PROVIDENCE
LAW ASIA



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Colin is a Director and head of the firm's International Litigation practice group, with extensive experience in complex cross-border disputes.

After graduating at the top of his year from the University of Oxford where he won multiple academic prizes, Colin has had over a decade's experience representing clients in high-stakes commercial disputes, with regular appearances before the High Court, Singapore International Commercial Court and Court of Appeal. Dual-qualified in Singapore and England and Wales, he has acted against Senior and King's Counsel in a broad spectrum of complex, high-profile matters involving state-owned entities, statutory boards, multinational corporations and high net worth individuals.

Colin is highly skilled in civil fraud disputes, where he has argued groundbreaking cases involving Ponzi schemes, round-tripping, and accounting and securities frauds. Additionally, he has handled large-scale ad hoc and institutional arbitrations, covering sectors such as construction, commodities and sale of goods. Colin has substantial experience in jurisdictional appeals, challenges to awards and securing anti-suit relief. He has been frequently instructed as an expert on Singapore law before foreign courts and tribunals, and as the sole author of the leading text on the topic is a recognised authority on legal professional privilege.

Ranked as a Global Elite Thought Leader in Arbitration (Under 45), Colin is described as "one of the sharpest legal minds of his generation" who is "an excellent practitioner: extremely responsive, commercial and sharp" (Lexology). Clients note that he is "always well-considered, works in a lightning quick manner, and insightful in his analysis", a "formidable lawyer and very user-friendly", and "an exceptional advocate who is able to digest the most complex of cases" (Legal500).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Shareholder or Joint Venture Disputes

- Acted for Navis Capital Partners in a multi-jurisdictional dispute (Vietnamese courts, SIAC arbitration and Singapore courts) with a Vietnamese portfolio company, against Senior Counsel resulting in a settlement.
- Acted for the co-founder of Hupo, a B2B AI-driven enablement platform, in defending a minority oppression arising out of a USD 10 million Series A funding round led by DST Global Partners.
- Acted for the co-founder of an open-source artificial general intelligence platform in derivative proceedings in Singapore arising out of a complex corporate governance dispute involving deadlocked entities across multiple jurisdictions.
- Acted for the Perennial Group in a joint venture dispute arising out of management deadlock over the SGD 1 billion joint venture behind the Capitol Singapore, reported as *Perennial (Capitol) Pte Ltd v Capitol Investment Holdings Pte Ltd* [2017] SGHC 84.
- Acted on behalf of a minority shareholder of a global shipping conglomerate in a minority oppression action, successfully obtaining an order for the rectification of a company's register of directors, managers, secretaries and auditors.

Blockchain, Web3 and SaaS Disputes

- Acted for a wallet provider in defending a pre-action discovery application by a major Indian exchange arising out of a large scale hack by a State actor, raising issues around the enforceability of website Terms of Service.
- Acted for a decentralized, blockchain-based Web3 platform in a JAMS arbitration arising out of a token merger dispute.
- Acted for a co-founding entity of the Cardano blockchain in an SIAC arbitration arising out of a dispute under a Services Agreement.
- Acted for the co-founder of an open-source artificial general intelligence platform in a corporate governance and token dispute across three jurisdictions (Singapore, BVI and Cayman Islands).
- Acted for a tech-focused venture capital fund in an SIAC emergency arbitration against one of its portfolio companies, arising out of a dispute under a SAFE.
- Acted for a leading software services provider against a Vietnamese bank in Singapore High Court proceedings in a USD 20 million claim arising out of a number of SaaS contracts.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Shipping, Commodities and Trade Finance Disputes

- Acted for a leading commodities trader against Senior Counsel in *ad hoc* arbitrations arising out of a severe bunker contamination incident, involving potential liabilities in excess of USD 100 million.
- Acted for the successful defendant in a USD 30 million dispute involving allegations of trade finance fraud, against Senior Counsel. Now one of the leading Court of Appeal authorities on implied representations, reported as *UniCredit Bank AG, Singapore Branch v Glencore Singapore Pte Ltd* [2023] 2 SLR 587.
- Acted for a leading commodities trader in an SIAC arbitration arising out of a contract for the sale and purchase of light cycle oil, worth in excess of USD 10 million. The dispute involved difficult questions of Chinese law and featured hot tubbing of multiple expert witnesses.
- Acted for a Thai listed entity in an LMAA arbitration arising out of a charterparty dispute, worth in excess of USD 10 million. English governing law.
- Acted on behalf of a leading commodities trader in a successful application for permission to appeal (and subsequent appeal) against an SCMA arbitration award on a question of law, concerning the meaning of the word "delivered" under the BP GTCs in a contract on DES terms.
- Acted for the purchaser in an ICC arbitration arising out of an agreement for the sale and purchase of oil and gas products, against a South American State-owned enterprise. Venezuelan governing law.
- Acted for a commodities trader in an SIAC arbitration against an Indonesian counterparty, arising out of a contract for the sale and purchase of woodchips. English governing law.

