

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW LECTURE SERIES

22 November 2018 · 5:30pm-7:30pm · Auditorium Tun Mohamed Suffian, Faculty of Law, UM

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE: A LONG AND WINDING ROAD?

Azmi Sharom has been teaching in the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya since 1990. He currently teaches Human Rights Law, Conflict of Laws and International Environmental Law. His latest publication include "Book Banning and Film Censorship in Malaysia", (Saw Tiong Guan) in *Law and Society in Malaysia: Pluralism, Religion and Ethnicity*, Andrew J. Harding and Dian A.H. Shah eds, Routledge, 2017 and *Human Rights Outlook in South East Asia 2016*, SHAPE-SEA, 2018 as Chief Editor. He writes columns for The Star and Sin Chew Jit Poh.



Independence of our Institutions is the best way to ensure a just society. For more than 30 years now, the independence of the Judiciary has been the subject of debate. On 30 December 2017, Tun Dr. Mahathir, now Prime Minister, in a speech at the opening of the inaugural PPBM annual general meeting said that the separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary will be restored, and that he will also ensure that the government, especially the prime minister, will not be able to control the judiciary.

What has been the path our Judiciary has taken? Have we moved forward in the march to a truly independent judiciary, and if so, how far? What is the impact of the Federal Court decisions in *Semenyih Jaya Sdn Bhd v Pentadbir Tanah Daerah Hulu Langat & Another* and *Indira Gandhi v Pengarah Jabatan Agama Islam Perak & Ors*? What are the judicial reforms sought to be brought about by the new government? How will the proposed changes impact the implementation of judicial independence nationally? What is and has been the relationship between the judiciary and the political actors? These and other burning questions will be discussed at this lecture.

5:30 pm Registration
5:50 pm Welcome Speech by Organisers
6:00 pm 7th Lecture by Dr. Azmi Sharom
7:00 pm Interactive Session
7:30 pm Light Refreshments

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