



Circular No 296/2009  
Dated 6 November 2009

To All Members of the Bar and Pupils in Chambers

### **THE JUSTICE EUSOFFE ABDOOLCADER MEDAL ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION**

As a small gesture to ensure that posterity does not forget Justice Eusoffe Abdoolcader's immense contributions to the Bench, Bar and academia (he was for many years a very popular external examiner of the University of Singapore), the Malaysian Bar is proud to announce the inaugural essay writing competition in honour of Justice Eusoffe Abdoolcader.

Malaysia has not given due and sufficient recognition to one of her prominent sons for his outstanding contribution to the law. The late Justice Eusoffe Abdoolcader was born into a distinguished Penang family. He achieved great academic distinction, including graduating with first class honours in LLB from University College, London, while simultaneously reading for the English Bar at Gray's Inn. In a brilliant 24-year career in the Malaysian Bar, his clarity and lucidity of mind, learning in the law, command of Latin and English and disciplined industry placed him in the forefront of practitioners. He also served on the Bar Council for an unbroken spell of 12 years.

Justice Eusoffe's elevation to the Bench in 1974 was received with popular acclaim. Almost instantly, he displayed the same qualities as a judge. For 17 years, his intellect was unrivalled on the Malaysian Bench. Indeed, his devastating acuteness marked Eusoffe as the most intellectual and learned of Malaya's judges. His fame was not limited to our shores. By the mid-1980, Justice Eusoffe was widely acknowledged as possessing sufficient cerebral power and gifts to adorn the apex Courts of any common law jurisdiction; a feat never achieved by any Malaysian judge before or after him.

It would be impossible in a brief note to do justice to the width and depth of his contribution to the law. Indeed the law reports do not reflect the entire man, his mastery of the proceedings while on the Bench, his dry wit, his humanity, his intolerance to shoddy preparation by counsels and his joy in observing young counsels performing 'adequately' in his Court, by his high standard. Eusoffe displayed courage during the judicial crisis of 1988, when in his inimitable style, he dominated proceedings in the five-member Supreme Court which granted a stay of the proceedings of the First Tribunal, pending the disposal of the *certiorari* application of Lord President Salleh Abas. Despite his reinstatement, the suspension and ordeal before the Second Tribunal affected him emotionally. The loss of his wife compounded his personal grief.

The purpose of the Justice Eusoffe Abdoolcader Medal Essay Writing Competition is to:

- ◆ enhance writing skills
- ◆ promote the study of Constitutional Law
- ◆ create awareness on Constitutional Law among young practitioners
- ◆ assist and build up a reservoir of Constitutional lawyers

The family of the late Justice Eusoffe Abdoolcader has been consulted and given their consent to this essay writing competition.

### **The Competition**

Topic : Any topic on Constitutional Law  
Length of essay : 2,000-4,000 words  
Eligibility : Open to Members of the Bar with less than 10 years of practice as at 31 January 2010 and chambering pupils  
Closing date : 31 January 2010

### **Prize**

The winner will receive a medal and a book certificate totaling RM1,000 in value. In addition, the winner's name will be engraved on a shield which will be displayed at the Bar Council. The winner will receive the prizes during the Malaysian Bar Annual Dinner on 13 March 2010.

### **Panel Judges**

A panel of three academicians and five senior Members of the Bar will judge your essay. The judges reserve the right to interview the short-listed candidate(s) and the judges' decision shall be final.

You can submit your essay to:

Justice Eusoffe Abdoolcader Medal  
Essay Writing Competition  
Bar Council  
13-17, Leboh Pasar Besar  
50050 Kuala Lumpur  
or email to [mazni@malaysianbar.org.my](mailto:mazni@malaysianbar.org.my)

Should you have any queries, you can contact Faizal/ Mazni at 03-2031 3003 ext 185/101 or 03-2072 2818.

Yours sincerely

Tony Woon  
Chairman  
Ad-Hoc Committee on Eusoffe Medal