

# COVENANT

# NEWS

1ST EDITION

ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2018



PRESENTED BY

**COVENANT**  
Chambers



# FOREWORD

I am really excited to share with you what's buzzing in our firm in this inaugural issue of Covenant News. This issue marks the beginning of a concerted effort on our part to connect with our clients and partners through timely legal updates.

Covenant Chambers LLC was founded with the mission to be a global legal team who brings bespoke solutions to every legal need. We have been blessed to have three outstanding lawyers, Ronald JJ Wong, Che Wei Chin and Lim Zheng Feng, join our team as Associate Directors in 2016.

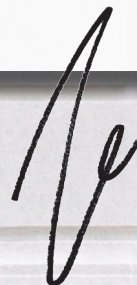
We are also proud to say that their respective legal practices have blossomed and that Ronald has been promoted to the position of Director in 2018. In July, we welcomed two new Associate Directors on board – Jonathan Cho from Lee & Lee and Wilbur Lua from the Attorney-General Chambers, Civil Division.

We look forward to having Jonathan and Wilbur be part of the team as Jonathan brings with him energy and experience in criminal and civil litigation, whereas Wilbur has had tremendous exposure in advisory work in Chambers. For more information about Jonathan and Wilbur, their profiles can be accessed [here](#). On top of Jonathan and Wilbur, we will be retaining both our trainees in September 2018 which raises the strength of our team to a total of 9 lawyers.

We thank God for this phenomenal growth and will continue to strive to make our growth as a firm a sustainable and qualitative one. Throughout the course of 2017, we pondered and reflected on what it meant to be a member of Covenant Chambers LLC giving rise to our newly established 4 core values, namely Honour, Excellence, Attentiveness and Rejoice.

Thus, in 2018, Covenant Chambers has and will continue to engage in monthly sessions to understand how we can live out these values at work. We desire for all our clients to benefit from a "value added" (no pun intended!) experience through us living out these 4 core values in humble service.

Through this inaugural issue, we will be providing our clients and partners with some of the court victories that we have triumphed in the past year as well as updates on various hot legal topics in Singapore. We wish all of you an edifying experience and look forward to serving all of you better in the near future.



**Lee Ee Yang**  
Managing Director  
Covenant Chambers LLC





# COVENANT CHAMBERS

## IN THE NEWS

### Damages received count as couple's assets

Compensation for man's crash injuries can be divided between him and his wife in divorce: Judge

Selina Lum  
Law Correspondent

The compensation that a man won in a lawsuit, after suffering serious injuries in a traffic accident, is a matrimonial asset that can be divided between him and his wife in a divorce, a district judge has ruled.

The novel issue arose in a case of a couple with three children who are divorcing after 22 years of marriage. The 52-year-old man is a service technician, while the wife works part-time as a cleaner.

Their dispute over the division of matrimonial assets included a sum of about \$434,000 that the husband received after he won a court judgment for damages for injuries suffered in a 2012 accident.

The husband contended that this sum was not a matrimonial asset and thus was not liable for division, but his 43-year-old wife disagreed.

In written grounds issued on Monday, the judge said the compensation sum was a matrimonial asset because it was neither a "gift" nor an "inheritance".

Matrimonial assets, as defined under the Women's Charter, include assets acquired during the marriage but exclude assets "acquired by gift or inheritance".

The wife, represented by Mr Lee Ee Yang of Covenant Chambers, cited a 2002 case in which the High Court included lottery winnings as part of the matrimonial assets.

The wife argued that the compensation money was largely meant to compensate the husband and his dependants for his loss of income and earning capacity.

The husband, represented by Ms Seenivasan Lalita, argued that the compensation was received from a "wholly external source which is akin to a gift or an inheritance".

The husband argued that the compensation was given to him as a result of the injuries suffered personally by him.

District Judge Tan Shin Yi ruled that only about \$149,000 - or 34.4 per cent of the husband's compensation award - should be added to the pool of matrimonial assets.

