

**AGC**  
SINGAPORE

ATTORNEY-  
GENERAL'S  
CHAMBERS



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021**

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# Attorney-General's Message

2021 was a year of ups and downs. In the ongoing fight against COVID-19, Singapore had to deal with surges from the Delta variant and the subsequent emergence of the Omicron variant. Throughout the uncertainty of the pandemic, AGC has stayed the course. We continued to provide critical legal support to the Government as it responded to the challenges brought on by COVID-19. We have not allowed the pandemic to slow us down. Even in the midst of crisis, we embarked on new initiatives to improve the way we work and strived to do things more effectively and efficiently.

AGC officers continued to handle prosecutions of criminal cases to ensure that justice is administered expeditiously. To enhance the investigative and prosecution processes, we launched the Office of the Public Prosecutor initiative, deploying Deputy Public Prosecutors to the police divisions to provide advice and direct the prosecution of criminal cases. We also implemented a follow-through system of assignment for all criminal cases within AGC, where the same Deputy Public Prosecutor will oversee a case from the pre-trial stage to conclusion. The results of these changes have been promising. The clearance rate of investigation papers-related requests has increased by about one-third, while the average time taken for cases to reach plead guilty mentions has reduced by about one-third.



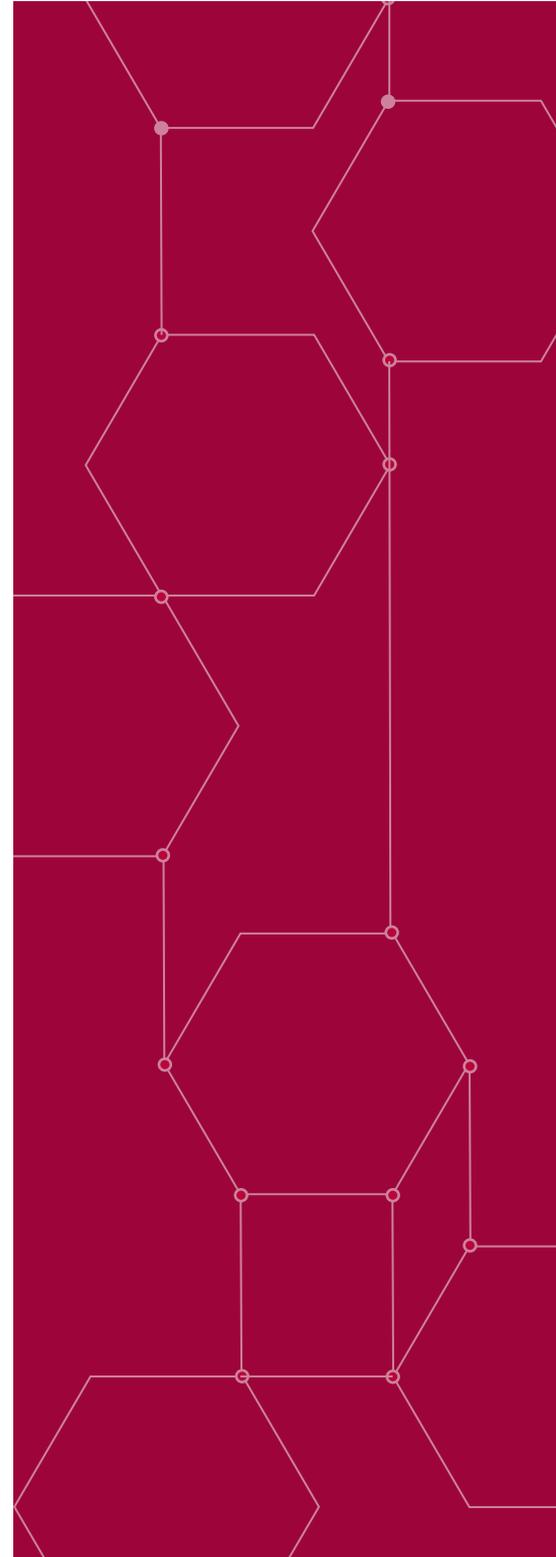
The universal revision of Singapore's Acts of Parliament was also completed in 2021, enhancing the readability of our legislation. This was a major project that began in 2017 and consisted of the review of over 500 Acts and approximately 27,000 pages of legislation. In addition, AGC continued to draft major pieces of legislation to support the Government's policy needs. These include the Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Act 2021, Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act 2021 and Women's Charter (Amendment) Act 2022.

On the international law front, AGC officers played important roles to advance Singapore's interests. Our officers were involved in bilateral negotiations for treaties, such as digital economy agreements with key trading partners. They were also involved in multilateral negotiations, including at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which paved the way for an international agreement on the rules relating to carbon credits.

AGC also provided legal advice to Government agencies on a wide range of issues. These included advice on carbon emission reduction activities and on ensuring a stable and reliable supply of electricity in Singapore, in the face of unprecedented volatility in world natural gas markets. Our officers also represented the Government in various cases in Court and assisted the Child Protector to obtain care and protection orders for a record number of 63 cases in 2021.

I would like to acknowledge and thank AGC officers for their dedication and hard work over the past year. As an institution, we will continue to do our best to serve Singapore and its people.

**Lucien Wong**  
Attorney-General



# Supporting The Government's Efforts To Respond And Emerge Stronger From COVID-19



Following the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19 the year before, 2021 saw Singapore learning to live and cope better with the ongoing pandemic. For AGC, this meant continuing to provide a significant amount of urgent and cross-cutting COVID-related advice on all aspects of the pandemic response.

## ADVISING THE GOVERNMENT

Advice rendered include:

Legal defensibility of policies relating to safe management measures

Mechanisms and processes to implement the policy on workplace vaccination in the public sector



Non-criminal regulatory action against errant enterprises for flouting COVID-related regulations, such as issuance of closure orders, cancellation of licences and appeals against these actions

## DRAFTING URGENT LEGISLATION

 **4 Bills**

**Amended COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020**

Including:

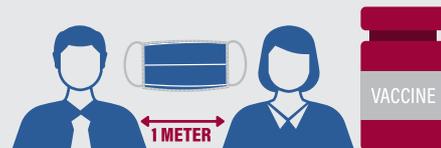
**To waive rental fees**   
to mitigate financial impact of pandemic

**To limit use of personal contact tracing data**

**163 pieces of subsidiary legislation** 

**COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020**

**+**  
other related Regulations



## HANDLING ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION ACTIONS

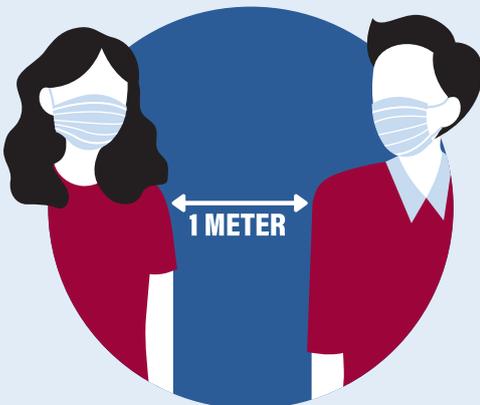
AGC handled more than 600 COVID-related prosecutions in 2021, including several high profile cases which are highlighted below.

### *PP v Glynn Benjamin (Unreported, MAC 905805-2021 & Ors)*



The offender, a foreigner, did not wear a mask while travelling on a mass rapid transit train on 7 May 2021. He claimed that he did not need to comply with the relevant COVID-19 regulations because he was a "Sovereign Citizen" and declared that he would never wear a mask. When police officers visited him at his residence the next day, he adopted a boxing stance and threatened to attack them. He was charged for committing public nuisance, failing to wear a mask when not in his ordinary place of residence and using threatening words towards police officers in relation to the execution of their duties. He was convicted after trial and sentenced to a total of six weeks' imprisonment. He was deported after serving his sentence.

