client relationship, we see our clients through their highs and lows, from their beginning to their end. For these reasons, we must guard the integrity of the legal profession and be vigilant in upholding the ethical standards that define it.

While professional misconduct is commonly associated with dishonesty or unethical behaviour, it is also essential to recognize that misconduct can manifest in various forms, some of which may not necessarily involve dishonesty. Matters involving dishonesty or malicious intent aside, instances of conduct falling short of the expected standards can also occur from lapses in judgment, inadequate oversight, lack of transparency or misunderstanding of professional obligations. While all forms of professional misconduct must be fully dealt with accordingly and commensurate to the conduct complained of, perhaps as a legal community, we ought to also consider what measures we can take to prevent such lapses. By fostering a culture of accountability, continuous education, and ethical reflection, we can uphold the integrity of our profession and ensure that the trust bestowed upon us by the public remains steadfast.

To this end, My Lord, we welcome any suggestions Your Lordship may recommend and which we shall take into serious consideration. Last year, the Council together with the Judiciary and AGC began a series of constructive dialogues on matters affecting the legal profession and we look forward to continuing dialogues with the Judiciary and AGC on these matters in the coming year. Thanks to these helpful sessions, the Council has been making headway in its duty of protecting and assisting both our members and the public, resulting in a couple of upcoming developments.

The first is an upcoming update to the disciplinary process whereby all complaints shall be evaluated by a Review Committee before an Inquiry Committee is constituted. The reason for this, My Lord, is so that complaints can be dealt with expeditiously, by determining at the earliest opportunity whether a complaint has sufficient cause to be investigated to a higher degree or merely frivolous and vexatious. It is hoped that this

update will ensure that our resources are being used efficiently, given our small pool of Inquiry Panel members – which often result in members either being unable to act due to conflict or tied up with other complaints as Your Lordship is aware.

The second development is the introduction of the Professional Indemnity Rules which is slated to take effect in 2025 and will require that every firm have in place an insurance policy providing indemnity against loss arising from claims in respect of civil liability incurred in connection with his or her practice. This is a welcome addition to the legal ecosystem; as with any service-based enterprise, we may encounter situations in which clients are unhappy with our work despite our best efforts. With indemnity cover in place, it can be ensured that our members and the public are protected, come what may.

In addition to this, we hope to have in the pipeline more opportunities for continuing professional development for members of the Bar that touch on the practical aspects of legal practice such as legal accounting and ethics as well as those focusing on skill building – like the talk that we shall have this afternoon on criminal trial procedure and the advocacy workshop that we aim to have a few months from now. The importance of continuing professional development cannot be overstated. It is through ongoing learning and growth that we not only stay abreast of the latest legal developments and precedents but also hone our skills, refine our practices, and maintain the highest standards of proficiency and ethical conduct.

Saturation of the Legal Market

My Lord, the second challenge that we face is saturation of the legal market. While a diverse and competitive legal landscape is beneficial, an oversaturation of practitioners can lead to conduct issues and potential compromise of quality services. This is a multifaceted challenge requiring an approach that on the one hand, preserves the high standards of the profession while welcoming those that desire to be part of our community and who are set to be the next generation of lawyers.

The increase in lawyers within the profession is not necessarily something within our control. What we can control, My Lord, is our ability to adapt, innovate and grow stronger from the set of circumstances presented to us. Meanwhile, it is also the Council's duty to protect the interests of our members and the profession. I do not presume to have the answers to this issue yet, My Lord, but I am optimistic that shining a spotlight on this issue can start the conversation on how we can tackle this as a community.

Again, continuing professional development is important, to enable members to diversify, innovate and improve their services. Another avenue open to us may also lie in forging greater connections with our regional counterparts to see potential areas for collaboration beyond our borders. To my learned friends from Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, perhaps we can kick this off by having our long awaited Borneo Bar games this year – I believe Miri or KL might be a good location for the inaugural meet.

Ensuring Access to Justice

The third challenge that I wish to highlight in my speech My Lord, is ensuring access to justice. This represents a continuous and crucial challenge for which the Council's efforts are unceasing and go hand in hand with the upholding of the rule of law. Economic disparities, geographical constraints and other barriers can impede individuals from seeking and receiving the legal representation they deserve. It is our duty to address these impediments and champion initiatives that uphold the rule of law, promote inclusivity, and make justice accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstance.

An issue that was brought to the Council's attention last term was the current situation faced by defence counsel when meeting with their incarcerated clients and which arose from health and safety protocols initially introduced during the COVID pandemic. This included measures such as meeting behind glass screens and communicating via intercom. Such measures, while understandable during the pandemic, affect defence counsels' ability to conduct an effective and more importantly, private consultation with their clients in order to obtain instructions. The Council had raised our concerns with the current practice via letter last year to various entities such as the Prisons Department, and more recently to the Ministry of Home Affairs earlier this year and we look forward to working with the relevant agencies in resolving this issue as soon as possible.

On that note, it would be remiss of me to not mention the inclusion of the Law Society by various Governmental agencies in the previous year, for which we are appreciative. In particular, we are grateful to the Ministry of Development for involving the Law Society in their discussions with the AGC on the amendments to the Land Code Amendment Order. These amendments have been much anticipated, with wide-reaching effects on the property market and conveyancing practices in the country, and we are eager to see the product of those discussions.

My Lord, earlier this year the Law Society received invitations to attend the Opening of Legal Years around the region and for which myself and Mr On gladly attended. Attending these events not only fosters good connections with our learned friends overseas, but more importantly, gives us an opportunity to learn from our more established counterparts on how to build a thriving legal community.

More than just good memories, we bring back lessons learned from these visits which I hope we can turn into positive change here. In Singapore, the discussion centered around profession longevity and AI, while in Kota Kinabalu I witnessed the amazing level of community outreach undertaken by the legal

community. More than just good memories, we bring back lessons learned from these visits which I hope we can turn into positive change here. In Singapore, the discussion centered around profession longevity and AI, while in Kota Kinabalu I witnessed the amazing level of community outreach undertaken by the legal community there. As we reflect on these enriching experiences, I hope we can recommit ourselves to further collaboration and channel this knowledge and inspiration into our endeavours here at home as we strive towards a more vibrant legal community and service to the public.

The mainstay of our community outreach here is, of course, the legal aid clinic run by the Society every month and for which we are seeing increasing numbers of the public attending. In this endeavour, I would like to thank the members who volunteer their time and support for this important initiative – the success of this program lies in your participation. We all have the ability to have profound impact beyond the walls of our offices and the court room and I urge members of the Bar to seize the opportunities available to give back to the community by taking part in our legal aid clinic or other legal aid programs – such as the one in place for capital cases.

Participating in such work are not merely noble aspirations; they are tangible expressions of our commitment to justice and our duty to serve the greater good. By offering our time, skills, and resources through volunteerism, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most. The Legal Aid clinic is due to begin once again this month, and on behalf of the Legal Aid Committee, we look forward to the continued support from our members this year.

On a lighter note, the Council also recommits itself to holding our yearly Games and Annual Dinner. It is with great pleasure to inform our Members that after many years of being trampled by the AGC in

all the sports, we finally brought back a trophy from the Games for Bowling and I hope we can at least keep this one for another year. Jokes aside, there is no other occasion in which we are able to connect with each other in an informal setting such as the Games and Annual Dinner and I thank our Members, the Judiciary and the AGC for their enthusiastic participation in these events – it is truly the highlight of the year that gives us an opportunity to commemorate the important part each of us play in our small legal fraternity.

Congratulatory Messages

Before I conclude, My Lord, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate members of the Judiciary who have received new appointments as Magistrates. Namely:

- (i) The Honourable Abdul 'Azim bin Othman;
- (ii) The Honourable Fatin Fikriyah binti Haji Rosli;
- (iii) The Honourable Nur Sariy Syahmina binti Hj Jaffri;
- (iv) The Honourable Nurulbillah Aqilah binti Haji Mohd Ali; and
- (v) The Honourable Sharifah Nur Baqiyah binti Malai Shahran.

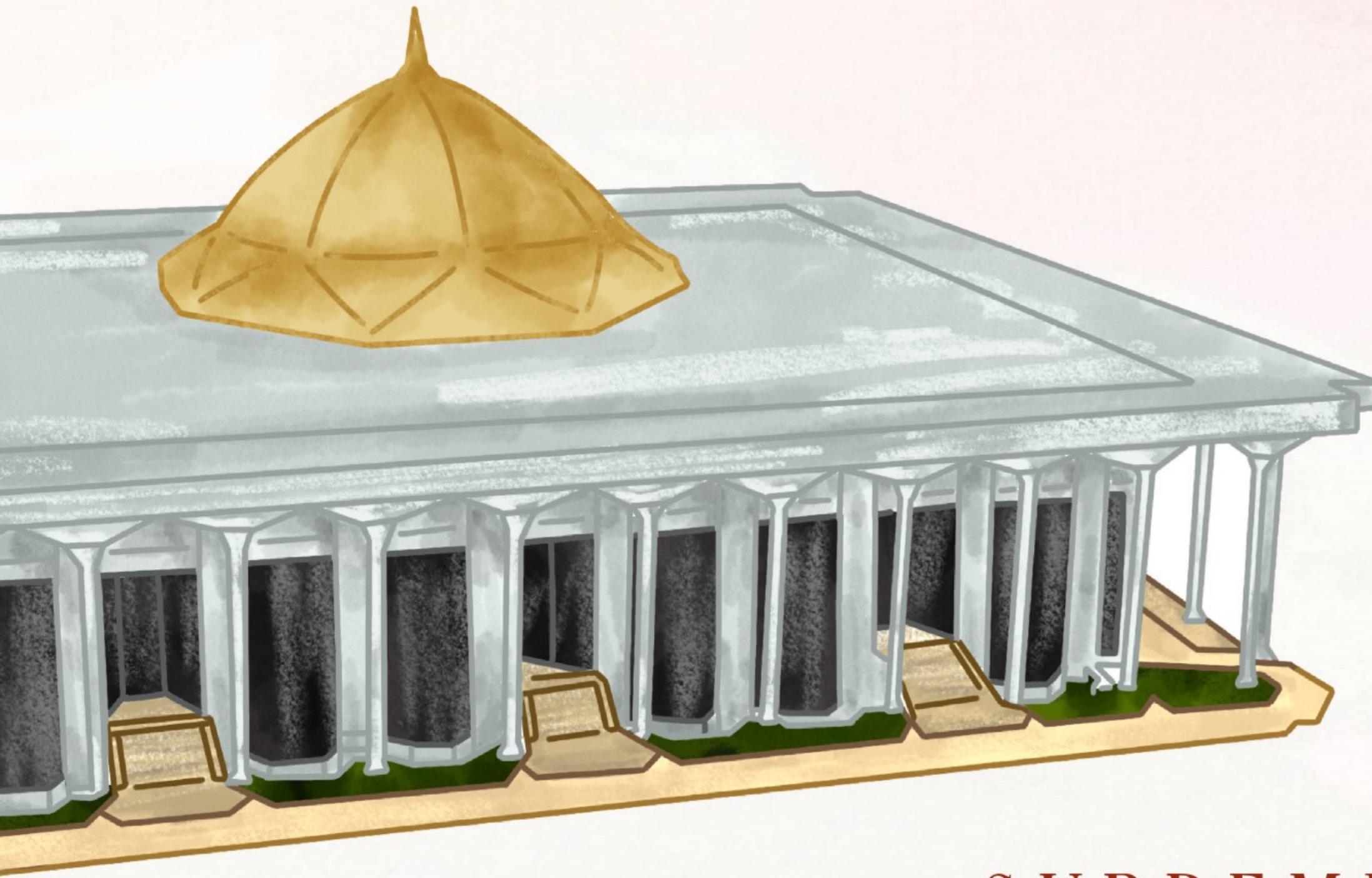
Finally, my speech would not be complete without recognizing the excellent group of young lawyers who took part in this year's moot competition in Singapore. This year, the Law Society sent 2 teams, consisting of Mr Abdul Hakim bin Ahmad Zakaria and Ms Pg Ummi Taqiyah binti Pg Abdul Rahman, and Mr Brandon Chin and Ms Li Chyi Lim headed by Mr Kamal Shaari. I commend these individuals for their bravery in taking on this challenge and am incredibly proud to inform Your Lordship that there was, for the second consecutive year, a team from Brunei that made it to the finals. This team was none other than the team comprising Mr Chin and Ms Lim, with Mr Chin earning the title of Best Speaker.

To say that these achievements have made us all here in Brunei proud is an understatement and I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr Shaari and the teams for their hard work in the preparation for the moot. Congratulations! – perhaps third time's a charm?

Conclusion

My Lord, as we all embark on this new legal year, it is my hope that we carry with us the lessons of the past, the achievements of the present and the aspirations for the future. I am eager and absolutely honoured to serve our members and the wider community as we navigate the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead, and on behalf of the Law Society, I reiterate our commitment of support and cooperation to the Judiciary in its duty of upholding the administration of justice and the Rule of Law. With that, I wish everyone present a year of collaboration, progress and prosperity.

Thank you.



SUPREME COURT





Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal is comprised of the President of the Court and three Judicial Commissioners, supported by a pool of four Judicial Commissioners who sit based on their areas of expertise. These judges are assisted by Registrars from the Supreme Court and staff from the Supreme Court Registry.

In 2024, the Court of Appeal maintained its proactive case management approach, conducting two sessions throughout 2024. One in May/June and another in October/November. Additionally, the Court hosted a lecture titled “Trying Commercial Law Cases” to enhance education and expertise in this important area of law.

With respect to Civil cases, the Court of Appeal provided a detailed analysis of the implied retainer, the “without prejudice” rule, and the elements of undue

influence and misrepresentation, makes it a valuable resource for lawyers practicing in Brunei and potentially beyond. The judgment clarifies the boundaries of legal professional conduct, especially where there is pre-existing relationship between parties (see COACV/17/2023).