She derived this after calculating that the damages awarded to the husband specifically for pain and suffering, special damages and interest amounted to 34.4 per cent of the total sum awarded.

The judge said while the component of pain and suffering was personal to the man, the wife had taken care of him after he was injured. The components awarded for future medical expenses and future loss of earnings and earning capacity were not added to the pool.

The matrimonial assets, totalling about \$1 million, include the matrimonial flat worth \$400,000; a parcel of land in the Philippines owned by the wife, valued at \$57,000; insurance policies and CPF funds.

Judge Tan ruled for the wife to be awarded 40 per cent of the total assets. Both the husband and wife have filed notices of appeals against the decision.

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**The husband argued that the compensation was given to him as a result of the injuries suffered personally by him.... The judge said while the component of pain and suffering was personal to the man, the wife had taken care of him after he was injured.**

PREMIUM

### Compensation for personal injury claims deemed as matrimonial assets, rules judge



PUBLISHED 11 HOURS AGO



Selina Lum Law Correspondent

SINGAPORE - The compensation that a man won in a lawsuit, after suffering serious injuries in a traffic accident, is a matrimonial asset that can be divided between him and his wife in a divorce, a district judge has ruled.

The novel issue arose in a case involving a couple with three children who are divorcing after 22 years of marriage.

Their dispute over the division of matrimonial assets included a sum of about \$434,000 that the 52-year-old husband received after he won a court judgment to claim damages for injuries he suffered in a 2012 accident.

The husband contended that this sum was not a matrimonial asset and thus was not liable for division, but his 43-year-old wife disagreed.

In written grounds issued on Monday (July 9), the judge said the compensation sum was a matrimonial asset because it was neither a "gift" nor an "inheritance".

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The husband argued that the compensation was given to him as a result of the injuries personally suffered by him.

District judge Tan Shin Yi said the wording in the law was clear that only assets "acquired by gift or inheritance" are explicitly excluded from the definition of matrimonial assets.

"It is not for the court to infer that an asset from a third-party source which was akin to a gift or inheritance should also be included in the statutory exception," she said.

However, the judge ruled that only about \$149,000 - or 34.4 per cent of the husband's compensation award - should be added to the pool of matrimonial assets.

She derived this after calculating that the damages awarded to the husband specifically for pain and suffering, special damages and interest amounted to 34.4 per cent of the total sum awarded.

The judge said while the component of pain and suffering was personal to the husband, the wife had taken care of him and attended to his needs after he was injured.

The components awarded for future medical expenses and future loss of earnings and loss of earning capacity were not added to the pool.

The matrimonial assets, totalling about \$1 million, include the fully paid matrimonial flat valued at \$400,000; a parcel of land in the Philippines owned by the wife, valued at \$57,000; insurance policies and CPF funds.

Judge Tan found that it was "just and equitable" for the wife to be awarded 40 per cent of the total pool of assets.

Both husband and wife have filed notices of appeals against the decision.



# COVENANT CHAMBERS

## IN THE NEWS

### High Court overturns ruling that SMU law don had defamed trio at condo's AGM



Professor Gao Shuchao was ordered in 2017 to pay damages for defaming three members of the management council of Duxton Residences. PHOTO: LIAWEE ZACHAO

PUBLISHED MAY 14, 2018, 7:16 PM SGT



Sofnia Linn Law Correspondent

SINGAPORE - A Singapore Management University law professor, who was ordered last year to pay damages of \$100,000 for defaming three members of the management council of Duxton Residences, has won his appeal to the High Court to quash the lower court decision.

The defamation suit arose when Prof Gao Shuchao alleged at the 2016 annual general meeting (AGM) that the council had "concocted" the fact that it received a sum of money from a court case against the developer of the condominium in the prime Bukit Timah area.

The trio who sued him are Mr Tan Kok Quan, a Senior Counsel who has been a director of several banks and public-listed companies; Mr Kuaik Kok Kim, the chairman of a public-listed company; and Mr Gu Hui Meng, an independent director of several public-listed boards.

