

Special Edition

The Editorial Lookbook



29 Apr 2026 (Wednesday) | 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Asian International Arbitration Centre ("AIAC") Auditorium
Level 3, Bangunan Sulaiman, Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin
50000 Kuala Lumpur

2026



Our Story

"Together We Create PowHER"

What would the headline read if women's voices were placed exactly where they belong
— on the cover?

Together, We Create *PowHER* is more than a conference. It is a defining moment for the legal profession and for women in law to reflect, to challenge and to lead.

At a time when the protection of rights, the advancement of women in leadership and the shaping of future industries demand urgent attention, this colloquium brings together distinguished voices to move beyond discussion into meaningful action.

This is where presence becomes influence.

Where women are not just part of the story — but authors of it.

***The Change Begins Now — Together We Create PowHER
Every Woman Deserves a Headline of Her Own
Our Stories Belong on the Front Page***



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Welcoming Remarks

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I am honoured to welcome you to the Women's Rights Conference 2026 – Together We Create *PowHER*.

This conference is intended to foster meaningful and honest dialogue on the state of women's rights in Malaysia and across the region. While strong legal frameworks and international commitments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women provide a solid foundation, the reality on the ground tells us that progress remains uneven and far from complete.

As members of the legal fraternity and stakeholders in society, our role goes beyond recognising rights. It is to ensure that they are realised in practice. That requires us to confront, directly and deliberately, the gaps that persist in access, protection and equality, and to take responsibility for closing them.

Many of the challenges we face today do not arise solely from a lack of laws, but from how those laws are applied, enforced and experienced. Real change demands that we move beyond legal frameworks and examine the systems, behaviours and assumptions that continue to allow these gaps to exist.

This conference is not just about discussion. It is about challenging assumptions, strengthening collaboration, building enduring networks, and most importantly, driving meaningful and sustained action where it matters.

My sincere appreciation to The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Wan Ahmad Farid b Wan Salleh, Chief Justice of Malaysia; Her Excellency Tun Tengku Maimun bt Tuan Mat; the ministers; our distinguished speakers; partners; sponsors; and the organising team for their commitment in making this conference possible.

Together, we create *PowHER* – not just in words, but through action.

Marisa Regina

Conference Organising Chair



Special Remarks by the ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women in Law

The ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women in Law is proud to co-host this conference alongside the Bar Council Women's Rights Committee ("WRC").

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Justice of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Wan Ahmad Farid b Wan Salleh, and to the President of the ASEAN Law Association, Her Excellency Tun Tengku Maimun bt Tuan Mat, for their Special and Keynote Addresses.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to all our distinguished speakers and panellists for their invaluable support and contributions, including the Minister of Communications, YB Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, and the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories), YB Puan Hannah Yeoh.

Today, women's rights are being tested not only in homes and workplaces, but increasingly online. Cyber-harassment, stalking, and the non-consensual sharing of images are driving women out of digital spaces where they organise, learn, and lead. This is not merely a technological issue; it is a fundamental rights issue.

ASEAN has heard this call. In December 2025, together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), ASEAN launched "No Means No. Online Too" — a regional campaign born in Bangkok to confront these harms.

But laws matter only if women can access and use them. That is why local partnerships like this are critical. We need police who listen, courts that respond swiftly, platforms that remove harmful content within hours, and support services that protect without re-traumatising.

Our goal is simple: a community where every woman and girl can participate online without fear. As women in law, we do more than interpret rights — we help deliver them.

Where there is WIL (Women in Law), there is a way.

Leverage. Lead. Liberate.



ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA



Programme Outline

“The Spotlight Is On You”

Arrival of Delegates and Registration

8:15 am

Opening Ceremony

9:00 am

- Welcoming Remarks by Marisa Regina bt Mohd Aris Rizal Fernando, *Chairperson, WRC*
- Opening Address by Anand Raj, *President, Malaysian Bar*
- Keynote Address by Her Excellency Tun Tengku Maimun bt Tuan Mat, *President, ASEAN Law Association; Former Chief Justice of Malaysia; Professor of Practice and Holder of Royal Chair on Integrity and Good Governance, Faculty of Law, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*
- Special Address by The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Wan Ahmad Farid b Wan Salleh, *Chief Justice of Malaysia*

Coffee / Tea Networking Break

10:30 am

Panel 1: The Justice Spotlight

11:00 am

Topic: If the Law Protects, Why Does Gender-Based Violence Persist?

- The Honourable Justice Datin Paduka Evrol Mariette Peters, *Court of Appeal Judge; Chairperson, ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women In Law*
- Rajashree Suppiah, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Family Law Committee*
- Tehmina Kaosji, *Independent Broadcast Journalist; Partner and Communications Director, The Big Picture Communications; Gender Equity Activist*
- Lily Choo, *Former Assistant Commissioner of Police*

Moderator: Sharmila Ravindran, *Member, WRC*

Panel 2: The Leadership Cover Story

12:00 pm

Topic: Women as Changemakers: The Impact of Women's Leadership on Society

- Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan, *President, AIAC Court of Arbitration; Former Federal Court Judge*
- Deborah Henry, *Co-Founder, Fugee School*

Moderator: Norliza Rasool Khan, *Member, WRC*

Networking Lunch

1:00 pm

PowHER Session

2:00 pm

Topic: The Burnout Crisis: Balancing Career, Care and Being Everything

Datin Dr Hasnorliza Abu Hassan (Dr Leez Hassan), *Entrepreneur, Industrial Psychologist, Author, Coach, Mentor and Work-Life Balance Advocate*

