

MINLAW NEWS ROUNDUP

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LEGAL

Singapore's Oon & Bazul adds dispute resolution partner

Singapore's Oon & Bazul has hired Benedict Eoon as a partner. He was most recently an associate director at local boutique Covenant Chambers. Eoon focuses on commercial litigation, arbitration, white-collar crime and investigations. Before moving to Covenant, he was an associate director at Singapore Big Four law firm Drew & Napier.

1. [Singapore's Oon & Bazul adds dispute resolution partner](#) – Asian Legal Business (2 Sep)

Ogier's corporate administration business set to open SG office

Offshore law firm Ogier's corporate administration business, Ogier Global, is set to open a Singapore office with the appointment of Mei Luo and Connie Chan as associate directors. Luo and Chan have a combined 35 years of experience supporting asset managers, institutional clients and corporates with their governance, corporate administration and regulatory, and compliance needs.

1. [Ogier's corporate administration business set to open SG office](#) – Asian Legal Business (2 Sep)

SG: KWM nabs HSF private capital head

King & Wood Mallesons (KWM) has added M&A expert Nicola Yeomans as a partner in Singapore from Herbert Smith Freehills, where she led the firm's Asia private capital practice. Yeomans, who joined the legacy Herbert Smith in Sydney 2009, relocated to Singapore in 2013. She focuses on private equity, asset management, pensions and sovereign wealth fund matters. The Anglo-Australian firm KWM now has nine partners in Singapore. In March, it hired disputes specialist Amanda Lees as a partner from Simmons & Simmons.

1. [SG: KWM nabs HSF private capital head](#) – Asian Legal Business (2 Sep)

Woman jailed six weeks for threatening mum with knife

Chua Hui Shan, a 35-year-old woman, was sentenced to six weeks' jail on 1 September after pleading guilty to one charge of criminal intimidation. She threatened her 71-year-old mother with a knife and took pictures to coerce her supervisor to lend her \$50. ST pointed out that Chua worked as a cashier at Sheng Siong supermarket in Chin Swee Road and owed money to unlicensed moneylenders. A second charge under the Protection from Harassment Act was taken into consideration for sentencing.

1. [Woman jailed six weeks for threatening mum with knife](#) – ST (pB3)
2. [Female cashier holds mum hostage with a knife and threatens supervisor to borrow \\$50](#) – SMDN (2 Sep, p3)
3. [35-year-old woman sentenced to 6 weeks of jailed for threatening her supervisor by holding mum at knifepoint to borrow \\$50](#) – WB (2 Sep, p5)

Man pleads guilty to harassing bus driver with vulgarities

Nimal de Silva pleaded guilty on 1 September to a harassment charge after he tried to board service 196 at Nicoll Highway wearing a gaiter on 19 August. SBS driver Xu Bo, a Chinese national, refused him entry as he was unsure if the gaiter was compliant with SBS Transit's mask-on policy. Deputy Public Prosecutor Chea Wenjie also said that Xu tried to clarify the issue with the SBS operation centre. De Silva proceeded to enter the bus and then started a Facebook livestream, hurling vulgar language and racially charged insults at Xu. A bus passenger tried to step in and give De Silva a mask but the latter refused. Xu could not continue to operate the bus and the passengers had to alight and transfer to another service.

1. [Man pleads guilty to harassing bus driver with vulgarities](#) – ST (pB4)
2. [Man pleaded guilty for clashing with bus captain after being refused from boarding the bus for not putting his mask on properly](#) – WB (2 Sep, p6)
3. [Bus driver was distracted by the passenger](#) – TM (p4)

Unhappy with getting a fine for smoking, man humiliates inspector

A 69-year-old man was sentenced to two weeks' jail and fined \$2,000 after pleading guilty to the abuse of civil servants and the violation of Protection from Harassment Act. He was accused of being violent and hurling racially discriminatory verbal abuse towards two civil servants when they issued a fine to him for smoking under a sheltered area on 22 November 2020 at Senja Road's carpark. The Court sentenced him to the said punishment despite minimal physical injury to the victims.

