

1. About the Trusts and Wealth Management Conference

The Trusts and Wealth Management Conference is an internationally recognised biennial conference series convened by the Singapore Management University, Singapore Academy of Law and University of York. The primary objective of this conference is to bring together the leading thinkers in the judiciary, policy makers, scholars and practitioners in the field of trust and wealth management to discuss pressing issues relating on trust law and wealth management. Two successful runs of the conference have been held at the Supreme Court of Singapore in 2015 and 2017. It is envisaged that the third conference will be held in 2019.



(Mr Justice Snowden (left) and Dean Associate Professor Goh Yihan (right))



(Vinodh Coomaraswamy J.)



(Professor Tang Hang Wu and Professor Richard Nolan (far right))

The theme for the recently concluded in the 2017 edition of the Modern Studies in the Law of Trusts and Wealth Management conference is “The Use and Abuse of Trusts and Other Wealth Management Devices”. The theme of the conference focused on current developments and challenges facing trust law, and those who study or practise it, in the present political climate. The keynote speaker for this year was Mr. Justice Richard Snowden (top photo) and speakers included world renowned scholars such as Paul Davies (Oxford), James Lee (KCL), Jamie Glister (Sydney), Lou Jianbo (Peking), Lusina Ho (HKU), Simon Douglas (Oxford), Simone Degeling (UNSW), Duncan Sheehan, (Leeds) Thomas Gallanis (Iowa), Warren Barr (Liverpool), David English (Missouri), Michael Littlewoods (Auckland), Adam Hofri (Hebrew) and many more. The conference was also well-attended by the judiciary, including the following judges: Vinodh Coomaraswamy J. (bottom left photo), Chan Seng Onn J., Chua Lee Ming J., Kannan Ramesh J.,

Andrew Ang J., Valerie Thean J.C., Hoo Sheau Peng J.C., Aedit Abdullah J.C., Foo Tuat Yien J.C., and Pang Khang Chau J.C.

The first conference “Modern Studies in the Law of Trusts and Wealth Management: Theory and Practice”, was held from 30 to 31 July 2015 at the Supreme Court Auditorium of Singapore.



Panel during the July 2015 Conference: Tang Hang Wu (SMU), Eliza Mik (SMU) and James Penner (NUS) (left to right)

The Honourable Sir Launcelot Henderson was the keynote speaker of this two-day conference that brought together the leading thinkers both in academia and practice in the field of trust and wealth management. Speakers from as far as Australia, England, Hong Kong, Hungary, Israel, Liechtenstein, Malaysia and New Zealand discussed how practice and theory interact with modern developments. This conference was regarded as a pre-eminent forum in 2015 for the discussion of trust law and wealth management matters in the common law world. The conference papers will be published as an edited book by Cambridge University Press and will be edited by Professor Richard Nolan (York), Professor Tang Hang Wu (SMU) and Professor Kelvin Low (City University of Hong Kong).

The ambition is to develop this conference series into the pre-eminent forum in Asia for serious discussion on the law and policy regarding trust law and wealth management matters among practitioners, scholars, judges and policy makers. While there are several other wealth management conferences in the market, these conferences do not consider the policy implications and the law in an in-depth manner which results in publications of books and journal articles. Furthermore, these conferences are not often attended by judges and policy makers and therefore merely act as an “echo chamber” amongst the practitioners and/or function as marketing events for practitioners and private banks. In contrast, the Trusts and Wealth Management Conference was well attended by members of Singapore’s judiciary and representatives from Singapore’s Ministry of Law. The keynote speeches have often featured a leading figure in the English

judiciary. In fact, serious policy discussions have resulted between the Ministry of Law and the conference organisers as a result of the issues raised in the conference.

2. Approach to the Conference



Conference on 'The Use and Abuse of Trusts and Other Wealth Management Device's organised by School of Law, SMU on 27 - 28 July 2017

Caption: Left to right (Pang Khang Chau JC, Foo Tuat Yien JC, Aedit Abdullah J, Hoo Sheau Peng J, Valerie Thean J, Andrew Ang SJ, Kannan Ramesh J and Chan Seng Onn J

Conference Dates

- This Conference will be held every two years, over two days. The proposed date for the next conference would be August 2019.

Conference Conveners

- Professor Tang Hang Wu (SMU), Professor Richard Nolan (York), Associate Professor Yip Man (SMU).

Venue

- Supreme Court Auditorium or SMU's School of Law's auditorium which can hold a minimum of 300 persons up to 1000.

Target Audience

- Academia, judges, policy makers, legal practitioners, in-house lawyers from relevant industries, bankers, business leaders within the trust and wealth management industry and other related professionals.