

Speakers' Profiles

Junior Family Lawyers Conference:

Improving Family Law Practice,
Building Resilient Practitioners

4 and 5 Oct 2024 (Friday and Saturday)

Raja Aziz Addruse Auditorium
Level 2, Wisma Badan Peguam Malaysia
2 Leboh Pasar Besar, 50050 Kuala Lumpur



Registration Fee (Seats are limited)

Category	Early Bird Rate (on or before 19 Sept 2024)	Normal Rate (after 19 Sept 2024)
Members of the Bar	RM400	RM500
Members of the Bar (fewer than 7 years in practice)	RM250	RM350
Pupils in chambers and law students	RM150	RM250
Non-Members	RM800	

Early bird rates
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The Bar Council Family Law Committee proudly presents the Junior Family Lawyers Conference 2024, an unmissable event dedicated to junior lawyers and legal professionals seeking to excel in the dynamic field of family law. This conference is packed with valuable insights, actionable strategies, and practical advice to elevate your legal practice in family law.

Session 1: Best Interests of A Child: A Mystery!

YA Dato' Faizah binti Jamaludin,
Shah Alam High Court Judge (NCVC 5)



YA Dato' Faizah Jamaludin is a judge in the Shah Alam High Court. She served as a Judge of the Family Court in Kuala Lumpur from May 2019 to July 2020, and has written 38 judgments on various aspects of family law, including those relating to children.

YA Dato' Faizah currently represents the Malaysian Judiciary on the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices' ("CACJ") Working Group on Cross Border Disputes Involving Children ("CBDIC") set up to help families caught in cross-border disputes involving children within ASEAN. She has participated in the drafting of the CBDIC's "Common Procedures for Mediation, Code of Ethics for Mediators", and its common set of values, aspirations and principles for ASEAN judiciaries in disputes involving children.

YA Dato' Faizah is one of the advisory editors of the White Book – the Malaysian Civil Procedure 2021 and 2024. She was called to the English Bar in 1990 and the Malaysian Bar in 1994. She is an Overseas Bencher of the Inner Temple and is currently President of Malaysian Inner Temple Alumni Association ("MITAA").

Judge Amy Alabado Avellano
Regional Trial Judge,
Supreme Court of the Philippines



Judge Avellano is a family court judge and the executive judge in her jurisdiction. She is a professorial lecturer at the Philippine Judicial Academy and a founding member of HUKOM, Inc., which promotes judicial independence, integrity, and professionalism among Filipino trial court judges.

She focuses on family law, gender rights, juvenile justice, and judicial education. She holds degrees in mass communications (St. Theresa's College), law (University of San Carlos), and a Master of Laws (University of Minnesota, USA). She earned a post-graduate diploma in children, youth, and development from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Moderator:
Honey Tan, Consultant, Seira & Sharizad

Honey Tan Lay Ean holds a Master of Laws from University of Warwick and a Bachelor of Laws degree from University of Buckingham. She is an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya and a Middle Temple barrister. She is also an accredited mediator with the Malaysian International Mediation Centre, where she focuses on mediating family matters.



Honey is also a member of International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. She is the Immediate Past Chairperson of both Bar Council's Family Law Committee and Women's Rights Committee.

Session 2: What is Different about the Advocacy in Family Litigation?

YA Puan Evrol Mariette Peters
High Court Judge of Kuala Lumpur (Family)

YA Puan Evrol Mariette Peters is currently a High Court Judge at the Family Court, Kuala Lumpur.



She started her legal career in 1992 after graduating from Universiti Malaya. After a couple of years in a law firm, she received a scholarship to complete her Master's degree at the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya.

After completing her LLM, she remained in academia, where she lectured and authored several articles and books, particularly in the law of evidence.

In 2002, she returned to legal practice as a legal associate, and then as partner in one of the largest firms in Kuala Lumpur.

After 15 years in the Kuala Lumpur law firm, in 2017, she continued her legal career in a Singaporean law firm as an associate director of its knowledge information and technology department.

She was appointed to the Judiciary in 2019, and in 2022 assumed her position at the Kuala Lumpur Family Court.

K Shanmuga
Partner, Kanesalingam & Co.

