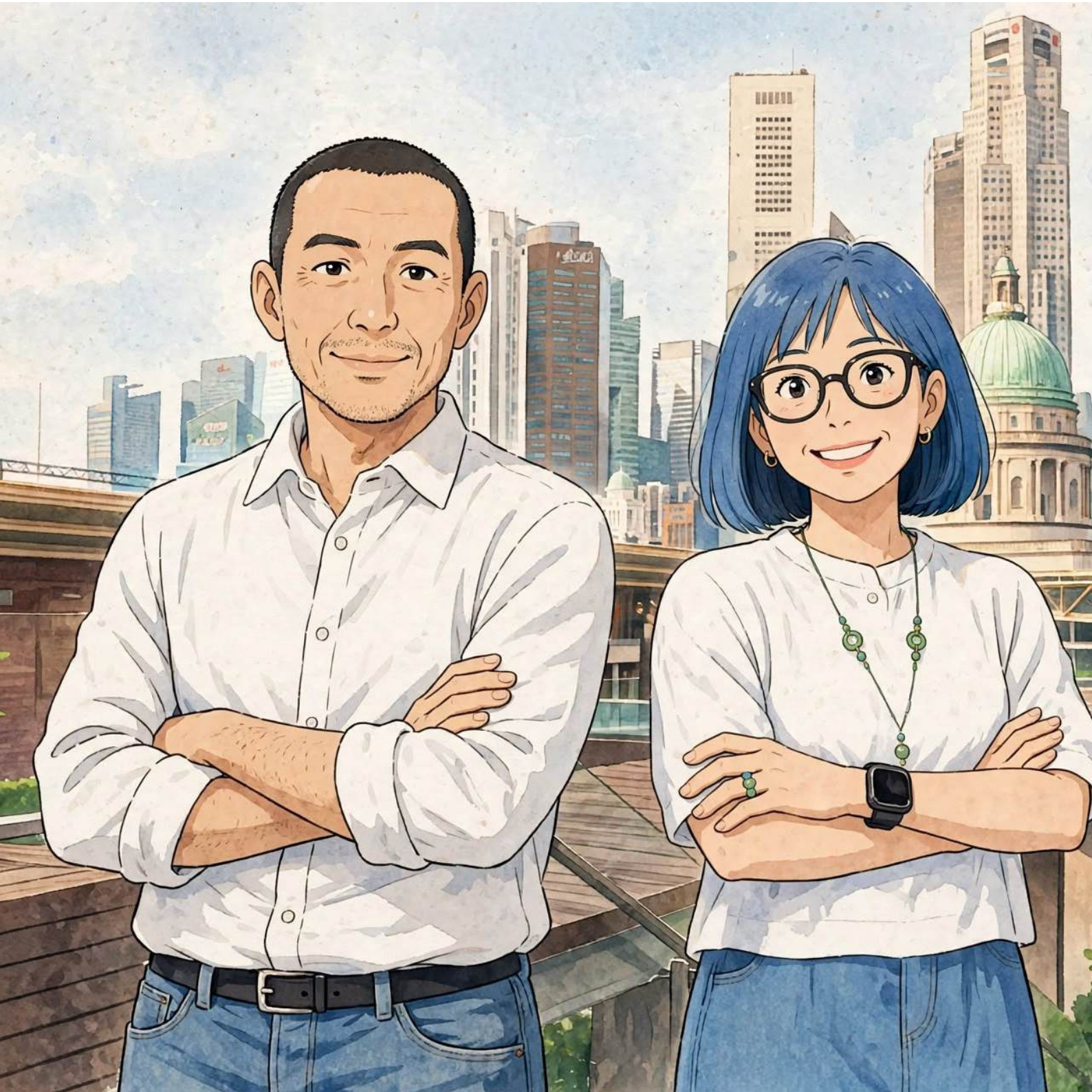
SMU
SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY
新加坡管理大学

PRO BONO CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT 2026







DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

2026 has been a year of purposeful service, meaningful partnerships and inspiring commitment at the SMU Pro Bono Centre. Across our programmes, our students, volunteer lawyers, alumni and community partners have shown that pro bono service is not merely an obligation, but a powerful expression of what it means to use legal knowledge responsibly and compassionately.