The central issue revolved around whether an implied lawyer-client relationship (retainer) existed between the appellant (a practicing advocate and solicitor) and the respondent. The court’s detailed analysis of the implied retainer doctrine and the resulting duty of care is significant. The judgment explores the nuanced aspects of establishing such a relationship based on facts beyond a formal contract, including the context of a pre-existing friendship and the reliance placed on the legal expertise of one party by the other.

Automatic Discontinuance

The rule on automatic discontinuance remains to be an issue that is brought before the Court. In COACV/5/2024 the Court of Appeal reminded legal practitioners of their duty to conduct litigation promptly and efficiently. The judgment provides valuable clarification on the application of Order 21 Rule 2(6) and the consequences of failing to meet the required timelines. The case highlights the court's commitment to ensuring a fair and efficient judicial process, emphasizing that delays without valid justification will not be tolerated. The discussion of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, without granting an extension, offers valuable insight into how unforeseen circumstances must still conform to the established rules of procedure.

With respect to cases the Court of Appeal has consistently focus on deterrent and justified sentencing for serious offenses such as armed robbery, outraging modesty, and multiple counts of rape, reflecting a judicial intent to impose significant penalties for grave crimes. Sentences often include both custodial terms and corporal punishment (strokes).

Several cases heard before the Court of Appeal involved outraging the modesty of minors, demonstrate a trend where offenses committed by individuals in positions of trust (educators, law enforcement) are particularly highlighted. This trend emphasizes a societal and judicial stance against abuses of power and the betrayal of trust. There is a notable increase in adjudications relating to sexual offenses, particularly against minors, indicating a judicial priority on protecting vulnerable populations and addressing such crimes with the utmost seriousness.

Judicial Priority

As the apex court within the civil law structure, it plays a crucial role in the development of jurisprudence, case precedent, and sentencing guidelines. The Court anticipates resuming sessions in 2025, with two sessions already scheduled for the year.





Registrars of the Supreme Court

High Court Registry

The High Court Registry is currently led by the Acting Chief Registrar who assisted by the Deputy Chief Registrar. Senior Registrars also play a role in heading specific units in the Supreme Court together with the assistance of the Registrars and Court staff. All registrars hear civil matters in the High Court and/or the Intermediate Court.

In February 2023, Deputy Chief Registrar took over from Judge Pengiran Masni as the Acting Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court. As a registrar with a number of years of experience she has continued

to strive to improve services of the registry and also improve the of the registry and also improve the quality of the decisions of the Court. The High Court would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Pengiran Masni during her tenure as Acting Chief Registrar. The High Court also welcomed Senior Magistrate Hajah Ervy Suffitriana and Registrar Raihan Nabilah. Both these officers have had many years of legal experience and we look forward to their contribution in the High Court.

The judicial officers in the High Court currently comprise of The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; two full time Judicial Commissioner, the Acting Chief Registrar, the Deputy Chief Registrar; two Senior Registrars and a Senior Magistrate; seven Registrar and one Special Duties Officer.

In order to assist in the administration of justice, the High Court recognises the need for assistance and is tasked to look after the Supreme Court Registry, Civil Marriages Registry, Legal Aid, Trust Accounts, Corporate Unit, Research and Data Collection Unit, Interpreters and Court Recorder Unit, Translation Unit and Library. The High Court extends acknowledges the support and assistance rendered by various dedicated units, which are essential to the effective administration of justice. Acknowledging the critical role of a smooth judicial process, the High Court expresses gratitude to the Supreme Court Registry for its organisation and management of court records and files.

Legal Aid

The Legal Aid Committee has convened multiple times to ensure effective management of legal aid cases for defendants facing capital punishment.

Despite some challenges with manpower, the library has continued to provide essential services. Collectively, these units demonstrate unwavering dedication, significantly enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system.

Other Units

The Corporate Unit is recognized for its crucial role in facilitating essential administrative functions, while the Research and Data Collection Unit has delivered comprehensive insights that assist in determining quality and planning. Special thanks are given to the Interpreters and Court Recorder Unit, whose linguistic skills ensure effective understanding of proceedings to parties and proper records are kept throughout legal proceedings. The Translation Unit is also acknowledged for its work in bridging language barriers, with respect to translating legal and non-legal documents.

High Court

The High Court welcomed back Justice Woolley, who participated in in-person hearings during the May/June 2024 session and again online in October 2024. Alongside Justice Haji Abdullah Soefri and Justice Mohammed Faisal, the judges have demonstrated effectively managed a diverse array of criminal and civil cases.

Their collective efforts reflect the High Court's steadfast commitment to expeditiously and effectively resolving legal matters. As they navigated a substantial caseload, their dedication has significantly enhanced the court's ability to ensure a swift and efficient resolution of cases, thereby contributing notably to the overarching pursuit of justice.

In recognising the relatively small pool of local High Court Judges, the High Court continues to utilize Section 16 C of the Supreme Court Act, Chapter 5 to transfer cases from the High Court to the Intermediate Court where a larger pool of judges is available. Again, this ensures that cases are dealt with in an efficient and expeditious manner.

In 2024, the High Court addressed a diverse array of cases that showcased its comprehensive judicial mandate. Family law cases, involved critical decisions on divorce and the equitable distribution of assets. Banking disputes, highlighted complexities in loan agreements and breaches of contract. The Court also tackled civil liability matters in focusing on personal injury claims and employer duties. Additionally, judicial reviews, demonstrated the Court's engagement with disciplinary proceedings under statutory rules. Procedural applications were common, ranging from issues such as addressing judge recusal and case consolidation and the taxation of legal fees. The Court's vital role in addressing a spectrum of legal issues, emphasizes our commitment to upholding the law and ensuring fair access to justice for all parties involved.

“ *The constantly evolving landscape and environment have prompted the Registry to adapt swiftly, and this commitment to flexibility will continue throughout 2024. We acknowledge the dynamic nature of our work and are devoted to refining our processes, adopting innovative strategies, and promoting a culture of ongoing improvement.* ”

PP v Mohammad Helmi bin Awg Serabah (HCCT/10/2021)

In 2024, the High Court adjudicated a wide range of criminal cases, reflecting its commitment to addressing serious legal matters. Key cases included this case where the defendant was convicted under Section 304(1) of the Penal Code and sentenced to life imprisonment.

PP v Archie Galvan Sace (HACM/1/2024)

In the realm of appeals, this case involved challenges against imposed fines for miscalculation of excise duty, resulting in the appeal being allowed.

Multiple cases centered on unlawful carnal knowledge, in addition the Court handled several bail applications. Significantly, the Court dealt with cases involving serious offenses such as attempted rape and outraging modesty. The High Court's proceedings in 2024 reflected a robust engagement with a variety of criminal offenses, underlining its role in safeguarding justice and ensuring accountability within the legal system.



High Court Registry Officers and Staff

Official Receiver's Chamber

The Official Receiver's Chamber, comprising Deputy Official Receivers, the Finance Unit and the Bankruptcy Registry, plays a pivotal role in managing bankruptcy and insolvency matters. Under the leadership of the Acting Official Receiver, she is supported by a dedicated team consisting of 12 Deputy Official Receivers, Finance Officers, and bankruptcy staff. In 2024, the Chamber implemented several operational enhancements, reinforcing its commitment to improving processes and delivering services of the highest standard.

Transition to a Digitalized System

As of January 2024, the Official Receiver's Chamber has been transitioning to a more digitalized system. With the assistance of the Finance Unit, the Chamber has fully implemented online payment systems for the declaration of dividends. This initiative has significantly reduced the reliance on cheque issuance, resulting in notable time savings and improved operational efficiency. Additionally, the unit now receives e-statements, thus fostering greater transparency and enabling faster identification of accounts eligible for dividend declarations.

*Official Receiver's Registry and Bankruptcy Finance Unit
Officers and Staff*



Review of Procedures & Stakeholder Engagement

In 2024, the Official Receiver's Chamber continued its active engagement with stakeholders to address concerns and identify areas for improvement. As part of this effort, a dedicated email account was established to allow stakeholders to directly communicate issues related to the management of bankruptcy and insolvency matters. This open channel of communication aims to foster ongoing dialogue and yield productive outcomes.

The Chamber also remains committed to an ongoing internal review of its procedures, identifying and addressing gaps in current processes. A notable development was the issuance of Official Receiver's Circular No. 1 of 2024 on June 8, 2024. This circular emphasized that all notices must be served personally on the Judgment Debtor, with court orders being required for service by advertisement.

Another significant advancement was the introduction of new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the release of TAP funds. Under this SOP, Judgment Debtors are now required to submit a consent letter agreeing for their TAP funds to be utilized toward the settlement of their debt. These measures reflect the Chamber's commitment to maintain procedural integrity and improving operation efficiency.



Enhanced Online Resources

The Official Receiver's Chamber has also enhanced its presence on the judiciary's website by providing more comprehensive information about bankruptcy processes. These updates aim to assist Judgment Debtors and litigants-in-person in navigating bankruptcy procedures and filing documents efficiently.

As of 3rd December 2024, the Deputy Official Receivers collectively oversaw the declaration of composition for 380 cases, totaling a sum of \$12,906,600.37. This achievement highlights the team's unwavering commitment to ensuring the effectiveness of the online payment system.

Declarations of Dividends

Organizational Changes

Effective 1st July 2024, Senior Magistrate / Registrar Hjh Eryv Sufitriana Binti Hj Abdul Rahman assumed the supervisory role of overseeing the Official Receiver's Chamber from the Honourable Chief Magistrate Dk Norismayanti Binti Pg Hj Ismail. The Official Receiver's Chamber extends its deepest gratitude to the Chief Magistrate for her dedicated service and invaluable guidance, which have significantly contributed to the unit's progress and efficiency.

The Chamber also expresses its heartfelt appreciation to Deputy Official Receiver Pg Siti Nursu'aidah Binti Pengiran Jufzizar @ Pengiran Tajuddin, for her exceptional leadership as the Head of Bankruptcy Unit/Registry over the past year. Her hard work and positive contributions have left a lasting impact on the unit. In August 2024, Pg Siti Nursu'aidah has embarked on her further studies and we wish her every bit of success.

As Pg Siti Nursu'aidah concludes her term, we warmly welcome DOR Nurul Hidayah Binti Hamdan, who will now take over the day-to-day management of the registry with effect from August 2024. We look forward to her leadership as we continue to advance the work and objectives of the Bankruptcy Unit.



Bankruptcy Finance Unit Officer and Staff

Corporate Insolvency and Collaborative Effort

The Official Receiver's Chamber also handles corporate insolvency governed by the Insolvency Act, Chapter 247. This legislation marks a significant shift from its predecessor, the Companies Act, by prioritizing the recovery and rehabilitation of distressed companies. The Act introduces frameworks such as voluntary arrangements and judicial managements, designed to provide struggling businesses with avenues for restructuring and recovery. Recognizing the vital role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Brunei's economy, the Act underscores the importance of fostering economic stability and growth through these rehabilitative measures.

In alignment with this focus, the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam remains committed to enhancing judicial understanding of insolvency and restructuring matters. To this end, the Supreme Court hosted a briefing in July 2024

on Insolvency and Restructuring for stakeholders from the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Primer Minister's Office, and the Attorney General's Chambers. The briefing was delivered by Justice Kannan Ramesh, Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Singapore, who delivered valuable insights on concurrent cross-border insolvency and restructuring proceedings.

Furthering its commitment to collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the Acting Official Receiver and DOR Nurul Hidayah attended the First ASEAN Insolvency Judges Meeting in Cebu, Philippines, in November 2024. This gathering brought together representatives from various jurisdictions to foster collaborations, exchange best practices, and share experiences in insolvency matters. Such exchanges are instrumental in identifying opportunities for improvement and strengthening the judiciary's approach to insolvency cases.

Moving Forward

As we welcome the new legal year, the Official Receiver's Chamber reaffirms its commitment and dedication to efficiency and delivering high-quality procedures and services, while continuously adapting to meet the needs of its users and stakeholders. With a focus on innovation, collaboration, and responsiveness, the Chamber aims to navigate evolving challenges and uphold its role in supporting economic stability and judicial excellence.

Probate Office

The Probate Office, under the leadership of the Acting Probate Officer Hajah Hazarena POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah, supported by Head of Probate Registry Kamaliah Fadhilah binti Haji Ibrahim and a dedicated team of Deputy Probate Officers, Assistant Probate officer and Registry staffs has continued its commitment to ensuring efficient and effective handling of probate matters throughout 2024.

While the office primarily focuses on processing Letters of Administration and Letters of Probate for non-contentious cases, contentious matters remain under the jurisdiction of the High Court. This year has been marked by significant progress, structural adjustments, and ongoing efforts to streamline processes and address growing demands.



Probate Registry Officers and Staff

Team Expansion

A key development in 2024 has been the expansion of workforce, with 13 Deputy Probate Officers now actively contributing to the office's operations. This increased manpower has allowed the office to allocate specific days for regular probate hearings and prioritise urgent applications.

The Deputy Probate Officers have also taken on greater responsibilities, including hearing Summons in Chambers filed in the Probate Office for non-contentious applications and managing Originating Summons cases, ensuring better support for the Probate Officer and closer coordination with the Attorney General's Chambers. These changes reflect the office's commitment to strengthening its capacity to handle a rising caseload efficiently.

Case Management System

With a rise in High Court cases involving the Probate Officer, the office has introduced a structured case management system. Each case is now assigned to a Deputy Probate Officer, who assists in preparing the case and liaising with legal representatives. This system has strengthened the Probate Office's capacity to manage its growing workload while maintaining meticulous standards of preparation and coordination. This system also underscores the office's adaptability and readiness to address the growing challenges it faces.

