



FRANCIS XAVIER S.C.

Regional Head, Disputes Practices

Get in touch

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Francis is Regional Head, Disputes Practices of Rajah & Tann and was appointed Senior Counsel in January 2009. He practices in the areas of international and treaty arbitration and cross-border commercial litigation. He specialises in corporate and commercial disputes especially in the areas of corporate, banking, property and financial and investment related claims. He also specialises in aviation law and advised in the class-action suit resulting from the crash of the SilkAir flight in Indonesia in 1997 and the Taiwan SIA crash.

Qualifications

- Advocate and Solicitor, Supreme Court of Singapore
- Solicitor, Supreme Court of England and Wales
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK
- Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow, Singapore Academy of Law
- Panel of Arbitrators, Singapore International Arbitration Centre
- Panel of Arbitrators, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow, The Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators
- Panel of Arbitrators, Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, Malaysia
- Panel of International Arbitrators, Kigali International Arbitration Centre, Rwanda
- Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore

Experience

He is currently sitting as party-nominated arbitrator of a Mauritius entity in a bilateral investment treaty dispute under ICSID with the Government of India. He has also recently been appointed as counsel for an Asean government in an ICSID arbitration involving a European state investor.

Francis has also been recognised as a leading lawyer by *Asia Pacific Legal 500* (2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2008/2009, 2010 / 2011, 2012 / 2013, 2014), *AsiaLaw Profiles* (2007), *Asia*

Law leading lawyers (2009), *Chambers Global* (2010/2013), *Global Arbitration Review* (2010), *Chambers Asia* (2011 / 2012 / 2013) and the *Fifth Edition of Best Lawyers in Singapore Practice area of Litigation* (2013). Francis is also recognized as a leading employment lawyer by the latest edition of *Asia Pacific Chambers & Partners* (2014). He has been active in the Employment Law Alliance for more than 14 years.

He is on the Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for International Arbitration and the Kigali International Arbitration Centre (Rwanda). He currently appears both as counsel and arbitrator in a number of significant international arbitrations.

Memberships / Directorships

- Jurisdictional Council Member representing Singapore, Inter Pacific Bar Association, with effect from May 2014.
 - Appointed Deputy Chairman of the Law Society Inquiry Panel for a 2 year term, starting in December 2013.
 - Appointed Member of the Council of Law Reporting, Singapore Academy of Law (1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014).
 - Appointed to the Independent Committee of Investigation (ICI), National Tehcnological University, (March 2013).
 - Appointed to the Law Society Audit Committee, January 2013.
 - Appointed a member of the Board and the Committee of the Singapore branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (November 2012) (UK).
 - Included in the Approved Faculty List of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom (since March 2012).
 - Member, Singapore Academy of Law's Committee on Legal Education and Studies (since August 2011).
 - Member, Singapore Academy of Law's Professional Affairs Committee, Professional Values Chapter (since 2012).
 - Member, International Promotion of Singapore Law Committee of the Singapore Academy of Law (16 August 2007 to date).
 - Appointed to the LSAS Panel of Arbitrators under the Law Society Arbitration Scheme (since May 2007).
 - Member, Singapore Academy of Law's Membership and Social Committee (since 1 September 2011).
 - Member, Committee on International Conference on Electronic Litigation of the Singapore Academy of Law (since 2010).
 - Admitted to the Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre since 1 June 2009.
 - Member, Complaints Panel of the Singapore Pharmacy Council (from 6 April 2009 to 20 April 2013).
 - Chairman, Singapore Academy of Law's Junior College Law Conference Organising Committee (since January 2009 to date).
 - Admitted to the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators Primary Panel of Arbitrators (since 1 May 2008).
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- Nominated by the Minister for Law (pursuant to s48 of the Legal Profession Act) to serve on the Council, Law Society of Singapore from 1 January 2005 until 31 December 2008.
- Admitted as Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK (since January 2007).
- Admitted as Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (since April 2005).
- Appointed to Law Society Panel of mediators and Arbitrators to mediate / arbitrate on costs disputes between clients and members of the Law Society (since 29 December 2001 to date).
- Appointed and retained as an expert witness on Singapore law on aviation law, tort and contract law by the Boeing Company and United Airlines in the case of *Susie Low and Daman Choy Kam Cheok vs United Airlines Inc., The Boeing Company, and Driessen Aircraft Interior Systems Inc*, Case No. 00CC06600 heard in the Superior Court of California, County of Orange, Central Justice Centre, United States of America (May 2001 to April 2002).

Publications

1. Co-author, article on *'The Issue of Extra-Territoriality in Securities Litigation: A Comparative View'* published in 2011 Bloomberg Finance L.P. in the Vol. 4, No. 6 edition of the Bloomberg Law Reports – Asia Pacific.
2. Co-author, article on *'The Rome Convention Dealing with Damages Caused By Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties'* published in Rajah & Tann's Lawlines, (Volume 9, Issue 2), June 2007.
3. Author, article on *'The Impact of Free Trade Agreements on Labour Mobility'*, published in the Law Gazette, December 2006.
4. Co-author, article on *'Workplace Influenza Pandemic – Legal Boundaries and Best Practice'* published in Rajah & Tann's Lawlines, (Volume 8 Issue 1), March 2006.
5. Co-author, article on the Singapore perspective – *'Pandemics and the Workplace, A Regional Analysis'*, being part of an Asian-wide publication coordinated by Johnson Stokes and Masters, January 2006.
6. Author, article on *'Recent Developments In the Garnishment of Retention Monies'* published in Rajah & Tann's Lawlines, (Volume 7 Issue 3), September 2005.
7. Author, article on *'Drafting of Charges in Disciplinary Proceedings'* published in Rajah & Tann's Lawlines, (Volume 4 Issue 2), May 2002.
8. Author. article on *'The Domestic and International Arbitration Regimes in Singapore'* published in Rajah & Tann's Lawlines, (Volume 3 Issue 3), September 2001.
9. Co-author, article on *'An Overview of Arbitration Internationally and in Singapore'* published in the Singapore Law Gazette, August 2001.
10. Co-author, article on *'Arbitration as a Method of Dispute Resolution'* published in Lawlines (Vol 3, Issue 1), December 2000.
11. Author, article on *'Disciplinary Proceedings in the Medical Profession'* published in the Singapore Law Gazette, May 2000.

A. Books

1. Contributor of the Singapore Chapter, *Women, Business and the Law 2014 : Removing Restrictions to Enhance Gender Equality* (published by World Bank, IFC) .
2. Co-Author, Chapter on *'Perspectives on Preserving Electronic Evidence when Litigation is Contemplated or has Commenced'* published in "International Conference on Electronic Litigation" (2012).

3. Contributor, 2nd Edition of the report entitled Women, Business and the Law 2012 : Removing Barriers to Economic Inclusion.
 4. Contributor, Singapore Precedents of Pleadings (Sweet & Maxwell Asia, 2006 Edition).
 5. Co-author – Chapter on Business Torts and Business Crimes in the Law of Rights and Obligations of Business in Singapore, Singapore Business Development Series (1996 Edition, Addison –Wesley).
 6. Co-Editor, 25th Anniversary Publication on the Historical Development of the Law Society of Singapore, 1995.
 7. Specialist Editor – Mallal’s Digest of Malaysian and Singapore Case Law (Fourth Edition – 1991) – Volume 5 (Criminal Procedure).
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