

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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5 February 2010

### **NUS Receives S\$1 million Gift for Scholarships, Bursaries and Loans for Law Students**

*Generous gift from Ms Ella Cheong, a pioneer in intellectual property in Asia, will benefit four NUS law students this year*

The National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law received a gift of S\$1 million to establish scholarship awards in intellectual property law. A portion of the gift will also be used to provide financial assistance to law students through bursary awards and student loans.

The awards are the result of a generous gift from Ms Ella Cheong (张淑姬), one of the pioneers in the field of intellectual property in Asia. Ms Cheong built a stellar reputation in Hong Kong with one of the oldest law firms and then established her own firms of Ella Cheong HK (with a branch office in Beijing) and Ella Cheong Law Office. She was invited by the Singapore government to establish an intellectual property firm, originally Ella Cheong & Co., which through various changes is now known as Ella Cheong Spruson & Ferguson (Singapore/Malaysia).

Ms Ella Cheong says, "My reason for the gift is simple - the money was generated as a direct result of my having been chosen to set up an Intellectual Property practice in Singapore in the 80s. Since this is money earned in Singapore which I would never have had otherwise, I felt it only right and proper that it in turn benefits to a very small degree the country which had been so generous in giving me this wonderful opportunity. I also chose NUS because it is the university best known to me in my professional capacity and my daughter-in-law is an NUS graduate."

The Ella Cheong Intellectual Property Scholarship will assist academically meritorious law students while the Ella Cheong Bursary will support financially needy law students. Up to a total of 3 Bursary awards and 2 Scholarship awards are to be conferred each academic year to students from the NUS Faculty of Law. An inaugural batch of 3 successful undergraduates and a Masters student will receive their awards this year.

Professor Tan Cheng Han (陈清汉教授), Dean of NUS Faculty of Law (国大法学院院长), says, "We are very grateful to Ms Ella Cheong for her wonderfully generous gift and warmth towards the law school. Her gift is an indication of the strong belief that leading lawyers have for our students and a demonstration of faith in the law school's passion for educating and nurturing the lawyers of tomorrow for Asia and beyond. The financial support that the donation provides will be immensely useful to the recipients and I hope that when they graduate, it will be an example and inspiration for them to give back to the community that has provided them with the opportunities to succeed."

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Please refer to [Annex 1](#) for more information about the Ella Cheong Intellectual Property Scholarship, Ella Cheong Bursary and Ella Cheong Student Loan.

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### **About National University of Singapore (NUS)**

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 14 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 30,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence and 23 university-level research institutes and centres. It also shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information, please visit [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg)