



# Forensics Conference

**8-9 October 2009**  
**Supreme Court Auditorium**

Organised by:



In collaboration with:



Conference Sponsors:

Gold:



Silver:



Silver:



Supported by:



**Closing Date for  
Early Bird Registration:  
28 August 2009**

**Closing Date for  
Registration:  
30 September 2009**



Fascinated by TV series like CSI and Criminal Minds? Ever wondered whether forensic evidence as portrayed by Hollywood is fact or fiction? What are the myths associated with the use of forensic evidence in Court? What is the true role played by forensic science in the solving of crimes?

Forensic science is a vital tool that not only assists the Prosecution's case but also the Defence's case as well. It involves a broad spectrum of science to provide answers in the context of solving crimes. This inaugural Forensics Conference in Singapore pulls in local and foreign experts

from different scientific fields to expound on the intricacies of forensic science. The experts will share with us on the recent developments in crime scene investigation and reconstruction using the latest scientific technology, identification of victims in mass disaster scenarios such as the SQ006 crash in Taipei and the Indian Ocean Tsunami; and with a special focus on an area which is rapidly gaining prominence in our local courts, that of forensic psychiatry.

The Judicial, Prosecution and Defence perspectives on the use of the different

aspects of forensic evidence would be discussed and debated. Forensic experts Dr Henry C Lee, a world renowned forensic scientist, and Professor Shaw Kai-Ping, a top forensic pathologist from Taiwan would be sharing their expertise and giving their insights. This Forensics Conference promises to be an enlightening and enriching foray into this fascinating field. It would be a rare opportunity for participants to hear from so many local and foreign experts in their own respective fields at a single conference.

#### GUEST-OF-HONOUR

**The Honourable the Chief Justice  
Chan Sek Keong**  
President, Singapore Academy of Law

#### CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr Henry C Lee**  
Chief Emeritus, Connecticut Department of Public Safety  
Division of Scientific Services  
United States

#### CONFERENCE THEMES

##### DAY 1

DNA in the Courtroom  
CSI Effect on Forensics

##### DAY 2

Mass Disasters – Victim Identification  
Forensic Psychiatry  
Forensic Evidence in Court

## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

### DAY 1

- 0900** Registration and Coffee
- 0930 Forensics Conference Opening Welcome Address**  
The Honourable Justice Andrew Phang, Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court of Singapore and Chairman, Committee on Legal Education & Studies, Singapore Academy of Law
- Opening Remarks**  
Guest-of-Honour, The Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, Supreme Court of Singapore and President, Singapore Academy of Law
- Keynote Paper: Investigation of High Profile Cases Involving DNA Evidence**  
by Dr Henry C Lee, Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of Scientific Services, United States
- 1030** Tea Break
- 1100 DNA in the Courtroom**  
Panel Chairman: Professor Edison Liu, Genome Institute of Singapore
- DNA in the Courtroom: A Singapore Perspective**  
by Associate Professor Stella Tan, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore
- DNA Profiling in Serial and Drug Cases**  
by Mrs Tan Wai Fun, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore
- Q & A with panel discussion (including Keynote speaker, Dr Henry C Lee)
- 1230** Lunch Break
- 1400 CSI Effect on Forensics (Part I)**  
Panel Chairman: The Honourable Justice Tay Yong Kwang Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore
- The Understated Value of Trace Evidence in Criminal Investigations**  
by Dr Michael Tay, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore
- A Legal Perspective of CSI**  
by Mr Michael Khoo, SC, Michael Khoo & Partners, Singapore
- Standards in Crime Scene Investigation**  
by Superintendent Lim Seng Kim, Singapore Police Force
- 1500** Tea Break
- 1530 CSI Effect on Forensics (Part II)**  
Panel Chairman: Mr Amarjeet Singh, SC, KhattarWong Partnership, Singapore
- It's Time to Activate the Forensic Scientist!**  
by Ms Lim Chin Chin, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore
- Magic Dust: Exciting Advances in Fingerprint Technology**  
by Dr John Seviour, ROAR Forensics (UK) Pte Ltd, United Kingdom
- 1630** Q & A with panel discussion
- 1700** End of Day 1