K Shanmuga is a partner of Kanesalingam & Co. and the current co-chair of the Human Rights Committee of LAWASIA. He is primarily a litigator in the fields of



corporate law, family and probate disputes, media law, and constitutional and administrative law. He was counsel for Indira Gandhi in the landmark Federal Court judgment, and has also acted in divorce or separation matters.

Michelle Woodworth
Director, Quahe Woo & Palmer LLC



Michelle Woodworth is a director at Quahe Woo & Palmer LLC. She previously served as a District Judge at the Family and Juvenile Justice Division (now the Family Justice Courts) before returning to private practice. With over 26 years of experience in family law and dispute resolution, Michelle has a passion for the welfare of children. She is certified as a collaborative family law practitioner, a court-appointed child representative and parenting coordinator.

Michelle has been mediating family matters for over a decade. She is the first Singaporean woman appointed as certified mediator under the International Mediation Institute. She is a principal mediator with the Singapore Mediation Centre under its family and healthcare panels. Michelle has undergone extensive mediation training including cross border and child focused courses, and mediating litigated cases.

Michelle is committed to therapeutic justice and has been awarded a certificate of attainment for successful completion of the Family Therapeutic Justice Certification Programme under the Singapore Academy of Law.

Moderator: Rajashree Suppiah,
Co-Chairperson, Family Law Committee



Rajashree Suppiah, an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya, has been practising law since 1997 at Kuala Lumpur. She focuses on litigation, collaborative practice, and mediation, with experience in matrimonial, employment, corporate, and medical negligence disputes. Rajashree has contributed to the development of collaborative practice in Malaysia. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals ("IACP") and co-leads the Malaysian Collaborative Practice Group. She is also an accredited mediator, the Co-Chairperson of the Bar Council Family Law Committee, and has undergone training in mediation and alternative dispute resolution.

Case Study of Indira Gandhi

Moderator:
Kee Hui Yee, Co-Chairperson, Family Law Committee



Hui Yee was admitted as an advocate and solicitor to the High Court of Malaya in 2019. Hui Yee is the youngest elected member to the Bar Council. She currently co-chairs the Bar Council National Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee and

the Bar Council Family Law Committee. Hui Yee is also an accredited mediator with MIMC. She is a trained collaborative lawyer with IACP. In her legal practice, Hui Yee focuses on civil litigation mainly public and constitutional law, family and probate disputes, corporate and commercial disputes, employment and labour law.

Session 3: Make Peace Not War: Litigation, Mediation and Collaborative Practice in Family Law

Foo Yet Ngo Partner, Y N Foo & Partners

Foo Yet Ngo has practised almost exclusively in the field of family law for over 40 years.



Foo began her legal career in a law firm in Kuala Lumpur with a general litigation practice. 13 years later, with a growing family law practice, Foo established Y N Foo & Partners, focusing entirely on family law, handling not only local family law cases but also multi-jurisdictional matrimonial disputes involving children and financial matters.

Foo was the first Malaysian to be invited to be a fellow IAFL, a worldwide association of practising family lawyers.

She was a Past President of the Association of Women Lawyers, an active member of the Bar Council Family Law Committee, and an inaugural member of the Malaysian Collaborative Practice Group ("MCPG").

Foo has represented clients in landmark Malaysian family law cases, appeared as *amicus curiae* in seminal Malaysian family law decisions and rendered her professional opinion on Malaysian family law to courts of foreign jurisdictions. She has contributed to several Malaysian and international legal publications on family law.

Goh Siu Lin Partner, Kee Sern, Siu & Huey

Siu Lin is a Bristol University graduate and a founding partner of Kee Sern, Siu & Huey. Siu Lin was the first woman Chairman of the Kuala Lumpur Bar and former President of the Association of Women Lawyers ("AWL"). She is currently the group leader of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals ("IACP") Global Partners and the co-chair of the Malaysian MCPG. She is a trained collaborative law professional and accredited mediator. In 2022, she handled the first collaborative law case in Malaysia. She has since then handled several more cases using this process to assist families to divorce with integrity, dignity and mutual respect whilst prioritising their children's best interests.



Wong Kai Yun Co-Managing Director, Chia Wong Chambers LLC



Having been in practice for over 20 years, Wong Kai Yun maintains a focus on private wealth and family matters. Her family law clients comprise largely worth individuals with specific concerns over financial settlements, as well as cross-jurisdictional issues.

