

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

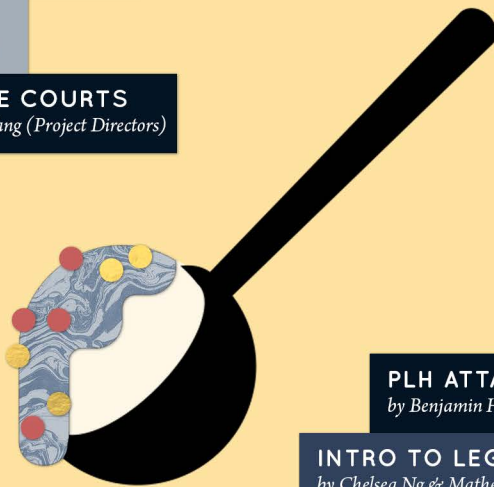
*by Hairul Siddeeq*

**FEATURED EVENTS**

*Pro Bono Awareness Week, Cohesion*

**VOICES FROM THE COURTS**

*by Rashpal Singh, Teh Chee Yang (Project Directors)*



**PLH ATTACHMENT**

*by Benjamin Heng (Project Director)*

**INTRO TO LEGAL CLINICS**

*by Chelsea Ng & Mathea Lim (Project Directors)*

**INTRO TO SCF**

*by Sheiffa Safi (Project Director)*

# pro bono scoop

AY 2016/2017 | ISSUE 2



# president's address

Dear readers,

Exciting times lie ahead for the NUS Pro Bono Group in 2016 and beyond. Fresh from our 10th anniversary celebrations, we look forward to another meaningful 10 years of growth and service. As we stand on the cusp of academic year 2016/17, we're doing all we can to prepare for another purposeful year ahead.

The biggest change we've effected so far is streamlining our various main projects into our 5 target beneficiaries. These are (in no particular order): corporate, young people, litigants-in-person, sex workers and. This has given us the opportunity to see how else we can improve on our current projects and where else we can expand in terms of targetting our beneficiaries' individual needs.

Individual events-wise, we're gearing up for another exciting installment of the Pro Bono Awareness Week in Semester 1, as we look towards directly engaging the larger law school population to raise awareness on our beneficiaries and pressing pro-bono issues in our community. Our pilot LPA and wills' programme for elderly residents in Ang Mo Kio recently came to a successful end. Students worked in partnership with Eden Law Corporation and the NUS Pro Bono Office in giving informative talks and preparing the necessary legal documents for these residents. These are but a few of the exciting things that have been happening within PBG.

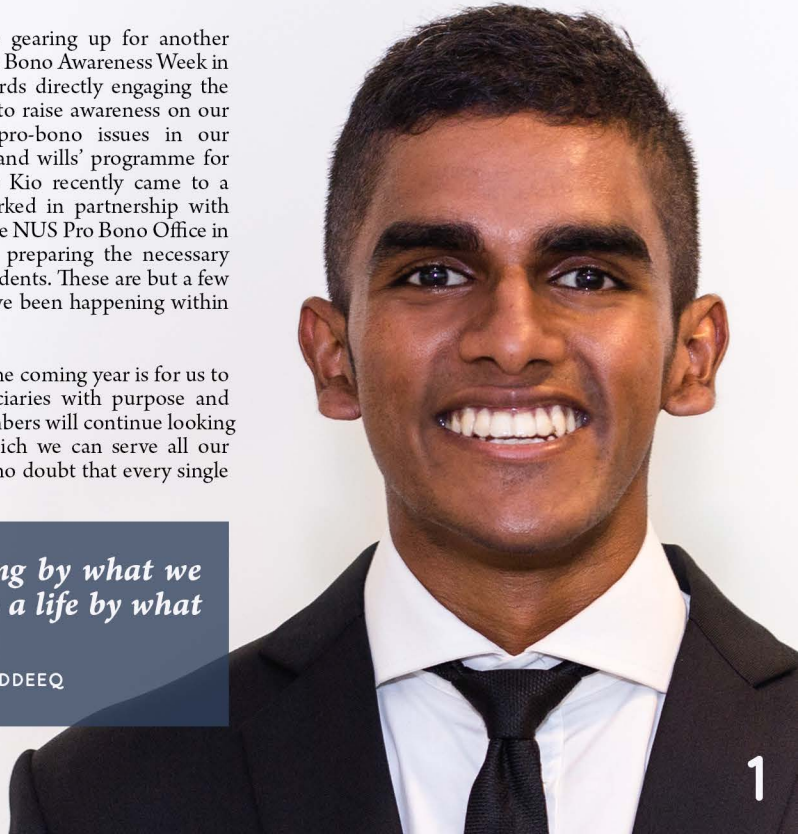
My biggest wish for PBG in the coming year is for us to continue serving our beneficiaries with purpose and commitment. I hope our members will continue looking for further ways through which we can serve all our community partners. I have no doubt that every single

