

# LEAVING MY FOOTPRINTS ON MOTHER EARTH

*Dato' Vincent Ng Kim Khoay*

One morning at 3am, soon after I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, I was suddenly awakened and confronted with the thought of my mortality and the question - as I journey through Mother Earth only once, how do I leave my footprints, however small, of this travel? Then, I recalled that during my long career on the Bench, with so many of my judgments published by the law journals, some members of the bar and even a few judges had suggested that certain interesting passages could be excerpted and compiled into a book form. I thought why not - if in the process of so doing, I could also raise some money for charity for the poor in this unprecedented era of the impending world economic turmoil and hardship. To bring about implementation and happy fruition of this project, the names of two lawyers quite readily came to mind. They had often appeared before me in intricate cases, and I must say, despite some light censures by me for improvement, they had consistently demonstrated focus, dedication, passion and doggedness in pursuing their clients' cause before me - though I am indeed proud to note that they have not won every case before me. So both Alex Chang Huey Wah Esq. and Khoo Guan Huat Esq. became my natural choice to lead the team to undertake this unique task at hand. The credit should be ascribed to and abided with them for their hard work as this would be the first of such work in the annals of legal history, and probably the last.

*Footprints of a Judge's Journey Through Mother Earth*

I feel impelled to help them to complete this venture in the autumn of my career as a Bencher before I ride through the sunset into eternity to meet my Maker - of course with a good conscience as I have always held the belief that judges worth their salt and true to their oath of office solemnly expressed upon their elevation should consistently display in their decisions and judgments, a mind with a clear distinction between the notion of right and wrong, fairness and unfairness. And, this clear distinction should be anchored in their conscious mind like nature's North Star.

It is my great pleasure to thank:

1. The Right Honourable Tun Dato' Seri Zaki bin Tun Azmi, Chief Justice of the Federal Court, Malaysia, The Right Honourable Chan Sek Keong, Chief Justice of Singapore, The Right Honourable Tan Sri Arifin bin Zakaria, Chief Judge of the High Court in Malaya, The Right Honourable Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Richard Malanjum, Chief Judge of the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak, Judges of the Appellate Courts, High Court Judges, Judicial Commissioners, Datuk Liew Vui Keong, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Senior Lawyers who had taken precious time to pen a foreword or a few words for this book despite their busy schedule.
2. The doctors and staff at the Selayang Hospital, the Nilai Cancer Institute and the General Hospital for their health management of my condition, the constant support and encouragement of my loving wife and children in terms of my health and especially in the production of this challenging book.
3. The management of The Malaysian Current Law Journal Sdn Bhd, Rostina Gaus, for sponsoring sufficient copies of this book for the donors during the launch, their editors, Usha Thiagarajah and Cindy Chan for their invaluable input.

4. The Rotary Club of Pudu, their Past District Governor Dr Paul Lee, Past President Ng Sim Bee, Past President Dr Chew Hon Nam and President Robin Tay, Vocational Service Director Rotarian Edward Lee for spearheading this meaningful collaboration.

5. The many generous donors, who made the setting-up of the scholarship fund possible.

6. Last but not least, without the following people, this book would not have been possible. Alex Chang Huey Wah Esq. and Miss Lim Hui Ling<sup>1</sup>; Khoo Guan Huat Esq for tirelessly extracting the passages for publication. From the extracts, which are the 'raw material', Alex Chang Esq, assisted by his team at Alex Chang & Co had to organise the layout of the book, add a cross-referencing chapter, strategise the entire fund raising framework and execute their plans to fruition. Indeed, from conception to publication, the eight months it took to complete this book - in Formula One terms, could be likened to a speed of 0 to 100 km/h in 3.9 seconds.

Despite my pain and suffering, the grace, concern, kindness and warmth showered on me by so many during this period of trials and tribulations truly amazes me.

Ever Sincerely



Dato' Vincent Ng  
Judge of the Court of Appeal Malaysia  
Retired

---

<sup>1</sup> Alex Chang's pupil and legal assistant for 7 years before she joined a leading bank.