



MEDIA RELEASE
COURT VOLUNTEERS' APPRECIATION DINNER 2013

The Subordinate Courts will hold the annual Court Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner on Friday, 8 November 2013, at Furama City Centre Hotel. The Guest-of-Honour at the Dinner is The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon.

2. Court volunteers, comprising members of the Bar, professionals and individuals with diverse backgrounds, university students, as well as community-based organisations, play an important role in the Subordinate Courts' service to the Nation. Through their dedication and commitment to the programmes introduced by the Subordinate Courts, they make a great difference to the lives of parties and court users, as well as play an important role in providing greater access to justice.

3. The annual Court Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner is organised to recognise the sterling contributions of the court volunteers and partner organisations, and as a gesture of appreciation of their continued and dedicated service to the Subordinate Courts. This Dinner also serves as a platform for the volunteers and court staff to forge stronger bonds, and work towards serving society together.

4. About 150 guests, including court volunteers, representatives from partner organisations, and court staff are expected at the dinner. The Honourable the Chief Justice will deliver a keynote address, as well as present the Outstanding Court Volunteer awards. The Chief District Judge See Kee Oon will present the 15-year and 10-year Long Service Court Volunteer awards to recognise volunteers who have lent us their time and continued support over the past 10 to 15 years. Certificates of Appreciation will also be presented to all volunteers and partner organisations.

5. Information about the various volunteer programmes at the Subordinate Courts is available at www.subcourts.gov.sg. Please find attached at the Annex:

- a) A brief write-up on the Outstanding Court Volunteer awards;
- b) Profile of winners of the Outstanding Court Volunteer awards; and

c) Recipients of the 10-year and 15-year Long Service Court Volunteer awards.

6. A copy of The Honourable the Chief Justice's Opening Remarks, embargoed till delivery at 7.10 pm on 8 November 2013, is attached.

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For queries, please contact:

Ms Michelle Chiang
Assistant Director, Corporate Communications
Tel: 6435 5179 / 9722 6139
Email: michelle_chiang@subct.gov.sg

Ms Lim Lay Kim
Senior Assistant Director, Communications
Tel: 6435 5045 / 9722 6139
Email: lim_lay_kim@subct.gov.sg

a) OUTSTANDING COURT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

The Outstanding Court Volunteer Awards aim to give recognition to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication as volunteers with the Subordinate Courts.

2. There are three categories for the Award:

- Advocate and Solicitor Category;
- Open Category; and
- Student Category.

3. Nominees for the Awards in the different categories must have demonstrated sustained and significant involvement in the programmes of the Subordinate Courts for a minimum period of one year.

4. The winners of the 2013 Outstanding Court Volunteer Awards will receive their awards from The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon at the Court Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner, to be held at Furama City Centre Hotel on Friday, 8 November 2013.

b) PROFILE OF WINNERS OF THE OUTSTANDING COURT VOLUNTEERS AWARDS 2013

❖ **Mr Lim Tat**

Outstanding Volunteer: Advocate and Solicitor Category

Mr Lim Tat has been a Volunteer Mediator with the Primary Dispute Resolution Centre (PDRC) since 2009, when the PDRC's volunteer programme first started. In the last four years, Mr Lim has proven to be one of the most frequent and avid mediators. He gives his full commitment to each case he mediates; there have been several occasions when he scheduled a second mediation session at his own time, in order to ensure that the case has greater chances of settlement.

Mr Lim's keen interest in mediation is reflected in his active involvement in other alternative dispute resolution (ADR) initiatives with the Courts. In 2012, The Law Society of Singapore partnered with the Subordinate Courts to organise a seminar publicising the presumption of ADR for civil disputes. Mr Lim spoke at this event to share his perspectives on what it means to be a

mediation advocate. More recently, in a joint collaboration between the Singapore Mediation Centre, Law Society and Subordinate Courts to organise a mediation advocacy workshop for lawyers, Mr Lim contributed by being a trainer in the two-day workshop. In addition, Mr Lim has been invited to be a member of the Working Group on the Simplification of Civil Processes which is chaired by the Chief District Judge of Subordinate Courts.

