

Sourcebook of Singapore and Malaysian Company Law

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Preface

This volume on cases and materials of Singapore and Malaysian Company Law is the second volume in a series of three volumes. The first was *Companies and Securities Handbook — Singapore and Malaysia*, published in 1984.

This is a substantially revised edition of the Sourcebook of Singapore and Malaysian Company Law first published by the Singapore University Press in 1976.

For this edition, the objects of publication have been somewhat modified. The primary objective of this casebook is to provide a convenient, edited and annotated set of company law materials which adequately present Singapore and Malaysian company law. The legislative materials have been so edited in the *Handbook*. The difficulty lies in that there has not yet evolved a comprehensive Singapore and Malaysian company case law of extensive judgments and legal writing. Singapore and Malaysian case law and legislative materials have developed considerably but unevenly.

For this casebook therefore, all local case law is reproduced fully. The development of a local company law jurisprudence is more likely, when the legal profession has easy access to and uses local materials and judgments. Legal literature in Singapore and Malaysia is scant and inaccessible as the law-finding tools are still undeveloped. The utility of this approach has been exemplified, by the citation of this work in the Malaysian Federal Court decision of *Euco International Sdn Bhd v P F Chen* [1984] 2 MLJ 61.

To provide for evenness and a comprehensive coverage of company law, included, as before, are landmark cases from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States which form the benchmark of development of legal doctrine in the key areas. These cases have been edited, but the judgments are reproduced in fuller extracts to allow an understanding of the way in which these key principles have evolved through judicial reasoning. For the more basic propositions of law, very brief extracts of the key rulings are reproduced here and cases which outline the basic propositions extensively have also been selected for this casebook.

Each chapter begins with an outline of the areas considered as well as a summary of the legislative approach adopted by the Companies Act. Where they exist, legislative background materials explaining the origin or policy of such provisions are extracted. In this edition, an effort has been made to summarize the key points decided as headnotes to each case. These headnotes are not designed to extract the ratio decidendi in a few sentences, but rather to summarize the company law principles that they decide or have adopted. These innovations in this edition, it is hoped, will render this casebook more useful to readers.

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Philip Pillai
June 1985

Comparative Table of Companies Statutes

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