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Industrial Court's First Virtual Trial

On 20 July 2020 and 7 August 2020, the Industrial Court successfully conducted a virtual trial in which witnesses provided their testimonies remotely from Kota Kinabalu and Labuan, Malaysia, and from London, the UK. The virtual trial, otherwise known as an "e-hearing", was conducted via Microsoft Teams and involved an unfair dismissal claim against an oil and gas company.

Oaths of the witnesses were administered remotely, where the court interpreters displayed the oath placard in the Kuala Lumpur Industrial Court using the "share screen" function. The examination-in-chief of the witnesses consisted of the adoption of their witness statements, which were affirmed and signed in the witnesses' respective locations. Thereafter, the witnesses scanned and emailed the signed copy of their witness statements for the court's records.

The e-hearing proceedings were recorded and conducted for the continued trial of the matter, which was heard over the course of 10 trial dates.

The company was represented by partner Dato' Thavalingam Thavarajah, and associate Michelle Paulsen, of [Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill](#).

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