

31 MAY 2012, 5 PM

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE STEVEN CHONG AS ATTORNEY-GENERAL

FACT SHEET

Justice Steven Chong, 54, was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1983. He was appointed Senior Counsel in January 1998, Judicial Commissioner in October 2009 and Supreme Court Judge in June 2010.

Justice Chong started his legal practice at Drew & Napier where he spent 14 years and built up his legal career from an associate to the joint Managing Partner. He then spent 12 years in Rajah & Tann and was its Senior Partner and then Managing Partner until his appointment to the Supreme Court Bench.

He was a leading commercial lawyer during his practice and argued many cases in court. He was also a senior member of the Singapore arbitration community and participated in arbitration as both a counsel as well as an arbitrator. He is an accredited Arbitrator of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration. Justice Chong was Iceland's Honorary Consul to Singapore from 2003 to 2009.

During his time on the Bench, Justice Chong presided over a wide range of cases and delivered significant judgments covering diverse areas of the law including criminal, constitutional, banking, defamation and shipping. Some of the more notable cases include:

- ***Nim Minimart (a firm) v Management Corporation Strata Title Plan No 1079 & Others*** where he reiterated the important duty of a trial judge to allow litigants to present their case without prejudging the merits and to avoid the appearance of judicial pressure to bring about a settlement;

- ***Yong Vui Kong v Attorney General***, which dealt with the issue of the justiciability of the clemency process for the first time in Singapore;
- ***Tan Beow Hiong (mw) v Tan Boon Aik*** on the issue that suspended committal orders should not be activated on an ex-parte basis. This led to an amendment to the Rules of Court;
- ***Wong Seng Kwan v Public Prosecutor*** where he found that a finder of lost property can in certain circumstances attract criminal liability;
- ***Yap Guat Beng v Public Prosecutor***, where he highlighted the need to review the working protocol of ACRA as regards the removal of persons as directors who have been adjudged bankrupt;
- ***Botanica Pte Ltd v Management Corporation Strata Title Plan No 2040***, where he called for the need to review the necessity to introduce into the Land Titles Act the express power to modify easements given the redevelopment property market arising from en-bloc sales; and
- ***Jiang Ou v EFG Bank AG*** where he found that conclusive evidence clauses commonly found in banking documentation cannot be used to exclude the bank's liability for unauthorised trades.

* * *

SOUND BITES

Justice Steven Chong will assume office as the 7th Attorney-General of Singapore on 25 June 2012.

Commenting on his appointment as Attorney-General, Justice Steven Chong said:

“I spent more than 25 years in private practice before joining the Bench. I found my time on the Bench to be both extremely fulfilling and meaningful. I am now moving on to a new chapter of my career in the law as the country’s Attorney General. That office occupies a crucial role in the administration of justice in Singapore in addition to the immense responsibility as the Government’s chief legal adviser. I look forward to working with our team of dedicated and motivated public service lawyers to meet whatever challenges lie ahead.”

My predecessor, Mr Sundaresh Menon S.C. has done a tremendous job in initiating numerous positive changes to the management and administration of the AGC. I am committed to continuing this trend to effect changes wherever necessary to further improve the quality and efficiency of our work.

I am humbled and honoured to be appointed as Attorney General and I pledge to discharge my duties with utmost dignity and integrity.”

* * *

Media Contact:

Li Jin Haw (Ms)

Assistant Director, Corporate Communications Unit

Attorney-General’s Chambers, Singapore

Email: li_jin_haw@agc.gov.sg Tel: 6332 4693