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Open Access to Legal Materials in Singapore

Charlotte Gill
Research Librarian, Law
IFLA WLIC 2013
20th August 2013

- Singapore Legal System
- Case Law
- Legislation
- Parliamentary Reports
- Treaties
- Practice Directions
- Government Information



Dome of the old Supreme Court
Photo by William Choo <http://tinyurl.com/kzr9tw>

- Overview and Introduction
 - [SingaporeLaw.sg – Laws of Singapore](http://SingaporeLaw.sg)
 - [Globalex – Guide to the Singapore Legal System and Legal Research](#)

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Singapore has inherited the English common law tradition

There is heavy influence of common law in traditional areas such as Contract, Tort and Restitution

In other areas such as Criminal Law, Company Law and Law of Evidence, Singapore is more influenced by jurisdictions such as India and Australia.

Singapore is a sovereign republic, with a legal system based on the English common law.

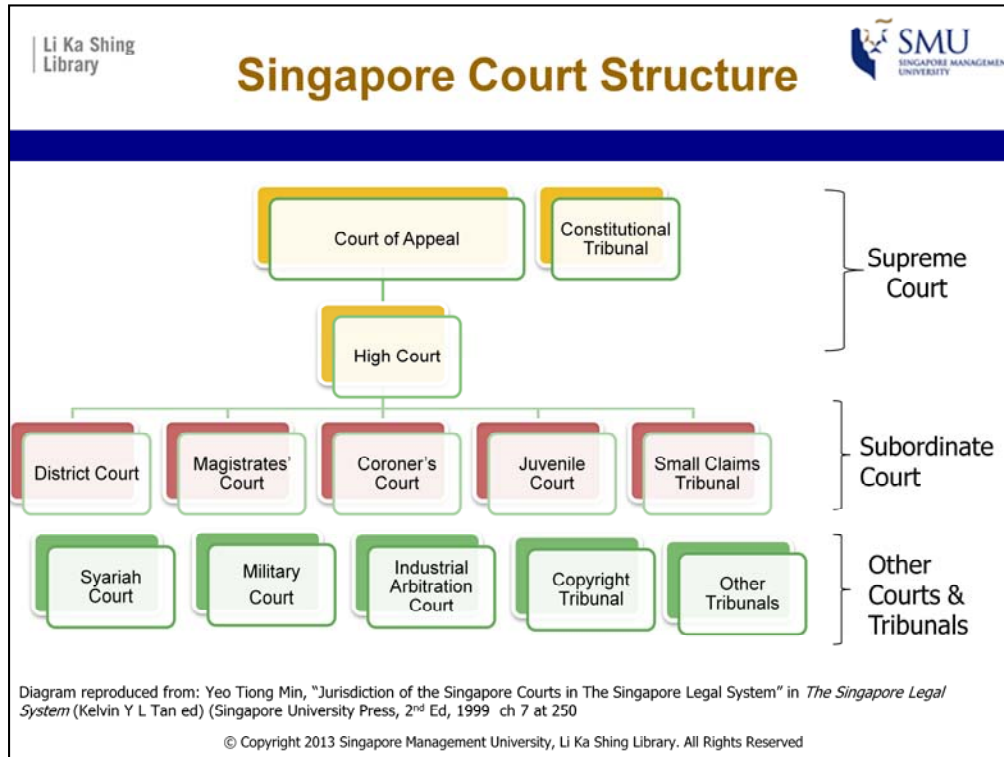
The Constitution lays down the fundamental principles and basic framework for the three organs of state, namely, the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary.

The Executive comprises the [Cabinet](#), which is responsible for the general direction of the Government and accountable to Parliament

The Legislature comprises the [Parliament](#) and is the legislative authority responsible for enacting legislation. More information on the history of Parliament, Parliament House and activities of the House can be obtained from its website.

The Judiciary's function is to independently administer justice. The Judiciary is safeguarded by the Constitution..

The Prime Minister of Singapore is appointed by the President of Singapore under Article 25 of the Constitution. The President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, also appoints other Ministers from among the Members of Parliament.