In 2026, our students delivered 95 legal awareness talks, reaching more than 1,500 beneficiaries. They also supported lawyers in certifying more than 550 Lasting Powers of Attorney, and assisted over 250 applicants at our weekly legal clinic and deputyship consultation sessions combined. Through these efforts, individuals and families gained a clearer understanding of their rights, greater confidence in planning for the future, and valuable support in navigating legal processes.

Our graduating Class of 2026 contributed 8,130.8 pro bono hours, averaging 40.9 hours per student. Twenty-one LLB students completed at least 80 hours, while four JD students completed at least 50 hours. But the significance of these contributions cannot be measured in hours alone. Each placement, clinic and talk represents an encounter with a real person or community, and an opportunity for our students to develop professional judgment, humility and empathy.

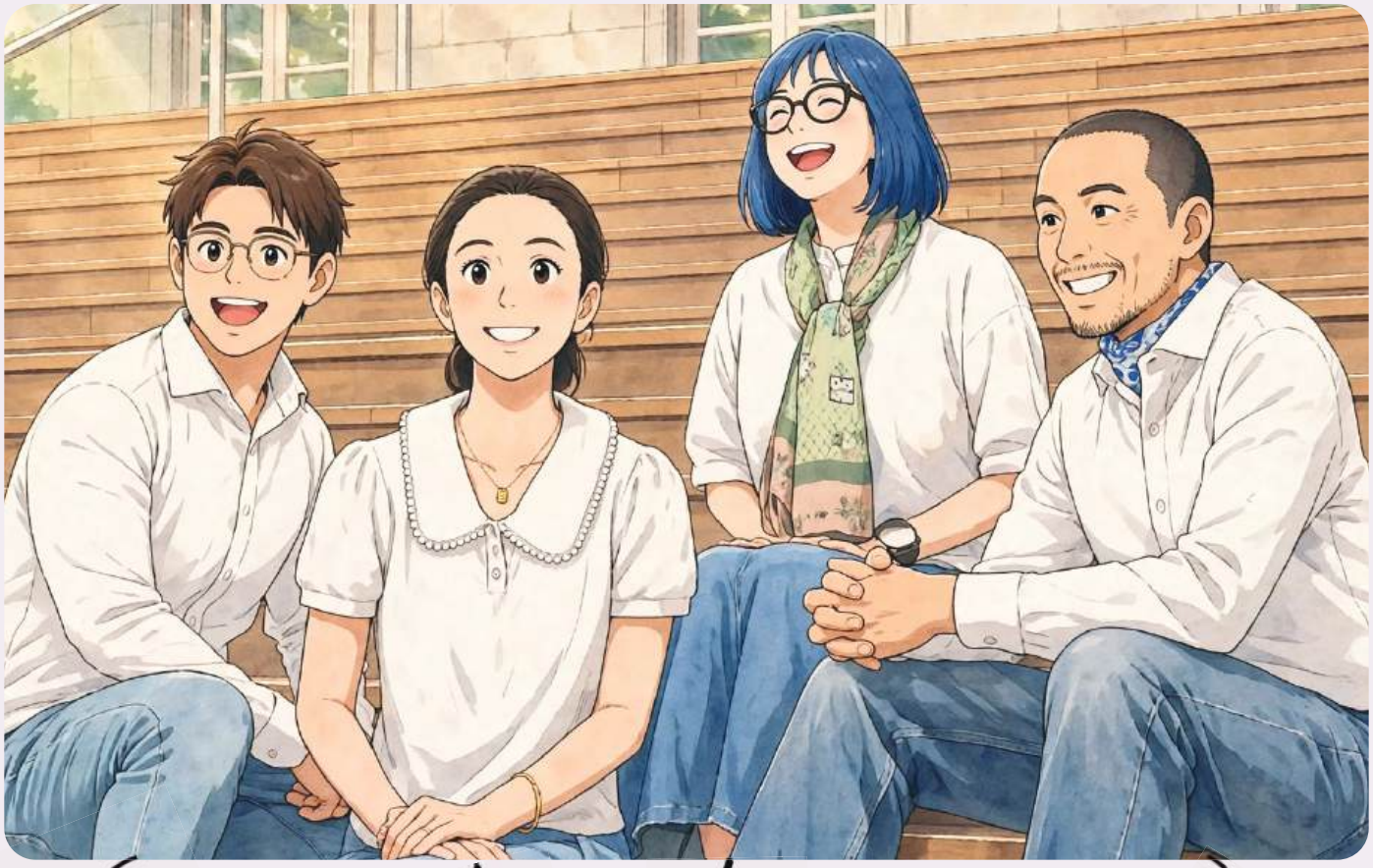
We congratulate the recipients of the Amellia Moo Spirit of Pro Bono Hero Award, Simren Kaur Sambhi and Lim Chia Yeh, whose exemplary commitment affirms that law is a vocation rooted in service. We also congratulate the recipients of the Spirit of Pro Bono Champion Award, Matthew Chua and Dickson Chew, whose dedication to pro bono reminds us that the call to serve extends well beyond law school.