PBG member will give nothing but their best while doing the amazing work they do in their various projects.

Thirdly, our PBG members, past and present, for giving us valuable advice drawn from their years of experience. Fourthly, the PBG exco of 2015/16, specifically, Cheryl, Shawn and Douglas for guiding us every step of the way as we took over office. The current exco is most grateful for all that you've done and we will work hard to continue on with your amazing work. Next, our various beneficiaries and community partners, who have been so warm and receptive to working together with us on so many levels. Lastly (and most importantly), Professor Helena, for being the best mentor we could have ever asked for.

**"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"**- PBG, here's to another fruitful year of giving and making a difference.

**Hairul Siddeeq**  
**President, NUS Pro Bono Group**



*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"*

- WISE WORDS FROM SIDDEEQ





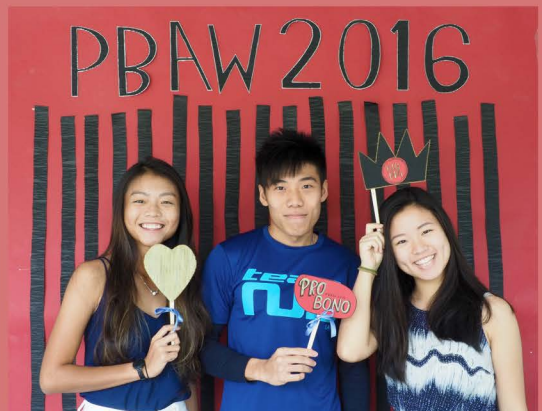
FEATURED EVENT

# pro bono awareness week

PBAW is one of the major events hosted yearly by PBG which involves and engages not just PBG members, but the entire law school. This year, PBAW was held from the 26th of September to the 1st of October 2016 to raise awareness about the many challenges and rewards of pro bono work. The week-long event consisted of 3 talks, 2 learning journeys and a carnival event.

The main event of the week, hosted on the 28th of September, was the PBG Carnival. The main aim of the carnival was to highlight Pro Bono's importance and also remind students why they had chosen to do Pro Bono work - perhaps they had been motivated to serve by their interest in a particular area of the law, or by their passion about certain social issues in Singapore.

This year, PBG hosted 3 talks. The first talk, the 'Bread & Butter Issues' Talk, explained the personal difficulties faced by pro bono lawyers and the concept of 'low-bono' work in Singapore. The second talk,



(above) Students expressing their love for Pro Bono at a photo booth during the PBAW Carnival

(below) Students at the 'Bread & Butter Issues' Talk. Guest panelists included Ms June Lim from Eden Law Corporation and Ms Peggy Leong-Mitchell from the Community Justice Centre.



'Silver Linings', focused on legal problems faced by the elderly, which constitute a particularly vulnerable group in Singapore. The last talk, 'Migrant Matters', introduced students to the difficult working and living conditions encountered by migrant workers in Singapore.

We ended off the week with two exciting learning journeys over the weekend: The Geylang Adventures learning journey and the Keramat Dormitory Visit.

The activities were met with an enthusiastic response by students eager to find out more about the challenges faced by Singapore's sex worker and migrant worker communities.

We hope that everybody who participated in PBAW had a blast and also learned more about Pro Bono during this week!

