



SMU

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY
新加坡管理大学

PRO BONO CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2025





DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

As we reflect on 2025, we are filled with gratitude and admiration for our students and volunteer lawyers who have contributed tirelessly to pro bono work. It has been an exceptionally busy and fulfilling year.

The Class of 2025 collectively contributed 8,339 pro bono hours, averaging 47 hours per student. Even more remarkable, nearly one in four students surpassed the demanding threshold of 50 hours (for JD students) or 80 hours (for LLB students) of pro bono service. These figures go beyond mere statistics. They embody the heart, resilience, and commitment of our students, who choose to serve others despite their own overflowing schedules.

This year, we reimagined the Amellia Moo Spirit of Pro Bono Hero Award to better reflect the spirit of service. Beyond counting hours, we also consider the range and depth of engagement. Our 2025 award recipients, Lyu Yijia (JD) and Jolene Tan (LLB), exemplify this spirit. They did not just volunteer; they immersed themselves in projects like University Court Friends, legal awareness talks, legal clinics, and deputyship support.

When asked what motivated her, Yijia shared, “whenever my studies grew intense, pro bono offered me perspective and balance”, reminding her of the human stories behind the Law. Jolene reflected that her experience “reaffirmed her purpose for studying Law, which is to help and serve others”. These words remind us why we do what we do.

We applaud five exceptional volunteer lawyers this year. Two lawyers received the Spirit of Pro Bono Champion Award:

- Asoka Markandu, for mentoring students in Project Lighthouse, who were commended by District Judge Shawn Ho for their thoughtful mitigation plea, resulting in a significantly reduced sentence. This echoes similar praise from District Judge Paul Quan a year earlier in another case;
- Shaun Lee, for consistently supporting our LPA certification efforts, often at short notice, and always taking the time to encourage students in their legal journey.

Three lawyers received long service awards:

- Alvin Ong: Spirit of Pro Bono Silver Award (10 years of service);
- Zheng Pei: Spirit of Pro Bono Silver Award (10 years of service);
- Junie Loh: Spirit of Pro Bono Bronze Award (5 years of service).

We launched our new corporate video as well as two new initiatives this year, Project Lexplore and Deputyship Report Filing, both of which are creating meaningful benefits for the communities we serve. We also conducted over 50 legal awareness talks, completed more than 200 LPA certifications at nine organisations, assisted nearly 100 applicants at our legal clinic, and helped over 100 deputies file their reports to the Public Guardian – each a meaningful step towards greater access to justice.

Together with our partner organisations, volunteer lawyers and students, we look forward to continuing our mission to serve the community's legal needs and nurturing the next generation of socially conscious lawyers.

Professor Chan Wing Cheong & Ms Ruby Lee
Co-Directors, SMU Pro Bono Centre

MEET THE TEAM



Ms Lu Qingqing
Assistant Manager

Prof Chan Wing Cheong
Co-Director

Ms Ruby Lee
Co-Director

Mr Vincent Goh
Manager

AWARD WINNERS



**LYU
YIJIA**

**Amellia Moo Spirit of
Pro Bono Hero (JD) Award**

Pro bono has given me real-world insight, helped me to grow, and reminded me of the human purpose behind the law.



**JOLENE
TAN**

**Amellia Moo Spirit of
Pro Bono Hero (LLB) Award**

Pro bono not only helps others, but it also offers valuable lessons about ourselves, ultimately shaping us into more empathetic and grounded individuals.



**ASOKA
MARKANDU**

**Spirit of Pro Bono
Champion Award**

Volunteering helps to remind us of the importance of humility, compassion and kindness.



**SHAUN
LEE**

**Spirit of Pro Bono
Champion Award**

If the practice of law is to remain an honourable profession, pro bono work must lie at its heart.

AWARD WINNERS



ALVIN ONG

Spirit of Pro Bono
Silver Award

Let us be members of an honourable profession who are not only known for our legal skills, but also for our deep compassion towards others.



ZHENG PEI

Spirit of Pro Bono
Silver Award

Pro bono reminds me that I chose a career which does not only benefit me (or only a few) but is of value to society too.



JUNIE LOH

Spirit of Pro Bono
Bronze Award

Even though it may not be possible to offer a practical solution to those who come to the legal clinic, we can still give them comfort by being there to listen.

WHAT STUDENTS & PARTNER AGENCIES SAY

ALICIA ZHAN HAORAN

LLB Class of 2027

I am grateful for the opportunity to take part in Project Will Writing. From taking instructions from the caregivers to writing the Will, the project provided an independent and hands-on experience. It was great for me to see the caregivers feeling reassured from having their Will signed. I hope that this project will continue in the long term and benefit more people.

