



**Siraj Omar, SC**  
*Managing Director, Dispute Resolution*

LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore (1997)  
Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore (1998)  
Solicitor, England & Wales (2002)  
Appointed Senior Counsel (2019)  
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## ABOUT SIRAJ

Siraj specialises in complex, high-value commercial litigation and international arbitration. He has an active trial and appellate practice at all levels of the Courts in Singapore and in international arbitrations.

He is a civilian panel member of the Military Court of Appeal and Deputy Commissioner of the Government Procurement Adjudication Tribunal. He also sits as arbitrator in international arbitrations and as a mediator.

Siraj is a member of the Board of Directors of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and a member of its Board Executive Committee. He sits on the Practice Advisory Committee of the Singapore Management University School of Law.

He is recognised in all the leading legal directories and has been described as "a star" and "a formidable litigator". He was appointed Senior Counsel by the Chief Justice of Singapore in 2019, one of a select few to be accorded the honour.

Siraj began his career at Drew & Napier in 1997 before leaving in 2002 to join the corporate practice of an international law firm. In 2008, he co-founded Premier Law and headed its Dispute Resolution practice. In 2016, Premier Law entered into a joint venture with the UK law firm RPC, and Siraj was concurrently a Partner and Head of Dispute Resolution at the joint venture firm, RPC Premier Law. He re-joined Drew & Napier as a Director in 2019.

He sits on the Working Group of the Professional Conduct Council chaired by the Chief Justice of Singapore and the Accreditation Committee of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE) and was a member of the Singapore International Commercial Court Rules Sub-Committee. He is a past member of the Council of The Law

Society of Singapore and has sat as a member of its Inquiry Panel since 2009.

## EXPERIENCE

Siraj has acted in several landmark matters before the Courts including:

- Acting for the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS) in a prosecution of 6 entities and individuals under the Singapore Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act (CPFTA). This was the first exercise of the CCCS' enforcement powers under the CPFTA.
- Acting in a successful application to the Singapore High Court to sanction the restructure of a US\$325 million note issued by Blue Ocean Resources Pte Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of a company listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange. This was the first successful application of its kind in Singapore in relation to the restructuring of such a note using the scheme of arrangement provisions in the Singapore Companies Act.
- Acting for a group of 212 investors in a representative action in the Singapore High Court against DBS Bank Limited in relation to their failed investment in structured notes issued by the bank. This was one of very few representative actions launched in the Singapore Court, and the only one arising out of the 2008 financial crisis.

## BANKING AND FINANCIAL DISPUTES

Siraj has an active and wide-ranging banking and financial disputes practice. He has advised clients from all over the world in respect of claims against various local and international banks. Examples include:

- Acting for Oei Hong Leong in a US\$40 million claim against Goldman Sachs International.

- Acting for Lippo Marina Collection Pte Ltd, a Singapore-incorporated property developer, in defending a claim by United Overseas Bank Ltd for damages estimated at S\$138 million.
- Advising an Indonesian national in respect of her US\$40 million claim against Deutsche Bank.

Siraj has also advised and acted for bank employees in investigations conducted by regulatory authorities and/or their respective employers. These include:

- Advising various bankers in separate investigations into (among other things) allegations of market-wide manipulation and other improper conduct in connection with benchmark foreign exchange rates.
- Advised the former Asia Chairman of a global investment bank in relation to representations to be made to the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

## **CORPORATION / COMMERCIAL DISPUTES**

Siraj has a wide-ranging corporate / commercial disputes practice, ranging from shareholders' disputes, claims against directors for fraud / breaches of directors' duties and contractual disputes. Examples include:

- Advising the directors of a subsidiary of a Hong Kong-listed company in claims brought against them by an investor alleging fraudulent misrepresentations and conspiracy in relation to the aborted sale of shares in that company.
- Acting for the former co-CEO of Nobel Group Limited, in claims brought against him and other directors by Goldilocks Investment Company Limited on behalf of the shareholders of the company.
- Acting for the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sakae Holdings Ltd, a company listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, in 3 separate but related suits brought against him seeking an indemnity and/or contribution in respect of claims for breach of fiduciary duties and minority shareholders oppression.
- Acting for TWG Tea Company Pte Ltd in legal proceedings brought by minority shareholders against the company and its

other shareholders in respect of alleged minority shareholder oppression and other claims.