Wong is a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers ("IAFL") and is the current president of the IAFL Asia-Pacific Chapter. She is also a registered practitioner of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners ("STEP"). She is an accredited Singapore Mediation Centre associate mediator, an accredited mediator on their family panel, and sits on the panel of their collaborative family practice and is also a mediator on the panel of Cross-Border Family Mediators of Mediation bei Internationalen Kindschaftskonflikten ("MiKK"), Germany. She is a fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators ("SIArb") and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ("CIArb"). She is also the executive editor of the Singapore Journal of Legal Studies ("SJLS"), the flagship law journal of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. In addition to being the co-chair of the Family Law Practice Committee, she is also the co-chairperson of the Family Law and Children's Rights Working Group of the Singapore Academy of Law ("SAL").

Moderator: Yu Yi Lin, Senior Associate, Y N Foo & Partner



Called to the Malaysian Bar in 2017, Yi Lin is a senior associate at Y N Foo & Partners. Her work focuses on family disputes involving issues such as cross-jurisdictional, child abductions, and ancillary issues of asset division and children matters. Her experience acting in these cases piqued her interest to explore collaborative practice as an alternative family dispute resolution, resulting in her accreditation to the IACP.

Yi Lin is an active member of the Malaysian MCPG and the Bar Council Family Law Committee.

World Cafe Method: "This is also Family Law"

Wills: Gowri Subbaiyah Partner, Syarikat P. Subbaiyah



Gowri Subbaiyah is the managing partner of Syarikat P. Subbaiyah since 2012. Gowri is an elected member and secretary of the Penang Bar Committee. She is also a member of the Bar Council Family Law Committee and is currently tasked with the legislative amendment of the Adoption Act 1952. Gowri is also a committee member of the Family Law Committee under the Commonwealth Lawyers Association. She also has been an active member of the Disciplinary Committee of the Penang Bar since 2021. Although Gowri started out initially handling personal injury cases, her area of interest has been

extended to family law over the last 10 years. Gowri's area of practice in family law includes child custody and division of property, which also includes cross-border disputes. Gowri has also handled an array of adoption cases which includes adoption of foreign children wherein the citizenship of the child had been a great struggle, and hope to shed some light on the lives of these stateless children.

Adoption: Caroline Goh Seow Siang
Advocate and Solicitor, Caroline SS Goh
Law Chambers



Caroline Goh is qualified with LLB (Honours) from the University of London (External). Caroline is an accredited mediator with the Malaysian International Mediation Centre since 2022.

Since she started her legal career, Caroline has always been a family law practitioner and handles all areas of family law including contested divorce, guardianship and custody, legitimacy claims, adoption, and maintenance and financial arrangements in divorce proceedings.

In representing her clients, she constantly explores appropriate ways to provide practical and amicable solutions in resolving family disputes. She has been actively practising dispute resolution for more than 18 years and is now a true believer in mediation. She is also a trained family mediator.

Caroline is also a notary public, a Commissioner for Oaths and a certified translator.

Citizenship: Suriani Kempe
EXCO Member, Family Frontiers;
Co-Founder, Kemban Kolektif



Suriani is a co-founder of Kemban Kolektif, which provides consulting services linked to the entire project life-cycle using feminist and intersectional lens, particularly in the areas of gender, human rights and its intersection with sexual and reproductive health rights. Prior to that, she held the portfolio for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for the United Nations Development Programme ("UNDP") in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. She was responsible for the development and implementation of gender thematic programmes and for integrating a gender perspective into the design and implementation of UNDP's initiatives, as well as strengthening the agenda on inclusion, resilience and sustainability. Her other experiences include working with the civil society organisation Sisters in Islam, advocating Muslim women's rights; and the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development as a Parliamentary liaison and special officer to the Minister. She was a project manager with UNDP Malaysia on a project that focused on increasing the participation of persons with disabilities in the workforce in the state of Johor, from 2008 to 2010. She also worked as a programme manager at Musawah, a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family that works to advance human rights for women in

Muslim contexts, in both their public and private lives. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Masters in Southeast Asian Studies, Bachelor in Global Studies and a Certificate in Global Cultures.