PROJECT WILL WRITING

RYAN KAN

LLB Class of 2027

I have gained a better appreciation of the intricacies in society and am inspired to explore how I can further contribute to meaningful causes in society in the future.

SMU PBC LEGAL CLINIC

CHUA WEN YING, SARAH

LLB Class of 2028

I learnt how to empathise with others as it takes a lot of courage for one to ask for help when it is needed and most of these incidents deal with sensitive issues.

UNIVERSITY COURT FRIENDS

ELIZABETH HO LI HUI

LLB Class of 2025

I liked that I was able to think through the merits of each applicant's case and ... see how the outcome of each case is really dependent on the facts in a real-life situation.

**BRADDELL HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC**

NG XIN YU

LLB Class of 2025

The project gave me a first-hand idea of how our work has a real impact on people's lives.

PROJECT WILL WRITING

ONG CHUIN HONG, WILLIE

JD Class of 2027

I appreciated the opportunity to learn about the problems faced by applicants and how the lawyers advised them. I learnt a great deal about matters of procedure as well.

OSLAS @ STATE COURTS

JAMES ETHAN ANG

LLB Class of 2025

It was quite an enlightening experience; it really makes me want to help.

LEGAL AWARENESS TALK

WHAT STUDENTS & PARTNER AGENCIES SAY

PATSY ANG

Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support Ltd

The feedback [from the talks conducted by the students] has been overwhelmingly positive ... and we look forward to another great year of collaboration.

LEGAL AWARENESS TALKS

TEO GUAN THYE

Service user at the State Courts Service Hub

Joshua Ng was very professional and helpful. He went out of his way to help us. A big thank you.

ANONYMOUS

I learnt that access to legal aid and the level of legal knowledge is very different in Thailand as compared to Singapore. It was eye-opening as it revealed that in Singapore, we really are very privileged to have generally good access to legal aid, healthcare and safety.

**PROJECT LEXPLORE
CHIANG MAI 2025**

LIM KAH GUAN, DANIEL

JD Class of 2027

I appreciate the pro bono experience because I was exposed to a diverse range of legal issues affecting different segments of the community. I not only sharpened my legal skills but also learnt how to advocate effectively for the public by connecting them to the right legal resources, thereby reinforcing the broader mission of access to justice.

**PRO BONO SG
COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC**

PHUA POO CHIN

Service user at the State Courts Service Hub

Received tremendous help to fill in all the necessary forms to file a claim. Thank you so very much for the patient assistance.

NG SONG-EN, JOSHUA

LLB Class of 2025

I found the Pro Bono Centre's Mandarin Classes useful for this placement because very often I had to communicate with court users in Mandarin.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
PROGRAMME**

ANONYMOUS

After our group presented our lesson to the Chiang Mai University law students, they told us that they learnt a lot from us. We can tell that they really enjoyed the lesson and at that moment, I felt that all our efforts were worth it and it was really heart-warming to know that they have benefited.

**PROJECT LEXPLORE
CHIANG MAI 2025**

SERVICE AWARD & CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION RECIPIENTS

Amelia Moo Spirit of Pro Bono Hero Award – Class of 2025 (JD)

Lyu Yijia

Amelia Moo Spirit of Pro Bono Hero Award – Class of 2025 (LLB)

Tan Shean Yin Jolene

Spirit of Pro Bono Champion Award

Shaun Lee

Asoka Markandu

Spirit of Pro Bono Silver Award

Alvin Ong Chee Keong*

Zheng Pei*

Spirit of Pro Bono Bronze Award

Loh Yu Wei, Junie*

JD graduates from Class of 2025 who completed 50 or more approved pro bono hours

Elsa Shalina Abdullah
Ho Yun Zhang, Azinger
Hong Saemi
Hong Wen Yu
Muhammad Azhar bin
Mohamed Iqbal
Yang Ying Ting, Evon

LLB graduates from Class of 2025 who completed 80 or more approved pro bono hours

Akash Singh S/O Baljit Singh
Anna Gee Su Fen
Bliss Lee Fan Rui
Chung Ee Wen
Chrystal Chia Xuan
Denise Siah Hsu Xuan
Dheekshithaa Rajaraman
Elizabeth Ho Li Hui
Evangeline Enbei Chen
Genieve Wu Zhi Yi

