

FOREWORD

I am pleased to bring you this Special Issue of the *Singapore Academy of Law Journal*. There has been a growing interest in international commercial mediation in Singapore. This year, with the signing of the Singapore Convention on Mediation, which will make it easier for mediated settlement agreements to be enforced, we thought it fitting that the focus of this issue should be on international commercial mediation. The articles in this Special Issue cover topics ranging from the development of the Singapore Convention on Mediation to international mediation practice and include dissertations on how external factors like neuroscience and culture can impact the practice and success of mediation.

We are extremely grateful to the two Guest Editors, Professors Joel Lee Tye Beng and Nadja Alexander, for their hard work in commissioning and reviewing such a wide range of articles for this Special Issue.

Prof Lee has played a significant role in furthering the development of mediation in Singapore, not just in education, but also in practice. A graduate of Victoria University of Wellington and Harvard Law Schools, Prof Lee is an associate partner with CMPartners (USA) and a principal mediator with and the Training Director of the Singapore Mediation Centre. He is an adjudicator with the Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre and was a key member of the Ministry of Law's Working Group on International Commercial Mediation. He is presently the founding Chair of the Board of the Singapore International Mediation Institute ("SIMI").

Prof Alexander is a pioneer in the field of cross-border mediation law with authoritative texts such as *Global Trends in Mediation, International and Comparative Mediation* and *Singapore Convention on Mediation: A Commentary*. Prof Alexander was a key member of the Ministry of Law's Working Group on International Commercial Mediation. She is Chair of the International Advisory Board of the Vienna Commercial Dispute Resolution Competition, Advisory Board member of Vienna International Arbitral Centre and Board member of SIMI. In recognition of her contributions to alternative dispute resolution, Prof Alexander has been appointed a Senior Dispute Resolution Fellow at Mitchell Hamline (US) and Honorary Professor at Newcastle University (Australia). Prof Alexander is presently Director of the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy at Singapore Management University.

Special thanks are due to our contributors, who are each distinguished professionals in their respective areas of mediation. They are: Ms Gloria Lim, Dr Felix Steffek, Mr Chong Shou Yu, Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma, Ms Sharon Ong, Professor Khory McCormick, Dr Paul Gibson, Ms Eunice Chua, Ms Maryam Salehijam, Ms Joanna Kalowski, Ms Christine Sim and Assistant Professor Dorcas Quek-Anderson. The articles reflect their knowledge of and experience in the subject matter and provide useful insights into mediation and matters influencing the practice of both domestic and international mediation.

Lastly, I thank the staff of Singapore Academy of Law for their editorial support throughout the publication process.

JUDGE OF APPEAL JUDITH PRAKASH
Chair, Publications Committee
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