



Hoon Shu Mei
Director, Dispute Resolution

LLB (Hons), The University of Manchester (2008)

Graduate Diploma in Singapore Law, National University of Singapore (2009)

Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2010)

Accredited Mediator (2019), Collaborative Family Practitioner (2018), Singapore Mediation Centre

Accredited Mediator, Singapore International Mediation Institute (2020)

Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers (2021)

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ABOUT SHU MEI

Shu Mei is a sought-after advocate, international speaker, and a trusted advisor to the modern family.

With a niche practice in private client and family disputes, Shu Mei appears regularly as advocate at all levels of the Singapore Courts on all matters affecting the family including division of matrimonial assets, maintenance, family violence, complex custody and international relocation, as well as trust and property disputes.

As an accredited mediator and an accredited Collaborative Family Practitioner, she strives to find common ground even in the most complex of cases in negotiations and mediations, whether as an advocate or a neutral.

She has particular expertise drafting and negotiating prenuptial, postnuptial, financial arrangement and parenting agreements between family members.

Shu Mei has been appointed to the Board of Governors of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) as an Asia Pacific Chapter Delegate in 2023. She was appointed a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) in 2021. IAFL is a worldwide association of practicing lawyers who are recognized by their peers as the most experienced family law specialists in their respective countries.

She has provided legal expert opinions to assist the High Court of England and Wales, the High Court of Bombay, the Federal Court of Australia and the Family Courts of New Zealand.

Shu Mei is also a Certified Digital Assets Advisor (CDAA) and has used her knowledge and expertise to resolve complex family disputes involving uncovering cryptocurrency and other forms of digital assets.

Shu Mei's formative experience is rooted in commercial litigation and international arbitrations, and she has acted for corporations under SIAC, ICC, CIETAC, UNCITRAL and DIAC rules and is a member of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators.

Shu Mei also speaks regularly about family law, private wealth, valuation of businesses, dispute resolution and mediation at local and international conferences.

She is also the co-author of various academic articles and practitioner guides both locally and internationally.

EXPERIENCE

Contentious matrimonial and private client proceedings

- Acting for an UHNW individual, the Husband in potential divorce proceedings, against the Wife, another UHNW individual, wherein the parties collectively have a net worth exceeding US\$1 billion including assets held under a Cayman Islands Trust, of which the Husband is the Settlor, and the beneficiaries include the Wife, the child of the marriage, as well as other charitable organisations.
- Successfully acting for a Wife to obtain a Worldwide Freezing Order over assets worth approximately \$40 million, in order to prevent dissipation of matrimonial assets by the Husband.

- Successfully obtained a return order of a minor child after an international child abduction from Singapore to India.
- Successfully obtained personal protection orders for survivors of domestic violence, including psychological violence.
- Represented a Father in a long-running High Court case over a minor child wherein complex psychiatric and psychological evidence was admitted successfully to prove a case of parental alienation, resulting in the successful reunification between father and child after 8 years of estrangement.
- Successfully obtaining an injunction against a Father for attempted international child abduction in a highly contentious international divorce involving 3 minors, including obtaining an order for the psychiatric and medical examination of him.
- Acting in complex family proceedings involving psychological-legal elements regarding the international unlawful abduction of a child from Singapore to UK by the Mother, and then, an application for the proposed relocation of the child by the Mother during COVID-19 pandemic against governmental travel advisories, leading to an eventual expedited application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal (reported in *UYK v UYJ* [2020] SGHCF 8)
- Acting for a Mother in a complex family proceedings involving psychological-legal elements regarding the application of the international relocation of a child from Singapore to India, by the Father, the non-primary caregiver in the midst of COVID-19, leading to an eventual application for leave to appeal to the appellate division of the High Court (reported in *VPG v VPF* [2021] SGHCR 18)
- Acting in a highly contested dispute between co-deputies of a person who lacks mental capacity under the Mental Capacity Act, and successfully obtained Orders regarding the discharge of a co-deputy on the ground of abdication of duties.

Advisory work

- Representing an American client in the negotiation of a Pre-nuptial Agreement, who was to marry into a family owning substantial assets including one of the largest chemical manufacturing companies in China (worth more than US\$200 million), requiring significant coordination between lawyers in Singapore, United States of America (California), People's Republic of China and Canada to ensure that the Pre-nuptial Agreement entered into would be binding and enforceable in a divorce proceeding, if not at least given substantial weight in these jurisdictions.
- Representing a Singaporean client in a negotiation of a Pre-nuptial Agreement, who was to marry into one of the wealthiest families in the Philippines, the shareholders and management of one of the Philippines' largest publicly traded holding companies (net worth more than US\$2 billion), and where majority of the assets which may be in dispute may be held by trust.
- Representing a British client in a negotiation of a Pre-nuptial Agreement involving English and Singapore laws, marrying into a family who owns and manages one of the world's largest carriers, and addition, whose fiancé would also be a beneficiary to a trust which value was in the range of US \$300 million.
- Advising a patriarch with net worth of over \$5 billion regarding inter-related family law, private wealth and trust issues for 3 generations, and setting up various legal agreements and structures in place in order to protect family assets in the event of divorce, mental incapacity or death.
- Advising and Acting for various private and higher education institutions in Singapore regarding their policies as regards children from atypical family backgrounds (adoptive, divorcing, separating etc.), highly contentious family backgrounds, including drafting various policies on child abuse, drugs, counselling, bullying, child's rights (under the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child), including dealing with allegations of negligence.

