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MEDIA RELEASE

LAW@CDC 2025 Launches Access to Justice Community Co-Lab to Co-Create Community Legal Solutions

Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC (LAW@CDC) 2025 celebrates Singapore's 60th year of nationhood with a revitalised programme themed "Let's Connect, Contribute and Care for our Community". A collaboration of over a decade between the five Community Development Councils (CDCs) and Pro Bono SG (PBSG), this flagship initiative continues its mission to make legal knowledge accessible and relevant. LAW@CDC highlights the CDCs' commitment to building Learning and Inclusive communities while supporting the national agenda on Access to Justice, a key pillar of Singapore's Rule of Law.

2 The programme was launched on Saturday, 20 September 2025, at Bidadari Community Club by Minister Edwin Tong, Minister for Law, Second Minister for Home Affairs, and Deputy Chairman of the People's Association, together with the Mayors and representative of the CDCs—Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry & Culture, Community and Youth, Chairman of the Mayors' Committee, and Mayor of South West District; Mr Baey Yam Keng, Mayor of North East District; Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District; Mr Alex Yam, Mayor of North West District; and Ms Tin Pei Ling, Vice Chairman of South East CDC.

3 New in 2025, LAW@CDC launches the *Access to Justice Community Co-Lab*, a platform to co-create innovative solutions that addresses community needs in legal awareness. The Access to Justice Community Co-Lab brings together students from Singapore's three Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) — National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore Management University (SMU), and Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) — with members of the wider legal fraternity.

4 The Co-Lab gives students the opportunity to work directly on community challenges, developing practical solutions that enhance legal literacy and improve access to justice. Solutions can take many forms — from technology-based initiatives to physical engagement programmes — to encourage creativity and flexible approaches to meeting community needs.

5 Open to current students from various faculties, including law and social work, the Co-Lab will involve teams of four, each guided by an experienced legal mentor. Participants will move through several stages — learning journeys to understand community needs, ideation and prototyping, and finally showcasing their solutions at LAW@CDC 2026.

6 Since its inception in 2015, LAW@CDC has reached almost 18,000 participants through over 370 legal talks and webinars by PBSG's lawyers and volunteers, equipping residents with essential legal knowledge to tackle daily challenges with confidence. Covering issues from neighbour disputes and family matters to advance legal planning, LAW@CDC has made legal knowledge accessible, fostering stronger, more resilient communities.

7 The strength of LAW@CDC lies in its robust network of partnerships spanning the legal profession and community sector, including PBSG, three Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) such as the NUS, SMU, SUSS, alongside with professional bodies such as the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA), and Singapore Association of Social Workers (SASW).

8 Over the past decade, LAW@CDC has engaged more than 350 passionate lawyers and volunteers to step beyond their traditional roles to become educators and advocates for community empowerment. Through Community Legal Clinics and other initiatives spearheaded by PBSG, volunteer lawyers have demystified complex legal concepts and supported residents in addressing their legal needs. Beyond legal volunteers, the CDCs have activated a broad network of volunteers from various sectors, harnessing their time, talent, and resources to uplift communities. By engaging extensively with public, private, and people sectors through 3P partnerships, the CDCs effectively mobilise and connect volunteers where they are needed most, strengthening community support and fostering a culture of giving back.

9 At the launch, Minister Tong delivered an insightful speech on the evolution of Singapore's Rule of Law. He was joined by Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng, Mayor of Central Singapore District, and Mr Dinesh Dhillon, Chairman of PBSG, who also shared their perspectives in their addresses on the role of

CDCs in addressing community needs by connecting them with legal resources and the legal fraternity's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities respectively.

10 Mr Alex Yeo, Grassroots Adviser to Potong Pasir Grassroots Organisations, also kicked off the inaugural Community Law talk for residents on Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), Wills and End of Life Matters after the launch event.

11 From 22 September to 30 October 2025, residents can look forward to a rich line-up of legal talks conducted in person and online. Volunteer lawyers and experts will cover topics such as neighbour relations, workplace rights and inclusion, digital responsibility, protections against family violence and online harassment, community action tools, animal welfare, and scam prevention. Residents are encouraged to register early at go.gov.sg/LAW-CDC to participate and empower themselves with relevant legal knowledge.

12 Quotes from Mayors, key partners, and volunteers can be found in Annex A. Interviews with partners and volunteer lawyers are available upon request.

