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### Jones Day Foundation gifts USD 1 million to SMU

Singapore Management University

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Press release

**Jones Day Foundation gifts USD 1 million to SMU;  
establishes Jones Day LLM (Judicial Studies) Scholarships & Jones Day Top Scholar Award**

*Singapore, 16 April 2021 (Friday)* – Singapore Management University (SMU) today announced that it has received a gift of USD1 million (approximately S\$1.3 million) from the Jones Day Foundation to fund the **Jones Day LLM (Judicial Studies) Scholarships** and the **Jones Day Top Scholar Award**.

Four scholarship awards, valued at S\$40,000 each, have been awarded to international participants of the new [Master of Laws in Judicial Studies](#) jointly offered by SMU Yong Pung How School of Law and Singapore Judicial College, Supreme Court. The Jones Day Top Scholar Award, valued at S\$10,000, will be awarded to a graduating student who has excelled in the LLM programme each year.

A first of its kind in the region, the new postgraduate degree programme, which is designed to provide advanced training for serving judges and judicial aspirants both in and outside of Singapore, commenced in August 2020 with its first cohort of eight students hailing from Singapore, Indonesia, Mongolia and Nepal.

The recipients of the inaugural Jones Day LLM Scholarship in Judicial Studies are: Mr Munkh-Erdene (Mongolia), Mr Tek Narayan Kunwar (Nepal), Mr Rizkiansyah (Indonesia) and Mr Ranto Sabungan (Indonesia).

**Stephen J. Brogan, Jones Day Managing Partner, commented,** "Jones Day is pleased that the Jones Day Foundation has made a gift to support SMU's distinctive leadership in training students in the most important traditions of the legal profession. Jones Day's commitment to helping others is central to the Firm's institutional character. We recognise the importance of higher judicial learning for judges and are proud as lawyers to be able to support SMU's innovative programme, both directly, and now through the gift from the Foundation. We look forward to working with SMU in fulfilling our duties as lawyers in a rapidly changing world."

**Sushma Jobanputra, Partner-in-Charge of Jones Day's Singapore office, commented,** "As a global law firm committed to pro bono work, and community involvement in all of our locations around the world, we take great pride in investing in the communities in which we operate, helping to advance the rule of law, and furthering the development of legal education in Singapore and the region."

**Professor Goh Yihan, Dean of SMU Yong Pung How School of Law, said,** "We are grateful to Jones Day Foundation for their generous support towards the international participants of the new LLM in Judicial Studies, while the local participants receive sponsorship from their employers. The inaugural cohort, which presents a good diversity of backgrounds, has enlivened the learning and exchange of ideas and views."

The LLM in Judicial Studies has been designed specifically for serving judges and judicial aspirants. Participants will experience a diverse curriculum that is jointly developed and taught by professors from SMU and experienced Singapore judges, as well as benefit from academic rigour of higher learning coupled with practical judge-craft. (Please see Annex 2 for more details.)

- End -

Enclosures:

- Annex 1 – Quotes from Scholarship award recipients
- Annex 2 – About the LLM in Judicial Studies

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**About Jones Day Foundation and Jones Day**

The Jones Day Foundation is a non-profit organization funded by Jones Day's lawyers and staff. Its mission has four goals: to relieve suffering, foster innovation, improve the lives of those living in poverty, and support the rule of law.

The gift demonstrates the Foundation's commitment to enhancing the rule of law by increasing the competency of judges and standing of the judiciary in the region.

The Foundation had previously funded The Jones Day Professorship of Commercial Law at Singapore Management University in 2012. The professorship is to facilitate increased focus on the development of Commercial Law in Singapore, a market that is in continuous development and increasingly plays a global role as a hub for legal services to both regional and international clients in Asia.

Jones Day has a long history of public service, community involvement, and pro bono work in all of its locations around the world. Jones Day is a global law firm with more than 2,500 lawyers in 42 offices across five continents. The Firm is distinguished by a singular tradition of client service; the mutual commitment to, and the seamless collaboration of, a true partnership; formidable legal talent across multiple disciplines and jurisdictions; and shared professional values that focus on client needs.

**About Singapore Management University**

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU's education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning

Home to over 11,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, Yong Pung How School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in multi-disciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and inter-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers

and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

### **About SMU Yong Pung How School of Law**

SMU's law school was renamed Yong Pung How School of Law on 11 April 2021 to celebrate and honour the late Dr Yong Pung How, Singapore's former Chief Justice and Singapore Management University's (SMU) third Chancellor.

The law school had proudly welcomed its first cohort of 116 students in August 2007. Taught by a dynamic faculty with postgraduate degrees from renowned universities, the School aims to nurture its students to become excellent lawyers who will contribute significantly to society. Trained with the ability to contextualise legal expertise and to think across disciplines and geographical borders coupled with SMU's interactive pedagogy, SMU's law graduates are confident articulate and analytically agile.

