



Dr. JACK TSEN-TA LEE

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Dr. Jack Tsen-Ta Lee graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1995 and qualified as an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore the following year. After practising for about six years as a litigator with a Singapore law firm, he took up postgraduate studies at University College London on a British Chevening Scholarship and was conferred an LL.M. in 2003. He then returned to Singapore and worked as an Assistant Director for the Singapore Academy of Law, a professional association of judges, lawyers, government legal officers and law academics. Subsequently, he embarked on Ph.D. studies on a fully funded teaching assistantship at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom, and successfully defended his thesis on the interpretation and construction of bills of rights in January 2012.

Jack was an Assistant Professor of Law with the School of Law, Singapore Management University from 2008 to 2017. He held a 2009–2010 Lee Foundation Fellowship for Research Excellence, and received the School of Law’s Most Promising Teacher Award 2010–2011. He was then the Deputy Research Director of the Singapore Academy of Law from 2017 to 2019, working in law reform. He taught cultural industries and the law, and media law and policy, on a part-time basis for the Department of Communications and New Media, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, NUS, in 2023.

Jack served on the Law Society of Singapore’s Public and International Law Committee between 2012 and 2013, and then rejoined it as a consultant

(2021–2022). He was a member of the National Collection Advisory Panel (2013–2021) and is a member of the Archaeology Advisory Panel (since 2019) of the National Heritage Board; in addition he was a member of the Design Advisory Panel (Conservation) (2022–2024) and is a member of the Heritage and Identity Partnership (since 2018) of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore. Since 2016 he has been an expert member of the International Committee on Legal, Administrative and Financial Issues (ICLAFI) of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and was the President of the Singapore Heritage Society between 9 September 2017 and 22 September 2023.

Jack has published book chapters and law journal articles on constitutional law, criminal procedure, heritage law, and other subjects. He was also a contributor to the first editions of *Halsbury's Laws of Singapore* and *Singapore Court Practice*, produced by LexisNexis. He has research interests in constitutional and administrative law, heritage law, and media law.

Selected Publications

Jack Lee at [SelectedWorks](#) and [SSRN](#)

Law of Cultural Property and Heritage

- “[Love for Heritage in the Time of Covid-19: Pandemics and Preparedness](#)” in John Travis Marshall, Ryan Rowberry and Susan S Kuo (editors), *The Cambridge Handbook of Disaster Law and Policy: Risk, Recovery and Redevelopment* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022) at 451–467
- “[Sense of Place: The Intersection Between Built Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage in Singapore](#)” (2020) 4(1) *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy* 604–621
- “[We Built This City: Public Participation in Land Use Decisions in Singapore](#)” (2015) 10(2) *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* 213–234 (DOI: [10.1017/asjcl.2015.15](#))
- “[A Presence of the Past: The Legal Protection of Singapore’s Archaeological Heritage](#)” (2013) 20(3) *International Journal of Cultural Property* 257–288 (doi: [10.1017/S094073911300012X](#))
- “[Treaties, Time Limits and Treasure Trove: The Legal Protection of Cultural Objects in Singapore](#)” (2004) 9(3) *Art Antiquity & Law* 237–280

Interpretation of Constitutions and Bills of Rights

- “[A Place to Stand to Move the Earth: Standing and the Rule of Law](#)” [2020] *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies* at 367–391
- “[Rethinking the Presumption of Constitutionality](#)” in Jaclyn L. Neo (ed.), *Constitutional Interpretation in Singapore: Theory and Practice* (Abingdon, Oxon.; New York, N.Y.: Routledge, 2016) at 139–158
- “[Constraint or Restraint? Singapore’s Constitution at 50](#)” in Jason Lim and Terence Lee (eds.), *Singapore: Negotiating State and Society, 1965–2015* (Abingdon, Oxon.; New York, N.Y.: Routledge, 2016) at 15–34
- “[According to the Spirit and not to the Letter: Proportionality and the Singapore Constitution](#)” (2014) 8(3) *Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law* 276–304 (doi: [10.1515/icl-2014-0303](#))
- “[The Text through Time](#)” (2010) 31(3) *Statute Law Review* 217–237 (doi: [10.1093/slr/hmq012](#))
- “[Interpreting Bills of Rights: The Value of a Comparative Approach](#)” (2007) 5 *International Journal of Constitutional Law* 122–152 (doi: [10.1093/icon/molo42](#))

Constitutional and Human Rights Law

- Jack Tsen-Ta Lee and Jaclyn L. Neo, “[Communitarian Rule of Law and the Judicial Articulation of the Right to be Represented in Singapore](#)” in Brian Christopher Jones (ed.), *Democracy and Rule of Law in China’s Shadow* (Oxford, Oxfordshire; New York, N.Y.: Hart Publishing, 2021) at 129–145
- “[Topical Storm Approaching: Regulating Public Assemblies and Responding to Online Falsehoods in the City State of Singapore](#)” in Ernst Hirsch Ballin, Gerhard van der Schyff, Maarten Stremmer, and Maartje de Visser (eds.), *European Yearbook of Constitutional Law 2020: The City in Constitutional Law* (The Hague: T M C Asser Press, 2021), volume 2, 199–234
- “[From Eligibility to Election: The Mechanics of the Presidential Poll](#)” in Jaclyn L. Neo and Swati S. Jhaveri (eds.), *Constitutional Change in Singapore: Reforming the Elected Presidency* (Abingdon, Oxfordshire; New York, N.Y.: Routledge, 2020) at 178–208
- “[The Limits of Liberty: The Crime of Male Same-sex Conduct and the Rights to Life and Personal Liberty in Singapore: *Lim Meng Suang v Attorney-General* \[2015\] 1 SLR 26](#)” (2016) 46(1) *Hong Kong Law Journal* 49–70
- “[Fundamental Constitutional Concepts and the Roles of the Branches of Government](#)” in Gary Chan Kok Yew & Jack Tsen-Ta Lee (eds.), *The Legal System of Singapore: Institutions, Principles and Practices* (Singapore: LexisNexis, 2015) at 47–88
- “[Equality and Singapore’s First Constitutional Challenges to the Criminalization of Male Homosexual Conduct](#)” (2015) 16(1–2) *Asia-Pacific Journal on Human Rights and the Law* 150–185 (doi: [10.1163/15718158-01601007](https://doi.org/10.1163/15718158-01601007))
- “[Foreign Precedents in Constitutional Adjudication by the Supreme Court of Singapore, 1963–2013](#)” (2015) 24(2) *Washington International Law Journal* 253–288
- “[Shall the Twain Never Meet? Competing Narratives and Discourses of the Rule of Law in Singapore](#)” [2012] *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies* 298–330
- “[The Mandatory Death Penalty and a Sparsely Worded Constitution](#)” (2011) 127 *Law Quarterly Review* 192–195

Other Subjects

- [Report on Civil Liability for Misuse of Private Information](#) (with Phang Hsiao Chung; Simon Constantine (editor)) (Singapore: Law Reform Committee, Singapore Academy of Law, 2020)
- “[Teaching Law in the University – Shaping Future Generations](#)” in Tang Hang Wu, Michael Hor & Koh Swee Yen (eds.), *The Practice of Law* (Singapore: LexisNexis, 2011) at 177–184
- “[Workplace Sexual Harassment in Singapore: The Legal Challenge](#)” (1999) 11 *Singapore Academy of Law Journal* 27–97
- “[The Court of Appeal’s Lack of Jurisdiction to Reopen Appeals: *Abdullah bin A Rahman v Public Prosecutor; Lim Choon Chye v Public Prosecutor*](#)” [1994] *Singapore Journal of Legal Studies* 431–447

