



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



**M K Thas**

I am very delighted to report that this term has ended very well. This was a post-pandemic term where most matters were attended to physically as much as we were unable to depart from online platforms totally. In a hurried pace we have now resumed meetings and administrative matters physically, however, the essential need of virtual options continue. All the accomplishments for the term would not have been achieved without the support of the Selangor Bar Committee's Honorary Secretary and the Committee members who had always stood by me to see a better Selangor Bar. Their commitment in upholding the highest standards of professionalism and in undertaking all tasks during this term is truly commendable. The support of the secretariat staff is not discounted, too. Together, we have achieved numerous milestones and made significant strides in promoting the interest of the members. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all for the unwavering support and dedication.

It was indeed a great pleasure serving towards the welfare of the Selangor Bar members at all counts.

In addition to this responsibility, I was also appointed as a Co-Chairperson for the Criminal Law Committee, Bar Council, to deal with issues related to the criminal law practice and criminal practitioners as a whole.



At the SBC's first meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023, SBC appointed Yu Ai Ting as its Honorary Secretary with Justin Ng Weng Kee and Teeruvrasu K Muthusamy co-opted as members of the SBC under section 73 (vii) of Legal Profession Act 1976.

I allocated each Committee member his/her respective portfolio as follows:

In no special order, the respective Chairperson(s) and their co-chairs(s):

- i. **Ambiga Rajendran and Yu Ai Ting**  
Civil Practice & Court Liaison
- ii. **Nurul Muhaniza Binti Hanafi**  
Conveyancing Practice
- iii. **Afifuddin Hafifi and Syahrul Syazwan Salehin**  
Criminal Practice & Court Liaison
- iv. **Prabakaran V., Syahrul Syazwan Salehin and M K Thas**  
District Representative
- v. **Ambiga Rajendran and Justin Ng Weng Kee**  
Human Rights, the Environment & Gender Equality
- vi. **Syahrul Syazwan Salehin and Christopher Joseph**  
Legal Aid Centre Selangor & YBGK
- vii. **Ambiga Rajendran and Teeruvrasu K Muthusamy**  
Professional Development
- viii. **Zainal Abidin Bin Shaik Zakaria and Prabakaran V.**  
Publication
- ix. **Richard Teh and Justin Ng Weng Kee**  
Social, Charity & Welfare
- x. **Eugene Roy Joseph and Teeruvrasu K Muthusamy**  
Sports, Recreation & Health
- xi. **Nurul Muhaniza Bt. Hanafi and Zainal Abidin Bin Shaik Zakaria**



Syariah & Bahasa Melayu

**xii. Richard Teh and Christopher Joseph**  
Young Lawyers and Pupils

The respective sub-committees have adduced their reports extensively, my heartfelt appreciation to the respective committee chairperson and co-chairperson (s) in preparing the committee reports despite their busy schedules. As such, to avoid the risk of repetition, I would not be regurgitating the same points save for a summary as highlighted below for the Selangor Bar term 2023/2024:

**1. Civil Practice & Court Liaison**

The Civil Practice & Court Liaison sub-committee has received a tremendous number of complaints. I must give credit to Yu Ai Ting and Ambiga who had managed it well.

The Selangor Bar hosted the Civil Law Conference 2023. I must applaud the sub-committee for such an extensive and remarkable conference. The Conference was officiated by the Chief Justice, the Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun Binti Tuan Mat. This was first time ever, I believe.

The Conference showcased an impressive lineup of distinguished speakers and moderators comprising of Federal Court, Court Of Appeal, High Court Judges, Judicial Commissioners, Registrar and learned members of the Bar. The number of young lawyers participating was outstanding in comparison to the other members. 161 delegates attended the one and a half-day conference held in Empire Hotel, Subang Jaya.



The annual meetings with Managing Judge, Pengarah Negeri Selangor and Deputy Registrars were undertaken. Despite that, there were also adhoc meetings held for matters raised by members with SBC.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **2. Conveyancing Practice**

The Conveyancing Practice Committee (“CPC”) team of Selangor Bar Committee had overcome many major issues with relevant agencies/stakeholders. Nurul and her committee exceptionally handled all issues well for members. The sub-committee, with Nurul’s able leadership, had over all these years always maintained a good relationship with all the relevant stakeholders.

