DAY 0 | 27 Oct 2026 (Tuesday)

17:00 – 20:00 **Delegate Pre-Registration and Welcome Cocktail Reception**

DAY 1 | 28 Oct 2026 (Wednesday)

07:30 – 09:00 **Registration and Arrival of Delegates and Guests**

09:00 – 09:10 OPENING CEREMONY
Sponsored by CLJ Malaysia Sdn Bhd

09:10 – 09:20 Welcome Address by **Gregory Das**, *Chairperson, Bar Council International Malaysia Law Conference 2026 Organising Committee*

09:20 – 09:30 President's Address by **Anand Raj**, *President, Malaysian Bar*

09:30 – 09:45 Opening Address by **The Right Honourable Tun Wan Ahmad Farid b Wan Salleh**, *Chief Justice, Federal Court of Malaysia*

09:45 – 10:15 Keynote Address by **Lord David Neuberger of Abbotsbury**, *International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court, Supreme Court of Singapore; Former President, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (2012–2017)*

10:15 – 10:30 Presentation

10:30 – 10:45 Networking Coffee / Tea Break

10:45 – 12:00 **Breakout Session 1**

Stream A
Law and Society

Technology and Artificial Intelligence in the Sentencing Process

This session will explore the use of artificial intelligence ("AI") in sentencing in criminal cases. The focus, in part, will be on how the use of such technology affects the core notions of transparency and the right to a fair trial. The panellists will discuss measures that could be implemented to ensure the efficient and effective use of such technologies for the betterment of the criminal justice system.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Dayang Ellyn Narisa Abang Ahmad**, *Judicial Commissioner, High Court of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah*
(2) **Dato' Seri V Sithambaram**, *Advocate and Solicitor, Sitham & Associates*
(3) **Shamsul Izhan b Abdul Majid,** *Former Chief Executive Officer, National Artificial Intelligence Office ("NAIO"), Ministry of Digital, Malaysia*

Moderator
Devkumar Kumaraendran, *Member, Bar Council; Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Criminal Law Committee; Partner, Kumar & Co*

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

Legal Professional Privilege and Regulatory Authorities: Where is the Line in Modern Legal Practice?

Legal professional privilege is a cornerstone of the legal profession. However, as regulatory environments evolve, the absolute nature of this privilege is increasingly tested by the exercise of investigative powers of enforcement authorities. This session explores the shifting boundary between a client's right to confidential legal advice and the statutory mandates of regulators.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Dato' Faizah bt Jamaludin**, *Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia*
(2) **Professor Liz Campbell**, *Francine V McNiff Chair in Criminal Jurisprudence and Associate Dean (Academic Staffing), Law Faculty, Monash University, Australia*
(3) **Alexander K M Tang**, *Deputy Honorary Secretary, Hong Kong Bar Association*
(4) **Colin Liew**, *Director and Head of International Litigation, Providence Law Asia, Singapore*

Moderator
Babu Raj Raja Gopal, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Committee on AMLA; Partner, Kean Chye & Sivalingam*

Session Sponsor
Monash Law

Stream C
Corporate and Commercial Law

The Position of Core Competition Law Principles

This session addresses the position of core competition law principles in the current dynamics of legal practice and commercial relationships. These matters will be examined from the perspectives of legal practitioners and regulators, both locally and abroad.

Speakers
(1) **Datuk Haji Iskandar b Ismail**, *Chief Executive Officer, Malaysia Competition Commission*
(2) **Yon See Ting**, *Partner, Christopher & Lee Ong*
(3) **Winnie Ching**, *Group Director (Legal and Enforcement), Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore*

Moderator
Richard Wee Thiam Seng, *Managing Partner, Richard Wee Chambers*

Session Sponsor
Malaysia Competition Commission ("MyCC")

12:00 – 13:00 **Networking Lunch**
Sponsored by Progress Software, India

13:00 – 14:15 **Breakout Session 2**

Stream A
Law and Society

Valuing the Vulnerable: The Case for a Mental Capacity Act

As the country is said to be on course to become an ageing nation, there is a pressing need to address legislative gaps in the protection of the interests of those with diminishing mental capacity. This session explores the need for a Mental Capacity Act in this jurisdiction to address this matter and safeguard individual autonomy. The panellists will examine case law from other jurisdictions with established mental capacity frameworks and discuss relevant lessons that can be drawn from them.

