

## INTERVIEWS

- Q: Would you say a well-resourced library is crucial to the professional development of a lawyer?*
- A: Definitely. The tools of a lawyer are the books. A lawyer will not develop if we do not equip them with the books. We have to equip them with the best books to produce the best out of them. We need to update them with the latest and the best reports. That is entirely the decision of Dato' Das, he decides which books to bring in to the library and he gets only the best.
- Q: Now, many in the office say that you have a very good knowledge of the resources and the law reports in the library. How did you develop this impressive knowledge of the resources we have in the library?*
- A: It's just practice over the years. I was a librarian in school and so I had this experience before starting at the firm. But I think I got better when I started first year law studies. This made it easier for me as I understood better what I was doing. But you need to have a good memory and my memory is tested from time to time. In particular, Mr. Porres [Royan] would call me up and ask me about the books that we have on a particular area of law and what edition there is in stock. So I would have to give an answer off hand. So that prompted me to know these details and information so that I was prepared.
- Q: You mentioned that you had enrolled yourself into law school. Please do tell us a little bit about that.*
- A: Well I enrolled myself onto the law course at ATC. I completed the first year. However, I wasn't able to complete the course. I put up with a lot of unforeseen circumstances and I think I lost my focus. However, at the same time, knowing that I was in a big firm like Shook Lin & Bok, it was like balancing it. I thought that if I don't become a lawyer, I would still be in a good place. So I wouldn't put down my inability to complete the course as a failure. It's a disappointment, but not a failure.
- Q: It's certainly not a failure judging from your extensive knowledge in legal research.*
- A: Thanks, I do feel very privileged when many of the chambering students come up to me to ask for help with their research. I don't take this as a burden or anything. I help them out of my own free will.
- Q: How do you think the firm has changed over the years?*
- A: It has improved in many ways. This is probably because of the technology. I think it is doing very well. We have the cream of lawyers in the firm. We only take the best.
- Q: We established earlier that you joined the firm 23 years ago, so you must have seen some of the current Partners join the firm as chambering students. Do you have any funny stories to tell us about some of these Partners. Please be as candid as possible.*
- A: Haha. Many of the Partners we have in the firm chambered here as well. Like Mr. Steven Thiru, Mr. Lau Kee Sern and Mr. Lam Ko Luen. I suppose one funny aspect about some of these Partners was that they would, from the early days, be fearful about one boss in particular who would come down to the library, Dato' Das. For instance, when there's some work to be done for Dato' Das, these Partners would be with me in the library from the start of the work right up to it's completion. This applies to some of the lawyers who have since left the firm as well. I would say that I had a very good relationship with these lawyers and I've become good friends with them.
- Q: Clive, we know you're quite the family man. How many children do you have?*
- A: I have two. The eldest one is Manuel Chrisvin Pereira who is 8 years old and my second son is Mishon Levin Pereira who is 6 years old.