新加坡管理大学法学院
委任首个咨询委员会
由前大法官杨邦孝领导

黄翠燕

新加坡管理大学法学院委任首个咨询委员会，由前大法官杨邦孝（左）领导。右为新加坡副总理兼教育部长陈振声教授。

新加坡管理大学法学院委任首个咨询委员会，由前大法官杨邦孝（30岁）领导，他去年4月已离休。他也被邀为新加坡法学院的荣人（Distinguished Fellow）。

杨邦孝在1990年成为新加坡独立以来的第二位大法官，在担任法官部门最高职位的6年间，杨邦孝大法官大刀阔斧地从司法效率上进行改革，大力引进新技术，确保司法架构更健全，与时并进，把我国法庭提升到世界级。

由前大法官杨邦孝领导的法学院咨询委员会有12名成员，他们都是我国法律界的知名人物，包括潘文龙法官、魏拉惹法官和文达星高级律师。

杨邦孝称，新大法学院作为一所新学院，在发展一个较不同及独特的定位方面占优势，并能迎合新加坡和区域律师不断改变的需求。其中，法学院的强项是它的课程适合于商业与金融元素。

他表示，咨询委员会扮演的角色便是让法学院、法律界和利益相关者（stakeholder）之间建立起密切关系。

新大昨天在法学院的介绍会上宣布上述消息。陈振声大法官是昨日活动的特别嘉宾。

两法学院应以共生方式竞争

陈振声致词时说，新加坡国立大学的两所法学院将并肩争取缺少有的学术资源，但希望它们能以共生方式，而不是竞争性的方式互相竞争。

他说：“它们应在最佳法律课程的设计和教学方面互相合作，以互补各自的学术强处。”

“两所法学院的不同之处，将造就出拥有不同智慧和实践方式来解决法律问题的律师。”

陈振声大法官也说，我们要看到的不只是在两所法学院中，出现一所优秀的法学院，而是希望新加坡拥有两所都能达到世界级水平的优秀法学院。

他还谈到，本地产律师短缺的问题。2000年有3521名执业律师，但截至今年1月底，人数下降到3347人。不过，他相信新大法学院能协助培养更多法律专才，为法律教育注入多样性，同时应付对律师供应人数的需求。

新大法学院9月开课，首批收生39人，学院从明年起将增加学额，每年培养120名律师。

副总理兼教育部长贾吉玛教授去年8月在教育政策论坛上发表演说时提到，新加坡国立大学和南洋理工大学共同开设法学院，新大法学院首年有机会收约100名生，是政府吸引海外学生来新加坡的策略之一。
The School of Law at the Singapore Management University has appointed its first Advisory Board to provide strategic advice and guidance to the Deanery as well as forge closer relations with the legal community.

The Advisory Board will be chaired by former Chief Justice Mr Yong Pung How (80 years old). Mr Yong retired last April. He will also be the Distinguished Fellow for the School of Law.

In 1990, Mr Yong became the second Chief Justice since Singapore’s independence. In his 16 years as Chief Justice, Mr Yong initiated wide ranging reforms, introduced new technology into the judicial system, built up the legal infrastructure and propelled Singapore’s judiciary into high international standing.

The 12-member Advisory Board headed by Mr Yong comprises well-known personalities in the legal industry including Justice Andrew Phang, Justice V K Rajah and Senior Counsel Davinder Singh.

Mr Yong said that the SMU School of Law, being a new institution, has the advantage of developing a different and unique positioning to respond to the changing needs of lawyers in legal practice in Singapore and the region. The law school will also have its emphasis on corporate and commercial law.

He added that the advisory board will forge close relationships between the school, the legal fraternity and other stakeholders.

SMU announced the new Advisory Board at an event graced by Chief Justice Mr Chan Sek Keong.

Both law schools to collaborate in symbiotic way

Chief Justice Mr Chan said that SMU School of Law and the NUS Faculty of Law will compete for the same pool of scarce academic resources. He hoped that they will compete in a symbiotic way and not in a destructive way.

He said, “They should collaborate and co-operate in designing and teaching the best law courses or modules to complement each other’s academic strengths.”

“There may be some differences in teaching philosophy and methodology. These differences will produce lawyers with different intellectual and practical approaches to solve legal problems.”

He added that what we want is not just one good law school out of the two but two good law schools in Singapore by world standards.

He also mentioned the shortage of lawyers in Singapore. In 2000, there are 3,521 practising lawyers. As of January this year, the number has dropped to 3,347. He believed that the SMU law school will groom more legal talents to add diversity as well as meet the need for lawyers in Singapore.

SMU School of Law will commence classes in August. It will take in 90 students for its first batch and increase its intake to 120 for future batches.

In August last year, Deputy Prime Minister Professor Jayakumar announced the setting up of a second law school in SMU, raise the intake in NUS Faculty of Law and liberalise the admission of foreign lawyers into the Singapore Bar to address the shortage of lawyers here.