



ANNIVERSARY



School of  
**Law**



**Artist Impression of the School of Law.**

# CONTENTS



*The Founding Years*



*The First Decade*



*The Future*

The idea of the SMU Law School was in the minds of the SMU leadership from the university's inception.

“We were audacious after receiving encouragement – we were cautioned to take it slowly and open the school a few years later than when we actually did. We took a risk but being young and impatient, we discarded caution and brought forward our vision by a few years. In the end, we pulled it off and the Law School has been acknowledged as one of the finest in Asia since then. The moral? Carpe diem ... seize the day!”

*Mr Ho Kwon Ping, Chairman, Board of Trustees, SMU*

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“A Law School was in the original plan of SMU. It's a natural discipline that fits in well with the original concept of a management university.”

*Professor Tan Chin Tiong, Senior Advisor to President, SMU*

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“After sending in the proposal, I told my colleagues in the Law Department we had a 50-50 chance of getting a law school. The arguments for it – diversity, competition and SMU's development – were compelling enough, but whether the proposal would be accepted depended on the powers that be. When the good news came, we were elated! It was a great privilege to have been involved in the start-up of the SMU Law School - a memory I will always cherish.”

*Associate Professor Low Kee Yang,  
School of Law*



“It was vital for the School to offer a distinct law education as compared to NUS. Given the niche focus of SMU, it was synergistic for the curriculum of the Law School to place emphasis on the interconnections between law, finance and business with a focus on comparative law.”

*Mr Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman,  
Steering Committee for the  
Establishment of the School of Law*




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**The legal fraternity was introduced to the SMU School of Law in March 2007. The school opened its doors in July 2007 to its pioneer batch of 107 students with Professor Michael Furmston as its first Dean.**

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“2007 was my fiftieth year of law teaching. This period has included many exciting events but none more so than starting a new law school. Doing so in Singapore was a striking coincidence because years ago Lee Sheridan, the first Dean of the NUS Law School and I had been colleagues in Belfast. Complacency is no doubt the greatest sin of old lawyers but I dare to think we did some things right.”

*Professor Michael Furmston,  
Emeritus Professor of Law*

“I remember receiving a call, as president, in early 2007 saying that the opening of a new law school at SMU had been approved. We were then expected to have students enrolled by August 2007 – a matter of just a few months! The Admissions Office had to burn the midnight oil just to organise the process while the faculty had to prepare for the admission of real law students in just a few months.”

*Professor Howard Hunter,  
School of Law*



“I was very excited that SMU was going to set up the second law school in Singapore. I asked to move from Registrar’s Office to SOL, to take up the challenge of joining a new start-up.”

*Mr Tan Teck Kiang, School of Law Assistant Dean*

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“One of my most memorable experiences was the School of Law’s Briefing and Reception in March 2007, where the School was first introduced to the legal fraternity and the public. It was attended by a distinguished crowd of judges, lawyers and academics, with the then Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong as the Guest-of-Honour.”

*Ms Sascha Ng, School of Law Manager*

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**The School of Law strives to make a mark on the legal landscape.**





“SMU was the ‘new kid on the block’, and I had always been inclined towards entrepreneurship. I was delighted to forge a new path with a promising, ambitious new law school.”

*Mr Russell Low, School of Law Alumnus, Class of 2011*

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“The pioneer batch of law students holds a special place in my heart, maybe because we started our time at SMU together. I remember attending their graduation and feeling immensely proud of their achievements.”

*Ms Charlotte Gill,  
Former Law Librarian*

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The School of Law achieved numerous milestones in its first decade under the leadership of its first Dean, Professor Michael Furmston, and second Dean, Professor Yeo Tiong Min SC (honoris causa). Starting with an initial intake of 107 LLB students in 2007, the School progressively increased its annual intake to 180 students in 2017. The School expanded its degree offerings by launching the Juris Doctor programme in 2009 and the Master of Laws programme in 2011.

