



Steven Lim

Year of call: 1992

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"A vastly experienced arbitrator who is very well respected across Asia" Chambers and Partners 2022

Steven is an arbitrator and barrister. He has over 100 appointments as presiding, sole, co-arbitrator and emergency arbitrator, seated in Singapore, England, USA, India, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. He is also instructed as lead counsel in arbitrations. He is a member of the English and Singapore bars.

He has extensive experience with SIAC, ICC, ICDR, SCMA, KCAB, UNCITRAL Rules, and ad hoc cases involving Indo-Pacific jurisdictions and farther afield, and is on the SIAC, HKIAC, ICDR, KCAB, JCAA, CIETAC and SHAC panels, amongst many others.

He has extensive experience with disputes and parties from across the world including Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, USA, Peru, UK, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Hungary, Russia, BVI, Rwanda, and South Africa.

He has experience with a broad range of commercial disputes covering private equity investments, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, share options, agency, licensing, internet gaming, hotel management, coal, mineral, agricultural commodities and trading contracts, mining, oil and gas, energy, offshore engineering, ship and rig building, and construction projects.

Steven is recommended as *"the perfect arbitrator", "his awards are well-reasoned and clear", "an extremely effective arbitrator, he manages cases very well, instilled confidence in the parties and demonstrates confidence, competence and ability in dealing with cases, both a pleasant and effective tribunal member", "all the representatives and parties came away thinking they got a very good and fair hearing", "he is very good at getting to grips with legal areas", "he is always on top of his cases and has a very good judgment and excellent manner", "a fair-minded and extremely capable arbitrator", "an excellent arbitrator who is very balanced", "a highly respected figure across the gamut of APAC-related commercial disputes", "an outstanding up-and-coming superstar with a nice and sensible manner", and "an excellent counsel with excellent understanding of law and great commercial insight".*

Areas of expertise

International Arbitration (as Arbitrator)

Commercial

Energy and Natural Resources

"A respected arbitrator with extensive experience handling commercial arbitrations in the construction, infrastructure and energy sectors." The Legal 500 2019

Steven appears as lead counsel in energy and natural resources arbitrations including under SIAC, ICC, SCMA and UNCITRAL rules covering Asia-Pacific jurisdictions and farther afield.

Cases of note

- **SCMA Arbitration** - Lead counsel in Singapore seated US\$200 million arbitration over buyer's termination of an English law governed rig building contract for construction delays and delay in renewing refund guarantees between Norwegian and Singapore parties.
- **SIAC Arbitration** - Lead counsel in Singapore seated US\$11 million arbitration over defects in construction of self-elevating platform.
- **SIAC Arbitration** - Lead counsel in Singapore seated S\$20m arbitration concerning construction of a power plant in Singapore between US and Singapore parties.
- **SIAC arbitration** - Lead counsel in Singapore seated arbitration concerning a joint operating and farmout agreement for an onshore oil exploration project.
- **UNCITRAL arbitration** - Co-lead counsel in related London seated arbitrations concerning gas sales and transportation agreements between Singapore and Indonesian parties.
- **ICC Arbitration** - Co-lead counsel in Paris seated arbitration over civil works for petrochemical plant between Japanese and Singapore parties.
- **ICC Arbitration** - Co-lead counsel in Singapore seated arbitration over construction of a polymer advanced material compounding plant in Southeast Asia between Belgium and Australian parties.

Recommendations

Steven is noted for his work as an arbitrator and advocate, and his *"peers point out his sharp intellect"*. His recommendations include:

"He is an extremely effective arbitrator. He manages cases very well, instilled confidence in the parties and demonstrates confidence, competence and ability in dealing with cases, both a pleasant and effective tribunal member" Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2023

"I thought Steven managed the case extremely well, and all the representatives and parties came away thinking they got a very good and fair hearing" Chambers Asia-Pacific 2023

"He is very good at getting to grips with the legal areas" Chambers Asia-Pacific 2023

"A lawyer par excellence, Steven is always very well read and prepared for his matters. He understands the construction and infrastructure space very well. Clients like his solution oriented approach" The Legal 500 2023

"Steven is the perfect arbitrator... He is always on top of his cases and has a very good judgement and an excellent manner." Who's Who Legal Arbitration 2022

"A top-tier arbitrator who "meticulously understands each aspect of the case" Who's Who Legal Southeast Asia – Arbitration 2022

"A vastly experienced arbitrator who is very well respected across Asia." Chambers and Partners 2022

"An outstanding up-and-coming superstar with a nice and very sensible manner." Chambers and Partners 2022

"Steven is a fair-minded and extremely capable arbitrator... He is highly sought after." Who's Who Legal Arbitration 2022

"He is always on top of his cases, has excellent judgement and is very knowledgeable" The Legal 500 2022

"A popular choice...highly regarded particularly for China-related arbitrations." Chambers and Partners 2022

"His cross-examination is par excellence" Who's Who Legal Southeast Asia – Arbitration 2022

"An excellent counsel with excellent understanding of law and great commercial insight." Who's Who Legal Arbitration 2021

"An excellent arbitrator who is very balanced... He has a thorough and thoughtful approach to cases." Who's Who Legal Arbitration 2021

"Highly respected figure across the gamut of APAC-related commercial disputes." Who's Who Legal SEA 2021

"A respected arbitrator with extensive experience handling commercial arbitrations in the construction, infrastructure and energy sectors." The Legal 500 2019

Memberships

- Panel arbitrator, SIAC, HKIAC, ICDR, KCAB, JCAA, CIETAC, SHAC, CAAI, AIAC, THAC, HIAC, XAAC, Qingdao Arbitration Commission and IDRC (India)
- Specialist mediator, SIMC
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow, Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution

Qualifications

Education

1988 – 1991, London School of Economics and Political Science, LL.B. (Hons)

1992 – 1993, Columbia University School of Law, LL.M.

1994, Advocate and Solicitor, Singapore

2008, Solicitor

2018, Solicitor Advocate

Additional Information

Appointments

- 2018 – current, Director, CIArb, Singapore Branch
- 2018 – 2020, Vice-Chair, IPBA Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Committee
- 2013 – 2017, Council Member, SIArb

Languages

- Mandarin (conversational)

Publications

- Time to Re-evaluate the Common Law Approach to the Proper law of the Arbitration Agreement, Kluwer, 2020
- Enka v Chubb [2020] UKSC 38: Bringing the Validation Principle Into the Light, Kluwer 2020
- Singapore chapter, Arbitration World, 6th Edition, Sweet & Maxwell, 2018
- Discerning the Fine Line Between Disregard and Misapprehension – Appeals Under the Cloak of Natural Justice, Asia Pacific Arbitration Reporter, SAL, [2017] 1 APAR SG 50
- Interim Relief in International Arbitration, SIAC, 2014

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