Procedural Changes for Muslim Applications

The procedural framework for Muslim estate administration underwent significant changes in February 2024. Prior to this, Muslim applicants were required to obtain two orders from the Syariah Court before proceeding with an application in the civil courts: a Faraid Order, which lists the beneficiaries and their respective shares, and a Qualified Persons Order, confirming the administrator's eligibility under Syariah law. However, the Syariah High Court determined that the Syariah Court would no longer issue Qualified Persons Orders, prompting a reevaluation of the process.

To address this change, the Probate Office engaged in discussions with the Syariah Court, which resulted in a new approach for Muslim Applications. Beneficiaries listed in the Faraid Order are now presumed eligible to act as administrators without requiring a Qualified Persons Order, provided they meet the criteria of age and mental capacity.

Issuance of Practice Directions and Circulars

To further enhance procedural compliance and streamline the filing of applications, the Probate Office has released a Probate Officer Circular addressing proper service to the Probate Officer. Additionally, the Chief Registrar issued a Practice Direction to clarify the correct filing of applications to the Probate Office and the High Court. These measures aim to reduce errors in filings and ensure a more efficient handling of cases, providing applicants with clear guidance on procedural requirements.

The final decision regarding the appointment of an administrator is made by the Probate Officer during the hearing of the application. For applications involving non-beneficiaries as administrators, the Probate Office is required to seek the advice of the Syariah Court through formal correspondence. As part of the updated requirements, Muslim applicants must now submit a Faraid Order, a statutory declaration from the proposed administrator affirming their responsibilities, and a statutory declaration from the beneficiaries confirming their consent to the appointment before the application can be processed.

Operational Highlight

As of mid-2024, the Probate Office processed 379 applications for Letters of Administration and 13 for Letters of Probate across all districts. Of these, 176 Letters of Administration and all 13 Letters of Probate were granted. Pending cases are being closely monitored, with delays often attributed to incomplete documentation or procedural requirements. Bandar Seri Begawan continues to lead in testing and implementing innovative practices before expanding them to other districts,

Efforts to modernise the office's database are underway. The project involves updating historical records from before 2013 to enhance the accuracy of searches and support efficient case management.

Database Modernisation

Continued Progress and Future Plans

The Probate Office's achievements over recent years reflect its unwavering dedication to improving efficiency and addressing the growing demand for probate services. Between 2021 and 2023, the office significantly increased the number of applications processed while maintaining a high standard of service. Moving forward, the office plans to further refine its case management systems, simplify procedural requirements, and strengthen collaborations with stakeholders.



Marriage Registry Officers and Staff

CIVIL MARRIAGES

The Registry of Civil Marriages continues to assist couples on their marriage journey and provides services such as the solemnisation and registration of civil marriages, issuance of certificates of no impediment (single status), name searches for marriage records and issuance of subsequent copies of marriage certificates.

As of 1 April 2023, the Civil Marriage Registry began to provide its services at Tutong District court. Marriage interviews continue to be conducted with couples via Zoom and the Civil Marriage Registry continues to be active in communicating with couples and in responding to inquiries through the Registry's e-mail address civil.marriage@judicial.gov.bn.

As of February 2024, Marriage Registrars began to conduct the solemnization and registrations of civil marriages and marriage interviews with couples twice weekly, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, in Bandar Seri Begawan.

It is hoped that these services will enhance accessibility, allowing couples to choose a timing and location that suits them best.





Library Staff

Library Unit

The Library Unit is responsible for managing, maintaining, and updating the Laws of Brunei, ensuring the delivery of an efficient and reliable legal information source, and overseeing the purchase and preservation of library materials. The libraries at the Supreme Court and Subordinate Courts of Brunei Darussalam, located in Bandar Seri Begawan, Tutong Court, Kuala Belait Court, and Temburong Court are accessible to all members of the legal community and serve as one of the country's main legal libraries, offering essential legal reference services.

The collection is primarily focused on legal texts and materials, with approximately 21,000 volumes of textbooks, law reports, and research journals covering a wide range of legal resources from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

Trainings

The Judiciary would like to express its gratitude to the State Judiciary Department and the Attorney General's Chambers for the well organized and information attachment which all librarian and officers have greatly benefited from.

20 April 2024: IT Officers from the State Judiciary Department conducted training for the Librarian, I-ready Officers and High Court Staffs on the SOP of how to upload Judgments into the Judiciary website.

28 May 2024 until 30 May 2024: AGC librarian conducted training for the librarian, I-ready officers and an interpreter where they were briefed on legal cataloging and classification practices, library management systems and updating of legislation.

Translation Unit



The year 2024 saw another milestone in overall efficiency of the unit in providing services to the Court and The Public in general. The Unit, with advice from its former predecessors as well as leadership and wisdom of Acting Chief Registrar Hajah Hazarena POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah met the desired and expectation goal of its own pledge to clients' charter this year.

Apart from doing translations for inter-departmental purposes, this unit serves to accept various types of documents for translation and for certification pertaining to court cases such as documents from other government departments. Although generally the unit does not accept documents to be translated from private individuals for private purposes, it accepts certain official documents which need to be certified by the Court and embossed with the Court seal to be recognized and submitted in foreign jurisdictions.

These documents are Birth Certificates, Identification Cards, Adoption Certificates, Marriage Certificates, Divorce Certificates, Personal Academic Certificates and official documents from other government departments.

Officers and Personnel:

Chief Translator

Dewi Susianty Hj Md Daud

Senior Translator

Nurfazidah binti Taib

Translator/Interpreter

Nooreizah binti Haji Jaya

Nurhafizah binti Haji Moxsin

Norzafan binti Haji Nordin

Nurhafizah binti Haji Moxsin and Norzafan binti Haji Nordin are attached to assist at the Finance Unit, Bankruptcy Section from July 2022 until recent, as at 4th December, 2024.

Statistics

The number of applications rose drastically from June 2024 to October 2024 compared to numbers from June 2023 to October 2023 last year.

As at October 2024, the translation office have received 412 applications from public.

For the Court of Appeal translation, 18 folders of translation containing notice of motion and submission was completed and submitted a month prior Court of Appeal May 2024 session.

Challenges

With the rising number of applications for Chinese translation both in Traditional and simplified form, the unit is currently facing challenge of producing competent talents in this field.

Retirement

On 31st August, 2024 the Translation Unit bid farewell to Senior Interpreter Sun Tze Yun who has served the judiciary for more than 35 years, executing translation from mandarin to English or Malay or vice versa apart from his designation as a court interpreter at the Interpreter Unit.

Gracing the farewell ceremony was The Honorable Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong who then consented to present a plaque of commemoration to Awang Sun Tze Yun. Also present at the event was Acting Chief Registrar Hajah Hazarena, high court judges, senior registrars, registrars as well as fellow officers and staff of the court.





JUDGES AND JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS

from left: The Hon. Justice Haji Abdullah Soefri bin POKSM DSP Haji Abdin, The Hon. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong and The Hon. Justice Muhammed Faisal PDJLD DSP Haji Kefli

PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL JUDGES



Judicial Commissioner of Court of Appeal
The Hon. Justice Conrad Seagroatt
Date of appointment: 23rd April 2016



Judicial Commissioner of Court of Appeal
The Hon. Justice Michael Peter Burrell
Date of appointment: 19th November 2018



Judicial Commissioner of Court of Appeal
The Hon. Justice Michael Victor Lunn
Date of appointment: 19th November 2018



Judicial Commissioner of Court of Appeal
The Hon. Justice Sir Peter Henry Gross
Date of appointment: 28th October 2023



Judicial Commissioner of Supreme Court
The Hon. Justice Edward Timothy Starbuck Woolley
Date of appointment: 7th September 2021



REGISTRARS OF THE SUPREME COURT

from left:

Registrar Muhammad Muzakkir Haji Zakaria, Registrar Mohammad Marzuqi bin Sabtu, Registrar Pengiran Siti Nursu'aidah binti Pg Jufriza, Senior Registrar Kamaliah Fadhilah Hj Ibrahim, Acting Chief Registrar Hajah Hazarena POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah, The Hon. ICJ Judge Pengiran Masni Haji Bahar, Senior Registrar Hajah Noor Amalina DP Hj Alaihudin, Registrar Hajah Normazdina Hj Md Maskub, Registrar Nurul Hidayah Hamdan, Registrar Nuuror Raheebah Hj Abd Wahab and Registrar Muhammad Syafiq Haji Zakaria

The Supreme Court Units

Corporate Affairs & Policy Unit

The Corporate Affairs and Policy Unit serves to assist the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court, and by extension the Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam, in matters concerning the administration of the civil courts, as well as the policy making that governs the judicial processes of the Judiciary.

From left: Suzie, Asiah, Asrina, Ghazali, Md Izzam Mahmud, Hj Badaruddin, Yusof, Arina, Noraidah and Mastika



I-Ready Officers



*Sitting: Muhammad Iqbaal Syakib, Ahmad Haziq, Muhammad Amir Irsyadudeen.
Standing: Fakhriena, Siti Yura Nadhirah, Iffah Batrisyia, Farah Najihah, Ida Fazira, Nur Fajrina*

Confidential Secretary & Confidential Clerks



From left: Suzana Basman, Norhayati, Hjh Nurul Hazimah



Court Interpreters

*From left (upper row): SI Fadzillah, Dk Khadijah, Shaliza, CI Pg Norfarzat Irwani, SI Hjh Noorinah, Alizah, Arief
From left (bottom row): Qhaire, Rashidah, Noorain, Ain, Dk Syafeeqah Hakeemah, Siti Hadizah, Izzati, Nurarina Nazirah, Khairunnisa, Faizin*

2025 has arrived to our doorstep and together with it, new challenges and opportunities. Interpreters and recorders are vital components of the judiciary's cog wheels of operations. Mostly functioning behind the scenes, interpreters and recorders, other than being a part of the proceedings, also work as the middle person between the Judicial and their counterparts, namely prosecutions, defense counsels and law practitioners.

With the aforementioned new challenges and opportunities coming with each new year, interpreters and recorders have to deal with an ever-changing environment. Together with the cooperation of all parties, what we can achieve in striving for efficiency is limitless. Here's hoping last year's experiences and hindsight will bring us better proficiency and know how to face the new year's uphill battle to success.

Currently, we have 20 interpreters serving time with two interpreters in Kuala Belait and two interpreters in Tutong on a rotation basis every 3 months. We have one clerk/interpreter post and one Senior interpreter post which are still vacant and we are working on filling in the posts. Following the recent retirement of our Chinese Senior Interpreter, the position is being managed on a rotational basis with Clerks/Interpreters taking turn each month.

To enhance access to justice, the court also seeks the assistance of Foreign Embassies or High Commissions in Brunei Darussalam by requesting personnel to facilitate interpretations for languages not available in-house. Additionally, freelance foreign language interpreters are engaged on an on-call basis.

Court Recorders



*From left (upper row): Suhailah, Nurarina Nazirah, Dyg Nurbazilah
From left (bottom row): Diyana Rashidah @ Ruz'zainnah, Khairul Khairiah, Noorain,
Dyg Siti Nooraqilah, Nurnajiah*

Court Recorders are not merely “typists” as often been referred to as nor are they stenographers. What they are is a crucial component of the court proceedings. Introduced to the court system in 2017, they have quickly become an integral part of the court system.

Prior to their inclusion, Judicial Officers were responsible in taking notes of proceedings themselves, adding to their already demanding workload in administering justice. The introduction of Court Recorders alleviated this burden and brought significant benefits.

Court Recorders are tasked with transcribing court proceedings verbatim, a process supported by recording devices. This ensures the accuracy and clarity of the notes of proceedings, allowing Judicial Officers to solely focus on the case at hand.

Presently, there are in all 6 court recorders tasked in annotating the court’s notes of proceedings in the Intermediate and High Court. In addition, there is an on-call recorder recently acquired to meet the demand for NOPs, particularly during Court of Appeal sessions.

Efforts have been made to identify training opportunities locally and abroad to enhance the skills of Court Recorders. However, suitable courses and training are still unavailable. Notwithstanding this, we will continuously seek a way with the support and assistance of the Human Resource of the State Judiciary Department.

Nevertheless, we remain committed in giving our finest and excellent service of high quality interpretation services and accurate court records.

INTERMEDIATE COURT



INTERMEDIATE COURT JUDGES

from left:

The Hon. Judge Harnita Zelda Skinner, The Hon. Judge Dk Hajah Norismayanti Haji Ismail, The Hon. Judge Radin Safiee Radin Mas Basiuni, The Hon. Judge Pengiran Masni Pengiran Haji Bahar and The Hon. Judge Hajah Hazarena POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah

Intermediate Court

The Supreme Court Registry extends its jurisdiction to Intermediate Court matters, which shares a registry with the High Court, leading to similar challenges faced by both courts.

Currently, a pool of five Intermediate Court Judges includes two serving on a full-time basis, both stationed in Bandar Seri Begawan. Three other judges hold Intermediate Court powers while concurrently exercising other judicial functions.

The Intermediate Court has consistently prioritized mediation, actively creating more opportunities for parties involved in its cases to engage in this process. This initiative is woven into the commercial court proceedings, highlighting mediation as an effective option for resolving disputes.

The court encourages parties to consider mediation at the conclusion of pleadings, which can be facilitated either by the court or arranged privately, depending on the parties' preference. Additionally, the Intermediate Court continues to assist the High Court by handling cases transferred to it for trial efficiency. Intermediate Court judges have also supported the High Court by serving as second judges in capital offence trials.

