

2025 MALAYSIA LEGAL FORUM

A forum on contemporary legal issues

Date & Time

30 Oct 2:30pm – 5:30pm

31 Oct 2:30pm – 5:30pm

1 Nov 9:00am – 5:00pm

Venue

Auditorium AIAC,
Kuala Lumpur

Guest of Honour



**YAA Datuk Seri Utama
Wan Ahmad Farid bin Wan Salleh**
Chief Justice of Malaysia

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Foreword by **Mr Girish Kamat**,
Country Head, Thomson Reuters Malaysia



It gives me great pleasure to welcome all participants to the Malaysia Legal Forum 2025, organised by Thomson Reuters with the support of the Legal & Business Academy of Malaysia, and presented in strategic partnership with the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC). This Forum is also made possible through the generous sponsorship of our supporting organisations and firms: Arief & Iskandar, Azman Davidson & Co, Cheang & Ariff, Gan Partnership, Halim Hong & Quek, Lavania & Balan Chambers, Sanjay Mohan, RDS, SCRIBE, Shook Lin & Bok, and Tay & Partners.

As one of the world's leading legal publishers and content providers, Thomson Reuters is deeply committed to advancing legal knowledge and fostering meaningful dialogue within the legal fraternity. Part of a USD 6.7 billion global organisation with over 25,000 employees across more than 75 countries, Thomson Reuters Malaysia has been serving the local legal community since 1997. This Forum builds upon that legacy, reflecting our ongoing dedication to knowledge-sharing and the development of Malaysia's legal ecosystem.

Since our last Forum in 2024, the world has experienced shifting geopolitical dynamics, trade tensions, rapid technological advancements—particularly in artificial intelligence—and increasingly complex environmental challenges. Malaysia is not immune to these changes, and our legal community must remain agile and responsive to the evolving landscape.

As organisers, we aim to encourage reflection and discussion on developments in jurisprudence that extend beyond litigation, encompassing corporate law, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and tax practice. Now in its third edition, the Forum brings together a distinguished group of 44 experts from the Judiciary, legal practice, corporate sector, and tax advisory.

This diversity of perspectives enriches our collective understanding of legal issues, promotes critical thinking, and encourages innovative approaches to problem-solving.

This year's programme features 11 sessions covering bold and dynamic topics including CIPAA, Arbitration, ADR Remedies, Banking Law, Anti-Money Laundering, Insolvency, Land Law, and Stamp Duty Law.

We are honoured that YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, Founding President of IDEAS, has graciously accepted our invitation to deliver the Keynote Address on the theme of Federalism on Day 1 of the Forum.

On Day 2, we are privileged to have Yang Amat Arif Tan Sri Hasnah Mohd Hashim deliver the Keynote Address and officiate the closing of Day 2.

We are especially grateful to the Malaysian Judiciary, and in particular, Yang Amat Arif Datuk Seri Utama Wan Ahmad Farid Wan Salleh, Chief Justice of Malaysia, for their unwavering support. We are delighted that the Chief Justice has agreed to deliver the Keynote Address and officiate the closing of the Forum on Day 3.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Mr. S. Saravana Kumar, Organising Chairman of the Forum, and his colleagues at Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership (RDS) for their dedication and support in making this event possible. Thanks to my colleagues at Thomson Reuters and the staff of AIAC for their tireless efforts in organising this Forum and ensuring its success.

We are also deeply grateful to all 44 guest speakers, moderators, and panel members for generously sharing their time and expertise to ensure each session is insightful and impactful. Finally, we thank all participants for your support and presence. We wish you an enriching and inspiring experience at the Malaysia Legal Forum 2025.

Foreword by **S. Saravana Kumar**,
Organising Chairman, Malaysia Legal Forum 2025
Partner, RDS



The legal world is in constant motion, a reflection of the societies it serves. Each year, new laws, judgments and policies recalibrate the relationship between the state, business and citizen. The Malaysia Legal Forum 2025, organised by Thomson Reuters with the support of the Legal & Business Academy of Malaysia, arrives at a time when thoughtful legal discourse has never been more necessary.

