

Practice Areas: Dispute Management, Criminal Proceedings, Civil Litigation, Arbitration, Disciplinary Proceedings, Corporate Advisory

Michelle brings over 15 years of legal experience, with a strong focus on civil and criminal litigation. She has acted in a broad spectrum of cases, from high-stakes, multi-million dollar lawsuits, and arbitrations to smaller claims in the State Courts.

Her career spans both public and private sectors. Michelle began her legal journey at Allen & Gledhill, one of Singapore's largest law firms. She subsequently joined the public service, serving as a District Judge where she presided over criminal trials. Her public sector experience also includes roles as a State Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers—advising government ministries on legal issues—and as Assistant Commissioner at the Personal Data Protection Commission, where she issued enforcement decisions in data breach cases.

In 2021, Michelle founded M Yap Law, where she currently practises. Her clients include government agencies, SMEs, and individuals. Michelle is also trained in mediation and has negotiated successful settlements in matters involving criminal complaints, employment disputes, and contractual claims.

She is a Director of Smiling Gecko Singapore Limited, a non-profit organisation.

Michelle graduated with First Class Honours in Law in 2008, and received numerous academic accolades, including the prestigious Weightsmen Prize for topping her cohort in the Law of Tort. Upon graduation, she served as a Justices' Law Clerk to the Chief Justice and High Court Judges of the Supreme Court.

Director, M Yap Law

Jun 21 to present

- On the Energy Market Authority (EMA) panel for both General and Non-Prosecution services, and Prosecution services.
- On the Council for Estate Agencies (CEA) panel, representing CEA in the prosecuting of disciplinary offences against real estate agents and salespersons.
- On the LSNEDES-CASE (Law Society Neutral Evaluation and Determination Scheme - Consumers Association of Singapore) Panel of Neutrals, as a neutral evaluator on the merits of CASE cases that parties were unable to resolve via mediation.
- Civil litigation and arbitration. Disputes handled include contractual, personal injury, employment, strata titles board claims, and tenancy.
- Criminal defence involving charges relating to traffic offences, workplace accidents, corruption, outrage of modesty, child abuse, and assault.
- Corporate Advisory on employment, disciplinary inquiries, contracts on provision of goods and services, dispute management, and debt recovery.
- Volunteer with the Law Society Pro Bono Services (Criminal Legal Aid Scheme).
- Member of the Selection Panel for Singapore Law Reports.

Assistant Commissioner, Personal Data Protection Commission**May 20–Jan 21**

- Oversaw investigations and issued regulatory decisions on data protection complaints/incidents.
- Formulated and implemented policies on data protection.
- Conducted educational and outreach activities to individuals and organisations on data protection.

Deputy Senior State Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers (Civil Division)**May 17–Apr 20**

- Provided legal advice to different ministries/agencies of the Singapore Government on a wide range of issues, including disciplinary proceedings, judicial review, statutory powers, and government contracts.
- Part of the team of legal advisors to the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), a multinational and multi-agency task force that aims to stop the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Advised PSI and its agencies on the legal issues relating to the interdiction and seizure of WMD materials at sea.
- Previously appointed by the Ministry of Law to serve as an Assessor to determine individuals' and businesses' eligibility for relief under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act.

District Judge, State Courts**Apr 13–Apr 17**

- Presided over criminal trials.
- Presided over regulatory offences and traffic offences.
- Formulated and implemented various criminal justice reform projects.

Senior Associate, Allen & Gledhill LLP**Jan 11 – Mar 13**

- Practice Areas: Mergers and Acquisitions, Dispute Management, and Litigation in criminal and civil matters.

Justices' Law Clerk and Assistant Registrar, Supreme Court**Jan 09 – Dec 10**

- Assisted the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court in legal research, reviewing case material, and preparing bench memorandums that summarise the facts, issues, and arguments in a case.
- Presided over civil proceedings heard in chambers, including applications on discovery, summary judgment, and examination of judgment debtors.

Language Proficiency:

English: Spoken and Written (Native)

Chinese: Spoken (Intermediate), Written (Basic)