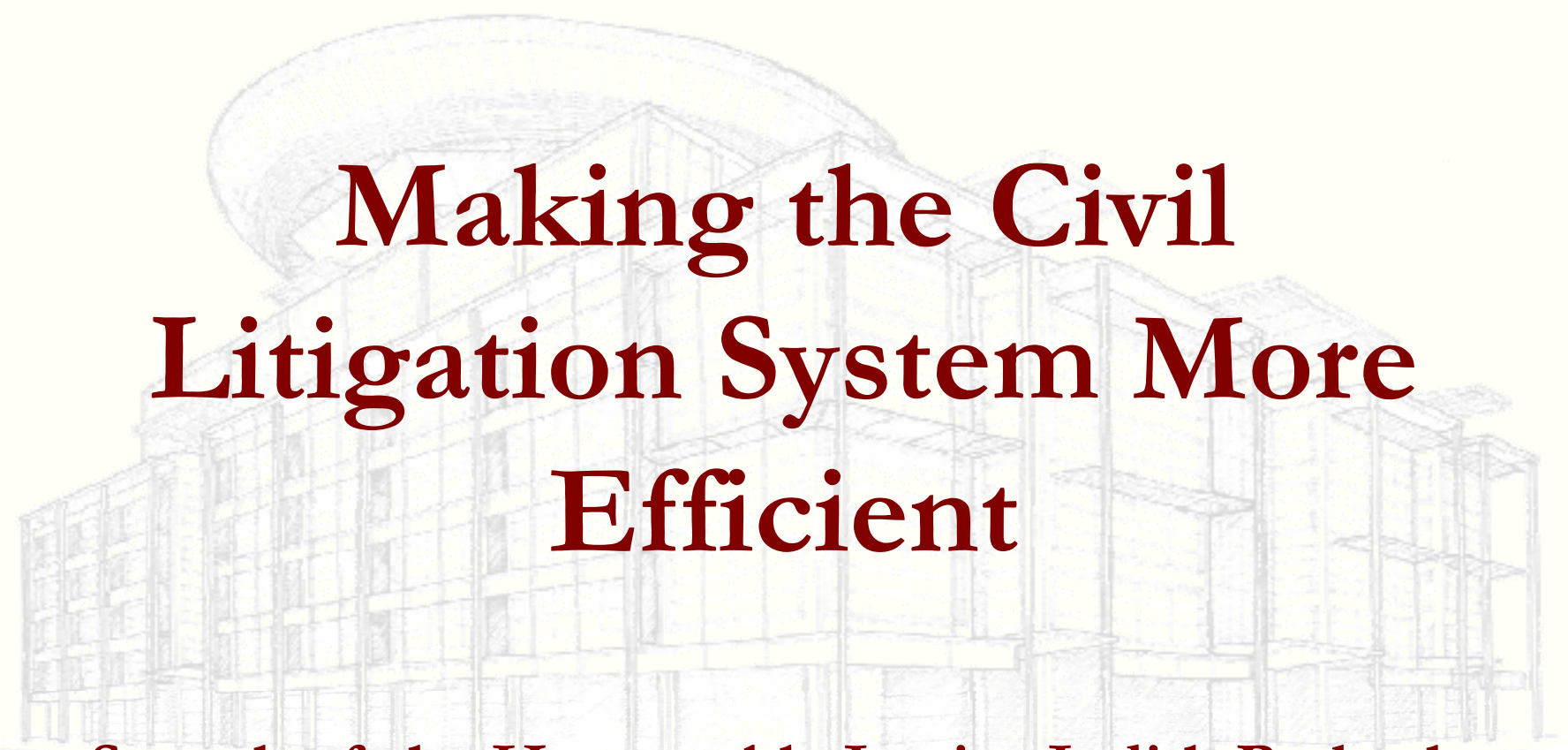


**Asia Pacific Judicial Reform Forum
3rd Round Table Meeting in Singapore**



**Making the Civil
Litigation System More
Efficient**

**Speech of the Honourable Justice Judith Prakash,
Judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore**



Introduction – Then & Now

SUPREME COURT
SINGAPORE

- Access to Justice as a cornerstone.
- Present position in Singapore:
 - 2006: Singapore Judiciary cleared 375,000 existing matters – clearance rate: 99%
 - 2007: Supreme Court cleared 8,319 cases while 8,046 cases were filed – clearance rate: 103%
 - No backlog of cases
 - Supreme Court: at least 85% of writ actions are disposed of within 18 months of filing



Introduction – Then & Now

SUPREME COURT
SINGAPORE

- Early 1990s:
 - Massive backlog of cases
 - In Supreme Court, more than 2,000 pending cases set down for trial, but trial dates 3 years or more after set down
 - More than 10,000 inactive cases, some more than 10 years old
 - About 44% of cases took between 5-10 years from commencement to disposal
 - Appeals took 2-3 years to be heard



Introduction – Then & Now

SUPREME COURT
SINGAPORE

- Problem tackled by:
 1. Appointing more judges;
 2. Changing rules of procedure;
 3. Denying adjournments;
 4. Giving hearing dates to moribund cases;
 5. Expanding jurisdiction of subordinate courts.