### DAY 2

- 0900 Mass Disasters: Victim Identification**  
Panel Chairman: The Honourable Justice Choo Han Teck Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore
- Forensic Application in Aviation Mass Disaster, and A Closer Look at the SQ006 crash**  
by Professor Shaw Kai-Ping, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice, Taiwan
- After the Indian Ocean Tsunami: Singapore's Contribution to The International Disaster Victim Identification Effort In Thailand**  
by Dr Gilbert Lau, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore
- Q & A with panel discussion
- 1030** Tea Break
- 1100 Forensic Psychiatry**  
Panel Chairman: The Honourable Attorney-General Professor Walter Woon, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore
- The Role of the Forensic Psychiatrist in the Criminal Justice System**  
by Dr Stephen Phang Boon Chye, Department of General and Forensic Psychiatry, Institute of Mental Health and Woodbridge Hospital, Singapore
- Re-Ordering the Mental Disorder Defences**  
by Professor Michael Hor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
- Psychiatric Evidence – An Advantage for the Defence When Used Responsibly and A Useful Tool for Appropriate Sentencing**  
by Mr Christopher De Souza, Lee & Lee, Singapore
- Psychiatrist Reports – "Is there Method to the Madness"**  
by Mr Bala Reddy, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore
- Q & A with panel discussion
- 1230** Lunch Break
- 1400 Forensic Evidence in Court (Part I)**  
Panel Chairman: The Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court of Singapore
- Presentation of Forensic Evidence in Court: Crime Scene Reconstruction**  
by Dr Henry C Lee, Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of Scientific Services, United States
- 1500** Tea Break
- 1530 Forensic Evidence in Court (Part II)**  
Panel Chairman: The Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court of Singapore
- Presentation of Forensic Evidence to Facilitate Court Proceedings: A Judicial Perspective**  
by The Honourable Justice Kan Ting Chiu Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore
- Q & A with panel discussion
- 1630** End of Conference

## ABOUT CHAIRMEN AND SPEAKERS

### Keynote Paper: Investigation of High Profile Cases Involving DNA Evidence

The value of DNA evidence has been demonstrated in civil litigations, criminal investigations and national security issues. As science and technology continue to advance, the importance and value of DNA evidence will continue to grow. Crime scene investigators are usually involved in the recognition and collection of DNA evidence at the initial investigative stages. In the litigation stages, prosecution and defence attorneys direct the utilization of DNA evidence. In the adjudicative stages, the judges control the admission and legal ruling of DNA evidence. It is imperative that these groups sufficiently understand the potential and limitation of DNA evidence and make proper decisions in the pursuit of justice.

While the forensic community, like the general scientific community, is required to follow strict scientific standard procedures and techniques, they are also subject to legal requirements and restrictions, such as the evidential rules of admissibility. Case examples will be used to illustrate DNA typing procedures, the value of DNA data bank, the newest developments in DNA technology, and the legal and scientific issues in the utilization of DNA evidence in Court.



#### Keynote Speaker: Dr Henry C Lee

Dr Henry C Lee is currently the Chief Emeritus for the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of Scientific Services and was the Commissioner of Public Safety for the State of Connecticut from 1998 to 2000. He is one of the world's foremost forensic scientists and his work has made him a landmark in modern-day criminal investigations. Dr Lee's testimony figured prominently in the OJ Simpson trial as well as hundreds of other murder cases. He was a consultant for more than 800 law enforcement agencies. Dr Lee has authored hundreds of articles in professional journals and has co-authored more than 30 forensics-related books. He is a recipient of eleven honorary Doctorate Degrees from Universities in recognition of his contributions to Law and Science.

## DAY 1 AM – DNA IN THE COURTROOM



#### Panel Chairman: Professor Edison Liu

Professor Edison Liu is an internationally renowned cancer researcher who has contributed over 300 articles, reviews, books, and book chapters to scientific literature. He is the Executive Director of the Genome Institute of Singapore, the Chairman of the Health Sciences Authority, and the President of the Human Genome Organization. Professor Liu received the Brinker International Award for basic science research in Breast Cancer (1996), the Rosenthal Award from the American Association for Cancer Research (2000), the President's Public Service Medal (Singapore 2003), and a Doctor of Medicine Sciences *honoris causa* (Queen's University, Belfast, 2007).



#### DNA in the Courtroom: A Singapore Perspective

Since the mid 1990s, the Court of Appeal in Singapore has already recognized the immense value of DNA evidence and its use in criminal trials. The use of DNA has grown ever since and this may be attributed in part to the ongoing human genome projects and the growth of national forensic DNA databases. DNA profiling is now also employed in paternity testing and

the identification of aged human remains. The basics of the complex science behind DNA Profiling will be explained. How tandem repeats of DNA, which differ between individuals, have made contributions in solving crime will also be discussed.

