



Mahesh Rai

*Managing Director, Dispute Resolution
Deputy Head, Construction & Engineering*

LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore (2008), Shaw Foundation Scholar
LL.M. International Arbitration & Litigation, University College London (2009)
B.Sc. (1st Class Hons) Politics & International Relations, London School of Economics, External (2006)
Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2011)
Attorney-at-law of the state of New York (2011)
Advocate, Dubai International Financial Centre
Barrister of England & Wales (2025)

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ABOUT MAHESH

Mahesh is counsel of choice for complex and high-stakes litigation and arbitration. He has appeared as counsel in some 250 cases. His practice spans a range of industries including technology, construction, infrastructure, telecommunications, shipping, energy, and commodities.

He is widely praised as “a first-rate litigator,” “a master strategist,” and a lawyer who is “quick on his feet, precise in detail, and clear and concise in explanation.”

Mahesh is consistently ranked in several publications, including both Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global 2026 for Dispute Resolution: Litigation and Arbitration. The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2026 recommends him for Dispute Resolution, International Arbitration, Projects & Energy, White-Collar Crime and Construction.

He has been named one of Asia’s Super 50 Disputes Lawyers by Asian Legal Business (ALB) from 2021 to 2024, and was awarded Young Lawyer of the Year at the ALB SE Asia Law Awards in 2019. Mahesh is also recognised as a Litigation Star for Construction by Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific (2025).

Recognised for his exceptional skill in advocacy and sophisticated legal acumen, in 2021, Mahesh received the prestigious Joseph Grimberg Outstanding Young Advocate Award – a prize awarded to the most talented lawyers in Singapore who have demonstrated outstanding qualities in their professional work and ethical standards.

Mahesh graduated from the National University of Singapore (NUS) as a Shaw

Foundation Scholar. He earned an LL.M. in International Arbitration & Litigation from University College London (UCL) where he represented the United Kingdom as an oralist in the UCL team that was the runner-up in the prestigious Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

For his *pro bono* work and expanding access to justice, Mahesh was highlighted as one of Asia-Pacific’s Innovative Lawyers at The Financial Times’ annual Innovative Lawyers Asia-Pacific 2018 awards. He was also shortlisted for the 2018 IBA Outstanding Young Lawyer Award for his *pro bono* representation of accused persons facing the death penalty in Singapore and civil-party victims before the UN Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

EXPERIENCE

The following are some of the matters Mahesh has handled:

Investor-State Disputes

- Representing a group of investors in a collective investor-state treaty action valued at US\$300 million against the Swiss Confederation involving the Swiss government’s unprecedented decision to write down Credit Suisse’s Additional Tier-1 bonds.
- Represented an international contractor in two UNCITRAL arbitrations against the Maldivian Government for claims over US\$155 million relating to expropriation of land and delays to a project to construct public housing over 10 islands. Issues included expropriation and several technical experts were called to opine on delay, disruption, and force majeure issues.

- Representing an Asian technology company in their dispute against a sovereign African state, involving claims of expropriation and breach of fair and equitable treatment.
- Representing an international communications equipment company in an ICC arbitration against a sovereign Asian government for claims amounting to US\$25 million over a failed satellite communications project.

Fintech / Blockchain / Cryptocurrency

- Spearheading the first representative action (Singapore's equivalent of a class action) in the Singapore International Commercial Court in a dispute regarding the Terra-LUNA crash. Mahesh is representing 370 investors to recover losses against the blockchain technology firm, its founders, and an affiliated foundation, for losses totalling US\$65.6 million arising from the collapse of the TerraUSD stablecoin.
- Represented the founders of an algorithmic trading company in several suits amounting to more than US\$120 million over disputes relating to diversion of cryptocurrency, trading projects, proprietary software and minority oppression. Successfully obtained several injunctions against the majority shareholder.
- Obtained urgent injunctions for a prominent blockchain / cryptocurrency company in a claim against a former employee, to prohibit the disposal of tokens, disclosure of confidential information and securing a contempt conviction for the employee's disposal of tokens on the blockchain.
- Representing a blockchain / cryptocurrency company in an SIAC arbitration over the termination of a SAFT.

IT, Technology and Telecommunications

- Represented an international telecommunications infrastructure provider in one of the first telecommunications infrastructure project disputes in Myanmar. The US\$20 million dispute centred on issues such as power consumption, construction delays due to force majeure and the difficulties of building in rebel-held areas and regions affected by civil war.
- Represented various Myanmar telecommunications companies in SIAC

arbitrations over a range of disputes, including a contract for international SMS termination and firewall management, and lease payments under separate master agreements for tower site access. The latter dispute raised complex issues around Myanmar's evolving foreign exchange regime and credit financing landscape.

- Represented a leading multinational information technology and telecommunications company in two SIAC arbitrations against the telecommunications arm of a Malaysian conglomerate over contractual disputes relating to the design, commissioning and operation of a telecommunications network, and the supply of hardware and software.
- Represented a Filipino publicly listed company in an ICC arbitration against an American multinational corporation over a dispute involving the setup of a voice and data telecommunications network for maritime vessels and seafarers.
- Represented a leading telecommunications tower infrastructure provider over a series of disputes relating to breaches of supply and installation agreements.
- Advised a multinational company in its international arbitration against the developers of a CRM system.

Construction

- Represented a Korean multinational conglomerate in an UNCITRAL arbitration against an Indian state-owned company over claims exceeding US\$400 million arising out of the construction of a petrochemical plant.
- Representing three Indian SPVs and their Singapore parent company in an SIAC arbitration over claims worth about US\$60 million arising from defects and failure to complete works on a project to build national highways in India.
- Representing the employer in a construction dispute over a numerous defects affecting a S\$400 million project.
- Representing the respondents in a consolidated arbitration over the construction of a Good Class Bungalow. The dispute, valued at S\$37.5 million, includes cross-claims between the parties

and additional claims against three subcontractors, covering issues such as delay damages, defective works, variation and provisional sum payments, and the non-issuance of architect's Maintenance Certificate.

- Represented a Vietnamese government entity in an US\$160 million EPC construction and engineering arbitration over a hydropower project in central Vietnam.
- Represented a Malaysian publicly-listed company in a US\$21 million ICC arbitration, governed by Thai law, against a Thai public-listed company over the design, construction and commissioning of an industrial steam boiler for the palm oil industry.

Shipping

- Representing two Indian companies in relation to the breach of an alleged settlement agreement in respect of buying and selling of certain vessels and shares of a company.
- Represented a leading maritime services company in five arbitrations (amounting to approximately S\$32 million) against a former joint venture partner arising out of breaches of various agreements entered by the parties to the joint venture.
- Represented Keppel Singmarine in a High Court suit against Viking HVAC and Airtech over defects arising out of HVAC installation on derrick lay vessel.
- Represented Swiber Holdings Ltd and Swiber Offshore Construction Pte Ltd in proceedings before the Singapore High Court and Court of Appeal. Successfully struck out a frivolous claim by Likpin International, a Middle Eastern corporation.
- Represented a major SGX-listed shipping company in two SIAC arbitrations totaling US\$12 million against a Dubai-registered marine construction company and a Vietnamese state-owned petrochemical company for breach of charterparties.
- Represented a €6 billion Norwegian company against a Chinese public listed company in a US\$20 million maritime arbitration applying Swiss law and Chinese law. Project delays arose from a tug and tow

accident in the South China Sea, involving issues of seaworthiness of vessels, obligations under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 and gross negligence.

- Represented a leading Japanese conglomerate in a shipping dispute involving fraudulent switch bills of lading and conversion.

Companies and Insolvency

- Representing a BVI company in relation to Mareva injunctions obtained in the Singapore courts, in support of multiple parallel proceedings in which we are also representing the company and/or coordinating legal strategy.
- Represented a Korean manufacturer in two SIAC arbitrations (totaling more than US\$387 million) against its Iranian exclusive distributor for alleged breaches of distributorship agreements resulting in loss of market share in Iran, as well as its counterclaims for outstanding receivables and unauthorised use of trademarks.
- Represented a Singapore advertising and graphic design firm in a High Court suit against a renowned luxury hotel operator, in a claim for copyright infringement which involved novel issues. Successfully upheld the judgment on appeal before the Appellate Division.
- Representing the managing director and a shareholder of Southeast Asia's leading pipe trading company in several High Court suits involving minority oppression, derivative claims, trusts and receivership.
- Representing a tycoon in a series of suits and an arbitration arising from disputes over shareholders of a leading oil and gas equipment supplier.
- Represented a shareholder of a leading events company in a potential winding up matter. A successful buyout of our client's shares with minimal exit obligations was negotiated.
- Represented a major private equity group in the infrastructure sector on its minority oppression claims against the majority shareholders and directors controlling an IT project SPV across multiple jurisdictions

concerning its approximately S\$93 million investment into the SPV and subsidiaries.