This was evidenced when this sub-committee faced challenges in resolving tonnes of complaint from members with regard to the implementation of e-Tanah Selangor.

Further fruitful events organised was the Hi-Tea and Get Together Event at Empire Hotel, Subang Jaya, which was an event where the members of the Selangor Bar and all the important stakeholders present had an invaluable interactive session. Apart from the Rantai Bicara with PTGS, this sub-committee is also due to have the last event for the term soon which is the Seminar Ownership Mechanism For State Controlled Property In Selangor (OWSEM). I trust that this would be another further success.



This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

### **3. Criminal Practice & Court Liaison**

This Criminal Practice & Court Liaison Sub-Committee (CPCL) with the stewardship of Afifuddin and Syahrul attended their annual meetings with the relevant agencies and authorities such as Selangor Police, “Pengarah Pendakwaan Negeri Selangor”, “Penasihat Undang-Undang Negeri Selangor” and the relevant Criminal Courts to highlight and address issues faced by the members.

CPCL also organised a series of 8 Criminal Law talks which were all conducted by senior criminal practitioners for the benefit of members and it was indeed an accomplishment for this sub-committee as well as for Criminal Law practitioners as a whole. The details of these talks are captured in the report by them.

The co-chairpersons had been hands on with all issues raised by members on an adhoc basis.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

### **4. Human Rights, the Environment and Gender Equality**

This sub-committee had organised various timely talks for the benefit of the members such as follows:



- 1) Reforms to the Child Act 2001 - 13th June 2023 by the Suhakam Child Rights Commissioner, Dr Farah Nini Dusuki;
- 2) Online Child Sexual Abuse - 22nd August 2023 by Pn Salma Farhanah from “Pusat Perkhidmatan Wanita” (under the Women’s Centre for Change (WCC), Penang; and
- 3) The New Frontier: Demystifying ESG for Future Legal Leaders – 29th January 2024

This sub-committee had excelled well on all the above events organised and have done their best throughout this term.

## **5. Legal Aid Centre Selangor (LACS) & YBGK**

This committee was spearheaded by Syahrul and Christopher and they have injected their utmost energy in having the task performed on track. It was sheer hardwork in ensuring the proper administration and running of the centre.

There were hiccups at the centre when I took office. However, upon consulting the Bar Council, we worked hand in hand to formulate methods to clear off all issues in well and timely manner.

Orientation/Introduction by LACS was organised together with Selangor Bar Committee’s ‘Introductory Sessions’ to provide an insight of what is required and expected from chambering pupils during their 14 days of compulsory legal aid duty at LACS and to further introduce the various programmes and clinics run by the centre. A total of 9 orientation sessions were held until December 2023.



Courts Observant programme is a new initiative designed to provide valuable exposure to pupils. This program entails participants receiving guidance and training on the essential aspects of legal practice, including conducting remand, mitigation and bail proceedings, equipping them with the necessary legal skills and knowledge. Moreover, they will have the opportunity to offer legal aid services to (OYDS) and (OKT) in various courts.

Legal Aid Clinic is a new initiative which aims to provide exposure and opportunity related to legal aid services to OYDS / OKT and the general public present in the following courts:

- i. Shah Alam Magistrate Court;
- ii. Klang Magistrate Court; and
- iii. Petaling Jaya Magistrate Court.

"Free Legal Aid" Counters were set up to provide legal aid services to all quarters who qualify. The volunteers, including lawyers and staff, assisted on a voluntary basis advising the public on various matters which include land, criminal, contract and family.

"The Walk about Programme" is also another outreach programme which has been a valuable step in making the legal aid service more accessible to those in the community who may not have had previous access. This was a successful event in creating awareness and to introduce LACS to the community. This committee remains committed in improving and expanding these efforts, ensuring that legal aid services are within reach for those in need.

YBGK training sessions concerning the administrations of the YBGK scheme and the law of arrest, remand, bail and mitigation were held on 8th July 2023



and 25th November 2023. A total of 56 lawyers were trained in the said training sessions. Currently the Committee is also exploring the possibility of having more training sessions like this as there is an increase in demand from members wanting to attend the same.