ACCOLADES

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Private Wealth and Family Law
2024 – Recommended lawyer
for 2 consecutive years



‘Hoon Shu Mei is my first choice for referrals of Singapore family matters and is also my first port of call when I need recommendations for family lawyers in other jurisdictions, maintaining as she does, an extensive network of specialists around the world.’

Singapore Business Review

Recognised as Singapore’s
30 most influential lawyers
aged 40 and under



Asian Legal Business SE Asia Law Awards

Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
2021, 2022 and 2023

Shu Mei is part of the team that won the Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year Award for handling some of the most complex, cross-border and intricate matrimonial and family law matters for three years in a row.

Chambers High Net Worth

Singapore: Family/Matrimonial: High Net Worth 2023 – Band 1

Singapore: Family/Matrimonial: High Net Worth 2022 – Up and Coming

"Her work and thinking is of a very high quality. She listens and always hits her committed timelines. She's immensely professional and also a joy to work with."

"Shu Mei is stellar and very professional. She is a rising star."

"Shu Mei is an up-and-coming lawyer who is experienced in family-related legal matters. Her practice encompasses asset distribution for high net worth couples going through divorce in addition to custody and relocation matters."

Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific

Family & Matrimonial 2023 - Future Star for 2 consecutive years

"She knows her law, is passionate about advancing her client's interests, but is also

open to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and resolving matters amicably without compromising her client's positions or concerns."

"Professional, knowledgeable, understanding, organised and personable."

Doyle's Guide

Family Law in Singapore 2023 -
Leading lawyer

Family Law in Singapore 2022 -
Recommended lawyer

Citywealth Leaders List

Top 100 International Private Client Litigation
Lawyers 2023 – Recommended

Top 50 Private Client and Family Legal
Heroes 2022 – Recommended

Family and Matrimonial 2021 - Recommended
Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

Top 100 Private Client Lawyers
2021 - Recommended



A client commended Shu Mei for being *"knowledgeable and thorough"*. The same client adding that she *"provided calm and sure guidance with her reassuring and articulate personality and style. Very professional and to the point."*

A client says: *"Shu Mei represented me in matters related to a highly contentious divorce proceeding that involved several jurisdictions. It was quickly evident through working with her that she is knowledgeable, experienced and respectful. During the process she was very responsive and spent time to help me navigate all the issues and ensured that I understood the legal implications and potential risks involved in any actions so that I can make an informed decision. This included acting on my behalf to research and explore legal implications in other jurisdictions so that we have a comprehensive resolution. She conducted herself in an utmost professional manner, and clearly explained each step of the process to me. Her legal skills, expertise, efficiency and empathy are instrumental when navigating the difficult decisions often involved in family law proceeding."*

"Shu Mei was experienced and held her client's hand and was able to reach a quick resolution to resolve the matter globally. She

will seek a practical outcome and resolve the matter effectively for the client.”

Member, Organising Committee of Family Law Conference 2019, 2021, 2023

Straits Times Singapore's Best Law Firms 2024 Survey

Shu Mei is part of the Family Law team awarded 5 stars in the Straits Times survey for 3 years.

PUBLICATIONS

- Randolph Khoo and Hoon Shu Mei are the co-authors to the Singapore chapter of the leading international jurisdictional textbook on family law, “Family Global Guide”, published by Thomson Reuters and Practical Law UK (2020 – 2024 ed.)
- Contributed to Singapore chapter titled, “Crypto in Trusts and Foundations” (1st ed, 2024, pending publication)
- Contributed to chapter titled “Trusts and Divorce” in *Family Law in Singapore* (2nd ed., in publication)
- Nandakumar Ponniya & Hoon Shu Mei, chapter titled “*Commencement of Arbitration*”, *Arbitration in Singapore: A Practical Guide* (1st ed., 2014)

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Asia Pacific Chapter Delegate, International Academy of Family Lawyers
- Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers
- Member, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Accredited Mediator, Singapore Mediation Centre, Singapore International Mediation Institute
- Collaborative Family Practitioner, Singapore Mediation Centre
- Member, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
- Assessor, Panel of Assessors for COVID-19 Temporary Relief, Ministry of Law Singapore
- Member, Law Society of Singapore Family Law Practice Committee 2020 - 2023;