Annexes

Annex A: Quotes from Mayors, Key Partners, and Volunteers

Annex B: List of Webinar Topics

Annex C: Glossary and Translation of Key Terms

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Annex A

Quotes from Mayors

Ms Low Yen Ling (Chinese: 刘燕玲女士)

Mayor of South West District, Chairman of Mayors' Committee

"Over the past decade, LAW@CDC has empowered almost 18,000 residents with practical legal knowledge through community talks and outreach programmes. As we celebrate SG60 this year, the theme of 'Connect, Contribute and Care for our Community' encapsulates the spirit of how accessible legal education can connect communities and uplift lives. We are grateful for the collective efforts of our partners in making this possible. With new initiatives like the Access to Justice Community Co-Lab, we look forward to engaging the community in co-creating practical solutions for real community challenges. I encourage residents to participate and discover how legal knowledge can empower lives and foster strong communities, contributing to a resilient and informed society in Singapore."

Mr Baey Yam Keng (Chinese: 马炎庆先生)

Mayor of North East District

"As we celebrate SG60, the new Access to Justice Community Co-Lab marks an important step forward for LAW@CDC – moving beyond awareness to co-creating practical solutions. This collaborative spirit reflects the collective values we hope to nurture as Singaporeans. I encourage residents to participate and strengthen our legal literacy to build an informed and empowered community."

Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash (Chinese: 迪内希先生)

Mayor of South East District

"Every Singaporean deserves access to legal knowledge in their daily life, not just within courtrooms. We are happy to bring LAW@CDC to the community and work with our partners such as Pro Bono SG, to empower residents with essential legal knowledge to make informed decisions and safeguard their rights."

Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng (Chinese: 潘丽萍女士)
Mayor of Central Singapore District

“LAW@CDC 2025 reflects our shared journey of honouring the past, treasuring the present, and shaping a hopeful future, as Singapore marks its 60th birthday. This initiative makes legal support more accessible for residents, empowering residents with practical legal knowledge.

I thank the pro bono lawyers and volunteers who, like the proverbial ‘Giraffes’, stick their necks out and give their time and expertise so generously. Their contribution shows how law can be a tool for inclusion, protection, and justice in everyday life. I encourage more Singaporeans to step forward, learn the law, and use that knowledge to build stronger and fairer communities.”

Mr Alex Yam (Chinese: 任梓銘先生)
Mayor of North West District

“Legal issues affect residents in very real ways. Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC not only brings legal knowledge closer to our community, but ensure that our residents have access to guidance and resources, empowering them to navigate challenges with greater confidence.”

About the Community Development Councils (CDCs)

Since 1997, the CDCs have been bridging communities by strengthening social infrastructure, building social resilience and social capital, and promoting a culture of giving back, through the following ways:

- (a) Aggregator of Needs and Resources
- (b) Builder of Capability / Capacity in Partners and Networks
- (c) Connector of Communities

There are five CDCs, namely, Central Singapore, North East, North West, South East and South West CDCs. Mayors of the Districts are Chairman of the respective CDCs. The Office of the Mayors comprises:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| (a) Ms Low Yen Ling | Chairman of Mayors' Committee & Mayor of South West District |
| (b) Mr Baey Yam Keng | Mayor of North East District |
| (c) Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash | Mayor of South East District |
| (d) Ms Denise Phua Lay Peng | Mayor of Central Singapore District |
| (e) Mr Alex Yam | Mayor of North West District |

For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov.sg and www.pa.gov.sg.

About Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC (LAW@CDC)

Since 2014, the CDCs have partnered with Pro Bono SG (formally known as Law Society Pro Bono Services) to establish the Community Legal Pro Bono Services Network and the annual Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC (LAW@CDC) event which has been held since 2015. LAW@CDC is a nationwide effort to promote awareness and understanding of the law in the community through a series of legal talks for six weeks. The CDCs hoped that through this collaboration, residents would have a platform to know their rights and be empowered when faced with common legal issues.

For more information on the programme, please visit go.gov.sg/law-cdc.

Quote from Pro Bono SG

Mr Dinesh Dhillon, Chairman of Pro Bono SG

“Pro Bono SG is proud to be a longstanding partner of the CDCs in making legal knowledge accessible to residents from all walks of life, and ensuring access to justice for all through initiatives like our Community Legal Clinics. Over the past decade, our lawyers and volunteers have served as educators and advocates in the community, and LAW@CDC has demonstrated the incredible impact that dedicated volunteers can have when they come together to serve. As we mark SG60, the introduction of the Access to Justice Community Co-Lab reflects our shared commitment to deepen this partnership and co-create innovative, people-centred ways to support they community in their legal journeys, strengthening access to justice as a foundation of our nation’s progress.”

