

HARI VELURI

Counsel

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Qualifications & Admissions

LL.B (Hons), National University of Singapore.
Advocate and Solicitor, Supreme Court of Singapore.



INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION | SINGAPORE LITIGATION



CURRICULUM VITAE

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Hari's work covers a variety of complex commercial disputes. These range from general contractual and shareholder disputes to intellectual property, trust, and commercial fraud litigation. He has amassed considerable experience both in trials before the High Court and in appeals before the Court of Appeal.

Hari's main areas of practice are:

- Fraud & Asset Tracing
- Commercial litigation
- Shareholder and joint venture disputes

Hari maintains a deep passion for advocacy and has argued a variety of interlocutory applications before the High Court and the Court of Appeal. Hari also actively takes on criminal cases on a *pro bono* basis under the auspices of the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme and the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics.

While studying at the National University of Singapore, Hari participated in the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition in The Hague, Netherlands. Hari was awarded the Best Victims' Legal Representative and the Best Oralist for the Preliminary Rounds.

Representative Case Experience:

Fraud and Asset Tracing

- Acted as lead counsel before the High Court in a successful application for a worldwide freezing order. The application involved the freezing of (among other) cryptocurrency assets held in digital wallets and/or exchanges. The value of the assets in dispute was US\$9.7 million: *The Micro Tellers Network Limited v Cheng Yi Han* [2020] SGHC 130.
- Acted for cryptocurrency investors in a claim before the Singapore International Commercial Court for (among other things) deceit and breach of trust, and successfully assisted the investors to reach confidential settlements with various defendants. Also assisted the investors to prevent a defendant facing multiple lawsuits from applying to make himself bankrupt, on the grounds that the defendant failed to account for all his assets: *Re Then Feng* [2022] SGHCR 1.
- Acted for the founder of the “PPP” brand of aesthetic medical clinics in defending multiple suits totalling around \$50 million for breach of duty and fraudulent misrepresentation. Successfully assisted in appealing to the Court of Appeal to overturn freezing orders as well as an order for discovery of the defendant’s banking documents: *Goh Seng Heng v Liberty Sky Investments Ltd and another* [2017] SGCA 59.

Commercial Litigation

- Acted for the plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit filed on behalf of villagers in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea. The claim was for (among other things) breach of fiduciary duties against a company incorporated in Singapore holding monies up to US\$1.4 billion generated from mining activities.
- Acted for an Italian company specialising in security technology in successfully restraining the opposing party from relying on solicitor-client emails which had been uploaded onto Wikileaks: *Wee Shuo Woon v HT SRL* [2017] SGCA 23.
- Acted for the plaintiffs in successfully claiming for (among other things) breach of a contractual consent order relating to a joint venture to develop land in “Turf City”. The Court of Appeal considered for the first time the applicability of *Wrotham Park* damages in Singapore (i.e. an exceptional remedy in situations where traditional compensatory damages are unavailable): *Turf Club Auto Emporium Pte Ltd v Yeo Boong Hua* [2018] SGCA 44.
- Acted for one of the sons of the founder of the “Swee Kee” chicken rice restaurant in a claim by another son for shares in a property worth \$16 million: *Moh Tai Siang v Moh Tai Tong* [2018] SGHC 280. Acted as lead counsel before the Court of Appeal to successfully resist an application by the opposing party to stay the appeal proceedings.
- Assisted in prosecuting a separate claim against another son of the founder of the “Swee Kee” business for breach of fiduciary duty and trust in relation to assets worth around \$30 million. Appeared as lead counsel to successfully resist an application to strike out the claim. Assisted the client in reaching a confidential settlement.

- Acted for the Armed Forces Fund Board of Malaysia in successfully obtaining a bankruptcy order against a judgment debtor in Singapore. The quantum of the judgment debt was RM 55 million. The Court considered the novel issue of whether a bankruptcy order may be made in Singapore even though the defendant was already a bankrupt in Malaysia: *Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera (Malaysia) v Ling Lee Soon* [2016] SGHC 254.
- Acted for a Singapore company in a claim against the legal representative of a subsidiary company in PRC, to compel the legal representative to carry out acts to effect his removal from office. Successfully resisted an application by the opposing party for a stay of proceedings on the ground of *forum non conveniens*.
- Acted for a supplier of electronic goods in successfully appealing claims for passing off and copyright infringement to the Court of Appeal. A unique feature of the case was the Court's analysis of the law of passing off where both the client and the counterparty sold their goods to middlemen in Singapore for export to end-users in Africa: *Singsung Pte Ltd v LG 26 Electronics Pte Ltd* [2016] SGCA 33.

Shareholder and Joint Venture Disputes

- Acted for the defendant in successfully defending claims for minority oppression relating to the "Tong Garden" snack food business, both before the High Court and the Court of Appeal: *Ong Heng Chuan v Ong Teck Chuan* [2020] SGHC 161, [2020] SGCA 41.
- Acted for the defendants in a claim for breach of fiduciary duties by the plaintiff company involved in trading of second-hand mobile phones. Successfully resisted subsequent bankruptcy proceedings by the plaintiff company on the grounds that the value of the second defendant's shares in the company (in liquidation) could potentially exceed the judgment sum: *On Line Mobile Pte Ltd v Tan Mei Lian* [2020] SGHCR 5.

Pro Bono

- Acted *pro bono* for a foreign domestic worker charged under the Moneylenders Act and made submissions on sentencing principles applicable to debtors-turned-runners in loan shark cases.
- Acted *pro bono* for a female accused person charged for drug consumption and made submissions on sentencing principles relating to imprisonment in lieu of caning.