This LAC & YBGK had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **6. Professional Development**

This Committee headed by Ambiga and Teeru had done their best achievements, including recognition in diversity of topic, innovation and professional excellence, had been their drive here for the members. The reporting by this committee spills over to almost 40 sessions throughout the term. The contribution of this sub-committee surely would have benefitted all members who had attended. It is my desire that we can have more participation from the members in continuing to develop and uplift their standards further.

The sessions held thus far have benefitted members and pupils alike to better equip themselves with necessary knowledge as well as skills to stay competitive and competent as they embark in their legal career.

The Practice Management Forum undertaken by this committee and the Johore Bar, was a great platform provided for Selangor Bar members in having insights of the fraternity. This Forum was inspired to uplift the level of practice by our fellow members.

The other inaugural event that was organised between the AIAC in collaboration with the Selangor Bar and the Kuala Lumpur Bar was the



seminar on “Expert Evidence In Arbitration”. This was also a way forward for Selangor Bar members having a platform to enhance their expertise in Arbitration matters.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **7. Publication**

The Ad-Rem is a yearly publication showcasing many exciting events that had been undertaken for many years. This magazine had been tirelessly compiled by Tn Haji Zainal, a very senior member of the Bar, together with Prabakaran. My appreciation for their efforts in ensuring the publication of the flagship magazine in time.

The Ad-Rem magazine this year, amongst others, features interviews with the current Chief Judge of Malaya, YAA Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidin Bin Mohd Diah and a senior and prominent member of the Malaysian Bar, Dato’ Cyrus Das. A big thank you to all who had contributed their energy and time towards the contents of this magazine.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **8. Social, Charity & Welfare**

There were two major socials events held in this term which were the Members’ Night and Annual Selangor Bar Dinner & Dance 2023. I must say



that Richard Teh and Justin did a great job by rolling out splendid and joyful events for our members.

The Selangor Bar Members' Night 2023 themed "Tropical Paradise" took place at Kelab Golf Negara Subang (KGNS) with 220 pupils & members attending. It was delightful to see as members mingled and mixed around to get to know each other better. It was a night filled with joyous moments, delightful food, live band performances, a quiz competition and best dressed awards.

Whilst the Selangor Bar Annual Dinner & Dance 2023 themed "Bollywood Night" was held at Wyndham Hotel, Bandar Baru Klang with a total number of 450 guests with the guest of honour being our Chief Judge of Malaya YAA Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidin Bin Mohd Diah together with Justice Wong Kian Keong from the Court of Appeal along with 11 other Shah Alam High Court Judges and Judicial Commissioners, the Malaysian Bar President Karen Cheah Yee Lynn and Bar Council members. Members of the Bar, pupils and guests who all came together to celebrate this special occasion.

It was an event which brings together all members of the Bar for a night of entertainment, togetherness and camaraderie. The guests enjoyed a delightful array of food and beverages while being entertained with a variety of eye-opening performances.

In the spirit of Hari Raya Aidil Fitri, SBC had a breaking of fast event with the orphans at the Madrasah Nur Shafiee, USJ, Taman Subang Permai. This was a charity event by SBC undertaken by the Syariah Committee (details are included in the Syariah Sub-Committee report). Thank you to all members who contributed financially to this occasion.



Whereas for Deepavali, the SBC organised a “Selangor Bar Deepavali Charity” aimed to provide underprivileged children with new clothes, delicious food and sweets. The event took place at SJK(T) Sungai Manggis, Banting, Selangor. Thank you to Ambiga, this sub-committee and all members who contributed financially to this occasion.

We also had the Christmas & New Year 2024 Get Together Celebration at our very own Secretariat. Again, it was special moment with members and pupils who cherished the occasion. Thank you to this sub-committee for their efforts.

Lastly, we would be having the Chinese New Year celebration also at our Secretariat for this term and the committee is working on the arrangements.

This sub-committee had seen through that Selangor Bar remains active in other aspects, too, apart from private practice alone.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **9. Sports, Recreation & Health**

This sub-committee is headed by Eugene Roy and Teeru. The Sports, Recreation & Health sub-committee had undertaken the following activities:

- i. 1st Interprofessional Virtual Chess – Doctors vs Lawyers. This was an inaugural event with registered participants of lawyers (28) and doctors (34). The winner was lawyers.