❖ **Mr Chng Beng Guan**

Outstanding Volunteer: Open Category

Mr Chng Beng Guan is a Justice of the Peace who has volunteered as a Mediator at both the Subordinate Courts' Crime Registry and the Family and Juvenile Justice Division's Maintenance Mediation Centre since 2005.

Mr Chng is absolute and just; following the rules of the Court closely. He gets the parties to view the complaint or issue from different perspectives, which is useful in facilitating a settlement. The success rate of the cases mediated by Mr Chng is relatively high.

Approachable and friendly, Mr Chng always displays enthusiasm in trying to mediate conflicts between parties, often arrives early for his sessions and attempts to finish each case on time.

Mr Chng has dedicated half his career to community service. Professionally, he is a Managing Director of an architect firm. He volunteers with many organisations, including the Strata Titles Board. An active member with the grassroots club in his constituency, he received an award in 2011 from the then Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports for his dedication to 30 years of community service. Mr Chng is also Chairman of the Tampines Town Council. He has received the Public Service Star Award from the President of the Republic of Singapore.

❖ **Ms Laura Eng Sing Joo**

Outstanding Volunteer: Student Category

Ms Laura Eng volunteers with the Community Justice Centre (CJC)¹ as:

- Court Facilitator in the Family Court
- Court Facilitator in the Criminal Mentions Court (Court 23)

Ms Eng's duties as a Court Facilitator at both the Family Court and the Criminal Mentions Court (Court 23) include guiding litigants-in-person (LIPs)

¹ The Community Justice Centre is an independent charity with IPC (Institute of Public Character) status conferred. It is established in 2012 by the Ministry of Social and Family Development, Ministry of Law, Subordinate Courts, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, and The Law Society of Singapore to provide litigants-in-person (LIPs) with access to the justice system and to help LIPs to resolve any social issues that they may face. For more information, please visit www.cjc.org.sg

on the court procedures and processes and ensuring that their paperwork is in order before a hearing. Armed with a positive attitude and readiness to help others, Ms Eng also provided a ready ear to those who needed to ventilate.

Ms Eng has shown keen interest in assisting the court users as well as actively participating in the CJC's activities and programmes; she assists to develop a training kit for future Court Facilitators.

Ms Eng's contribution to society and willingness to take on additional tasks are truly commendable and will make the future generation proud.

c) **LONG SERVICE COURT VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

The Long Service Court Volunteer awards are introduced to recognise the time and continued support of the court volunteers. There are two categories of this award: 15-year and 10-year Long Service Court Volunteer awards. The 2013 Long Service Court Volunteer award recipients are:

❖ **15-year Long Service Court Volunteers**

S/No	Name	Role
1	Mr Lim Kok Eng	Volunteer Mediator at the Small Claims Tribunals

❖ **10-year Long Service Court Volunteers**

S/No	Name	Role
1	Ms Annie Seah	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
2	Ms Chow Yin Mei	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
3	Mr Hassan Mahmud	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
4	Ms Jocelyn Bay	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
5	Mr Mastan Marican	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
6	Mr Shaik Maideen Abdul Rahman	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
7	Mr Shikandar Mydin	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
8	Ms Asiah Zam Zam	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
9	Mr Jafar Bin Fakir Malim	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance

S/No	Name	Role
		Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
10	Mr Mohamed Esmail Marican	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
11	Ms Sophie Marican	Volunteer Mediator at Maintenance Mediation Chambers, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
12	The Singapore Buddhist Lodge	Partner for Project HOPE, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
13	PAVe - Centre for Promoting Alternatives to Violence	Partner for video-link Personal Protection Order applications, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
14	TRANS Safe Centre	Partner for video-link Personal Protection Order applications, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
15	As-Salaam PPIS Family Support Centre	Partner for As Salaam Informational Talk, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
16	Care Corner Singapore Ltd	Partner for Project Heart, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
17	Eagles Mediation and Counselling Centre	Partner for Project Heart, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
18	Fei Yue Family Service Centre	Partner for Project Heart, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
19	Wesley Counselling Centre	Partner for Project Heart, Family & Juvenile Justice Division
20	National Addictions Management Service	Partner for Project SAVE, Family & Juvenile Justice Division