

QUALIFICATIONS

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators	Feb 2022
Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business: Business Mandarin for Legal Professionals	June 2021
Singapore Mediation Centre Accredited Mediator	May 2021
Admitted as advocate and solicitor to the Supreme Court of Singapore	2017
Admitted as lawyer to the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia	2016
Australian National University <i>Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (Distinction)</i>	2015-2016
University of Tasmania <i>Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours)</i> - Top International Student in the LLB Straight Law course; Top 7 in the cohort - Awarded the Tasmanian International Scholarship - Awarded the Bursary Award from Lee Foundation	2012-2014
NTU Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information <i>Bachelor of Communication Studies (Second Upper Honours)</i> <i>Minor in Business</i>	2006 - 2010

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

PDLEGAL LLC

Partner (International Arbitration | China Practice)

Feb 2022 - Present

- A broad commercial disputes practice in international arbitration, insolvency and restructuring, and mediation.
- I work closely with the firm's China Practice to advise clients on cross-border China-related disputes.

ASHURST LLP/ ASHURST ADT (a formal law alliance between Ashurst LLP and ADT Law LLC)

Senior Associate at Ashurst ADT (Dispute Resolution/ International Arbitration/ Insolvency and Restructuring)

Jan 2021 – Dec 2021

Associate at Ashurst LLP (Dispute Resolution/ International Arbitration)

Jul 2018 – Dec 2020

- Representing a Japanese company in a successful SIAC arbitration (Singapore-seated) in relation to multi-million dollar claims arising from a geothermal power plant in Indonesia
- Representing a syndicate of lenders in an AU\$1 billion dispute concerning the financing of numerous coal projects and related debt-to-equity swap on the borrower's default (SIAC arbitration with associated litigation in NSW, Australia and anti-suit injunction proceedings in Singapore).
- Representing a renewable energy company on various EOT and additional cost claims arising out of the construction of a 72 megawatt wind power plant in Indonesia (potential ICC arbitration in Singapore).
- Representing a renewable energy company on various disputes arising out of the construction of four utility-scale solar photovoltaic plants in Indonesia (potential ICC arbitration in Singapore).
- Representing a Brunei government entity in relation to Singapore-seated, SIAC arbitration concerning defects on a housing development project in Brunei.

- Representing a Malaysian company in an ongoing BANI arbitration (Jakarta-seated) in relation to multi-million dollar claims arising from the construction of a subsea oil pipeline located offshore Indonesia.
- Representing a global resources company in relation to Chinese import restrictions on Australian coal, including issues of force majeure, repudiation, frustration, contractual termination and re-sale.
- Representing a Japanese contractor in relation to setting aside proceedings in the Singapore High Court and Court of Appeal in a Singapore-seated, ICC arbitral award relating to defect and delay issues in the construction of a polycrystalline silicon plant in Southeast Asia.
- Tribunal secretary for an ICC arbitration (Singapore-seated) involving a commodities dispute between Singapore and Middle Eastern companies
- Advisory on dispute resolution clauses in EPC Contracts
- Representing an Australian financial institution in Singapore High Court proceedings relating to a moratorium and scheme of arrangement application by a global resources company.
- Representing an Australian financial institution in a high profile Singapore High Court proceedings relating to the restructuring and subsequent liquidation of by a trading company.

MICHAEL HWANG CHAMBERS LLC

Associate (International Arbitration)

Apr 2017 – Jun 2018

Practice Trainee (International Arbitration)