Ho Shu Hao Eugene
Hong Jun Ling
James Ethan Howe Song En
Jannelle Faith Quek
Jonathan Tan Jun Rei
Jorja-Jade Loh Kai Lin
Kang Jia Jing, Joelle
Kek Shi Qin Ethelyn
Koh Shang Wei, Euan
Koo Guo Xiang
Kristy Chiun Xiang Ren
Kuan Jie Min
Kylie Teong Li Ying
Lee En Jia Chloe
Li Shan Ying
Lim Shi Han
Liu Enqi
Loo Jayme
Lovein Sui Leying
Low Tse Loong, Ryan
Ng Xin Yu
Nicolette Ang Sher Nyn
Pang Jing Xuan
Raelee Toh Hsuan Hui
Rauf Hannan Azizi
Renee Ong Yu Ning
Sia Le Ying, Eula
Terry Ng Tian Yu
Timothy Cheng Zhi Wen
Yap En Ling Crisann

Lawyers who volunteered with the SMU Pro Bono Centre in 2025

Amelia Lim Hong Wen*
Charlotte Tan Guan Ling*
Chen Lixin*
Chew Di Shun, Dickson
Edwin Neo Xuan Hao*
Jaryl Lim Zhi Wei
Jason Chua Dong Wei*
Jasper Hayden Chan Mun Jun*
Jolie Giouw Rong Zhen*
Kimberly Chia Wei Xin*
Lieu Kah Yen*
Julia Lim Zhi Ying*
Lydia Wang, Tianyi*
Matthew Chua Shi Jie
Meredith Soh Yu Xuan*
Muslim Albakri
Nguyen Sinh Vuong*
Phua Shi Lin
Rebecca Heng
Richard Tan Ming Kirk
Shaun Lee
Shermaine Ang Shi Min*
Tan Merace Yuri*
Tan Lay Hong
Violet Lee Chiu Mei
Yap Xuan Wei
Zamiq Azmeer

+ SMU Law Alumni

PRO BONO IN THE COMMUNITY



LPA talk to migrant workers



LPA Certifications



Pro Bono Week 2025



PRO BONO IN THE COMMUNITY



The Lighthouse Project



Wills talk for Serving People with Disabilities



Wills Talk for THK Active Ageing Centre



LPA Talk for Dementia Singapore



Deputyship Report Filing at SMU Pro Bono Centre



HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT LEXPLORE CHIANG MAI 2025



Held from 22 June to 5 July 2025, 11 SMU students collaborated with 15 Chiang Mai University law students in Thailand. They delivered legal talks at Wildflower Home, taught English at Rang Mai Library, and created Lawtoons, which are illustrated comic books with accompanying audiobooks on “Know Your Rights” and “Say No to Bullying”, in both English and Thai. One student shared that the trip taught him to “serve with heart, see with an open mind, and embrace different systems and cultures.”