Quotes from Institutes of Higher Learning

Professor Andrew Simester, Dean, National University of Singapore Faculty of Law

“At NUS Law, we believe that legal education carries with it a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to society. As Singapore celebrates SG60, this year’s theme of ‘To Connect, Contribute and Care’ resonates strongly with our mission to nurture lawyers who are both legally astute and socially conscious. Our decade-long collaboration with the CDCs exemplifies how sustained partnerships can create real community impact, and we are proud to once again support Law Awareness Weeks @ CDC. Through initiatives such as the ‘Contribute’ webinars on digital safety, planning for the future, and youth offences and bullying, our students not only promote awareness and empower vulnerable individuals with access to justice but also deepen their understanding of their duty as legal professionals to make a positive difference. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the spirit of community care, ensuring that legal awareness strengthens our society for years to come.”

Professor Lee Pey Woan, Dean, Singapore Management University Yong Pung How School of Law

“The theme of this year’s LAW@CDC — Connect, Contribute and Care — is especially meaningful as Singapore marks its 60th year of independence and SMU celebrates its 25th anniversary. Our nation’s progress has been built not

only on sound policies and strong institutions, but also on the spirit of community and mutual responsibility.

From the very start, the Yong Pung How School of Law has advocated a robust pro bono ethos and nurtured this spirit by encouraging our students to connect with the community, contribute their knowledge meaningfully, and show care and empathy for those who may not otherwise have access to legal resources. LAW@CDC provides a valuable platform for our students to live out these values and make an impact, as well as deepen their appreciation of how the law affects people's everyday lives, while preparing them to be responsible lawyers who serve society and our nation."

Professor Leslie Chew SC, Dean, Singapore University of Social Sciences School of Law

"True to the SUSS mission of equipping learners to impact lives, LAW@CDC brings legal knowledge out of the classroom and into the community. This year's programme in conjunction with SG60 celebrations reflects what we value most: applied learning that empowers residents, partnerships that advance access to justice, and a spirit of service that endures. Our School of Law is proud to help shape lawyers who see their profession as a means of doing good for Singapore and beyond."

About Pro Bono SG

Pro Bono SG is a registered charity and Institution of a Public Character (UEN: 201700430E).

Pro Bono SG enables access to justice for the vulnerable and disadvantaged through legal awareness, guidance and representation. Pro Bono SG runs various programmes to (a) serve individuals and community organisations (b) support its volunteers and (c) assist or collaborate on pro bono initiatives with other agencies.

For more information, please visit www.probono.sg.

About National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law

NUS Law is Asia's Global Law School. Widely regarded as the region's leading law school, it sees itself as part of a global conversation about the study and practice of law. Its diverse faculty includes 60 full-time academics together with many adjuncts and visiting professors; its 1,200 undergraduate and postgraduate students include Singapore's top school leavers as well as outstanding scholars from around the globe. The faculty is a major source of research on legal issues affecting Singapore, the region and beyond. NUS Law's alumni who of Singapore's legal community and include leaders in the profession, government ministers, Supreme Court judges, ambassadors, CEOs and many other alumni go on to careers that take them to the heights of the profession around the world. For more information, please visit laws.nus.edu.sg

About Singapore Management University (SMU) Yong Pung How School of Law

SMU's law school was renamed Yong Pung How School of Law (YPHSL) on 11 April 2021 to celebrate and honour the late Dr Yong Pung How, Singapore's former Chief Justice and SMU's third Chancellor.

The law school had proudly welcomed its first cohort of 116 students in August 2007. Taught by a dynamic faculty with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities, the School aims to nurture its students to become excellent lawyers who will contribute significantly to society. Trained with the ability to contextualise legal expertise and to think across disciplines and geographical borders coupled with SMU's interactive pedagogy, SMU's law graduates are confident, articulate and analytically agile.

The School offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Computing & Information Systems or Social Sciences; a three-year Juris Doctor programme; a Master of Laws programme; a PhD programme in Law, Commerce and Technology; as well as continuing legal education. From Academic Year 2020-2021, the School also jointly offers a new Bachelor of Science (Computing & Law) with the SMU School of Computing and Information Systems. This new degree will produce IT and legal professionals who are adept at bridging technology and law.