Jan 2016 – Jul 2016

International Arbitration

- Appointed as tribunal secretary for an ICC arbitration involving a USD 60 million dispute on a land purchase agreement between a Korean bank and a Cambodian company. The arbitration involved issues of jurisdiction and Cambodian subrogation law. (Seat: Singapore; Governing law: Cambodian law)
- Appointed as tribunal secretary for an ICC arbitration involving a USD 60 million dispute regarding patent infringement. (Seat: London; Governing law: Indian law)
- Appointed as tribunal secretary for an SIAC arbitration involving a USD 24 million dispute in an agency agreement between a Hong Kong company and a PRC company. (Seat: Singapore; Governing Law: English law)
- Assistant to the tribunal for a HKIAC arbitration which involved issues of liability in connection with the establishment of a joint venture in the automotive industry. The arbitration was later conjoined with another arbitration. (Seat: Hong Kong (UNCITRAL Rules); Governing law: PRC law)
- Assistant to the tribunal for a HKIAC arbitration concerning a share purchase agreement between a Hong Kong public listed company and a private equity firm. The arbitration involved allegations of fraud, deceit and misrepresentation. (Seat: Hong Kong; Governing law: Hong Kong law)
- Assistant to the tribunal for an SIAC arbitration involving contractual disputes between a Chinese company, Singapore company and a Middle Eastern company. (Seat: Singapore; Governing law: CISG/ Singapore law)
- Assistant to the tribunal in an expedited SIAC arbitration which involved a contractual interpretation of a shareholders' agreement (Seat: Singapore; Governing law: Singapore law)
- Assistant to the tribunal in an SIAC arbitration concerning breaches of terms and warranties in a sale and purchase agreement (Seat: Singapore; Governing law: Singapore; completed)
- Assistant to the tribunal in an ICC arbitration concerning a violation of an agreement to pay post-contractual commissions under a terminated agency agreement between a German company and a Malaysian company. (Seat: Kuala Lumpur; Governing law: English law)
- Assistant to the tribunal in an ICDR arbitration concerning a breach of obligations in a joint operating agreement for oil and gas exploration. (Seat: Houston, Texas; Governing law: State of Texas)
- Assistant to the tribunal for an ad-hoc arbitration concerning a joint venture agreement between a Malaysian company and over 800 claimants. (Seat: Malaysia; Governing law: Malaysian law)

Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts

- Assisted Dr Michael Hwang S.C. in his position as the Chief Justice of the DIFC Courts in case management and preparation for appellate hearings.

- Assisted Dr Michael Hwang S.C. in his position as a judge on the panel of the Judicial Tribunal of the Dubai Courts and the DIFC Courts in matters concerning jurisdiction.
- Assisted the DIFC Court of Appeal in a landmark decision involving the recognition and enforcement of a foreign judgment.
- Assisted the DIFC Court of Appeal in jurisdictional proceedings which required an examination of UAE civil law.
- Assisted the DIFC Court of Appeal in appeal proceedings which involved a tripartite investment agreement. The proceedings involved an examination of *Murabaha* Agreements and recurring profit charges.
- Assisted the DIFC Court of Appeal in proceedings between a UK bank and an investment firm. The appeal involved an examination of the principle of set-off in common law and UAE civil law.
- Assisted the DIFC Court of Appeal in a matter which involved a Middle Eastern private equity firm's proprietary claim over the assets of a private individual. The Court of Appeal dealt with issues such as fraud and breach of fiduciary duties.

Others

- Negotiating a settlement agreement on behalf of a US company with a view to end an over 20 years long litigation.
- Assistant to a HKIAC challenge panel which decided on issues concerning an arbitrator's disclosure, as well as his/her independence and impartiality.
- Assistant to Dr Michael Hwang SC in his role as an ICC rapporteur. The task of the rapporteur is to check draft ICC awards in other ICC arbitrations to ensure that all issues have been dealt with in the tribunal's findings.

STRAITS LAW PRACTICE LLC

Jan 2015 – Jul 2015

Relevant Legal Trainee

- Assisted Mr Sreenivasan SC and Mr Shankar in commercial litigation and international arbitration.
- Assisted Mr Choo Si Sen and Mr Ahmad Nizam Abbas in criminal and matrimonial matters (civil and *syariah* law).
- Demonstrated written advocacy skills through drafting of submissions and undertaking research of local and international case law, as well as in-depth studies of *travaux preparatoires*, where applicable.
- Drafted court-related documents including pleadings, representations, affidavits and summonses.
- Drafted letters of advice to clients and correspondence to opposing counsel.
- Demonstrated skills in client management and client interviewing.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Feb 2014–Nov 2014

International student support programme tutor

- Selected amongst top students in the cohort to tutor junior cohorts in International Trade Law and Constitutional law.

EUGENE THURAISSINGAM

Jan 2013

Legal intern (Commercial and criminal litigation)

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Jul 2012-Dec 2012

Research Assistant under the supervision of Professor Rick Snell

- Research topic: Comparison of state ombudsman across Australia.

