Writers Galore

At Rajah & Tann, our lawyers are encouraged to write as a way of maintaining and developing their legal scholarship as well as a way of serving the community by increasing the number of locally written articles and books on Singapore law. This call has been heeded by numerous lawyers in the Firm who have written for a wide range of legal journals and law reviews, as well as authored a number of books.

We have one of the most extensively published works on legal research in Singapore. Leading the list of scholars / writers is Peter Ellinger, Professor Emeritus at the National University of Singapore, who has written extensively on banking and commercial matters. Others include Toh Kian Sing, Lau Kok Keng and Kala Anandarajah. Even the Firm’s Managing Partner, VK Rajah, has written an authoritative book on corporate insolvency and judicial management.

It is beyond the scope of this article to highlight all the legal writings of the lawyers in Rajah & Tann. This article thus focuses on the books authored by lawyers in the firm in the various areas of the law.

CCH Corporate Laws Comparative Analysis Series 2002

Banking And Commercial Law

Peter Ellinger, Professor Emeritus at the National University of Singapore, is an internationally-recognised authority on various aspects of banking and commercial law. His name is synonymous with several of the leading English textbooks on this area, namely, *Modern Banking Law* which he has written, *Benjamin’s Sale of Goods* (he is one of the editors and author of several chapters), and *Chitty on Contracts*, for which he wrote the chapter on Bills of Exchange and Banking. All these books are standard reference books for lawyers not only in Singapore and England, but other jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth.
Books On Insolvency Law

Leading by example, Senior Counsel and Managing Partner, VK Rajah, has co-authored an authoritative volume on corporate insolvency and judicial management entitled *Judicial Management In Singapore*. It is the only such book on this specialised area in Singapore and is widely referred to by insolvency lawyers.

In addition, Kala Anandarajah, head of the Firm’s Knowledge Management Group, and Naina Parwani are two of the three authors of *Butterworths Annotated Statutes of Singapore - Bankruptcy Act and Law and Practice of Bankruptcy in Singapore and Malaysia*. The latter is the only extensive local book discussing the overhaul of the bankruptcy laws effected by the Bankruptcy Act of 1995 and the practical implications of the bankruptcy legislation.

Corporate Books

**Corporate Law And Securities**

In what must be a first for any law firm in Singapore, Rajah & Tann has collectively written a series of books on the myriad legislative changes in the area of corporate law and securities. *The Corporate Law Comparative Analysis Series* published by CCH, is a series of three books doing a section by section comparison of the massive corporate legislative changes in 2002. A valuable reference for lawyers, accountants, merchant bankers, in-house counsels, company secretaries and directors, the book will also be welcomed by anyone affected by the sea of changes that have taken place.

The series comprises the following books (see pictures on page 2):

- *The Singapore Code of Takeovers & Mergers - A Comparative Analysis*;
- *The Securities & Futures Act 2001 - A Comparative Analysis*; and

Each of these books is available for purchase by clients who receive a 15% discount off the regular price.

**Personal Securities**

Kala Anandarajah has written Singapore’s first and only book on bills of sales - *The Bills of Sale in Singapore and Malaysia*. This book deals with the often assumed complex area of taking security over personal property. Although now about seven years old, this book remains a frequently referred to book.

**Corporate Governance**

Long before the Enron and World.com scandals which gave greater prominence to corporate governance, Singapore had its first published book on this subject - *Corporate Governance - A Practical Approach*. Focusing on Singapore and Malaysia, the book is written by Kala Anandarajah, who has also contributed numerous articles on this subject to various journals and the local Business Times as well as lectured widely in this area. This practical, comprehensive book is not only a valuable reference for every corporate lawyer, its informative and easy to understand style has made it a sought after book by directors and senior managers in companies. The book, which is going into second edition in late 2003, is available to clients at a discount of the regular price.

Kala’s expertise in corporate governance (she is cited as a leading lawyer in UK based An International Who’s Who Of Leading International Corporate Governance Lawyers) has led to her being invited to write the Singapore chapter and co-author the Malaysian chapter for the book, *Corporate Governance: An Asia-Pacific Critique*, as well as a chapter for Independent Directors, a book being published jointly by the Malaysian Securities Exchange Commission and the Malaysian Institute of Corporate Governance. She is the only non-Malaysian writer for the latter which will be available from January 2003.

**Intellectual Property**

Lau Kok Keng, head of the Firm’s iTec Practice Group, will be writing the main chapter in a new book on Patent Laws, an area of law gaining greater importance in Singapore. The book will provide a comparative analysis of the patent
laws and procedures in Singapore, US, Japan, European Patent Office and Australia. He was invited to write the chapter by the publishers, Butterworths. The book is expected to be published in December 2002.

**Shipping Law**

The only book on Singapore shipping law, *Singapore Admiralty Law and Practice*, is authored by Toh Kian Sing, who is also an Adjunct Fellow of the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. This book is widely used as a textbook in the local university and is a standard reference text for every shipping lawyer in Singapore.

**Halsbury’s Laws Of Singapore**

*Halsbury’s Laws of Singapore*, modelled on *Halsbury’s Laws of England*, is an authoritative reference series that will eventually cover all core areas of law and practice in Singapore. It is designed to be the first point of reference on judicial pronouncements on local legislation as well as caselaw developments. Distinguished local practitioners and academics are invited to contribute a chapter to the various volumes.

Given the expertise in the Firm, it is not surprising to find Rajah & Tann playing an important role in the publication of this series in a number of ways. Prof Ellinger is a Consultant Editor for the whole series.

Further, a number of the lawyers in the firm are involved in writing two of the volumes, namely Banking & Finance and Insolvency. A majority of the authors for the Banking & Finance Volume were from or are still with the firm, while the Insolvency Volume is being written entirely by lawyers from the firm, namely VK Rajah and Lee Eng Beng.

In view of the prominence of *Halsbury’s Laws of Singapore*, this is indeed a privilege and a testimony to the high standards of legal scholarship adhered to by the lawyers in the Firm.

**Conclusion**

The books written by lawyers in Rajah & Tann are just one aspect of the legal scholarship in the Firm. It reflects in no small measure the competence and calibre of our lawyers as well as their dedication to serving the community, as often the writing task is undertaken by the lawyers in their free time.

If you require more details on any of the books highlighted here, please feel free to contact the relevant lawyer directly, or email the Knowledge Management group at eOASIS@sg.rajahandtann.com.

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