Looking ahead, the SMU Pro Bono Centre will embark on an exciting new initiative to develop a structured training programme that better prepares students for their pro bono attachments. This programme will equip them not only with essential technical skills, but also with the ability to reflect meaningfully on their experiences and grow into more thoughtful and empathetic lawyers. We also plan to harness AI to enrich student learning through realistic simulations that allow students to practise applying their knowledge and skills in a safe and supportive environment.

To our steadfast partners, volunteer lawyers, alumni and supporters, thank you for sharing your expertise, time and trust with us. Your support enables our students to learn through service while strengthening access to justice in the wider community. To our students, we hope you will carry forward the relationships, values and lessons shaped by your pro bono experiences. We are honoured to walk alongside you and look forward to all that we can achieve together.

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

MEET THE TEAM



MR VINCENT GOH
Manager

MS LU QINGQING
Assistant Manager

MS RUBY LEE
Co-Director

PROF CHAN WING CHEONG
Co-Director

AWARD WINNERS



SIMREN KAUR SAMBHI

AMELLIA MOO SPIRIT OF PRO BONO HERO (JD) AWARD

Pro bono work is a deeply rewarding opportunity to learn, to serve and to use one's legal skills to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Taking part in pro bono activities is an exciting and meaningful way to get hands-on experience in legal work and enrich one's legal education as a whole.



LIM CHIA YEH

AMELLIA MOO SPIRIT OF PRO BONO HERO (LLB) AWARD

Never underestimate the value of volunteering and remember that no contribution is too small.

Sometimes, a simple listening ear is sufficient to alleviate the concerns and stresses of someone going through a difficult period

AWARD WINNERS



DICKSON CHEW

SPIRIT OF PRO BONO CHAMPION AWARD

Lawyers have an important role to play in making the law more accessible, understandable and less intimidating.

My advice is to begin exploring pro bono opportunities early, and find work that aligns with your personality, values and sense of what it means to be a lawyer.



MATTHEW CHUA

SPIRIT OF PRO BONO CHAMPION AWARD

Pro bono work is an integral and meaningful part of being a lawyer.

Good lawyering is grounded not only in technical competence, but also in professionalism, empathy and a genuine commitment to service.

WHAT STUDENTS & PARTNER AGENCIES SAY

NTUC HEALTH

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the SMU Pro Bono Centre for its dedication and partnership in bringing legal education and services closer to our seniors.

It has been a pleasure working with such a supportive, responsive, and committed team. We are grateful for the effort invested in training the student volunteers to deliver engaging and informative sessions on Wills and the LPA, and helping our seniors gain greater awareness and confidence in making informed decisions.

