



C L I F F O R D
C H A N C E

Cavenagh Law LLP

MEDIA RELEASE

4 November 2015

On its 800th Anniversary, and to mark SG50, the historic Magna Carta is set to visit Singapore and be on display at the Supreme Court at a free public exhibition

The historic Magna Carta, or Great Charter, will be in Singapore from 19 to 23 November 2015 to celebrate its Octocentenary and Singapore's Golden Jubilee. Magna Carta is the foundation of the principles in English Law - later Common Law, which Singapore and the UK both share - that everyone, even the ruler, is subject to the law, and that everyone has certain rights that must be protected by the law.

During its visit to Singapore the Magna Carta will be on display to the public for free at the Supreme Court building at an exhibition entitled '800 Years of Magna Carta' (at the same time the Supreme Court will also host its own complementary exhibition). The strength of the rule of law has been central to the success of the legal sectors of both the UK and Singapore. Over 40 UK based or linked firms are registered in Singapore and UK judges play an active role in Singapore's International Arbitration Centre and Commercial Courts, while Singapore Court judgements are now referred to in UK Courts.

Hereford Cathedral's copy of Magna Carta is just one of four copies from 1217 still in existence. It will be accompanied in Singapore by the only surviving copy of the 1215 King's Writ, a letter from King John to local authorities announcing the issuing of Magna Carta.

Singapore is one of only nine cities playing host to Magna Carta as it tours the globe; the other stops are in New York, Luxembourg, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Malta and Lisbon. Singapore has been chosen to mark SG50 and because of Singapore's status as

a legal hub. The historic document is flying around the globe with airline partner British Airways, travelling in luxury in the First cabin with its own dedicated security team. International law firm Clifford Chance and its Formal Law Alliance partner, Cavenagh Law LLP, are sponsors of the exhibition in Singapore.

British High Commissioner to Singapore HE Scott Wightman says, “I am delighted that Magna Carta is coming to Singapore; a visit that reflects the deep friendship that Singapore and the United Kingdom enjoy. In Singapore’s Jubilee Year, it’s another UK contribution to the celebrations of our abiding ties that started with the successful State Visit of President Tony Tan to the UK in October last year, continued with Prime Minister David Cameron’s visit to Singapore in July, and then saw HRH The Duke of York and Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond participate in the National Day celebrations in August. Magna Carta was sealed in the United Kingdom, but its significance is truly global, and its heritage shared by both the UK and Singapore.

It is also apt that Magna Carta should visit Singapore, a global commercial and trading hub, as concepts like contractual law, arbitration, mediation and adjudication, all of which support global trade and commerce, trace their origins back to the document.

I am grateful to the Supreme Court for their hospitality. I hope many Singaporeans will come to see Magna Carta and the exhibition and deepen their appreciation of the law and justice.”

British Airways’ head of Asia Pacific sales Robert Williams says, “We are very proud to be the airline partner for this momentous global tour, and to be entrusted with flying such an important document around the world. We are honoured to be part of this milestone occasion, and hope many Singaporeans will take the opportunity to visit this piece of history, and be inspired to visit Britain to learn more about the rich history and culture we have.”

Clifford Chance Managing Partner for Singapore Geraint Hughes comments, “This exhibition represents an opportunity for Singapore to reflect on a significant and defining piece of history, and its importance to foundation of the rule of law. This is truly a once-in-a-generation event. The firm is proud to support the Magna Carta 800 tour, as we continue to play our part in upholding the universal principles of justice and transparency.”

For more information, please contact -

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Note: This was updated on 11 November 2015

Note to editors:

Magna Carta and Accompanying 800 Years of Magna Carta Public Display Venue

Venue: Level B2, Supreme Court of Singapore, 1 Supreme Court Lane, Singapore 178879

Time: 08:30-20:00

Dates: Thursday 19th November until Monday 23rd November (5 days)

Admission: Free to all

Public Talks on the Magna Carta

Date : 9 November 2015

Timing : 6.00pm-7.30pm

Venue : Moot Court*
NUS Faculty of Law (Bukit Timah campus)
469G, Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 259776
**Next to The Summit Cafeteria*

Registration : <http://law.nus.edu.sg/pdfs/cle/seminars/MagnaCartasJourneySingapore.pdf>

Admission : Free

Date : 11 November 2015

Timing : 7:00 to 8:30 pm (registration begins at 6:30 pm)

Venue : Mochtar Riady Auditorium
Singapore Management University
Level 5, Administration Building
81 Victoria Street
Singapore 188065

Registration : <http://singaporepubliclaw.com/2015/10/29/magna-carta-then-and-now/>

Admission : Free

Replicas of the Magna Carta will be on display at these talks.

If there are any further public talks these will be announced on the British High Commission Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UKinSG/>

Magna Carta Competition: My Great Charter

Magna Carta is Latin for 'Great Charter'. If you could issue a Great Charter of your own, what would put in it?

To enter our 'Magna Contest' tell us what rules you would put into your own Great Charter.

These could be both serious or humorous. For example:

Everyone must speak to their neighbours at least once a day.

In order to increase happiness, good food must be shared.

For the benefit of tired eyes, all people to stay in bed an extra hour on Mondays.

Selected entries will receive two cinema tickets to watch the new Star Wars Film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which was filmed in the UK.

To apply, please e-mail your rules for your own Great Charter to Competitions.Singapore@fco.gov.uk or message us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/UKinSG>

Useful links:

Summary Story of the Global Tour

<http://immersive.sh/foreignoffice/j21mF4HkTf>

History of Magna Carta and its 800th Anniversary

<http://magnacarta800th.com/history-of-the-magna-carta/>

<http://magnacarta800th.com/>

About Hereford Cathedral's role in the Magna Carta and 800th Anniversary Global Tour

<http://www.herefordcathedral.org/visit-us/mappa-mundi-1/special-exhibitions>

<http://www.herefordcathedral.org/about-us/news/the-chancellors-magna-carta-tour-diary>

Short and Informative Youtube Videos on Magna Carta produced by the British Library

What is Magna Carta?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xo4tUMdAMw>

800 years of Magna Carta

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ7vUkbtlQA>

Event, competition and other details on the British High Commission Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/UKinSG>