Contract

- Represented a Chinese investor in High Court claims against two doctors for misrepresentation and breaches of contract.
- Represented the part-owner of one of Vietnam's largest coffee empires in a suit before the Singapore High Court involving conspiracy, contractual breaches and tortious claims.
- Represented a German multinational automotive corporation in an ICC arbitration against a Singaporean joint venture investment company over losses arising from a failed semi-professional racing series in South-East Asia.
- Represented the Government of the UAE in a S\$50 million claim against a healthcare group for exorbitant charges.

Crime

- Successfully defended Indonesian tycoon Kris Wiluan who faced 112 charges for violations of section 197 of the Securities and Futures Act for market-rigging purchases of KS Energy shares. Secured a plea deal for only three charges to be proceeded with and a non-custodial sentence of a fine of S\$480,000.
- Represented the defendants in one of the biggest white-collar prosecutions brought by the Commercial Affairs Division for criminal breach of trust and falsification of accounts.
- Represented the COO of one of Asia's largest e-commerce startups in investigations relating to round-tripping of funds, falsification of accounts and invoices and non-disclosure of material information.
- Appointed by the Supreme Court of Singapore as *Amicus Curiae* (friend of the court) in an appeal to the Singapore High Court in a novel case involving money-laundering and Li Huabo (the No. 2 individual on China's 100 "most wanted" corrupt officials list).

Pro Bono Criminal Representation

- Representing civil parties / victims before the United Nations Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Case 002/02 against Nuon Chea ("*Brother*

Number Two", second-in-command to Pol Pot) and Khieu Samphan (president of Democratic Kampuchea 1976– 1979).

- Defended a number of indigent accused persons *pro bono* in criminal proceedings under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, The Legal 500 Investment Treaty Arbitration Comparative Guide 2025 to 2026 (Singapore Chapter)
- Co-author, Lexology Panoramic: Sanctions 2024 to 2026 (Singapore Chapter)
- Co-author, The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guide – Litigation 2021; 2022 to 2026 (Singapore chapter)
- Contributing author, Singapore Civil Procedure 2023 to 2025
- Co-author, International Comparative Legal Guide – Construction & Engineering Law 2021 to 2024 (Singapore chapter)
- Expert author, Commonwealth Study on International Commercial Arbitration 2019
- Co-author, Chambers and Partners Global Practice Guides – Litigation 2019 (Singapore chapter)
- Contributing author, Global Investigations Review, The Practitioner's Guide to Global Investigations 2017 and 2018 (1st and 2nd edition)
- Contributing author, Global Investigations Review's Practitioner's Guide to Global Investigations (Edition 2) newsletter (2018)
- Contributing author, "FIDIC Around the World – Singapore", appeared in the 2017 Construction Law International Vol.12 Issue 3; published by the International Bar Association

ACCOLADES

Chambers Asia-Pacific & Chambers Global

Dispute Resolution: Litigation – Singapore 2026 – Band 5 (4 consecutive years)

Dispute Resolution: Arbitration – Singapore 2026 – Band 4 (5 years ranked)



Dispute Resolution (International Firms) - India 2026 – Singapore expertise based abroad (3 consecutive years)

Construction – Singapore 2026 – Band 3 (4 years ranked)

"He is a highly skilled and versatile lawyer."

"He is extremely intelligent, very capable of answering our questions and our top choice when it comes to heavy and complex matters."

"The quality that stands out the most about Mahesh is his ability to offer innovative solutions to very complex problems."

"Mahesh is one of the best lawyers I have ever worked with. He is hard-working, super commercial and very sharp."

"He is extremely commercial and pragmatic."

"Mahesh has excellent skills and a professional approach."

"He shows a keen awareness of the client's needs and guides us well on matters."

"He's very prominent and very aggressive."

"Mahesh is an excellent examiner, very good on his feet and very sharp. He is very solution-oriented."

"He is extremely knowledgeable and up to date on various issues. He is able to mitigate situations while keeping the commercialities in mind."

"Mahesh is one of the best lawyers I have ever worked with. He is smart and practical."

"extremely talented and hard-working"

"He is very knowledgeable and clear in conversations, systematic in his approach and reassuring to the client."

"His ability to present cases to tribunals is really excellent."

"Mahesh Rai is very clever and well versed with the law. An excellent advocate who would have thoroughly mastered the case by the time one is at the hearing, he is very user-friendly as well."

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Dispute Resolution 2026 – Recommended lawyer for 3 consecutive years

International Arbitration 2026 – Next Generation Lawyer for 6 years

Projects & Energy 2026 – Recommended lawyer for 7 years

White-Collar Crime 2026 – Recommended lawyer for 6 consecutive years

Construction 2026 – Recommended lawyer for 6 consecutive years

"Mahesh Rai is the core partner who is in charge of construction matters. His strong grip for related facts and legal issues make him shine when advocating."