Speakers
(1) **Datin Anit Kaur Randhawa**, *Co-Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Constitutional Law and Human Rights Committee; Partner, Asbir, Hira Singh & Co*
(2) **Ahmad Nizam Abbas**, *Managing Director, Crescent Law Chambers, Singapore*
(3) **Chong Yue-En**, *Founder and Managing Director, Bethel Chambers, Singapore*
(4) **Carolyn Oh Li Lin**, *Advocate and Solicitor, Carolyn Oh & Co*

Moderator
Shanti Abraham, *Advocate and Solicitor, Shanti Abraham & Associates*

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

The Development of a Barrister's Practice in a Fused Profession

This session examines the extent to which a specialist advocacy practice can be developed and sustained in a fused profession. The session will also explore the benefits and possible challenges in developing such specialist practices within a fused environment, with reference to experiences from other jurisdictions. The presentations will address the topic from the perspective of practitioners and persons experienced in clerking for barristers.

Speakers
(1) **Gopal Sreenevasan**, *Advocate and Solicitor, Endeavour Group Legal Practice*
(2) **Z J Jennifer Lim**, *Advocate, Duxton Hill Chambers (Singapore Group Practice)*
(3) **David Grief**, *Chief Executive Officer, David Grief International Consultancy Pte Ltd, Singapore*
(4) **Lee Ji En**, *Chief Executive Officer, Chambers Lab*

Moderator
R Jayabalan, *Secretary, Malaysian Bar; Founder, Messrs R Jayabalan*

Stream C
Corporate and Commercial Law

Directors' Duties in the Environmental, Social and Governance Era: Balancing Growth with Sustainable Governance

This session addresses the interplay between the core principle of a director's fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the company and the global shift in emphasis towards environmental, social and governance ("ESG") mandates. The panellists will examine if there are any tensions between the two concepts, and, if so, how best to navigate them. Other matters to be addressed include the current ESG framework in this jurisdiction and an assessment of the effectiveness of the existing regime.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Dato' Ong Chee Kwan**, *Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia*
(2) **Shyam Divan**, *Immediate Past President, LAWASIA; Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India*
(3) **To' Puan Janet Looi**, *Partner, Skrine*

Moderator
Kiu Jia Yaw, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Environment, Climate Change and ESG Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Kiu & Co*

14:15 – 15:30 **Breakout Session 3**

Stream A
Law and Society

Death Penalty in Transition: Malaysia and Japan in Conversation

This session brings together policymakers, legislators and scholars from Malaysia and Japan to analyse how different legal systems are rethinking capital punishment. Drawing on Malaysia's recent reforms and wrongful convictions in Japan, the session will delve into the political, legal and institutional dynamics of moving away from the death penalty, and what these experiences mean for Malaysia's future direction.

Speakers
(1) **Dato' Dr Punitha Silivarajoo**, *Deputy Director General (Policy and Development), Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia*
(2) **The Honourable Ramkarpal Singh**, *Member of Parliament, Malaysia*
(3) **Professor Dr Kana Sasakura**, *Secretary General, Innocence Project Japan*

Moderator
Abdul Rashid Ismail, *Partner, Rashid Zulkifli*

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

The Discovery of Evidence: Artificial Intelligence and the Position of the Core Principles of Discovery

What is the position of the core principles of discovery in the ever-evolving age of AI and the management of large volumes of data? This session will consider the extent to which the traditional principles of discovery ought to be maintained or modified considering the increased reliance on advanced methods to process vast amounts of information, such as meta and hyper data systems.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Atan Mustaffa Yussof Ahmad**, *Judge, High Court of Malaya*
(2) **Foong Cheng Leong**, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council AI, Cyberlaw and Data Protection Committee; Partner, Foong Cheng Leong & Co*
(3) **Karen Yong Hwei Woon**, *Partner, Robert Low & Ooi*

Moderator
Sarah Yong Li Hsien, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council AI, Cyberlaw and Data Protection Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Sarah Yong & Co*

Stream C
Corporate and Commercial Law

International Arbitration: First Principles and Malaysia's Role as a Regional Hub — What Lawyers, Courts and Institutions Must Get Right

Malaysia has sought to position itself as a leading arbitration hub in Asia. In addition to reflecting on the original intent behind international arbitration which was to promote international trade by providing investors with an effective and efficient means of resolving disputes through arbitration, this session will address the further steps that could be taken to realise the aim of establishing Malaysia as a pre-eminent seat for arbitration in the region.