#### About Associate Professor Stella Tan

Associate Professor Stella Tan is a Deputy Public Prosecutor presently attached to the High Court Directorate of the Attorney-General's Chambers and she is involved in the prosecution of capital cases. She has been lecturing in the National University of Singapore (NUS) for over a decade and currently lectures on Forensic Science and Evidence at NUS. She was awarded the prestigious Dean's Meritorious Teaching Award for 2006, 2007 and 2008. In 2007, she was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni Award by NUS. She obtained a Masters of Science degree, majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology, on a Biomedical Engineering scholarship. She was an A\*Star scholar and received her LLB(Hons) (Dean's List) through the 3-year Graduate Program in the Faculty of Law, NUS. She co-authored the position papers on "The testing of DNA and Tissue in Human Research" with Professor Edison Liu and "Human Stem Cell Research, Reproductive and Therapeutic Cloning" for the National Bioethics Advisory Committee. In 2008, she was appointed by NUS to the Review Panel of the Life Sciences Curriculum.



#### DNA Profiling in Serial and Drug Cases

The Registration of Criminals Act or "RCA" was amended in 2002 to provide for the establishment of a DNA database of criminals convicted in court for registrable offences. The Singapore Police Force DNA database was started on 14 February 2003 and officially launched in July 2004. This DNA database comprises both the offenders' DNA profiles as well as DNA profiles recovered from crime scenes. This is particularly useful for the matching of crime scenes and persons to crime scenes. The integrity of the samples information and the DNA profiles residing in the database is critical to the success of the database. Therefore laboratory system has been designed in a way which uses information technology and laboratory processes. This ensures the continual integrity of the evidence and the DNA profiles that are uploaded into our CODIS database and to provide ongoing useful investigative leads and forensic evidence to law enforcement agencies in solving crimes.

#### About Mrs Tan Wai Fun

Mrs Tan Wai Fun is currently the Director of the Forensic Biology Laboratory, Forensic Science Division, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore. She received her BSc (Hons) in 1977 and her Masters of Science in 2001. Over the past 32 years, she has pioneered the use of forensic DNA in Singapore and has since conducted over 10,000 forensic DNA examinations. In the course of her work, she has acted as expert witness in the High Courts of Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei. She represented Singapore in presenting DNA reports at the Thailand Tsunami Victim Identification Board in 2005. She has also conducted forensic DNA training for scientists and police officers from Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan. She is the founder and current Vice Chair of the Regional East Asia Forensic DNA Workgroup. Mrs Tan was the driving force in the design and set up of the Singapore Police Force National DNA Database which is currently the largest in East Asia with over 100,000 DNA profiles. In this presentation, she will elaborate on the application of DNA profiling in serial and drug cases.

## ABOUT CHAIRMEN AND SPEAKERS

### DAY 1 PM – CSI EFFECT ON FORENSICS (Part I)



#### Panel Chairman: The Honourable Justice Tay Yong Kwang

The Honourable Justice Tay Yong Kwang received his LLB (Hons) in 1981 from the National University of Singapore and his LLM (Cantab) in 1986 from the University of Cambridge. From 1981 to 1997, Justice Tay served in the Singapore Legal Service, including as a District Judge. In October 1997, he was appointed Judicial Commissioner, and in January 2003, Judge of the Supreme Court, Singapore.



#### The Understated Value of Trace Evidence in Criminal Investigations

Trace evidence is probably one of the least understood and most undervalued and neglected types of physical evidence. Trace evidence includes all types of materials except biological fluids. As trace evidence is usually in small or microscopic amounts, it is often missed at crime scenes by an untrained eye. Yet minute

amounts of material can provide vital clues and information on physical contacts and associations between persons, objects and the scenes. Such information is often not available from the examination of other crime scene evidence.

#### About Dr Michael Tay

Dr Michael Tay Ming Kiong is a Senior Consultant Forensic Scientist, and Director of the Forensic Science Division, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore. He was Head of the Criminalistics Laboratory (now Forensic Chemistry & Physics Laboratory) from 1996 to 2008. Dr Tay has 20 years of experience in forensic science. He has a wide range of expertise in trace evidence, marks and prints, fires and explosions, bloodstain patterns and crime scene reconstructions. He is concurrently Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemistry, National University of Singapore, coordinating and lecturing on the Advanced Forensic Science module. Dr Tay has worked on many major criminal cases. He has presented numerous scientific papers in international forensic conferences.



#### Standards in Crime Scene Investigation

Crime Scene Investigation at the scene of any criminal act is the first and most critical step in the investigation of crimes. Investigators rely on interview skills, forensic evidence, criminal intelligence and team work to solve a crime. It is crucial that actions taken at the scene must meet legal and scientific standards and requirements. An investigator must have the ability

to recognize, collect and interpret the evidence found at the scene to establish what has transpired and who may be responsible for the crime.

#### About Superintendent Lim Seng Kim

Superintendent Lim Seng Kim has served in the Singapore Police Force for the past 35 years and is currently the Commandant of The School of Criminal Investigation, CID. He was the Head of the Forensic Management Branch CID between 1998 and 2008. He managed and conducted investigation at major crime scenes in Singapore and was awarded the National Day Commendation Medal in 2007.



#### A Legal Perspective of CSI

Synopsis will be included in the conference folder.

#### About Mr Michael Khoo, SC

Mr Michael Khoo, SC, is the founder and precedent partner of Michael Khoo & Partners. He had served in various judicial positions including that of Senior District Judge and Registrar of the Supreme Court as well as Senior State Counsel and Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Attorney-General's Chambers in a public service career spanning 20 years, before entering private legal practice in 1987. He was among the first appointed Senior Counsel in 1997 when the Senior Counsel system was introduced in Singapore. Mr Khoo is the principal litigator of the firm and has appeared in numerous civil trials and appellate cases including various criminal cases. He is also frequently instructed by other law firms in Singapore as Counsel to conduct complex civil and criminal litigation, and arbitration on behalf of their clients.



## ABOUT CHAIRMEN AND SPEAKERS

### DAY 1 PM – CSI EFFECT ON FORENSICS (Part II)



#### Panel Chairman: Mr Amarjeet Singh, SC

Mr Amarjeet Singh, SC, has over 39 years of legal and judicial experience and is currently serving as an ad litem Judge with the UN war crimes tribunal for the Balkans at the Hague. He started his career in the Singapore Legal Service serving various appointments as a Magistrate, District Judge, and legal officer with the Official Assignee and Public Trustee. He served as a Judicial Commissioner from 1992 to 2000 and many of his judgments have been reported in the Singapore Law Reports. He was appointed Senior Counsel in January 2002 and is a Consultant with Khattar Wong Partnership.



#### It's Time to Activate the Forensic Scientist!

Forensic science starts at the crime scene and ends in Court when forensic findings are presented. What is done, and often what is not done at the crime scene can have great impact on an investigation. The presence of an experienced multi-disciplinary forensic scientist is vital for major crime scenes. Having examined diverse physical evidence in the laboratory,

the scientist is in a pole position to quickly recognize trace evidence transfers and the formation of marks, prints and patterns at the scene. First-hand, detailed examination of the crime scene allows the forensic expert to relate, interpret and report on the different physical evidence and explain its significance in the overall context. The key contribution of the multi-disciplinary scientist to the Court is the eventual reconstruction of plausible scenarios and events that transpired in the crime.

#### About Ms Lim Chin Chin

Ms Lim Chin Chin is a Consultant Forensic Scientist, and Laboratory Director of the Forensic Chemistry & Physics Laboratory, Forensic Science Division, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore. Ms Lim has been a forensic scientist for 15 years. She has a wide range of expertise in trace evidence, marks and prints, fires and explosions, bloodstain patterns and crime scene examination and reconstruction. She has reported and testified on a number of high profile cases in Singapore, of which several required crime scene reconstructions. Ms Lim's research interests include the development of crime scene sampling and field screening kits, identification and comparison of unknown substances, and the development of new techniques and approaches. She has presented widely in international conferences.



#### Magic Dust: Exciting Advances in Fingerprint Technology

Fingerprinting techniques have evolved little in the last seventy years. However, in the last two years a number of significant breakthroughs have occurred which, when fully developed, will provide the police and the courts with much more information regarding the fingerprint. Identification of drugs, explosives and other compounds in the fingerprint is possible and techniques to determine such parameters as the gender, age, ethnicity and disease status of the print donor are being investigated. Suspect identification will be improved. Detailed offender profiling will be possible. The speaker will outline these various developments and explain their potential use to the criminal justice system.

#### About Dr John Seviour

Dr John Seviour worked in the UK National Health Service for 35 years as an analytical toxicologist, achieving the position of Consultant Health Care Scientist. He is currently Project Director to ROAR Particles (S) Pte Ltd, a forensic research company, and a director and Consultant Forensic Toxicologist to ROAR Forensics (UK) Ltd.