At the time, Mr Tan was the chairman, Mr Kuaik the treasurer and Mr Gu the secretary of the management council.

Last year, a district court found that Prof Gao's words were defamatory and rejected his defences of qualified privilege, fair comment and justification. He appealed.

On Friday (May 11), the High Court found that the defence of qualified privilege applied to Prof Gao, as his statements were not driven by malice.

Prof Gao may have been "careless, impulsive or irrational" in believing that the council was deliberately concealing the fact that the money was received, but it cannot be said that he was reckless in his belief that the defamatory words were true, said Justice See Kee Oon.

The case has roots in events in late 2014, when the condominium's Management Corporation Strata Title (MCST) took legal action against the developer to recover arrears of contributions to the management and sinking funds for 13 units.

To alleviate the impending cash flow problems, the MCST imposed a one-time special levy on all owners, to be paid in three instalments.

In July 2015, judgment was granted in favour of the MCST. Three months later, the MCST received a payment of \$261,055.

After discussions, the council eventually decided to withhold disclosure that it received the sum, for various reasons.

Meanwhile, Prof Gao, who felt the levy was "unfair", did not pay the first two instalments. The council sued him in December 2015 to claim the \$2,600.33.

On Feb 1, 2016, the council disclosed receipt of the judgment sum and indicated that at the upcoming AGM, it will propose to revoke the final instalment due in March.

At the AGM on March 4, 2016, Prof Gao pressed the council about the late disclosure, saying there was either a deliberate concealment or a misrepresentation.

After hearing an explanation from a council member, he withdrew his use of the words "misrepresentation" and "concocted", but refused to apologise.

The law don's "antagonistic stance" was seen as evidence of malice by the district judge.

At his appeal, his lawyers, Mr Lee Ee Yang from Covenant Chambers, argued that malice cannot be inferred from Prof Gao's failure to verify the facts before speaking at the AGM and his refusal to apologise.

Justice See agreed that Prof Gao was not malicious, noting that he was "amenable" to retracting his statement after an explanation was offered.

"His course of conduct viewed in entire context showed that his objective was to obtain redress and explanations for the perceived wrongdoings of the MCST," said the judge.



### Toa Payoh couple arrested: Experts caution against lynch-mob mentality

By WONG PEI TENG



AFP file photo

Published 27 APRIL 2017, UPDATED 27 APRIL 2017

1760 Shares

SINGAPORE — The swift arrest of a couple who were captured on a video clip using offensive language and force against an elderly man at a Toa Payoh hawkler centre was praised by many on social media.

Experts and observers interviewed yesterday said the police were duty-bound to act as the video clip clearly showed an offence being committed — never mind that it was a relatively minor dispute. However, they warned against a lynch-mob mentality and urged the public to leave the police to their work, even as they encouraged the public's use of social media to bring offences to light.

The incident happened last Friday at Toa Payoh Lorong 8 Market & Hawker Centre. The police arrested the 46-year-old man and 39-year-old woman on Tuesday for an offence of public nuisance, after it received reports on Sunday.

Lawyer Amol Singh said: "If the situation is so blatant, and the police ignored it and did nothing, that would be a blatant disregard of the law."

But he stressed the police should not be compelled to act on every viral video of alleged offences. They should only take action when they feel there is sufficient evidence, Mr Singh said.

Agreeing, lawyer Lee Ee Yang, managing director at Covenant Chambers LLC, said: "The police definitely have the discretion to weigh what has been done (via footage), and whether it warrants further investigation. If (the video) discloses an offence, then the police should take further action."

The lawyers noted that such footage has proved useful in tackling road rage, so much so that the traffic police are encouraging video submissions of traffic violations by the public.

But by relying on footage provided by netizens, are the authorities encouraging online vigilantism?