The Court of Appeal

The highest court of the land is the permanent Court of Appeal, which hears both civil and criminal appeals emanating from the High Court and the Subordinate Courts.

The High Court hears both criminal and civil cases as a court of first instance. The High Court also hears appeals from the decisions of District Courts and Magistrate's Courts in civil and criminal cases, and decides points of law reserved in special cases submitted by a District Court or a Magistrate's Court. In addition, the High Court has general supervisory and revisionary jurisdiction over all subordinate courts in any civil or criminal matter.

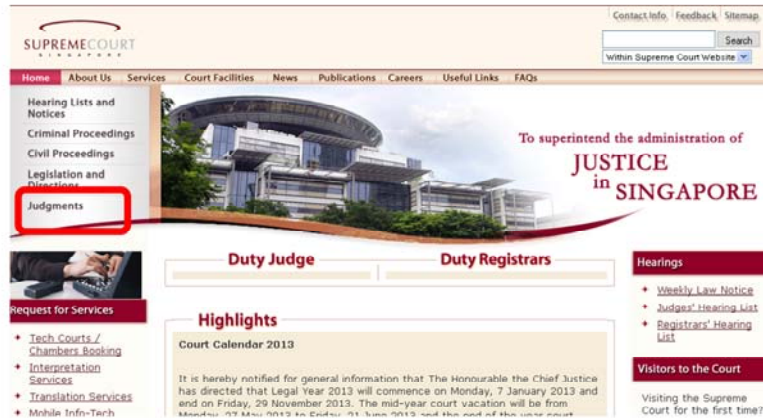
With a few limited exceptions, the High Court has the jurisdiction to hear and try any action where the defendant is served with a writ or other originating process in Singapore, or outside Singapore in the circumstances authorised by Rules of Court; or where the defendant submits to the jurisdiction of the High Court. Generally, except in probate matters, a civil case must be commenced in the High Court if the value of the claim exceeds \$250,000.00. Probate matters are commenced in the High Court only if the value of the deceased's estate exceeds \$3,000,000.00 or if the case involves the resealing of a foreign grant. In addition, ancillary matters in family proceedings involving assets of S\$1,500,000.00 or more are also heard in the High Court.

The following matters are also exclusively heard by the High Court:

Case Law

■ The Supreme Court of Singapore

- Most recent 3 months judgments
- PDF file



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Supreme Court of Singapore. The header includes the court's name and a search bar. A navigation menu lists various services, with 'Judgments' highlighted in a red box. The main content area features a banner for 'JUSTICE in SINGAPORE' and sections for 'Duty Judge', 'Duty Registrars', 'Highlights', 'Request for Services', 'Hearings', and 'Visitors to the Court'. The 'Highlights' section contains a notice about the 2013 court calendar.



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Singapore Law Watch - SLW Judgments

[Swiss Butchery Pte Ltd v Huber Ernst and others and another suit - \[2013\] SGHC 151](#)

Thursday, August 15, 2013 12:00 AM

Damages – Assessment

[Alwie Handoyo v Tiong Very Sumito and another and another appeal - \[2013\] SGCA 44](#)

Monday, August 12, 2013 12:00 AM

Agency – Evidence of Agency

[BJZ v BKA - \[2013\] SGHC 149](#)

Wednesday, August 07, 2013 12:00 AM

Family Law – Custody

[Public Prosecutor v Chum Tat Suan - \[2013\] SGHC 150](#)

Tuesday, August 06, 2013 12:00 AM

- [Recent Judgments by Singapore Law Watch](#) Only High Court judgments.

17 August 2013

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Judgments

The judgments are organised according to the date the decision is published on SLW. Judgments are only available on SLW for three months. If a judgment you need is not found here, it may have expired and can be found in [LawNet](#), or it may be in process.

