



Lim Mingguan
Director, Dispute Resolution

LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore
Admitted to the Singapore Bar in May 2010

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ABOUT MINGGUAN

Mingguan undertakes a broad spectrum of high-stakes and complex disputes. He has active commercial litigation and international arbitration practices (across all major institutions, including the SIAC, ICC and LCIA). He routinely appears before all levels of the Supreme Court, and has particular expertise in the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC).

Mingguan regularly represents and advises clients in the financial services industry, as well as tech companies, Web3 organisations, venture capital funds and start-ups. He is also actively involved in a variety of cryptocurrency related disputes. His clients also include high-net worth individuals, multinational institutions and governments, in contentious and regulatory matters.

In the Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2023, he was described as “*detail oriented, well rounded, systematic*”. Clients have also praised him as having “*an innate ability to grasp complex concepts*”, as well as a “*reassuring, personable style*”. He has also been noted for his able arguments and helpful submissions before the Courts.

Mingguan was awarded a Singapore Academy of Law Post-Qualification Overseas Attachment in 2019, and was placed with magic circle set Essex Court Chambers, where he was involved in complex disputes with prominent King’s Counsel. He is also a member of the Law Society’s Advocacy Committee, and is a trainer for the advocacy module for the Singapore Bar Exams.

EXPERTISE

Some of Mingguan’s representative matters include the following:

International Arbitration

- Acted for a publicly listed Singapore company in an international arbitration against a foreign state-owned entity, involving disputes arising out of a joint venture agreement for the establishment of foreign breweries. This case involved, among other things, the sale of shares valued at approximately US\$560 million.
- Acted for a decentralised web3 foundation in a contractual claim for the recovery of cryptocurrencies in a SIAC arbitration, in claims totaling more than US\$40m, leading to a successful settlement.
- Successfully acted for a group backed by sovereign wealth funds against an \$83 million emergency SIAC arbitration brought by a high-profile businessman and art dealer. The arbitration involved novel issues on whether the “alter-ego” and “group of companies” doctrines could found jurisdiction over non-signatories to an arbitration agreement.
- Acted for a foreign government in an international *ad hoc* arbitration, in defending a claim of over S\$30 million arising out of an agreement for piling works and the construction of a naval wharf.
- Acted in an international arbitration seated in Hong Kong, under the LCIA Rules, involving disputes arising out of a Stock and Asset Purchase Agreement governed by New York law.
- Acted for a water treatment company in an international SIAC arbitration involving disputes arising out of a shareholders’ agreement.
- Acted for an Ultra High Net worth individual in an ICC arbitration, arising

from an investment agreement relating to investments to be made in the CIS oil and gas sector. This arbitration also spawned related SIAC arbitrations.

Corporate & Commercial Litigation

- Acted for the China Country Head of Macquarie Bank in a suit brought against him and Macquarie Bank by a Chinese State-Owned Enterprise in the then nascent SICC. The dispute concerned a commodity swap transaction arising from the ISDA Master Agreement, and involved issues noted by the Court to be “*potentially of considerable significance to the derivatives market*”.
- Acted for the prospective purchaser of an offshore private bank in a suit in the SICC relating to allegations of misrepresentation in the setting-up of a cryptocurrency bank and cryptocurrency fraud, as well as in resisting an application for a worldwide freezing order / Mareva Injunction.
- Acted for an Ultra-High Net Worth Individual in a suit brought by The Star Casino in the SICC for the recovery of gaming debts over A\$43million. The matter was successfully struck out on the grounds of public policy.
- Acted against Deutsche Bank AG in a suit in the High Court, and on appeal to the Court of Appeal, in relation to the sale of shares by a mortgagee bank at an undervalue and an application for an anti-suit injunction. The claim was for approximately US\$80 million.
- Acted for the transferee of over €60 million worth of shares, currently being held in a custodian account with a bank, in relation to freezing orders obtained in Singapore, the UK and the BVI against those shares
- Advising various investors in cryptocurrency exchanges on their rights in the aftermath of “crypto-winter”. Noteworthy matters include acting for a creditor in the liquidation of Hodlnaut.
- Acted for the shareholder of a start-up offering integrated financial services technology platforms to businesses and consumers in India, in successfully defending a winding-up application. The Singapore High Court made

determinations on novel points of law on the standing of shareholders to resist creditors’ winding up applications.

Investigations and Advisory

- Advised a leading sovereign wealth fund over a number of years on various contentious and regulatory issues.
- Advising the most active venture capital firm in Southeast Asia on various contentious and regulatory issues in relation to its portfolio tech companies, including (a) their disclosure requirements; (b) discussions with regulatory bodies; and (c) their directors’ statutory duties.
- Engaged by a Swiss bank to advise its client-advisors in relation to investigations conducted by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. The advisors had allegedly deceived customers about the spreads for certain transactions involving over-the-counter bonds.
- Advised a partner of a leading Southeast Asian private equity tech firm in relation to internal investigations arising from allegations of mismanagement and improper professional relations.
- Advising tech start-ups, funds and founders on various issues relating to, among other things, share transfers, shareholder disputes, employment, and intellectual property.

ACCOLADES

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2023

“*Mingguan Lim – detail oriented, well rounded, systematic.*”

Awarded Singapore Academy of Law Post-Qualification Attachment in 2019

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Law Society IT Sub-Committee
- Member, Law Society Advocacy Sub-Committee