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**Course Title:** Seminar on Assessment of Mental Capacity of Clients (or Potential Clients) - To do, or not to do, and if to do, how to do it!

**Speakers:** Goh Kok Yeow –Head of Probate / Trusts Practice, De Souza Lim & Goh LLP  
Dr Jerome Goh – Council Member, Medico-Legal Society of Singapore; Senior Consultant & Chief (Department of Forensic Psychiatry), Institute of Mental Health

**Duration:** 95 minutes

**Course description:** The desired outcome of the programme is that solicitors become aware - or more aware - of the dangers of acting for clients who may not possess the requisite mental capacity to give instructions or engage the solicitor's services, and what are some basic precautions a solicitor should take when dealing with a client who may not have the mental capacity to give instructions. There are serious adverse ramifications if a solicitor acts for a "client" who is adjudged by a court subsequently was lacking in mental capacity, and these could include the solicitor having to repay the costs that one has collected, and not being able to collect costs for work done, claims against the solicitor for professional negligence, and also for breach of professional conduct rules.

### About the speakers:



#### **Goh Kok Yeow – Head of Probate and Trust Practice, De Souza Lim & Goh LLP**

Goh Kok Yeow is the Chairperson of the Law Society of Singapore's Probate Planning and Succession Planning Committee. He is also a Senior Teaching Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE) since 2010, and he was the Subject Co-ordinator for 2015 and 2016 and the lead lecturer and Chief Examiner for the Wills, Probate & Administration (WPA) subject for the Preparatory Course leading to Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations conducted by the SILE. He was a member of the 2014 Mental Capacity Act Sub-Committee for the Improvement of Processes and Procedures, which reported on and recommended amendments to the procedures for Mental Capacity Act applications for Court Orders for appointments of deputies for persons lacking in mental capacity. He was also a member of the 2017 Committee for the Professional Training of Lawyers. He has also successfully mediated probate costs disputes under the Law Society of Singapore Costs Dispute Scheme.

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**Dr Jerome Goh – Council Member, Medico-Legal Society of Singapore; Senior Consultant and Chief (Department of Forensic Psychiatry), Institute of Mental Health**

Dr Jerome Goh is a Senior Consultant and Chief of the Department of Forensic Psychiatry at IMH. He is also the Clinical Director of Prison's Psychiatric Housing Unit (PHU), which provides mental health treatment and rehabilitation to inmates with mental disorders. He holds teaching appointments for medical students as Clinical Senior Lecturer with Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and is an Adjunct Assistant Professor with Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School. He is one of the recipients of the Healthcare Humanity Awards 2016. He took a module on mental health laws (Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act etc) at the London School of Economics as part of his forensic training in 2007, and poring through legal judgements then leaves him with a profound respect for legal professionals and immense relief that he chose to practice medicine.

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