Discontinuance

Order 21 Rule 2(6)

Some of the civil matters decided by the Intermediate Court included action consideration under Order 21 Rule 2(10) of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The ruling clarifies that an adjournment sine die does not equate to a stay of proceedings, providing important precedents for future cases. A further case examined the discontinuance under Order 21 Rule 2(6) of the Supreme Court Rules. The court dismissed the Plaintiff's application for reinstatement, underlining the requirement of exceptional circumstances for such actions, particularly in the context of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

“ *These cases heard by the Intermediate Court illustrate noteworthy legal principles and procedural interpretations that underpin civil law, as they explore the nuances of reinstatement, the implications of discontinuance, and the ramifications of wrongful termination.* ”

Criminal Cases

A series of criminal cases showcase a range of offences primarily focused on property crimes, including housebreaking and theft, along with violent crimes. The outcomes reflect judicial trends in sentencing approaches, offender backgrounds, and the emphasis on public safety.

The majority of cases before the Intermediate Court involved property crimes such as housebreaking and theft, often combined with charges related to violence or attempted violence. There were notable instances of mischief, including damage to property and acts of violence causing grievous hurt.

A significant number of defendants entered guilty pleas, which generally led to discounted sentences, particularly for first-time offenders. The presence of previous convictions often resulted in harsher penalties, emphasizing the court's aim to deter repeat offenses. Judges exercised considerable discretion in determining sentences, often considering the severity

of the crime, the offender's prior record, and mitigating factors such as a clear record of previous offenses. Sentences were often constructed to reflect not only the individual circumstances of the offenders but also the broader implications for community safety and public trust in the legal system.

"In 2023, the Intermediate Court reaffirms and strengthens its commitment to the effective administration of justice by pledging to handle cases in a manner that is not only timely but also characterized by fairness and judiciousness. This renewed commitment is rooted in the fundamental principles of the judiciary, aiming to ensure that justice is not only delivered promptly but is also grounded in the principles of equity, impartiality, and sound judgment."





SUBORDINATE COURT

MAGISTRATES



Magistrates of the Subordinate Court

The Subordinate Court continues to make strides under the leadership of the Honourable Chief Magistrate Dk. Hajah Norismayanti binti Pg Haji Ismail, now in her fourth year in this role. Throughout her tenure, the Chief Magistrate has spearheaded significant changes that have improved administrative and legal processes, all aimed at delivering justice more swiftly and fairly.

A recent enhancement in the Subordinate Court operations is the addition of four magistrates, further strengthening its capacity to manage cases effectively. We are pleased to welcome Muhammad Qamarul Affyian bin Abdul Rahman, Hjh Normazdina binti Hj Md Maskub, Abdul Azim bin Othman and Sharifah Nur Baqiyah binti Malai Shahrani to our dedicated team. With these new appointments, our team now includes ten officers including the Chief Magistrate, who handle a wide range of responsibilities including criminal and civil cases, public duties and coroner duties.

District Courts



District Magistrates play an important role in overseeing court operations across various regions, each responsible for their respective courts with Magistrate Normazdina overseeing the Tutong District Court, Senior Magistrate Dewi Norlelawati binti Haji Abdul Hamid presiding over the Belait District Court and Magistrate Nur Eleana binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Hairol Arni managing the Temburong District Court.

In a recent development, district courts have implemented Zoom facilities for civil cases exceeding \$30,000, which are to be heard before a Senior Magistrate starting from 24th July 2024.

This new arrangement streamlines case management and improves the efficiency of the court process.

In addition to these advancements, the district courts host annual Hari Raya celebrations providing an opportunity for the Chief Magistrate and the other Judicial Officers to connect with court officers and staff from different districts. These events foster a sense of community within the judiciary and strengthen relationships among colleagues, promoting collaboration and contributing to a unified court environment.



**Belait
Court**



**Temburong
Court**



One Community



**Tutong
Court**



In-House Training

Early last year, the Subordinate Court focused on enhancing its internal capabilities by conducting an in-house training program for newly appointed and existing judicial officers. This initiative equips them with essential skills such as judgment writing and sentencing which includes practical assignments designed to familiarise them with the workings of the Magistrates Court.

This commitment to professional development reflects the Subordinate Court's dedication to maintaining high standards of judicial competence, ensuring that all officers are well-prepared to fulfill their responsibilities with skill and expertise.

The Chief Magistrate in collaboration with the Attorney General's Chambers and JAPEM continues to work on enhancing juvenile case management. The court's commitment extends beyond the courtroom demonstrated during the annual charity drive at the Approved Home during Ramadhan and the Hari Raya food contributions.

In July last year, the Chief Magistrate and Judicial Officers of the Subordinate Court visited the new facility for young persons under protection gaining valuable insights into their programs, guidelines and activities. This hands-on experience reaffirmed the court's dedication to cooperation collaboration with JAPEM to improve the welfare of juveniles.

Juvenile Court Initiatives

Assistance for Litigants in Person

The Subordinate Court is committed to supporting litigants in person (LIPs) by offering comprehensive guidelines on practice and procedure for both civil and criminal cases. Initiatives undertaken within the court are designed to provide LIPs with the resources they need with important information readily available online. This approach seeks to simplify the navigation of the legal process for individuals representing themselves making it easier for them to access the support they require.

Bench Book

This year, the Criminal Committee of the Magistrate's Court updated the bench book by adding new offences including those under The Employee Trust Act Cap 167, the Supplemental Contributions Pensions Order 2009, the Merchant and Shipping Act Cap 145, Section 411 of the Penal Code Cap 22, and the Public Order Act Cap 148. These updates will assist judicial officers in making more informed decisions based on the circumstances of each case.

The Criminal Committee will continue to update the bench book to reflect legislative changes and decisions from higher courts. These updates serve as important sentencing guidelines and contribute to the efficient disposal of criminal cases in the Magistrates' Courts, thus enhancing the overall functioning of the criminal justice system.

Training for Judicial Officers

In 2024, training continued with new officers attending online courses aimed at enhancing their skills. These efforts are part of the Judiciary's commitment to continuous professional development and excellence in judicial service.

Attachment Program

Throughout the past year, the Subordinate Court has welcomed a diverse group of students from local and international institutions as part of its attachment program.

These students gained valuable real-world legal experience by observing court proceedings, participating in mooting exercises and engaging in tasks such as legal research and judgment writing. Through these educational initiatives and support for students, we are proud to give back to the community preparing them for their future endeavors whether in university or the workforce.



Dedication of the Staff

The success of the Subordinate Court is a direct result of the hard work, dedication and commitment of its staff. From the Registrars and Deputy Registrars to the Legal Assistants, Interpreters, Clerks and all other court personnel, each member plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth operation of the Magistrates' Court. Their tireless efforts, often behind the scenes are essential to the timely and fair dispensation of justice.

Retirement & Farewell

In 2024, the Judiciary bid farewell to Mr. Sun Tze Yun who retired after his long-term career that began on 1st March 1986. We also bid farewell to our Operator / Receptionist Nurfattyma binti Mohamad who transferred to another government agency. She has served the Kuala Belait court since 2008. Throughout their service, they have demonstrated their deepest commitment and dedication which have earned the well-deserved respect. We extend our deepest gratitude and convey our best wishes in their future endeavors.



Conclusion

The collaborative environment among Magistrates encourages teamwork facilitating a more efficient distribution of cases and responsibilities. With the addition of new judicial officer and under the guidance of the Chief Magistrate and the support of senior judicial officers, the Subordinate Court strives to ensure the timely delivery of justice while maintaining a focus on efficient and effective administration.

This dedication to fairness and transparency elevates the experience for court users. By embodying these values, the Subordinate Court reaffirms its strong commitment to justice and the community, assuring that every individual has access to a legal system that is both fair and responsive to their needs.



from left:

Magistrate Syaffina Shahif, Senior Magistrate Hjh Ervy Sufitriana Haji Abdul Rahman, Senior Registrar/ Magistrate Harnita Zelda Skinner, Chief Magistrate Dk Hjh Norismayanti Pg Hj Ismail, Senior Magistrate Hajah Azrimah Hj Abdul Rahman, Senior Magistrate Dewi Norlelawati Hj Abdul Hamid and Magistrate Nur Eleana DSP Hj Hairol Arni

Subordinate's Court OFFICERS



Registrars of the Subordinate Court

From left

Front : Dk Norafidah., Hajah Asmawati, Hajah Fauzihana, Hashimah, Noorhayati

Back : Mohamad Norhamizan, Haji Badaruddin, Mohamad Jazmi, Muhammad Hardy Iman.

The Subordinate Court Act [Chapter 6 Section 11(2) states that the Registrars and Deputy Registrars shall be ex-officio Commissioner for Oaths'.

Examples of documents attested by the Registrar of the Subordinate Court:

- Public documents
- Statutory Declarations
- Affidavits
- Proof of Debts
- Contracts
- Agreements
- Deeds
- Power of Attorney
- Other declarations



Office Administration

From left: Fairuz, Rohani, Nani Hamizah, Hjh Fauzihana, Pg Abu Nurhaira, Norhayati, Nur Fadilah, Yenny.

STAFF

Finance Unit

*From left:
Mimi Norafizan @ Nurin Azimah Hazirah, Pg Saerah.*



Criminal Section

This section is responsible in administrating day to day criminal cases in Magistrates Court. It includes in issuing summons, sub-poena, correspondences to parties, processing criminal appeal applications and anything related to criminal cases.

*From left:
Nor Hafizah, Norhamizah, CM Pg Hjh Norismayanti,
Mohamad Norhamizan, Nur Kamilah, Mumtazah*



Civil Section

The main function of this section is to assist in the administration of civil cases. The section receives and processes civil claims from private individuals, law firms and the government.

Members of the Civil Section include the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Legal Assistants, civil clerks, bailiffs and process servers, and is headed by an Officer – In – Charge of the Civil Section. Private individuals may seek assistance from the Legal Assistant on procedural matters such as filing of Summons and defence, stages of civil mentions and so on.

*From left:
Yusof, Nurafiqah, Nor Hafizah, Mohamad Jazmi, Magistrate Hjh Normazdina
SR Harnita Zelda, Nurul Hafizah, Nurul Hafizah Dewiyana, Norkhadizah, Mahmud Zuhdi*



Small Claims Tribunal

The Small Claims Tribunal is a low cost, simplified and a fast track forum allowing parties to resolve their disputes amicably by way of informal mediation before an impartial Registrar. It hears matters involving monetary claims not exceeding \$10,000. The claim however, must be filed within 12 calendar months from the date when the cause of action has accrued.

The types of disputes heard at the SCT are *disputes arising from a contract for the sales of good; disputes arising from a contract for the provision of services; tort relating to damages caused to property. (not including damages arising from the use of a motor vehicle and contracts made under the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Order 2011.*

From left: Khadizah, Nor Hafizah, Magistrate Hjh Normazdina, Magistrate Nur Eleana, Hashimah, Nurafiqah

Road Traffic Section

The Road Traffic Section plays a vital role in managing road traffic-related cases within the judicial system. This section is responsible for processing applications for summons(es) which are then scheduled for mention before a Magistrate. Once a mention date is fixed, the registry issues the summons to be served by the Police to road traffic offenders, ensuring that they are informed of their legal obligations to appear in court.

The section handles a wide range of traffic offenses, reflecting its critical function in maintaining road safety and legal compliance. The common traffic offences includes *Driving under the influence of drink, drugs or intoxicating substance (s. 26 (1) RTA); Careless driving without due care and attention (s.29(1) RTA); Use of mobile phone while driving (s.29A RTA); Driving without valid road tax (s.8(1) RTA); Driving without valid driving license (s.16(1)); Driving without valid vehicle insurance policy (s.3(1) Motor Vehicle Insurance Act).*



From left: Hjh Fauzihana, Mumtazah, Magistrate Syaffina, Magistrate Sharifah, Nor Hafizah, Nur Kamilah



Juvenile Section

The Juvenile Court is a system that deals specifically with the welfare of children and young persons below the age of 18 years old who needs care & protection, guidance and rehabilitation. The Court sits in all four districts and deals with 3 categories of cases, namely; Child Protection Order, Beyond Parental Control and Juvenile Criminal Offences (Arrest & Traffic).

Matters that are referred to the Juvenile Court are brought by the Attorney General's Chamber and JAPEM as well as other relevant enforcement agencies. In the Juvenile Court, the Magistrate is empowered to deliver Orders with the intention of rehabilitating and reintegrating these children and young persons. In the making of their final Orders, the Magistrate will deliberate with a Panel of Advisors on what is the best course of action to be taken.

From left:
Muhammad Hardy Iman, Nur Kamilah, Magistrate Sharifah, SM Hjh Azrimah,
Norhamizah, Mumtazah.

Panel of Advisers

From left:

Haji Awang Abd Alim Bin Haji Awang Othman,
Hajah Mordiah Binti Haji Jackia,
Alinah Binti Haji Tamin,
Ustaz Haji Md Lazim Bin Haji Matali



Newly Appointed Judicial Officers



Magistrate Muhammad Qamarul
Affyian bin Abdul Rahman

Date of Appointment: 28th February 2024



Registrar Raihan Nabilah binti
Haji Ahmad Ghazali

Date of Appointment: 28th February 2024



COURT MARTIAL

A number of Judicial officers were appointed as Judge Advocates by the Judge Advocate General on the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Court-Martial by virtue of section 124(3)(b) of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Chapter 149, which provides for the appointment of persons having judicial or legal experience as may from time to time, be required to act as Judge Advocates of the Court-Martial.

The appointed Judge Advocates are as follows:-

The Hon. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon
Muhammed Faisal Bin PDJLD Dato Seri Pahlawan (B) Haji Kefli
Radin Safiee Bin Radin Mas Basiuni
Pengiran Masni Binti Pengiran Haji Bahar
Harnita Zelda Skinner
Hajah Ervy Sufitriana binti Haji Abdul Rahman
Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ Dato Paduka Haji Hurairah
Dk Hajah Norismayanti binti Pengiran Haji Ismail
Hajah Azrimah binti Haji Abdul Rahman
Hajah Noor Amalina binti Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin
Hajah Kamaliah Fadhilah binti Haji Ibrahim

STATE JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT



Shahminan Haji Tengah
Acting Director of the State Judiciary Department

Since the establishment of the State Judiciary Department in 2002, the department had evolved throughout the years in terms of staffing and the creation of new units which contribute to the growth and development of the organization. Each unit has its own Head of unit and staffs to cater the needs and wants of both the Civil and Syariah Courts.



HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS



COURTESY CALLS TO HON. CHIEF JUSTICE



Her Excellency Alexandra McKenzie,
British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam
8th October 2024



Her Excellency Eve Lubin,
Ambassador of France to Brunei Darussalam
16th October 2024

WORKING VISITS TO SUPREME COURT

Signing of Memorandum of Judicial Cooperation with the Federal Court of Malaysia

On 6 March 2024, a Memorandum of Judicial Cooperation (MOJC) was signed between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Court of Malaysia to strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation on issues relating to dispute avoidance and resolution.

The MOJC was signed by The Honourable Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong on behalf of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat on behalf of the Federal Court of Malaysia. Present at the signing ceremony was The Honourable Justice Hayatul Akmal binti Abdul Aziz, High Court Judge of Kuala Lumpur, Tuan Zamri bin Bakar, Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia and Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, Puan Nur Ezira Mahadi.

“The MOJC will formalise ties between the Judiciaries of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia and it is planned that a working group will be established to develop a plan of action to chart the future direction of judicial cooperation in the coming years. The MOJC signifies the warm friendship between the Judiciaries of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia and underscores the commitment to strengthen and expand the bilateral ties.”

This is the fourth memorandum signed between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and other jurisdictions, following the signing of a memorandum with the Supreme People’s Court of the People’s Republic of China on 21 September 2004, the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong SAR on 4 May 2023 and the Supreme Court of Singapore on 18 July 2023.



WORKING VISITS TO SUPREME COURT

Lecture by The Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Gross on ‘Trying Commercial Law Cases’



On Thursday 6 June 2024, the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam hosted a lecture on ‘Trying Commercial Law Cases’ delivered by Judicial Commissioner of the Court of Appeal The Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Gross.

At the lecture, Sir Peter Gross expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as a Judge in Brunei and discussed the development of commercial law, highlighting the historical and ongoing ties between Brunei and the UK with “the field of justice” as “one of the strongest ties linking our two countries”.

Sir Peter Gross outlined the need for commercial law to facilitate commerce and spoke on the establishment of the Commercial Court in London, key principles of English law in international trade, case management, and contract interpretation. He concluded with reflections on serving as a judge in Brunei and highlighted the country’s “strong common law tradition” which offers “many opportunities for commercial and associated legal and judicial development.”



WORKING VISITS TO SUPREME COURT

Working Visit by Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon of the Supreme Court of Singapore

The Honourable the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore Sundaresh Menon was in Brunei Darussalam from 3 to 5 July 2024 for a reciprocal working visit at the invitation of The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong. Chief Justice Menon is joined by a six-member delegation from the Singapore Judiciary.

On Wednesday 3 July 2024, the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam hosted a briefing on Insolvency and Restructuring matters with stakeholders from the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Prime Minister's Office and the Attorney General's Chambers. The briefing was delivered by Justice Kannan Ramesh, Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Singapore on concurrent cross-border insolvency and restructuring proceedings.

In attendance at the briefing was Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong, Judicial Commissioner Hj Abdullah Soefri bin POKSM DSP Hj Abidin, Judicial Commissioner Muhammed Faisal bin PDJLD Col (Rtd) DSP Hj Kefli, His Excellency Laurence Bay Siow Hon, Singapore High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, and Awang Mohammad Harris bin Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Hj Ibrahim, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Economy.



On Thursday 4 July 2024, Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong hosted the first annual bilateral meeting between the two Judiciaries following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) last July 2023 in Singapore.

The objective of the MOU is to strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation on issues relating to dispute avoidance and resolution. The MOU serves as a fundamental pillar of judicial cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore in providing a platform to enhance communication, in particular through the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices for the benefit of both Judiciaries. During the bilateral meeting, the Chief Justices had productive discussions on judicial education and training, judicial administration, family justice and insolvency and restructuring matters.



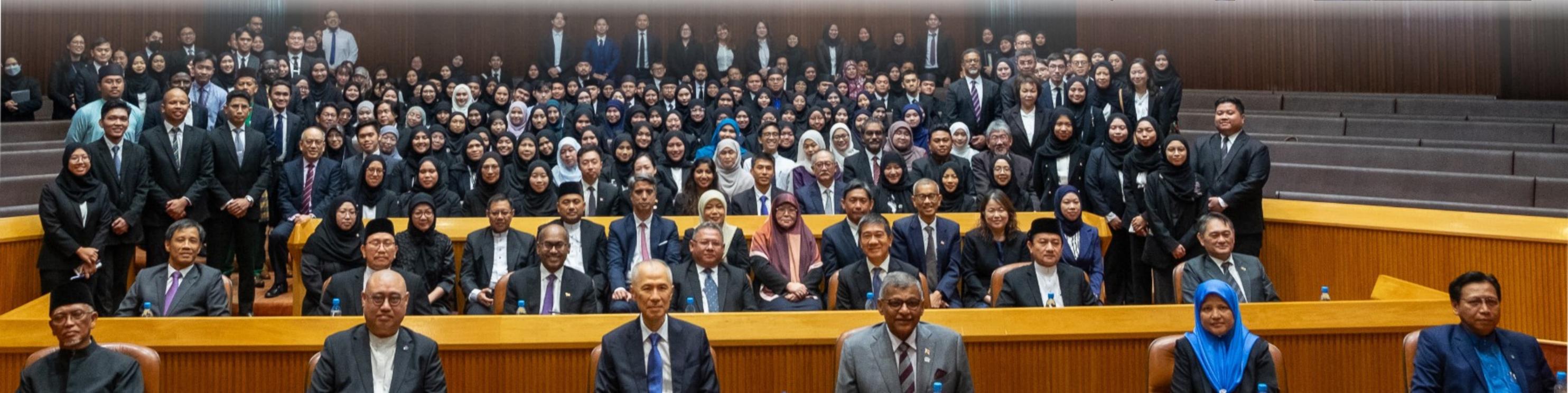
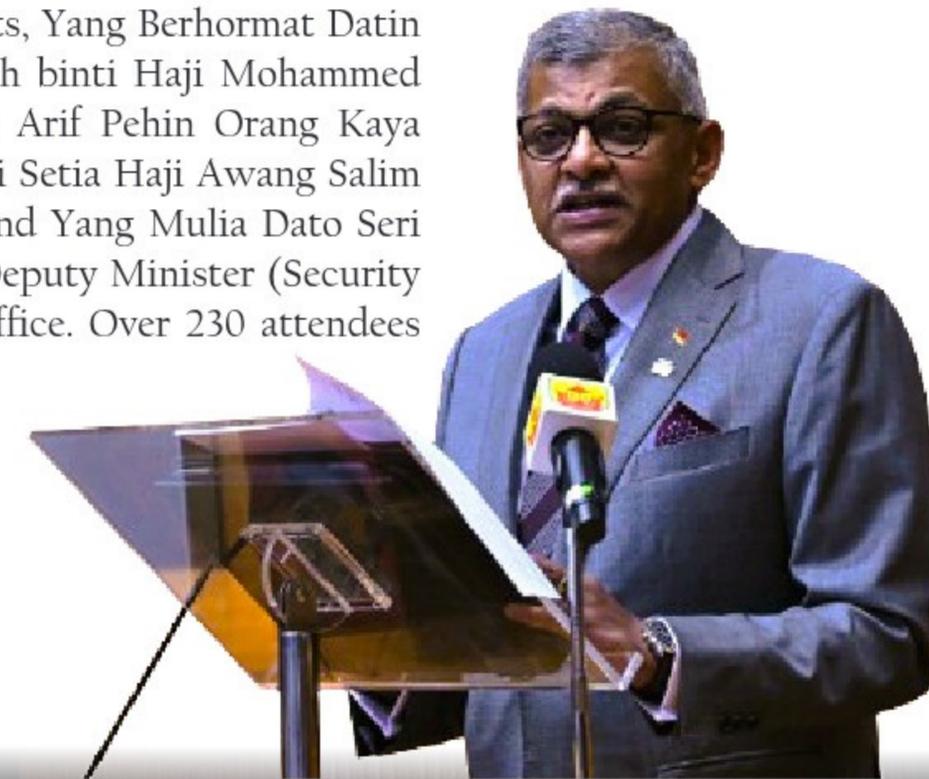
WORKING VISITS TO SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice Sundaresh Ramesh delivered a Singapore Perspective on “The Role of an Effective and Efficient Judiciary in Promoting Economic Development”

The Honourable the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore Sundaresh Menon delivered a keynote speech at the Supreme Court to members of the Judiciary, legal fraternity, students from Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University and representatives from various Government ministries and departments on “The role of an effective and efficient judiciary in promoting economic development: the Singapore perspective”.

The event began with welcoming remarks by Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong who introduced Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon as the keynote speaker. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong briefly spoke on the role of justice in economic development and how in moving towards developing Brunei Darussalam’s economy through a whole-of-nation approach, it is important to recognise that a well-functioning judicial system supports economic growth dynamics.

In attendance at the keynote speech was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Attorney General, Yang Amat Arif Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge, and Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister’s Office. Over 230 attendees were present at the event.



Secretary for Justice of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr. Paul Lam, SC visits the Chief Justice of Supreme Court

The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong welcomed the Secretary for Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong SAR), His Excellency Mr. Paul Lam, SC who is on his first working visit to Brunei Darussalam on the 23rd September 2024, .

The Secretary for Justice's visit to Brunei Darussalam marks a significant milestone following the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Hong Kong Department of Justice (DoJ) in May 2023 in Hong Kong. The MOC aims to strengthen ties and enhance cooperation between the two jurisdictions in matters of dispute avoidance and resolution.

The Chief Justice and the Secretary for Justice expressed their shared commitment to materialise the MOC and exchanged views on further opportunities for cooperation in facilitating the development of dispute avoidance and resolution services in Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong SAR.



The signing of the MOC and reciprocal visit by the Secretary of Justice and his delegation are a testament to the long history and warm friendship between Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong SAR and reinforces the cordial economic, trade and people-to-people ties between Brunei Darussalam and Hong Kong SAR.

20th Anniversary of the Signing of MOU with Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China

The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong together with a delegation of senior judicial officers made a visit to the People's Republic of China from 8-12 September 2024 upon invitation by the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China.

The visit was in furtherance of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) which was signed between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China on 21 September 2004. The visit promoted bilateral exchanges and judicial cooperation, in addition to commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the MOC.

On 8 September 2024, The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong called on His Excellency Zhang Jun, Chief Justice of the People's Republic of China and President of the Supreme People's Court. In attendance at the meeting was His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Kolonel (B) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the People's Republic of China.



During the bilateral meeting, Chief Justice Chong highlighted the 20th anniversary of the signing of the MOC with the Supreme People's Court and how it reaffirms the long-standing relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China.

Chief Justice Chong reiterated the commitment of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam to deepen bilateral relations through judicial cooperation on the basis of the MOC. He also expressed his hope that “we maintain frequent exchanges and strengthen our cooperation” and welcomed future collaborations with the Supreme People's Court.

“through our partnership, we will be able to provide efficient judicial services that will be for our shared benefit in supporting [Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China's common prosperity and development.”



VISITS BY HON. CHIEF JUSTICE & DELEGATES

Fruitful discussions were held with Chief Justice Zhang Jun on areas including judicial education and training, the use of alternative dispute resolution, court technology and both Chief Justices expressed an intention to further cooperation through a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen the bilateral relationship between both Judiciaries.

While in Beijing, the Chief Justice and his delegation also visited the Smart Court Laboratory at the Supreme People's Court, the Beijing International Commercial Court (BICC), the Beijing Internet Court, and the Mediation Centre of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT). On 10 September 2024, The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong called on His Excellency Jia Yu, President of the Shanghai People's Court.



While in Shanghai, the Chief Justice and his delegation visited the Shanghai High People's Court where they were briefed on initiatives on the construction of their Digital Court, integrating technology within the Judiciary. They also visited the Shanghai Financial Court and the Shanghai Commercial Mediation Centre (SCMC). The Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam wishes to send congratulatory messages ahead of the 75th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and hopes to work closely together with the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China in furtherance of the MOC and is committed to fostering stronger judicial ties between both jurisdictions with a renewed MOU.

The Chief Justice expresses his sincere appreciation to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Brunei Darussalam for their continued support and facilitating the sharing of knowledge and best practices between our Judiciaries and looks forward to seeing the relationship with The Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China grow from strength to strength in the years to come.



Chief Justice Meets with Law Students in United Kingdom



The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong met with Bruneian law students in the United Kingdom on Monday 30 September 2024 at the Brunei High Commission in London.

The event marked the first time the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary engaged with Bruneian law students based in the United Kingdom. The Chief Justice spoke on the study and practice of law and shared reflections on careers in legal practice in Brunei Darussalam.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Justice narrated his own journey in the law and said that the practice of law is an “intellectually demanding and challenging profession but also, in my opinion, the most rewarding”. He spoke on how “the legal profession is a noble one and it demands a high standard of ethics, professionalism and commitment to justice for all.

The Chief Justice said that the legal profession is transforming rapidly and the practice of law is being reshaped by technology and artificial intelligence. He explained the importance of having a competitive edge by specialising in areas of law that are most in demand in Brunei. He also encouraged students to take on pro bono initiatives to hone their skills as future advocates and to undergo internship programmes to develop skills that will enhance work readiness.