Nee Soon GRC Member of Parliament Louis Ng, who sits on the Government Parliamentary Committee (Law and Home Affairs), felt that a balance needs to be struck. "It is positive that citizens want to get involved and ... do the right thing, but I think we have to ... let the authorities step in and investigate," said Mr Ng.

The couple was initially identified by netizens as staff of UOB's Toa Payoh branch but the bank later clarified that they were not. Noting how cyber sleuths also identified the wrong driver who ran over a dog at Pasir Ris Farway 3 last year, Mr Ng said: "Too many times now, online vigilantes took over and identified someone who is really not the perpetrator, and the poor person has to take the brunt of it."

In the latest Toa Payoh hawkler centre case, lawyers noted that it was serious enough to be dealt with by the police — instead of, say, community mediation which is generally meant for complaints where parties involved are known to each other. "Community mediation generally revolves around families and neighbours who have differences and conflicts. In this case, it is a criminal wrong, so the police are in a better position to address and prosecute," said lawyer Rajan Supramaniam from Hilbrow Law.

However, National University of Singapore sociologist Tan Ern Ser felt there was scope for the community to resolve such incidents and prevent them from escalating to the extent where police intervention is required.

"Someone respectable and seen as a neutral party, if available, could have stepped in to resolve the conflict, and nudge the offending party to apologise to the one receiving the bad treatment," he said. However, he noted that the norm in Singapore "seems to be that only the authority of the state could resolve" such incidents.

Mr Ng urged bystanders to not just film such incidents, but step in and defuse the situation where appropriate. "I hope we don't progress to the stage where we all just film and nobody helps the person who needs help," he said.

The observers reiterated that with the rise of social media, it is inevitable that more and more of such clips would surface even though this could prove a challenge for the police, which are grappling with limited resources, including a manpower crunch.

Mr Singh said: "In Singapore, we are not a disciplined society, but a tamed society, just like lions in a circus that are tamed. So the moment the ringmaster cracks its whip, people behave."

## 工程师暴毙雇主拒赔 当局裁定家属可获20万元

雇主和保险公司指死者舒巴的病情与工作无关，而他死时也不是在进行与工作相关的事务而拒绝理赔。但助理劳工总监接受索赔方看法，认为舒巴死前的体力和精力因工作耗损，裁定家属可得工伤赔偿法令的赔偿。

陈嘉辛 报道  
peehing@com.sg

因颅内动脉瘤爆裂，维修工程师舒巴死在工作岗位上。人力部最近裁定家属可获20万4000元的最高赔偿。但雇主和保险公司却指事件并非工作意外所致。

不过，助理劳工总监审理家属的索赔案后，认为两名专家医生的看法，认为舒巴在40岁死前的体力和精力因工作耗损，可能导致血压骤然升高，而舒巴的高血压理论上可能使动脉瘤在当场爆裂。目前裁定家属可得20万4000元的赔偿。

2016年3月21日下午约15分，马来西亚籍的舒巴在维修穿洞时，被发现昏倒在马桶上，全身

瘫倒在办公室处理文书工作。下午时，他休息了一小时。当晚6时，他一般觉得倦倦。

根据陈嘉辛的报导，舒巴和同事必须挤入狭小的空间内修理和装置齿轮。为了确定齿轮操作正常，两人好几次背背约8至10公斤重的配件，工具和手提电脑上15层楼，到晚上凌晨1时30分才收工。半小时后回到办公室，抵达家门已有约24小时未合眼。

事发当天，他如常在早上7时50分到公司，然后在办公室准备当天的资料。

事发当日，他如常在早上7时50分到公司，然后在办公室准备当天的资料。

根据与舒巴能修齿轮的同事，舒巴当天收工时就能感不适，身体也感到不适，申诉说头



# LANDMARK CASES

## ULU v. ULT [2018] SGFC 45 - Family Court clarifies application of 3-year time bar on enforcement of child maintenance orders

When maintenance sums for children fall due, are there any time restrictions on applications to enforce them through the court system? According to Section 121(3) of the Women's Charter, there is a statutory 3-year time bar to enforce maintenance orders. However, in the seminal case of *Lee Siew Choo v Ling Chin Thor* [2014] SGHC 285, the High Court in that case found that this statutory time-bar does not apply to child maintenance. Applying the judicial reasoning in that case, our **Mr Lee Ee Yang** and **Mr Wu Guowei** was instrumental in helping the mother to successfully apply to enforce the child maintenance order against the father who have failed to comply with the said order. To read the full write-up on this case, please click [here](#).