Panel 3: Crowning Your Own Headline

2:15 pm

Topic: Success on Her Terms — Redefining Achievement Beyond Traditions

- Dato' Zuraidah Atan, *Advocate and Solicitor, Chambers of Zuraidah Atan; Co-Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Corporate and Commercial Law Committee; Former President and CEO, Affin Merchant Bank (Investment Bank)*
- Soo Shea Pin, *Co-Founder, FEITH London*
- Anis Hanani Suffian, *Co-Founder and CEO, ReMeal*

Moderator: Ammera Hadi, *Member, WRC*

Coffee / Tea Networking Break

3:15 pm

Special Session by the ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women in Law

3:30 pm

Topic: Online Safety and Harassment — Combating Online Violence and Promoting Digital Safety for Women in ASEAN

Malaysia

- YB Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, *Minister of Communications*

China

- Yanting Wei, *Director, Guangxi Justlaw Law Firm; Deputy, Nanning Municipal People's Congress*

Indonesia

- Dr Niken Savitri, *Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung*

Philippines

- Jewel Dela Cruz, *Country Program Manager, Child Rescue Coalition; Consultant, International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children*

Singapore

- Stefanie Yuen Thio, *Joint Managing Partner, TSMP Law Corporation; Chair, SHE (SG Her Empowerment)*
- Sadhana Rai, *Chief Representation Officer, Pro Bono SG*

Thailand

- Dr Atipa Junwerasatien, *Judge, Office of the President of the Supreme Court*

Moderator: The Honourable Justice Datin Paduka Evrol Mariette Peters, *Court of Appeal Judge; Chairperson, ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women in Law*

Co-Moderator: Marisa Regina bt Mohd Aris Rizal Fernando, *Chairperson, WRC*

Panel 4: Plenary Session: Future Issue — The Next Gen *PowHER. SHE OWNS THE FUTURE*

4:30 pm

Topic: The Malaysian Gender Gap: Participation, Leadership, Decision Making — Where Are We and Where Do We Go From Here?

- YB Puan Hannah Yeoh, *Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories)*
- Professor Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Mazlan Othman, *Malaysia's first astrophysicist; Senior Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia; former Director of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna; Founding Director-General of Angkasa, the Malaysian National Space Agency; former Director of the International Science Council for Asia*

Moderator: Hemalatha Parasa Ramulu, *Member, WRC*

Closing Remarks

5:45 pm

- The Honourable Justice Datin Paduka Evrol Mariette Peters, *Court of Appeal Judge; Chairperson, ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women in Law*
- Dato' Yasmee bt Haji Mohd Shariiff, *Former Co-Chairperson, WRC*

Special Address: The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Wan Ahmad Farid b Wan Salleh *Chief Justice of Malaysia*



The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Wan Ahmad Farid b Wan Salleh was born on 13 Nov 1962 in Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. His Lordship obtained his LLB degree from the University of West London in 1985 and the Certificate in Legal Practice in 1986.

His Lordship holds the unique distinction of being the only Malaysian to date to have served in all three branches of Government.

In 2005, His Lordship was a member of the Senate and served as Deputy Minister in 2008 before joining the Bench in 2015. When His Lordship was the Political Secretary to the then-Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, he was part of the team that advised the Government on the abolishment of the Internal Security Act 1960, which was eventually repealed in 2012.

His Lordship was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya on 6 Sept 1987. Prior to his elevation to the Bench, he practised law in Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur. He began his judicial career as a Judicial Commissioner on 16 Dec 2015 and was confirmed as a High Court Judge on 8 Aug 2019. He was then elevated as a Court of Appeal Judge on 12 Nov 2024, and on 28 July 2025, His Lordship was appointed as the Chief Justice of Malaysia.

His Lordship was conferred with Pingat Dato' Paduka Mahkota Terengganu ("DPMT") in 1996 and Pingat Darjah Kebesaran Setia Mahkota Kelantan Yang Amat Terbilang ("SPSK") in 2025, carrying the title of Dato'. Also in 2025, His Lordship was conferred with Pingat Datuk Seri Utama Negeri Melaka ("DUNM"), earning him the title of Datuk Seri Utama.

Keynote Address: Her Excellency Tun Tengku Maimun bt Tuan Mat

President of the ASEAN Law Association; Former Chief Justice of Malaysia; Professor of Practice and Holder of Royal Chair on Integrity and Good Governance, Faculty of Law, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia



Her Excellency Tun Tengku Maimun bt Tuan Mat was appointed as the 16th Chief Justice of Malaysia on 2 May 2019. She served as the first female Chief Justice until her retirement on 1 July 2025.

Her six-year tenure was marked by key high-profile cases and a strong stance on judicial autonomy. She presided over several cases, including those involving the former Prime Minister of Malaysia. She issued judgments defining the limits of State and Federal powers, particularly in religious matters. As Chief Justice, she dissented in five out of 19 constitutional cases, which proves the Judiciary's robust independence.

Her leadership was often described as principled, demonstrating integrity and a firm adherence to the rule of law, which inspired public confidence in the Judicial system. The Malaysian Judiciary gained considerable respect under her watch and was seen as reasserting its constitutional role as an independent arm of Government.



Panel 1: The Justice Spotlight

If the Law Protects, Why Does Gender-Based Violence Persist?