Research at the SMU YPHSL has a strong focus in three main inter-related areas – Law and Technology, Transnational Commercial law in Asia, and Dispute Resolution. The School has also set up legal research centres focusing on digital law, commercial law, and international dispute resolution.
www.law.smu.edu.sg

About Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)

At SUSS, we have a singular vision to be a university that inspires learning for life and impacts lives, regardless of age, background or life path. Our university is a vibrant tapestry of ages and experiences. From recent JC and polytechnic graduates to seasoned professionals, parents seeking new horizons and individuals redefining their careers in their golden years—our diverse community comes together for one common goal: to empower themselves with an education that impacts lives and society.

We offer over 110 undergraduate and graduate programmes, available in full- and part-time study modes which are flexible, modular and interdisciplinary, catering to both fresh school leavers and adult learners. SUSS also offers a broad range of continuing education and training modular courses for the professional skills upgrading of Singapore's workforce.

Our programmes and courses are offered by our six schools:

- S R Nathan School of Human Development
- School of Business
- School of Humanities & Behavioural Sciences
- School of Law
- School of Science & Technology
- School of Social Work & Social Development

Since becoming an Autonomous University in 2017, over 25,000 graduates have experienced our unique brand of education. More than 19,000 students are currently pursuing their full- and part-time studies with us.

The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL), as part of SUSS, leads in the field of research on adult and workplace learning and training of adult educators to build capabilities of the training and adult education sector in Singapore and beyond.

For more information about SUSS, please visit www.suss.edu.sg

About the Singapore Corporate Counsel Association (SCCA)

The Singapore Corporate Counsel Association Limited (“SCCA”) is the pioneer national organisation representing the interests of in-house lawyers working for companies and other entities based in Singapore. It prides in building reputable regional training programs, leadership and industry conversations, legal counsel career toolkits, competency frameworks encompassing technical knowledge, skills, and the right attitude and character for corporate lawyers. SCCA Pro Bono Chapter aims to encourage volunteerism and the pro bono spirit among the in-house community. For more information, please visit www.scca.org.sg

Annex B

List of Webinar Topics

S/N	Theme	Webinar Title	Date & Time
1	Care	Protect Yourself – How to Spot and Avoid Scams	22 September 2025 (Monday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
2	Connect	Marriage & Divorce – Understanding Your Rights (Civil Law)	24 September 2025 (Wednesday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
3	Connect	Workplace Rights & Responsibilities	25 September 2025 (Thursday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
4	Connect	Neighbours in Dispute – What Are My Legal Options?	26 September 2025 (Friday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
5	Connect	Marriage & Divorce – Understanding Your Rights (Syariah Law)	29 September 2025 (Monday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
6	Contribute	Social Media & the Law – Post with Prudence	1 October 2025 (Wednesday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
7	Connect	Legal Toolkit for Ground-Up Community Action	6 October 2025 (Monday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
8	Contribute	Planning Ahead: Wills, LPAs & End-of-Life Matters (Civil Law)	8 October 2025 (Wednesday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
9	Contribute	Planning Ahead: Wasiat, Hibah & Inheritance Issues (Syariah Law)	13 October 2025 (Monday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
10	Contribute	Cyber Hygiene – Know Your Rights & Responsibilities Online	16 October 2025 (Thursday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
11	Contribute	Youth Offences & Bullying – Legal Guidance for Parents & Educators	22 October 2025 (Wednesday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm

12	Care	Family Violence – Legal Protections & Support	23 October 2025 (Thursday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
13	Care	Online Harassment – What You Can Do	27 October 2025 (Monday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
14	Care	Invisible Disabilities & the Law – Know Your Protections	29 October 2025 (Wednesday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm
15	Care	Animal Welfare Laws – Caring for Our Companions	30 October 2025 (Thursday) 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Annex C

Glossary and Translation of Key Terms

S/N	Key Term	Chinese Translation	Malay Translation	Tamil Translation
1	Community Development Council (CDC)	社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat	சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
2	Central Singapore CDC	中区社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Singapura Tengah	மத்திய சிங்கப்பூர்ச் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
3	North East CDC	东北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Timur Laut	வடகிழக்குச் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
4	North West CDC	西北社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Laut	வடமேற்குச் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
5	South East CDC	东南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Tenggara	தென்கிழக்குச் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
6	South West CDC	西南社区发展理事会	Majlis Pembangunan Masyarakat Barat Daya	தென்மேற்குச் சமூக மேம்பாட்டு மன்றம்
7	Pro Bono SG	新加坡法律义务办事处	Perkhidmatan Guaman Pro Bono Singapura	புரோ போனோ எஸ்ஜி
8	Law Awareness Weeks	法律意识周	Minggu Kesedaran Undang-Undang	சட்ட விழிப்புணர்வு வாரங்கள்