### *PP v Phoon Chiu Yoke (Unreported, MAC 904507-2021 & Ors)*



This case involved a recalcitrant offender who repeatedly disregarded the requirements of a Stay Home Notice that was issued to her. She also openly and persistently defied basic safe distancing measures, refusing to wear a mask despite multiple warnings from safe distancing officers and law enforcement officers. For these infractions, she faced a total of 21 charges for various offences.

The offender pleaded guilty to the charges against her. The District Judge agreed with the Prosecution that a firm deterrent signal must be sent to like-minded offenders and sentenced the offender to an aggregate sentence of 16 weeks' imprisonment.

***PP v Hu Jun and Shi Sha (Unreported, DSC 900123-2020 & Ors)***

The two offenders were among the first to be charged for offences relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hu Jun had tested positive for COVID-19 in Singapore sometime in January 2020. Together with his wife, Shi Sha, they deliberately withheld information from contact tracers about their whereabouts and activities here. The couple were charged for offences under the Infectious Diseases Act for hindering health officers who were trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Both were convicted after trial on their respective charges. Hu Jun was sentenced to five months' imprisonment, while Shi Sha was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

***PP v Ong Hong Beng, Benny (Unreported, DAC-902099-2021 & Ors)***

The offender made one fraudulent COVID-19 Support Grant (CSG) application, claiming that he had been retrenched due to COVID-19. The CSG was a financial support scheme announced by the Government under the Resilience Budget to deal with the economic and social impact of COVID-19. The offender was not entitled to the grant because he had voluntarily resigned from his job due to job dissatisfaction. The offender forged a retrenchment letter, purportedly written by his employer, and attached it to the fraudulent application. He was sentenced to 10 weeks' imprisonment.

# Securing Our Home And Strengthening Our Social Compact



## PROTECTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Office of the Public Prosecutor (OPP) initiative launched on 1 July 2021

 **30**  
Deputy Public Prosecutors deployed

At **7** Police Land Divisions and Traffic Police

Assist with early review of investigation papers (IPs) 

Provide advice and direct the prosecution of criminal cases 

Clearance of IP-related requests improved from **70%** → **92%**  
in June 2021 in December 2021  
despite 30% increase in IP-related requests

Following the successful launch, AGC also deployed a Senior Director to the Commercial Affairs Department 



To review and deal with complex financial and commercial crimes

## Follow-through system of assignment for all criminal cases implemented on 1 July 2021



✓ Allows a **DPP to be intimately familiar with the development** of their assigned cases



✓ Also allows law enforcement partners and members of the criminal bar to **easily know which DPP to contact for a case** and to resolve the case expeditiously



## PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

Assisted the Child Protector<sup>1</sup> to obtain care and protection orders:



**A record number**

### Example

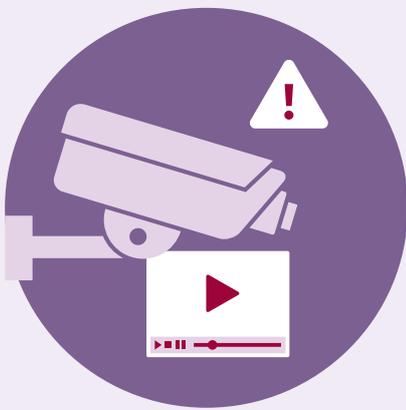
AGC succeeded in obtaining court orders for four young children to be placed under foster care due to the risk of ill-treatment and emotional harm by their parents. The father was arrested and charged with causing serious injuries (including shaken baby syndrome) to two of the children.

<sup>1</sup> The role of the Child Protector is undertaken by the Ministry of Social and Family Development's Child Protective Service (CPS). The CPS is responsible for conducting social investigations and providing services for children and young persons who have been abused or neglected by their parents or caregivers.

## ACTING FOR THE GOVERNMENT

AGC represented the Government in several notable cases, examples of which are highlighted below.

### *Mah Kiat Seng v Attorney-General* [2021] SGHC 202



In this case, the High Court expressly recognised the common law doctrine of Public Interest Immunity (PII) for the first time. In a suit against the Singapore Police Force, AGC successfully argued that copies of closed-circuit television footage of restricted areas of the police lock-up should not be granted to the plaintiff on grounds of common law PII, and that the plaintiff be allowed to inspect the footage at the police station only. Following the courts in England and Australia, the High Court endorsed the principle that documents may be withheld from disclosure if the Court concludes that the public interest against disclosure outweighs the public interest in the administration of justice.

### *The Online Citizen Pte Ltd v Attorney-General* [2021] SGCA 96



This was a landmark decision by the Court of Appeal concerning two Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA) appeals that were commenced by The Online Citizen Pte Ltd (TOC) and the Singapore Democratic Party after the High Court had dismissed their applications to set aside the Correction Directions issued to them under section 11 of POFMA. The Court of Appeal heard and decided on important issues, such as affirming the constitutionality of POFMA (specifically, whether, and if so, the extent to which POFMA impinges on the right to freedom of speech conferred by Article 14(1)(a) of the Constitution), as well as determining the burden and standard of proof in applications to set aside Part 3 Directions under section 17 of POFMA. Critically, the Court of Appeal also provided an analytical framework for determining whether a Part 3 Direction may be set aside under section 17 of POFMA.

### *The Online Citizen Pte Ltd v Info-Communications Media Development Authority [2021] SGHC 285*



AGC successfully defended the Info-Communications Media Development Authority (IMDA) against judicial review proceedings brought by The Online Citizen Pte Ltd (TOC). The High Court dismissed TOC's application for the Court's permission to challenge IMDA's directions relating to the suspension of TOC's class licence to provide licensable broadcasting services. The High Court agreed with AGC that upon IMDA's suspension of TOC's class licence, IMDA acted lawfully in directing TOC to disable access to all of its websites and social media platforms.

## KEEPING CRIME AT BAY

As part of AGC's Public Prosecutor role, our officers prosecuted over 7,700 cases in court in 2021.

A number of these cases gave rise to important principles of law. We highlight some of the most significant cases here.

### *Wong Tian Jun De Beers v PP [2021] SGHC 273*



#### *Sentencing framework for cheating offences under section 417 of the Penal Code*

This was the first prosecution for cheating offences involving sexual acts where the High Court imposed a high global sentence. The High Court enhanced the offender's sentence on appeal to a global term of eight years and five months' imprisonment and imposed a fine, for his role in deceiving 11 women into engaging in sexual acts with him. The High Court considered that for cases where offenders cheat to procure sex or sexual acts, a harm-culpability matrix could be adopted. The High Court noted that the harm engendered in such cheating was not comparable to mere property damage but instead represented a grave intrusion into bodily integrity. The framework developed by the High Court accounts for the full range of sentences provided for in section 417 of the Penal Code.

### *PP v Ng Yu Zhi (SC-901741-2021)*



*Prosecution of a director for investment fraud involving at least S\$1 billion of investments to finance purported nickel trading*

This was one of the largest reported cases of investment fraud in Singapore, involving more than 900 investors and at least S\$1 billion of investments. Prosecutors worked with the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD), Singapore Police Force, to assess and evaluate the complex investigations, and prosecute the accused, a director in Envy Asset Management and Envy Global Trading Pte Ltd, for various offences of cheating, forgery, criminal breach of trust, fraudulent trading and money laundering.

AGC provided legal advice on the CAD's seizure of an estimated S\$100 million of properties, asset recovery and asset forfeiture litigation, and contentious pre-trial litigation for bail.