- ii. The Inter State Bar Games (ISBG) is a huge sporting event for every State Bar. This time it was held in Kuala Terengganu. The Selangor Bar Contingent participated in various games of this ISBG 2023, which is actually an annual event growing in popularity and importance. This event was attended by 834 participants. The Selangor Bar Contingent appeared as No. 2 with a total of 21 points against the Kuala Lumpur Bar Contingent which bagged as No.1 with a total of 51 points. Even though it is a performance that could have been better considering the strong capability of the Selangor Bar members, nevertheless, Selangor Bar is determined to have a vibrant participation in the next ISBG by tapping on the talents that we have.
- iii. Gasing Hike at Bukit Gasing. The Young Lawyers & Pupils Sub-committee and Sports, Recreation & Health Subcommittee jointly organised a hiking trip to Hutan Pendidikan Bukit Gasing, Petaling Jaya.
- iv. Yoga Session. A yoga session was held physically for pupils and members at the secretariat. There were 12 participants.
- v. Sukan Tiga Penjuru was recently held at Persada Plus, Subang Jaya. There were a total of 154 participants. This was an event organised between the Selangor Bar, Selangor Courts and Shah Alam Court Police. The games played were futsal, badminton, volleyball and tug of war. Selangor Bar championed all the first 3 events. It was all a friendly competition and ended very well.

Thank you to Eugene Roy and Teeru of the Sports, Recreation & Health sub-committee for all the hard work put in and also to the Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee who had jointly organised some games.



Moving forward, for the incoming committee in endeavoring to revive all sports that has taken place before, for example, hockey & running, as well as introduce other new games in the coming term.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

#### **10. Syariah & Bahasa Melayu (“JKSBM”)**

The objective of the Syariah & Bahasa Melayu (“JKSBM”) is to strengthen the bilateral ties between the Selangor Bar and relevant authorities. Meetings were held with the Bahagian Syariah, Jabatan Peguam Negara and Jabatan Kehakiman Negeri Selangor (“JAKESS”) and many issues were raised and resolved by the sub-committee. The details can be found in the sub-committee report.

Breaking of fast with orphans was held in conjunction with Raya celebrations at the Madrasah Nur Shafiee, USJ, Taman Subang Permai. Underprivileged children from Rumah Nur Sakinah, Rumah Anak Cahaya, Rumah Ustaz and Rumah Yayasan Noor Manzil (Puchong) were invited to join the noble event.

The JKSBM organised a fantastic 2-day course on “Islamic banking” at the SBC Auditorium for the benefit of the members. We had Dr.Syed Adam Alhabshi on board for this course and he was magnificent. Many members participated in this comprehensive course. Tn Haji Zainal and his team ardently worked on this programme.

The JKSBM also organised a “Meet & Greet” session with the Chief Justice, The Right Honorable Tun Tengku Maimun Bt Tuan Mat at the Palace of



Justice. We had 81 Syariah lawyers who registered to attend this session and a special thanks to Nurul and her committee in organising this session with the Chief Justice The Right Honorable Tun Tengku Maimun Bt Tuan Mat. Again, this event is an inaugural one by the Selangor Bar.

Pertandingan Berbalas Pantun Undang-Undang Peringkat Kebangsaan was held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia where SBC had sent a team to participate. The team won the Busana Terbaik among competitors.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **11. Young Lawyers & Pupils**

The young lawyers and pupils are always in my thoughts as this is where the future lies. I have always encouraged this sub-committee to have events organised with the sports sub-committee. We reach out to the pupils during the introductory sessions held every month. While I personally endeavor to reach out to them wherever I can and explore avenues to see how we can assist them.

Amongst the activities held to strengthen the bond with the young lawyers was the Selangor Bar Bukit Gasing Hike. The inaugural Selangor Bar Bukit Gasing Hike was jointly organised with the Sports, Recreation & Health sub-committee. Details are as reported.

The Selangor Bar Bowling Competition was jointly organised with Sports, Recreation & Health Sub-committee at Wangsa Bowl, One Utama. The event proved to be a resounding success with young lawyers' participation steadily on the rise.