NON-LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

SPACE EXECUTIVE

Jul 2015-Dec 2015

Head of Research

CAPITA PTE LTD – STAFFING AND SEARCH

Jul 2011-Jan 2012

Recruitment Consultant (various time periods during my undergraduate studies)

May 2007-Jul 2007

Mar 2006-Jul 2006

OGILVY PUBLIC RELATIONS WORLDWIDE
Account Executive

Jun 2010-Jul 2011

ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

Jalan Kayu Legal Clinic	April 2022 - Present
Beihai Asia International Arbitration Centre Committee	2021 – Present
SIArb Young Practitioners Network Chair-person	2021 - Present
SIArb CPD Sub-Committee	2020 – 2021
Law Society Women in Practice Committee (Co-Vice Chairperson)	2019 – Present
Volunteer mentor at Trans Family Services	2016-Present
Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2014 (Australia) <i>3rd Best Respondent Memorial</i>	2014
University of Tasmania Law Review Committee <i>Co-editor (Only two students are selected annually)</i>	2014
<i>Board member</i>	2013

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

Peter Doraisamy and Cathryn Neo, "The Employment Relationship – A Two-Way Street" (15 March 2022): <https://www.pdlegal.com.sg/the-employment-relationship-a-two-way-street/> (also published on Singapore Law Watch at <https://www.singaporelawwatch.sg/Portals/0/2203-01%20PDLegal%20Case%20Note%20-%20Dong%20Wei%20v%20Shell%20Eastern.pdf>)

Michael Weatherley and Cathryn Neo, "A Progressive Overhaul – SCMA releases 2022 Arbitration Rules" (2 Dec 2021): <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/a-progressive-overhaul-scma-releases-2022-arbitration-rules> (also published on Singapore Law Watch on 2 Dec 2021).

Michael Weatherley and Cathryn Neo, *Financier Worldwide* "INDepth: Enforcing Arbitral Award 2021" – Singapore section (Published October 2021).

SIArb Webinar on "Interim Measures in Arbitration" (12 August 2021) with Mr Yu-Jin Tay (Mayer Brown), Mr Steven Lim (arbitrator and barrister) and Ms Khyati Raniwala (Reed Smith).

BAIAC- ADR HOC Talk on "Introduction to Construction Arbitration" (19 June 2021) with Michael Weatherley of Ashurst

Rob Palmer and Cathryn Neo, "Once privileged, always privileged?: A toolkit for in-house counsel (June 2021) Special Report: International Dispute Resolution – *Financier Worldwide Magazine*: <https://www.financierworldwide.com/once-privileged-always-privileged-a-toolkit-for-in-house-counsel#.YPksC7UzaUk>

SIArb Roundtable Discussion on "How to Make a Career in Arbitration" (27 April 2021). Moderator for the event. Speakers include Mr John Gibson (Brookes Bell), Ms Loretta Malintoppi (39 Essex Chambers), Mr Mohan Pillay (Pinsent Masons) and Mr Johnny Tan (independent arbitrator).

Rob Palmer, Michael Weatherley, Cathryn Neo, Michelle Phang, Daniel Yip, "A novel response – has Singapore shown the way in legislating relief from contractual non-performance due to COVID-19?": <https://www.adtlawllc.com/en/publications/has-singapore-shown-the-way-in-legislating-relief-from-contractual-non-performance-due-to-covid-19/>

Rob Palmer, Georgia Quick, Cathryn Neo and Ed Davies, "Doing for Mediation what the New York Convention has Done for Arbitration?" (7 Aug 2019): <http://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/the-singapore-convention-on-mediation/>

Ashurst Arbitration Quickbites on drafting arbitration clauses: <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/hubs/international-arbitration/international-arbitration-quickbites/>

Michael Hwang S.C. & Cathryn Neo, Selected Essays on Dispute Resolution (2018), *'Afternote to Arbitrators and Barristers in the Same Chambers – An Unsuccessful Challenge'*.

Michael Hwang S.C. & Cathryn Neo, Kluwer Institute for Transnational Arbitration Case Reports, "Case Note: *Josias Van Zyl and others v Kingdom of Lesotho* [2017] SGHC 104".

Michael Hwang S.C. & Cathryn Neo, Kluwer Institute for Transnational Arbitration Case Reports, "Case Note: *Rals International Pte Ltd v Cassa di Risparmio di Parma e Piacenza SpA* [2016] 5 SLR; [2016] SGCA 53".

Cathryn Neo, 'Book Review: Trade Agreements at the Crossroads' (2014) 33(2) *University of Tasmania Law Review* 354 - 356. Link to article: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/UTasLawRw/2014/19.html>

Cathryn Neo, 'Case Note: Sealing the Fate on Animal Welfare: The Appellate Body report on EC-Seal Products' (2014) 33(2) *University of Tasmania Law Review* 345 - 353. Link to article: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/UTasLawRw/2014/18.html>

Cathryn Neo, 'Book Review: The Future of Dispute Resolution by Michael Legg (ed)' (2013) 32(1) *University of Tasmania Law Review* 142 - 144. Link to article: <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/UTasLawRw/2013/9.html>

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Spoken and written: English & Chinese (Mandarin)