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to the SMU professors and lawyers who travelled across our 10 Active Ageing Centres to certify the seniors' LPAs, making this important service more accessible to the community.

We value the strong partnership, open communication, and shared commitment to serving seniors. Thank you for your professionalism and unwavering support. We look forward to continuing this meaningful collaboration and making an even greater impact together.

BABES PREGNANCY CRISIS SUPPORT

We have greatly benefited from our partnership with SMU through the legal talks. Through this collaboration, our beneficiaries and volunteers have gained valuable legal insights, greater confidence in navigating legal matters, and access to knowledge they may not otherwise have received. We are grateful for SMU's commitment to community service and look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership in support of vulnerable young women and the community around them.

SG ASSIST

It has been a privilege to work alongside the students of the SMU Yong Pung How School of Law and Ms Ruby Lee, whose guidance and years of experience shaped how we approached every session. One lesson from Ruby has stayed with us: the value of an LPA lies not merely in completing the form, but in ensuring that each caregiver and their loved one genuinely understand its meaning, as well as their respective roles as donor and donee. That understanding is what brings out the true purpose of an LPA.

The students prepared thoroughly and shared with great patience, gently working through the uncertainty and misconceptions that so often surround this topic. Families have told us how relieved they feel to have their LPAs properly certified and ready for whatever the future may hold, should they one day lose mental capacity. This is an impact that Ruby and the students have made not only today, but for many families in the years to come.

HCSA-SPIN (SINGLE PARENTS INFORMED, INVOLVED AND INCLUDED)

We are truly grateful for our partnership with the Pro Bono Centre and for your continued support of HCSA-SPIN and our beneficiaries. The legal talks have empowered our single-parent families with valuable knowledge and greater confidence in navigating legal matters. We deeply appreciate your team's dedication, professionalism, and willingness to make legal support accessible to our community. Thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to working together to create an even greater impact for our beneficiaries.

WHAT STUDENTS & PARTNER AGENCIES SAY

ENABLING SERVICES HUB @ PUNGGOL

Thank you very much for taking the time to support our English and Chinese talks on the LPA, and for patiently addressing the questions and concerns raised by our clients and caregivers.

We would also like to extend our special appreciation to Ms Ruby Lee for kindly providing pro bono certification for our clients and caregivers. Her support has made a meaningful difference to families who may otherwise have faced barriers in accessing the process.

We appreciate the team's patience and professionalism throughout, especially in ensuring that clients and caregivers fully understood what they were signing. Thank you for your generosity, time, and commitment. We truly value your partnership and look forward to the opportunity to work with you again in the second half of 2026.

DEMENTIA SINGAPORE

We are grateful for the valuable contributions of the SMU Pro Bono Centre team and students to the dementia community. Through their generous sharing of legal knowledge and expertise, they have helped caregivers of persons living with dementia understand important topics, such as the LPA and Deputyship.

The sessions were exceptionally well organised and delivered with great clarity, making the topics accessible and relevant for our caregivers. The dedication and professionalism shown by your students were truly commendable. We deeply appreciate the time and effort taken to address caregivers' questions, which helped them gain greater confidence in planning for the future.

HARYANE MUSTAJAB (Marsiling GRC)

Working with the SMU students through the Pro Bono Centre has been a truly meaningful and rewarding experience for me.

What has impressed me most is the students' genuine commitment to helping others. They approach each matter with professionalism, curiosity and empathy, while being willing to listen, learn and understand the real-life circumstances behind each person's situation. It has been wonderful to see them put their legal knowledge into practice.

For the residents we have assisted, the support goes beyond simply receiving legal advice. Being listened to, understood and guided through what can often be a difficult and unfamiliar process can make a very real difference to their lives. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside committed students and the dedicated team at the SMU PBC!