It was emphasized by the Chief Justice that mentorship is an important part of the journey in law and that all students and junior lawyers should actively cultivate and seek opportunities for mentoring. He said mentorship is a vital element of training, serving as a bridge between legal education and practice and facilitates the transmission of skills and helps pass down the legal profession’s ethics, values and traditions.

Chief Justice attends Opening of the Legal Year in England & Wales

The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong attended the Opening of the Legal Year in England and Wales on Tuesday 1 October 2024.

The historic event marks the start of the legal year in England and Wales and commenced with a service at Westminster Abbey with judges arriving in a formal procession through the Abbey. The Opening of the Legal Year continues a long tradition that is celebrated by members of the legal profession in England and Wales and this year marked the first time a Chief Justice from the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam attended.

The service began with readings by The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the Right Honourable Shabana Mahmood MP and the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Right Honourable Dame Sue Carr. Following the Westminster Abbey service, a breakfast in Westminster Hall at the Houses of Parliament, hosted by The Lord Chancellor, brought together members of the legal profession.

Those invited to the ceremony included judges from England and Wales, senior judicial officers, the Law Officers of the Crown, King's Counsel (KCs), overseas judges and lawyers, members of the European Court and Government ministers. In attendance with the Chief Justice at the ceremony was the Acting Chief Registrar Hjh Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Hj Hurairah and senior judicial officers from the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam.



VISITS BY HON. CHIEF JUSTICE & DELEGATES

The Chief Justice and delegation held bilateral meetings with the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Right Honourable Dame Sue Carr, the Master of the Rolls, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Vos, and the Chair of the Board of the Judicial College, the Right Honourable Dame Eleanor King at the Royal Courts of Justice on the 2nd October 2024. This was followed by a visit and meeting with the Chief Magistrate of England and Wales, Senior District Judge Paul Goldspring at the Westminster Magistrates' Court. On Thursday 3 October 2024, the Chief Justice and delegation met with Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the Right Honourable Lord Hodge.

The Chief Justice and his counterparts at the Judiciary of England and Wales and the Supreme Court of United Kingdom had fruitful discussions on areas of judicial cooperation including court administration, court technology and use of artificial intelligence, and judicial education and training.



The Rt. Hon. Dame Sue Carr, Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales and the Chief Justice



The Chief Justice and the Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls



The Rt. Hon. Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the UK and the Chief Justice

Visit to the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru



The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong and a delegation from the Judiciary of Brunei Darussalam made a visit to the Palace of Justice in Lima, the seat of the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru on the 8th November 2024.

The Chief Justice was met by Dr. Manuel Estuardo Lujan Túpez, Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru, Dr. Pedro Angulo Arana, Chief of Cabinet of Advisors of the Presidency of the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru, and Mrs. Mariela Pinto Rocha, Head of the Office of International Cooperation.

During the visit, the Chief Justice held a bilateral meeting with representatives from the Peruvian Judiciary and discussed the forthcoming signing of the MOU between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Judicial Branch of the Republic of Peru and areas of possible cooperation, including court technology, alternative dispute resolution and judicial education and training.

Present at the visit and meeting was the Acting Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Hjh Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Hj Hurairah and the delegation from the Judiciary of Brunei Darussalam.



VISITS BY HON. CHIEF JUSTICE & DELEGATES



Signing of MOU with the Judicial Branch of the Republic of Peru

On Tuesday 12 November 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on judicial cooperation was signed between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Judicial Branch of the Republic of Peru to strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation on issues relating to dispute avoidance and resolution.

The MOU was signed by The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong and The Honourable President of the Judicial Branch of the Republic of Peru Dr. Javier Arévalo Vela.

Present at the signing ceremony was the Acting Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Hjh Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Hj Hurairah.

The MOU will formalise ties between the Judiciaries of Brunei Darussalam and Peru and underscores the commitment to strengthen and expand bilateral ties. Brunei Darussalam and Peru established diplomatic relations on 1 June 1990. Both countries have sought to strengthen cooperation through forums such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in which Brunei Darussalam and Peru are members.

In the context of Brunei Darussalam and Peru's active involvement in APEC, the MOU will provide a platform for the two Judiciaries to share best practices and experiences to better equip judges and judicial officers with the skills and common

understanding to handle and resolve disputes, despite having different legal systems.

This is the fifth memorandum signed between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and foreign jurisdictions, following the signing of a memorandum with the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China on 21 September 2004, the Department of Justice of the Hong Kong SAR on 4 May 2023, the Supreme Court of Singapore on 18 July 2023 and the Federal Court of Malaysia on 6 March 2024.

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



8th Judicial Seminar on Commercial Litigation

13 - 15 March 2024
Hong Kong, SAR

The Judicial Seminar is attended by Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Acting Chief Registrar Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah, Senior Registrar Hajah Noor Amalina binti DP Haji Alaihuddin and Senior Registrar Kamaliah Fadhilah binti Haji Ibrahim.

The seminar is convened by the Judiciary of the Hong Kong SAR, together with the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the Supreme Court of Singapore. The Seminar provides a forum for judges to exchange ideas and share experience in relation to best practices in the management of commercial and corporate litigation. It also facilitates mutual understanding in matters relating to cross-border commercial activities.

This year's Seminar covered topics including cross border insolvency, the legal effect of illegality on civil transactions including foreign illegality, legal issues raised by cryptocurrencies, expert evidence, and case and listing management in commercial cases.

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



Work Process Improvement

6 - 8 May 2024

Civil Service Institute, Gadong

Attended by:

Registrar Subordinate Court Md Hardy Iman bin Haji Muhammad Ukit

Registrar Subordinate Court Md Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel

Assistant Official Receiver MdAfandi bin Hj Ebil

Assistant Official Receiver Nur 'Afifah Basyirah binti Ibrahim



Masterclass Programme for Commercial Judges

9 - 12 September 2024

Bogor, Indonesia

Attended by:

ICJ Pg Masni binti Pg Haji Bahar

CM Pg Hajah Norismayanti binti Pg Haji Ismail

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



Asean-Upsto Colloquium for the Judiciary on Civil & Criminal IP Case Management

4 - 6 June 2024
Manila, Philippines

Attended by:

Magistrate Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md. Maskub

Deputy Official Receiver Nuuror Raheebah binti Haji Abdul Wahab

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



Working Group on Facilitating Service of Civil Processes within ASEAN Models & Working Group on Case Management and Court Technology Meeting

9 - 10 June 2024

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Attended by:

Chief Magistrate Pg Hj Norismayanti binti Pg Hj Ismail

Senior Registrar Harnita Zeld Skinner

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



Kursus Penyediaan Laporan dan Kertas Kerja

18 - 22 June 2024

Civil Service Institute, Gadong

Attended by:

Magistrate Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md. Maskub

Subordinate Court Registrar Mohamad Norhamizan bin Mohd Nurazman



Judicial Attachment Programme

11 -15 November 2024

Supreme Court, Singapore

Attended by:

SM Hajah Azrimah binti Haji Abdul Rahman

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



Civil Procedure & Advocacy Seminar 2024: Elevating your Civil Litigation benchmark

5 - 6 July 2024
Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Attended by:
Deputy Official Receiver Nurul Hidayah binti Hamdan
Deputy Official Receiver Pg Siti Nursu'aidah binti Pg
Jufrizar @ Pg Tajuddin.



2024 International Association for Court Administration Conference (IACA) & Sideline Meeting for Brunei Delegate

11-15 November 2024
Singapore

Attended by:
Senior Registrar Harnita Zelda Skinner



ASEAN Insolvency Judges Meeting

19 November 2024
Cebu, Philippines

Attended by:
Acting Chief Registrar Hajah Hazarena binti
POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah
Deputy Official Receiver Nurul Hidayah binti
Hamdan

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



another following the signing of the MOU in July 2023 between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Supreme Court of Singapore.

In his address, Justice Hj Abdullah Soefri said that “judicial officers at the beginning of their careers often face many of the same issues” and emphasized the importance of judicial training and capacity building and how they are essential to maintaining the efficiency of the courts. He expressed his hope that the joint webinar will develop into an annual platform for judicial education and exchange between Brunei and Singapore which will allow opportunities for young judicial officers to network and build working relationship with their counterparts.

Justice Hj Abdullah Soefri said “the joint webinar is a testament to the strong bilateral ties between the Brunei and Singapore judiciaries” and acknowledged the hard work and efforts of the Brunei-Singapore working group members in making the webinar possible.

Closing remarks were made by Senior Registrar Hjh Noor Amalina binti DP Hj Alaihuddin where she said that the webinar provides a valuable platform for young judicial officers to connect, exchange ideas and learn from each other. In her address, she said that “judicial work can be demanding but having a community of like-minded individuals who face similar challenges, can be a great source of support.” She expressed her support for the joint webinar and hopes that it will continue for the years to come.

Brunei and Singapore Judiciaries Jointly Organise Webinar for Young Judicial Officers

32 participants took part in the inaugural Brunei-Singapore Webinar for young judicial officers. Held on Tuesday 24 September 2024, the webinar was jointly organised by the Brunei and Singapore Judiciaries, covering areas relevant for those at the state of their judicial careers. The webinar offers an opportunity for young judicial officers with less than seven years’ experience to discuss topics ranging from court room control and communication and decision making and judgment writing. The idea for the joint webinar came about as a way for young judicial officers to meet and connect with one



The 11th Meeting of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ)

18 - 21 November 2024

Cebu, Philippines

The successful convening of the 11th CACJ meeting, marked another milestone in fostering judicial cooperation and enhancing the rule of law across the ASEAN region. The meeting brought together the Chief Justices and representatives of the judiciary from all the ASEAN member states to advance regional collaboration, strengthen the rule of law, and address emerging judicial challenges.

The annual CACJ meeting, which was hosted this year by The Chief Justice of Philippines, The Honourable Alexander G. Gesmundo and the Philippines Judiciary and chaired by The Chief Justice of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, highlighted the vital role of the of the judiciary in upholding legal certainty, regional integration, and socio-economic stability within ASEAN.





The meeting served as a platform to review ongoing programs, discuss emerging challenges, and chart the future direction of the CACJ's collaborative efforts.

The 11th CACJ Meeting highlighted significant advancements in judicial cooperation and innovation across ASEAN. Key discussions included: a. Progress on regional Judicial initiatives; b. Digital transformation in the Judiciary focused on leveraging technology to enhance judicial efficiency and accessibility; c. Capacity- Building Programs with Member states sharing best practices and explored opportunities for collaboration in judicial training and education; d. Judicial Independence and Ethics.

“
The CACJ reaffirmed its dedication to promoting regional peace and prosperity through judicial cooperation. The meeting concluded with the adoption of resolutions aimed at advancing CACJ's objectives and strengthening its role as a key regional mechanism for judicial collaboration.”

COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



Judicial Officers visits Maraburong Prison

In a significant step toward strengthening the justice system, judicial officers initiated a dialogue with prison authorities on 4th March 2023 to identify and address challenges faced by the department, and to explore practical solutions. The visit underscores the judiciary's commitment to ensuring a fair, efficient, and humane legal process.



Supreme Court joins Studyrama

Senior Magistrate Ervy, Magistrate Syaffina, Magistrate Azim and Magistrate Nurulbillah participated in the Studyrama event hosted by Maktab Duli on the 18th February 2024. The exhibition aimed to expose students to higher education opportunities both within the country and abroad, helping them gain a deeper understanding of career paths related to their subjects and areas of interest.

International Judges visit KB Court & Brunei Shell Petroleum



People with Special Needs visit the Civil Court



COURSES, TRAININGS, VISITS AND MEETINGS



Magistrates shares the Admissibility of Evidence in a criminal context to Syariah enforcements personnel and other agencies at Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Subordinate Court officers visit Jabatan Pembangunan Masyarakat



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE



The Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam wishes to congratulate officers and staff from the State Judiciary Department who have been awarded State Honorary Medals in honour of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan's 77th birthday celebration.

OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR

2024





The Opening of the Legal Year took place at the Supreme Court on Thursday 1 February 2024 corresponding to 20 Rejab 1445. The annual event gathered members of the Judiciary and the legal profession to mark the start of the court's judicial year. The ceremony began with the Guard of Honour parade by the Royal Brunei Police Force which was inspected by the Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong.







The tradition of Opening the Legal Year underscores the central role of the Judiciary in the administration of justice.

It also focuses attention on the legal community with speeches delivered by the Honourable Chief Justice, followed by the Attorney General, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa and the President of the Law Society, Yang Mulia Nur 'Azizah binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Ahmad, in representing advocates and solicitors in Brunei Darussalam.

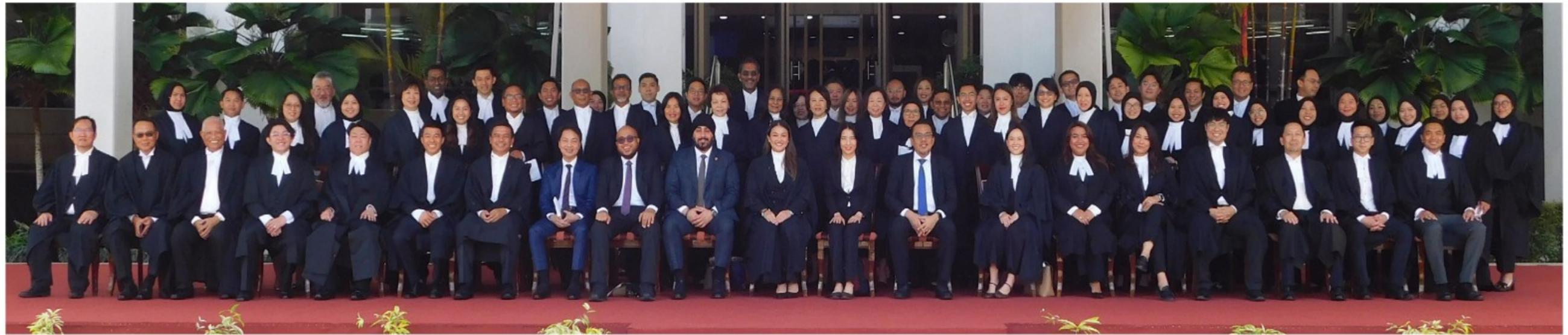




The Opening of Legal Year 2024



The Opening of Legal Year 2024



The Opening of Legal Year 2024



CHIEF JUSTICE, OFFICERS &



STAFF OF THE JUDICIARY



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

40TH NATIONAL DAY OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



RAMADHAN CHARITY DRIVE



The Civil Court's charity drive is an annual activity in which contribution will be collected amongst the officers and staff. The distribution of the donation is throughout all four districts and regularly during the Ramadhan month.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



TADARUS & KHATAM AL-QURAN

On 27 March 2024, a Tadarus and Khatam Al-Quran event was held in the Supreme Court, which brought together all Judicial Officers, officers and staff from Supreme Court, Magistrate's Court and the district Courts.