Re-examining legal frameworks and strengthening protections against gender-based violence, with a focus on protection, reform and enforceable rights

Speakers



The Honourable Justice
Datin Paduka Evrol
Mariette Peters



Rajashree Suppiah



Tehmina Kaoosji



Lily Choo

Panel 2: The Leadership Cover Story

*Women as Changemakers: The
Impact of Women's
Leadership on Society*

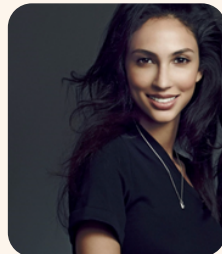
Exploring the transformative
impact of women in leadership



Speakers



Dato' Mary Lim
Thiam Suan



Deborah Henry



PowHER Session

The Burnout Crisis: Balancing Career, Care and Being Everything

A practical session introducing the *PowHER* framework to help professionals manage burnout, protect their energy and sustain performance

Speaker

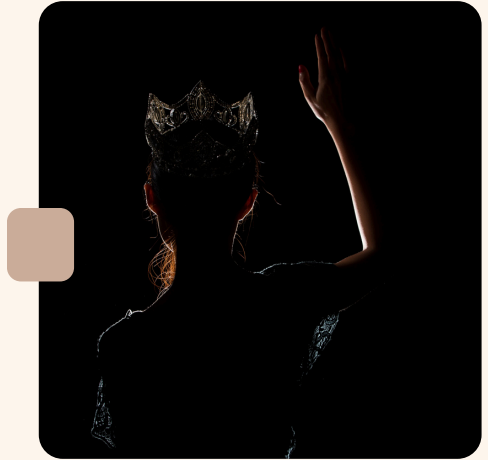


Datin Dr Hasnorliza
Abu Hassan
(Dr Leez Hassan)

Panel 3: Crowning Your Own Headline

*Success on Her Terms —
Redefining Achievement
Beyond Traditions*

Challenging traditional definitions
of achievement and redefining
success on one's own terms — with
purpose, impact and authenticity



Speakers



Dato' Zuraidah Atan



Soo Shea Pin



Anis Hanani Suffian



Special Session by the ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women in Law

*Online Safety and Harassment
— Combating Online Violence
and Promoting Digital Safety
for Women in ASEAN*

Speakers

Malaysia



YB Datuk Fahmi Fadzil

China



Yanting Wei

Indonesia



Dr Niken Savitri

Thailand



Dr Atipa Junwerasatien

Philippines

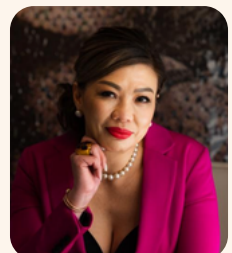


Jewel Dela Cruz

Singapore



Sadhana Rai



Stefanie Yuen Thio

Panel 4: Plenary Session: Future Issue — The Next Gen *PowHER*. *SHE OWNS THE FUTURE*

*The Malaysian Gender Gap:
Participation, Leadership,
Decision Making — Where Are We
and Where Do We Go From Here?*

Examining opportunities for women
in technology, innovation and
emerging sectors shaping the
future of law and society



Speakers



YB Puan Hannah Yeoh



Professor Emerita Tan
Sri Dato' Seri Dr Mazlan
Othman

Featured Voices



YB Datuk Fahmi Fadzil

YB Datuk Fahmi Fadzil is a Malaysian leader of the new generation who is currently the Minister of Communications. He is serving his second term as a Member of Parliament for the Lembah Pantai constituency. Born in 1981, Fahmi graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering (BSCHE) degree from Purdue University in Indiana, USA.

Upon assuming his role in the Ministry, he faced challenges such as addressing internet coverage issues in rural areas and overseeing the implementation of the 5G network in Malaysia. Additionally, he played a key role in the transition from a Single Wholesale Network to a Dual Network approach for the 5G rollout.

In addition to telecommunications, the Ministry is responsible for postal services, broadcasting, media and the creative industry. As Communications Minister, Fahmi's work also focuses on improving media ethics, protecting press freedom and addressing the welfare of media practitioners, reflecting his strong commitment to the media industry. In February 2025, the Malaysian Media Council Bill, championed by YB Datuk Fahmi, was approved by the Lower House of Parliament (Dewan Rakyat), marking a significant milestone in the country's media governance.

YB Datuk Fahmi played a pivotal role in the ceremony of the installation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim as the 17th King of Malaysia. In his capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee for the King's Installation Events, YB Datuk Fahmi was instrumental in organising and overseeing the ceremonies associated with the King's ascension. In March 2025, he was conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Panglima Mahkota Wilayah (Commander of The Order of The Territorial Crown), which carries the title "Datuk". YB Datuk Fahmi also serves as the government spokesperson. Before entering politics, he was an award-winning theatre practitioner and writer.

YB Puan Hannah Yeoh

YB Puan Hannah Yeoh is the current Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories). YB Puan Hannah previously served as the Minister of Youth and Sports from 2022 to 2025, and earlier as the Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, a role she held from mid-2018 to early 2020. At present, she is serving her second term as the Member of Parliament for P117 Segambut, a parliamentary constituency in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, which she first won in 2018 during the historic general election which saw the Pakatan Harapan coalition come to power.

Prior to that, YB Puan Hannah was the two-term State Assemblyman for the constituency of N31 Subang Jaya (2008-2018). During her tenure as State Assemblyman, Yeoh made history by becoming the first woman to be elected as the Speaker of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly in 2013 and the youngest of any legislative body in Malaysia. YB Puan Hannah holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Tasmania and was previously a practising lawyer in Australia and Malaysia before venturing into politics. She is the mother of two beautiful girls.





