

THE REGISTRY



Activating the Electronic
Queue Management System



Registrar's Secretariat at work



Hearing in Chambers



District Judge Lau Wing Yum (right), Registrar
District Judge Valerie Thean (left), Senior Deputy Registrar

District Judge Valerie Thean, Senior Deputy Registrar

"It's the end of the day and a friend drops by to ask how my day went. How should I describe it? Applications for summary judgment, striking out, scheduling cases for trial. Judicial officers at the Registry hear all kinds of civil interlocutory applications. We also deal with criminal matters – issuing private summonses and further detention orders for illegal immigrant cases, and doing criminal mediation. In addition, we do administrative work, which could range from figuring out how to apply Net Economic Value (NEV), to devising performance management systems, to rostering cases and judicial officers, to helping to organise major events for the Subordinate Courts. Work here is diverse: it could be routine one minute, complex the next; simple one day, intensely difficult on another. Invariably, it needs to be done quickly, as a clog on our part would affect the whole system. As the nerve centre of the organisation, we have to do whatever is necessary to co-ordinate the parts and bring the organisation forward. Officers who work in the Registry must be guided, above all, by a concern for the health of the organisation as a whole.*

*So, what makes the long days worthwhile? First, the satisfaction of working as a team – a great team! – to keep the clock ticking. Because of our role, additionally, we can effect corporate changes that enhance values important to us. The recycling project, for example, where our used paper is sold to recycling companies and the sale proceeds are donated to the Children's Cancer Foundation, was organised by the Registry. We also play a part in the larger justice process. As we see so many cases at varied stages of their evolution, we are in a unique position to effect structural changes that lead to the more effective delivery of justice. Next year, for instance, we will be introducing a new case management and costs regime for motor accident cases. And, perhaps most importantly, we are often a litigant's first experience of the justice system. It is my hope that, in our role at the frontline, the Registry gives each litigant his first exposure to the values that bulwark our justice system: fairness, integrity, **service.**"*

* see page 111 below



@DOUGLAS

(from left to right):

District Judge Ronald Gwee, Magistrate Ong Chin Heng, District Judge Jeffrey Sim (*seated*), Magistrate Koh Chin Chin, Magistrate Terence Chua, Magistrate Chong Kah Wei (*seated*), Deputy Registrars

The Registry manages the Subordinate Courts. Cases are scheduled, the weekly and monthly rosters for judicial officers are arranged, emergency cover and leave is co-ordinated. Large-scale events in the Subordinate Courts such as the Workplan Seminar are organised by the Registry. The Registry also oversees the activities of the Corporate Services Division. All matters relating to the management and public relations of the Subordinate Courts are within its purview.

In addition, the Registry carries out the work of managing and preparing cases for criminal or civil trials. For the purposes of its judicial work, the Registry is divided into the Civil Registry and the Crime Registry.

Court-wide Projects and Events Organised by the Registry in 2001

10th Workplan Seminar

The Registry organised the 10th Workplan Seminar, *Beyond World Class: Subordinate Courts Built to Last*, for the Subordinate Courts in April 2001. The keynote address was delivered by the Honourable the Chief Justice Yong Pung How. The Workplan Seminar was attended by all the judicial officers and staff, as well as the strategic partners and justice stakeholders, of the Subordinate Courts.

Recycling Project

The Registry has organised a recycling project for the Subordinate Courts. Used paper from the Subordinate Courts is sold to Singapore Recycle Centre Pte Ltd, and the proceeds of sale are donated to the Children's Cancer Foundation. The project was officially launched at the Subordinate Courts' National Day Observance Ceremony on 18 August 2001. In this project, the Subordinate Courts have implemented environmentally-friendly policies to benefit the community, thus giving not only to children stricken with cancer, but to the world in which all our children are growing up in.



Ms Kasmah Wati (right), Chambers Officer, Registrar's Secretariat,
Ms Noor Aini Zumsuri (left), Chambers Officer, Registrar's Secretariat