The event was organized to promote unity among the court's employees and to create a peaceful and religious atmosphere during the holy month of Ramadan.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

JUDICIARY RAYA CARNIVAL 2024



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



BOWLING TOURNAMENTS

The Civil Court took part in bowling tournaments organized by the Law Society on November 24, 2024 and the tournaments organized by State Judiciary Department on February 4, 2024, and December 8, 2024.



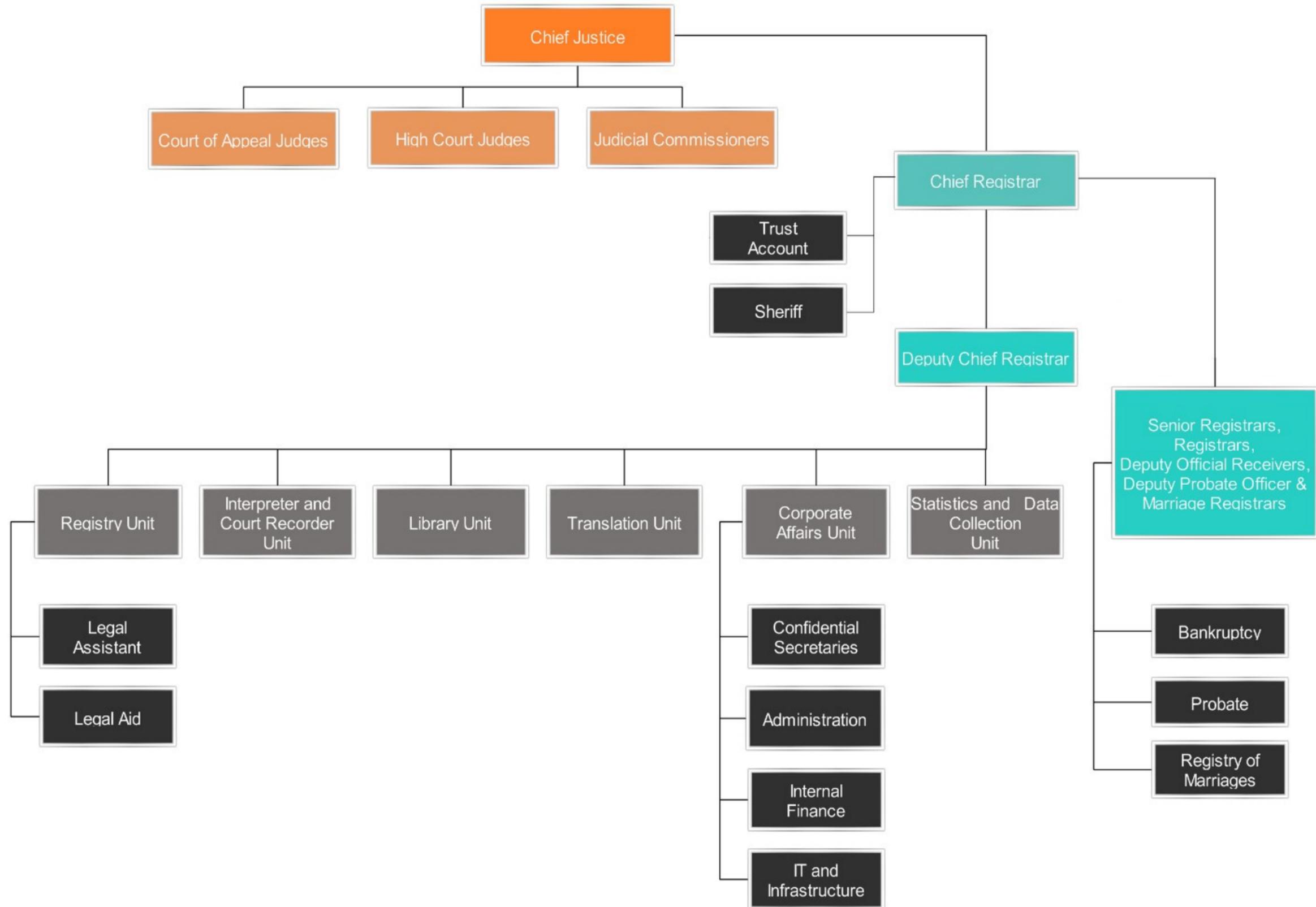
On November 29, 2024, the Civil Court organized a badminton tournament at the JKR Sports Complex. The event brought together participants from the State Judiciary Department, Syariah Court, and Civil Court. The tournament was officiated by Shahminan bin Haji Tengah, Acting Director of the State Judiciary Department.

BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

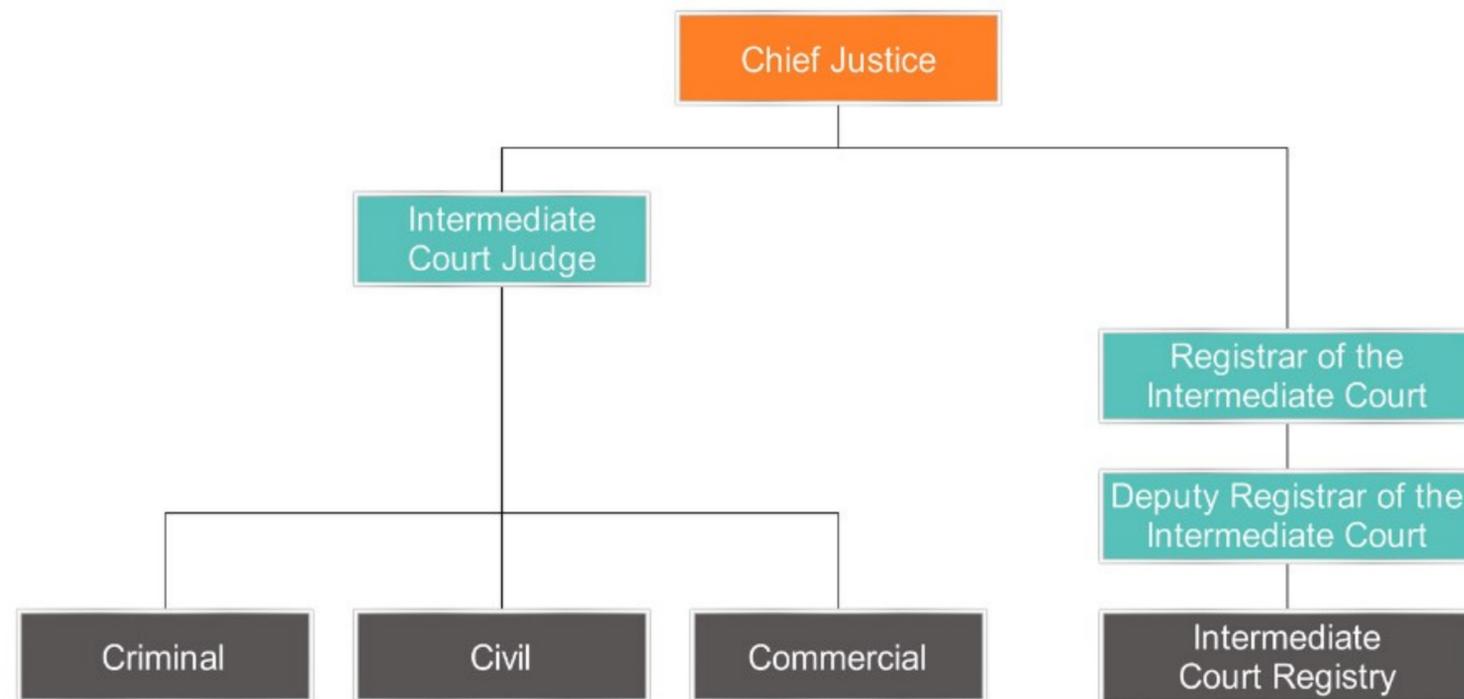
JUDICIARY

ORGANISATIONAL CHARTS

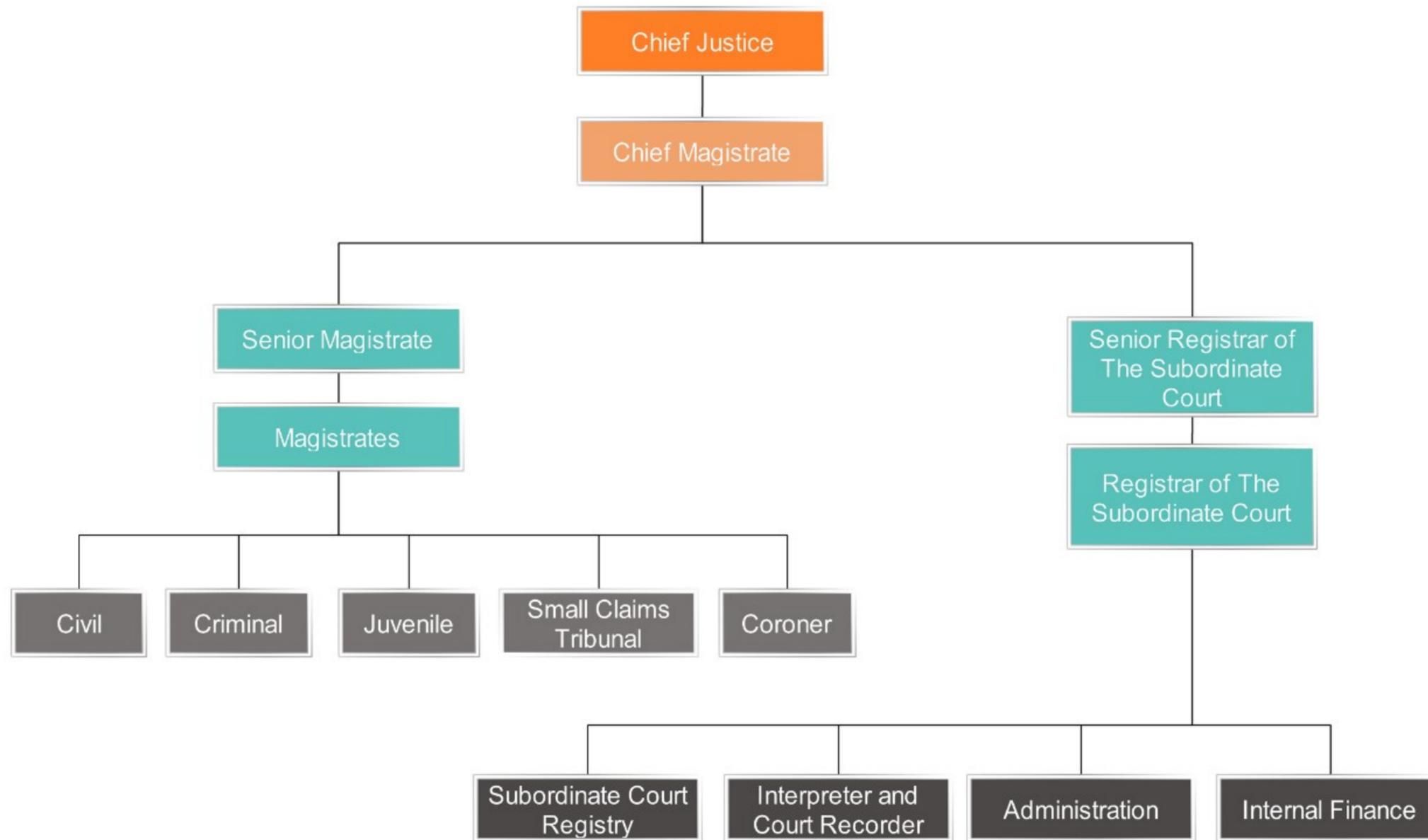
SUPREME COURT



INTERMEDIATE COURT



MAGISTRATE'S COURT



STATISTICS

2024

SUPREME COURT

The statistics provide a detailed breakdown of the number of cases registered and filed within the Judiciary, covering the period from 2023 to 2024.