WHAT STUDENTS & PARTNER AGENCIES SAY

FIDELIA CHAN
(SMU PBC Helpdesk)

In this placement, I took calls from potential applicants who are seeking an appointment at PBC's Legal Clinic. This experience helped me to think like a lawyer in terms of what details I should get from them. It also honed my listening skills because I had to respond carefully in case they may be feeling panicky about their situation.

CHRISTINE LIU
(Legal Awareness Talk)

I thoroughly enjoyed the learning process and found the experience both engaging and rewarding. The assignment gave me a much deeper understanding of family law, particularly the principles governing the division of matrimonial assets, as well as some of the practical questions that commonly arise during divorce proceedings.

CHRISTIAN JAMES FOO
(MOM-School Partnership Programme)

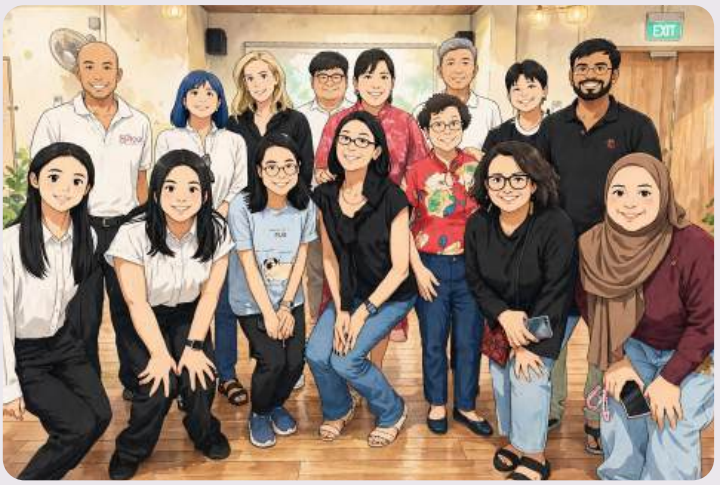
I really enjoyed the sessions because I got to understand the migrant workers better. Our visit to the migrant worker dorms and chat session with them really opened my eyes to the issues they faced.

FOONG WEI QI
(Legal Awareness Talk)

I enjoyed learning about the LPA content as it is relevant for my loved ones. I also enjoyed engaging with the elderly and their families.

YEO KAI XUAN HASIA
(PBSG Help Centre @ State Courts)

The range of legal issues I was exposed to gave a whole new dimension to my legal studies. I am also grateful for the opportunity to comfort some of the applicants when guiding them through the pro bono application process.



SERVICE AWARD & CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION RECIPIENTS

Amellia Moo Spirit of Pro Bono Hero Award – Class of 2026 (JD)
Simren Kaur Sambhi

Amellia Moo Spirit of Pro Bono Hero Award – Class of 2026 (LLB)
Lim Chia Yeh

Spirit of Pro Bono Champion Award
Chew Di Shun, Dickson
Matthew Chua Shi Jie

JD graduates from Class of 2026 who completed 50 or more approved pro bono hours

Farhan bin Aidil
Liu, Zhenzhen
Tan Shaw Eun, Shaun

LLB graduates from Class of 2026 who completed 80 or more approved pro bono hours

Celeste Ong Yi Fei
Chloe Mak Wei Shan
Hong Kai Ning, Megan
Jace Bong
Jerome Raphael Teo Hsu Chen
Law Bing Feng, Keith
Lea Yeo Jen Wen
Lee Jie Ting
Lee Qing Aun
Lui Yung Lung
Lim Jun Feng Auston
Loh Ee Hsuen
Loke Jingying, Valeska
Muhammad Sufian Bin Jaafar
Ng Zhi Yan Noreen
Obbard Klara Olivia
Ong Ee Lynn
Ong Wan Ying
Xavier Ng Jun Jie
Yeo Chang Zhen Jasper