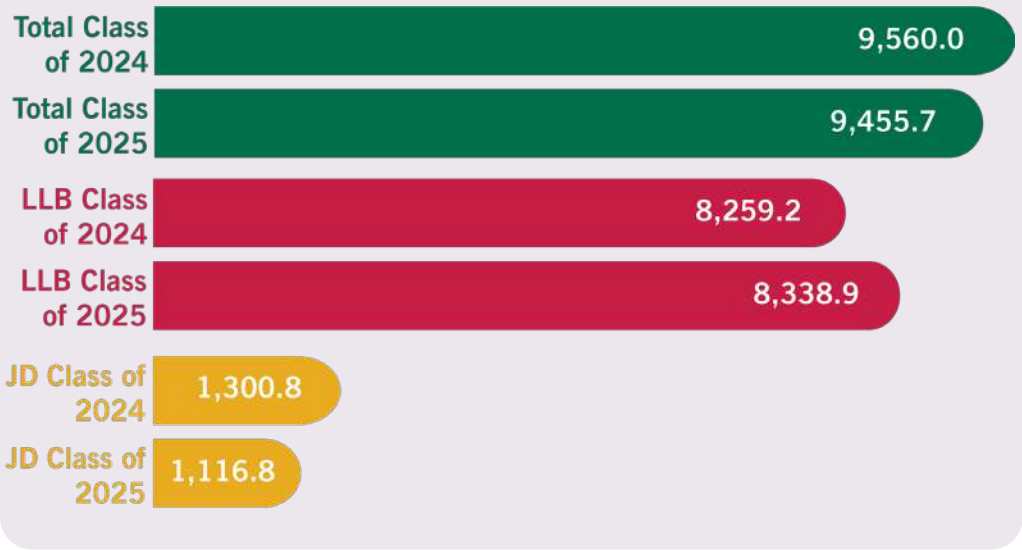
DEPUTYSHIP REPORT FILING



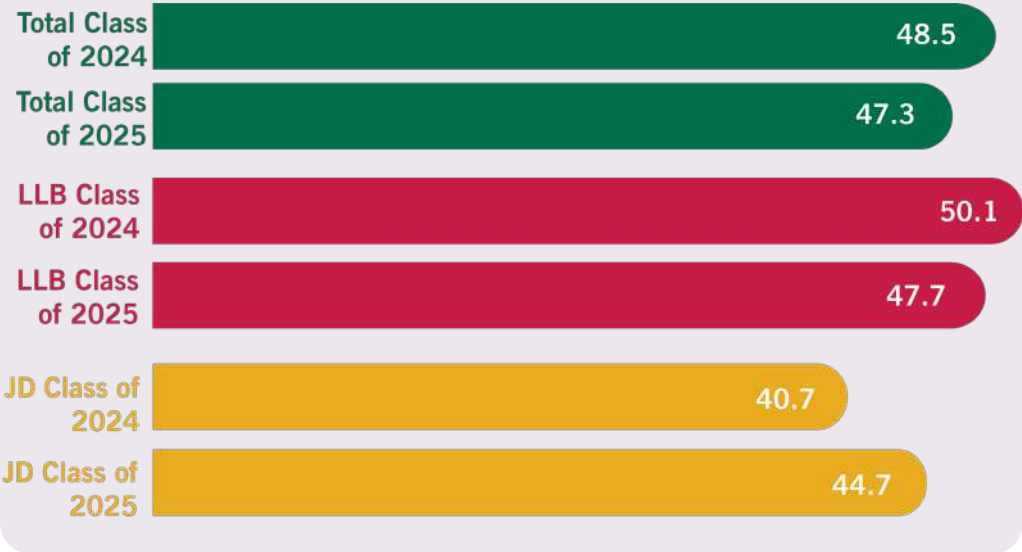
Since May 2025, deputies who need help filing their annual reports on the Office of Public Guardian Online System (OPGO) have been coming to the SMU Pro Bono Centre every Thursday afternoon. In just five months, 98 deputies have received assistance from our student volunteers. It has been an educational experience for students and deeply appreciated by the deputies.

PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

TOTAL APPROVED PRO BONO HOURS



AVERAGE APPROVED PRO BONO HOURS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank the following volunteer lawyers, partners and stakeholders for supporting the SMU Pro Bono Centre:

Aidan Goh Guo Yao
Alvin Ong Chee Keong
Brandon Ang Yi-Da
Chen Lixin
Chooi Jing Yen
Elycia Lu Yanrong
Giouw Rong Zhen Jolie
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Jasper Hayden Chan Mun Jun
Kimberly Chia Wei Xin
Kwong Yan Ying Eugenia
Lee Chiu Mei Violet
Li Jiabao
Liew Dominic Junior
Lim Yong Sheng
Lin Yun-Yi@Abby Lin
Loh Yu Wei, Junie
Lushna Neena Godhia
Marissa Daisy Decruz
Neo Xuan Hao, Edwin
Nguyen Sinh Vuong
Pearlynn Wang
Shermaine Ang Shi Min
Sim Puay Jain Edwin
Soon Peck Khim Tess
Tan Guan Ling Charlotte
Tan Merace Yuri
Tan Ming Kirk Richard
Tan Wei Liang
Tay Tze Choong
Tien Shin-Yi, Christina
Toh Wei Ming Nicholas
Victor Tang
Wang Tianyi (Lydia)
Yong Li Yuan
Yong Zhixin Esther
Zheng Pei

Ada Chua
Adrian Tan
Afiqah Binte Mohamad Imran
Ahmad Nizam Abbas
Aikjoo Tay
Alvin Cheng
Alvin Wah
Amelia Lim
Ang Wei Yun
Angeline Yeoh
Anne Teo
Asoka Markandu
Audrey Tan
Avis Yeo
Barry Koh
Benjamin Mui
Benjamin Szeto
Bruce Lasky
Cai Chengying
Cai Suqi
Cathryn Neo
Cecilia Ng
Cheah Su-Ann
Cheng Xuanhao
Cheong Jun Jie
Chermaine Tan
Chew Di Shun, Dickson
Chew Siew Lay
Chia Lyn Lynn
Chua Kok Wan
Chua Xue Li
Chung Ka Yee
Claudine Tan
Colin Tan
Crystal Tang
Danial Hakim
Daniel Law
Daphne Loh
Darren Chan
Dawn Tay
Devi
Diana Chua
Donald Yeo
Dorcas Quek
Douglas MacLean
Dr Bhavani Sriram
Eduardo Ramos-Gomez
Eleanor Tan Mei Xuan
Eleanor Wong
Emma Chen