### *PP v Soh Chee Wen & anor (CC 9 of 2019)*



*The High Court disallowed the Defence's application for disclosure of legal representations*

The Defence made an application in the course of trial for the disclosure of legal representations that had been made to the Prosecution by a Prosecution witness. In disallowing the application, the High Court affirmed the sanctity of the plea negotiation process. Such legal representations were protected by privilege or a convention that binds both the Prosecution and the Bar. The Court also found that the Defence failed to show how the representations contained materials that would be helpful to the defence, or that they were required for impeachment purposes, and that in such circumstances, disclosure would be harmful to confidence in the plea negotiations process.

### **Syed Suhail bin Syed Zin v PP [2021] SGCA 53**



#### *Applicable framework regarding applications for a personal costs order against counsel*

This arose from an application for the Court to review its earlier decision, in which the Court had dismissed the applicant's appeal against his conviction under section 5(1)(a) of the Misuse of Drugs Act. The review application was dismissed. The Prosecution sought a personal costs order against the applicant's counsel, on the basis that counsel's conduct in the review application was unreasonable and improper. The Court of Appeal adopted a three-step test for determining if a personal costs order ought to be made against counsel. On application of the test, the Court of Appeal ordered counsel to pay costs of S\$5,000 to AGC.

### **PP v Or Kim Peow Contractors (Private) Limited & Ors (DSC-900150-2018 & Ors)**



#### *Unprecedented maximum fine of S\$1M imposed on the builder company*

This trial involved the collapse of part of a viaduct that was under construction from Tampines Expressway to the Pan-Island Expressway and Upper Changi Road East on 14 July 2017. In January 2021, after a 60-day trial, the State Courts convicted the builder company, project director and project engineer on all the proceeded charges under the Workplace Safety and Health Act and the Penal Code. In May 2021, the Court imposed sentences on the offenders, including (as sought by the Prosecution) a deterrent sentence of an unprecedented maximum fine of S\$1 million on the builder company.

## *Miya Manik v PP and another matter [2021] SGCA 90*



*The Court of Appeal repeated the caution against, and the potential consequences of, a solicitor's improper invocation of the Court's processes*

Pending an appeal against sentence, the applicant filed a Criminal Motion seeking to adduce fresh evidence to aid his appeal. The evidence took the form of two medical reports prepared by a psychiatrist. The Prosecution argued, amongst other things, that the medical reports were irrelevant to the disposition of the appeal because the applicant's alleged disorder only set in after the arrest, and that the reports were unreliable.

The Court of Appeal agreed with the Prosecution's arguments and dismissed the Criminal Motion. The Court of Appeal also expressed concern regarding the conduct of the applicant's counsel and psychiatrist, and reiterated the relevant principles on a solicitor's duties to their client and to the Court. In particular, the Court of Appeal found that the filing of this Criminal Motion was an attack on the integrity of the judicial processes of the Court because it was a backdoor attempt to introduce a key point that could and should have been raised at the earliest instance. The Court of Appeal also found that it was an attack on the Court of Appeal's processes because it demonstrated a disregard for how the criminal appeal process was typically and by design unidirectional.

## COOPERATING WITH INTERNATIONAL COUNTERPARTS

AGC continued to work closely with counterparts in foreign jurisdictions to combat crime. Some significant examples are highlighted below.

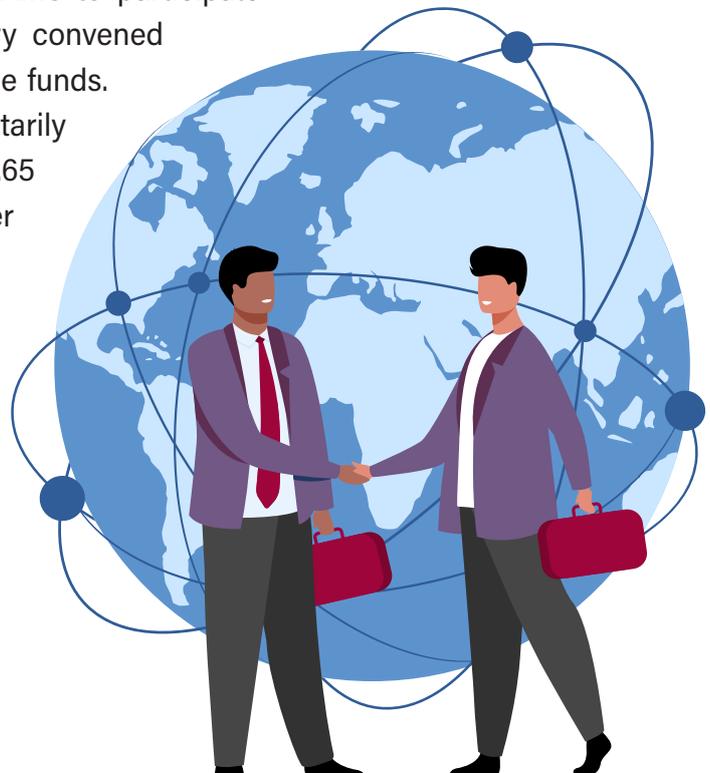
### Successful Repatriation Of Funds In 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) Case

In December 2021, the Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) worked with AGC and filed further court applications to return approximately S\$10.3 million of seized 1MDB-related monies to the Government of Malaysia. The applications were subsequently granted by the Court, and the monies have been transferred to the Malaysian government. As of February 2022, a total of about S\$88 million of seized 1MDB-related monies have been repatriated to the Malaysian Government.

### Fulfilling Mutual Legal Assistance Requests

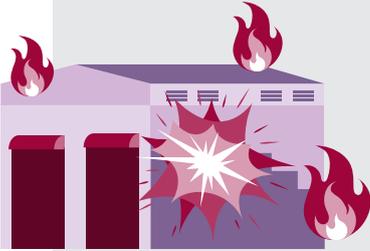
Upon a request from Australia, AGC obtained restraint and charging orders against properties in Singapore that were linked to a conspiracy to commit bribery in Australia. The owners of the properties applied for the orders to be discharged. AGC worked closely with the Australian authorities in opposing the discharge applications. In March 2021, the High Court dismissed all five applications with costs.

In another matter involving several years of cooperation between Singapore and an ASEAN Member State (the AMS), the AMS was able to recover funds amounting to over US\$2.65 million with Singapore's assistance. The matter involved the organisation of illegal online gambling activities. Upon receiving requests from the AMS, AGC officers worked closely with the CAD to seize the funds in Singapore. AGC officers also invited the AMS to participate as a victim claimant in the domestic inquiry convened by the Singapore Court for the disposal of the funds. The accused eventually consented to voluntarily repatriating funds amounting to over US\$2.65 million and S\$126,000 to the AMS and the matter was resolved successfully in September 2021.



## ENSURING WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

### Inquiry Committee for the accident at Stars Engrg Pte Ltd



Inquiry Committee (IC) appointed by Minister for Manpower to inquire into the incident. AGC led the evidence at inquiry.

IC released its report. IC found that criminal offences were disclosed in respect of the conduct of Stars Engrg Pte Ltd and two of its officers. The matter was referred to the Public Prosecutor.

2021

February

March

Sep-Dec

2022

March

Fatal explosion and fire at Stars Engrg Pte Ltd's workplace.

Inquiry hearing conducted over 17 days, involving 28 witnesses. These include those who were involved in the accident and specialist experts.

## ENSURING CYBERSECURITY

### Advising GovTech

AGC provided legal advice to GovTech to help revise and update the Agile Information and Communications Technology (ICT) template, which is available for use by the Whole-of-Government for the development of application software through Agile methodology. The template also covers the terms and conditions for the maintenance of such software.



Besides updating the ICT template, AGC was also involved in the drafting of template cybersecurity clauses, to ensure that the Government's interests remain adequately safeguarded against cybersecurity threats, such as data breaches and security vulnerabilities, in light of the enhanced risk of cybersecurity attacks.