Now in its third edition, the Forum has become a platform for rigorous debate and practical insight. This year, 44 distinguished experts from the Judiciary, corporate and tax practice and the wider legal community convene to examine pressing issues that define the modern legal landscape. The diversity of experience ensures a richness of perspective, essential for navigating complexity with clarity.

Across 11 plenary sessions, the Forum spans key areas from CIPAA, Arbitration and ADR Remedies to Banking, Anti-Money Laundering, Insolvency, Land and Stamp Duty Law. It opens with a session on Conflict Management Within Federalism and Inter-State Relations, featuring YB Datuk Brenndon Keith Soh, Sabah State Attorney General, and Tan Sri Datuk Harmindar Singh Dhaliwal, retired Federal Court Judge, moderated by Steven Perian KC.

We are honoured to have YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, Founding President of IDEAS, deliver the Day 1 Keynote Address on Federalism.

Day Two centres on Arbitration and Construction Law, with three plenary sessions and a keynote by Yang Amat Arif Tan Sri Hasnah Mohd Hashim, Chief Judge of Malaya, who will also officiate the closing of the day.

The final day features the concluding Keynote Address by Yang Amat Arif Datuk Seri Utama Wan Ahmad Farid Wan Salleh, Chief Justice of Malaysia, who will formally close the Forum.

We applaud the Chief Justice for his commitment to continue upholding judicial independence. His policy address on 6 August 2025 highlights the judiciary's ongoing efforts to maintain public confidence, address systemic challenges and enhance judicial capacity in an increasingly complex legal environment. In this light, the message from the Chief Justice is unequivocal: the independence of the judiciary must continue to ring loud and clear. It is truly encouraging that the Chief Justice has reaffirmed this trajectory, placing renewed emphasis on transparency, efficiency, and public confidence.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Events of this scale are possible only through collaboration. We thank Thomson Reuters for their continued commitment to knowledge-sharing, AIAC as our strategic partner and our supporting organisations and firms, Arief & Iskandar, Azman Davidson & Co, Cheang & Ariff, Gan Partnership, Halim Hong & Quek (HHQ), Lavania & Balan Chambers (LBC), Raj Ong & Yudistra (ROY), RDS, Sanjay Mohan, SCRIBE and Tay & Partners for their generous sponsorship, which has enabled us to offer 200 complimentary passes to young lawyers across Malaysia.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to all speakers, moderators and panellists for their time and insights, and to the teams at RDS, Thomson Reuters and AIAC for their professionalism and dedication.

The Malaysia Legal Forum is more than an annual gathering. It is a continuing conversation about where the law is heading and the responsibilities that come with it. As we begin the 2025 edition, I invite all participants to engage, question and challenge. Your strong support reaffirms our commitment to making this an annual platform for legal professionals to learn, connect and grow.

2025 MALAYSIA LEGAL FORUM

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30 Oct 2025, Thurs

2.30 pm Registration & Coffee

3.00 pm Special Session: Constitutional Law

Conflict Management Within Federalism and Inter-State Relations

4.15 pm Keynote Address & Closing by
YAM Tunku Zain Al'Abidin Ibni Tuanku Muhriz

4.45 pm Tea Reception

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31 Oct 2025, Fri

2.30 pm Registration & Coffee

2.45 pm Welcome Address
Representative from Asian International Arbitration
Centre (AIAC)

3.00 pm Plenary 1: CIPAA

**Reaffirming the Protective Purpose of Section 30 of
CIPAA - Insights from *Kinu Sdn Bhd v Kerajaan
Malaysia (Jabatan Kerja Raya Malaysia)* [2025] 5
AMR 933**

3.45 pm Plenary 2: Arbitration

**Challenging Arbitral Awards: Public Policy and
Natural Justice in the Wake of *Eng Han Engineering
Sdn Bhd v Toshiba Elevator (M) Sdn Bhd* [2025] 5
AMR 457**