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The School offers exchange opportunities to a broad selection of law schools worldwide and conducts regular overseas study missions to both common law and civil law jurisdictions. The School complements its distinctive legal curricula with opportunities for students to develop practical legal skills.

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“The NYSBA-SMU relationship is almost as old as the Law School itself and it is becoming increasingly strong and important with each passing year. The International Section of NYSBA has facilitated the placement of outstanding SMU students at some of New York City’s leading law firms and ADR centers. The students are highly motivated, well-trained and fluent in English, making them extremely valuable to their host firms and enabling the students to derive invaluable experience.”

*Mr William Schrag,  
New York State Bar Association Partner*





“Words cannot describe how privileged I am to be associated with the SMU School of Law in the last 10 years as an adjunct faculty. Within this short span of time, I have witnessed the school flourishing from strength to strength.”

*District Judge Tan Boon Heng,  
School of Law Adjunct Faculty*



“The ability to relate and empathise with others is a particularly useful trait to have as a lawyer. We find that most SMU law students whom we have interacted with seem to have this ability.”

*Mr Bazul Ashhab and Mr Kelly Yap, Oon & Bazul LLP, Internship Partner and Donor*



“Personally, it has been a challenging and at the same time exhilarating experience, much like the experience that we collectively aim to give our students!”

*Professor Yeo Tiong Min,  
School of Law Dean*

“Graduates from SMU come to us well-prepared to be moulded into bright and capable young lawyers who are ready to practise in an increasingly interconnected world, where lawyers must not only bring legal acumen to the table, but also a commercial perspective and a keen focus on client needs.”

*Mr Lee Kim Shin, SC, Managing Partner, Allen & Gledhill LLP*



“I am delighted that the SMU School of Law has within the short span of a decade quickly established itself as one of the reputable law schools in Asia. I believe that much of its success lies with its innovative curriculum, pedagogy and dedicated faculty that have produced well-rounded and confident law graduates who have distinguished themselves in international mooted competitions.”

*Mr David Chong, Chief Counsel, Civil Division, Attorney-General's Chambers*

“Your students have exhibited strong leadership abilities and compassion in proactively caring for vulnerable elderly in society and building homes for those in need of decent housing beyond our shores. Being exposed to the poor and needy helps students rethink their positions as lawyers, and the end to which the lawyering profession should serve.”

*Habitat for Humanity Singapore*

To instil a sense of social responsibility among our students, the Pro Bono Centre was set up in 2013 to run a pro bono programme for all LLB and JD students.

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The Centre for Cross-Border Commercial Law in Asia (CEBCLA) and the Applied Research Centre for Intellectual Assets and the Law in Asia (ARCIALA) were established in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

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The Law School provides a structured programme that has enabled its students to excel in international mooted competitions.



“That we have come so far in a decade is an extraordinary testament to the leadership and faculty at SMU, to their sense of adventure and entrepreneurship, to their courage, vision and unflagging energies, as well as to the students who were ready to try something different, who were ready to be pioneers and to write their own story.

At its core, SMU has focussed on making the learning of law exciting and very relevant to the world we live and practice in today. It has sought to create broad-minded, curious and adventurous lawyers who are thoughtful, knowledgeable and creative.”