## Employee's Wife Succeeds in Claim in a Case of Death During Employment

Can the wife of an employee who suffered brain aneurysm at work claim under the Work Injury Compensation Act ("WICA")? The claimant in this case struggled to provide for her two young children after the death of her husband who was the sole breadwinner of the family. The contentious issues in this case was the fact that in order to succeed in the claim, it had to be shown that the rupture in the brain aneurysm when the employee was at work was caused by an "accident" for the purposes of Section 3(1) of the WICA and had arisen as a result of his employment. Our **Mr Lee Ee Yang** and **Ms Charis Wong** represented the claimant in this matter and was triumphant in her claim for compensation. If you would like to read the full write-up on this case, please click [here](#).

## Gao Shuchao v Tan Kok Quan [2018] SGHC 115 - High Court Clarifies Law on Qualified Privilege and Overturns Finding of Defamation

The Singapore High Court ("HC") allowed the Appellant's appeal against a finding of defamation. Critical to this decision was a finding that malice was not proven. By doing so, the HC reaffirmed the common law position regarding the defence of qualified privilege. He did not dispute that the words were uttered but denied that they were defamatory and raised the defence of qualified privilege. His defence was held to be unsuccessful in the lower courts as the District Judge concluded that the statements were made with malice. On appeal to the High Court, our Managing Director **Mr Lee Ee Yang** and **Ms Charis Wong** represented the Appellant in this matter and successfully convinced the court to overturn the District Judge's ruling of defamation. To read the full write-up on this case, please click [here](#).



Scan the QR code to discover more cases



# FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

## RONALD JJ WONG

On 9 March 2018, our Director, Mr Ronald JJ Wong, was interviewed by Channel NewsAsia for his views on the High Court case of PropertyGuru Pte Ltd v 99 Pte Ltd [2018] SGHC 52.

The plaintiff, PropertyGuru Pte Ltd, and the defendant, 99 Pte Ltd, are competitors in the business of providing online property classifieds. They each own and operate a website for this purpose, being www.propertyguru.com.sg (the "PG website") and www.99.co (the "99 website") respectively.

PropertyGuru brought a suit against 99 Pte Ltd regarding the development and marketing of a mobile application Xpressor which allows property agents to cross-post listings from the PG website to the 99 website, as well as for providing a service by which 99 Pte Ltd undertook to manually cross-post property agents' listings from the PG website to the 99 website.

PropertyGuru thus brought claims against 99 Pte Ltd for (i) breaching the terms of a settlement agreement between parties; (ii) inducing property agents to breach the terms and conditions for the use of the PG website; and (iii) infringing PropertyGuru's copyright. On the other hand, 99 Pte Ltd counterclaimed against PropertyGuru for making groundless threats to commence legal proceedings for copyright infringement.

In its decision, the High Court (i) allowed PropertyGuru's claim for breach of the settlement agreement in part; (ii) dismissed PropertyGuru's claims for inducement of breach of contract and copyright infringement; and (iii) dismissed 99 Pte Ltd's counterclaim.

In his case comment, Ronald touches on the wider repercussions of the case and how a person's ordinary use of the Internet may be affected. These issues to consider include the binding nature of platforms' terms of use or terms of service, copyright in edited images, legal repercussions in cross-posting or cross-listing content on multiple platforms, and whether hyperlinking, crawling, framing, deep linking, inline linking, etc. would amount to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.