4.30 pm Plenary 3: Construction Law

**Final Account, Final Say? Revisiting Payment
Disputes After *Pesat Bumi Sdn Bhd v Cescon
Engineers Sdn Bhd* [2025] AMEJ 1166**

5.15 pm Keynote Address & Closing by
YAA Tan Sri Hasnah binti Dato' Mohammed Hashim
Chief Judge of Malaya

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1 Nov 2025, Sat

8.30 am Registration & Coffee

9.15 am Special Presentation

Robots in Robes? How AI is Rethinking the Legal Landscape - Part 1

9.30 am Plenary 4: Contract

Broken Promise or Misunderstood Terms?: Analysis of *The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Bhd v Aideah Communication Sdn Bhd* [2025] 4 AMR 457

10.15 am Tea Break

10.45 am Plenary 5: Banking & Finance

Banking Secrecy in the Spotlight: Limits, Liabilities & Lessons From *Public Bank Berhad v National Feedlot Corporation Sdn Bhd* & 4 Ors [2025] 6 AMR 193

11.30 am Plenary 6: Land Law

***Sistem Lingkaran Lebuhraya Kajang Sdn Bhd v Orchard Circle Sdn Bhd & Anor* [2025] 4 AMR 45: Beyond Compensation, Interpreting the Proviso to Section 49(1) of the Land Acquisition Act 1960**

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1 Nov 2025, Sat

12.15 pm

Keynote Address by
**YAA Datuk Seri Utama Wan Ahmad Farid
bin Wan Salleh**
Chief Justice of Malaysia

12.45 pm

Special Presentation:

**Robots in Robes? How AI is Rethinking the Legal
Landscape – Part 2**

1.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm

Plenary 7: Insolvency & Restructuring

**Insolvency vs Arbitration, Autonomy on Trial:
Malaysia's Position Post *V Medical Services (M)
Sdn Bhd v Swissray Asia Healthcare Co Ltd*
[2025] 3 AMR 379**

2.45 pm

Plenary 8: Stamp Duty

**Stamping Out Growth? Ad Valorem Stamp Duty
on Business Sale Agreements: Examining *Havi
Logistics (M) Sdn Bhd v Pemungut Duti Setem*
[2025] 2 AMR 349**

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1 Nov 2025, Sat

3.30 pm

Plenary 9: Money Laundering

Banking on Compliance: Institutional Duties Under AMLA in Light of *Hong Leong Bank Berhad v Ten Jing Enterprise Sdn Bhd & 3 Ors* [2025] 5 AMR 821

4.15 pm

Plenary 10: Tort of Negligence

The Scalpel and the Signature: Informed Consent and Medical Negligence After *Dr Chandran Gnanappah v Gan See Joe & Anor* [2025] 6 AMR 56

5.00 pm

Closing & Tea/Cocktail Reception

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Day 1 – Keynote Address



**YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin
ibni Tuanku Muhriz**
Founding President, IDEAS

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Day 2 – Keynote Address



**YAA Tan Sri Hasnah binti Dato'
Mohammed Hashim**
Chief Judge of Malaya

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Day 3 – Keynote Address



**YAA Datuk Seri Utama
Wan Ahmad Farid bin Wan Salleh**
Chief Justice of Malaysia

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Special Session: Constitutional Law Conflict Management Within Federalism and Inter-State Relations



Steven Perian KC
RDS



**Tan Sri Datuk Harmindar
Singh Dhaliwal**
*Retired Federal Court
Judge*



**Datuk Brenndon
Keith Soh**
*Sabah State Attorney
General*

Plenary 1: Reaffirming the Protective Purpose of Section 30 of CIPAA – Insights from *Kinu Sdn Bhd v Kerajaan Malaysia (Jabatan Kerja Raya Malaysia)* [2025] 5 AMR 933