Damages – Assessment, Tort – Business Opportunity
Swiss Butchery Pte Ltd v Huber Ernst and others and another suit
[2013] SGHC 151 | Decision Date: 13 Aug 2013

Agency – Evidence of Agency, Bailment, Civil Procedure – Pleadings
Alwie Handoyo v Tjong Very Sumito and another and another appeal
[2013] SGCA 44 | Decision Date: 06 Aug 2013

Family Law – Custody, Family Law – Maintenance, Family Law – Matrimonial Assets
BJE v BKA
[2013] SOHC 149 | Decision Date: 02 Aug 2013

Criminal Law – Statutory Offences, Criminal Law – Elements of Crime
Public Prosecutor v Chum Tat Suan
[2013] SGHC 150 | Decision Date: 05 Aug 2013

Companies – Directors, Tort – Conspiracy

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Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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The judgments are organised according to the date the decision is published on SLW. Judgments are only available on SLW for three months. If a judgment you need is not found here, it may have expired and can be found in [LawNet](#), or it may be in process.

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- Cases in Articles
- **Free Law**
- High Court Judgments
- Court of Appeal Judgments
- Arbitration Cases

Statutes

High Court Judgments

Display By Year 2013

Swiss Butchery Pte Ltd v Huber Ernst and others and another suit [2013] SGHC 151	2013
Decision Date : August 13, 2013	2012
BJZ v BKA [2013] SGHC 149	2011
Decision Date : August 2, 2013	2010
Dynasty Line Ltd (in liquidation) v Sia Sukanto and another [2013] SGHC 146	2009
Decision Date : July 31, 2013	2008
Liau Cheng Mee James & another v Liau Ee Ling Julie [2013] SGHC 147	2007
Decision Date : July 31, 2013	2006
Comptroller of Income Tax v BJX [2013] SGHC 145	2005
Decision Date : July 30, 2013	

<http://www.singaporelaw.sg/sqlaw/laws-of-singapore/case-law/free-law/high-court-judgments>

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Court of Appeal and High Court Judgments from 2005- present . In HTML format.
 Provided by the Singapore Academy of Law.

■ The Subordinate Courts of Singapore


- Most recent 3 months judgments
- HTML file
- [Criminal and Civil Cases](#)
- [Family and Juvenile Cases](#)



Provided by LawNet: Subordinate Courts URJ

Subordinate Courts Judgments of the last 3 months
Copyright 2010, Singapore Government, Singapore Academy of Law.

- Public Prosecutor v Koh Peng Kiat - [2013] 84DC 244
Decision Date: 15 Aug 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Azman Bin Jemahat - [2013] 84DC 241
Decision Date: 12 Aug 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Sharif Bin Kassim - [2013] 84DC 240
Decision Date: 12 Aug 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Lim Hsien Hwei - [2013] 84DC 238
Decision Date: 07 Aug 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Mohd Jumat Bin Mohd Latiff - [2013] 84DC 232
Decision Date: 05 Aug 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Saifulah Bin Sami - [2013] 84DC 231
Decision Date: 02 Aug 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Wong Chong Hoo - [2013] 84DC 229
Decision Date: 31 Jul 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Ghee Hak Theng - [2012] 84DC 224
Decision Date: 30 Jul 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Tay Kok Heng - [2013] 84DC 226
Decision Date: 30 Jul 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Teh Chong Seng - [2013] 84DC 227
Decision Date: 29 Jul 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Lim Beng Kwang - [2013] 84DC 220
Decision Date: 23 Jul 2013
- Public Prosecutor v Yeo Tack Chya - [2013] 84DC 218
Decision Date: 23 Jul 2013

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Legal Research

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Singapore & Malaysia Cases Reference Material
 English Cases Legislation
 AustLI Treaties
 HKLI Parliamentary Reports

Please note:
With the new SPRS system, access to Parliamentary content via integrated search will be made available at a later date.

Or

Citation Search:

Year: Volume: SLR Page No:

Announcements

[Complimentary Access For Legal Academics](#)

- Singapore Law Reports from 2010
- Singapore Law Reports (Reissue) (1965 – 2009)
- Judgments (SC from 1991, Sub Cts from 2001)
- Malayan Law Journal (1932 -)
- The Heritage Law Reports (1808-1980)
- Tribunal/Board Decisions of Singapore
- and [more](#).