## Supporting United Nations Processes Relating To Cybersecurity

AGC officers also supported the successful conclusion of two United Nations (UN) processes relating to cybersecurity at the UN:

- Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security; and
- Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security.



Both groups were tasked by the UN General Assembly with addressing matters such as the norms, rules and principles of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace, and the application of international law to the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) by States.

AGC worked with Government agencies to formulate Whole-of-Government positions on the complex and evolving issues relating to the regulation of ICTs and global peace and security. AGC also provided legal support to the Singapore delegations at the OEWG and GGE meetings.

Singapore's active involvement as a thought-leader and bridge-builder during these negotiations contributed to Singapore's nomination and election as the Chair for the Second OEWG (2021-2025), which commenced in December 2021.

## DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY NEEDS

### Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Act 2021

This Act reforms and enhances court processes in the civil and criminal justice systems, and also modernises and simplifies legal terminology used in court proceedings. For instance, the term "plaintiff" has been amended to "claimant" and the term "subpoena" has been amended to "order to attend court". These changes are aimed at making legislation easier to understand.



### Copyright Act 2021



This Act modernises Singapore's copyright law to keep up to date with Singapore's international obligations and the changes in technology. For example, changes were made to copyright in sound recordings to give effect to Singapore's obligations under the European Union – Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

### Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act 2021

This Act aims to counteract acts of foreign interference in Singapore and to reduce the risk of such acts in domestic politics.



### Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2021

This Act provides for electronic Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) to be entered into and the digital processes to be adhered to when such electronic LPAs are made.



### Women's Charter (Amendment) Act 2022

This Act updates Singapore's marital law by, amongst others, allowing for married couples to mutually agree to divorce, with the aim of reducing acrimony in marital proceedings. The Act enshrines the equality between married women and married men and abolishes restrictions on married women in dealing with their property. The Act also provides for the extension of the validity of notices of marriages, as well as for the remote solemnisations of marriages in Singapore.



## ENHANCING AND MAKING LEGISLATION MORE ACCESSIBLE

### Universal Revision Of Singapore's Acts

2021 saw the **completion of the universal revision of Singapore's Acts of Parliament**, which AGC had been working on since 2017.



This universal revision helped to **improve the readability of Singapore's legislation.**

The 2020 Revised Edition of Acts comprises

**510 Acts** and approximately  
**27,000 pages** of legislation  
and came into operation on  
31 December 2021.



Use of simpler or shorter word alternatives and gender-neutral language



Changes to style e.g., replacing Roman numbers with Arabic numerals



Some Acts have renumbered provisions



More informative citations



Chapter numbers no longer required

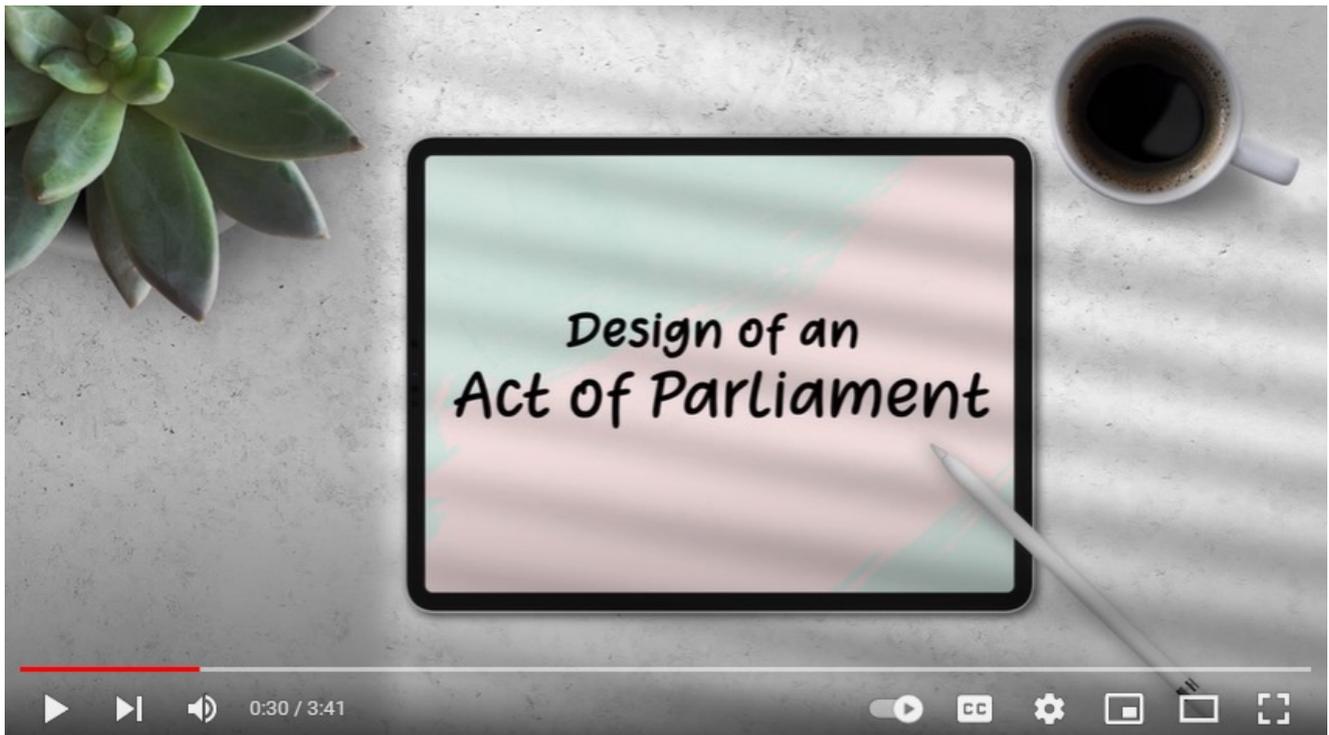


More comprehensive legislative histories with diagrams to aid interpretation



## Plain Laws Understandable By Singaporeans (PLUS) Project – Singapore Statutes Online Video

As part of the PLUS Project, AGC completed the second part of its video series which provides an in-depth guide on the structure of, and terms used in a typical Act of Parliament, in a manner that is easily understandable by laypersons.



◆ "Design of an Act of Parliament" video on Youtube

## Reproduction Of Singapore Legislation

AGC implemented a blanket approval for the public to reproduce Singapore legislation in electronic materials and platforms with effect from 1 August 2021. As long as specific conditions are met, it is no longer necessary to seek approval from AGC to reproduce the legislation<sup>2</sup>. This is to enhance the use of Singapore legislation, encourage innovation in the legal tech sector and reduce AGC's administrative workload. Reducing barriers to the Singapore legislation also supports AGC's commitment to the Rule of Law and the Government's effort to promote Singapore Law and Singapore as a legal hub.

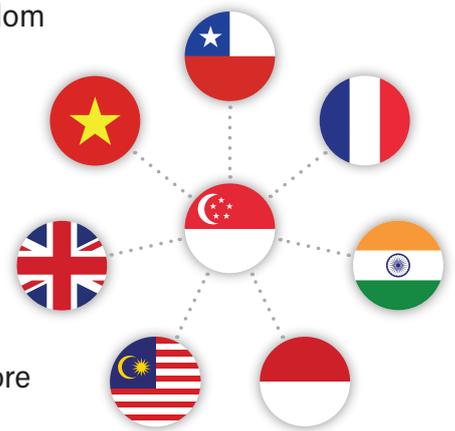
<sup>2</sup> Terms of Use (TOU) are located at [sso.agc.gov.sg/Terms-of-Use](https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Terms-of-Use). The relevant clause in the TOU is (13) ("Reproduction of Singapore legislation").

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND REPRESENTING SINGAPORE INTERNATIONALLY

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and international travel restrictions in 2021, AGC continued to tap on virtual engagements and written correspondence to maintain warm ties with our counterparts overseas. AGC also hosted courtesy calls and other in-person engagements with foreign diplomatic representatives based in Singapore.