Speakers
(1) **Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan**, *President, AIAC Court of Arbitration, Malaysia*
(2) **Lam Ko Luen**, *Managing Partner, Shook Lin & Bok*
(3) **Gourab Banerji**, *Senior Advocate, India*
(4) **Nahendran Navaratnam**, *Partner, Navaratnam Chambers*

Moderator
Mohanadass Kanagasabai, *Partner, Mohanadass Partnership*

15:30 – 15:45 Networking Coffee / Tea Break

15:45 – 17:00 Breakout Session 4

Stream A
Law and Society

Customary Land Rights in a Time of Rapid Development

Customary land rights are recognised as having a constitutional footing in many jurisdictions, including Malaysia. These rights are increasingly being tested in contemporary societies with widespread urban development. It is in this context that the principle of the extinguishment of customary land rights often features. This session seeks to address these matters and the position of the core principle of indigenous self-determination amid rapid infrastructural development.

Speakers
(1) **Dr Anna Kirk**, *Barrister, Arbitrator, Bankside Chambers, New Zealand*
(2) **Dr Colin Nicholas**, *Founder and Coordinator, Center for Orang Asli Concerns, Malaysia*
(3) **Dr Yogeswaran Subramaniam**, *Advocate and Solicitor, Anantha Krishnan*

Moderator
Hon Kai Ping, *Member, Bar Council; Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Committee on Orang Asli Rights; Partner, H Y Lee & Hee*

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

The Role of In-House Counsel in the Current Dynamics of Legal Practice

This session examines the functions of in-house counsel in the current dynamics of the legal profession. The landscape of today's legal practice is widely impacted by the accelerated technological advancements and evolving demands from clients and practitioners. In the face of these changes, there is a need to retain certain core principles such as professional integrity, risk management and maintaining standards in work production. The panellists will address these matters from the perspectives of litigators, corporate lawyers as well as high-ranking general counsel.

Speakers
(1) **Geoff Allen**, *Partner, Trowers & Hamlins, Malaysia*
(2) **Razman Hashim**, *Senior Vice President, Group Legal and Group General Counsel, PETRONAS*
(3) **Sudharsanan Thillainathan**, *Partner, Adnan Sundra & Low*
(4) **Datin Punitha Kandiah**, *Head, Group Legal (Corporate), Maybank, Malaysia*

Moderator
Murad Ali b Abdullah, *Chair, Real Estate and Transactions Committee, LAWASIA; Partner, K'Mura & Co*

Session Sponsor
Trowers and Hamlins LLP

Stream C
Corporate and Commercial Law

The Cross-Border Insolvency Act 2026 and Its Effects on Core Principles in Debt Recovery and Corporate Restructuring

This session examines the shift in Malaysia's legal landscape following the enactment of the Cross-Border Insolvency Act 2026, which adopts the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency. The panellists will explore how core principles of debt recovery and corporate restructuring are likely to operate in a cross-border context, the emerging tensions between universality and local creditor protection, and the practical approaches practitioners should adopt, drawing on lessons from other Model Law jurisdictions.

Speakers
(1) **Suhendran Sockanathan @ Saheran Abdullah**, *Former Judicial Commissioner, High Court of Malaya; Consultant, Christopher & Lee Ong*
(2) **Lee Shih**, *Managing Partner, Lim Chee Wee Partnership*
(3) **Sim Kwan Kiat**, *Partner, Restructuring and Insolvency; Deputy Head, Dispute Resolution Group, Rajah & Tann Asia, Singapore*
(4) **Alex Chiang**, *Managing Partner, Rodgers Reidy & Co, Malaysia*

Moderator
Robert C C Low, *Partner, Robert Low & Ooi*

17:00 – 17:30 Networking Coffee / Tea Break

17:30 – 18:15 7th Raja Aziz Addruse Memorial Lecture | The Basic Structure Doctrine

Speaker
Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman (Rtd), *Former Judge, Supreme Court of India (2014–2021); Former Solicitor General of India (2011–2013)*

Moderator
Dato' Dr Cyrus Das, *Past President, Malaysian Bar (1997–1999); Partner, Cyrus Das*

DAY 2 | 29 Oct 2026 (Thursday)

08:00 – 09:00 Delegate Pre-Registration

09:00 – 10:30 Plenary Session 1 | The Judiciary and the Defence of the Constitution and Human Rights

Sponsored by the Hong Kong Bar Association

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Dato' Mohd Nazlan b Mohd Ghazali**, *Judge, Federal Court of Malaysia*
(2) **The Honourable Geoffrey Ma GBM KC SC**, *Former Chief Justice, Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal*
(3) **Sir Tim Eicke KCMG KC**, *Former Judge, European Court of Human Rights, United Kingdom*
(4) **The Honourable Justice Shane Doyle**, *Judge, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Queensland, Australia*

Moderator
Dato' Mah Weng Kwai, *Former Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia; Past President, Malaysian Bar (2001–2003); Consultant, Mah Weng Kwai & Associates*

A central function of the Judiciary is its role as the guardian of the Federal Constitution, the principle of constitutionalism and human rights. This function of the Judiciary has become all the more important amid the constant change and shifting norms across multiple facets of society. This session will examine the role of the Judiciary in the context of recent developments and court decisions, as well as those of the other arms of Government. These matters will be considered from the perspectives of sitting and former holders of high judicial office.