	No. of cases filed	
	2023	2024
Court of Appeal		
Civil	21	20
Criminal	12	14
High Court		
Civil	64	56
Criminal	14	12
Appeal to the High Court from Magistrate Court		
Civil	1	2
Criminal	19	29
Other Matters		
Chamber hearings in the High Court and Intermediate Court before Registrars	497	535
Legal Aid applications granted	12	7

Bankruptcy Proceedings		
	2023	2024
Bankruptcy Office	344	350
Receiving Order	316	224
Adjudication Order	129	85
Rescission	182	116
Adjudication Order Discharged	4	10
Winding-Up Order	9	15

Executions made in the Sheriff Office		
	2023	2024
Supreme Court		
Writ Seizure	1	2
Writ of Possession	3	1
Notice of Sale	2	-
Magistrate's Court		
Warrant of Attachment and the Sales of Goods	-	-
Notice of Sale	-	2

Registry of Probate				
	No. of applications received		No. of applications granted	
	2023	2024	2023	2024
Letter of Administration	737	768	780	544
Letter of Probate	29	31	26	14

Registry of Civil Marriages and Divorce Petitions		
	2023	2024
Marriage Application Registered	115	66
Divorce Petition Received	31	39

INTERMEDIATE COURT

	No. of cases filed	
	2023	2024
Civil	73	60
Criminal	58	49
Commercial	83	83

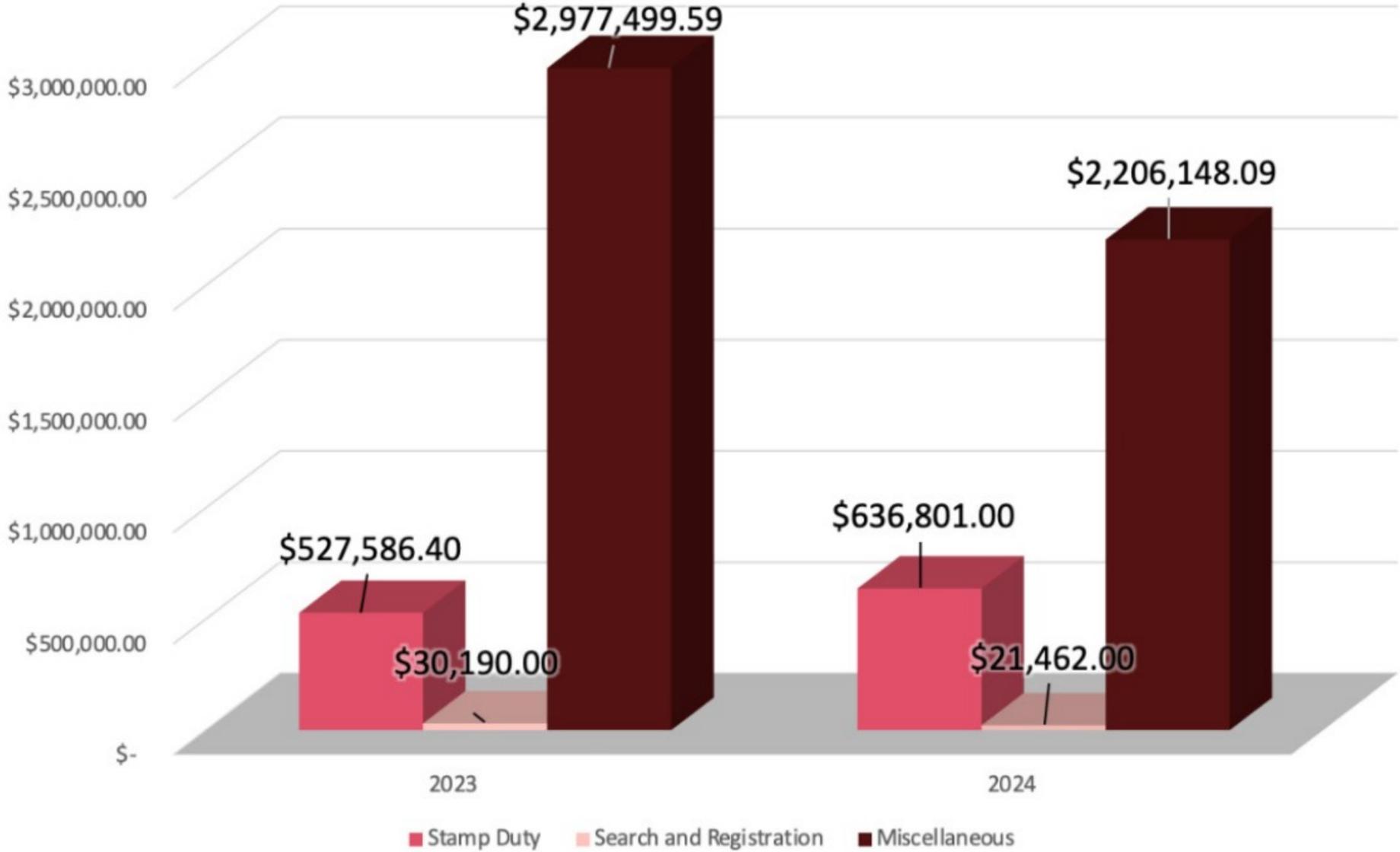
MAGISTRATE'S COURT

	No. of cases filed	
	2023	2024
Civil	978	501
Criminal		
Bandar Seri Begawan	361	338
Tutong	46	47
Kuala Belait	91	94
Temburong	-	2
Total	1476	481
Road Traffic Act		
Bandar Seri Begawan	204	145
Tutong	128	50
Kuala Belait	100	142
Temburong	-	7
Total	432	344

Juvenile Court		
	2023	2024
Care and Protection Order	8	6
Beyond Parental Control	9	3
Juvenile Arrest Case	-	2
Juvenile Traffic Case	1	1

Statutory Declaration		
	2023	2024
Brunei-Muara	9590	9107
Tutong	1672	423
Kuala Belait	871	1718
Temburong	224	220

COURT REVENUE



COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR 2025

1. ADVISOR

The Hon. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong

2. CHAIRPERSON

Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Huraiah

3. FINANCE

Shahrezawati Binti Ahmad

4. INVITATIONS

Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah
Sharifah Nur Baqiyah binti Malai Shahran
Fatin Fikriyah binti Haji Rosli
Hjh Izzatul Faizah binti Dr Hj Mohamad
Muhammad Syafiq bin Awang Haji Zakaria
Hj Badaruddin bin Hj Abd Karim
Khairul Khairiah Wahidah binti Ahmad
Nurbazilah binti Hj Md. Yucop/Hj Muhammad Ya'kub
Suhailah binti Ali
Siti Nooraqilah binti Hj Sirat
Nurnajiah binti Hj Yussop
Yenny binti Awang Walli

Noorhadina Binti Abdul Aziz
Dk Nuramalina Binti Pg Umar
Siti Nazurah Syamim Binti Hj Md Yussof
Hajah Nurul Hazimah binti Haji Tengah
Suzana Binti Basman
Norhayati Binti Hj. Masri
Pg Suhaili bin Pg Haji Ahmad
Siti Aliah Zarina binti Mohd. Sufri
Mohamad Yusof bin Haji Ahmad
Muhammad Ghazali bin Haji Tasim
Asrina binti Haji Jukin
Rodglan bin Haji Abdul Rahman
Mohammad Shamri bin Alias
Pg Abu Nur Hairah bin Pg Hashim
Siti Nurfadillah binti Untong

5. MEDIA RELEASE & WEBSITE

Hajah Noor Amalina binti Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin
Hajah Suzunah @ Suzanah binti Haji Sulaiman
Haji Badaruddin bin Haji Abdul Karim
Mohamad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel
Dewi Susianty binti Haji Md Daud

6. FLOOR MANAGERS

Hjh Ervy Sufitriana binti Hj Abdul Rahman
Syaffina binti Shahif
Nur Sariy Syahmina Binti Haji Jaffri
Pg Norfarzat Irwani Binti Pg Hj Mohd Jaafar
Mohamad Norhamizan bin Mohd Nurazman
Norhamizah Binti Mohammad
Mohammad Qhaire Hafez bin Haji Abdullah
Ahmad Faizin bin Awang Md Jinan
Md Amirul Kamal Bin Yakup

7. CAR PARK

Muhammad Kamaluddin Bin Haji Abu Bakar
Muhammad Afandi Bin Haji Ebil
Mohammad Fikri Fathuddin bin Assokan
Abdul Sa'adatul Firdaus bin Matali
Mahmud Zuhdi bin Karim
Md Amirul Kamal Bin Yakup
Safwan Bin Hj. Abd Momin
Yusuf bin Haji Mustapha
Rodglan bin Abdul Rahman
Mohammad Shamri bin Alias
Abdul Razak bin Haji Untong
Pengiran Abu Nur Hairah bin Pengiran Hashim,
Mohd Ghazali bin Haji Tassim

8. MASTER OF CEREMONY

Mohamad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel
Hjh Noorinah Hj Noorkaseh
Dk Nurul Syafiqah Hakeemah Binti Pengiran Shaiful
Rezal Malek Faesal
Noraiman Al-Emi binti Mohd Shamsul
Dk Nur Khadijah binti Pg Kamarulzaman
'Arief Zulfadhly bin Awang Haji Mohd. Talip

9. REFRESHMENTS

Kamaliah Fadhilah binti Hj Ibrahim
Nuuror-Raheebah binti Haji Abd Wahab
Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md. Maskub
Dk Nuramalina Binti Pg Umar
Noorhadina Binti Abdul Aziz
Masrina Binti Bakar
Nurul Atiyah Binti Awang Adam
Hjh Rakiah @ Hjh Ruqaiyah binti Haji Roslan
Sarinah binti Sahak
Hasiah Binti Abdullah
Siti Aliah @ Zarina binti Mohd Sufri
Nurul 'Ain binti Muhammad Hussini
Rashidah binti Awang Haji Tengah
Siti Nor Khairunnisa binti Haji Hassan
Nor Hafizah Hj Abd Ghafar
Nurul Hafizah Dewiyana binti Hj Abd Aziz

10. RBPF GUARD OF HONOUR & HEALTH / SAFETY

Muhd Muzakkir bin Haji Zakaria
Mohammad Fikri Fathuddin bin Assokan
Mahmud Zuhdi bin Karim
Md Amirul Kamal bin Yakup

11. LOGISTICS

Pg Haji Mohd Khairuddin bin Pg Haji Hashim
Haji Badaruddin bin Haji Abdul Karim
Mohammad Fikri Fathuddin Bn Assokan
Abdul Sa'adatul Firdaus bin Matali
Mohammad Ridhwan bin Haji Jofri
Mastika binti Mohd. Kamal
Pg Metali bin Pg Metamin
Abdul Mateen bin Amirisa
Mohd. Khalil bin Kudil
Ozzan bin Norman
Azlan Al-Azri bin Abdullah Langkan
Herdiman bin Awang /Ismail
Muhammad Hafiz bin Md Norariffin
Shahrin bin Hj Ibrahim / Serbini
Muhd Afandi bin Haji Ebil
Haji Muhd Shamsul Bin Haji Ismail
Mohd Izzam bin Haji Mahmood @ Mahmud
Muhammad Ghazali bin Haji Tasim
Mohamad Yusof bin Haji Ahmad

Alirahman bin Haji Simba
Pg Suhaili bin Pg Haji Ahmad
Safwan bin Haji Abdul Momin
Md Amirul Kamal bin Yakup
Haji Hanafi bn Haji Ibrahim
Muhd Hardy Iman bin Haji Muhd Ukit
Mohammad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel
Mohammad Norhamizan bin Mohd Nurazman
Mohd Zuhdi bin Karim
Md Fadzillah bin Haji Abu Bakaar
Ahmad Faizin bin Awang Md Jinan
Mohd Yussof bin Haji Mustapha
Rodglan bin Haji Abdul Rahman
Mohammad Shamri bin Alias
Pg Abu Nur Hairah binti Pg Hashim
Mohammad Hafizurahman bin Awang Haji Majid
Mohammad Qhaire Hafez bin Haji Abdullah
'Arief Zulfadhly bin Awang Haji Mohd. Talip
Abdul Razak bin Haji Untong
Mohammad Khairuddin bin Zakaria
Zulhazmi bin Masri
Pg Zamahin bin Pg Haji Amat
Awg Mahrif bin Haji Kassim
Kasman bin Kamis

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Abdul 'Azim Bin Othman
Suraimah binti Rosli
Hasiyah Binti Abdullah
Nur 'Afifah Basyirah Binti Ibrahim
Mohammad Hafizurahman Bin Awang Haji Majid
Hj Md Shamsul Bin Hj Ismail
Suhailah Binti Ali
Siti Nooraqilah Binti Haji Sirat
Sarinah Binti Sahak
Diyannah Rashidah @ Ruz'zainnah Binti Seruji
Nur Najiah Binti Haji Yussop
Atillah Binti Ahmad
Siti Aliah Binti Mohd Sufri
Nurul Hafizah Dewiyana Binti Abd Aziz
Nor Hafizah Binti Hj Abd Ghafar
Rozliani Binti Haji A. Timbang
Nur Azdisyahfina Binti Ahamadi
Siti Nurafiqah Binti Sufri
Zulhazmi Bin Masri
Selamah @ Zahrina Binti Haji Bujang
Nurul Zahirah Athirah Binti Azmi
Abdul Razak Bin Haji Untong
Mohammad Khairuddin Bin Zakaria
Rakinah Binti Rosli
Dk Nur Khayrin Syamimi Binti Pg Mohd Ariffin
Noraidah Binti Haji Mohd Yussof
Suzielawati binti Rahman

13. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Hajah Norzalinawati Binti Haji Razali
Muhammad Hardy Iman Bin Haji Muhammad Ukit
Siti Norhafiqah Binti Haji Mohd Salihen
Fazeli Bin Haji Duraman
Mohamad Feradaus bin Marif
Mohammad Afiq Aizuddin Bin Mohd Daud
Mohammad Noor Bin Hj Tamit

14. PHOTOGRAPHY

Syaffina binti Shahif
Shahrezawati binti Ahmad
Norhamizah binti Mohamad
Shaliza Hani binti Ahmad

15. VENDORS

Raihan Nabilah binti Haji Ahmad Ghazali
Nurul Hidayah binti Hamdan
Nurulbillah Aqilah binti Haji Mohd Ali
Hjh Fauzihana binti Hj Mohamad
Noorhadina binti Abdul Aziz
Hasiyah binti Abdullah

16. BOOK COMMITTEE

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JABATAN ADAT ISTIADAT NEGARA

ROYAL BRUNEI POLICE FORCE

RADIO TELEVISION BRUNEI

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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