## FEATURED EVENT

# pro bono cohesion

PBG held its first event, Cohesion, on the 28th August 2016 to introduce its members to our various projects and what PBG stands for. Cohesion is an important PBG tradition as it allows members of the projects to interact with each other and get to know each other better.

The day began with the introduction of the PBG EXCO Team and a warm-welcome from our president, Hairul Siddeeq. This was followed by some intra-project activities and a talk by Fortis Law about the evolving pro bono landscape in Singapore.

During the second half of the day, students played games designed to help them better understand the challenges faced by PBG's many beneficiaries - elderly, migrant worker, domestic worker, disabled and youth.

**We welcome all our new members into PBG this year. May your experience as a PBG member be meaningful and fulfilling!**



THIS YEAR, PBG HAS

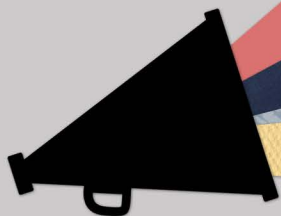
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MEMBERS ACROSS

# 8

DIFFERENT  
PROJECTS





# voices from the courts

**BY RASHPAL SINGH & TEH CHEE YANG**

*Project Directors of University Court Friends (UCF)*

2017 marks the fifth year since the Community Justice Centre (CJC) was formed. In anticipation of this significant milestone, CJC organised a fundraising concert featuring performances by various members of the legal community. Given CJC's long-term partnership with PBG for the University Court Friends (UCF) initiative, several PBG members volunteered to help out for this concert and show our support to an important community partner.

On 29 Oct 2016, CJC organised a fundraising concert as a prelude to its fifth anniversary, while relying on crowdfunding to raise funds for its operations.

The CJC Fundraising Concert is part of a string of projects and initiatives known as Voices from the Courts. Voices from the Courts is a collaboration between the artist Jack Tan and the CJC. Jack Tan had focused on how voice works in court – timbre, tone, echo, cacophony, lyricism, dissonance, etc. – and in particular the experiences of litigants-in-person. These

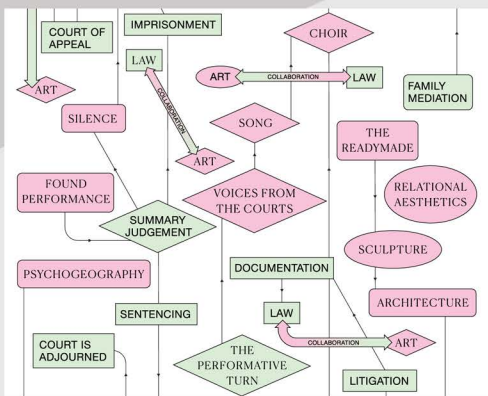
were translated into graphic scores, which were then interpreted and sung by the Anglo-Chinese Junior College Alumni choir to create a sound and art installation called Hearings. This work then formed a springboard for a major fundraising initiative where funds for and awareness of CJC's vital work can be raised through music and visual art.

The CJC Fundraising Concert was held at The Arts House, a museum which used to be our Old Parliament House. Concert attendees got to sit at the very seats our country's founding leaders sat at during parliament sessions, and enjoy a wide range of music performed by Singapore's legal community. There were performances by judges, lawyers, volunteers and staff representing different parts of the court community. Hearings was also displayed at the concert venue for that day, and the ACJC Alumni Choir as well as Jack Tan himself both performed an item each during the concert.

Ultimately, Voices from the Courts highlights the way that art and law can come together to create new art and to support meaningful legal programmes that help the underprivileged.

To show our support to CJC during this joyous occasion, our PBG EXCO and UCF volunteers helped out for this event. We assisted in ushering guests, registering them for the event and collecting donations. Some of us were even fortunate enough to help out backstage while the concert was going on, allowing us to get up close and personal with some of the performers that day.

The CJC Fundraising Concert is PBG's first ad-hoc collaboration with CJC. While this event did not provide a typical pro bono experience, it was certainly very humbling seeing so many members of the legal fraternity come together for a good cause. We hope that this event has strengthened PBG's partnership with CJC, and will pave way for more exciting and meaningful collaborations in the future!