[CNA Coverage on the case](#)



[Ronald's Personal Case Comment](#)



# TECHNOLOGY ON THE LEGAL FRONT


Covenant Chambers LLC believes that legal tech will continue to close the gap between bigger and smaller law firms. Legal tech solutions has improved workflow efficiencies that results in productive gains; allowing for more time to focus on the salient case points and client-centric services.

Covenant Chambers LLC is proud to keeping itself at the front of the pack by incorporating the latest legal tech in our day-to-day operations.

We set you thinking  
**TODAY**  
MONDAY 27 AUGUST 2018

### 'Smart' law firms lauded for adopting tech solutions

By KELLY NG



TODAY file photo

Published 28 MARCH 2017 | UPDATED 29 MARCH 2017 | 314 Shares

SINGAPORE — A legal document-management software that helped a court hearing go almost paperless was what allowed Via Law Corporation, then a two-men team, to take on a landmark dispute in 2014 between its client Global Yellow Pages, a directory publisher, and its rival Promedia Directories.

The cloud-based service, dubbed Magnum, allowed parties in a case such as witnesses and the judge to access court documents online, and this helped the firm's director Wang Yingyu to shave the number of printed sheets from 252,000 to about 3,000 pages. Lawyers could also annotate and collaborate on relevant material using the platform.

The firm, now named Taylor Vinters Via following its partnership with a UK law firm last month, was one of 10 small- and medium-sized legal practices here recognised yesterday at the launch of the SmartLaw scheme.

Launched by the Law Society (LawSoc), it recognises such "smart" firms for using technology to improve their work processes. These include adopting a practice management or accounting software; having an online knowledge-management database; and having an online presence.

These firms will be allowed to display a logo to help give clients more confidence about their efficiency.

Taylor Vinters Via, for instance, enhances its online presence through the Asia Law Network, an online portal that helps prospective clients find suitable lawyers and to ask for "quick" quotations.

Ms Wang said: "Time is money ... Technology has freed up our lawyers' time for other matters, and our time savings translate to cost savings for our clients."

Agreeing, Mr Michael Chia from MSC Law Corporation — also one of the pioneer SmartLaw firms named yesterday — said that relying on old-fashioned, "ad-hoc" methods to keep track of cases sometimes land lawyers into conflicting situations, such as when they unknowingly take on a case against previous clients.

Mr Chia, who has been a lawyer for almost two decades and started his own practice one-and-a-half years ago, said: "For smaller firms, you may know all your clients, but firms that want to (expand operations) need to have reliable management systems that can quickly search and pull up past records ... to avoid awkward and potentially conflicting situations."

A third awardee, Clifford Law LLP, which has seven lawyers and invests about S\$3,000 a month in tech solutions, aims to go "completely paperless" in the near future and is looking at developing a software that would give clients direct access to certain documents.

The other seven firms awarded the SmartLaw accreditation include Fortis Law Corporation, Colin Ng & Partners LLP, Covenant Chambers LLC, Eden Law Corporation, Mathew Chew & Chelliah, Chan Neo LLP and fsLAW LLC.

The move follows a study of industry needs among small- and medium-sized law practices, which found that legal research platforms could cut the time lawyers take to visit the library by up to 20 per cent. It also found that firms could reap up to a 66 per cent reduction in operating costs if they run a virtual office.


However, the findings showed that fewer than one in 10 such firms use any kind of tech productivity software, with most citing cost as a barrier.

To help small- and medium-sized law firms defray costs when adopting tech solutions that improve productivity, a S\$2.8 million grant scheme called Tech Start for Law was launched last month that will pay up to 70 per cent of the firm's costs for selected tech products in the first year.

We set you thinking  
**TODAY**  
MONDAY 27 AUGUST 2018

### Integrated database allows lawyers to work out of office

By KELLY NG



Unlike the conventional law firm where lawyers spend a significant proportion of time buried in paperwork, practitioners at Covenant Chambers do everything with the swipe of a hand — from updating case files in real time, to assigning tasks and getting each other up to speed on deadlines.