Civil Fraud and Asset Recovery

- Acted for a sovereign wealth fund and liquidators of a special purpose entity in complex asset recovery claims worth approximately USD 400 million against a Singapore private bank represented by Senior Counsel, arising out of one of the largest corruption, bribery and money laundering scandals on record. These proceedings were part of a global asset recovery campaign spanning multiple jurisdictions and raised difficult issues of law regarding limitation and forum selection.
- Acted for an EPC contractor in an ad hoc arbitration against a subsidiary of a Chinese State-owned entity in a complex dispute worth approximately SGD 30 million, raising issues of bribery and corruption.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Acted for two high net worth individuals in interpleader proceedings arising from a failed Ponzi scheme before the Singapore International Commercial Court and Court of Appeal, successfully resisting a competing claim to a fund of USD 10 million, against Queen's Counsel. Reported as *Tamar Perry & anor v Jacques Henri Georges Esculier & anor* [2023] 2 SLR 30.
- Acted for the successful claimant in a complex USD 210 million investment fraud / conspiracy dispute involving multiple parties, as part of cross-border litigation spanning more than five jurisdictions, resulting in several landmark Court of Appeal judgments on round-tripping fraud, post-judgment Mareva injunctions and abuse of process. Reported as *JTrust Asia Pte Ltd v Group Lease Holdings Pte Ltd* [2020] 2 SLR 490; [2020] 2 SLR 1256; and [2021] 1 SLR 1298.
- Acted for investors of an Australian company in respect of a cross-border "pump and dump" scheme, involving novel issues of law under the Securities and Futures Act 2001 and Companies Act 1967, and successfully obtaining a stay of the proceedings on the basis of *forum non conveniens.*
- Acted for a foreign government in obtaining a freezing injunction against a high net worth individual as part of cross-border litigation spanning more than five jurisdictions involving allegations of corruption, fraud and breaches of fiduciary duty.

Arbitration-related litigation

- Acted on behalf of foreign investors against a State before a three-judge panel of the Singapore International Commercial Court, in defending an investor-State award made in a PCA arbitration. This involved a close examination of the *Achmea/Komstroy* judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (regarding the validity of arbitration agreements under intra-European bilateral investment treaties and the Energy Charter Treaty), as well as public international law jurisprudence concerning protected investments.
- Acted on behalf of a foreign working interest owner against Senior Counsel before the Singapore International Commercial Court, in successfully challenging a negative jurisdictional ruling made in an ICC arbitration under Pakistani law. This is believed to be the first instance of a successful challenge to a negative jurisdictional ruling, reported as *Frontier Holdings Limited v Petroleum Exploration (Private) Limited* [2024] SGHC(I) 34.
- Acted on behalf of a leading airline joint venture against Senior Counsel before the Singapore International Commercial Court and Court of Appeal, in successfully resisting an application to set aside an ICC award worth in excess of USD 30 million. Reported as *Asiana Airlines, Inc v Gate Gourmet Korea Co, Ltd* [2022] 4 SLR 158. Subsequently obtained anti-suit injunctions to restrain parallel proceedings before the Korean courts, which raised novel issues as to when non-parties to an arbitration agreement would be entitled to anti-suit relief, reported as *Gate Gourmet Korea Co, Ltd and others v Asiana Airlines, Inc* [2024] 2 SLR 279.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Acted on behalf of a state-owned entity against Senior Counsel before the Singapore International Commercial Court, in successfully resisting an application to set aside SIAC awards worth in excess of USD 1 billion, as well as an application to remove the presiding arbitrator for apparent bias. Reported as *CFJ v CFL* [2023] SGHC(I) 1.
- Acted on behalf of a State-owned enterprise against Senior Counsel in successfully setting aside an ICC award worth approximately USD 50 million, on the basis that the award had been rendered in breach of natural justice.
- Acted on behalf of a regional development bank in successfully appealing a jurisdictional award involving the proper law of the arbitration agreement, reported as *BCY v BCZ* [2017] 3 SLR 357.
- Acted on behalf of a Southeast Asian Government in appealing a jurisdictional award arising out of an investor-State arbitration involving the applicability of the Laos-PRC BIT to the Macau SAR. Reported as *Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic v Sanum Investments* [2015] 2 SLR 322.

Regulatory Law, Taxation and Investigations

- Acted for a leading Singapore law firm in striking out applications to restrain the law firm from acting for two companies and their judicial managers in a large-scale restructuring. Now the leading Court of Appeal authority on the residual powers of directors to act on behalf of companies which have been placed in judicial management or liquidation, as well as professional conflicts of interest, reported as *Hin Leong Trading (Pte) Ltd (in liquidation) v Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP* [2022] 2 SLR 253.
- Acted for the Comptroller of Income Tax in defending an appeal by a taxpayer that gains should not be subject to income tax in excess of SGD 20 million.
- Acted in judicial review proceedings seeking permission to quash decisions of a Complaints Committee of the Singapore Medical Council on grounds of excessive delay, reported as *Lee Lip Pheng Ian v Chen Fun Gee and others* [2020] 1 SLR 586.
- Acted in disciplinary proceedings before the Court of Three Judges concerning the proper interpretation of the "leapfrog" provision in s 94A of the Legal Profession Act 1966, reported as *Law Society of Singapore v Kangatharan s/o Ramoo Kandavellu* [2018] 4 SLR 859.
- Acted in criminal revision proceedings which resulted in the quashing of a criminal conviction and a retrial of charges of money laundering due to the wrongful admission of privileged material, reported as *Rahimah bte Mohd Salim v Public Prosecutor* [2016] 5 SLR 1259. The charges were dropped by the Public Prosecutor following this decision.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Other Representative Experience