10:30 – 10:50 Special Address | His Excellency Tan Sri Dato' Dr Johari Abdul, *Speaker, House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia*

10:50 – 11:00 Networking Coffee / Tea Break

11:00 – 12:15 Breakout Session 5

Stream A
Law and Society

Social Protection in a Changing Labour Market

The labour market is evolving with the increasingly pervasive gig economy and the growing prevalence of remote working arrangements. This has brought into focus the position of the core principle of universal social protection in the context of the changing employer-employee relationship. This session seeks to address matters such as the Gig Workers Bill 2025, universalisation of protection through measures such as the i-Saraan Plus scheme and the implications of mandatory Social Security Organisation ("SOCSO") contributions for gig workers, and how social protection in the platform economy extends beyond conventional income and welfare protections to encompass algorithmic fairness and transparency.

Speakers
(1) **Dato' Sri Dr Mohammed Azman b Aziz Mohammed**, *Group Chief Executive Officer, Social Security Organisation (or PERKESO), Malaysia*
(2) **Sarah Yong Li Hsien**, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council AI, Cyberlaw and Data Protection Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Sarah Yong & Co*
(3) **Janice Anne Leo**, *Partner, Steven Thiru*

Moderator
Karthigesan Shanmugam, *Member, Bar Council; Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Industrial and Employment Law Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Karthig Shan*

Session Sponsor
Luminate

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

Artificial Intelligence and the Lawyer: Will We Be Replaced?

Various AI tools are now embedded in multiple facets of legal practice. In many respects, these AI tools could be said to outperform the human contribution. However, many in the profession adopt the view that there are countless aspects of legal practice that can never be supplanted by technology. This session will address the now often-asked question: will lawyers be replaced?

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice David Goddard KC**, *International Judge, Supreme Court of Singapore, Singapore International Commercial Court; Former Judge, Court of Appeal of New Zealand (2019–2025)*
(2) **Mark Dempsey SC**, *Arbitrator, Mediator and Expert Determiner and Facilitator, Australia*
(3) **Sathish Ramachandran**, *Partner, Deol & Gill*

Moderator
Fadhil Ihsan (Dale), *Member, Bar Council; Partner, Azwad Ihsan & Co*

Stream C
Corporate and Commercial Law

Balancing Technological Innovation with Core Principles in Malaysia's Capital Markets

This session addresses the developments in regulatory approaches in view of technological advancements and the increased demand for efficient regulatory approvals in the capital market. The panellists will discuss the recent Practice Note issued by the Securities Commission allowing licensed stockbrokers to offer broking services for digital assets and the aspired shift in focus towards increasing market capital through more listings. The session will also discuss the need to maintain due diligence, investor protection and client asset protection.

Speakers
(1) **Wong Sue Wan**, *Partner, Wong & Partners*
(2) **Jeff Leong Pak Lim**, *Senior Partner, Jeff Leong Poon & Wong*
(3) **Aina Zahari**, *Director, Group Strategy, Bursa Malaysia*
(4) **Dr Wong Huei Ching**, *Executive Director, Digital Strategy and Innovation, Securities Commission, Malaysia*

Moderator
Philip Koh, *Senior Partner, Mah-Kamariyah & Philip Koh*

12:15 – 13:15 Networking Lunch
Sponsored by KWSP

13:15 – 14:30 Breakout Session 6

Stream A
Law and Society

The Redelineation of Electoral Boundaries and Equal Representation in Electoral Constituencies

This session addresses the core principle of equal representation and the legal challenges of malapportionment in electoral boundaries. The panellists will examine the potential redelineation exercise for Peninsular Malaysia and the considerations that arise in conducting such an exercise. The presentations will also examine the applicable law relating to the redelineation exercise.

Speakers
(1) **Dr Azmi Sharom**, *Deputy Chairperson, Election Commission, Malaysia*
(2) **Wong Chen**, *Former Member of Parliament, Malaysia*
(3) **Professor Wong Chin Huat**, *Deputy Head (Strategy), United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network ("SDSN") Asia Headquarters, Sunway University, Malaysia*
(4) **Dr Bridget Welsh**, *Honorary Research Associate, University of Nottingham Asia Research Institute Malaysia*

Moderator
Abang Iwawan, *Member, Bar Council; Co-Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Constitutional Law and Human Rights Committee; Founding Partner, Abang & Co*

Stream B
Young Lawyers

Moot Court Simulation

This session features a moot court simulation to demonstrate best practices in advocacy to junior lawyers and the wider Bar. The moot problem will relate to the scope of section 233(1)(a) of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 and the right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the Federal Constitution.

