PROFILE



Director, Dispute Resolution
Drew & Napier LLC, Singapore
yuankheng.tan@drewnapier.com
T +65 6531 2467

Qualifications
LL.B (Hons) National University of Singapore (2013)
Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2014)

Language
English
Mandarin Chinese

YUAN KHENG TAN

ABOUT YUAN KHENG

Yuan Kheng has an active practice in complex litigation and international arbitration involving sovereign States, multinational corporations, as well as high net-worth individuals. She regularly advises clients on a diverse range of matters relating to commercial contracts, corporate disputes, director / shareholder fights, tortious claims, competition law issues, infrastructure projects, trusts, investor-state disputes, banking and finance and regulatory actions.

Apart from maintaining an active litigation practice, Yuan Kheng has particular experience and interest in international arbitration, with many of her matters involving arbitrations under the auspices of the SIAC, ICC, ICSID and PCA. She also regularly appears before the Singapore Courts for arbitration-related Court proceedings, including the setting aside of arbitration awards as well as applications for urgent interim relief in support of arbitrations.

Yuan Kheng graduated from the National University of Singapore with an LLB (Hons) degree in 2013, and was placed on the Dean's List during her time in law school. During her time on exchange, she represented Instituto de Empresa, a top graduate school located in Spain, in the prestigious 2011 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria.

She is also proficient in Mandarin Chinese.

EXPERIENCE

Some of the notable matters which Yuan Kheng has handled include:

- **Largest trust case in Singapore with disputed assets worth up to US$800 million**
  Successfully acted for members of the De La Sala family in the largest trust case ever heard in Singapore, involving disputed assets estimated to be worth between US$600 and US$800 million. The matter involved complex corporate trust structures based in multiple jurisdictions, including Singapore, Panama, the BVI, Liberia and Hong Kong. The High Court's judgment was a landmark decision setting out guidance on what constitutes impermissible witness coaching.

- **US$1 billion complex ICC arbitration**
  Acting in a complex ICC arbitration, as well as in parallel setting aside applications before the Singapore International Commercial Court, concerning a wildly popular massively multiplayer online role-playing game involving multiple contracts and novel legal issues under Singapore law, Korean law and PRC law. The claimants valued their alleged losses at approximately US$1 billion.

- **Representing a former Prime Minister of Georgia in claim involving a US$1.1 billion trust**
  Successfully secured a US$926 million judgment for Bidzina Ivanishvili, a former Prime Minister of Georgia, and his family in a claim against Credit Suisse Trust ("**CST**") for breach of trust leading to losses in an investment portfolio worth over US$1 billion. CST had successfully obtained a stay of proceedings in the High Court in favour of Switzerland, following which the Ivanishvili family instructed Drew & Napier LLC to take over the case. Yuan Kheng, who was part of the team which advised a change of strategy, succeeded in the appeal before the Court of Appeal which lifted the stay of proceedings.

- **Bilateral Investment Treaty disputes**
  Successfully acted for the Government of Laos to resist the setting aside of two Bilateral Investment Treaty awards before the Singapore Courts. The arbitrations were the first known investor-state arbitrations ever commenced against the Lao Government and involve a long-running and high-profile dispute with two investors in its gaming and casino industry. The claimants have valued their alleged investment losses as between US$690 million to US$1 billion.

  Acting for the Republic of India in relation to one of the most publicised tax disputes. The dispute involves tax assessment orders issued by the Indian Government on US$3.8 billion capital gains arising from a complex restructuring exercise of the Cairn and Vedanta Groups' Indian oil and gas assets.

ACCOLADES

The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific

Dispute Resolution 2026 – Recommended Lawyer (2 years ranked)

International Arbitration 2024 – Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

- Sources say, *"Yuan Kheng Tan is quick in response and understands the client's demands."*

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, Law Society of Singapore
- Young MCIA Steering Committee (2023-2024)
- Tutor for the Preparatory Course leading to Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, Singapore chapter in the inaugural and second editions Legal 500: Investment Treaty Arbitration Country Comparative Guides (2025–2026)
- Co-author, the first Singapore chapter in the Global Arbitration Review (GAR) Know-How: Investment Treaty Arbitration 2025