"Mahesh Rai is brilliant and on top of everything. Someone you would want on your side."

"Mahesh Rai's in-depth knowledge of construction law was very evident in the initial meeting of the arbitration dispute – which was key in convincing the client to move forward with the arbitration case. He was able to give a clear picture and an accurate timeline of how the case would proceed all the while giving constant updates on the progress of the case."

"Highly recommend Mahesh Rai. He fits the firm's profile of being efficient and excellent at advocacy. Would not be surprised if he becomes the next and youngest senior counsel."

"Mahesh Rai provides good input based on his vast experience and commercial knowledge of the industry."

"Mahesh Rai is highly regarded for construction and engineering disputes"

Sources say *"Mahesh Rai was always on top of every aspect of the dispute, nothing could slip away from him. His strategic advice and sound reasoning were key in developing and framing claim."*

"wonderfully engaging to deal with and has an incredibly relaxed manner"



The Legal 500 Arbitration Powerlist: Southeast Asia 2023

Recognised as a leading arbitration counsel in the Southeast Asia region for 2 consecutive years



Best Lawyers International: Singapore

Arbitration and Mediation 2027 – Endorsed individual

Litigation 2027 – Endorsed Individual for 3 consecutive years

Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific

Construction 2026 – Litigation Star for 2 consecutive years (Previously Future Star for 3 consecutive years)

India Business Law Journal (IBLJ)

Recognised as a top international India expert in IBLJ's International A-List 2026 for 4 consecutive years



Asian Legal Business Asia Super 50 Disputes Lawyers 2024

Recognised as being amongst the top 50 disputes lawyers in the region for 4 consecutive years



"Mahesh is highly strategic and consistently achieves wins in challenging cases."

"He's unmatched in his field."

"Mahesh adeptly navigates complex issues and delivers commercially savvy solutions."

A client rates Mahesh as *"top of the class"*, while another adds: *"Working with Mahesh and his team has been seamless from start to finish. As soon as Mahesh stepped in, our long-standing dispute got resolved in no time."*

Rated *"10/10"* by a client, Mahesh is lauded for working *"that extra 10 percent to ensure all bases are covered, and was always three steps ahead of the defendant in my High Court litigation"*.

The Joseph Grimberg Outstanding Young Advocate Award 2021

Winner of the annual award instituted by the Singapore Academy of Law and Drew & Napier which recognises young lawyers in

good standing who exhibit professional excellence, service to the profession and the bar; service to the community; and/or a reputation for or the advancement of legal ethics and professional responsibility. The award also recognises lawyers who demonstrate the same professional excellence and high ethical standards that Mr Grimberg embodied.

Asian Legal Business SE Asia Law Awards 2019

Young Lawyer of the Year – Mahesh Rai



Financial Times Innovative Lawyers APAC 2018 awards

Mahesh was commended for his commitment to *pro bono* advocacy, highlighting his work with HOME (Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics) and AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research) that led him to challenge laws that disadvantage migrant and refugee workers.

Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal)

Arbitration 2026 – Thought Leader; Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years; Future Leader for 4 consecutive years

Commercial Litigation 2025 – Recommended Lawyer for 3 consecutive years

Construction 2025 – Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

Global Elite Thought Leader – Under 45: Arbitration 2023

Global Elite Thought Leader – Under 45: Investigations 2023 for 2 consecutive years

Global Guide: Investigations 2022 – Future Leader for 5 consecutive years

Southeast Asia – Arbitration 2025 – Recommended Lawyer for 5 consecutive years

Southeast Asia – Commercial Litigation 2025 – Recommended Lawyer for 5 consecutive years

Southeast Asia – Investigations 2025 – Recommended Lawyer for 3 consecutive years

"We were impressed by not only Mahesh's knowledge but also his experience on such cross-border matters."

Mahesh Rai impresses as "one of Singapore's best dispute resolution specialists", with peers commending his "expertise in construction disputes" and "strong pipeline of arbitration work across the Asia-Pacific region".

Mahesh Rai is a "sensational lawyer" who "has built a strong practice" in corporate investigations.

Mahesh "is always keen to think out of the box" applaud sources who commend his "great industry knowledge and level of responsiveness".

Mahesh Rai is "truly a leader in this area"...He provides specialist insight into disputes in the telecommunications and energy sectors.

"Mahesh is quick on his feet, pays attention to detail and is clear and concise in his explanations."

