

**Embargoed till after delivery of the Honourable the Chief Justice's  
Keynote Address on 9 Mar 2012**



**SUBORDINATE COURTS MEDIA RELEASE**

**SUBORDINATE COURTS 21<sup>st</sup> WORKPLAN 2012/2013**

1 This morning, The Honourable the Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong (“CJ”) delivered the Keynote Address at the Subordinate Courts Workplan 2012/2013 Seminar. The event, held at the Subordinate Courts Auditorium, was attended by the Subordinate Courts’ Bench, Court Administrators and invited guests.

2 In CJ’s Keynote Address, His Honour shared that the Subordinate Courts, to be an efficient and effective judiciary that can deliver justice to the public, must continually re-assess the quality of their services for any shortcomings and come up with innovative solutions to tackle them.

3 Accordingly, in the Keynote Address, CJ outlined the following initiatives for implementation by the Subordinate Courts:

- (a) Establishing the Community Justice Centre in partnership with the community stakeholders to provide greater integration of legal aid and social assistance to litigants-in-person;
- (b) Developing the New Subordinate Courts Complex to better serve present and future generation of court users;
- (c) Implementing the e-Calendar to allow better management of court room resources;

- (d) Introducing the Sentencing Information and Research Repository to improve sentencing practice and strengthen sentencing jurisprudence;
- (e) Publishing case studies on preventable deaths to minimise such incidents of death;
- (f) Screening for gambling and alcohol addiction at Maintenance Mediation Chambers to address the root cause of family disputes;
- (g) Having an *amicus curiae* (“Friend of Court”) for a child whose parents are undergoing a divorce;
- (h) Implementing a weekend duty judge to hear urgent applications involving cross-border custody cases;
- (i) Developing a probate toolkit for litigants-in-person; and
- (j) Introducing the presumption of alternative dispute resolution.

4 With the above, the Subordinate Courts are committed to collaborating with partners and stakeholders to achieve our mission to provide an effective and accessible system of justice, inspiring public trust and confidence.

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*For further information or clarification, please contact:*

*Ms Lim Lay Kim, Assistant Director, Corporate Communications, at 6435 5045 (tel), 9722 6139 (duty mobile) or [lim\\_lay\\_kim@subct.gov.sg](mailto:lim_lay_kim@subct.gov.sg)*

*Ms Michelle Chiang, Senior Deputy Head, Corporate Communications, at 6435 5179 (tel), 9722 6139 (duty mobile) or [michelle\\_chiang@subct.gov.sg](mailto:michelle_chiang@subct.gov.sg)*