

Dengan izin Yang Arif,

1. Saya, Karen Cheah Yee Lynn, hadir bagi pihak Jawatankuasa Peguam Negeri Melaka, dan dalam kapasiti saya sebagai Bendahari Bar Malaysia bagi pihak Majlis Peguam Malaysia, rakan bijaksana saya Yang Berbahagia Datuk Wira Meor Hashimi Bin Abdul Hamid yang hadir bagi pihak Yang Berbahagia Peguam Negara.
2. Saya turut menyambut kehadiran Pengerusi-Pengerusi terdahulu Jawatankuasa Peguam Negeri Melaka, Encik Ng Kong Peng, Encik Low Tung Weng, Encik AC Vohrah yang telah meluangkan masa mereka untuk bersama kami pada prosiding hari ini.
3. Terlebih dahulu, saya mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Yang Arif dan Mahkamah Melaka yang telah bersetuju untuk meneruskan dengan tradisi prosiding reference ini dan memberi kerjasama sepenuhnya. Prosiding sebegini merupakan satu-satunya aturcara yang tunggal, yang tidak dipraktikkan dalam mana-mana profesion lain. Ini adalah kali pertama dalam tempoh 7 tahun, Mahkamah Tinggi Melaka bersidang, bukan maksud untuk mendengar perbicaraan kes litigasi, tetapi khusus untuk memperingati kehidupan peguam-peguam yang telah memberi sumbangan tidak terhingga kepada masyarakat dan berjuang untuk menegakkan keadilan serta usaha mantap mereka untuk memperkembangkan alam perundangan negara.
4. Yang Arif, saya dengan hormatnya memohon kebenaran untuk meneruskan ucapan saya dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

5. My Lord, we are gathered here this morning in solemn assembly to pay tribute to the memory of 9 members of the Melaka Bar who had passed on since 2007. We are also here to express our heartfelt condolences to their bereaved families as we honour their lives, their beliefs and convictions. I have had the privilege of knowing most of them personally, and I acknowledge their special ways of having contributed to the legal fraternity, society and their families. It is therefore only apt that we remember them, and to treasure the gift of their lives and how they have touched us along the way during their lifetime.
6. My Lord, the families of all our 9 departed brothers and sisters at law have been invited to this ceremony and are seated in the front 2 rows of the gallery. I wish them the deepest condolences from both the Melaka Bar and the Malaysian Bar. I wish to let them know that these 9 members were exemplary to the legal profession. I have a Ralph Emerson poem to convey to them :

To laugh often and love much;
To win the respect of intelligent persons
And the affection of children;
To earn the approbation of honest critics
And to endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To give of one's self;
To leave the world a little better,
Whether by a healthy child,
A garden patch
Or a redeemed social condition;
To have played and laughed with enthusiasm
And sung with exultation;
To know that even one life has breathed easier
Because you have lived -
This is to have succeeded.

7. My Lord, today we pay our last respects to :

i.	Balakrishnan a/l Krishnan	8 th June 2007
ii.	D. A. Devadason	4 th April, 2008
iii.	Amir Bin Nordin	15 th December, 2008
iv.	Jimmy Khoo Seng Kiong	11 th November, 2009
v.	Neeta Kumar d/o M. V. Kumar	8 th August, 2010
vi.	Badariah Binti Yahya	4 th February, 2012
vii.	Belinda Tan Mei Lin	16 th February, 2012
viii.	Simon Chong Meow Far	7 th July, 2012
ix.	Yau Jiok Hua	22 nd August 2013

8. I wish to express my gratitude to the family members, colleagues and friends who have all contributed in many ways in respect of these 9 outstanding members of the Melaka Bar, who have sacrificed much and brought so much meaning and life to us and the legal profession.

9. I knew the late Mr. Balakrishnan a/l Krishnan as the gentle giant who was always the epitome of courtesy to fellow lawyers and the Court.

10. The late Mr. D.A. Devadason was always kind and helpful to the junior members of the Bar, always willing to share anecdotes and his experience during his 48 years in practice, telling us stories of lawyers and judges he encountered during his life at the Bar.

11. I was fond of the late Mr. Jimmy Khoo, for he was a versatile and an upbeat man. His love for the law led him to once remark "If I can live my whole life again, I would still take up law". His lovely wife Madam Nelly, his two sons, Jason and Julian and daughter, Joanne, are all here today to commemorate his life with us.

12. Without a doubt, the late Ms. Neeta Kumar was a shining example of beauty and strength. She vowed us all with her talents and showed us how life has to be lived to the fullest, without any regrets. For that, I am in awe of her.

13. As for the late Cik Badariah Yahya, my memory of her is one of kindness and generosity. Her ever gentle voice haunts my memory. Her knowledge of the law was strong and she was always willing to help fellow lawyers and the Bar.

14. I knew the late Ms. Belinda Tan when I crossed paths with her in one of my conveyancing cases. She was friendly and approachable, always courteous, ethical and professional in her dealings. She practiced what she preached and treated others the way she wanted to be treated. I am humbled by her.

15. And the many things I can share with you of the privilege of having known the late Mr. Yau Jiok Hua. Like everyone else, I was impressed by his steadfastness and his determination to live up to principles of law. He was a fine advocate indeed. We have all lost a valuable asset in him for he had a sound judicial mind, clarity of thought and the ability to think on his feet.

16. It is my regret that I have not had the privilege of having crossed paths with the late Encik Amir bin Nordin and the late Mr. Simon Chong; but let it be known that I have heard only good things about them.

17. With My Lord's leave, I would like to invite my colleagues to move the reference of these 9 outstanding departed members of the Melaka Bar.

18. I respectfully pray and move that a record of these references be kept in the archives of the Court and a copy be extended to the respective families.

19. I am obliged, My Lord.

Karen Cheah Yee Lynn

Chairperson of Malacca Bar Committee & Treasurer of the Malaysian Bar

13 September 2013