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The Singapore Law Reports from 2010

The *Singapore Law Reports* are an integral part of legal practice and scholarship in Singapore. The series reports on a fortnightly basis all legally-significant cases heard in the Singapore Court of Appeal and High Court, and by the Constitutional Tribunal. Cases are selected for publication by the Council of Law Reporting chaired by the Honourable Judge of Appeal Andrew Phang Boon Leong.

The Singapore Law Reports Reissue from 1965 to 2009

Contains judgments reported in the Singapore Law Reports series from 1965-2009 with new headnotes and catchwords. For more information about the Singapore Law Reports Reissue, click [here](#).

Judgments of the Singapore Judiciary from 1991

Also available in the Legal Workbench are the full texts of all written judgments handed down by the Supreme Court of Singapore (from 1991) and the Subordinate Courts of Singapore (from 2001). Including both unreported and judgments, these are available online before judgments are published in the *Singapore Law Reports*.

The Malayan Law Journal from 1932

The *Malayan Law Journal*, provided by LexisNexis, is the only local series of law reports to be published continuously since 1932, except during the war years. It includes cases from Singapore prior to full independence in 1965, as well as from the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Malayan Union and Federation of Malaya. The *Malayan Law Journal* currently reports judgments of the Malaysian Federal Court, Court of Appeal and High Courts; the Brunei Court of Appeal and High Court, and appeals from Brunei to the Privy Council.

The Heritage Law Reports 1808-1980

The heritage law reports are a unique collection of early law reports of Malaya and Singapore compiled specially for the Legal Workbench. They consist of *Kyshe's Reports* (covering cases decided between 1808 and 1939), the *Straits Law Journal* (1839-1891), the *Straits Settlements Law Reports* (1867-1942), *Malayan Cases* (1904-1980), the *Federated Malay States Law Reports* (1912-1941), the *Johore Law Reports* (1916-1940), *Malayan Union Law Reports* (1946-1947), *Singapore Law Reports* (1948-1956) and the *Malayan Law Reports* (1949-1954).

Decisions Of Singapore Tribunals, Boards And Committees

This is a collection of decisions by specialised tribunals established by statute in Singapore, including the Appeals Board (Land Acquisition), the Copyright Tribunal, the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Society of Singapore, the Income Tax Board of Review, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, the Military Court of Appeal, the Singapore Domain Name Dispute Resolution Service, and the Strata Titles Board among others. See list below for more information.

- Complimentary access available to faculty members from law faculties or business schools of established universities for the purposes of writing academic papers on Singapore law.
- Click [here](#) for details.

Complimentary Access for Legal Academics

In the spirit of promoting Singapore law, a 3-month complimentary access to the Legal Workbench will be made available to faculty members from law faculties or business schools of established universities worldwide for the purposes of writing academic papers or articles touching on Singapore law. The complimentary access will be granted on a case-by-case basis. All interested applicants may apply by email to lawnet@sal.org.sg or write to:

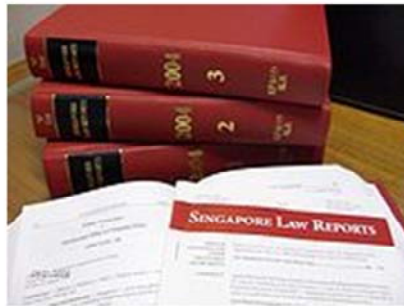
The Senior Director
LawNet Secretariat
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Singapore 178879

Please attach/enclose the following with your application:

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2. Proof of membership in the university faculty;
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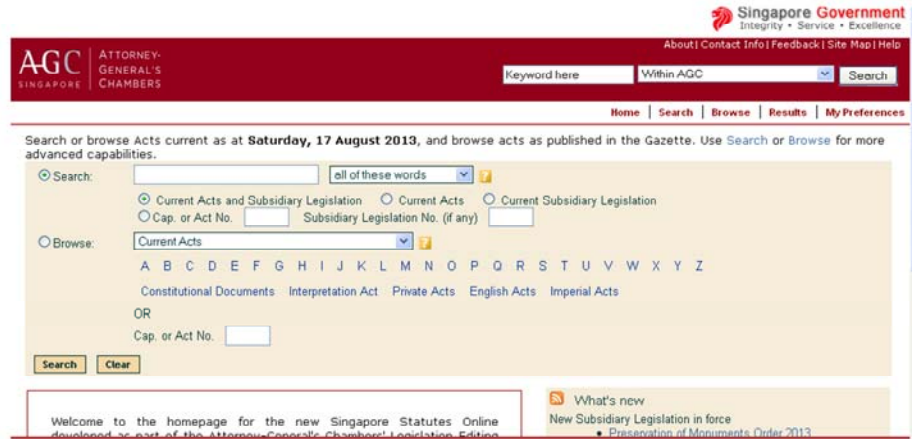
All users granted complimentary access are required to extend a copy of the work(s) to the LawNet Secretariat for its information. Users are also encouraged to grant the LawNet Secretariat a licence to publish the work(s) on the Legal Workbench, but are not obliged to do so.

- Singapore Law Reports
- Malayan Law Journal
- In Print
- LawNet (PDF or the print)



Legislation

- Open Access
- Statutes – Singapore Statutes Online



The screenshot shows the Singapore Statutes Online website. At the top right, it features the Singapore Government logo with the tagline "Integrity • Service • Excellence" and a navigation menu: "About | Contact Info | Feedback | Site Map | Help". Below this is the AGC (Attorney-General's Chambers) logo and a search bar with the text "Keyword here" and a dropdown menu set to "Within AGC". A "Search" button is located to the right of the search bar. Below the search bar is a navigation menu: "Home | Search | Browse | Results | My Preferences". The main content area has a heading: "Search or browse Acts current as at **Saturday, 17 August 2013**, and browse acts as published in the Gazette. Use Search or Browse for more advanced capabilities." The search section includes a search input field, a dropdown menu set to "all of these words", and radio buttons for "Current Acts and Subsidiary Legislation", "Current Acts", and "Current Subsidiary Legislation". There are also input fields for "Cap. or Act No." and "Subsidiary Legislation No. (if any)". The browse section includes a dropdown menu set to "Current Acts", an alphabetical index from A to Z, and links for "Constitutional Documents", "Interpretation Act", "Private Acts", "English Acts", and "Imperial Acts". There is an "OR" section with an input field for "Cap. or Act No." and "Search" and "Clear" buttons. At the bottom, there is a "What's new" section with a "New Subsidiary Legislation in force" and a link to "Preservation of Monuments Order 2013". A footer at the bottom of the page reads: "© Copyright 2013 Singapore Management University, Li Ka Shing Library. All Rights Reserved".

Statutes & Subsidiary Legislation

Open Access

Singapore Statutes Online

<http://statutes.agc.gov.sg>

- Current Statutes and Subsidiary legislation.
- Act supplements and subsidiary legislation supplements.
- No bills
- Current Version only
- html
- Does not list repealed legislation
- Browse /Search
- Whole Document

Fee

LawNet -Legal Workbench

<http://www.lawnet.com.sg>

- Statutes, Subsidiary Legislation, Act Supplements, Subsidiary legislation supplements, Bill Supplements
- Versions (back to 1997)
- Bills from 1961 - present

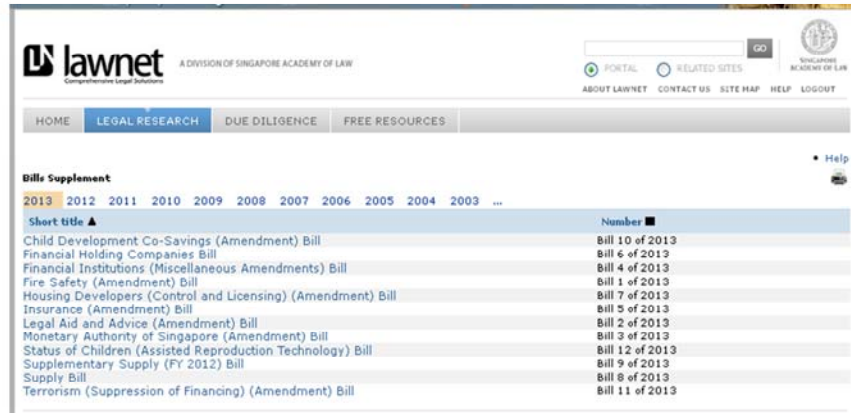
Laws of the Straits Settlements (1835 - 1919)

- The [C J Koh Law Library](#) has digitised this rare 5-volume set. The laws are freely available via the NUS Libraries catalogue, LINC.



