

M. RAVI

International Human Rights Lawyer | Author | Speaker
Freelance Legal Consultant
Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (non-practising)
www.mravilaw.com

EDUCATION:

National University of Singapore, Singapore,
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Sociology, 1993.

University College of Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom,
Bachelor of Laws (LLB Honours), 1995.

National University of Singapore, Singapore,
Post-Graduate Diploma in Singapore Law, 1996.

Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary,
(In cooperation with Columbia Law School, Public Interest Law Initiative [PILI]), Columbia – CEU
Certificate on Innovative Law Teaching and Human Rights and Ethics, 2006

M. RAVI'S RECORD AS A HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATOR IN SINGAPORE:

M. Ravi has argued landmark human rights cases before the Supreme Court of Singapore involving:

- (1) **Constitutionality of the mandatory death penalty** case
(*Yong Vui Kong v Public Prosecutor* [2010] 3 SLR);
- (2) **Presidential pardon/clemency process in death penalty** case
(*Yong Vui Kong v Public Prosecutor* [2011] 1 SGCA);
- (3) **Powers of the court of appeal to reopen death penalty** case
(*Yong Vui Kong v Public Prosecutor* [2009] SGCA 64);
- (4) **Challenge to the prosecutorial discretion in death penalty** case
(*Ramalingam Ravinthran v Attorney-General* [2011] SGHC 140);
- (5) **Voting rights / right to a by-election** case
(*Vellama d/o Marie Muthu v Attorney-General* [2013] SGCA 13);
- (6) **Gay rights / decriminalisation of homosexuality** case
(*Tan Eng Hong v Attorney-General* [2011] 3 SLR 320);
- (7) **Religious freedom** case
(*Public Prosecutor v Ng Chye Huay & another* [2007] SGMC 5);
- (8) **Freedom of expression/contempt of court** case
(*Shadrake Alan v Attorney-General* [2011] SGCA 26);
- (9) **Freedom of Assembly** case
(*Chee Siok Chin and others v Minister of Home Affairs* [2006] 1 SLR 582);

- (10) **Constitutionality of caning/corporal punishment** case
(*Yong Vui Kong v Public Prosecutor*) [2015] SGCA 11);
- (11) **Right of access to counsel** case
(*James Arokiasamy Raj*) [2014] SGHC 10;
- (12) **Representation of opposition figures in defamation suit by the Prime Minister and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew** case
(*Lee Hsien Loong v Singapore Democratic Party*) [2009] 1 SLR 642).

M. RAVI'S CAUSE LAWYERING WORK HAS BEEN CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED IN US LAW JOURNAL:

According to Jothie Rajah and Arun K. Thiruvengadam, writing in the *Wisconsin International Law Journal*:¹ "...Ravi's initiative in challenging the legality of the death penalty led to a temporary moratorium on hangings in Singapore for about a year. ... Ravi's impact as a cause lawyer has undoubtedly had some effect on the way the Singapore government has approached death penalty cases. ... Ravi has made it possible for unpopular and unusual causes to have their day in court. ... the visibility and presence of Ravi as a cause lawyer, the exception to the Singapore general rule, in some way created the conditions of possibility for other lawyers to step up and play the role of cause lawyer. ... It may well be that Ravi is the only lawyer in Singapore who can, at the present time, justifiably lay claim to being called a cause lawyer. ..."

(Source: Jothie Rajah and Arun K. Thiruvengadam, "Of Absences, Masks and Exceptions: Cause Lawyering in Singapore," *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, Volume 31, No. 3, 2013, pp. 646-671.²)

<https://digital.law.washington.edu/dspace-law/bitstream/handle/1773.1/1507/24WILJ0001.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

George Baylon Radics, Decolonizing Singapore's Sex Laws: Tracing Section 377a of Singapore's Penal Code (December 15, 2013). *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, Vol. 45, No. 1, 2013.

VIDEOS:

M. Ravi's human rights advocacy and challenge to the mandatory death sentence has been featured in a documentary film which can be viewed online at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?hl=en-GB&v=6jBagQWcxhc&gl=SG>

BOOKS:

- M. Ravi, *Kampong Boy* (Singapore: Ethos Books, 2013)
- M. Ravi, *Hung at Dawn* (Singapore: Orion Books, 2005)
- M. Ravi (with L.F.V. Netto), *Land of Good English* (Singapore: RGB Publications, 2004)

¹ Jothie Rajah and Arun K. Thiruvengadam, "Of Absences, Masks and Exceptions: Cause Lawyering in Singapore," *Wisconsin International Law Journal*, Volume 31, No. 3, 2013, pp. 646-671. This article is available online at: hosted.law.wisc.edu/wordpress/wilj/files/2015/01/Rajah-Thiruvengadam_final.pdf

² This article is available online at: hosted.law.wisc.edu/wordpress/wilj/files/2015/01/Rajah-Thiruvengadam_final.pdf

JOURNAL ARTICLE:

M. Ravi & Choo Zheng Xi, "Wanted for Mercy: Singapore and Its Mandatory Death Penalty," *East Asian Law Journal*, Volume 1, Number 2, 1 E. Asian L. J. 107 (2010). See: <http://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/easilj1&div=29&id=&page=>

AWARDS:

- Asia Pink Award for contributions to gay rights litigation, 2013
- M. Ravi's autobiography, *Kampong Boy*, was nominated for the National Literature Singapore Prize

