



ORGANISED BY THE SELANGOR BAR COMMITTEE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

2 CPD
POINTS

FAIR COMMENT AND THE LAW OF DEFAMATION ARE YOU BEING FAIR IN MAKING A COMMENT?

19th JULY 2022 (TUESDAY)
3.00-5.00pm VIA ZOOM Webinar

LIMITED TO 490 PAX ONLY

REGISTRATION FEE:

MEMBERS OF THE BAR RM30.00 / YOUNG LAWYERS (3 YEARS & BELOW) RM15.00 / PUPILS IN CHAMBERS RM15.00 / NON-MEMBERS (PUBLIC) RM50.00

About the Speaker

Ms. Sara Deo started her career as principal lecturer in law in 1999. She has lectured law students in several local law colleges and university colleges. Her subjects of expertise are Constitutional & Administrative law, Tort, Contract law, Medical law, Employment law, Company law, Cyber law and Media law. She has lectured these subjects in both the UK and Australian law programmes. After leaving academia, she pursued practice of law in 2013 under leading litigators, putting her knowledge in substantive law to handle civil litigation. She currently practices under her own boutique law firm Messrs Sara Deo & Co, focusing exclusively on the line of substantive areas of law that she has lectured. She has published several articles in law journals for over a decade. She also gives lectures and talks on subjects of her interest with her characteristic engaging style, delivering complicated concepts in a crisp and simple manner.

SYNOPSIS: The law of defamation allows the plaintiff to vindicate his reputation and not to provide redress for disparaging opinions or false statements. However, section 9 of the Defamation Act 1957 provides for a wider range of factual material that could be relied upon to support a comment made without malice, in respect of a matter of public interest. The purpose is to allow considerable tolerance for inaccuracy in the supportive material relied upon by the commentator which enables the defence of fair comment to perform its role as a bulwark of constitutional free speech. While fair comment is meant to be an important practical safeguard of freedom of speech, it has been strongly criticised for its complexity and technicality.

Speaker
SARASWATHY SHIRKE
DEO



Moderator
RICHARD TEH



This webinar will address the following key areas:

- The principles of law employed to distinguish an allegation of fact from an expression of opinion;
- How will the courts decide whether the impugned comment is on a matter of public interest and the impact on the development of the law of privacy in Malaysia;
- The essentials to prove malice to rebut the defence of fair comment;
- Does our law allow more leeway to reporters than private individuals;
- What are the potential impacts, if reforms to the defence of fair comment allow partial relaxation of the public interest requirement.

All payments must be made in advance of the event, and include all bank charges. Registration will be confirmed upon receiving successful confirmation and once proof of payment is provided by email and full payment is received. Places are limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis. Upon successful registration, a link to the webinar will be emailed to registered participants only. Please note that no additional registration will be accepted once the closing date is passed, or if the webinar is full. Cancellations must be made in writing. There will be no refunds for cancellations but substitutions are allowed provided 48 hours notice is given to the organiser prior to the event. The organiser reserves the right to modify, cancel or postpone the event, should circumstances arise that make such action necessary, whereupon all registration fees paid will be refunded. No recording of the event is permitted via any means at any time. No part of the event content may be used / reproduced in any form without the written and explicit consent of the Bar Council and speaker(s). Points for the Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") Scheme and e-Certificate will not be awarded to Members of the Bar who are not present throughout the event, or leave before its scheduled end. Should you have any enquiries, please contact Ms. Vasantha at Tel: 03-55196219 or Email: secretariat@sgorbar.org