Nagarajah Muttiah
RDS



**YA Tuan Azlan
Sulaiman**



Verene Tan Yeen Yi
Cheang & Ariff



**Raja Kumar
Raja Kandan**
Azman Davidson & Co

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Plenary 2:

Challenging Arbitral Awards: Public Policy and Natural Justice in the Wake of *Eng Han Engineering Sdn Bhd v Toshiba Elevator (M) Sdn Bhd* [2025] 5 AMR 457



Vinayak Sri Ram
RDS



Leonard Yeoh
Tay & Partners



Ankit R. Sanghvi
HHQ

Plenary 3:

Final Account, Final Say? Revisiting Payment Disputes After *Pesat Bumi Sdn Bhd v Cescon Engineers Sdn Bhd* [2025] AMEJ 1166



Hayden Tan
RDS



Balan Nair
Lavania & Balan
Chambers



Choon Hon Leng
Sanjay Mohan



Allen Cheng
Azman Davidson & Co

Plenary 4:

Broken Promise or Misunderstood Terms?: Analysis of *The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Bhd v Aideah Communication Sdn Bhd* [2025] 4 AMR 457



Lim Zhi Jian
RDS



**YA Dato' Anand
Ponnudurai**



Ashley Lee
Gan Partnership



Razman Hashim
Petrinas



Caleb Sio
Tay & Partners

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Plenary 5:

Banking Secrecy in the Spotlight: Limits, Liabilities & Lessons From *Public Bank Berhad v National Feedlot Corporation Sdn Bhd* & 4 Ors [2025] 6 AMR 193



Austen Pereira
RDS



YA Datuk Nantha Balan



Wan Marzimin
Maybank



Joshua Ho
Raj, Ong & Yudistra



Carissa How
Gan Partnership

Plenary 6:

***Sistem Lingkaran Lebuhraya Kajang Sdn Bhd v Orchard Circle Sdn Bhd & Anor* [2025] 4 AMR 45: Beyond Compensation, Interpreting the Proviso to Section 49(1) of the Land Acquisition Act 1960**



Rosli Dahlan
RDS



YA Dato Su Tiang Joo



**Y.M. Tuan
Muhammad Arief**
Arief & Iskandar



Dato' Mani Usilappan
VPC Asia Pacific

Plenary 7:

Insolvency vs Arbitration, Autonomy on Trial: Malaysia's Position Post *V Medical Services (M) Sdn Bhd v Swissray Asia Healthcare Co Ltd* [2025] 3 AMR 379



**Farah Shuhadah
Razali**
RDS



**YA Datuk Mohamed
Zaini Mazlan**



**Lavinia
Kumaraendran**
Lavania & Balan
Chambers



Sanjay Mohanasundram
Sanjay Mohan

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Advocates & Solicitors



ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS



ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS



Plenary 8:

**Stamping Out Growth? Ad Valorem Stamp Duty on Business Sale Agreements:
Examining *Havi Logistics (M) Sdn Bhd v Pemungut Duti Setem* [2025] 2 AMR 349**



S. Saravana Kumar
RDS



Soh Lian Seng
CTIM



Damian Kiethan
Raj, Ong & Yudistra



Kalsumawati Mohd Aris
Shell

Plenary 9:

Banking on Compliance: Institutional Duties Under AMLA in Light of *Hong Leong Bank Berhad v Ten Jing Enterprise Sdn Bhd & 3 Ors* [2025] 5 AMR 821



Dr Bahari Yeow
RDS



Nigel William Kraal
Cheang & Ariff



Penny Wan Yoke Nee
UOB

Plenary 10:

**The Scalpel and the Signature: Informed Consent and Medical Negligence
After *Dr Chandran Gnanappah v Gan See Joe & Anor* [2025] 6 AMR 56**



Kenny Lam
RDS



**YA Dato' Collin Lawrence
Sequerah**



Faiz Iskandar
Arief & Iskandar



Syed Iskandar Shah
KPJ Healthcare

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