**The Honourable Justice
Datin Paduka Evrol Mariette Peters**
*Court of Appeal Judge; Chairperson,
ASEAN Law Association Standing
Committee for Women in Law*

The Honourable Justice Datin Paduka Evrol Mariette Peters currently serves as a Judge of the Court of Appeal.

Justice Peters began her legal career in 1992 after graduating with an LLB from Universiti Malaya, where she later completed her LLM. She joined the Faculty of Law as a lecturer, teaching Evidence and Jurisprudence, and went on to publish extensively, including the leading text *The Law of Evidence in Malaysia*.

In 2002, she returned to legal practice, focusing on intellectual property, media law, and data protection, where she rose to partnership. She was active in the Malaysian Bar and authored *To Be or Not To Be a Lawyer*, a guide for young lawyers. In 2017, she joined WongPartnership LLP in Singapore as the Associate Director of Knowledge, Information, and Technology, overseeing the firm's research and knowledge management functions.

Justice Peters was appointed to the Bench in 2019, serving first at the Johor Bahru High Court before her transfer to the Kuala Lumpur Family Court in 2022. She was elevated to the Court of Appeal in July 2025.

She currently serves on the Judiciary's Committees on Family Law, Mediation, and the Judiciary Yearbook, and chairs the ASEAN Law Association Standing Committee for Women in Law.

Her most recent publication is the *Law and Practice of Family Law in Malaysia*, co-authored and published in August 2025.



Rajashree Suppiah
*Co-Chairperson,
Bar Council Family Law Committee*

Rajashree Suppiah is an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya and runs her own legal practice in Kuala Lumpur. A University of London LLB graduate, she has practised law since 1997, focusing on litigation, collaborative practice, and mediation.

Her experience covers matrimonial disputes, cross-border custody, employment, corporate and commercial matters, medical negligence, and probate cases. Passionate in advancing alternative dispute resolution, Rajashree commenced her term as the President of International Academy of Collaborative Professionals ("IACP") in April 2026.

Within the Malaysian Bar, she is the Co-Chairperson of the Bar Council Family Law Committee and leads the Collaborative Practice committee, playing an active role in promoting nonadversarial approaches to family dispute resolution. She also co-leads the Malaysian Collaborative Practice Group. Passionate about peaceful conflict resolution, Rajashree continues advanced training in mediation, collaborative practice, and therapeutic justice. Beyond her legal work, she is a passionate animal lover and advocate for animal welfare.



Tehmina Kaoosji

*Independent Broadcast Journalist;
Partner and Communications Director,
The Big Picture Communications;
Gender Equity Activist*

Tehmina Kaoosji is an independent broadcast journalist with 14 years in news media, including Bernama TV, TV3, *Sinar Daily* and currently Astro Awani.

She is an experienced speaker and facilitator for Federal, State and ministerial engagements. She is an International Federation of Journalists (“IFJ”) certified trainer for Media, Politics and Gender.

Tehmina is a former two-term Board Member of the Institute of Journalists Malaysia. She is a founding member of the Malaysian Media Council (“MMC”) ProTem Committee and a member of the MMC Committee for Law Reform & Media Literacy.

She is the Partner and Communications Director of The Big Picture Communications, specialising in gender, youth and social development policy and advocacy. The Big Picture Communications has curated and organised the annual Malaysia Women & Girls Forum (“MWGF”) since 2020. MWGF is supported by the United Nations in Malaysia and the United Nations Population Fund (“UNFPA”) in Malaysia.



Lily Choo

Former Assistant Commissioner of Police

Through her long and eventful career in the Royal Malaysia Police (Polis Diraja Malaysia, “PDRM”), **Lily Choo** has built an impressive resume of expertise and experience. With 40 years of service, she was among the pioneering officers selected for training by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in handling victims and conducting specialised investigations of sexual offence cases. This experience led to her promotion as Head of Bukit Aman’s D11 Unit (Domestic Violence and Sexual Crimes Against Women and Children).

In addition to her extensive work investigating and prosecuting such crimes, Lily also gained international exposure assisting expatriates, embassies, and diplomats as Head of the International Liaison Unit. Her dedication and service earned her numerous accolades, including her promotion to Deputy Officer-in-Charge (“OCPD”) of the Subang Jaya Police District, making her the first woman to hold the position.

As a mother and now grandmother, Lily’s deep commitment to justice and her care for women and children have driven her throughout her years of service. Her ability to empathise, investigate, and manage complex cases saw her return to the D11 Unit as Principal Assistant Director prior to her retirement in 2020.

In recognition of her excellent service, she was awarded the service medals Ahli Mangku Mahkota Wilayah (“AMW”) and Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (“PJK”).



Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan
*President, AIAC Court of Arbitration;
Former Federal Court Judge*

Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan is a former Judge of the Federal Court. She is now the President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration. She holds LLB (Hons) and LL.M degrees; is an Honorary Benchers of The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn; Adjunct Professor at Taylor's University, Malaysia; Visiting Professor at Hainan University and Guangxi University, China; and a Member of the Special Advisory Committee of the Permanent Forum on China Construction Law.

She is also a member of the United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP") Advisory Working Group on Judicial Integrity Network; Fellow of the International Academy of Construction Lawyers; Member of the Editorial Board of the Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group; Member of the Committee for the Reform of Contract Law, Malaysia; Chairperson of the Code Administration Committee (Central Bank); Judge of the Bahrain International Commercial Court; and Judge of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts.



