



PROFILE

CHOU SEAN YU

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Qualifications

University of Bristol (LL.B., Hons.)
Middle Temple (Barrister-at-Law)

Admissions

Singapore Bar
English Bar

CHOU Sean Yu is the Head of the Banking & Financial Disputes Practice, the Joint Head of the Restructuring & Insolvency Practice and a Partner in the Financial Services Regulatory and Malaysia Practices at WongPartnership LLP.

Sean Yu's main areas of practice are domestic & international litigation and arbitration work with particular expertise in banking & trade finance disputes, commercial & corporate disputes, insolvency & restructuring, corporate fraud, investigations & asset recovery, shareholder litigation and tort & contractual claims.

International arbitration matters of significance in which Sean Yu has been involved in include acting for:

- The claimants in an ad hoc arbitration for breach of a purchase agreement concerning shares in Indonesian coal mining companies with claims valued over US\$250 million;
- An Indonesian company claimant in an SIAC arbitration against a major Indian Bank concerning a joint venture dispute in relation to a bank licensed and operating in Indonesia;

- The Astro group of companies in an international arbitration in Singapore concerning a complex dispute relating to a proposed joint venture for satellite pay television services in Indonesia and which culminated in awards for over US\$230 million in favour of our clients. Presently acting in respect of the enforcement of the awards in Singapore and in other jurisdictions. The respondent to the arbitration has sought to challenge enforcement of the awards and this culminated in a high profile action in the Singapore Court of Appeal involving novel principles of arbitration law and which decision is presently pending. The matter also involves multiple proceedings in other jurisdictions, with claims totalling over US\$1.75 billion;
- An oil and gas group listed on the London AIM in an SIAC arbitration commenced against it by a global oil and gas major for alleged breaches of a Farmout Agreement and for misrepresentation;
- An international energy firm in a SIAC arbitration in connection with disputes concerning a power generator and water desalination facility in Pakistan, and with claims totalling US\$40 million;
- An international private equity firm in a complex shareholders dispute concerning its investment in Metalform Asia Pte. Ltd., a technology company. Metalform Asia Pte. Ltd. was acquired under a US\$260 million leveraged buy-out with the founding owners retaining a minority stake. The dispute has given rise to multiple legal proceedings between the parties in Mauritius and in Singapore, including an international arbitration involving disputes arising out of the shareholders' agreement between the parties. Concurrent proceedings in Mauritius and arbitration in Singapore have, in particular, given rise to novel conflict of laws questions, including that on the grant of an anti-anti suit injunction, as well as issues relating to the cross-border interaction of international insolvency, company and contract laws;
- An Indonesian wheatmill in an international arbitration involving a US\$10 million contractual dispute.

Sean Yu graduated with First Class Honours from the University of Bristol and is admitted to the English Bar (Middle Temple) and to the Singapore Bar. He was a Justices' Law Clerk with the Singapore Supreme Court from 1993 -1995 before entering private practice.

Sean Yu is a Fellow of the Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore and is on the Panel of Arbitrators of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board and the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and is currently a member of the Board of its Singapore Branch.

Sean Yu was a contributing editor to Singapore Civil Procedure 2007 and was a contributor to the 2011 edition of Halsbury's Law of Singapore on Finance and Banking. He is a member of the Law Reform Committee of the Singapore Academy of Law and has been part of numerous law reform initiatives.

Sean Yu is recognised as one of the "Local Disputes Stars" in the inaugural edition of *Benchmark Asia Pacific – The Definitive Guide to the Leading Disputes Firms and Lawyers in the Region 2013*. The *IFLR1000 – The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms, 2013* edition reports that Sean Yu "admirably combines all the key traits a client looks for: approachability, responsiveness, resourcefulness and competence". He is also endorsed as a leading Restructuring & Insolvency lawyer in *Chambers Asia Pacific – Asia Pacific's Leading Lawyers for Business* since 2010, *PLC Which Lawyer – Restructuring and Insolvency* since 2008, *Asialaw Profiles – The Guide to Asia-Pacific's Leading Law Firms* and *Expert Guides – Guide to the World's Leading Banking, Finance and Transactional Lawyers*. According to *Chambers Asia Pacific – Asia Pacific's Leading Lawyers for Business 2012*, he is "recognised for his diverse practice and is well known for his work in the insolvency arena" and acknowledged as "a very bright individual with an excellent grounding in insolvency law".

Sean Yu is a Senior Racing Steward and a member of the Management Committee of the Singapore Turf Club. He is also the President of the Singapore Branch of the Convocation of the University of Bristol.