AGC engaged the following foreign counterparts in 2021:

- YBhg. Dato' Abdul Razak bin Musa, Solicitor General, Attorney-General's Chambers of Malaysia
- Mr Nguyen Quang Dung, Deputy Prosecutor-General, Supreme People's Procuracy of Vietnam
- Ms Lisa Osofsky, Director, Serious Fraud Office of the United Kingdom
- Ms Kara Owen, British High Commissioner to Singapore
- Mr Ignacio Concha, Ambassador of Chile to Singapore
- Mr Marc Abensour, Ambassador of France to Singapore
- Mr Periasamy Kumaran, High Commissioner of India to Singapore
- Mr Suryo Pratomo, Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore
- Ms Tao Thi Thanh Huong, then-Ambassador of Vietnam to Singapore
- Mr Mai Phuoc Dung, Ambassador of Vietnam to Singapore



● AG Lucien Wong with Mr Mai Phuoc Dung, Ambassador of Vietnam to Singapore, on 7 October 2021 (Photo was taken in accordance with prevailing COVID-19 Safe Management Measures)

## SUPPORTING SINGAPORE'S THIRD UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

AGC officers were also part of the Singapore delegation at Singapore's third Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR reviews the human rights situation in all United Nations (UN) member states. AGC officers were part of the Singapore delegation to present Singapore's initial report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The report showcased Singapore's vision and approach towards racial harmony to the international community.

## PARTICIPATING IN THE 76<sup>TH</sup> UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGC officers were also part of the Singapore delegation to the 76<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly. They delivered statements on behalf of Singapore and negotiated resolutions of the Sixth (Legal) Committee and under the General Assembly's agenda item on oceans and the law of the sea. Director-General Daphne Hong moderated the virtual side-event organised by Singapore and Qatar on "The International Law Commission (ILC) and the Making of International Law: Trends and Directions for the Future". The panel consisted of the Chair of the ILC's 72<sup>nd</sup> Session, as well as ILC Members from Japan and the United States. The event demonstrated Singapore's thought leadership and unwavering commitment on the important topics of rule of law on the international plane and international law-making.



- Virtual event on "The ILC and the Making of International Law: Trends and Directions for the Future" comprising the Chair of the ILC's 72<sup>nd</sup> Session, ILC Members from Japan and the United States along with AGC's Director-General of International Affairs, Daphne Hong (in the yellow box)



- AGC officers at the 76<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly

# Preparing Singapore For A More Sustainable Future And Ensuring A Vibrant Economy



## PROVIDING LEGAL ADVICE



### On The Jobs Support Scheme

AGC advised the Government on the recovery of erroneous overpayments made to various companies under the Jobs Support Scheme, which was introduced by the Government to help firms retain local workers by subsidising their salaries.



### On Measures To Ensure A Stable Electricity Supply

AGC advised the Energy Market Authority and Ministry of Trade and Industry on measures to ensure a stable and reliable supply of electricity in Singapore, in the face of unprecedented volatility in natural gas markets worldwide.



### On The Singapore Financial Data Exchange

AGC advised the Government on various issues relating to the participation agreement between the Government and private sector entities on the Singapore Financial Data Exchange. This project sought to facilitate the sharing of Government and private sector data. It was built on Singapore's National Digital Identity system and developed by the public sector in collaboration with various financial institutions.



### On Carbon Emission Reduction Initiatives

AGC advised the Economic Development Board on legal issues surrounding the Government's initiatives to encourage the private sector to participate in carbon emission reduction activities, undertaken to strengthen Singapore's climate change efforts.

## SUPPORTING SINGAPORE'S CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES

### United Nations Climate Change Conference Negotiations

AGC officers were part of the Singapore delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference Negotiations (COP-26) that took place in-person in Glasgow, Scotland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. They supported inter-agency efforts to ensure that Singapore's interests were advanced at COP-26 and supported Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Grace Fu, in her ministerial facilitation of negotiations on the rules relating to carbon credits. These rules were successfully agreed to at COP-26.

An AGC officer has also been serving as an alternate member on the compliance committee under the Paris Agreement, whose role has been to facilitate implementation and promote compliance of provisions of the Paris Agreement.



- AGC officers together with the Singapore delegation that supported Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Grace Fu, at COP-26 (Photo was taken in accordance with prevailing local COVID-19 measures)

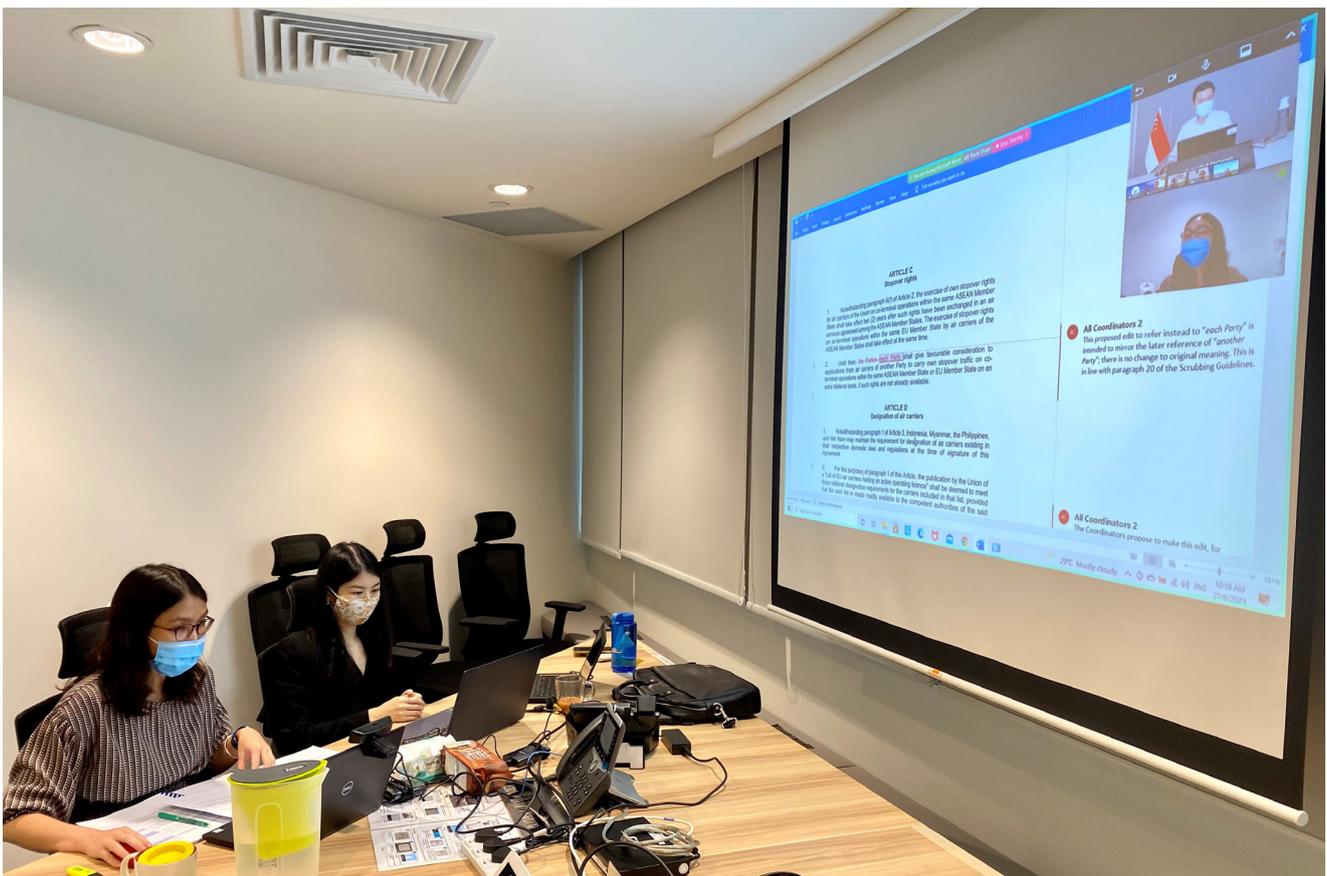


- Officers from National Climate Change Secretariat, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and AGC, together with Minister Grace Fu, at one of the COP-26 venues in Glasgow (Photo was taken in accordance with prevailing local COVID-19 measures)