Judge
The Honourable Justice Dato' Lee Swee Seng, *Judge, Federal Court of Malaysia*

Advocates
(1) **Dato' Malik Imtiaz Sarwar**, *Founding Partner, Malik Imtiaz Sarwar*
(2) **Ng Jern-Fei KC**, *Foreign Lawyer, Lim Chee Wee Partnership*
(3) **Emily Ho Mei Li**, *Advocate and Solicitor, Lim Chee Wee Partnership*
(4) **Abby Si Xinyi**, *Advocate and Solicitor, Malik Imtiaz Sarwar*

Moderator
Nandhini Devi, *Chairperson, Negeri Sembilan Bar Young Lawyers and Pupils, Continued Legal Education Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Nandhini Devi & Co*

Stream C
Corporate and Commercial Law

The Governance of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Banking

The digital banking industry and its governance structures are in their infancy in Malaysia. This session addresses the balance to be struck between a digital bank's obligation to adhere to traditional fiduciary duties in banking operations and providing modern AI-driven credit scoring and risk management services. The presentations will provide insights from experienced persons in the law, regulatory authorities and the digital banking sector.

Speakers
(1) **Gaythri Raman**, *Managing Director, LexisNexis Southeast Asia and India*
(2) **Harizal Alias**, *Director, Financial Development and Innovation Department, Central Bank of Malaysia*
(3) **Tiu Gi Gyn**, *Head of Legal, Ryt Bank, Malaysia*

Moderator
Richard Wee Thiam Seng, *Managing Partner, Richard Wee Chambers*

Session Sponsor
LexisNexis

14:30 – 15:45 Breakout Session 7

Stream A
Law and Society

Freedom of the Press and Government Licensing of Media Platforms

The recent shift towards greater governmental involvement in the licensing of media platforms has brought into focus the proper role of the Executive in the regulation of the media. This session examines the competing considerations of the State's role in media licensing and the importance of a free press as an institution that ensures accountability of public authorities.

Speakers
(1) **Dr Venkat Iyer**, *Journal Editor, Commonwealth Lawyers Association; Former Law Commissioner for Northern Ireland (2008–2015), United Kingdom*
(2) **Wathshlah Naidu**, *Executive Director, Centre for Independent Journalism*
(3) **Saroj K Ghimire**, *Executive Committee Member, LAWASIA; Managing Partner, Himalayan Lawyers & Associates, Nepal*

Stream B
Young Lawyers

Legal Education in Malaysia: Time for a Standardisation of Entry into the Profession?

There are presently multiple avenues of entry into the legal profession in Malaysia. This has resulted in disparities in standards among new graduates prior to the commencement of legal practice. The long-standing proposal to introduce a common bar course in Malaysia has been perceived as a central antidote to remedy the concern. This session seeks to examine whether a unified entry system has now become imperative to ensure that professional standards are maintained in the profession.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Datin Paduka Evrol Mariette Peters**, *Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia*
(2) **Professor Dr Jason Chuah FRSA SFHEA**, *Former Dean, Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya (2023–2026)*
(3) **Santhi Latha**, *Dean, Rajah & Tann Academy*

Stream C
International Law

Labour Migration, Corporate Accountability and Access to Justice

Labour migration is integral to global economies and supply chains, yet migrant workers continue to face recruitment abuses, wage violations, unsafe working conditions, forced labour and other forms of exploitation. This session will examine how governments, businesses and legal systems can strengthen accountability and access to remedy, including through responsible recruitment, corporate human rights due diligence, supply chain liability, grievance mechanisms and cross-border claims. The session will also explore how the gap between corporate commitments and accountability can be addressed to ensure migrant workers can obtain justice in practice.

Moderator
Andrew Khoo Chin Hock, *Advocate and Solicitor, Andrew Khoo & Daniel Lo*

(4) **Dr Rozilini Mary Fernandez-Chung**, *Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Education, University of Nottingham Malaysia*

Moderator
Dato' Mohamad Ezri Abdul Wahab, *Immediate Past President, Malaysian Bar; Founding Partner, EzriLaw Firm*

15:45 – 16:00 **Networking Coffee / Tea Break**

16:00 – 17:15 **Breakout Session 8**

Stream A
Law and Society

The Government and Higher Educational Institutions: Executive Oversight and Academic Independence

This session looks into the legal and ethical boundaries of ministerial power in the context of higher education in the country. The panellists will examine whether the current model facilitates or impedes the core principle of academic freedom and institutional self-governance, with reference to the current framework that provides for Executive involvement in higher educational matters.