Lawyers who volunteered with the SMU Pro Bono Centre in 2026

Alvin Ong Chee Keong[+]
Boey Shao Qiang
Edwin Neo Xuan Hao[+]
Hoe Jia Lin
Jolie Giouw Rong Zhen[+]
Jason Chua Dong Wei
Jasper Hayden Chan Mun Jun[+]
Juhi Agrawal[+]
Julia Lim[+]
Lieu Kah Yen[+]
Loh Yu Wei, Junie[+]
Lushna Godhia[+]
Lydia Wang Tianyi
Meredith Soh Yu Xuan[+]
Martryn Mak
Nguyen Sinh Vuong[+]
Nicole Ng Shi Min[+]
Phua Shi Lin
Richard Tan Ming Kirk
Shaun Lee
Sylvia Lim Swee Lian
Tan Kah Wai
Victor Tang[+]
Yap Xuan Wei
Yuri Tan
Zamiq Azmeer
Zheng Pei[+]

[+] SMU Law Alumni

PRO BONO IN THE COMMUNITY







LPA Certifications



Legal Awareness Talks for Migrant Workers



MOM-School Partnership Programme for Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs)



Changi Prison Visit



Project Reignite at MWS Girls' Residence

HIGHLIGHTS



95

Legal talks delivered



1,500+

Members of the community reached



550+

Lasting Powers of Attorney certified

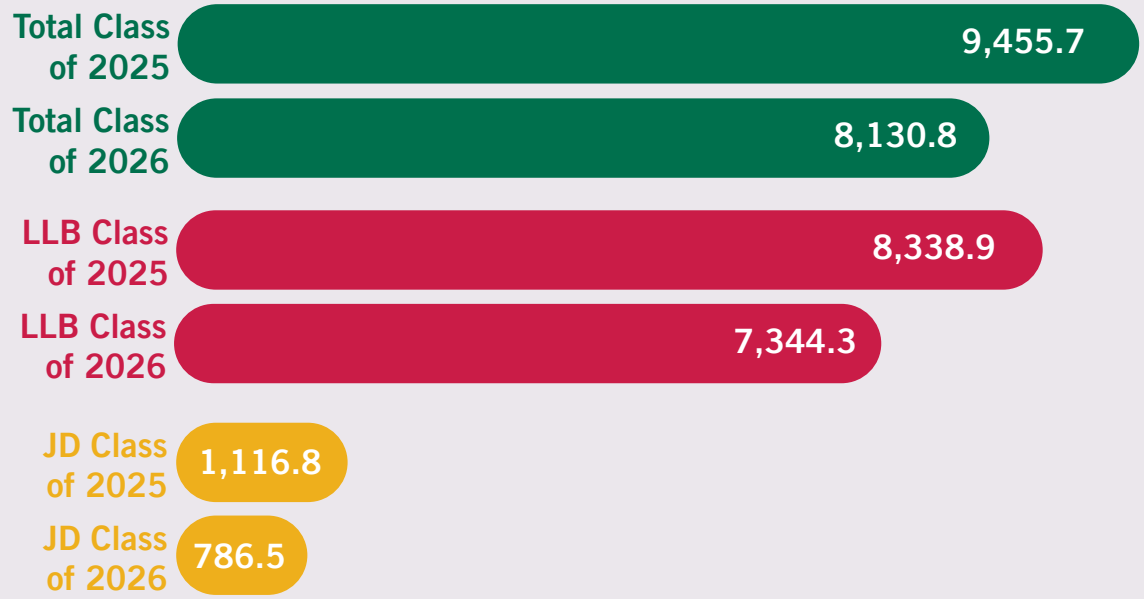


250+

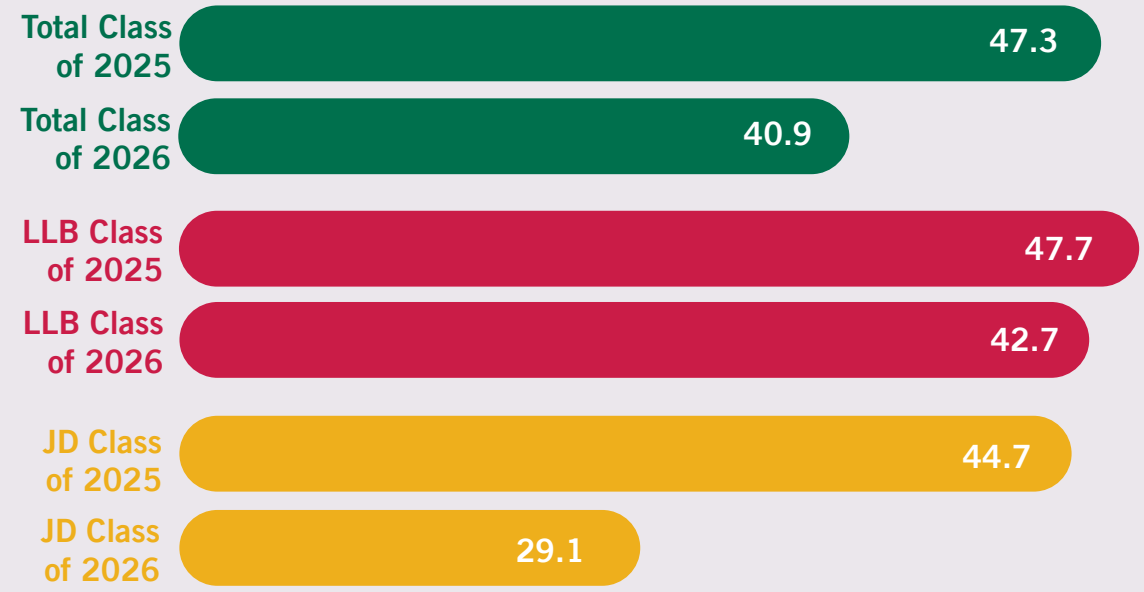
Legal Clinic applicants and Deputies served

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:

Aaron Yoong
Ada Chua
Adrian Tan
Agustin Geraldine Guevarra
Ahmad Nizam Abbas
Aikjoo Tay
Aileen Tang
Alethea Boey
Alvin Cheng
Alvin Wah
Angeline Yeoh
Annie Low
Ashvin Hariharan
Asoka Markandu
Audrey Tan
Avinash Iswar
Avis Yeo
Barry Koh
Benjamin Mui
Benjamin Szeto
Billy Wooton
Cai Chengying
Cai Suqi
Celine Chan
Cheah Su-Ann
Chen Lixin
Cheng Xuanhao
Cheong Jun Jie
Cheryl Ng
Cheryl Wong
Chia Lyn Lynn
Chua Kok Wan
