

Key Highlights From AG Lucien Wong's Opening Of The Legal Year 2026 Speech



SCAN HERE FOR
THE FULL SPEECH

LEGACY, STEWARDSHIP, DUTY THE NEXT BOUND FOR THE LEGAL SERVICE

Where We Have Come From

Two legal instruments concluded some 200 years ago – the 1824 Crawford Treaty and the Second Charter of Justice 1826 – lie at the foundation of modern Singapore.

1824 Crawford Treaty

The 1824 Crawford Treaty ceded Singapore and its surrounding islands and waters to the East India Company in perpetuity

Second Charter of Justice 1826

The Second Charter of Justice 1826 established Singapore's modern legal and judicial system

2026 is a significant year for the legal community as it marks the bicentennial of the Second Charter, which united the disparate communities in Singapore under one Law, one Court, and one unwavering commitment to Justice and Right.

AGC and the Legal Service have always kept faith with the foundational principle articulated in the Second Charter that Singapore is a nation governed by the rule of law.

Where We Are Now

AGC continues to act as the guardian of the public interest and steward of the rule of law. In 2025, AGC demonstrated its unwavering commitment to discharging this mission.



Upholding Justice

- AGC's prosecutors intensified efforts to combat scams and took strong positions in cases involving drink driving, child abuse, and animal abuse to protect the vulnerable and defenceless
- Legal Service Officers (LSOs), working with officers in the Legal Aid Bureau, processed approximately 8,000 legal aid cases, helping individuals facing family violence, marital issues, mental incapacity, personal injury, and unfair dismissal find legal redress



Forging Stronger International Ties

- AGC hosted the 30th International Association of Prosecutors Conference in September 2025. The Conference focused on the challenges of combating technology-enabled and augmented crime, and was attended by 450 delegates, including 50 Attorneys and Prosecutors-General, from 90 countries
- AGC will host the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel Conference in July 2026, where delegates will discuss how legal drafters can meet the challenges of an evolving legal and socio-political landscape while upholding core drafting principles



Contributing to Legal Education and the Biomedical Community

- In October 2025, a team of LSOs wrote Singapore's first biomedical ethics casebook, which distils decades of jurisprudence on biomedical law and ethics, and is the Legal Service's contribution to the biomedical community

Where We Are Going To Next

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping the legal profession, and the Legal Service is no exception. The Legal Service is embracing AI to enhance efficiency and improve the work of the Legal Service. However, while AI is already changing the face of legal practice, it will not change the core identity of a lawyer, which is to be a trusted counsellor and faithful advocate.



The Changes AI will Bring

- AGC's needs cannot be met by commercial products alone due to reasons of national security and the unique nature of AGC's work. For that reason, AGC has developed several inhouse tools tailored to its needs

CaseEdge

An inhouse judgment summariser which will be improved to become an effective research assistant

Cadet

A treaty analyser which reviews commitments across Singapore's international agreements to help assess the international litigation risk of proposed Government policies touching on these agreements

Prollie

An AI chatbot trained on AGC's knowledge management database to generate insightful answers to questions on criminal law and procedure

- In addition, prosecutors have access to a suite of AI-powered tools to assist with the drafting of replies to representations from accused persons and statements of facts for simple plead-guilty cases; and AGC's legal drafters and treaty negotiators are experimenting with tools for drafting explanatory statements to Bills, reviewing contracts, and drafting treaties



What Endures Amidst Change

- As the Legal Service prepares for an AI-powered future, professional formation remains crucial for LSOs. This involves not only mastering legal and AI skills but also understanding the business of Government and immersion into a world of professional values
- It is therefore important for the Legal Service to pass on to the next generation of LSOs:
 - (i) values that are central to the legal profession such as fairness, honesty, integrity, honour, service, discipline, and hard work
 - (ii) skills which are uniquely human such as interviewing a witness, forensic cross-examination in Court, and negotiating with a counterparty

AGC and the Legal Service will continue to remain true to our vision and we will strive to ensure that the foundational principle of the Second Charter is respected and adhered to by everyone for the foreseeable future.

Lucien Wong
Attorney-General and President of the Legal Service Commission