Session 4: Hear Me Out – A Child's Voice in Family Matters

Dr Valerie Jacques
Founder, Integrated Psychology Network
Sdn Bhd



Dr Valerie is a consultant clinical psychologist and founder of Integrated Psychology Network Sdn Bhd for the past 26 years. Her clients include individuals and families from diverse cultures, across the world, living in Malaysia and around Asia. She works with couples from pre-marriage issues to marital conflicts, as well as support for those who have experienced the trauma of divorce and child custody.

Early in her career, she was active in the women's movement where in 1998 and 1999 she was invited to be a resource on the development of feminist counselling practice organised by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development ("APWLD") in Seoul, South Korea, and Bali, Indonesia. In 2000, Valerie took a year off to be stationed in Bangladesh as an international expert on child counselling, working on a UNDP project to provide psychosocial support for street children. Her role included networking with both local and international organisations while looking into issues on government policy with the need to formulate strategies for implementation of child rights based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Later in 2005, she worked as national psychologist for Medicin Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders) where she trained and supervised groups of volunteers for psychosocial and mental health support for survivors of crises and trauma, including migrants and refugees at outreach clinics as well as detention centres in Malaysia. In 2007, Dr Valerie was selected by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security to be trained and certified in critical incidents stress management ("CISM") for support in the Asia region.

She has guest lectured on gender diversity at Help University as well as at University Kebangsaan Malaysia's undergraduate course in forensic science on gender-based violence (domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, and childhood sexual abuse) and Monash University on abnormal psychology. In 2010, she presented a paper on "Assessing the Assessor", an assessment of child custody in divorce cases at a conference organised by the Bar Council. In 2012, her study on the phenomenology of intrusive memories of a woman with childhood sexual trauma was published in the Non-Aligned Movement Institute for the Empowerment of Women ("NIEW") Journal under the Ministry of Women, Family and Development. She has presented on topics of parental alienation to the Bar Council and on shared parenting to the Fathers Rights Association in Malaysia.

Dr Valerie is a member of MCPG and a member of IACP as a family consultant in Malaysia. She was part of the team for the first collaborative case in Malaysia in 2022 and is committed to work that is in the best interest of children and families in two homes.

Anuradha Sharma, Director, Winchester Law LLC, Singapore



Anuradha Sharma has over 34 years of experience in the legal field. She is an accredited Associate Mediator at the Singapore Mediation Centre and a MiKK-Trained Cross-Border Family Mediator. She is certified as a family mediator, collaborative lawyer, child representative, parenting coordinator, and family therapeutic justice lawyer.

She holds an LLB (Hons) degree from the University of London and was called to the Bar in the United Kingdom in 1988, the Singapore Bar in 1989, and Canberra Bar (Australia) in 1991. She began her legal career under the mentorship of Singapore Supreme Court Judges MPH Rubin and Amarjit Singh from Amarjit Rubin & Partners, and thereafter, worked as a legal associate in Assomul & Partners and A Tavarajah & Partners.

In 1991, she co-founded Sukdave, Sharma & Partners and managed the firm until 2012. She then became a founding director of Winchester Law LLC (incorporating Sukdave, Sharma & Partners).

She focuses on handling family law matters within the family department. Her deep passion for advocating the best interests of children drives her work, particularly in her role as a child representative appointed by the Family Justice Courts. She is dedicated to guiding families through challenging legal situations with compassion and integrity, always striving to achieve fair and just outcomes. Her commitment to family law reflects her unwavering dedication to serving the community and ensuring the well-being of the children involved. Her career reflects a deep commitment to the legal profession and dedication to family law.

Dr Prema Devaraj, Consultant, Women's Centre for Change Penang ("WCC")



Dr Prema Evelyn Devaraj is an independent consultant on gender and child rights. She has combined her research skills with her work on gender equality and the safeguarding of children within a rights-based framework. She has been involved with the Women's Centre for Change Penang ("WCC"), in different capacities, for over 20 years. Through WCC, she gained direct experience with survivors of gender based violence, produced child friendly materials and programmes on personal safety and continues to advocate victim support in court. Dr Prema is part of ALIRAN, a human rights group in Penang and has also served as a court advisor in the Children's Court in Penang for several years.

Moderator:

Joanne Leong Pooi Yaen, Partner, Yeoh & Joanne



Joanne Leong was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2009 and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2008. She is one of the founding partners of Yeoh & Joanne.