Chua Xue Li
Chung Ka Yee
Claudine Tan
Clement Ducro
Colin Tan
Colin Tan
Crystal Tang
Danial Hakim
Daniel Law
Darren Chan
Devi
Diana Chua
Diinabandhu Chia
Dilys Tan
Dinesh Dhillon
Donald Yeo
Dorcas Quek
Dr Bhavani Sriram
Eduardo Ramos-Gomez
Eleanor Wong
Elfi Sufiyanti Binte Sunar
Emma Chen
Eric Ng
Eunice Chua
Eunice Seet Jia Wen
Fiona Leow
Foo Chee Chang
Frank Wong
Gerald Tan
Geraldine Kuah
Gloria Choo Jing Lian
Goh Kheng Huang
Goh Qian Hui
Greg Tan
Haryane Mustajab
Hazel Ong
Ho Soh Li
Huang Peiling
Ibrahim Muhammad
Ignatius Chia
Irina Nechifor
Iyann Chan
Jaryl Lim
Jazreel Tay
Jenniville Ansagay
Jessie Tan
Jiang Weiting
Joel Tay
John Lim
Josef Tan
Josiah Liu
Juliana Ang Wei Theng
June Ng
Junie Chua Hwee Ling
Justice Tan Siong Thye
Kaamela Barvin
Kanthan Raghavendra
Karen Ng
Kelly Yau
Kelvin Lim
Kenneth Tiong
Kenneth Xu
Kenny Chng
Ko Ling Wei
Kwok Kaylee
Kwok-Chern Yew Tee
Lau Wai Leong
Lee Hin Chong (Valen)
Lee Shen Han
Lenny Azuree Binte Ismail
Leon Stewart
Leonard Lee
Liau Yi Fang
Liaw Hin Hao
Lim Hui Min
Lim Kar Yee
Lim Tanguy
Lin Huiyu
Ling Cheah
Lionel Tay
Lyon Koh Lin Lu
Mahee Leclerc
Mahmood Fahmi
Mark Chong
Mark Khng
Maverick Teo
May Lee
Melinda Louis
Melisa Wong
Melvin Loh
Mervyn Cheong
Michael Chen
Michael Lim Teck Chew
Michelle Ng
Minna Foo
Mr Moo Chern Hwa (Peter)
Mrs Moo (Adeleen Chia)
Muslim Albakri
Nazmul Khan
Ng Kai Ern
Ng Li-yen
Ng Pei Xin
Ng Xiao Yan
Nicholas Fernandez
Nicole Chua
Nina Wothran
Nithia
Nithiya
Nur Aqilah
Ong Hui Sim
Ong Lay Hoon
Ong Lin Yee
Ong Yao Qing, Terence
Ong Zhen Yun
Pamelia Chen