SERVICE:

- Founding Member of the Anti-Death Penalty Asian Network (ADPAN)
- Founder of the Singapore Anti-Death Penalty Network (SADPC)
- Internship with the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 2007

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS:

- Member of Avocats Sans Frontières
- With Mr. Fulgence Massawe, Lawyer, Legal and Human Rights Centre, Tanzania on the upcoming challenge to the mandatory death penalty in Tanzania (mentor scheme arranged by the 6th World Congress Against the Death Penalty and ECPM, France)
- With Mrs Zainab Malik, Lawyer, Justice Project Pakistan on strategic litigation on challenging the death penalty in Pakistan (mentor scheme arranged by the 6th World Congress Against the Death Penalty and ECPM, France)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2001	Adjunct Lecturer at the National University of Singapore; taught Principles of Tort Law.
2000	Taught Corporate Law for the University of Queensland, Masters of Law with Forte-IRI Singapore.
1999	External Lecturer for Monash University, taught Medical Law.
1999	Lecturer in Real Estate Law for C.E.A.H. Course organized by Mint Properties Limited.
1993	Lecturer at City School of Commerce, taught Sociology for B.Sc. (Management Pathways).
1993-1997	Relief Teacher for the Singapore Ministry of Education, teaching English Literature and English language at various secondary schools in Singapore.

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE:

2016	Head, Knowledge Management & Strategic Alliance, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP
2009-2015	Legal Associate, M/s Violet Netto, Singapore (human rights law and public interest litigation including appellate advocacy, criminal, civil and family litigation)
2001-2008	Sole Proprietor, M/s Ravi & Co., Singapore (General Litigation, Solicitor's Work, Magistrates' Appeals)
1999-2000	Partner, M/s Rudy & Partners, Singapore (General Litigation, Solicitor's)
1997-1998	Legal Associate M/s Naranjan & Co., Singapore (General Litigation & Solicitors' Work)

EXPERIENCE IN TELEVISION:

2000	Presenter for a Current Affairs Programme for Central TV and participant in the National Tamil Debate Series.
1997	Part-time Newscaster for the Television Corporation of Singapore, Prime 12 Channel.
1991-1995	Presenter in a Current Affairs Programme for the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation.
1991	Participated in a News Reading Workshop conducted by SBC News.

SELECTED LIST OF CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Invited guest speaker at the 6th World Congress Against Death Penalty at the *Roundtable on Migrants and minorities: strategies to overcome challenges in capital cases*, June 22, 2016 Oslo;
- Invited speaker International Commission of Jurists' Southeast Asia Regional Lawyer's Meeting on *Countering Terrorism and Protecting Human Rights* in May 2016, Bangkok;
- Invited moderator at *Regional Consultative Campaign Meeting for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the Abolition of Death Penalty in ASEAN* on April 3, 2016 Jakarta;
- Invited speaker at Asia Regional Congress on the death penalty at the Roundtable *Elements of Unfair Trial*, June 12, 2015, Kuala Lumpur;
- Invited speaker International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Regional Workshop on the ASEAN Lawyers on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights Defenders: *Judicial Decisions on the Right to Peaceful Assembly in Singapore, April 28th, 2014* Bangkok;
- Invited speaker at Media Law and Policy in the Internet Age Conference panel discussion "*Speech Crimes and National Security*" 19 October 2013, Hong Kong University;

- Invited participant American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, 1st Southeast Asia Legal Advocacy Training of Trainers, July 25th to 28th, 2012, Bali;
- Invited speaker *Death Penalty Expert Consultation at Harvard Law School* organized on the initiative of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Mr. Christof Heyns and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, *inhuman* or degrading treatment or punishment, *Restricting the Death Penalty To The Most Serious Crimes*, 25-26 June 2012, Harvard;
- Invited speaker at 10th International Congress on Aids in Asia and Asia Pacific: *Challenging the Death Penalty for Drug Offences in Asia*, August 2011, South Korea;
- Invited speaker at 4th World Congress against Death Penalty, RoundTable on Unfair Trials, February 2nd, 2007, Paris;
- Invited speaker at South East Asia *Clinical Legal Education Conference* organised by the Faculty of Law Pannasastra University and Open Justice Initiatives – New York, Budapest and Abuja (OSJI), November 26-30, 2005, Cambodia.

REFERENCES:

1. Saul Lehrfreund

Death Penalty Project, London
 Email: Saul.Lehrfreund@smab.co.uk
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 8-9 Frith Street, London, W1D 3JB
 Tel +44(0)20 3206 2700 | Fax +44(0)20 3206 2800
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2. Edward Fitzgerald Q.C,

Email: e.fitzgerald@doughtystreet.co.uk
 Doughty Street Chambers
 54 Doughty Street
 London, WC1N 2LS
 DX: 22Phone 020 7404 1313
 Fax 020 7404 2283/843 Chancery Lane

3. Michael Darwyne

Barrister at Law admitted in England and Hong Kong, currently working as in-house legal counsel, Portcullis Trust, Seychelles.
 Email: michaeldarwyne@runbox.com
 Tel: +248 4371066

Interests / Sports: Indian Classical Dance, Yoga, Acting & Direction of Plays, Writing, Swimming, Soccer and Tennis

Languages: English, Tamil, and Malay.



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