

PROFILE



**Director, Dispute Resolution
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Qualifications

LL.B. (First Class Honours), National University of Singapore
LL.M. (International Legal Studies), New York University
Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2019)
Attorney and Counselor-at-Law in the State of New York (2022)

Language

English and Mandarin

SAMUEL KOH

ABOUT SAMUEL

Samuel maintains an active commercial disputes practice, with a focus on international arbitration. He acts for clients in a range of complex cross-jurisdictional commercial disputes in various industries, and has experience representing and advising clients in relation to all key modes of dispute resolution. He is dual-qualified, having been admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore and also as an Attorney and Counselor-at-Law in the State of New York.

Samuel is recognised by the Singapore Business Review as one of Singapore's top 20 most influential lawyers under 40 in 2025. He has appeared as counsel before the Singapore Courts and arbitral tribunals, and has acted as tribunal secretary in international arbitrations. Among others, he has successfully argued numerous interlocutory applications before Assistant Registrars and interlocutory appeals before Judges in the High Court of Singapore. He has experience in international arbitrations conducted under a variety of institutional and ad hoc rules (including the ICC, LCIA, SIAC and UNCITRAL Rules), and has notably independently conducted cross-examination in the merits hearing of a high-value international commercial arbitration matter.

Samuel graduated with a Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours from the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2016, having consistently placed near the top of his class in all his years at NUS while contributing actively to the student body by playing an active role in student government. He also holds a Master of Laws with a specialisation in International Legal Studies from New York University (NYU), where he represented NYU in the Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration moot as a team oralist, among others.

In 2023, Samuel joined the International Arbitration Practice Group of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in London as a Senior Associate on a six-month secondment, during which he acted for clients in a range of complex international commercial and investment treaty disputes.

In 2022, Samuel was selected by the Supreme Court for the Young *Amicus Curiae* Scheme, and was appointed Young *Amicus Curiae* in an appeal before the High Court in 2022 that raised novel issues of criminal procedure in the context of disposal inquiries. The Court agreed with all his recommendations on the questions posed, and “thank[ed] Mr Koh for his comprehensive submissions that were of assistance to this court”: *William Lim Tien Hou v Ling Kok Hua* [2023] SGHC 18.

Before joining private practice in 2019, Samuel served as a Justices’ Law Clerk for the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court of Singapore, during which he undertook legal research and assisted in the drafting of decisions, among others. Noteworthy arbitration-related matters that he was involved in include the landmark Court of Appeal decision in *Swissbourgh Diamond Mines (Pty) Ltd and others v Kingdom of Lesotho* [2019] 1 SLR 263, which addressed important issues in investment treaty arbitration and public international law.

Samuel is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), and a Member of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (MSIArb). He is also an Assistant Editor for Southeast Asia for the Kluwer Arbitration Blog, as well as a member of the ICDR Singapore Committee and the SI Arb Young Practitioners Network Committee, among others. Samuel also volunteers with the Law Society of Singapore by serving on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

Samuel speaks English and Mandarin.

EXPERIENCE

Some of the noteworthy matters which Samuel has handled include:

- Successfully acted for a Chinese government-linked company in an SIAC-administered arbitration commenced under the UNCITRAL Rules in respect of a dispute arising from the construction of a coal-fired supercritical thermal ultra-mega power plant located in India. The claims and counterclaims amount to more than US\$579 million, and involve English law, Singapore law and Indian law. The client was awarded US\$146million in damages. The matter also involves parallel proceedings seeking interim asset preservation relief before the Delhi High Court.
- Acted for a major US-incorporated oil and gas company in an arbitration commenced under the ICC Rules by a British multi-national oil and gas company, in a dispute arising out of the interpretation of an agreement for the sale and purchase of LNG. The dispute involved claims over rights in contracts that were worth billions of dollars. The agreement was governed by English law and raised issues of contractual interpretation as well as technical issues regarding the operation of a floating LNG facility.
- Acted for a Thai Ultra High Net Worth individual in an arbitration commenced under the ICC Rules against a Swiss-incorporated multi-national company (MNC), which is the world’s largest food and beverage conglomerate, in a dispute arising out of the Swiss MNC’s termination of the joint venture agreement in relation to the parties’ coffee business in Thailand. The dispute involved claims amounting to US\$5.5 billion. The dispute raised issues of contractual interpretation under English law and corporate offences and economic torts under Thai law.

- Successfully defended Shanghai Electric Group Co Ltd in a challenge brought by India’s Reliance Infrastructure Limited before the Singapore International Commercial Court (“**SICC**”), preserving a US\$146 million SIAC award. The challenge was based on allegations that the underlying arbitration agreement was forged: see *Reliance Infrastructure Limited v Shanghai Electric Group Co Ltd* [2024] SGHC(I) 3. The decision of the SICC (which is a rare public judgment on an arbitration-related matter) has been unanimously affirmed by the Court of Appeal: see *Reliance Infrastructure Limited v Shanghai Electric Group Co Ltd* [2024] SGCA(I) 10.
- Successfully acted for a Singaporean High Net Worth individual, in an appeal under s 10(3) of the International Arbitration Act 1994 brought before the General Division of the High Court against a ruling by the arbitral tribunal to deny jurisdiction over the client’s claims in an SIAC arbitration for a sum of RMB 55 million. The dispute arose out of property investments in China. The appeal addressed the unsettled legal issue of whether the satisfaction of pre-arbitration requirements is an issue of jurisdiction or admissibility. The Court allowed the appeal, overturning the tribunal’s negative jurisdictional ruling and remitting the matter back to the SIAC tribunal.

ACCOLADES

Singapore Business Review 2025

Ranked as one of the Top 20 Most Influential Lawyers Under 40

Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific 2024

- *“Samuel was very responsive to communications and built an excellent relationship with HKA and its experts. He was a pleasure to work with and very helpful in providing direction and clarity on instructions.”*

Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific 2023

- *“Samuel was on top of all the details and had a clear vision of how to progress the matters at the heart of the case.”*

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SIArb)
- Member, SIArb Young Practitioners Network Committee (2026-present)
- Assistant Editor for Southeast Asia, Kluwer Arbitration Blog (2024-present)
- Member, International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) Singapore Committee (2024-present)
- Member, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Law Society of Singapore (2020-2023; 2025-present)
- Member, YSIAC
- Member, Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA)
- Member, ICC Singapore Arbitration Group
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, Law Society of Singapore

- Member, New York State Bar Association