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Quek You Zhen
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Rachel Chan
Rachel Tan
Rahayu Buang
Rajan Menon
Ranald Or
Rayne Chua
Rebecca Heng
Regina Chang
Renee Ong Yu Ning
Richard Siaw
Roderick Ng
Sam Wu
Saravannan S Rajandran
Sarah Jane Fernandez
Sarah Phang
Serene Ho Lee Ern
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Shaneet Nityanand Rai
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Soek Ying
Soh Zu Xian
Sonita Jeyapathy
Soo Bei Han
Suganya
Suguna Jeganathan
Tammy Lim
Tan Chong Huat
Tan Eu Gin
Tan Lay Hong
Tan Zhixin
Tan Zi Yang
Tasrif Ahmed
Tessa Lim
Tricia Tok
V Jeyakanthan
V S Shivashree Gayathree
Vineetha Gunasekaran
Wendy Koh
Wong Kok Weng
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Yogeswari Sambasivam
Yusuf Hamid
Yvonne Cheah

24Asia
Aljunied GRC
Asian Women's Welfare Association
Babes Pregnancy Crisis Support Ltd
Boon Lay Legal Clinic
Bird & Bird ATMD
Braddell Heights Community Legal Clinic
Care Corner Seniors Services Ltd
CARE Singapore
Catholic Lawyers Guild Legal Clinic
Chong Pang CC Legal Clinic
Church of Christ the King Legal Clinic
Citibank
Cornerstone Community Services
Eunoia Junior College
Eunos Community Club
FIDReC
Frontier CC Legal Clinics
HCSA - Single Parents Informed, Involved, Included
Hope Village @ Kaki Bukit Recreation Centre
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
Marsiling Community Club
Migrant Worker Centre
MINDS
Ministry of Manpower
Ministry of Social and Family Development (Office of Public Guardian)
Mustard Tree
MWS Girls' Residence
National Junior College
NTUC Health
NTUC LawWorks
NUS Centre for Pro Bono and Clinical Legal Education
Nanyang Junior College
People's Association
Potter's Place Community Services Society Legal Clinic
Prison Fellowship Singapore
Pro Bono SG
Public Defender's Office

Raffles Junior College
SADeaf
Seng Pang Tua Peng Kong Keng
Serving People with Disabilities
SG Assist
SHINE Children and Youth Services
Singapore Council of Women's Organisations
Society of Starfish Singapore
Serving People with Disabilities
Special Needs Trust Company Ltd
State Courts
Singapore University of Social Sciences
The Helping Hand
The Singapore Association for the Deaf
TOUCH Family Services
TRANS SAFE Centre
United Parcel Service Singapore
Vamos Photography
Vanguard Healthcare

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