### DAY 2 AM – MASS DISASTERS: VICTIM IDENTIFICATION



#### Panel Chairman: The Honourable Justice Choo Han Teck

The Honourable Justice Choo Han Teck was called to the Singapore Bar in 1980. He had both practiced as a lawyer and taught in the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. In 1995, Justice Choo was appointed Judicial Commissioner, and in 2003, Judge of the Supreme Court, Singapore. Many of the court cases handled by Justice Choo in the medical negligence and criminal cases concerned the use of forensic experts, for example the Abdul Nasser murder trial. Justice Choo has published widely on the topic of biomedical law and ethics, including the book "Law and Morality in the Age of Bioscience" 2007 Marshall Cavendish.



#### Forensic Application in Aviation Mass Disaster, and A Closer Look at the SQ006 Crash

On 31 October 2000, a Boeing 747 - Singapore Airlines Flight SQ006 - just 11 seconds after take off, and 6 meters off the ground, came crashing down in Taipei's Chiang Kai Shek International Airport. The weather in the area was poor, precipitated by a typhoon. The fuel in the wings exploded and sent balls of flame

through the middle section - many of the dead were seated in the middle of the aircraft. 78 gruesome bodies, some severely burnt from the post-crash fire, were recovered from the wreckage. Speedy identification of victims with forensic techniques and forensic reconstruction of what went wrong were of crucial importance. This is but one example of a mass disaster. Mass casualty investigations of aviation disasters including SQ006 require flexible planning, operation and management due to the uniqueness of aviation disaster. The proper application of forensic identification methods and investigation will play a crucial role.

#### About Professor Shaw Kai-Ping

Professor Shaw Kai-Ping is a Director at the Department of Forensic Pathology, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice in Taiwan. He has both a medical degree from Taiwan and a PhD from the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, University of Maryland, USA. His specialities include forensic pathology, forensic toxicology and forensic anthropology. Since 2000, he is appointed as a Professor at the National Defense Medical Center in Taiwan and is a Medical Examiner with the medical examiner department in Florida, USA. With more than 3 decades of experience, he has come across many interesting cases relating to gunshot wounds, stab wounds, fall from height and even autoerotic asphyxia. He played an instrumental role in the aviation mass disaster concerning SQ006 crash in Taipei.

## ABOUT CHAIRMEN AND SPEAKERS

### DAY 2 AM – MASS DISASTERS: VICTIM IDENTIFICATION (CONT'D)



#### **About The Indian Ocean Tsunami: Singapore's Contribution to The International Disaster Victim Identification Effort In Thailand**

This paper describes the international disaster victim identification (DVI) response mounted in Thailand, with particular reference to Singapore's contribution to this process, in the wake of the Asian tsunami of 26 December 2004, which devastated parts of numerous

countries in and around the Indian Ocean and claimed more than 200,000 lives. 13 Singaporean visitors were counted amongst the thousands of deceased victims in Thailand alone. The systematic application of forensic pathology, forensic dentistry, DNA profiling, and fingerprinting to human identification, especially of the bodies of various nationalities that were in advanced states of putrefaction, was crucial to the entire DVI process. Eventually 10 of the 13 Singaporean casualties were identified. Resource implications arising from such a disaster, which is unprecedented in both its scale and reach in the international history of DVI, are immense. Forward planning, adequate funding and international cooperation are essential to mounting an effective response to any major mass disaster of the future.

#### **About Dr Gilbert Lau**

Dr Gilbert Lau is a Senior Consultant and Branch Director of Professional Practice at the Forensic Medicine Division, Health Sciences Authority, Singapore. He was also formerly an external examiner in forensic medicine to the Penang Medical College. As a member of the editorial boards of the Forensic Science International and Forensic Science, Medicine and Pathology, he also reviews enigmatic and incomprehensible papers for some other medical journals. His academic interests and publications include the application of forensic pathology to medical audit; adverse medical events and iatrogenic deaths; pulmonary thromboembolism; maternal deaths; and fatal falls from heights. He has published 50 journal articles and 7 chapters in textbooks and monographs. He was involved in the major disaster victim identification effort in the 2005 Indian Ocean Tsunami incident.