Deborah Henry
Co-Founder, Fugee School

Deborah Henry, of mixed Malaysian-Irish parentage, rose to fame when she was crowned Miss Malaysia World in 2007 and again, Miss Malaysia Universe in 2011. A former fashion model, Deborah took to the runway and fashion editorials at the tender age of 15. Her modelling career took her to Hong Kong, India, London and various parts of Southeast Asia. She currently works as a TV host, podcaster and moderator for international conferences.

The University of Queensland graduate who majored in political science and economics, has consistently championed children's and refugee rights. In 2009, responding to the plight of refugees and their rights to fair and equal opportunities to education, Deborah co-founded Fugee School. A few years later, Fugee Org was established as the umbrella organisation featuring its flagship programme Fugee School and Fugee HiEd which runs a university scholarship programme.

Deborah actively advocates refugee rights and social issues. She is a children's rights advocate for World Vision and refugee rights advocate for UNHCR Malaysia. In these roles, she has represented Malaysia on mission trips to Brazil, Myanmar, India and Lebanon.

In 2013, Deborah was listed in Forbes' list of "Asian Philanthropists", recognised for her active participation in championing social causes. In 2018, Deborah was nominated by the US Embassy in Malaysia to represent the country in the prestigious International Visitor Leadership programme organised by the US State Department themed "Global and Regional Responses to Refugee and Migration Issues", in the US. More recently, she was invited exclusively to moderate a talk with Former US First Lady, Michelle Obama and Hollywood actor, Julia Roberts, in conjunction with "Leaders: Asia-Pacific", an inaugural APAC event held by the Obama Foundation.



**Datin Dr Hasnorliza Abu Hassan
(Dr Leez Hassan)**

*Entrepreneur, Industrial Psychologist,
Author, Coach, Mentor and Work-Life
Balance Advocate*

Datin Dr Hasnorliza Abu Hassan (Dr Leez Hassan) is a distinguished industrial psychologist, serial entrepreneur, author, speaker, coach and mentor with extensive experience in leadership development, work-life balance, and women empowerment. She is the Founder and CEO of ADLA Group and has led numerous impactful initiatives across Malaysia and ASEAN, including the International Work-Life Balance Forum and Women Mentoring Network.

Dr Leez is a recognised thought leader and keynote speaker who has presented at major regional conferences and contributed to media platforms on topics related to leadership, emotional well-being, and sustainable success. She holds a PhD in Business Management, an MBA degree from California State University, Sacramento; and a Master of Psychology degree (Industrial & Organizational Psychology). Her work focuses on empowering individuals and organisations to achieve sustainable growth through mentoring, leadership and balanced living.



Dato' Zuraidah Atan

*Advocate and Solicitor, Chambers of
Zuraidah Atan; Co-Deputy Chairperson,
Bar Council Corporate and Commercial
Law Committee; Former President and
CEO, Affin Merchant Bank (Investment
Bank)*

Dato' Zuraidah Atan is a lawyer and corporate figure with over 30 years of experience in banking, finance, and governance. Formerly the President and Chief Executive Officer of Affin Merchant Bank (*Investment Bank*) (now Affin Hwang Investment Bank), and Vice-President of OCBC Bank, she currently serves on the boards of Hartalega Holdings Berhad and Pengurusan Aset Air Berhad ("PAAB"), a company under the Ministry of Finance Incorporated.

An Adjunct Professor at Universiti Putra Malaysia's triple crown-accredited School of Business and Economics, Dato' Zuraidah is also an advocate for leadership, sustainability, women's empowerment and youth development.



Soo Shea Pin
Co-Founder, FEITH London

Soo Shea Pin began her legal career at the age of 23 at Soo Thien Ming & Nashrah after being called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, London, and admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 1979. She served in her firm for over 20 years.

She served as a member of the Bar Council Disciplinary Committee. After two decades in legal practice, she left to pursue her passion for business, which unexpectedly led her into the fashion industry.

In 2019, she founded her own fashion brand, FEITH London, a mid-luxury label, together with her daughter, Wenfei. She is also the exclusive franchisee and Managing Director of Halcyon Days Malaysia, a British heritage brand.

A committed champion of women's entrepreneurship, Shea Pin has served for eight years as a judge for the Women of the Future SEA Awards, supporting and empowering women across the region. She has been invited to speak on leadership by Veuve Clicquot and other corporate organisations, was appointed Ambassador for the UK Alumni Awards Malaysia in 2019, and received Malaysia Tatler's Entrepreneur Par Excellence Award in 2014.

She continues to advocate women's empowerment and founded the UK Women Alumni under the British Council, which has grown into a global platform.

Shea Pin values sincerity, kindness, and mutual support, and seeks to inspire others through women's empowerment.



Anis Hanani Suffian
Co-Founder and CEO, ReMeal

Anis Hanani Suffian is the Co-Founder and CEO of ReMeal, a purpose-driven start-up tackling food waste by turning surplus into opportunity and making nutritious food more accessible to communities in need. With a background in corporate and legal work at PETRONAS and Azmi & Associates, she brings both discipline and empathy to building systems that create real impact.

Since stepping into the CEO role in October 2025, Anis has focused on reshaping how success is defined, not just in business outcomes but in impact, sustainability and the communities served. Her work sits at the intersection of entrepreneurship, social good and intentional living.

She advocates success on her own terms, grounded in values, faith and long-term purpose rather than convention.