Open with caution. These are very large files. 1 volume contains more than 800 pdf pages.

- Available from 1961
- Not all of the bills are available in PDF.



The screenshot shows the LawNet website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'PORTAL', 'RELATED SITES', 'ABOUT LOWNET', 'CONTACT US', 'SITE MAP', 'HELP', and 'LOGOUT'. Below this is a menu with 'HOME', 'LEGAL RESEARCH', 'DUE DILIGENCE', and 'FREE RESOURCES'. The main content area is titled 'Bills Supplement' and features a year selector with '2013' highlighted. Below the selector is a table with two columns: 'Short title' and 'Number'.

Short title ▲	Number ■
Child Development Co-Savings (Amendment) Bill	Bill 10 of 2013
Financial Holding Companies Bill	Bill 6 of 2013
Financial Institutions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill	Bill 4 of 2013
Fire Safety (Amendment) Bill	Bill 1 of 2013
Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) (Amendment) Bill	Bill 7 of 2013
Insurance (Amendment) Bill	Bill 5 of 2013
Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Bill	Bill 2 of 2013
Monetary Authority of Singapore (Amendment) Bill	Bill 3 of 2013
Status of Children (Assisted Reproduction Technology) Bill	Bill 12 of 2013
Supplementary Supply (FY 2012) Bill	Bill 9 of 2013
Supply Bill	Bill 8 of 2013
Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) (Amendment) Bill	Bill 11 of 2013

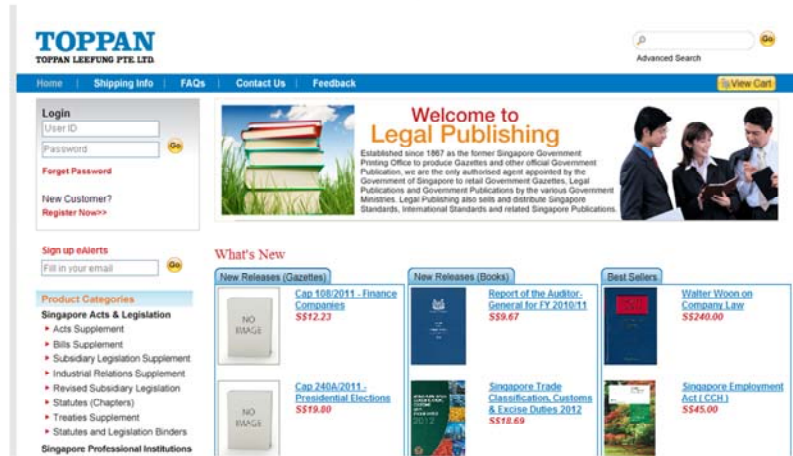
- E-gazette - <http://www.egazette.com.sg>
 - The eGazette is published daily and will be available to the general public for viewing for 5 days. After that a subscription is required. PDF copies available.
 - [Government Gazette](#)
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 - [Industrial Relations Supplement](#)
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- [Toppan Leefung Pte Ltd](http://www2.toppanleefung.com/webshop/)
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 Cap 158/2011 - Finance Companies \$512.23	 Report of the Auditor General for FY 2010/11 \$59.67	 Walter Woon on Company Law \$5240.00
 Cap 248A/2011 - Presidential Elections \$519.80	 Singapore Trade Classification, Customs & Excise Duties 2012 \$518.69	 Singapore Employment Act (CCH) \$545.00

Parliament

- <http://www.parliament.gov.sg/publications-singapore-parliament-reports>



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Same coverage as LawNet from 1955.

