

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF PRO BONO SG,
MS VIVIENNE LIM**

AT LAUNCH OF LAW AWARENESS WEEKS @ CDC 2026

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2026

Guest-of-Honour Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Law, Second Minister for Home Affairs
and Deputy Chairman of the People's Association;

Mayors Mr Baey Yam Keng, Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash, Ms Denise Phua, and Mr Alex
Yam; and

Vice-Chairman of South West CDC, Mr Ang Wei Neng,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Introduction

Good morning and welcome to the launch of LAW@CDC 2026. It is wonderful to see so many partners, volunteers, students and members of the community gathered here at Our Tampines Hub today. Over the past decade, LAW@CDC has grown into a meaningful platform for bringing legal knowledge and support closer to residents. Since its inception in 2015, it has reached more than 20,000 participants through over 400 legal awareness talks, reflecting the sustained commitment of many individuals and organisations to making legal help more accessible.

2. Importance of Access to Justice

Legal issues are often not confined to courtrooms. They arise in our workplaces, our homes and our daily interactions with others. That is why initiatives such as LAW@CDC are so important. By bringing legal information and support into the heart of our communities, we help ensure that residents know where to turn when legal questions arise.

The continued success of LAW@CDC reflects a simple but powerful truth: access to justice begins with access to knowledge. When people better understand their rights and responsibilities, they are more empowered to make informed decisions, address challenges early and navigate life's uncertainties with greater confidence.

3. Acknowledgements

While legal knowledge is important, programmes such as LAW@CDC are ultimately made possible by people. They are made possible by individuals who step forward to contribute their time, expertise and compassion in service of others:

- a. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the five Community Development Councils for their continued partnership and commitment to bringing legal support closer to the community. As trusted touchpoints for residents, the CDCs play an invaluable role in connecting individuals and families with the help they need.
- b. I would also like to thank our Institutes of Higher Learning, whose students have contributed their energy, creativity and passion to this initiative. To our legal mentors, volunteer lawyers and student teams,

thank you for sharing your knowledge and guiding the next generation of legal professionals to embrace the spirit of service.

- c. To the many volunteers and community partners who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes, your contributions often go unseen, but they make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.
- d. Through Community Legal Clinics and Law Centres, outreach talks, and webinars, volunteer lawyers step into the community as educators, and advisors for those navigating complex legal issues. This commitment is practical and hands-on. Whether helping migrant workers understand their rights, guiding families through difficult periods, or supporting low-income residents with legal challenges, you have shown that law can be a powerful tool for empowerment and social good.

By placing service at the heart of their work, these volunteers help ensure that legal support remains accessible to those who need it most. I would also like to take a moment to recognise a few volunteers whose contributions have strengthened our access to justice efforts:

- Alwyn Tan has volunteered at 150 Community Legal Clinic sessions and also served as a mentor for the Access to Justice Community Co-Lab.
- Koh Kia Jeng has served for many years on Pro Bono SG's Law Awareness Committee and continues to contribute as a mentor to the Co-Lab.
- Melvin Loh has been a familiar voice in our legal awareness efforts, speaking at webinars and legal talks on neighbour disputes.

- And Serene Gan, former Chair of the SCCA Pro Bono Chapter, has played an important role in rallying SCCA's in-house counsels to volunteer as moderators for the LAW@CDC webinars, while contributing actively herself.

These are just a few examples of the many volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise to LAW@CDC and to Pro Bono SG's wider access to justice efforts. Today, we are pleased to recognise and thank all of you for the part you have played in making these initiatives possible. Your generosity, expertise and commitment to serving the community are deeply appreciated.

To all our volunteers, thank you for embodying the spirit of pro bono service.

4. Access to Justice Community Co-Lab

This same spirit of service and collaboration was especially evident in the inaugural Access to Justice Community Co-Lab. Co-organised by Pro Bono SG, the People's Association, the five CDCs, NUS, SMU and SUSS, with support from the Ministry of Law as part of SGLaw200, the Co-Lab brought together students, volunteer lawyers, in-house counsel and community partners to explore barriers to legal awareness and access to justice.

Over the course of several months, 32 interdisciplinary student teams participated in design thinking workshops, community learning journeys and user research, engaging directly with community needs and challenges. Guided by their legal

mentors, they worked to develop practical and innovative solutions that could make legal help more accessible and user-friendly.

More importantly, the Co-Lab demonstrated the legal fraternity's commitment to serving society through partnership, innovation and pro bono service. It showed what is possible when lawyers, students and community organisations come together with a shared desire to improve access to justice.

The ideas that emerged from the Co-Lab are a reminder that meaningful solutions are often developed when diverse perspectives come together around a common purpose. Following a competitive Ideation Day, five teams were selected to further develop their prototypes, while an additional ten teams were invited to continue refining their ideas with support from the People's Association and their volunteer legal mentors – a testament to the quality and potential of the solutions presented.

Today, we are excited to see these ideas brought to life and showcased to the wider community. While each solution takes a different approach, they share a common goal: making legal support more accessible, responsive and relevant to the needs of the people we serve. We hope these ideas will spark further collaboration and inspire new ways of advancing access to justice in the years ahead.

5. Pro Bono Spirit

As we launch this year's LAW@CDC programme, I encourage members of the legal community to continue supporting pro bono work in whatever way they can. Whether

as a volunteer lawyer, mentor, student volunteer, donor or advocate, every contribution helps strengthen access to justice for the communities we serve.

Access to justice is only possible because people choose to give their time, expertise and care in service of others. Together, we can ensure that legal help is not a privilege for a few, but a resource that is within reach for all.

Thank you, and I wish everyone a meaningful and successful LAW@CDC 2026.