Emmaline Lim
Esther Tan
Eunice Chua
Foo Chee Chang
Frank Wong
Gerald Tan
Geraldine Kuah
Goh Kheng Huang
Goh Qian Hui
Goh Wheeki
Greg Tan
Gregory Vijayendran
Ho Soh Li
Huang Peiling
Ignatius Chia
Ijechi Nazirah
Irina Nechifor
Ivy Lim
Jaryl Lim
Jazreel Tay
Jessie Tan
Jiang Weiting
Joel Tay
Josiah Liu
Jovan Poh
Julia Lim
Junie Chua Hwee Ling
Kaamela Barvin
Karen Ng
Kelvin Lim
Kenneth Tiong
Kenny Chng
Kimberly Desker
Kwok Kaylee
Kwok-Chern Yew Tee
Lau Ee Wun
Lee Eng Hong
Lee Hin Chong (Valen)
Lee Shen Han
Leng Yen Li
Lenny Azuree Binte Ismail
Leonard Lee
Liaw Hin Hao
Lieu Kah Yen
Lim Hui Min
Lim Kar Yee
Lim Tanguy
Lim Yu Ting
Lin Huiyu
Ling Cheah

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Melisa Wong
Meredith Soh
Mervyn Cheong
Michael Chen
Michael Lim Teck Chew
Michael Tan Yoong Liang
Mr & Mrs Moo Chern Hwa
Muhaimin Malik
Muslim Albakri
Natalie Ooi
Ng Guang Wei
Ng Kai Ern
Ng Li-yen
Ng Pei Xin
Ng Xiao Yan
Nicole Chua
Niki So
Nur Aqilah
Ong Lay Hoon
Ong Lin Yee
Ong Yao Qing, Terence
Pamelia Chen
Patsy Ang
Paulin Straughan
Peggy Yee
Phua Shi Lin
Phyllis Cheng
Prescelia
Quek You Zhen
Rachel Chan
Rachel Tan
Rahayu Buang
Rajan Menon
Ranald Or
Rayne Chua
Rebecca Heng
Regina Chang
Richard Siaw
Roderick Ng
Roger Tan
Roshini
Sarah Jane Fernandez
Sarah Phang

Sham Sabnani
Shaun Lee
Shawn Teo
Siti Maisarah
Soek Ying
Soh Zu Xian
Sonita Jayapathy
Suganya
Sylvia Lim
Tan Chin Ann Brandon
Tan Chong Huat
Tan Lay Hong
Tan Li Ping
Tan Siong Thye
Tan Zhixin
Tan Zi Yang
Toh Ding Jun
Tricia Tok
Vineetha Gunasekaran
Vivien Yip
V S Shivashree Gayathree
Wendy Koh
Wendy Morrish
William Koo
Wong Kok Weng
Wong Woon Kwong
Yang Eu Jin
Yap Xuan Wei
Ying Fatima Joy Espares
Yuan Kang
Yusuf Hamid
Yvonne Cheah
Zamiq Azmeer

Babes Pregnancy Crisis
Support Ltd
BABSEACLE
Bird & Bird ATMD
Braddell Heights Community
Legal Clinic
Care Corner Seniors Services
Ltd
Catholic Lawyers Guild Legal
Clinic
Cerebral Palsy Alliance
Singapore
Chong Pang CC Legal Clinic
Church of Christ the King
Legal Clinic
Citibank

Community Justice Centre
Dementia Singapore
Frontier CC Legal Clinics
Gladiolus Place
HCSA - Single Parents
Informed, Involved, Included
Jalan Kayu Legal Clinic
JP Morgan
Jurong Spring Legal Clinic
Justice Without Borders
Kebun Baru Link RC Legal
Clinic
Kembangan-Chai Chee
Community Legal Clinic
Legal Aid Bureau
MacPherson Community Club
MINDS
Ministry of Manpower
Ministry of Social and Family
Development
(Office of Public Guardian)
Mustard Tree
NTUC Health
NTUC LawWorks
NUS Centre for Pro Bono and
Clinical Legal Education
People's Association
Potter's Place Community
Services Society Legal Clinic
Prison Fellowship Singapore
Pro Bono SG
Seng Pang Tua Peng Kong
Keng
Serving People with
Disabilities
SG Assist
Singapore Council of Women's
Organisations
Special Needs Trust Company
Ltd
Stroke Support Station
Singapore University of Social
Sciences
The Singapore Association for
the Deaf
Vamos Photography
Vanguard Healthcare



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