Works best on Google Chrome or Firefox

- LawNet: The [Singapore Treaties Database](#) contains copies of most treaties, including conventions, exchanges of letters, memoranda of understanding, and other agreements that are regarded as treaties under international law, which Singapore is a party to. Available in Lawnet

- [Consultation papers](#)
- [Singapore Academy of Law: Law Reform Committee Publications](#) Law reform committee of Singapore Academy of Law
- [Law Reform Publications](#) AGC - Legislation and Law Reform Division ("LLRD")
- [CommonLII: Reports from the Singapore Law Reform Commission](#) By the Attorney-General's Chambers, hosted by Commonwealth Legal Information Institute

- [Supreme Court Rules of Court](#)
- [Supreme Court Practice Directions](#)
- [Subordinate Court Practice Directions](#)
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“The www.gov.sg Portal is the official electronic communication platform of the Singapore Government. This portal, together with three other portals - [Citizens & Residents](#), [Business](#) and [Non-Residents](#) - collectively make up the Singapore Government Online (SGOL) presence.

The www.gov.sg Portal serves as a convenient gateway for you to locate information about the Singapore Government - such as news and speeches, information resources, e-services, events calendar and contact information of public service agencies.”

http://www.gov.sg/government/web/content/govsg/classic/about_us

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Directory

To visit agency's homepage, please click on this icon

Introduction	Ministries	Statutory Boards	Organs of State	Other Organisations	Public Services Telephone Numbers
---------------------	------------	------------------	-----------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------

The Singapore Government Directory is an online information service to facilitate communication between members of the public and the public service. It includes a listing of ministries, statutory boards, organs of state and public services.

For Internet-enabled mobile phone users, you may access the Directory at www.sgdi.gov.sg/mobile.

You may also request for information in the Directory via SMS. Just SMS 'SGDI' followed by a space and the search keyword to 74688. Information matching your keyword search will be SMS-ed to you shortly after that.

The Singapore Government Directory is an online information service to facilitate communication between members of the public and the public service. It includes a listing of ministries, statutory boards, organs of state and public services.

For Internet-enabled mobile phone users, you may access the Directory at www.sgdi.gov.sg/mobile.

You may also request for information in the Directory via SMS. Just SMS 'SGDI' followed by a space and the search keyword to 74688. Information matching your keyword search will be SMS-ed to you shortly after that.

DISCLAIMER: This Directory is an online information service to facilitate communication between the civil service

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“The Singapore Government Directory is an online information service to facilitate communication between members of the public and the public service. It includes a listing of ministries, statutory boards, organs of state and public services. “

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17 August 2013

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Headlines

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- No-go for Harbour View Gardens sale, 16 Aug**
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- Singapore link surfaces in Indonesian bribery case, 16 Aug**
Low-level oil trader with office here fingered in arrest of state energy regulator's chief.
- Manate's death: Family wants inquiry reopened, 16 Aug**
Letter to AOC says request is in interest of transparency and justice.
- Third man in 31-4m Apple theft jailed, 16 Aug**
He was sentenced to 12 years in jail and 17 strokes of the cane for
- Independent advice - fact or fiction?, 16 Aug**
The only rationale for disclosing conflicts is to enable recipients to make an "informed" decision.
- South China Sea accord: don't hold your breath, 16 Aug**

Judgments

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- Family Law – Custody**
BJZ v BKA - [2013] SGHC 149
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



The screenshot displays the Singapore Law Watch app interface. At the top, it shows the app title and navigation options for iPhone and Android. Below this is a status bar with the time 11:41 PM and carrier information. The main content area is divided into two columns: 'Judgments' on the left and 'Headlines' on the right. The 'Judgments' column lists cases such as 'Foo Jee Seng and others v Foo Jhee Tuang and another' and 'MovingU Pte Ltd v Trans-Cab Services Pte Ltd'. The 'Headlines' column features news items like 'Court to hear case on by-election on March 30' and 'Judge dismisses appeals in bank scam case'. A detailed view of the 'Judge dismisses appeals in bank scam case' headline is shown on the right side of the screen. The bottom of the app features a navigation bar with icons for 'Latest', 'Headlines', 'Judgments', 'Commentary', and 'More'. A copyright notice at the bottom reads: '© Copyright 2013 Singapore Management University, Li Ka Shing Library. All Rights Reserved'.



