

Annex – Award recipients

THE PRO BONO LEADERSHIP AWARD

For outstanding leadership and contribution by a law student towards pro bono work on a sustained basis, where the leadership has led to significant developments in pro bono opportunities for law students.

(1) Teo Ang Siang, Class of 2018

Legal Education & Awareness Programme (“LEAP”)
Project Legal Awareness for Youths (Mentorship) (“PLAY Mentorship”)
NUS Law Criminal Justice Club NPCC Basic Criminal Law Course
NUS Law Criminal Justice Club Forensic Science Forum 2017 and 2018
Witness Orientation Project

Ang Siang is an exemplary pro bono student leader. Since his second year, he has been actively leading youth-oriented pro bono projects. The testimonials from those who have worked actively with him describe Ang Siang as having unwavering dedication. As a leader, he gladly shares his insights and provides guidance to peers and juniors. He has worked tirelessly to create and modify different youth-orientated legal awareness programmes, creating opportunities for peer learning between NUS Law students and youths from all walks of life. He is described as having an eagerness to take the initiative, and has an easy manner in working with youth. One student says, “his single-minded dedication in pursuing pro bono opportunities inspires those around him to contribute more”.

(2) Chong Ren Jie, Yale-NUS Class of 2019

Military Justice Project

In Ren Jie’s term as Head, the Military Justice Project (“MJP”) has significantly expanded its research arm to take up projects that both maximizes outreach and consistently provides members with meaningful and satisfying pro bono opportunities. Ren Jie led MJP to partner with personnel from MINDEF Legal Services to write headnotes for unreported Military Court of Appeal judgments. After the headnotes are reviewed and approved, MJP will seek to publish these headnotes and judgments. Ren Jie also spearheaded the development of a Defending Officers’ guidebook. This guidebook aims to summarise the workings of the military justice system in a succinct and simple manner.

(3) Joelle Loy En Qi, Class of 2020

NUS Pro Bono Group
NUS Law Freshman Orientation Pro Bono Projects
NUS Law Criminal Justice Club - Criminal Legal Aid Scheme
NUS Law Criminal Justice Club – LASCO
Project BUILD

Joelle has demonstrated a sustained passion and leadership for pro bono, as demonstrated by the number of projects she heads and the sustainability of the projects. As Head of the Criminal Justice Club’s Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) Initiative, Joelle led a team of over 50 members in their efforts to provide pro bono assistance to accused persons serviced by CLAS Fellows and Advocates, who take on full pro bono case work full-time. Joelle also liaised with the Supreme Court and Chairmen of the Criminal Practice Committee to birth the CJC-Legal Assistance Scheme for Capital Offences Initiative. The initiative provides Lead Counsel with student assistance on capital cases, both during the pre-trial stages and at the actual hearing itself. An unprecedented endeavour, the project allows law students to access a new dimension in which they can serve by using the skills

they have acquired within the classroom to ensure that persons facing capital punishment get a fair outcome based on their individual circumstances.

(4) Tan Kah Wai, Class of 2019

NUS Pro Bono Office In-Person Deputyship Programme

Kar Wai epitomises the fact that pro bono and academic excellence can go together. He volunteers with the MINDS Pro Bono Deputyship Project which sees students assisting parents of intellectually disabled children to file applications before the Family Justice Courts to be appointed as deputies for their children under the Mental Capacity Act. Kah Wai has single-handedly assembled a team of more than 20 students, and inspired a practicing lawyer, to embark on a similar pro bono Deputyship Project with the Down's Syndrome Association.

(5) Teo Tze She, Class of 2019

(6) Zhu Yujia, Class of 2019

NUS – Rajah & Tann PDPA Compliance Assistance Scheme

Tze She and Yujia have been excellent leaders in this project, training existing members, recruiting new ones, liaising with clients, managing the project and client expectations, reviewing and substantially correcting the substantive work and chasing down issues, owed work from the lawyers. Tze She and Yujia were also entrusted by Singapore Christian Home to talk to their Board on PDPA compliance, and they repaid that trust well.

(7) Loh Yaxin, Class of 2019

(8) Siew Jowen, Class of 2019

CDC-NUS Lasting Power of Attorney Community Outreach Project

In a collaboration between the Community Development Councils (“CDCs”) and the NUS Law Centre for Pro Bono & Clinical Legal Education (“NUS PBCLE”), NUS law students are invited to community centres to give legal awareness talks on lasting powers of attorney (“LPA”) and estate matters. Interested members of the public who meet the NUS PBCLE’s means test are then eligible to receive assistance from a team of students and volunteer lawyers to complete and execute an LPA. Jowen and Yaxin have led this pioneering project that brings undergraduates from across the university to work together with law students. The project has benefited more than 300 members of the public and is an on-going project.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

This is awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment to and passion for pro bono work in a sustained manner. Student leaders who receive this award have gone beyond the demands of their office to lead and inspire. Recipients also include students who have shown persistent effort, commitment and a passion towards providing pro bono services.

(1) Shawn Callen Kua Shao, Class of 2019

NUS Pro Bono Office In-Person Deputyship Programme

As a strong believer in the need for greater accessibility of pro bono services, Shawn has been involved in numerous pro bono projects, including Project Law Help and the Deputyship Project with the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore

(MINDS) and Down Syndrome Association of Singapore (DSA). His work in the Deputyship Programme has expanded the programme to more students and more litigants in person.

(2) Liang Liwen, Class of 2020

NUS Pro Bono Office Legal Awareness Talks

Under the guidance of Associate Professor Ruby Lee, Liwen has prepared and presented six Legal Awareness talks on various topics ranging from Mental Capacity Assessment, Elderly Abuse, Deputyship, LPA, Wills and Special Needs Trust to more than 200 members of the public. These talks raise legal awareness and Liwen's efforts have inspired other law students to engage similarly in raising legal awareness.

(3) Janna Wong Qian Ern, Class of 2018

The Necessary Good

Janna is the founder of the Necessary Good, a project designed to equip the underprivileged with the skills to be able to develop new craft skills, which can be used by them to earn income. The target group is a group of women who have sought to break out of the sex trade to establish alternative ways to make a living. The project also aims to raise funds for a children in Tanzania from the sale of craft work.