### DAY 2 AM – FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY



#### **Panel Chairman: The Honourable Attorney-General Professor Walter Woon**

Professor Walter Woon graduated in 1981 with a LLB (1st Class Honours) from the National University of Singapore. He then joined the teaching staff at the Faculty of Law in NUS and went on to obtain a LLM (1st Class Honours) two years later at Cambridge University. He served as Sub-Dean and Vice-Dean of the Law Faculty of the National University of Singapore between 1988 and 1995. He has authored several books on company law, commercial law and the Singapore legal system, as well as two novels. He was called to the Singapore Bar in 1985 and was appointed Senior Counsel on 1 June 2007. As Nominated Member of Parliament from 1992 to 1996, Professor Woon introduced the Maintenance of Parents Bill, which until today remains the only Act passed by Parliament that was not initiated by the Government. Professor Woon was the Legal Adviser to the President and

Council of Presidential Advisors from 1995 to 1997. He also was a director of Intraco Ltd and Natsteel Ltd, both companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Singapore. Between September 1997 and September 2006 he was seconded to the Foreign Service and has served as Singapore's Ambassador to Germany, Greece, Belgium, the European Union, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the Vatican. On 3 October 2006, Professor Woon was appointed Second Solicitor-General at the Attorney-General's Chambers. He was also Singapore's alternate representative on the High Level Task Force for the Drafting of the ASEAN Charter. On 2 July 2007, Professor Woon was redesignated Solicitor-General. On 11 April 2008, Professor Woon was appointed Attorney-General.



#### **The Role of the Forensic Psychiatrist in the Criminal Justice System**

Forensic psychiatry is a subspecialty in psychiatry concerned with the area where psychiatry and law meet. This presentation will describe the role of the forensic psychiatrist in the Singapore context, including clinical assessment, report writing, assessment of fitness to plead and stand trial, mental state at the

time of the alleged offence (and psychiatric factors that may assist in understanding criminal behaviour, or have a bearing on criminal responsibility), and, of course, giving expert evidence in criminal proceedings.

#### **About Dr Stephen Phang**

Dr Stephen Phang is a senior consultant psychiatrist attached to the Department of General and Forensic Psychiatry at the Institute of Mental Health and Woodbridge Hospital. One of only three academically trained forensic psychiatrists in Singapore, Dr Phang received his postgraduate training in forensic psychiatry at the world renowned Institute of Psychiatry in London, where he (incidentally) proved to be an outstanding postgraduate student, topping his postgraduate course in 2002/2003. Dr Phang has been involved in the assessment and management of mentally disordered offenders charged with committing various offences, including serious crimes like murder and rape. He has regularly appeared at both High and Subordinate Courts in his capacity as expert witness and state forensic psychiatrist. In between his busy schedule, Dr Phang, who has a keen interest in developing the discipline of forensic psychiatry in Singapore, regularly mentors junior psychiatrists and trainees.



#### **Re-Ordering the Mental Disorder Defences**

This paper will assess the existing "two tier" structure of mental disability defences to criminal liability - namely, unsoundness of mind and diminished responsibility. It will identify what has come to be serious shortcomings in the system, amongst which are the complete eclipse of unsoundness of mind in favour of diminished responsibility in murder cases, the unavailability of diminished responsibility for cases other than murder, and the near impossible task of the sentencing judge in diminished responsibility cases to decide on an appropriate sentence. We should learn from this experience and this paper will propose what the author feels to be a more satisfactory way of formulating a single unified mental disability defence.

#### **About Professor Michael Hor**

Professor Michael Hor is a Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He has taught and researched in criminal law, criminal procedure and criminal evidence for over two decades. He has from time to time participated in law reform work with the Law Society, the Ministry of Law and the Academy of Law.

## ABOUT CHAIRMEN AND SPEAKERS

### DAY 2 AM – FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY (CONT'D)



#### Psychiatric Evidence – An Advantage for the Defence When Used Responsibly and A Useful Tool for Appropriate Sentencing

An independent and objective psychiatric review of a client facing a criminal charge does more than just lower the threshold of the *mens rea*. Where the psychiatric review comes in the form of an expert opinion, it can, if used responsibly by the Defence,

provide an insight into the reasons for the client's propensity to commit crime and the pressing circumstances that prompted the criminal behaviour. Such insight is relevant to the sentencing judge - for example, in situations where the matter has been channelled to the Community Court. With the welcomed encouragement of ingenious and effective community sentencing options, accurate psychiatric evidence incentivises the Court to hand down sentences that are effective in rehabilitating the client. Therefore, the question to be answered is – How to use this psychiatric evidence to the effective advantage of the client.