"Processes are much more streamlined and efficient. (Tech solutions) help us save time to focus on the more important things as lawyers, which ultimately, is about facing our clients," said Mr Ronald Wong, the firm's associate director.

Theirs is the kind of practice the Ministry of Law aims to nudge the majority of small- and medium-sized firms here to become through a new S\$2.8 million tech grant scheme launched yesterday.

The six-man practice, which started last year, uses a cloud-based client management system called Clio to update and share records of cases in real time.

For assigning and keeping track of tasks, they use Asana, a task management system built by Facebook co-founder Justin Rosenstein. Intellex gives them ready access to a comprehensive database of cases, commentaries and regulatory material across different jurisdictions.

With their database integrated across various platforms, lawyers can work from anywhere — when they are with their clients, at a cafe, or when they are overseas. Mr Wong said: "I work mostly digitally ... It gives us more control over our time, which makes lawyers happier."

Some IT platforms also translate to cost savings for clients, he added, such as by cutting down time spent on research.

While there are benefits that technology brings, Mr Wong acknowledged that going completely paperless could still be some way off for firms.

"For litigation matters, we often still need to hand in hard copies to the court," he said.  
KELLY NG



Article on the grant scheme by MinLaw





# TEAM BUILDING

## CALEB NG SESSIONS

Each month, the Covenant Chambers LLC team gathers for growth boosters. (No, we do not mean only growing muscles or growing sideways.)

Each time, our trainer Chye Aik leads the team through a session of personal growth and team building. We learn new ways to improve ourselves personally and at work. We also engage in activities and discussions with our colleagues that enable us to improve how we collaborate.

For example, during one session at the start of 2018, we learnt various goal-setting and goal-reaching strategies. We first reflected and shared on what the word 'excellence' meant to each of us personally and at work. We then learnt and practised how to craft effective action plans which are SMART—Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and which have a Timeframe—so that we can strive for excellence with success. This mindset is well encapsulated by a motto expressed at the session – “To do even common things in an exceptional manner”!

During another session, we went through an activity where we were divided into teams and were told to fold origami butterflies according to a hypothetical client's instructions. A few rushed headlong into the activity, hoping to outdo other teams by folding more origami butterflies than the rest. Others took the time to clarify the instructions and sought to cooperate with other teams. From the activity, we were reminded of the value of, and also learnt strategies for, proactively listening and seeking out the needs of our clients so that we can better identify and address our clients' concerns.

These monthly sessions have enabled us to strengthen relationships with our colleagues and have also imparted to us valuable knowledge which help us add value to the service of our clients. Little wonder then that these sessions have indeed been more enriching than even weight training or a buffet meal!





# FIRM VACAY

## PHUKET THAILAND

The best leaders recharge to stay at the top of their game. The team at Covenant Chambers LLC is no different. This year from 12 – 14 January 2018, the team had a 3D2N retreat in Phuket, the island known for its white sands and turquoise seas, vibrant night scene and its bustling street markets. And boy, did we have a fantastic time!

During our stay in Phuket, Covenant Chambers LLC made JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa their home for two nights and were deeply blessed by the warm hospitality and incredibly comfortable accommodation offered at the resort. The team also bonded over a myriad of amazing local dishes, board games, sports, sharing sessions, and a (competitive) cook-out.

Although a short retreat, the Covenant team made sure to maximize their time to truly bask in Phuket's rich culture, picturesque sights and top destinations. Here's a glimpse of what we experienced and what we'd recommend you to check out there:

### Lemongrass House

For beauty product fanatics, one place you should not miss out on is the Lemongrass House – a popular online store known for its fresh handmade natural spa and beauty products. But the difference? You get it at a fraction of the price in Phuket because this is its flagship store. From face masks, soaps and even to air diffusers, Lemongrass House definitely has something for you that you can take home for yourself and your loved ones, all without breaking the bank.



