

Rathna N. Koman, is an Associate Professor of Law at Singapore Management University, School of Law and also serves as the Director of Singapore Management University, Pro Bono Centre. She had also served in numerous other capacities, as a civil servant, researcher, international law counsel and finally as a civil litigator (partner) for more than a decade, prior to joining the Singapore Management University, School of Law in 2007. As a civil servant, she was instrumental in bringing about changes to the revenue system as part of a high level task force in the early 90s. These changes were implemented nationwide during that period. She joined the Singapore Management University when the law school was incepted in 2007. Within the same term given her varied experience she was appointed an associate dean. During her term as an associate dean, inter alia, she was responsible for cultivating a strong external relations portfolio with law firms, organizations and foreign universities for the new School of Law. Singapore Management University, School of Law, law internship program and pro bono programs/initiatives were initiated under her guidance and supervision. An ardent pro bono advocate, she started the pro bono movement at the School of Law in 2008, culminating in the set-up of the Singapore Management University Pro Bono Centre in 2013. Cultivating a strong pro bono culture amongst students and increasing access to justice for indigents, she has developed extensive pro bono programs with stakeholders of justice, including but not limited to The State Courts of Singapore, The Supreme Court of Singapore, Law Society of Singapore, government and non-governmental organizations, etc. She has also set up a free legal clinic program at Singapore Management University for all indigents. As a Centre Director she oversees all pro bono activities at SMU Law School. Advocating a strong pro bono culture at the regional level she has also collaborated and shared best practices in pro bono with the Universities in Taiwan, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam. She also serves as member of the Review Committee of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education charged with reviewing and confirming activities as approved pro bono. She currently teaches criminal law, advocacy and clinical legal practices (pro bono) at the University. Winner of numerous excellence teachings awards at University and School level. Well known for her innovative teaching practices she was awarded the University Teaching Excellence Awards 2011, Innovative Teacher in 2011. She has also served as a Peer Teaching Reviewer for the Centre for Teaching and Learning at Singapore Management University. Her research areas currently focuses on crime, justice and policy amongst others. She was a member of the law review committee involved in making substantial amendments to the criminal procedure code in 2008. She has published in areas relating to homicide, clinical legal education, client interviewing, criminal mediation, child protection, drug laws and policies etc.