Speakers
(1) **Professor Zaharom Nain**, *Director and Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Business and Economics, Allianz Centre for Governance, Universiti Malaya*
(2) **U K Menon**, *Chief Executive Officer, Espact Education*
(3) **Professor Dr Wan Chang Da**, *Professor, School of Education, Taylor's University*

Moderator
Larissa Ann Louis, *Member, Bar Council; Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Constitutional Law and Human Rights Committee; Partner, Azri, Lee Swee Seng & Co*

Stream B
Young Lawyers

Building a Sustainable Practice in the Current Dynamics of the Legal Profession — Advice to Young Lawyers

Developing a sustainable legal practice can present a challenge to young lawyers today. Technological innovations have accelerated the pace of practice and contributed to the heightened demands of clients and judges. This arises in the context of a highly competitive junior Bar market. This session seeks to provide guidance to young lawyers on building successful practices while upholding the fundamental principles of a practitioner, such as integrity, diligence and fairness.

Speakers
(1) **Karen Cheah Yee Lynn**, *Past President, Malaysian Bar (2022–2024); Partner, Chooi & Company*
(2) **Kokila Vaani Vadiveloo**, *Member, Bar Council; Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Government Affairs Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Kumar Chambers*
(3) **Jonathan Muk**, *Advocate, Nusa Chambers, Singapore*

Moderator
Anishaa Sundramoorthy, *Chairperson, Bar Council National Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Sreenevasan*

Stream C
International Law

The Role of the United Nations in Global Affairs Today

This session will consider whether the current framework of the United Nations is fit for purpose in the current dynamics of world affairs. The panellists will examine whether institutional reforms are required and, if so, the nature of such reforms to enhance the contributions of the organisation to international relations.

Speakers
(1) **Dr Tan Hsien-Li**, *Associate Professor, National University of Singapore; Editor, Asian Journal of International Law*
(2) **Professor Emeritus Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, *Research Advisor, Khazanah Research Institute, Malaysia*
(3) **Professor Chester Brown SC**, *Professor of International Law and International Arbitration, The University of Sydney Law School, Australia; Barrister, 7 Wentworth Selborne Chambers, Sydney, Australia*

Moderator
N G Vinod, *Partner, Law Chambers of Vin Sa & Ian*

19:00 – 22:00 **Celebration Dinner**

DAY 3 | 30 Oct 2026 (Friday)

08:00 – 09:00 Delegate Pre-Registration

09:00 – 10:15 Breakout Session 9

Stream A
Law and Society

Has the Time Come for Local Council Elections in Kuala Lumpur?

This session will examine whether the conditions in Kuala Lumpur have now warranted the reintroduction of local council elections in the city. The panellists will address the possible benefits of doing so, including improvements in democratic accountability and urban governance, as well as potential concerns relating to coordination between local and Federal governments and financial and economic implications. This session will also discuss this topic from the perspective of federalism and other core constitutional principles.

Speakers
(1) **Danesh Prakash Chacko,** *Chairperson, Persatuan Bertindak Pilihan Raya Bebas Dan Saksama*
(2) **Dr Shahridan Faiez**, *Technical Director, Think City Kuala Lumpur*
(3) **The Honourable Datuk Haji Ahmad Amzad b Mohamed @ Hashim**, *Member of Parliament, Malaysia*

Moderator
Dr Saravanabavan Mathialagan, *Member, Bar Council; Co-Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Constitutional Law and Human Rights Committee; Partner, Madhi Param & Co*

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

The Role of Bar Associations and the Future of Core Principles

This session will examine the position of core principles in relation to the legal profession amid evolving landscapes in the legal system and the wider society. The panellists will address the role of Bar associations in this climate and the steps Bar associations could take to maintain institutional mandates and founding obligations. Delegates will hear both local and foreign perspectives on the topic.

Speakers
(1) **Dato Seri Paduka Haji Ahmad b Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa**, *Former Attorney General of Brunei Darussalam (2020–2024); President, The Law Society of Brunei Darussalam*
(2) **Hin Han Shum**, *Council Member and Vice-Chairlady, International Legal Affairs Committee, Law Society of Hong Kong*
(3) **Yap Teong Liang**, *President, LAWASIA; Director, T L Yap Law Chambers LLC, Singapore*

Moderator
Salim Bashir, *Past President, Malaysian Bar (2020–2021); Advocate and Solicitor, Salim Bashir, Ruswiza & Co*

Stream C
International Law

International Trade and Commodities Today: Balancing Economic Security and the Rule of Law

This session will address the current state of international trade and commodities, particularly in view of heightened protectionist measures and the disruptions to the supply of oil to global markets. This session will examine how these developments have affected cross-border transactional dealings and disputes, and the role of the rule of law in the context of such developments.