Yan Ting Wei

*Director, Guangxi Justlaw Law Firm;
Deputy, Nanning Municipal People's
Congress, China*

Wei Yan ting is the Deputy to the Nanning Municipal People's Congress, China.

She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ("FCI Arb") and currently serves as Deputy Secretary-General of the Guangxi Arbitration Association, and Deputy Secretary-General of the China-ASEAN Commercial Arbitration Collaboration Center.

Yan Ting is also the Director of Guangxi Justlaw Law Firm.

She is an arbitrator and mediator of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission and the Nanning Arbitration Commission.

In 2024, she was awarded the "National Advanced Individual in Public Legal Services" by the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China.



Jewel Dela Cruz

*Country Program Manager,
Child Rescue Coalition;
Consultant, International Centre for
Missing & Exploited Children*

Jewel Dela Cruz is a children's rights lawyer in the Philippines. She has successfully prosecuted human trafficking, sexual exploitation, violence against women and child abuse cases before Philippine courts.

She holds a Master of Laws degree in Forensics, Criminology, and Law (*cum laude*), from Maastricht University, the Netherlands, as a full scholarship awardee. She obtained her Juris Doctor degree, class salutatorian, from Angeles University Foundation, Philippines, and her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (*cum laude*) from the University of the Philippines.

She is a lecturer at the University of the Philippines Law Centre-Institute of Administration of Justice, and a professor in several law schools, teaching international law, human rights, women's rights, gender sensitivity, children's rights, and artificial intelligence.

International law is not new to her. She has first-hand experience, having worked with the International Criminal Court ("ICC") in The Hague, the Netherlands, as a Visiting Legal Professional, under the European Commission Grant, of which she was one of only eight people worldwide who were chosen.

Internationally, she was invited as an expert speaker for training on child protection and women's rights in Frankfurt, Germany; Paris, France; and most recently in Munich, Germany.

She previously worked with the International Justice Mission, handling cases alongside local law enforcement agencies, such as the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation, as well as foreign counterparts from the US, Europe and Australia.

After her work with the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, she now serves as the Country Program Manager of the Child Rescue Coalition, a US-headquartered non-governmental organisation focused on combating online sexual exploitation of children.



Stefanie Yuen Thio
Joint Managing Partner, TSMP Law Corporation; Chair, SHE (SG Her Empowerment)

Stefanie Yuen Thio is the Joint Managing Partner of TSMP Law Corporation and a leading corporate lawyer recognised by IFLR1000, Chambers and other global directories for her expertise in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and corporate governance.

In 2022, she founded SHE (SG Her Empowerment), a registered charity and institution of public character in Singapore to empower women and girls. One of the first priorities was to set up Singapore's first one-stop support centre for survivors of online harms. Stefanie was appointed to the Ministry of Law's Steering Committee for the Online Safety (Relief and Accountability) Bill 2025, and the research work of SHE in digital safety was widely quoted by Members of Parliament during the second reading of the Bill.

Stefanie has, since February 2025, been Singapore's Alternate Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. She also serves on the Monetary Authority of Singapore's Corporate Governance Advisory Committee.

A prominent commentator on governance, business, technology and gender issues, Stefanie contributes opinion pieces to the local press and was Singapore's regular voice on the BBC World Service's Business Matters programme from 2019 to 2025.



Sadhana Rai
Chief Representation Officer, Pro Bono SG

Sadhana Rai is Chief Representation Officer at Pro Bono SG, Singapore's largest coordinated *pro bono* legal services charity. She oversees its legal aid and representation schemes spanning criminal, family justice, and community law matters, and leads a team of in-house community lawyers and officers in providing timely *pro bono* legal assistance to vulnerable and socially excluded individuals. A practising advocate and solicitor, Sadhana continues to represent clients in criminal matters.

Her commitment to public service has earned her multiple awards, including the Joseph Grimberg Outstanding Young Advocate Award, the Excellence Award at the Social Service Professional Awards, and the Her World Young Woman Achiever Award 2025. Sadhana also contributes to The Law Society of Singapore's Advocacy Committee and is active in environmental and animal welfare initiatives.



Dr Niken Savitri
*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law,
 Parahyangan Catholic University,
 Bandung, Indonesia*

An assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, Indonesia since 1992, **Dr Niken Savitri** specialises in criminal law, human rights and gender. Her doctorate research topic was “Women and Law”, which focused on criminal law and the human rights of women. She previously served as a chair of the university’s task force on the prevention of sexual violence among university students. Her research interests and publications are in topics of Criminal Law, Human Rights, and Women and Children. Among others, she analyses court decisions relating to criminal law, women and children cases, in collaboration with the Indonesian Judicial Commission. She also developed standards, norms and regulations on human rights defenders in collaboration with the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights.



Dr Atipa Junwerasatien
*Judge, Office of the President of the
 Supreme Court, Thailand*

Dr Atipa Junwerasatien is a Judge serving at the Office of the President of the Supreme Court, Thailand, currently working within the Office of the Judiciary’s Office of Judicial and Legal Affairs. She contributes to the development of the Court of Justice of Thailand as a member of the working group on the “Take It Down” Thailand project, focusing on improving online procedures for the removal of sexual harassment content under the revised Criminal Code. Previously, she served as a judge at Sakaeo Provincial Court.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Thammasat University and is a Barrister-at-Law of the Thai Bar under Royal Patronage. She obtained a Master of Laws in Human Rights Law from University College London, supported by the Bentham and Anandamahidol Scholarships, and a PhD in Law from Queen Mary University of London, funded by the Anandamahidol Scholarship.