(above) The exhibition explored the many connections between art and law. Photo credits to <http://www.voicesfromthecourts.com/press>



# PLH attachment @ All Saints Home

**BY BENJAMIN HENG**

*Project Director of Project Law Help (PLH)*

From 5th to 9th December 2016, several Year 1 and Year 2 members from Project Law Help (PLH) participated in the newly introduced PLH Attachment Programme, which enables members to go on attachment with Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) and other community organisations. The objective of these attachments is to help us better understand the operations of these organisations and the legal issues that they face in the course of their work, so that we can better target our research focus and ensure that our work is relevant and useful to our intended beneficiaries.

In AY2016-17, we are fortunate to have All Saints Home ([www.allsaintshome.org.sg](http://www.allsaintshome.org.sg)) come on board as a Project Partner, and in December 2016, five PLH members participated in the abovementioned weeklong attachment with All Saints Home. Our members had the opportunity to visit all four of the Home's centres and interviewed a range of staff members and social workers from various departments, as part of an itinerary specially developed by All Saints Home for the PLH Attachment Programme.

The attachment has been a highly eye-opening experience for our members and helped us to gain much insight into the eldercare sector in Singapore, as well as better understand some of the legal concerns that personnel in the social service sector face. We also had some very enjoyable and insightful conversations with the staff at the various centres!

PLH is very thankful to All Saints Home for helping to specially plan a comprehensive itinerary for us that



(above) Volunteers working with the elderly at the Hougang centre, where our PLH members were attached. *Photo credits to All Saints Home website.*

allowed our members to visit all their centres and observe first-hand the operations of each centre, the daily staff routine, and the various challenges that they face, legal or otherwise. We also had the privilege of having discussions with the main social worker in-charge at each centre, and even have lunch at the cookhouse with them. We are very grateful for the level of hospitality that All Saints Home has extended to us, and we are sure that this memorable attachment will be one of the highlights of our members' experience in the project.

It has been a privilege to be able to learn more about the noble work that All Saints Home does, and with the help of the knowledge and insights that we have gained from this attachment, we hope that we will be able to pay it forward, and contribute to the social service sector in some small way through the work that we do here in PLH and PBG.



# syariah court friends (SCF)

**BY SHEIFFA SAFI**

*Project Director of Syariah Court Friends (SCF)*

The SCF team kick-started their PBG involvement by getting to know one another through interactive cohesion games and activities!

On 17 September 2016, the team visited the Syariah Court for a Welcome Tea Session. Kindly organized by the Court officers, new volunteers were briefed on proceedings while previous volunteers were awarded with certificates acknowledging their involvement.

As a brand new initiative, introductory Malay lessons were organized for new volunteers to be accustomed to the Malay language. Through interactive games and worksheets, volunteers were equipped with basic vocabulary and greetings in Malay!



*(above)* Friends of the court are friends for life!

## AN INTRODUCTION TO...

*Our project directors introduce two of PBG's longest-standing projects, Syariah Court Friends (SCF) and legal clinics.*

**BY CHELSEA NG & MATHEA LIM**

*Project Directors of Legal Clinics*

Throughout the year, PBG Legal Clinics has recruited volunteers for our various partners on a regular basis. However, as part of our efforts to expand the project and reach more beneficiaries, Legal Clinics has taken on five new clinics including the Potong Pasir CC, Jurong Spring CC and Woodlands CC clinics, as well as the JusEquity and NTUC LawWorks Clinics. Taking on these new clinics means that there are more opportunities for volunteers and more slots for students to take on – this expansion also means that we reach more beneficiaries by facilitating clinics in more areas.

As part of our expansion efforts, Legal Clinics is also exploring the clinic manager scheme which allows student volunteers to take charge of a clinic on a more regular basis, instead of volunteering ad hoc. The clinic manager scheme also allows volunteers to take on greater responsibility for each clinic, including collecting the case lists and setting up the clinic. As of now, this scheme is still in its infancy, but we are hoping to involve more students in due time.

**5** NEW CLINICS

Potong Pasir CC  
Jurong Spring CC  
Woodlands CC  
NTUC LawWorks Clinic  
JusEquity Clinic

# legal clinics



# nus pro bono group

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