

Report on attending the  
**National Young Lawyers and Pupils Committee (NYLPC) Soirée 2025**

Date: 3 January 2025

Location: Royal Lake Club, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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1. The NYLPC Soirée 2025 (Lecture and Dinner) (“**Soirée**”), organised by the NYLPC of the Malaysian Bar, was an important and meaningful event aimed at fostering professional and ethical development among young lawyers and pupils in chambers. This was the second year in a row the NYLPC organised the Soirée and the Young Barristers’ Committee Association (“**YBC**”) of the Hong Kong Bar was invited to send representatives to attend it this year.
2. The event brought together prominent figures from the Malaysian legal community, including the Chief Judge of the High Court in Malaya, The Right Honourable Dato’ Sri Hasnah binti Dato’ Mohammed Hashim, and 15 judges from the Federal Court, Court of Appeal, and High Court. Senior members of the Malaysian Bar, Bar Council Office Bearers, and past NYLPC Chairpersons were also in attendance. Their participation added great depth to the discussions and created an inspiring atmosphere for all attendees.
3. The evening commenced with a lecture titled “The Honest Advocate: Cultivating Integrity in Early Legal Careers”, delivered by The Hon. Justice YA Dato’ Nordin bin Hassan, Federal Court Judge (“**Judge**”), followed by a dinner which allowed the attendees to engage and connect in an informal setting.
4. The lecture focused on the importance of cultivating integrity in the legal profession, especially during the early stages of a lawyer’s career. The Judge emphasised that integrity is the cornerstone of the legal profession and serves as a moral compass that guides lawyers in making ethical decisions, even when faced with difficult challenges. He reminded participants that integrity must be consciously nurtured and upheld throughout one’s career.
5. The Judge also highlighted the vital role of lawyers in upholding justice, equality, and fairness. He reminded attendees that lawyers are not only advocates for their clients but also stewards of the rule of law, responsible for ensuring the proper functioning of the justice system. He spoke about the need to balance the duty of loyalty to clients with the broader responsibility to the court and society as a whole. His message about respect for the court as a pillar of justice was particularly impactful.

6. In addition to integrity, the Judge discussed other qualities essential for lawyers, such as legal knowledge, analytical thinking, and effective communication skills. However, he emphasised that these abilities must be grounded in a strong ethical foundation. He also addressed the ethical challenges lawyers frequently face and encouraged young lawyers to seek mentorship and guidance when navigating difficult situations. He stressed the importance of maintaining professional standards, even under pressure, and underscored how integrity and professionalism build trust and credibility within society.
7. The lecture provided fresh perspectives on cultivating integrity and professionalism. We find that these ideas are directly relevant to the Hong Kong legal community. The emphasis on ethical conduct, respect for the court, and the broader role of lawyers in society reinforced values that are central to the practice of law in Hong Kong.
8. Further, the dinner which followed highlighted the importance of mentorship and continuous learning in shaping the future of the legal profession. On every table there was a member of the Malaysian judiciary or a veteran in the industry sitting as a mentor and sharing experiences with lawyers of different seniorities around the table. We consider that similar events may be held in Hong Kong for junior members of the Bar to engage in a less formal yet thought-provoking conversations with our seniors.
9. The dinner also provided an excellent opportunity for us as the YBC delegation to further engage with members of the Malaysian judiciary, senior practitioners, young lawyers and pupils. These interactions allowed for a meaningful exchange of ideas on topics such as the development of our legal practice, the evolving role of the legal profession in both jurisdictions and defending the core value of equality in the industry. The informal setting helped foster genuine connections among us all and strengthened the ties between the legal communities of Hong Kong and Malaysia.
10. As such, the Soirée was a rewarding and enriching experience. It also signifies the increased level of collaboration and mutual understanding between the YBC and the NYLPC and creates precious chances for us to chat with our young lawyer friends based in Malaysia again. We, too, had the opportunities to speak further to the representatives from the Young Lawyers Committee of the Law Society of Singapore. Ideas such as the continuation of the existing exchange programme or the creation of a new programme with the said professional bodies as well as jointly organising seminars in the future have all been taken further.

11. Separately, we greeted the representatives of the Young Solicitors' Group of the Law Society of Hong Kong at the Soirée and expressed our interest in increasing the level of communication and collaboration between them and the YBC.
12. We are grateful to the Hong Kong Bar Association for subsidising and supporting our participation in the Soirée and to the NYLPC and the Malaysian Bar for the kind invitation. The hospitality from our Malaysian fellows would always be remembered. We, too, look forward to seeing the fruits of the discussion we had with them as well as the other professional bodies in the future.

Date: 18 February 2025

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