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**Course Title:** Seminar on Guardianship Laws in the USA and Singapore

**Speakers:** Professor David M. English - W.F.Fratcher and Earl. L. Jenkins Professor of Law, University of Missouri in Columbia

Goh Kok Yeow – Head of Intellectual Property and Probate/Trusts Practice, De Souza Lim & Goh LLP

**Duration:** 94 minutes

**Course description:** In the first part of the programme, our distinguished speaker, Professor David M. English will be discussing on the new legislation - the Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship and Other Protective Arrangements Act. This Act which is expected to be approved in July 2017, would make significant changes in US guardianship law and practice.

In the second part of the programme, Mr Goh Kok Yeow will be discussing on the proposed new Vulnerable Adults Bill in Singapore.

In August 2016, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) had conducted a public consultation on the proposed new Vulnerable Adults Bill. Although the Bill has not yet been read in Parliament, it is very likely that with the very favourable response from stakeholders and the public, it will soon become law.

The MSF's press announcement explained the rationale for the new proposed law as follows:-

*“Singapore’s population is rapidly ageing. By 2030, there will be over 900,000 residents aged 65 and above, a fair number of whom would be single or have no children. Elderly who develop dementia may be unable to care for themselves. ...Persons with disabilities are also living longer, and more are expected to outlive their parents. Frail elderly and aging persons with disabilities are especially vulnerable to abuse, neglect and self-neglect.*

*... The new legislation allows the state to intervene to protect vulnerable adults, where family or community interventions have been exhausted or are not effective. It is a future-ready legislation in light of our rapidly ageing population.”*

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### About the speakers:



#### **Professor David M. English - W.F.Fratcher and Earl. L. Jenkins Professor of Law, University of Missouri in Columbia**

*Professor English is best known for his work for the US Uniform Law Commission. He was the Reporter (principal drafter) for the Uniform Trust Code, the Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act, and the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act. He is currently Chair of the Drafting Committee for the Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act. Professor English also has been active in the American Bar Association. He is currently Vice-Chair of the ABA Section of Real Property Trust and Estate Law and was formerly Chair of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging.*

*Professor English has visited Asia frequently to lecture and teach and in 2004 spent much of the year as a Fulbright Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Tokyo.*

*Professor English received his B.A. from Duke University and his J.D. from Northwestern University. Prior to becoming a law professor, he was a partner at the Chicago law firm D'Ancona & Pflaum.*



#### **Goh Kok Yeow**

**Head of Intellectual Property and Probate/Trusts Practice, De Souza Lim & Goh LLP**

**Chairperson, Probate Practice and Succession Planning Committee, The Law Society of Singapore**

*Goh Kok Yeow is the Chairman of the Law Society of Singapore's Probate Planning and Succession Planning Committee. He has been a Senior Teaching Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE) since 2010, and he was the formerly the Subject Co-ordinator and Examiner for the Wills, Probate & Administration (WPA) module for the Preparatory Course leading to Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations conducted by the SILE.*

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