The School offers a four-year full-time Bachelor of Laws programme, a five-year double-degree programme which combines law with Accountancy, Business, Economics, Computing & Information Systems or Social Sciences, a three-year Juris Doctor programme, a Master of Laws programme, as well as continuing legal education. From Academic Year 2020-2021, the School of Law also jointly offers a new Bachelor of Science (Computing & Law) with the SMU School of Computing and Information Systems. This new degree will produce IT and legal professionals who are adept at bridging technology and law.

Research at the SMU School of Law has a strong focus in three main inter-related areas – Law and Technology, Transnational Commercial law in Asia, and Dispute Resolution. The School has also set up legal research centres focusing on A.I. and data governance, computational law, commercial law, and international dispute resolution. [www.law.smu.edu.sg](http://www.law.smu.edu.sg)

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## **Annex 1: Quotes from Scholarship award recipients**

- **Mr Munkh-Erdene (Judge in the First Instance Criminal Court in Mongolia):**

*“Having always been fascinated by Singapore’s development, I am honored and grateful to be the first Mongolian to receive this scholarship at SMU. Through this scholarship, I hope to learn from the best practices of the Singapore Judiciary system and adopt them in Mongolia. I also hope that this can improve cooperation between Mongolia and Singapore courts. The classes have been very interesting.”*

- **Mr Tek Narayan Kunwar (Judge with High Court, Patan, in Nepal):**

*“Indeed, it has been a wonderful experience for me. The planning and arrangement of classes were excellent and I am impressed by the presentations of the instructors, as well as the valuable study materials. I am sincerely honoured to be a recipient of the Jones Day Scholarship. The generosity of the Jones Day Foundation has allowed me to pursue my career goals and contribute immensely to my judiciary in the future.”*

- **Mr Ranto Sabungan (Judge at Tegal District Court, under the Supreme Court of Republik Indonesia):**

*“Thank you to the Jones Day Foundation from the bottom of my heart for the scholarship. All the knowledge that I have learnt will not only support my future career, but also benefit the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia. It is my goal to become a lecturer in the Indonesian Judicial Training Centre.*

*The instructors at SMU are all experts in their fields and this makes me want to exert myself more in deriving the most value out of the programme.”*

- **Mr Rizkiansyah (Judge with Mahkamah Agung in Indonesia):**

*“I am honoured and thankful to be selected as a recipient of the Jones Day Scholarship. Pursuing the LLM in Judicial Studies has enriched me with knowledge of current legal systems as well the ability to network with many judges in this region. The course instructors are exceptional, and I believe this opportunity will not only enhance my own career but also the rule of law in my country.”*

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## **Annex 2: About Master of Laws in Judicial Studies**

*“This programme, the first of its kind in the region, has been designed specifically for serving judges and judicial aspirants. The diverse curriculum is jointly developed and will be taught by professors from the Singapore Management University and experienced Singapore judges. Candidates can expect the academic rigour of higher learning coupled with practical judge-craft. The teaching faculty will be supported by the Singapore Judicial College, which has established a reputation for its practical programmes, which focus on enhancing problem-solving skills. Graduates of this programme will enjoy the privilege of being amongst the first members of a new and growing worldwide alumni of judges.”*

*- Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon*

The new postgraduate degree programme is designed to provide advanced training for serving judges and judicial aspirants both in and outside of Singapore. Candidates can expect to receive instruction by experienced Singapore judges and interact closely with them while undertaking judicial attachments and dissertations during the programme.

The new LLM in Judicial Studies was officially launched on 26 July 2018 at the ASEAN Law Association (ALA) Conference, and witnessed by the Heads of Delegation and participants attending the Conference.

The coursework of the LLM in Judicial Studies has been carefully curated to enhance the candidates' knowledge and competencies in core areas of the law, such as the law of obligations and business law taught from a comparative perspective. It also equips them for modern day adjudication and judicial administration through core modules such as 'Judgecraft' and 'Law and Technology', alongside a variety of interdisciplinary electives.

Candidates will also enjoy the immersive experience of a mandatory attachment programme with the Singapore judiciary and being personally supervised by judges in their dissertations for selected empirical judicial research areas. The programme also provides ample networking opportunities with fellow or aspiring judges in Singapore and other international jurisdictions.

Upon successfully completing the programme, which takes place in two terms across 10 months, candidates will graduate with an LLM in Judicial Studies degree from SMU. To enable candidates to better balance their participation in the programme with their work commitments, they can opt to complete the programme on an extended duration basis, where they can complete the first term, take a leave of absence to return to their work, and then return to SMU within one calendar year to complete the second term.

For more information, please see - <https://law.smu.edu.sg/llm/judicial-studies-track>

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