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Welcome! This is a guide to Singapore legal research. It provides access to online and print resources on case law, legislation, secondary materials, websites and more. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions on how to improve this guide.

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Selected answers (links open in new window):

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Research Librarian



Charlotte Gill



<http://researchguides.smu.edu.sg/singaporelaw>

■ Globalex UPDATE:

A Guide to the Singapore Legal System and Legal Research

<http://tinyurl.com/lq4bh5u>



The screenshot shows the Globalex website interface. At the top left is the 'GlobaLex' logo with a 'About GlobaLex' link. To the right is a search bar with a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / Global Research Tools / Globalex /'. The main heading is 'UPDATE: A Guide to the Singapore Legal System and Legal Research', followed by 'Update by Charlotte Gill'. Three biographies are listed: Charlotte Gill, Tri Yong Sam Sim, and Arundhati Ashok Satkalmi. At the bottom, it states 'Published January 2013' and lists update dates: '(September/October 2007) update by Arundhati Ashok Satkalmi' and 'July 2008 Update by Tri Yong Sam Sim'. A link to 'See the Archive Version!' is provided.

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Quick link to: Singapore Statutes Online

Secondary Sources of Law

General | ADR | Building/Construction | Charities | Commerce/Trade | Constitution | Corporate | Criminal | Environmental | Family | Finance | Foreign relations | Infocomms | Intellectual property | International Law | Labour | Law reform | Legal aid | Legal history | Legal profession | Legislation | Maritime | Media | Medical | Privacy | Probate | Procedure | Property | Tax | Terrorism | Transport | Trusts

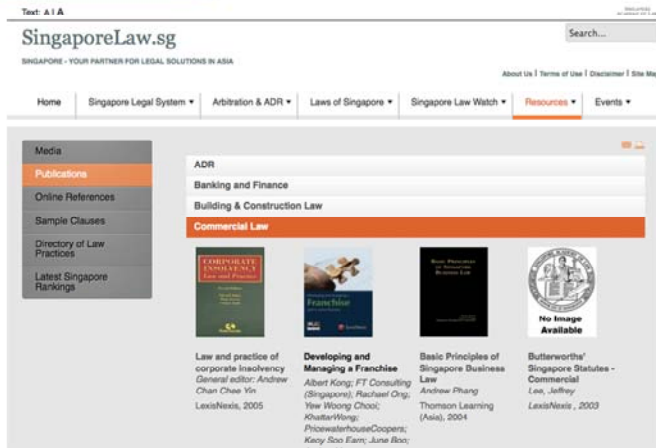
Glossaries & Indexes

Abbreviations | Dictionaries & glossaries | Forms | Journals, bulletins, etc. | Subsidiary legislation indexes
Quick link to: Singapore Legal Abbreviations

<http://libportal.nus.edu.sg/frontend/ms/c-j-koh-law-library/research/legal-resources-on-the-web/law-in-singapore>

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■ [Singapore Legal Resources \(SAL\)](http://www.singaporelaw.sg/) <http://www.singaporelaw.sg/>



The screenshot shows the SingaporeLaw.sg website. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Home, Singapore Legal System, Arbitration & ADR, Laws of Singapore, Singapore Law Watch, Resources, and Events. A sidebar on the left lists Media, Publications, Online References, Sample Clauses, Directory of Law Practices, and Latest Singapore Rankings. The main content area is titled 'Commercial Law' and features four book covers with their respective titles and authors: 'Law and practice of corporate insolvency', 'Developing and Managing a Franchise', 'Basic Principles of Singapore Business Law', and 'Butterworth's Singapore Statutes - Commercial Law'.

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Singapore

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For articles on Overview of the Singapore Legal System and Singapore Commercial Law, published on the www.singaporelaw.sg website, click [here](#).

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Thank You

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Questions



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