#### About Mr Christopher De Souza

Mr Christopher De Souza is a Partner in Lee & Lee's Litigation and Dispute Resolution department. Christopher graduated with First Class Honours from King's College London where he topped his Class. He then pursued the BCL Masters degree at the University of Oxford where he graduated with First Class Honours. He was awarded a Shell scholarship while at Oxford. During his years of practice, Christopher was a Justices' Law Clerk to the Chief Justice of Singapore, Deputy Public Prosecutor and State Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers and an Assistant Registrar of the High Court before joining Lee & Lee. Christopher became a Member of Parliament for Holland-Bukit-Timah GRC in 2006 and is a member of the Government Parliamentary Committees for Law, Home Affairs and Education.



#### Psychiatrist Reports – “Is there Method to the Madness”

Psychiatric reports prepared by forensic psychiatrists provide a vital insight into the mental state of offenders. Prosecutors rely on the objectivity of these reports to make informed decisions regarding charges and the courts depend on the accuracy of these to mete out appropriate sentences. With the advent of the

community court, there has been an increased reliance by defence counsel on psychiatric reports to advance their clients' mitigation plea. Given the frequent divergence in opinion between prosecution and defence psychiatric reports, Newton hearings are inevitable as will be “the battle of psychiatrists” in our courts. Mr Reddy's presentation will provide the prosecution's perspective on this phenomena and its impact on the proper administration of criminal justice in Singapore.

#### About Mr Bala Reddy

Mr Bala Reddy is the Principal Senior State Counsel of the State Prosecution Division at the Attorney-General's Chambers. After several years in private practice he joined the Singapore Legal Service on 1 November 1985 and has held numerous key appointments. Prior to his present appointment, he was a Principal District Judge from 2005 to 2008, and was instrumental in the setting up of the Community Court in the Subordinate Courts.

### DAY 2 PM – FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN COURT



#### Panel Chairman: The Honourable Justice Chao Hick Tin

Justice Chao Hick Tin obtained his LLB and LLM from University College, London in 1965 and 1966 respectively. He was called to the English Bar at the Middle Temple in July 1965. He was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1971. In 1967, Justice Chao began his career in the Legal Service as a State Counsel with the Attorney-General's Chambers, where he progressed to eventually become a Senior State Counsel in 1979 and headed its Civil Division in 1982. In 1987 he was elevated to the Supreme Court bench as a Judicial Commissioner. At the Supreme Court, Justice Chao was later appointed as a Judge in 1990, and concurrently as President of the Industrial Arbitration Court between 1993-1999. On 2 August 1999, he moved up as a Judge of Appeal, a position he occupied until his return to the Attorney-General's Chambers as its

Attorney-General on 11 April 2006. On 11 April 2008, Justice Chao returned to the Supreme Court bench where he was appointed as Vice President of the Court of Appeal. Throughout the period of his service, Justice Chao has represented Singapore in numerous international fora, the most notable of which were the UN Law of Treaties Conference held in Vienna in 1968 and the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea from 1974 to 1981. He had also previously served as President of the Asean Law Association and Chairman of the Singapore Mediation Centre.



#### Presentation of Forensic Evidence in Court: Crime Scene Reconstruction

Crime Scene Reconstruction is the process of determining or eliminating the events and actions that occurred at a crime scene. Accident reconstruction and specific crime reconstruction are examples of the types of reconstruction. Reconstruction can be a very complex task, but the results of the

reconstruction should be made understandable in court. Presentation of forensic evidence in court demands a clear articulation of observations, interpretations and opinions. A forensic expert should stay objective and true to the facts. With some famous cases, this will be deliberated at the conference.

#### About Dr Henry C Lee

(See Keynote paper: Investigation of High Profile Cases Involving DNA Evidence)



#### Presentation of Forensic Evidence to Facilitate Court Proceedings: A Judicial Perspective

Scientific evidence such as DNA examination and drug analysis can make or break a case. The methodologies employed and the interpretation of the results obtained must not only be correct to scientists, they must also be understood by counsel and the judge. Early accessibility to the methodologies

and interpretation standards is helpful to the preparation and hearing of the cases

#### About The Honourable Justice Kan Ting Chiu

The Honourable Justice Kan Ting Chiu received his LLB in 1970 and his LLM in 1998 from the National University of Singapore. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor in Singapore in 1973. He was a State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Chambers in 1970, and thereafter a Magistrate in the Subordinate Courts in 1974. He joined Hilborne & Co from 1976 to 1985. He was a partner at Messrs RCH Lim & Co from 1985 to 1988 and a partner at Messrs Low Yeap & Co from 1988 to 1991. He also served as a Council Member of the Law Society of Singapore from 1983 to 1984, and has been a member of the Board of Legal Education from 1993 to date. He was appointed Judicial Commissioner on 2 May 1991 and appointed Judge on 2 May 1994.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

To: Conference Secretariat, Singapore Academy of Law,  
1 Supreme Court Lane, Level 6, Singapore 178879



Please register me for the SAL Forensics Conference from 8-9 October 2009.