Asialaw Leading Lawyers

Dispute Resolution 2025 – Distinguished Practitioner for 2 consecutive years (previously Rising Star for 2 consecutive years)

Dispute Resolution & Litigation 2018 – Leading Lawyer for 2 years

"I have worked with Mahesh Rai's team (so Mahesh, Jonathan Yong and Samuel Soo, in particular). They are excellent lawyers who bring significant strategic insight and close attention to detail to their work, which is efficient and cost effective."

"Very hard-working, responsive, easy to work with and results-oriented. He is also very bright and solution-oriented."

"Mahesh is a strategic thinker who directs his team to do effective and efficient work."

"Both from a personal and a professional point of view, I found Mahesh as someone impressive and genuine. He has great analytical skills, able to listen well, and very good in communication, as I often saw him carry himself so well in the court or in any kind of joint discussions. He provides me as a client with great sensitivity, tending the needs of my case in his best way. Mahesh also

always comes up with great strategy, showing his creativity as a veteran lawyer."

"Mahesh Rai is exceptional, bright, and very responsive."

"A superb advocate and on par with other senior counsels."

"Professional, knowledgeable and approachable. His quick and laser mind would do well in any subject-matter."

"His domain knowledge in blockchain, fintech and technology makes him brutally effective in disputes regarding these matters, more than the other top-ranked disputes teams in Singapore. This is a very key differentiator. The team is very meticulous and has great attention to detail, and catches both technology-related and more typical factual nuances of cases. Mr Rai himself is a very forceful and cunning cross-examiner in court, and has a commanding presence that allows him to take control of court proceedings, even against senior counsels and litigators much more senior than him. He is also extremely responsive, and he and his team readily respond to queries even at 11pm or on a Sunday. Finally, he gives straightforward, practical, concise, commercial and very concrete recommendations when asked for options, including cost considerations. He will not give theoretical or abstract answers, and will not give tentative or timid recommendations that do not allow a client to visualise a concrete course of action."

"Strong knowledge of laws in India and good knowledge of the country's legal infrastructure."

"His personal approach to a transaction goes a long way."

"Always approachable, a patient listener, has sound industry knowledge, excellent knowledge of law and always provides practical solutions."

"Mahesh listens well and is a great tactician."

"Excellent, thorough, and balanced risk management and advice."

"Creative solutions and very focused."

"Quick, efficient and super-understanding of the matter and case file."

“Mahesh has sound knowledge and expertise in disputes relating to telecom towers industry. He is spot on his turnaround time and has an eye for details.”

“Deep understanding of Singapore law and appreciation of practical problems in multijurisdictional litigations.”

Sources say Mahesh “demonstrates commitment and responsiveness to queries at all hours. A very driven individual who has sensible commercial solutions. A capable lawyer who delivers results we ask for.”

“Mahesh is a first-rate litigator with a good eye for detail. He grasps issues quickly, was accessible and was excellent in providing commercial solutions to our problems.”

“Mahesh is an excellent disputes lawyer and a master strategist with a deserved reputation for solving complex issues. He was very user friendly, commercially-minded and was one of the best lawyers my company has worked with.”

Global Arbitration Review 19th edition (2026)

A client commends Mahesh Rai as “a standout lawyer of his generation” and a “fantastic advocate”.

A client calls Mahesh Rai a “distinguished lawyer who is intellectually superior to many of his peers” and says that he has “a proven ability to cut short otherwise drawn-out legal processes by his finesse and skill in bringing parties to a settlement.”

Mahesh Rai was praised for his “diligent and precise” work.

A client said Mahesh “expressed a commendable level of personal engagement and was always available to provide support, guidance and direction from start to end.”

Global Investigations Review 100 (GIR 100) 5th edition (2019)

Recognised as a leading individual for investigations.



GIR 100 identifies top 100 firms worldwide that handle complex cross-border government-led and internal investigations.

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- International Panel of Arbitrators and Mediators, American Arbitration Association – International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA-ICDR)
- Insolvency Committee Liaison Officer, International Bar Association (IBA)
- Director, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Singapore Branch
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Panel Arbitrator, Singapore International Arbitration Centre, Reserve Panel
- Arbitrator, Asian International Arbitration Centre Panel
- Panel of Arbitrators, Thailand Arbitration Centre (THAC)
- Panel of International Arbitrators, Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB)
- Panel of Arbitrators, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- Legal Practitioner, Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts
- Assessor, Panel of Assessors for COVID-19 Temporary Relief, Ministry of Law
- Accredited Specialist (Building and Construction), Singapore Academy of Law
- Chairman, CIArb Young Members Group
- Member, Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law