*Mrs Lee Suet Fern, School of Law Advisory Board Member*

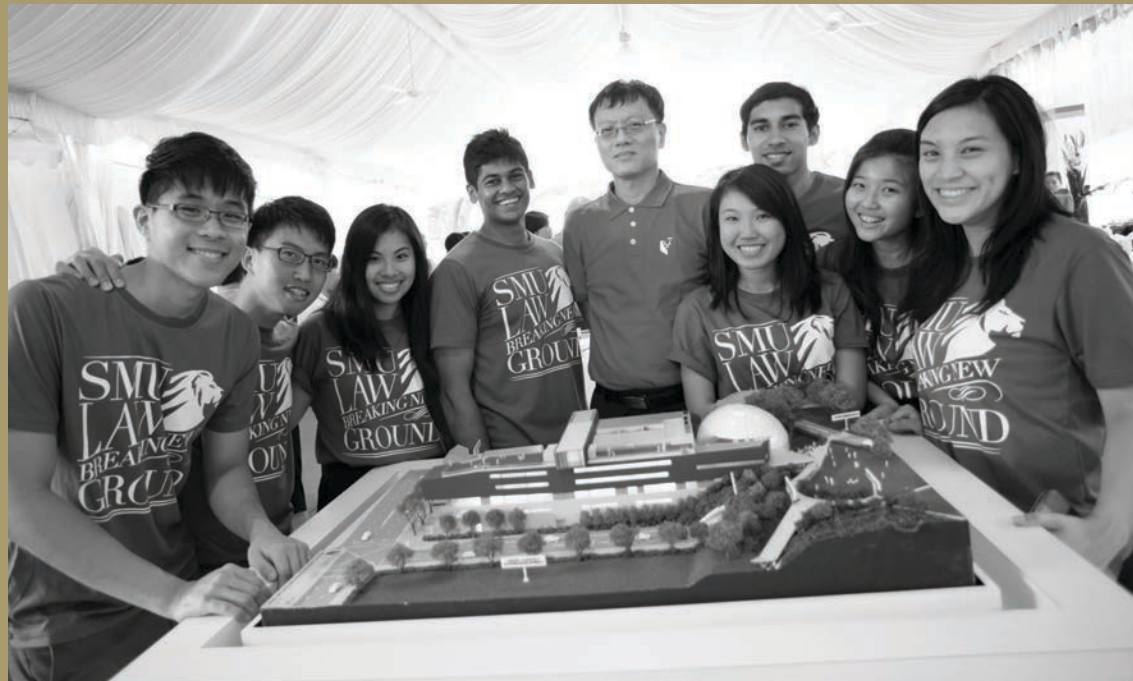


“Modern and always ready to innovate, ambitious and aiming at excellence - these are the core strengths of SMU.”

*Professor Anastasia Iliopoulou-Penot, Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne, THEMIS Exchange Partner*

As the School embarks on its next decade, it will build on its expertise and experience.

Through these efforts, the School will strengthen and enhance legal knowledge as well as broaden and deepen its impact on society.