**Conference fees** (include 7% GST, conference materials, 2 lunches and tea breaks)  
(  tick where applicable)

	Early Bird Rate (register before 28 August 2009)	Normal Rate	
Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) Members	S\$385.20	S\$492.20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non SAL Members	S\$492.20	S\$599.20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time Students# (Limited to 60 seats)	S\$128.40		<input type="checkbox"/>

**Dietary requirements:**  Vegetarian  Others : \_\_\_\_\_

#Registrations are only accepted via fax, post or email. Please include a copy of the matriculation card for student registrations.

**Registration Terms and Conditions**

- Registration for the event may be made:
  - (a) online by logging on to [www.sal.org.sg](http://www.sal.org.sg);
  - (b) online through a firm's/organisation's Online Registration & Purchase Co-ordinator (ORPC)
  - (c) by fax to: (65) 6334 4940;
  - (d) by post to: Conference Secretariat, Singapore Academy of Law, 1 Supreme Court Lane, Level 6, Singapore 178879.
- Registrations received on or before the closing date are confirmed unless otherwise notified.
- A sum of S\$21.40 (inclusive of 7% GST) will be levied for administrative charges for any cancellation received in writing on or before the closing date.
- For enquiries, please call Tel: (65) 6332 4149 or email [les@sal.org.sg](mailto:les@sal.org.sg).
- SAL's usual terms and conditions apply. See <http://www.sal.org.sg/RegistrationTermsNConditions.aspx> for details

Company:

Address:

Contact person:

Tel:

Email:

Fax:

Please register the following person(s) for the above conference. A cheque (no. \_\_\_\_\_) for S\$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to "Singapore Academy of Law" is enclosed. Please write the title of the event on the back of the cheque.

Bill to Individual  Bill to Firm/Organisation (  tick where applicable)

**Delegate 1:**

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr:	Designation:
SAL No. (eg:A0012):	Non-Member NRIC/Passport No.:
Tel:	Email:

**Delegate 2:**

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr:	Designation:
SAL No. (eg:A0012):	Non-Member NRIC/Passport No.:
Tel:	Email:

**Special Room Rates (per night) for Conference Delegates for "SAL Forensics Conference"**

Swissotel the Stamford, 2 Stamford Road, Singapore 178882

- Classic room S\$240.00++ (for single occupancy, one buffet breakfast and internet access)  
Please contact Room Reservations at Tel: (65) 6339 6633, Fax: (65) 6339 5117  
Email: [reservations.singapore@swissotel.com](mailto:reservations.singapore@swissotel.com)  
Please quote the reservation block code: **LFOR071009** to enjoy preferential rates and book before 7 September 2009.

Grand Plaza Park Hotel City Hall, 10 Coleman Street, Singapore 179809

- Superior room S\$198.00++ (for single occupancy, one buffet breakfast and internet access)  
Please contact Room Reservations at Tel: (65) 6432 5558, Fax: (65) 6339 6202  
Email: [rsvn.gpch@parkhotelgroup.com](mailto:rsvn.gpch@parkhotelgroup.com)  
Please quote the reservation block code: **Singapore Forensics Conference** to enjoy preferential rates and book before 7 September 2009.

**Accommodation Terms and Conditions**

The above rates are subject to 10% service charge and the prevailing government taxes. The rates are also subject to availability, depending on the hotel's occupancy at the point of booking and shall be valid from 7 to 10 October 2009 only. For enquiries relating to accommodation arrangements, please liaise directly with your preferred hotel. All reservations must be guaranteed by guest's credit card. Check-in time is after 2.00pm and check-out time is at 12noon.

**About SAL**

The Singapore Academy of Law is a body created by statute. It is the umbrella body of the legal profession in Singapore and its members include all legal practitioners, the Judiciary, the Legal Service and in-house legal counsel of corporations, and legal academia in Singapore. The work of the Academy is focused on three key areas: supporting the growth and development of the Legal Industry; building up the intellectual capital of the legal profession by enhancing Legal Knowledge; and improving the efficiency of legal practice through Legal Technology. More information can be found at [www.sal.org.sg](http://www.sal.org.sg)