Speakers
(1) **Lim Koon Huan**, *Partner, Skrine*
(2) **Paul Tan**, *Barrister, One Essex Court, Singapore*
(3) **Mohd Aidil Tupari**, *General Counsel (Custodian), Competition and Trade, Legal Compliance, Group Legal, PETRONAS; Adjunct Professor, Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyyah of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia*
(4) **KC Lye**, *Advocate, Breakpoint LLC, Singapore*

Moderator
Peter-Douglas Ling, *Treasurer, Malaysian Bar; Partner, Peter Ling & Co*

10:15 – 10:30 Networking Coffee / Tea Break

10:30 – 11:45 Breakout Session 10

Stream A
Law and Society

Parliamentary Reform: Ensuring the Dewan Rakyat (House of Representatives) Serves Its Core Constitutional Functions

This session will discuss the measures that ought to be implemented to ensure the Lower House of Parliament serves its core constitutional function of legislative scrutiny. The speakers will explore possible institutional reforms such as, amongst others, the empowering of select committees and the incorporation of further pre-legislative scrutiny procedures to facilitate bipartisan consultation before the formal tabling of bills.

Speakers
(1) **Tan Sri Dato Mohamad Ariff b Md Yusof**, *Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia; Former Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia; Consultant, Cheang & Ariff*

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

What Judges Want

This session explores the expectations of judges in the contemporary age of advocacy, where judicial time is at a premium and numerous technologies are at the disposal of counsel and the Bench. The panellists will address the topic from the perspectives of judges at all levels of court and experienced counsel.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Dato' Seri Vazeer Alam b Mydin Meera**, *Judge, Federal Court of Malaysia*
(2) **The Honourable Justice Datuk Wong Kian Kheong**, *Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia*
(3) **The Honourable Justice Dato' Kenneth Yoong Ken Chinson St James**, *Judge, High Court of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur) (NCVC 10)*

Stream C
Corporate and Commercial Law

Regulatory Compliance for Businesses: Best Practices in Audits and Investigations by Regulators

Rapid changes and increased enforcement are leaving businesses constantly challenged to navigate new regulations whilst upholding core ethical and operational principles. This session will explore how organisations can navigate audits and investigations while preserving the principles of transparency, accountability and integrity. The presentations will be delivered from the perspective of regulators and senior figures in the law.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Dato' Anand Ponnudurai**, *Judge, High Court of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur) (NCVC 1)*
(2) **Mohamed Sufyan Mohd Mokhtar**, *Director, Regulatory Development and Services Division, Companies Commission of Malaysia*

(2) **The Honourable William Leong Jee Keen**, *Member of Parliament, Malaysia*
(3) **Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad**, *Former Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability; Former Member of Parliament, Malaysia*

Moderator
Sonya Liew Yee Aun, *Co-Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Constitutional Law and Human Rights Committee; Advocate and Solicitor, Y A Liew & Partners*

(4) **Lavinia Kumaraendran**, *Chairperson, Bar Council Advocacy Training Committee; Partner, Lavania & Balan Chambers*

Moderator
Brendan Navin Siva, *Former Chairman, International Advocacy Training Council, Hong Kong; Advocate and Solicitor, Brendan Siva*

(3) **Andrew Chiew Ean Vooi**, *Partner, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill*

Moderator
Wong Keat Ching, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Industrial and Employment Law Committee; Partner, Zul Rafique & Partners*

11:45 – 13:00 **Breakout Session 11**

Stream A
Law and Society

Automated Decision-Making in Government and the Protection of Administrative Law Principles

This session will address the position of core administrative law principles in the move towards greater automation in government decision-making. A shift towards automated systems may test central public law principles, particularly the rules relating to the delegation of authority and the principles against the fettering of discretion and mechanical decision-making by public authorities.

Speakers
(1) **Datuk Brenndon Keith Soh**, *Sabah State Attorney-General*
(2) **Steven Rares KC**, *Former Judge, Federal Court of Australia (2006–2023)*
(3) **Andrew Butler KC**, *Thorndon Chambers, Wellington, New Zealand*

Moderator
Abraham Au Tian Hui, *Partner, G S Nijar & Associates*

Stream B
Legal Profession and Professional Practice

Has the Time Come for Mandatory Mediation in Disputes?