### Patong Beach

For the best of Phuket's beach and night life, Patong Beach should be your go-to destination as Patong Beach is teeming with endless bars and discos which will definitely liven up your night.

In the day, Patong Beach makes for an idyllic beach destination where you'd find tourists and locals sprawled across the beach for that extra Vitamin D. The beach is also filled with plenty of various brightly-coloured umbrellas which certainly add to the bright and happy vibes of Patong Beach. And hey, that's not all. You can even enjoy a massage under one of the umbrellas by the beach – a good view and a good massage? You're set for the day.





# FIRM VACAY

## PHUKET THAILAND

### Old Phuket Town

Embrace Phuket's rich history at Old Phuket Town, a historical town where you can truly immerse yourself in and understand Phuket's heritage and culture. Within this part of town lies shrines, temples and quaint traditional shophouses which make for that perfect #OOTD backdrop.

However, what most would not expect in Old Phuket Town is the large number of cafes lining the streets of Old Phuket Town. Determined to have a taste of what Phuket's cafes had to offer, we decided to pop by A Dessert Moment, a bohemian and beach-style café which focuses predominantly on desserts and refreshing drinks. But if you're looking for something heartier, A Dessert Moment does offer DIY Toast and All Day Breakfast too.

Our thoughts on A Dessert Moment? In all honesty, the shaved ice desserts were nothing much to shout about, but it did provide a great respite from Phuket's humid and sweltering heat. However, do make sure that you try out their Thai Milk Tea Frappe as it is a great variation on the usual Thai milk tea that we're accustomed to in Singapore.





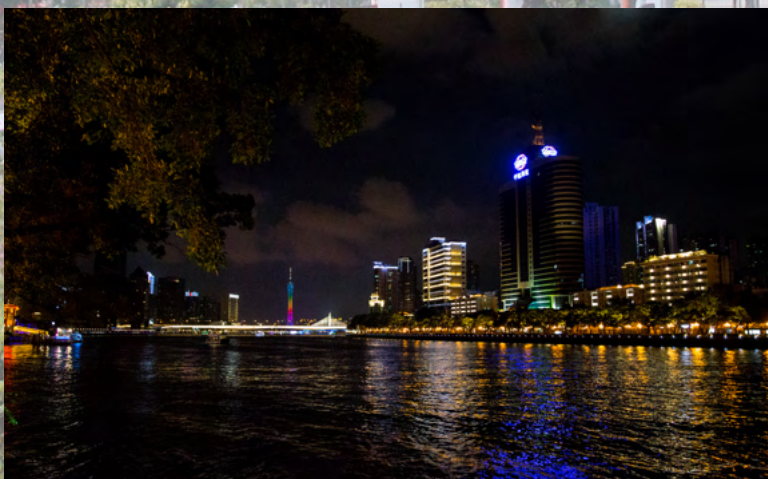
# BEYOND BORDERS

## MISSION TO GUANGZHOU

From 8 to 12 April 2018, the Law Society of Singapore organized "Mission to Guangzhou", a trip which involved 33 participants from notable law firms across Singapore, one of whom being our Managing Director, Mr Lee Ee Yang.

Mission to Guangzhou is the Law Society of Singapore's inaugural overseas mission under the "Lawyers Go Global" programme – a collaborative effort between the Law Society of Singapore, Enterprise Singapore and Ministry of Law, Singapore to help Singapore lawyers and their law firms expand their business ventures overseas. This initiative sought to provide lawyers from Singapore with the stage to dive and tap into overseas markets through overseas mission trips, training, branding and marketing.

In this instance, Mission to Guangzhou gave lawyers ample networking occasions with the business community and lawyers in Guangzhou. In addition, our Mr Lee Ee Yang had chance to attend various talks which included inter alia, talks conducted by key personnel on the aim and goal of Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City ("SSGKC") which brought a greater appreciation and understanding of the macroeconomic situation in China and business opportunities in Guangzhou and the Guangdong region.







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