1. [Unhappy with getting a fine for smoking, man humiliates inspector](#) – SMDN (2 Sep, p8)
2. [Man fined for racially discriminating two officers when they fined him](#) – WB (2 Sep, p3)

[Commentary] Don't let pornography become your child's default sex educator

ST published a commentary from Shailey Hingorani, head of research and advocacy at Aware, on what determines the relative openness and comfort with conversations about sexuality. She said that it's hard to pinpoint any one determining factor, but experts believe that children's attitudes towards sex are shaped at an early age by parents, peer groups, teachers, media and social media and pornography. In Singapore, nine in 10 boys between the ages of 13 and 15 years have watched or read sexually explicit materials, according to a 2016 survey by Touch Cyber Wellness. Some surveyed children were exposed to pornography even before they started primary school. Parents at a virtual dialogue hosted this year by the Ministry of Education expressed concern about the easy accessibility of pornography online and suggested that more can be done to regulate such content. The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) maintains a symbolic ban on a list of 100 websites, most of which are pornographic in nature. The ban is considered symbolic as it is intended to communicate the Government's disapproval of pornography and to prevent young children from accidentally accessing these sites, not to comprehensively ban all pornographic websites available in Singapore. Of course, the proliferation of virtual private networks (VPN) has meant that any such ban, symbolic or not, is easy to sidestep. Hingorani noted that many parents they meet through Birds & Bees – an Association of Women for Action and Research (Aware) programme designed to help parents initiate and sustain conversations with their children about sex, consent and respect – have told them about the range of filters and parental controls they use to completely block their children's access to pornography. A study analysing one of the most comprehensive porn literacy programmes (titled The Truth About Pornography: A

Pornography-Literacy Curriculum For High School Students Designed To Reduce Sexual And Dating Violence) found that students were less likely to see pornography as lucrative, realistic or a good way to learn about sex after taking the class. They also had a better understanding of the legality of underage individuals sending nude selfies.

1. [\[Commentary\] Don't let pornography become your child's default sex educator](#) – ST (pA21)

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INSOLVENCY

Bound to 'dead' projects, construction firms struggle to clear unprofitable work; poaching of workers a 'serious problem'

Construction firm CHH Construction System, has been working solely on projects that are netting the building firm at least a 15 to 20 per cent loss each. Its managing director Nelson Tee said that they have projects signed before the pandemic and have to fulfil their contractual commitment. News of two main contractors pulling out of five Build-To-Order (BTO) projects under the Housing and Development Board due to financial troubles have cast a spotlight over the pandemic-struck construction industry, which hires about 115,000 resident workers and accounts for 2.7 per cent of Singapore's economy. Faced with a severe labour shortage and high cost of materials, many contractors said they are bound to work on "dead" projects, knowing full well that they will be suffering huge losses by the end. Despite being among Singapore's oldest builders, established names such as Greatearth Corporation and Greatearth Construction — the two contractors that withdrew from the BTO projects — have gone bust.

Song Seng Wun, an economist at CIMB Private Banking, said that even though the materials and labour costs remained costly throughout the pandemic, the demand for construction work is still high. New firms would also not have to carry the baggage of unprofitable contracts and can price their contracts at an appropriate rate. Professor Sing Tien Foo, director of the Institute of Real Estate and Urban Studies at the National University of Singapore, said that a similar situation is happening in the food-and-beverage sector where companies have been created to capture the increased demand for online orders, despite how badly hit the sector had been. Dr Lee Nai Jia, deputy director of the same research institute, said it is possible that workers of firms that have closed down could have formed their own smaller companies. Insolvency lawyer Lam Zhen Yu from law firm Withers KhattarWong advised construction companies that are in deep financial trouble to seek protection from the courts early. This is to give the firms time to restructure their finances and avoid bankruptcy without creditors taking legal action to claim their debts.

1. [Bound to 'dead' projects, construction firms struggle to clear unprofitable work; poaching of workers a 'serious problem' – TODAY \(2 Sep\)](#)

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Collated by: Amelia Leong

Vetted by: Andrea Goh

Prepared by MinLaw's Corporate Communications Division

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