

Kent Phillips

Partner, Singapore

Kent has over 15 years' experience as a dispute resolution lawyer, concentrating on international arbitration in both London and Singapore. Kent has conducted arbitrations under leading institutional rules in most major seats, under both civil and common applicable laws.

His extensive trial experience includes high value commercial disputes across a number of sectors and jurisdictions. His final years in London were spent leading disputes between high profile Russian oligarchs, with merits hearing of claims involving some US\$3bn. From Singapore he is routinely involved in disputes relating to services and infrastructure in the resources, energy and oil & gas sectors. These include construction and commodities matters and often involve South East Asia or India.

He conducts all stages of proceedings, from interim measures to advocacy at trial. He also holds full registration as a foreign lawyer to appear before the Singapore International Commercial Court.

Kent is recognised by Chambers Asia Pacific as a leading individual for Dispute Resolution: Arbitration (Singapore) in 2014 and 2015. He regularly sits as an arbitrator and is on the SIAC panel. He is a director of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Singapore branch

Arbitrator experience

- Emergency, expedited and sole appointments as arbitrator.
- Sole appointment (nominated independently by both parties) in US\$18m dispute relating to Indonesian mining operation.



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Areas of focus

Dispute Resolution

International Arbitration

Education and admissions

Education

LLM, London School of Economics and Political Science – 1999

BCom / LLB (Hons), University of Auckland - 1994

Admissions

Solicitor, England & Wales – 2001

Barrister & Solicitor, New Zealand – 1996

- Sole appointment 8 related SIAC arbitrations involving US\$22m claims between a high profile US software manufacturer and its SE Asian distributors.
- Sole appointment in SIAC arbitration relating to oil and gas project in India, involving complex jurisdictional application and reasoned negative jurisdiction ruling.
- Emergency arbitrator appointment under SIAC Rules in relation to dispute between Chinese and South Korean parties involving rights to draw on a payment guarantee in connection with the supply of coal.
- Appointment as arbitrator in expedited arbitration under SIAC rules in relation to sale and purchase of commodities.

Representative experience

- Counsel in London seat ICC arbitration relating to the failure of a US\$65 million infrastructure project in Ukraine.
- Singapore arbitration involving the supply of equipment to a South Korean oil refinery, involving complex engineering issues.
- Acting for the subsidiary of a Central Asian state-owned enterprise in ICC arbitration against a joint venture company on the supply of telecommunication systems for a gas transport system.
- SIAC arbitration in Singapore under an EPC contract relating to a solar energy project in Pakistan, including advocacy at a 3 day merits hearing and enforcement of the award.
- Advising on various disputes relating to operation of offshore blocks in Angola (Hong Kong and Singapore seats) and Equatorial Guinea (London seat).
- Litigation relating to production from an oil refinery in Macedonia.
- Conduct of arbitration relating charter and operation of jack-up barge for use in offshore exploration (Belgium seat).
- Advising on disputes relating to construction, management and maintenance of FPSOs and other offshore facilities (Singapore and English law).

- Various arbitrations in Singapore (as arbitrator and counsel) relating to trading commodities.
- Conduct of SIAC arbitration relating to development of port related facilities in Singapore, including lead advocacy at 8 day hearing.
- SIAC arbitration relating to pharmaceutical joint venture in Indonesia, ultimately settling at mediation.
- ICC arbitration in Singapore related to a \$25m dispute under an EPC contract for a pulp and paper plant in Vietnam, including multi-jurisdictional strategy relating to calls on performance and refund bonds and interplay of laws including Singapore, Vietnam and Japan.
- LCIA arbitration under Nigerian law, relating to a Nigerian oil field, including merits hearing, challenges to the award in the English Courts and co-ordinating multi-jurisdictional enforcement.
- Conduct of multi-jurisdictional litigation for Russian businessman Boris Berezovsky with more than \$3b at stake.
- Advising on cross-border enforcement of a \$275m ICSID arbitration award.