Recent developments in mediation-related laws have heightened the significance of mediation in the region. With the current increased case load in the courts, a system that introduces the mandatory mediation of disputes could well be seen to be an attractive form of dispute resolution. This session will address the position of mediation in the legal profession today, with a particular focus on the need to preserve the core principle of party autonomy in the dispute resolution process.

Speakers
(1) **The Honourable Justice Dato' Lim Chong Fong**, *Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia*
(2) **Tan Sri Nallini Pathmanathan**, *Former Judge, Federal Court of Malaysia; Chairperson, Malaysian Media Council; Judge, Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre*
(3) **Datuk S Nantha Balan**, *Former Judge, Court of Appeal of Malaysia; Consultant, Adnan Sundra & Low*
(4) **Andrew Butler KC**, *Barrister, Tanfield Chambers, United Kingdom*

Moderator
Murshidah Mustafa, *Vice-President, Malaysian Bar; Partner, Fariz Halim & Co*

Stream C
International Law

New Geopolitical Alliances and the Traditional Rules-Based Order

This session explores how the shifting geopolitical alliances today challenge the core principles of international legal norms, including multilateralism and sovereign equality. The panellists will address how recent trade and foreign policies of countries have resulted in the formation of new alliances between nations and the role of international institutions in the context of such shifting geopolitical relations. The presentations will, in particular, examine the state of the traditional rules-based order in the light of contemporary global politics.

Speakers
(1) **Tan Sri Datuk Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria**, *Former Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat (2019–2024); Former Secretary General, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry Malaysia (2010–2016)*
(2) **Dr Ong Kian Ming**, *Former Deputy Minister, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry Malaysia (2018–2020)*
(3) **Toby Landau KC**, *Member, Duxton Hill Chambers (London) and Duxton Hill Chambers (Singapore Group Practice)*
(4) **His Excellency Ajay Sharma CMG**, *British High Commissioner to Malaysia, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur*

Moderator
Desmond Ho Chee Cheong, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council International Affairs Committee; Partner, Richard Wee Chambers*

13:00 – 14:30 **Networking Lunch**

14:30 – 16:00 **Plenary Session 2 | 69 Years from Independence: How Have We Fared in Maintaining Our Founding Principles?**

Speakers
(1) **Tan Sri Tommy Thomas**, *Former Attorney General of Malaysia (2018–2020); Consultant, Tommy Thomas*
(2) **Dato' Dr Gurdial Singh Nijar**, *Former Professor, Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya; Past President, National Human Rights Society ("HAKAM"); Partner, G S Nijar & Associates*
(3) **Dr Tricia Yeoh**, *Director of the Asian Institute for Policy and Engagement, University of Nottingham Malaysia's School of Politics*
(4) **Tuan Zulkifli b Hashim**, *Director General, Department of National Unity and Integration, Malaysia*

Moderator
Dato' Lim Chee Wee, *Past President, Malaysian Bar (2011–2013); Senior Partner, Lim Chee Wee Partnership*

Malaysia was founded on certain fundamental principles when it gained independence. Those principles served to instil certain values in our multicultural context, enabling the country to thrive and prosper as a cohesive society. Since gaining independence, those foundational principles have been tested time and again. This session will feature insights from senior figures in the law, Government and academia to assess how the country has fared in maintaining its founding values 69 years after independence.

16:00 – 17:30 **Plenary Session 3 | The Future of Democracy and Human Rights in Malaysia**

Speakers
(1) **Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli**, *Former Minister of Economy and Former Member of Parliament, Malaysia*
(2) **Sangeet Kaur Deo d/o Karpal Singh**, *Partner, Karpal Singh & Co*

More speakers to be announced

Moderator
Anand Raj, *President, Malaysian Bar*

This session examines what lies ahead for the principles of democracy and fundamental liberties in Malaysia in the current age of shifting political dynamics, evolving socio-economic challenges and rapid technological advancements. Panellists will address how Malaysia's democratic institutions are likely to respond and adapt to current realities in seeking to uphold core principles such as the rule of law, the separation of powers, judicial independence and human rights. A key focus of the session will be a robust review of the current state of civic space in the country in the context of the applicable laws and legislative initiatives. These topics will be addressed by current and former senior and experienced members of the Government and the legislature.

17:30 – 17:40 **Closing Remarks**
by **Marisa Regina**, *Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council International Malaysia Law Conference 2026 Organising Committee*

17:40 – 18:00 **Networking Coffee / Tea Break**

19:00 – 21:00 **Conference Sporting Event: Pickleball Social**
Sponsored by Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill