

Book Review

MODERN ADVOCACY – MORE PERSPECTIVES FROM SINGAPORE*

Eleanor Wong, Lok Vi Ming SC & The Honourable Justice Vinodh
Coomaraswamy gen eds

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1 As the title suggests, *Modern Advocacy – More Perspectives from Singapore* is the follow-up to the extremely successful first volume released in 2008.¹ It sets out not merely to update the original edition but also to examine areas of the Singapore litigation process not previously covered.

2 The book is an easy read, covering the different stages of conducting litigation in Singapore from the perspectives of a constellation of leading lawyers and judges. Each topic is helmed by acknowledged leaders in that particular area, making this an invaluable companion for lawyers of all ages.

3 The opening chapter is penned by former Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong, who draws from his unique experiences as a lawyer, judge and Attorney-General to set out 14 “Lessons from the Bar”. This should be required reading for all advocates.

4 The subsequent chapters are masterfully structured. Each deals with the key topics and areas of interest to a practitioner, and provides practical tips on conducting litigation in Singapore. The chapters are also peppered with personal observations and “war stories”, which imbue the book with a personal touch that lifts it from the ranks of ordinary legal text.

5 The book also looks at areas that have not been given much profile in the past. There is a specific chapter on “Prosecution Advocacy”, which offers rare and detailed insight into the advocacy process through the lens of a prosecutor, and a chapter on “Technology

* Academy Publishing, 2019.

1 *Modern Advocacy – Perspectives from Singapore* (Eleanor Wong, Lok Vi Ming SC & Vinodh Coomaraswamy SC gen eds) (Academy Publishing, 2008).

and Advocacy” that provides timely insight into the advent of technology in the advocacy process.

6 The chapter on “Advocacy in the Singapore International Commercial Court” contains perhaps the first detailed discussion of the ins and outs of conducting proceedings before Singapore’s newest court. Finally, the chapter on “New Developments in Ethics and Etiquette” (as the title suggests) relooks at the ethical demands on an advocate in light of the revisions to the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct Rules) in 2015.²

7 I thoroughly enjoyed reading the book. It is an invaluable aid to advocates in discharging their duty to serve the court with the highest ethical standards in pursuit of justice for their client, and deserves a place on the shelves of anyone who practises, or aspires to practise, advocacy.