She mainly handles litigation matters concerning family disputes that include contentious cross-border divorces, custody of children, interfaith conversions, and division of matrimonial assets. She is also a trained family collaborative practitioner for alternative dispute resolution.

Joanne is currently a member of the Bar Council Family Law Committee and the Malaysia Inner Temple Alumni Association ("MITAA").

Session 5: Managing Clients' Emotions and Expectations

**Trevor Mark Padasian
Partner, Skrine**



Trevor Jason Mark Padasian was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 1993, having been admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia, in 1991.

Trevor is a partner of Skrine in its dispute resolution department and heads its family law practice, with experience in the area of personal insolvency. He has, over the years, handled civil litigation matters including family law, commercial and insolvency disputes and civil non-litigation matters such as applications for the establishment of committee of person and committee of estate, pursuant to the Mental Health Act 2001.

He has given talks on the foregoing areas to the Bar, corporate management and professional bodies (including that of the banking industry and members of the medico-legal fraternity), amongst others.

Trevor is a member of the Bar Council Family Law Committee (2024/2025), Bar Council Mediation Committee (2024/2025) and Bar Council MyBar Ageing Rights Advisory Committee (2024/2025). He is also an accredited mediator on the Malaysian International Mediation Centre's ("MIMC") panel of accredited mediators and has been a chairman and is a member of the Disciplinary Committee of the Penang Bar.

**Kiran Dhaliwal
Partner, Y N Foo & Partners; Member, Bar Council Family Law Committee**



Kiran Dhaliwal has over 25 years of experience in family law litigation. She joined Y N Foo & Partners in 1996, where she is now a partner. Kiran's interest in the area of family law was piqued during her participation as a pupil in the

highly publicised and controversial child abduction case of *Jacqueline Gillespie v Raja Bahrin*, with its cross-border jurisdictional issues between Malaysia and Australia, as well as the conflict between the Syariah and civil laws.

Kiran's litigation experience covers the whole gamut of scenarios that arise in family litigation, including the need to act urgently and without notice when the need arises, dealing with international parental abduction cases, divorce proceedings involving cross-jurisdictional conflicts, applications for injunctive relief including for freezing orders, complex financial issues of tracing and discovery, and expansive maintenance claims.

Being a trained mediator as well as a certified collaborative lawyer, Kiran has an interest to provide the best solutions for her client's which includes the use of alternative dispute resolutions.

Kiran has co-authored the Malaysian chapter in the international publication of *Family Law: A Global Guide from Practical Law and The International Relocation of Children: A Global Guide from Practical Law*. On the home front, she has contributed to chapters in *Law and Practice of Family Law in Malaysia* as well as the chapter entitled "Injunctive Relief in Matrimonial Proceedings" in *Law and Practice of Injunctions in Malaysia*.

Kiran is a member of the Bar Council Family Law Committee. She is also a fellow of IAFL, an international invitation-only fellowship.

June Lim
Managing Director, Eden Law Corporation



Called to the Singapore Bar in 2009, June has experience in all aspects of matrimonial practice, regularly advising clients and professionals on pre-nuptial agreements, post-nuptial agreements, divorces, separations, custody, guardianship, variations of divorce orders, spousal and child maintenance, maintenance enforcement and domestic violence matters. June has a keen interest and experience in cross-border divorces, including international child abduction and child relocation matters. June was appointed as "Pro Bono Ambassador 2018" in recognition of her decade-long *pro bono* service in the community. She is the current Chairperson of the Family Justice Support Scheme Committee, providing *pro bono* legal aid in matrimonial cases involving foreign nationals with Singaporean children.

Moderator: Tay Kit Hoo, Senior Legal Associate, Low & Partners



Tay Kit Hoo's practice focuses on matrimonial matters and proceedings involving children. He now heads the family litigation team in his firm. He regularly appears in the Family High Court, Court of Appeal and Federal Court as lead or co-counsel.

He read law at University of Bristol and was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2017. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor to the High Court of Malaya in 2018. He is empanelled as a mediator with MIMC and a registered collaborative practitioner.

He currently serves as a committee member of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Committee. He is the Co-Chair of the Gender Equality and Diversity Committee and Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee at the Kuala Lumpur Bar. He is also a member of the Bar Council Family Law Committee, Bar Council Mediation Committee and Bar Council Court Liaison Committee.

Session 6: It's Not Just Law: Ethical Responsibilities of Family Lawyers

Siew Choon Jern
Deputy Chairperson, Bar Council Family Law Committee



Siew has more than 20 years of experience in litigation, arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution in civil and commercial matters.

Siew has experience in family law and matrimonial disputes including custody, maintenance, access to children, division of matrimonial assets and cross-border disputes. He has also been instructed to provide evidence on Malaysian law for matrimonial disputes internationally.

Andrew Leong
Barrister, Harcourt Chambers, United Kingdom



Andrew has practised exclusively in the area of children law for over twenty years.

Andrew is an experienced advocate and is regularly instructed in cases which deal with the serious forms of abuse against children, complex medical or technical evidence, or where particularly vulnerable witnesses are involved. Andrew also regularly appears in cases which have a forensic matrix or involve cross-jurisdictional questions. Andrew is often instructed in cases against leading counsel and also on appeals.

Andrew was appointed to sit as a Recorder in 2018 and sits in the Family Court. Andrew was admitted as advocate and solicitor to the High Court of Malaya in 1998 and is also a Member of the Malaysian Bar, with whom he maintains close ties.

Ezane Chong
Partner, Ariff Rozhan & Co



Ezane Chong is a partner at Ariff Rozhan & Co. and has over 23 years of post-qualifying experience, focusing primarily on family law and private client work. She is a fellow of IAFL and has served as a consultant

on Malaysian family law for foreign courts on numerous occasions. She has also authored several articles on family law including the Malaysia chapters for Chambers and Partners' *Global Practice Guides: Child Relocation Guide 2023* and the *International Comparative Legal Guide 2020* and 2021.

Moderator:

**Chan Wai Yeen, Managing Partner,
Karmen, Yeen, Kim & Co**



Chan Wai Yeen is the co-managing partner of Karmen, Yeen, Kim & Co. She is an accredited mediator at MIMC with eight years of experience as a lawyer, handling matrimonial matters, conveyancing, property law, probate and estate administration, and general litigation.

Sharing Session

Child A (taped interview)

Moderator: Honey Tan, Consultant, Seira & Sharizad

Session 7: Stop Hurting Me – Insight into the Mechanism for Victims of Domestic Violence

Senior Assistant Commissioner Siti Kamsiah Hassan, Principal Assistant Director, Sexual, Women and Children Investigation Division (D11), Bukit Aman



SAC Siti Kamsiah Hassan serves as the Principal Assistant Director of the Sexual, Women and Children Investigation Division (D11) of the Royal Malaysia Police in Bukit Aman. She has been in service since 1991 and has built a distinguished career in law enforcement relating to sexual crimes, and women's and children's issues. She holds an MBA from MAHSA University and has completed diplomas in investigation science and banking studies. Her extensive experience includes positions across several key divisions within the Royal Malaysia Police, where she has contributed significantly to investigations and management roles.

In addition to her police duties, SAC Siti Kamsiah is an active member of several national and international committees. She is part of the Violent Crimes Against Children International Task Force ("VCACITF") and serves on various standing committees under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, focusing on child protection and the issue of domestic violence. She has also participated in numerous international conferences and specialised training programmes, thus enhancing her expertise in dealing with areas such as child exploitation, gender protection, and peacekeeping operations.

**Professor Dato' Dr Noraida Endut
Centre for Research on Women and Gender
(KANITA), Universiti Sains Malaysia**



Prof Dato' Dr Noraida Endut is the past director of the Centre for Research on Women and Gender ("KANITA"). She is consultant, lead researcher and co-researcher of several research and advocacy projects on women and gender in Malaysia, regionally and internationally. She is a permanent member of the National Council of Women and Family and the deputy head for the Cluster of International Affairs of the National Council of Professors. She is also vice president of the Asian Association of Women's Studies ("AAWS") and board member of the International Women's Rights Watch Asia Pacific ("IWRAP") from 2013 to 2023.

She recently completed, as lead consultant, a Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development project entitled "Kajian Keberkesanan Pelan Tindakan Pembangunan Wanita". She is the principal researcher of a project on sexual and reproductive health of women migrant and local workers that utilises the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs") framework of SDGs 4, 5 and 8, funded by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology ("MIGHT").

She is co-consultant for an Overseas Development Institute-funded ("ODI") project on male alliance in promoting gender equality in politics and The Asia Foundation-funded ("TAF") project on digitalisation of women's micro and small enterprises. Noraida was research consultant of various national and international projects, including those commissioned by Women's Aid Organisation, DM Analytics, International Human Rights Inc., and United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, UNGTG, and Partners for Prevention. She is a trainer and resource person of capacity building programmes for women's empowerment for government, industry, civil society, community and international organisations.

**Yu Ren Chung
Research Consultant, Women's Aid
Organisation ("WAO"); Tribunal Member,
Anti-Sexual Harassment Tribunal;
Senior Policy and Strategy Advisor, Kivu
International**



Yu Ren-Chung ("Ren") is a public policy professional with over a decade of experience, with expertise in matters relating to gender equality, gender-based violence, NGO leadership, and public policy advocacy. He formerly worked as a deputy executive director with Women's Aid Organisation ("WAO"), where he co-led initiatives resulting in policy reforms including amendments to the Domestic Violence Act, increased public funding for gender-based violence response services, the establishment of the National Domestic Violence Committee, the creation of seven-day paternity leave in employment laws, and the establishment of anti-stalking laws. He has also worked on initiatives resulting in the passing of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, and improved implementation of gender-responsive budgeting in the national budget

process. Ren currently works at Kivu International (a unique international development organisation that supports civil society groups to achieve policy change) as a senior advisor; with WAO as a research consultant; and serves as a tribunal member on Malaysia's Anti-Sexual Harassment Tribunal. He has two Master's degrees from the Blavatnik School of Government, at the University of Oxford.

Moderator: Prema Arivananthan, Advocate and Solicitor, Chambers of Ari



With 19 years of legal experience, Prema Arivananthan currently practises law at Chambers of Ari, where she manages day-to-day operations and provides legal advice in areas such as general litigation, employment law, family law, and corporate advisory. Her professional background includes leading the ISO certification process at Teledynamics Sdn Bhd and serving as an internal auditor and document controller for their ISO Committee.

Prema has also held leadership roles, including serving as President of the All Women's Action Society ("AWAM") from July 2020 to June 2022, where she focused on fundraising, legal compliance, and providing legal advice on domestic violence and gender-based violence.

Additionally, Prema contributed to the Bar Council Family Law Committee by reviewing the Law Reform (Marriage & Divorce) Act 1976 and participated in meetings addressing issues in the family courts. Her involvement with the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development included discussions on law and policies aimed at empowering women for equality and justice.

Session 8: The Truth about Money – Myths and Realities of Maintenance for Spouses and Children

Chong Yue-En, Managing Director, Bethel Chambers LLC, Singapore



Yue-En Chong is the founder of Bethel Chambers LLC, a law firm offering both corporate and litigation services to institutional, family-owned businesses, and individual clients. His areas of focus are private wealth, probate, mental capacity, and family Law. He is also a family law mediator, and a Professional Donee and Professional Deputy. He is also a collaborative family practitioner and a trained divorce coach.

Yue-En has a LLB (Hons) from the National University of Singapore and a LLM (Social Care Law) from Cardiff University. He also holds a Master of Counselling from Monash University, Australia.

He is the voluntary legal counsel of St Luke's Hospital and also sits on St Luke's Medifund board. Yue-En also holds local leadership roles as the current Vice-Chairman of the Singapore Law Society's Probate Practice Committee and an international leadership role as the current Global Chair of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners ("STEP") Mental Capacity Special Interest Group.

Catherine Devine, Barrister, Foley's List Australia



Cath Devine is a barrister with more than 16 years of experience at the Victorian Bar.

She practises family law with a particular interest in child support and international child support and maintenance.

World Cafe Method: What's Next for Family Law?

Enforcement Child Custody: Yu Yi Lin Senior Associate, Y N Foo & Partner

Elder Care: Rajashree Suppiah, Co-Chairperson, Family Law Committee

DNA: Tay Kit Hoo Senior Associate, Low & Partners

Moderator: Trevor Mark Padasian, Partner, Skrine

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