Professor Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Mazlan Othman

*Malaysia's first astrophysicist;
Senior Fellow of the Academy of Sciences
Malaysia; Former Director of the UN
Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna;
Founding Director-General of Angkasa,
the Malaysian National Space Agency;
Former Director of the International
Science Council for Asia*

Professor Emerita Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Mazlan Othman is Malaysia's first astrophysicist. She was educated in Malaysia and received her PhD in astrophysics at the University of Otago, New Zealand. On returning to Malaysia in 1981, she pioneered an academic programme on astrophysics at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and was appointed Professor of Astrophysics in 1994.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Mazlan was seconded to the Prime Minister's Department in 1990 to direct the establishment of the National Planetarium, under the Space Science Studies Division. As its first Director-General, she also led the design and manufacture of Malaysia's first remote-sensing satellite, TiungSAT-1, launched in 2000.

In 1999, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Mazlan was appointed Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs ("UNOOSA") and returned to Malaysia to set up ANGKASA. As its founding Director-General, she established the National Space Centre, which houses Tracking, Telemetry, and Command ("TT&C"), Assembly, Integration, and Testing ("AIT") and calibration and research facilities; founded the Langkawi National Observatory; and initiated the programme which placed the world's first remote-sensing satellite in near-Equatorial orbit. She spearheaded the Angkasawan Programme, which saw the launch of the first Malaysian astronaut to the International Space Station in 2007. That year, she left Malaysia again to resume the post of Director of UNOOSA. In 2009, she was appointed Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna ("UNOV"). She retired from the UN in 2013.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Mazlan is on the council of The Hague Institute's Off-World Approach.

Bylines

Opening Ceremony

Welcoming Remarks



**Marisa Regina bt Mohd
Aris Rizal Fernando**
Chairperson, WRC

Marisa Regina bt Mohd Aris Rizal Fernando is a graduate from the University of Liverpool, England with over 20 years of legal experience. She heads Aris Rizal Christopher Fernando & Co and is the Chairperson of WRC, Deputy Chairperson of the Bar Council International Malaysia Law Conference 2026 Organising Committee and Co-Deputy Chairperson of the Bar Council Risk Management and ELEVATE Committee.

She was the Negeri Sembilan Bar Representative on the Bar Council during the 2022/23 term and Chairman of the Negeri Sembilan Bar Committee for the terms 2023/24 and 2024/25. She headed the *PowHER* empowerment and leadership programme to empower women lawyers and the S.A.V. M.E. campaign to stop violence against women. Marisa believes in acting without fear or favour and she advocates continuing legal education and women's empowerment.

Opening Ceremony

Opening Address



Anand Raj
President, Malaysian Bar

Anand Raj currently serves as the President of the Malaysian Bar. He is the former Chairperson of the Bar Council Tax and Customs Committee, former Co-Chairperson of the Bar Council Corporate and Commercial Law Committee and former Chair of the International Fiscal Association, Malaysia Branch. Anand has been in practice since 1996 and a partner at Shearn Delamore & Co since 2003. He currently serves as the Head of the Tax Disputes Practice and the Co-Head of Competition Law and Antitrust Practice at the firm. He is ranked by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific (2019-2025) as a “Leading Individual” in Tax and has been included in The Legal 500 Asia Pacific’s “Hall of Fame” for Tax (2025-2026) and Competition and Antitrust (2025-2026). Lexology (2025) recognised Anand as a “Global Elite Thought Leader” in Client Choice – Competition, a “Thought Leader” in Competition, and “Recommended” in Competition and Southeast Asia – Competition as well as Corporate Tax – Controversy and Southeast Asia – Corporate Tax. Asia Business Law Journal (2020-2024) recognised Anand as one of Malaysia’s Top 100 Lawyers in Competition Law and Antitrust, and Tax Disputes and Controversy. Asialaw Client Service Excellence (2021) recognised Anand as “The Highest Rated Lawyer To Work With” in Tax and Competition/Antitrust. Anand was recognised as Asia Tax Disputes and Litigation Practice Leader of the Year 2017 by the International Tax Review (“ITR”). Asialaw Leading Lawyers (2020-2024) recognised Anand as an “Elite Practitioner” in Competition/Antitrust as well as in Tax. Anand is recognised as a “Highly Regarded Practitioner” in Indirect Tax and Tax Controversy (2019-2022, 2025), as well as “Highly Regarded” in World Transfer Pricing (2023-2025) by ITR. Anand has also been recognised by Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific 2025 as a “Litigation Star”.

Closing Remarks



Dato' Yasmeen bt Haji Mohd Shariff
Former Co-Chairperson, WRC

Dato' Yasmeen bt Haji Mohd Shariff was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 1987. She holds an LLB (Hons) degree, several postgraduate diplomas and a Master's degree in Comparative Law. She practises primarily in the areas of family law and child rights advocacy and is the managing partner of Yasmeen Hajar & Hairudin.

She has served on various Bar Council committees, particularly in areas relating to children, women and family justice. Dato' Yasmeen has been deeply involved in juvenile justice reform and child protection initiatives at both national and international levels. She was trained by Save the Children Sweden on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has actively promoted the implementation of children's rights principles in Malaysia.

In 2012, she made history as the first Malaysian lawyer elected to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, where she later served as Vice-Chair. She is also a trained mediator in both family and commercial mediation. Throughout her career, Dato' Yasmeen has worked closely with various government ministers and stakeholders to review and reform laws affecting women and children. She was actively involved in drafting and lobbying for the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act 1994. Her work continues to contribute significantly to legal reform, policy development and the promotion of children's rights in Malaysia.

