

**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF
THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

[2022] SGHC 93

Admission of Advocates and Solicitors No 14 of 2022

In the matter of Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act 1966

And

In the matter of Rule 25 of the Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2011

Monisha Devaraj

... Applicant

AND

Admission of Advocates and Solicitors No 22 of 2022

In the matter of Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act 1966

And

In the matter of Rule 25 of the Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2011

Kushal Atul Shah

... Applicant

AND

Admission of Advocates and Solicitors No 23 of 2022

In the matter of Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act 1966

And

In the matter of Rule 25 of the Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2011

Sreeraam Ravenderan

... Applicant

AND

Admission of Advocates and Solicitors No 27 of 2022

In the matter of Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act 1966

And

In the matter of Rule 25 of the Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2011

Kuek Yi Ting, Lynn

... Applicant

AND

Admission of Advocates and Solicitors No 29 of 2022

In the matter of Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act 1966

And

In the matter of Rule 25 of the Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2011

Chow Jun Feng, Matthew

... Applicant

AND

Admission of Advocates and Solicitors No 30 of 2022

In the matter of Section 12 of the Legal Profession Act 1966

And

In the matter of Rule 25 of the Legal Profession (Admission) Rules 2011

Wong Choong Yoong, Lionel

... Applicant

EX TEMPORE JUDGMENT

[Legal Profession — Admission]

This judgment is subject to final editorial corrections approved by the court and/or redaction pursuant to the publisher's duty in compliance with the law, for publication in LawNet and/or the Singapore Law Reports.

Re Monisha Devaraj and other matters

[2022] SGHC 93

General Division of the High Court — Admission of Advocates and Solicitors
Nos 14, 22, 23, 27, 29 and 30 of 2022

Choo Han Teck J

27 April 2022

27 April 2022.

Choo Han Teck J:

1 The tremendous public interest in the applicants' identities seems to have been borne by a mix of curiosity, indignation, as well as sympathy. But strong sentiments may sometimes interfere with the proper understanding of the idea of second chances. We know that there are different kinds of people where second chances are concerned — those who believe in them, and those who don't. And there are those who need them, and those who give them. And in between, there is a vast stretch in which we can debate to no end as to who is deserving and who is not.

2 Coming to this instance — sometimes, redemption cannot be claimed behind the mask of anonymity, but by baring one's face and looking everyone in the eye, to see which kind of persons one confronts. Facing them in this way, one develops the character of fortitude that the path forward requires. Sometimes one might see an unforgiving face, but, I believe, more often than not, it will be a face that says, "Get up and try again; you can get it right".

3 Initially I believed that redacting the names of the applicants would let them to go about the process of recovery quietly and uneventfully, but I am now of the view that it is better to face the publicity than to hide from it. For these, and the reasons advanced by Mr Jeyendran and counsel's submissions, I am allowing the AG's application to rescind the redaction and sealing orders.

4 It leaves me to make one more point. Having concluded its responsibilities thus far, the Law Society has a new responsibility of helping the applicants involved in this episode. And I am sure there are many members of the Law Society who are ready to lend a hand.

- Sgd -
Choo Han Teck
Judge of the High Court

Jeyendran Jeyapal, Rebecca Soh and Lim Toh Han (Attorney-General's Chambers) for Attorney-General;
Davis Tan Yong Chuan (Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP), Chia Boon Teck (Chia Wong Chambers LLC) and Andrew Chua Ruiming (Drew & Napier LLC) for Law Society of Singapore;
Avery Chong for Singapore Institute of Legal Education;
Lalita Chelliah (Mathew Chew & Chelliah) for applicants in AAS 14, 22, 23, 29 and 30 of 2022;
Cheryl Ng (Trident Law Corporation) for applicant in AAS 27 of 2022.