## SUPPORTING ECONOMIC AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

### ASEAN-European Union Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement

AGC officers worked closely with the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore to conclude negotiations on this agreement in June 2021. It is the world's first bloc-to-bloc air transport agreement, which will bolster connectivity and economic development among the 37 member states of ASEAN and the European Union (EU). It will also help rebuild air connectivity in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and open new growth opportunities for the aviation industry in ASEAN and the EU. AGC officers led discussions on behalf of Singapore (the ASEAN Coordinator for this agreement) on the legal scrubbing of the agreement and related documents for eventual signing.



◆ AGC officers during negotiations for the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement



## World Trade Organization Trade Policy Review

AGC officers represented Singapore as part of the Whole-of-Government effort for Singapore's 8<sup>th</sup> Trade Policy Review at the World Trade Organization (WTO). This helped to enhance Singapore's reputation as a staunch supporter of the rules-based multilateral trading system and the principles of open and free trade.



- Singapore's 8<sup>th</sup> Trade Policy Review in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2021. Singapore Delegation led by Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)'s Permanent Secretary (Development), Mr Lee Chuan Teck, comprising officials from MTI, Permanent Mission to the WTO, and AGC. *(Photo was taken in accordance with prevailing local COVID-19 measures where masks were not required)*

## Digital Economy Agreements

AGC supported Singapore's efforts to create a network of digital economy agreements (DEAs) to set the baseline for digital trade rules. Singapore's third and fourth DEAs with the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea respectively were substantially concluded this year. With the earlier signing of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement between Singapore, Chile and New Zealand, and the Singapore-Australia DEA in 2020, Singapore is now seen as one of the forerunners in thought leadership and in pushing the envelope on the digital economy and digital trade.



- Korea's Minister for Trade HE Mr Yeo Han-Koo and Singapore's Second Minister for Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng at the signing ceremony to mark the conclusion of negotiations on the Korea-Singapore Digital Partnership Agreement

## Free Trade Agreements

AGC supported Singapore's effort to expand our network of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Our officers advised the Government on bringing into force the UK-Singapore FTA in February 2021 and were also involved in the negotiations on the China-Singapore FTA Upgrade, the Pacific Alliance-Singapore FTA, the Eurasian Economic Union-Singapore FTA and the Mercosur-Singapore FTA.

## Singapore As Third Party In Disputes Before The World Trade Organization (WTO Disputes)

AGC led Singapore's participation as a Third Party in a number of WTO disputes, including the dispute filed by Hong Kong SAR against the United States' requirement that Hong Kong-produced goods be marked as originating from China, and the three disputes filed against India's imposition of trade tariffs on certain technology products. AGC officers advocated Singapore's positions by delivering oral statements and filing written submissions.



## Space Technology And Applications

AGC collaborated with the National University of Singapore's Centre for International Law and Economic Development Board's Office for Space Technology and Industry to hold a webinar on "Outer Space and International Law" in January 2021. Given the rapid development of space technology and applications across a wider range of industries, and increased activity and interest in outer space from government and commercial entities, it was timely to convene the webinar which involved acclaimed international experts in the field.

WELCOME	MODERATOR	PANELLISTS			
 <p><b>Mr Peter HO</b> Office for Space Technology and Industry (OSTIn), Singapore</p>	 <p><b>Dr Nilüfer ORAL</b> Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore</p>	 <p><b>Professor Setsuko AOKI</b> Keio University Law School, Japan</p>	 <p><b>Emeritus Professor Steven FREELAND</b> School of Law, Western Sydney University, Australia</p>	 <p><b>Dr Gérardine GOH ESCOLAR</b> Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore</p>	 <p><b>Mr Niklas HEDMAN</b> United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)</p>

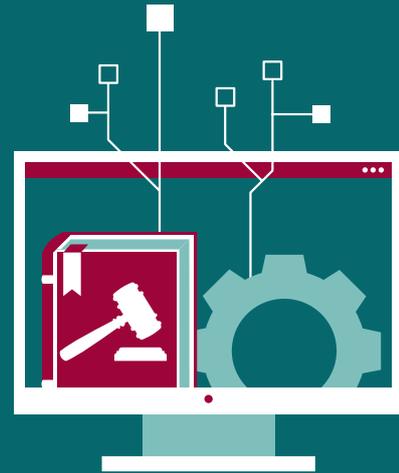
◆ Speakers of the "Outer Space and International Law" webinar



## United Nations Commission On International Trade Law

AGC has been leading an inter-agency Singaporean delegation at Working Group III of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). UNCITRAL Working Group III has been working on a multi-year project to explore and recommend options to reform and improve upon the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system. As an arbitration hub and building on our past experience on ISDS reform, Singapore has been able to actively contribute to the UNCITRAL project and help shape solutions. An AGC officer has also been serving as the Rapporteur of Working Group III.

# Future-Proofing AGC And The Legal Service



## RESTRUCTURING OF THE LEGAL SERVICE

The Legal Service was restructured into separate Legal and Judicial Services in January 2022

### Reconstituted Legal Service



AG Lucien Wong  
appointed as President

2/3 of new  
Legal Service  
comprises legal  
officers in AGC



1/3 comprises  
legal officers in  
Ministries and  
Statutory Boards



▶ AGC will play a central role in bringing the community of public lawyers together ◀

### AGC Academy renamed as **AGC-Legal Service Academy**



Widened mandate to serve the larger community of public lawyers

- 1 Prepare new, customised competency frameworks and training roadmaps
- 2 Organise and curate training programmes
- 3 Progressively extend AGC's library and e-learning resources to the larger community of public lawyers

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP AND CAPABILITY

### AGC's Annual Leadership Retreat

After a year-long hiatus due to COVID-19, 2021 saw the resumption of AGC's annual Leadership Retreat. Themed 'Leading in the New Normal', 2021's session brought AGC leaders together to reflect on how the organisation could better navigate current challenges in an unprecedented time of COVID-19 and what will be required to strengthen our capabilities and prepare for the journey ahead.

