

Wee Chong Jin – A Chronology

28 September 1917	Born in Penang to Wee Gim Puay and Lim Paik Yew; eldest in a family of two boys and four girls
1934	Obtained place to read law at St John's College, Cambridge, during his final year at Penang Free School
July 1935	Arrived in Cambridge after a trip across the Pacific and Atlantic with his father, Wee Gim Puay
June 1938	Graduated with Upper Second Class Honours; awarded a McMahon Law Studentship by St John's
November 1938	Called to the English Bar by the Middle Temple
May 1939	Left England
September 1939	Arrived in Penang
11 March 1940	Called to the Straits Settlements Bar in Penang; left for Singapore at the end of the year
January 1941	Started work at Allen & Gledhill, Singapore, principally as junior of David Keri Walters, a leading advocate; met David Saul Marshall at Allen & Gledhill

15 February 1942	Fall of Singapore to the Japanese; returned to Penang soon after
1946	Returned to the new Colony of Singapore and teamed up again with D K Walters at Allen & Gledhill from June
1947	Appointed to assist in the Public Services Salaries Commission of Malaya, under the chairmanship of Sir Harry Trusted, which recommends the establishment of a Public Services Commission
1948	Left Allen & Gledhill to join D K Walters at D K Walters & Co
1950	Joined his Cambridge friend Wee Eng Lock at Wee Swee Teow & Co
15 June 1955	Married Cecilia Henderson; they had a daughter followed by three sons; became a Roman Catholic in 1955
15 August 1957	First Asian from the Bar appointed to High Court
4 April 1962	Appointed Commissioner for Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the boycott of Secondary IV examinations in 1961 by Chinese middle school students
5 January 1963	Appointed Chief Justice of Singapore
4 July 1963	Elected President of the Singapore Golf Association
4 June 1965	Conferred Panglima Mangku Negara by Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia in Birthday Honours List
1966	Chaired Constitutional Commission which later submitted its Report on 27 August

1973	Appointed Chairman of Presidential Council for Minority Rights, a position he held until 1991
24 June 1987	Conferred Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law from Oxford University
27 September 1990	Retired as Chief Justice
18 April 1992	Conferred Honorary Member and Fellow for Life of the Singapore Academy of Law
9 August 1992	Awarded Singapore Distinguished Service Order
5 June 2005	Passed away