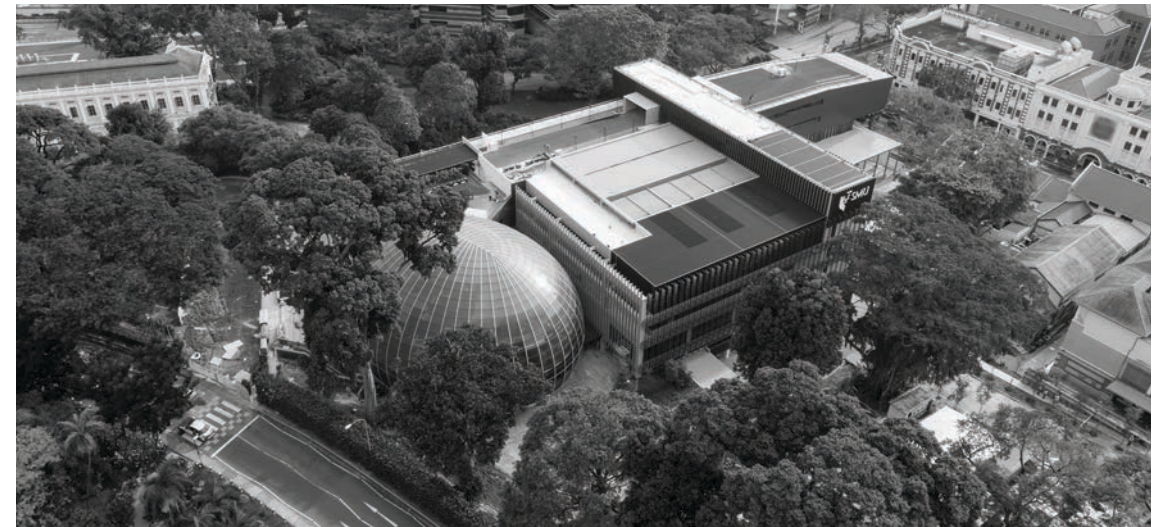


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“Building on what has been achieved is always harder. 创业难, 守业更难. I am confident that the same commitment that has seen us through the last ten years will also steer us to greater heights in the years to come.”

*Associate Professor Lee Pey Woan,  
School of Law*

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Against the backdrop of an increasingly dynamic and complex global environment, a lawyer requires skills that transcend those of the past. The School of Law regularly reviews its programmes to meet these challenges.

“As it contemplates its next ten years and beyond, the School of Law stands amidst the currents of globalisation, anti-globalisation, and technological and geopolitical change. With a special vantage point at the crossroads of Asia and the Pacific, it can lead and make a unique mark on the future of laws, lawyers and legal education.”

*Professor Locknie Hsu, School of Law*

The Law School has grown significantly in the past decade. It was timely for the School to have its own building and the Kwa Geok Choo Law Library, in time for the 10th Anniversary.



With dedicated facilities including the David Marshall Moot Court and the Pro Bono Centre, the School aims to become a leading law school in the region and to nurture and produce the best legal talents.



The School of Law continues to explore new initiatives to provide its students with rigorous and innovative curricula, more opportunities for exchange, internships and competitions, furthering their professional and personal growth.



“SMU Law School will do well by giving law students a legal education that is attuned to current affairs coupled with the ability to apply cutting edge legal knowledge effectively and practically.”

*Mr Tan Chong Huat, Senior Partner, RHTLaw Taylor Wessing*

“I hope the Law School will continue to produce thinking graduates who are not afraid to travel the road less taken, or who will engineer creative solutions for their clients. It’s amazing to see some of my classmates going on to become entrepreneurs to help the legal world research more efficiently, while others are doing fantastically well in practice. Maybe a first Professor next?”

*Mr Joshua Lim, School of Law Alumnus, Class of 2011*

“Life is about moments. My heartfelt wish is that SMU Law School will continue to celebrate its exceptional achievements and create outstanding moments. My genuine hope is that SMU Law School will continue to be bold and true to its values for I believe that greater success lies ahead!”

*Mr Eduardo Ramos-Gomez, Partner, Duane Morris & Selvam LLP*



“Alumni can contribute by returning to SMU to share their experience with the next generation, give their time and resources generously back to SMU. Alumni should focus on doing their best in their chosen field of law and to be leaders amongst them.”

*Mr Darius Tay, School of Law Alumnus, Class of 2011*

“As graduates we carry the name of the School with us wherever we go. I hope the School will be held in high regard in the industry and around the world, not only for its outstanding legal research, but also for producing excellent lawyers and judges. As we develop in our practices, we can also give back to the School by conducting workshops and classes, or taking on mentorship roles both formally and informally.”

*Ms Jo Tay, School of Law Alumna, Class of 2012*



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“We have achieved so much together but yet the story of our School has only just begun. I hope you will join me as we boldly embark on writing the next exciting chapter of our story, together. And so long as we all work together and believe, I am certain that the future of the SMU School of Law will be bright and filled with optimism.”

*Associate Professor Goh Yihan,  
School of Law Dean Designate*

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“It was a great privilege to be involved, at the time the School of Law was established, as a member and later as Chairman of the Advisory Board. In just a decade, the School of Law has exceeded all expectations, producing lawyers of the highest calibre. I have had the pleasure of working with several of them as my law clerks and they have each left a wonderful impression of confidence, sound analysis and passion for justice. And this is only the beginning!”

*Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Supreme Court of Singapore*

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