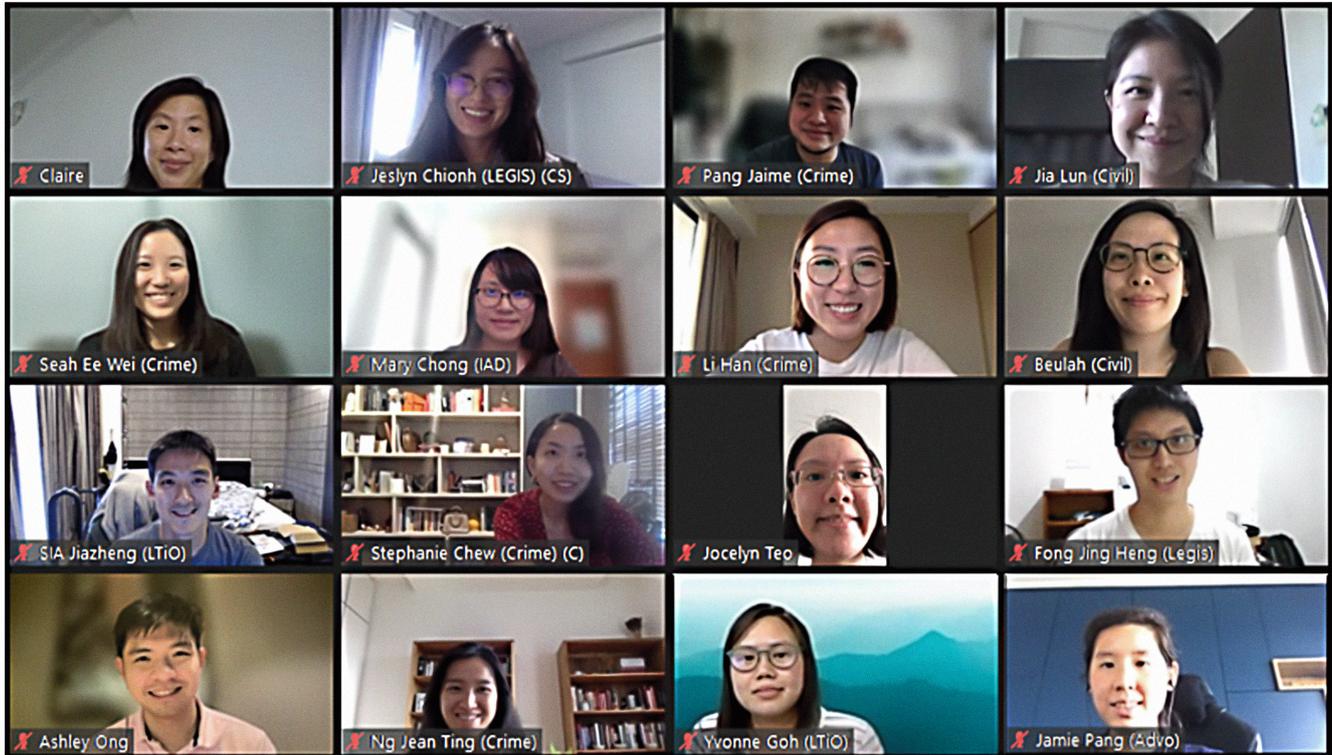
### AGC Senior Officers' Management Programme

Several senior officers participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGC Senior Officers' Management Programme. Featuring engaging conversations with senior leaders and external speakers, the programme aimed to aid officers to see issues from a national and organisational perspective.



- ◆ Second Minister for Law, Mr Edwin Tong, speaking to officers at a fireside chat, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGC Senior Officers' Management Programme

## AGC's Inaugural Emerging Leaders Programme



- Young AGC officers participating in the programme to learn how they, as non-positional leaders, can develop skills on personal mastery, mentoring and influencing others

## Enhanced Repertoire of Legal Training Programmes

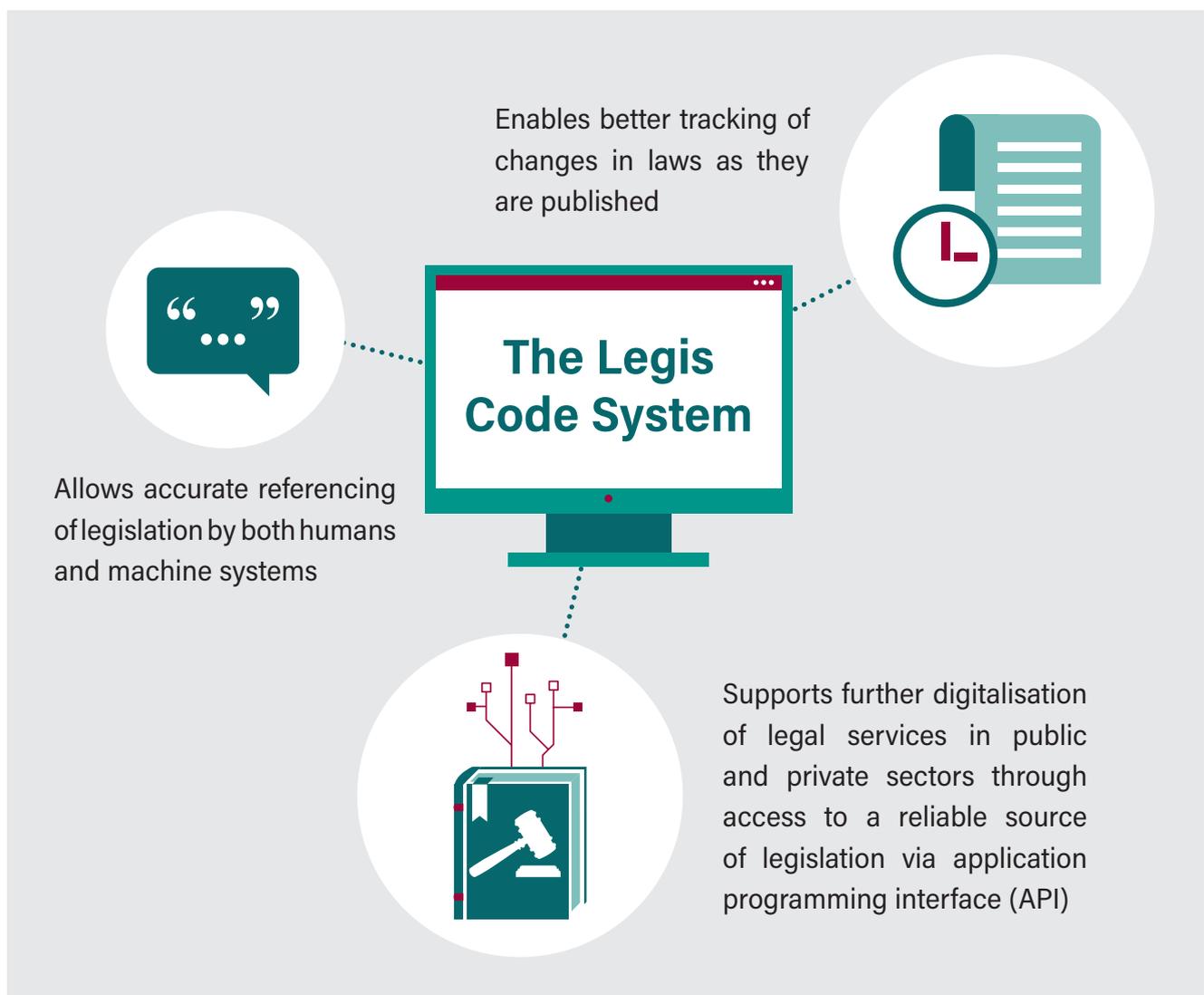
- Engaged a Queen's Counsel with extensive advocacy experience to train our officers in advocacy and court craft.
- Developed a forensic interview training course to equip Deputy Public Prosecutors with the skills to effectively interview vulnerable witnesses.
- Engaged renowned academics to provide customised training in emerging areas such as intellectual property law, tax law and biomedical law and ethics.
- Converted more courses into an e-learning format and took proactive steps to ensure that these programmes remained interactive.

## TRANSFORMING OUR EXECUTIVE WORKFORCE

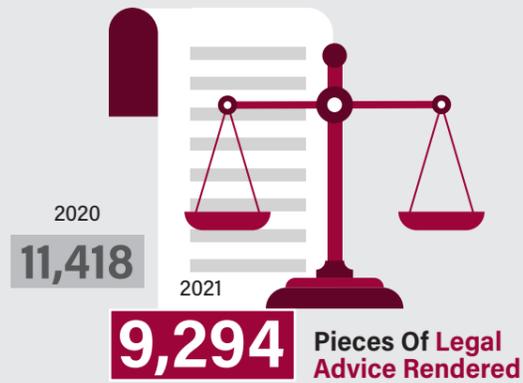
AGC's work is supported by dedicated teams of executives in areas such as legal operations, corporate services and capability building. To ensure our executives' skills remain relevant in the new normal and to keep up with shifts in the fast-changing legal landscape, AGC embarked on the Executive Development Project (EDP), a comprehensive workforce review.