- Acted for a leading Singapore law firm in resisting an application for third party taxation, as well as permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal. Now one of the leading authorities concerning the statutory appellate jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal, reported as *Seow Fook Sen Aloysius v Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP* [2022] 2 SLR 1091.
- Acted for the Comptroller of Income Tax before the Court of Appeal, involving novel issues as to the proper approach to be adopted where new evidence is sought to be admitted for the purposes of hearing further arguments, reported as *ARW v Comptroller of Income Tax* [2019] 1 SLR 499.

MEMBERSHIPS, QUALIFICATION, EDUCATION & PUBLICATION

Amicus or Expert Witness Appointments

- Instructed as expert witness on Singapore law on statutory illegality before the High Court in Malaya (Kuala Lumpur Registry).
- Instructed as expert witness on Singapore law on unjust enrichment and conversion in successful summary judgment proceedings before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in *Fujian Shipping Co Ltd v OW Bunker Far East (S) Pte Ltd,* Case No 16-CV-401. The District Court's decision was subsequently affirmed by the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.
- Instructed as expert witness on Singapore arbitration law in proceedings before the Jakarta High Court in Case No. 47/Pdt.G/2025/PN.Jkt.PSt.
- Instructed as expert witness on Singapore arbitration law in proceedings before the United States District Court of Delaware in *Go Airlines (India) Limited v International Aero Engines LLC, C.A.* No. 23-mc-249 (RGA).
- Instructed as expert witness on Singapore arbitration law in proceedings before the Hong Kong Court of First Instance in *OUE Lippo Healthcare Limited v Lin Kao Kun* (HCCT No 4/2019).
- Instructed as expert witness on Singapore gaming law in proceedings before the Supreme Court of New South Wales in *Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd v Graham Harry Taylor* (No 2016/304447).
- Appointed as amicus curiae in proceedings concerning the circumstances in which a company is permitted to represent itself in civil proceedings, now the leading decision in this area of the law, reported as *Bulk Trading SA v Pevensey Pte Ltd* [2015] 1 SLR 538.

Arbitrator appointments

- Presiding arbitrator in an SIAC arbitration involving a claim under Singapore law for unpaid cargo and demurrage between Gulf and Chinese parties.
- Sole arbitrator in an arbitration conducted under the SIAC Streamlined Procedure, involving a claim under Singapore law for unpaid sums under a Sale and Purchase Agreement, between two Thai parties.
- Co-arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration, involving a claim under Vietnamese law for breach of a Joint Venture Agreement, between a Vietnamese party and a Japanese party.
- Empaneled as an arbitrator with major arbitral institutions including: AIAC, DIAC, HKIAC, ICDR, KCAB, LCIA, SIAC and SHIAC.

MEMBERSHIPS, QUALIFICATION, EDUCATION & PUBLICATION

Publications

- International Arbitration in Singapore (WoltersKluwer, forthcoming) (co-editor)
- Legal Professional Privilege (Academy Publishing, 2nd Ed): The sole practitioner's text on legal professional privilege in Singapore. Cited in *Ravi s/o Madasamy v Attorney-General* [2021] 4 SLR 956, *Tan Ng Kuang v Jai Swarup Pathak* [2022] 3 SLR 788, *Lufti Salim bin Talib v British and Malaysian Trustees Limited* [2024] SGHC 85, *Eddie Tan Tung Wee v Singapore Health Services Pte Ltd* [2025] SGHC 10, *Madison Pacific Trust Limited v David Salim* [2025] SGHC 128, *Zhang Zhencheng v Tan Huay Lim* [2026] SGHCC 4
- "Order 8: Service Out of Singapore", in *Singapore Rules of Court: A Practice Guide* (Chua Lee Ming and Paul Quan, eds) (Academy Publishing)
- *Report on Right of Appeals against International Arbitration Awards on Questions of Law* (Singapore Academy of Law, Law Reform Committee): The recommendations contained in this report were put to a public consultation by the Singapore Ministry of Law
- *Report on Certain Issues Concerning Costs in Arbitration-Related Court Proceedings* (Singapore Academy of Law, Law Reform Committee): The recommendations contained in this report were put to a public consultation by the Singapore Ministry of Law
- "Multi-Tiered Dispute Resolution Clauses: Law and Practice" in *Singapore International Arbitration: Law and Practice* (David Foxton QC and David Joseph QC, eds) (LexisNexis, 2nd Ed)