WRC Line-Up On The Mic



Moderator – Panel 1
Member, WRC

Sharmila Ravindran has been practising in dispute resolution and corporate advisory since 2004. She established Ravindran Advocates & Solicitors in 2011, a commercial disputes law firm in Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur.

She is an accredited adjudicator with the Asian International Arbitration Centre, a member of the Disciplinary Committee (Advocates and Solicitors Disciplinary Board, Malaysia) and the Institute of Corporate Directors Malaysia.

She is an advisor for Lean in Malaysia, a women's empowerment platform that aims to address the two key issues of women dropping out of the workforce in Malaysia.



Moderator – Panel 2
Member, WRC

Norliza Rasool Khan is an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya with over 25 years of experience in corporate and commercial law, with a focus on capital markets, securities law, corporate governance, ESG, and AI governance. She is recognised as a “leading litigator” in Asia by Thomson Reuters’ Asia Legal Business and Legal 500.

A Fellow of multiple arbitration institutes, she also serves on the boards of public-listed entities and non-governmental organisations. As former Chair of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Gender Equality and Diversity Committee, she has advanced policies against sexual harassment.

WRC Line-Up On The Mic



Moderator — Panel 3
Member, WRC

Ammera Hadi is an associate in the Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group at Azmi & Associates. She is experienced in civil litigation, focusing on commercial, tortious and land-related disputes. Ammera serves on WRC and the Bar Council National Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee and is an elected member of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Committee for the 2026/27 term. She also contributes through legal publications and speaking engagements and is a volunteer tutor at the Kachin Refugee Learning Centre, where she teaches refugees in conversational Malay. During her free time, Ammera enjoys Zumba and tabletop role-playing games.



Moderator — Panel 4
Member, WRC

Hemalatha Parasa Ramulu is a partner at Ravindran, with experience in corporate, commercial and civil litigation, as well as alternative dispute resolution. While her early practice focused on technology-related matters, she has, in recent years, become a leader in the fields of life sciences and healthcare, including product liability and intellectual property. Her practice now spans all aspects of technology law, including medical technology, financial technology and digital technology. She has been consistently noted, recommended, and ranked in The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, Chambers and Partners, and Benchmark Litigation for many years, particularly for her intellectual property work for the brand Tupperware, as well as her product liability work for Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca. She has been described as a *"technically minded litigator who fearlessly tackles complex cases"*. Hemalatha has represented clients in a range of intellectual property litigation matters and has acted for pharmaceutical and medical device companies in numerous product liability cases. She has also advised on product liability issues involving automotive parts and manufacturers.

She is a certified member of the Malaysian International Mediation Centre and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ("CIArb"), and serves as a mediator empanelled with the World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO") in Geneva, Switzerland. She is also a Domain Name Dispute Resolution Panellist at the Asian International Arbitration Centre ("AIAC"). In addition, she is a contributing author to the Malaysian chapter in *Russell-Clarke & Howe on Industrial Designs (10th Edition)* and a regular contributor to LexisNexis Malaysia. In recognition of her contribution to biomedical sciences, she was appointed Elite @ UM Fellow by Universiti Malaya.

WRC Line-Up On The Mic



Master of Ceremony
Member, WRC

Raspreet Kaur Sidhu is a litigation lawyer with a strategic approach to disputes and presence in the courtroom. She regularly appears in the High Court, Sessions Court and Magistrates' Court in Malaysia, handling a wide range of contentious matters. Her practice focuses primarily on civil and commercial litigation, including contractual disputes, shareholder and director disputes, debt recovery, professional negligence claims and construction-related matters. Raspreet also has experience in family law, representing clients in divorce proceedings, custody disputes and matrimonial asset division. Clients value Raspreet for her meticulous preparation, direct advocacy and practical legal strategy. She approaches each case with careful attention to both the legal issues and the broader commercial or personal realities faced by her clients. Beyond litigation, Raspreet also advises clients on dispute prevention and risk management, helping individuals and businesses navigate legal situations with clarity and confidence.



Master of Ceremony
Member, WRC

Amira Najwafitri is a legal associate at Hafarizam Wan & Aisha Mubarak, having joined the firm in 2024. She graduated from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom in 2012 and was the recipient of both the International Undergraduate Entrance Scholarship and the International Undergraduate Merit Scholarship from the university. She was involved in *pro bono* work in London until 2013, after her graduation in 2012. She commenced her legal career as a paralegal in the intellectual property department at Shearn Delamore & Co in 2014. Thereafter, she enrolled at Brickfields Asia College in 2015 and obtained her Certificate of Legal Practice in 2017. She then commenced her pupillage at Kevin & Co under the tutelage of her master, Dato' Kevin Joshua in 2018, where she was exposed to both civil and criminal litigation. She was then admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2019. She previously dabbled in corporate law and general civil litigation before joining Chambers of Firdaus in 2021, focusing on construction litigation, adjudication and arbitration matters. Amira has extensive experience conducting trials in the lower courts and hearings in the High Court and Court of Appeal in relation to construction law matters. She is the recipient of the "Positive Change" Award under the Perantis KPWK leadership programme, powered by ADLA Group Sdn Bhd, which was founded by Datin Dr Hasnorliza Abu Hassan. She is also a keen advocate for human rights, particularly for women and children, having co-authored articles on child beggars, among others.

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