The EDP was completed in May 2021 and has provided our executives with greater opportunities to upskill and equip themselves with relevant competencies through deepened career and development pathways. In recognition of our efforts, AGC was awarded with the Silver Standard in the Strategic Workforce Planning Award Category by the Singapore Human Resource Institute.

## IMPROVING OUR TECHNOLOGY



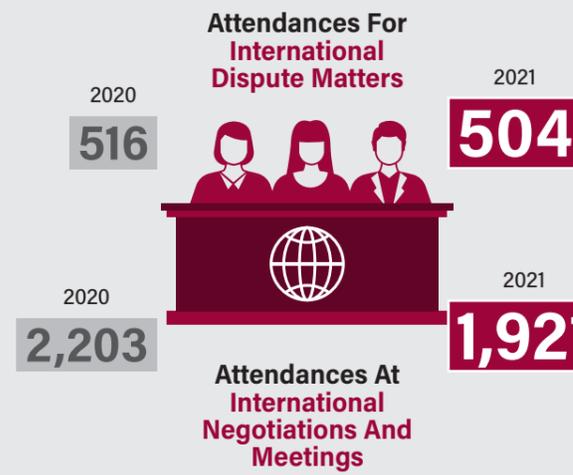
# KEY FIGURES For 2020 / 2021



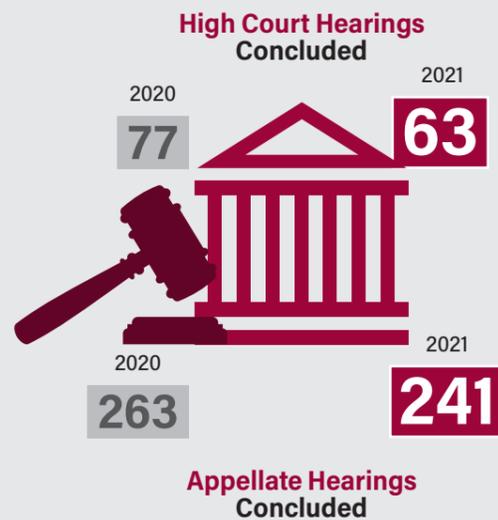
## CIVIL



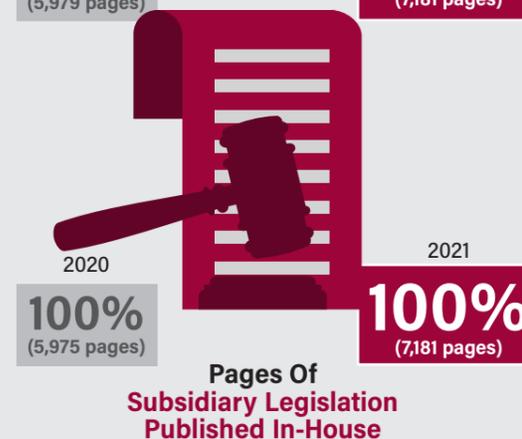
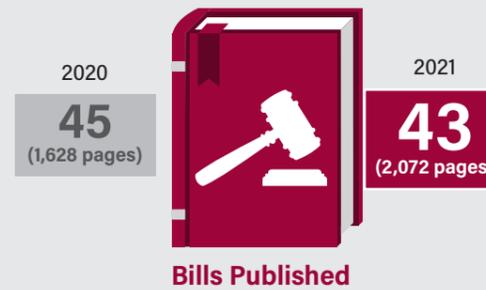
## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## PUBLIC PROSECUTION AND CRIME

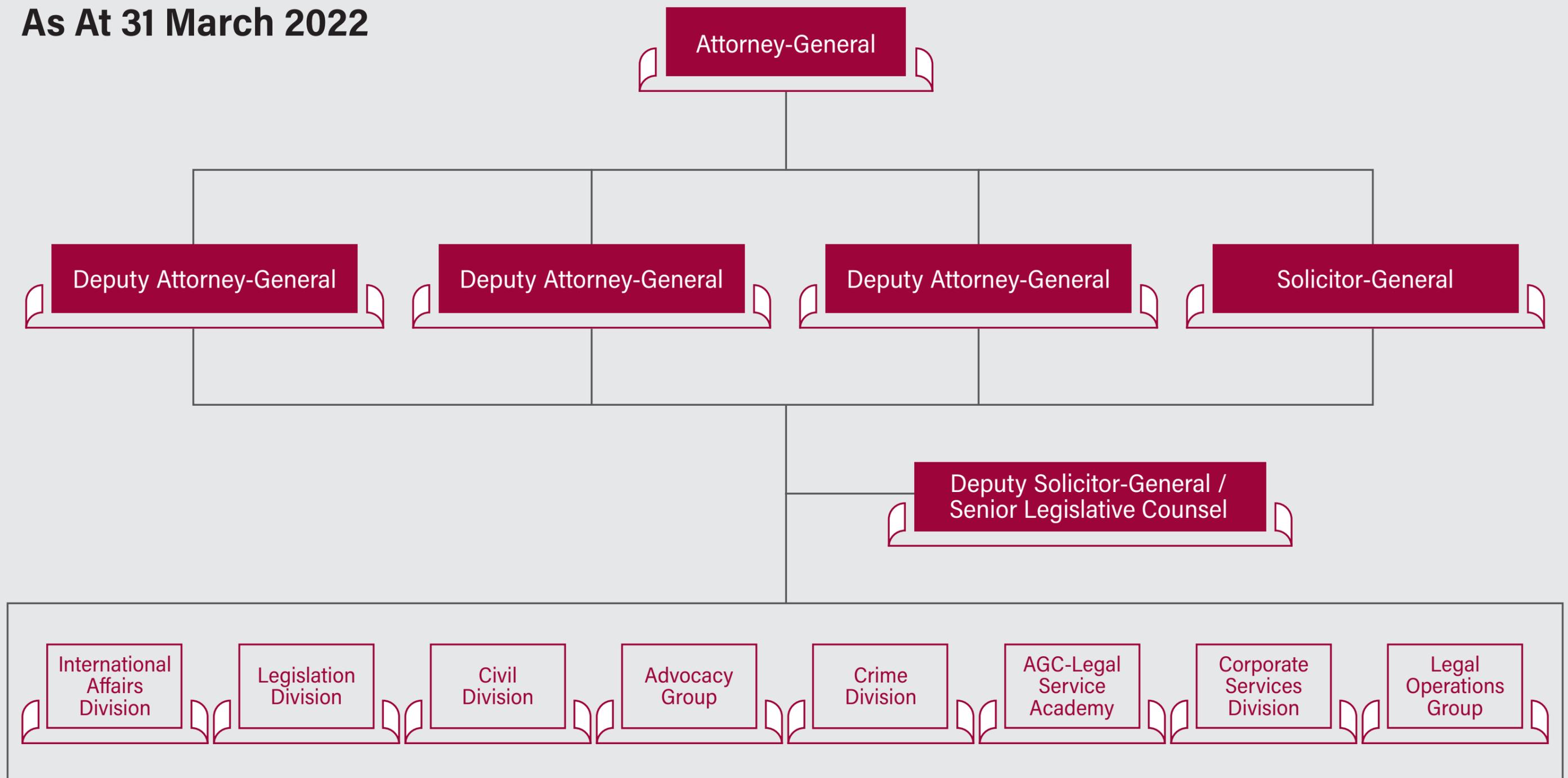


## LEGISLATION



# ORGANISATIONAL CHART

As At 31 March 2022



**Total Staff Strength: 668**

**AGC**  
SINGAPORE | ATTORNEY-  
GENERAL'S  
CHAMBERS