

**8 JANUARY 2014
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SOLICITOR-GENERAL MRS KOH JUAT JONG RETIRES FROM PUBLIC SERVICE
JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER LIONEL YEE RETURNS TO ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S
CHAMBERS**

1 The Solicitor-General, Mrs Koh Juat Jong SC, will retire on 31 January 2014 after 31 years in public service. Judicial Commissioner Lionel Yee SC will be appointed as the new Solicitor-General with effect from 1 February 2014.

2 A President's Scholar, Mrs Koh served in the Administrative Service from 1981 to 1986 at the Ministry of Finance. She began her illustrious legal career in 1989 as a State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC). She was appointed as a Senior Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court in June 1994 and a District Judge in the Subordinate Courts in October 1995. On 1 November 2003, she was appointed the Registrar of the Supreme Court. On 11 April 2008, she returned to the AGC as the Solicitor-General.

3 At the Subordinate Courts, Mrs Koh presided over numerous civil and family cases and was highly respected as a firm and fair judge. In 1996, she was appointed as the Principal District Judge to head the Family and Juvenile Division. She spear-headed many programmes aimed at developing an effective and holistic family and juvenile justice system that addressed not only the legal issues, but also the emotional distress experienced by the parties to the disputes, especially the children.

4 As Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mrs Koh played a key role in instituting an effective case management system. She implemented a number of measures to reform court processes and improved court facilities to enhance the administration of justice. She was extensively involved in the New Supreme Court Building project and oversaw the successful move of the Court into the new building.

5 Upon her appointment as Solicitor-General, Mrs Koh worked tirelessly to assist the Attorney-General to oversee and supervise the work of more than 250 lawyers in the diverse fields of criminal prosecution, domestic and international civil advisory and litigation work and legislative drafting. In guiding officers across the many areas of law, Mrs Koh displayed a deep knowledge of the law. She ensured that comprehensive and

practical legal advice were rendered to government agencies and accurate and timely legislation was produced.

6 Over and beyond discharging her legal functions with distinction, Mrs Koh was an able administrator and inspiring leader. During her term, she oversaw AGC's growth from 250 officers in 2008 to more than 500 officers today to ensure that AGC is adequately resourced to meet the demands for legal services in an increasingly complex environment. She championed innovation and encouraged AGC to seek improvements constantly. For instance, under her watch, AGC successfully implemented an electronic workflow system for the monitoring and clearance of legal work. She also assisted the Attorney-General to re-structure and professionalise the corporate arm of AGC, for example, through the setting up of Knowledge Management and Media Relations units.

7 Well-known as a personable leader, Mrs Koh has a genuine interest in developing people. She initiated many training programmes and ensured that AGC is committed to continuous learning. Many generations of talented legal service officers, as well as non-legal service officers, have been mentored and groomed by her. Mrs Koh is also known as a compassionate, caring and understanding boss who saw the potential in everyone. She inspired officers to discharge their work not only with competence, but with integrity.

8 Mrs Koh's contribution in the past six years in AGC has laid the foundation for AGC to continue to grow as a key public institution in years to come. For her sterling contribution to the public service, Mrs Koh was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) National Day Award in 2005 and the Public Administration Medal (Gold) (Bar) National Day Award in 2011. We record our appreciation to Mrs Koh for her steady stewardship of AGC and dedicated service to the nation.

9 We also look forward to welcoming Judicial Commissioner Lionel Yee SC back to AGC. JC Lionel Yee served previously as the Second Solicitor-General between 2011 and 2012. He was with the AGC for 20 years prior to his elevation to the bench. JC Yee is therefore familiar with the work of the AGC. He will bring with him fresh insights from the bench and an understanding of AGC as an institution.

10 Attorney-General Steven Chong's quote is as follows:

“AGC would like to express its deep appreciation to Mrs Koh Juat Jong for her significant contributions to AGC. It is an honour that Mrs Koh has spent this lap of her 31-year career in the public service with AGC. She has been a stalwart member of the AGC

family, playing a crucial role in all aspects of our work, and making AGC a wonderful place to work in. We wish her all the very best on her new journey and a happy retirement.”

– **AG Steven Chong SC**

11 SG Mrs Koh Juat Jong’s quote is as follows:

“It has been my privilege to have been in the public service for the last 31 years. I have only ever been a public servant. I am deeply honoured to have had the opportunity to serve in various positions of responsibilities throughout my career.

The satisfaction that I have derived from my work has been immense. I have had the chance to work on policies, proffer legal opinions, make judicial decisions, manage the courts and run a public law office. Many people have guided, assisted and supported me along this journey. These are my superiors, my colleagues, my staff, and also the many lawyers and other people I have worked with. I am very grateful to them, and I know that I could not have done my work without their help. I am hopeful that in turn, I have been able to make some positive difference to those whose paths have crossed with mine in the course of my work, including the various litigants who have had their cases heard by me, the public service generally, and the public as a whole.

I have now decided that it is time to follow another path, and embark upon a new journey. This is one that will allow me to devote more time to my family, who have supported me in my career every step of the way. It is now my turn to give them my undivided attention, and make them my primary focus. Also, my younger colleagues are now more than ready to take over my duties, and assume greater leadership responsibilities in the legal service – the latter is something I take great pride and delight in.

I have known JC Lionel Yee, who will succeed me, for many years. We share many common aspirations and views. I have great confidence that he will be an outstanding SG and wish him all the best in the appointment. I also give my best wishes to AG Steven Chong and CJ Sundaresh Menon who have been most inspiring and gracious to me, and would like to thank them specially for their invaluable counsel and guidance.”

– **Solicitor-General Mrs Koh Juat Jong SC**