Thank you to Richard Teh, Christopher and their sub-committee. This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **12. District Representative**

This Sub-Committee was formed to collate and escalate issues, feedback and information from members of the Bar from all districts on matters relating to any stakeholders of the Selangor Bar that needs to be addressed. The Meet Us & Tell Us session is, amongst others, a way forward in identifying the concerns of the members at the respective districts by the committee visiting the districts. During this term, 5 visits were conducted at the courts namely Shah Alam, Klang, Petaling Jaya, Ampang and Kuala Selangor Courts.

During the Meet Us & Tell Us, we have spotted some Bar rooms that needed re-invention and refurbishment with new facilities and we had successfully undertaken to complete this.

This sub-committee had excelled well and have done their best throughout this term.

## **13. Matters Of Interest**

### **A. Dana Bantuan Guaman Selangor (DBGS)**

The ‘Dana Bantuan Guaman Selangor (DBGS)’ programme was officially launched on 30th August, 2022, a collaboration between the Selangor State Government and the Selangor Bar Committee through the Bar Council Malaysia.



This DBGS programme is meant for Selangor residents. This programme encompasses family and labour law matters. The programme was not attracting members to take on as the one off pay outs were low and the Selangor residents were unable to qualify for the threshold on eligibility. Thus, we had engaged with the State Government and during this term we had managed to accomplish the following :

- i. to include Syariah cases into the DBGS programme;
- ii. to have the State Government approve an increase to the payout amount to lawyers from RM1,500.00 to RM3,000; and
- iii. to increase the threshold monthly income from less than RM3,000.00 to RM5,000.00.

The MOU is pending with the State Government and it is to be inked with regards to the changes herein stated.

## **B. Reference Proceedings**

SBC held reference proceedings for 12 of our departed members on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Shah Alam High Court. SBC records with deep-sorrow the passing of our members during the year under review. We are happy to note that 3 senior High Court Judges presided over the proceedings and was chaired by the Hakim Y.A. Dato' Mohd Zaki Bin Abdul Wahab himself.

The reference proceedings were therefore conducted in a very smooth, solemn and moving manner and in turn has given some comfort to the families of the deceased.



### **C. Selangor Bar Building Paint Work & Maintenance**

In this term we had undertaken various maintenance work at the Selangor Bar secretariat and at the Legal Aid Centre, amongst others was painting the exterior of Selangor Bar Committee Building. It gives us great pleasure having this completed, a project which was approved by the Bar Council during the last term.

### **D. Lexis Nexis Subscription**

Members have benefitted from the Lexis Nexis Agreement that was signed on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

## **14. Acknowledgments**

I must record my appreciation to the Honorary Secretary of Selangor Bar, Yu Ai Ting, for being there in discussing so many matters for the betterment of the Selangor Bar. The list is non-exhaustive if I were to list down. Thank you, Ai Ting.

I must also record many thanks to all the committee heads and the members of the sub-committee who had religiously attended all meetings held with stakeholders despite your busy schedules. Indeed, a sacrifice of your personal time ensured that the Selangor Bar continues to grow and improve. Thank you, everyone.

I must also record the cooperation and assistance received from the judiciary and other stakeholders when issues arose for the Selangor Bar, that we were able to navigate them smoothly in the best interest of our members.

I wish to also thank all the past Chairmans of Selangor Bar together with many other members of the Bar in helping, guiding and sharing when their assistance was sought.

You were amazing and no words of appreciation could replace your kind gestures.



Thank you to the Executive Secretary, Mr. Thinnagaran, the entire Secretariat, Legal Aid Centre & YBGK staff in realising the SBC's events.

## **15. Conclusion**

**I am truly honoured to have been able to serve as the elected Chairman and thankful to all for the overwhelming support received from my committee members and members of the Bar in general. Overall, the past year has been a very busy one and it ended really quickly. In an era of post-Covid-19, a lot more that can be done for the Selangor Bar in navigating the new challenges. My journey for the past 12 months involved a lot of sacrifice of my time in juggling between duties at the Selangor Bar, Bar Council & my firm, but I have managed well despite numerous challenges.**

**On that note, I look forward to complete the remaining tasks that I had embarked in the first term. I am aspiring to continue my second term to further navigate the incomplete tasks at hand.**

**If there were any shortcomings during this term under review, I offer my apologies on behalf of the Selangor Bar Committee.**

**Thank you very much.**

**Report submitted by :**

**M K Thas**

**Chairman**

**Selangor Bar Committee**