Introduction – Then & Now

SUPREME COURT
SINGAPORE

- Result:
 - Backlog for High Court: reduced from 2,059 in 1991 to 175 cases in 1993
 - Backlog for Court of Appeal: reduced from 275 appeals in 1991 to 71 appeals in 1993

Monitoring to Prevent Impending Backlogs

Clearance Rates

No. of pending matters disposed of as a percentage of no. of new matters filed

Monitor clearance rates for individual categories of cases also

Disposal Timelines

Lifespan of cases (how long each case takes to clear system)

85% cases disposed of within 18 months from filing

Trial Date Availability

8 weeks between set-down and trial

Ensure trial dates are not too far in the future

Making Civil Litigation in the Courts More Efficient

Diversionsary Measures

- **Alternative Dispute Resolution**
Singapore Arbitration Centre & Singapore Mediation Centre
- **Pre-action protocols** for NIMA and medical negligence cases
- **Resolution through extra-judicial resources** (e.g. Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre, in association with Monetary Authority of Singapore)

Facilitative Measures

- **Manpower**
- **Court Processes**
 - AEICs;
 - Opening statements;
 - Appellate advocacy – filing of cases & skeletal arguments;
 - Selective docket system (High Court) & Specially Managed Civil List (Subordinate Courts);
 - Differentiated Case Management.
- **Technology**
 - Electronic Filing System (EFS) & integrated Electronic Litigation System (iELS);

Monitoring & Control

Dispositive Measures



Electronic Filing System (EFS) SUPREME COURT SINGAPORE

| SINGAPORE JUDICIARY | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> In-Tray | <input type="radio"/> Index Document |
| <input type="radio"/> Case File | <input type="radio"/> View Fax Log |
| <input type="radio"/> Hearing Queue | <input type="radio"/> File Inspection |
| <input type="radio"/> Master Diary | <input type="radio"/> Security Admin |
| <input type="radio"/> Queries | <input type="radio"/> Code Maintenance |
| <input type="radio"/> Data Entry | <input type="radio"/> Reports |
| <input type="radio"/> Scan Document | <input type="radio"/> Text Search |



Electronic Filing System (EFS) SUPREME COURT SINGAPORE

EFS - Case File

File Document Hearing Work Item Others View Help

Main Case

- OS245/2007
 - Affidavit
 - Correspondence
 - Draft Order/Judgment
 - Internal Draft
 - Minute Sheet
 - Request
 - Rejected Document
- Originating Case

OS245/2007 K
Between
GEE KEONG JUNG (WONG & LIM)

And
LEE TEE MUI ALIAS LEE TEE MENG (RAJAH & T/

Case Status : Pending

Case Info Document Info Case Summary

View Message Text Search

Sensitive High Profile

| Doc Name | Doc No | Originator/JO na... | Filed/Indexed/Order... |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Originating Summons | | 1st Plaintiff | 09/02/2007 17:46:00 |
| Affidavit | | GEE KEONG J... | 09/02/2007 17:46:00 |
| Affidavit | | Lee Tee Mui @ ... | 09/03/2007 12:23:44 |
| Written Submissions | | 1st Plaintiff | 12/03/2007 12:54:38 |
| Minute Sheet | | ANG CHING PIN | 16/03/2007 |
| Minute Sheet | | TAN WEN SHAN | 13/04/2007 |
| Minute Sheet | | LOW SIEW LING | 11/05/2007 |

Ready 4:33 PM 02/06/2007 CAPS NUM INS SCRL

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Case No. : OS245/2007/K
Date of Filing : 09/02/2007
Time of Filing : 17:46:00
Doc Control No. : 1530027KH

Date Of Hearing : 16/03/2007
Time Of Hearing : 09:00
Attend Before : Judge Registrar

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

In the Matter of Order 42 Rule 1 of the Rules of Court.

And

In the Matter of MC Suit No. 22747 of 2004/L.

And


In the Matter of the Consent Judgment recorded on 8th August 2006.

Between

GEE KEONG JUNG
NRIC No. S2205035D
...Plaintiff(s)

And

LEE TEE MUI ALIAS LEE TEE MENG
NRIC No. S0013159H
...Defendant(s)


[Signature]

Mrs Kok Juet Jong
Registrar
Supreme Court
Singapore

ORIGINATING SUMMONS

PONNIAH JAMES LESLIE
WONG & LIM
24 PECK SEAH STREET
#09-02
NEHSONS BUILDING
SINGAPORE 079314
TEL 62236166
FAX:06562247465
(Not For Service of Court Document)
Ref: WAP/P/L 1112/04(OS)

Filed this 9th day of February 2007

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Making Civil Litigation in the Courts More Efficient

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- **Technology**
 - Electronic Filing System (EFS) & integrated Electronic Litigation System (iELS);
 - Digital Transcription System

Monitoring & Control

- **Pre-trial Conferences**
- **Peremptory Orders** (“Unless orders”)
- **Trial date certainty**
- **Hearing fees**
- **Costs orders**

Dispositive Measures

- **Auto-discontinuance**