- Acting for Malayan Dairy Industries Pte Ltd and 2 other related companies in legal proceedings brought by minority shareholders against the companies and other shareholders in respect of alleged minority shareholder oppression and other claims.
- Acting for 14 foreign individuals and companies in defending a claim for IDR 185 billion brought against them by Medley Opportunity Fund Ltd, a US-based investment fund. The matter included successfully setting aside a worldwide Mareva injunction that had been obtained against the clients *ex parte* and staying all further proceedings in the matter.
- Acting for Brightstar International GmbH, a company incorporated in Germany, in proceedings brought against its former directors and others for fraud and breaches of fiduciary duties owed to the company.
- Acting for UDL Marine (Singapore) Pte Ltd, the wholly-owned subsidiary of UDL Holdings Ltd, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, in its claims against the Jurong Town Corporation and the Economic Development Board.
- Acting for Iconic Global Limited (formerly known as China Food Industries Limited), a company formerly listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, in its claim against (i) its former auditors Deloitte & Touche LLP and one of its audit partners in relation to the negligent audit of its accounts and (ii) its former directors for breaches of fiduciary duties owed to the company.

## **RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY-RELATED DISPUTES**

- Acting for the former directors of Parakou Shipping Pte Ltd, a Singapore-incorporated company that was part of the Parakou Group of companies, in proceedings commenced by liquidators of the company alleging that the former directors had acted improperly.
- Acting for the liquidators of DMX Technologies Group Ltd in its claim against

its former auditors Deloitte & Touche LLP in relation to the negligent audit of its accounts.

- Acting for liquidators appointed by the High Court of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in their claim against Sukanto Sia and Lee Howe Yong, the former directors of a BVI company, for breaches of fiduciary duties owed to that company. The matter included defending the 2 liquidators against a Counterclaim brought against them personally by one of the former directors.

## INSURANCE DISPUTES

Siraj has advised and acted for and against major insurers in a wide range of insurance claims and disputes. The most recent of these include:

- Acting for an international insurer in successfully resisting a claim on a US\$36 million claim by a local bank under a trade credit insurance policy.
- Advising a leading local insurer in respect of claims brought under various insurance policies and arising from business interruption caused by restrictions imposed by the Government as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Acting / advising a leading local bank in claims under various trade credit insurance policies totalling approx. US\$200m.
- Advising a Thai hotel in relation to a claim under an insurance policy for losses arising from the forced closure of the hotel because of measures imposed by the Thai government to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATIONS

Siraj has advised and acted as counsel in numerous arbitration proceedings. These include:

- Acting for a leading tech company in defending claims totalling approx. \$13.5 million brought in relation to its online marketplace business.
- Acting for a Japanese private equity fund in consolidated international arbitration proceedings involving claims totalling approx. US\$45 million arising in relation to an investment in the food and beverage industry.

- Acting for a Canadian company in an international arbitration under the SIAC Rules in a dispute arising from a franchise agreement with a Singapore company.
- Acting for an Indonesian company in an international arbitration under the SIAC Rules involving a claim arising from the provision of specialised storage tanks for liquefied gas in Indonesia.
- Acting for a Singapore company in an *ad hoc* international arbitration involving a claim against a Malaysian company relating to a power project in Indonesia.
- Acting for various parties in applications before the Singapore courts to set aside / enforce international arbitral awards.

## ACCOLADES

**Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global**  
Dispute Resolution:  
Litigation 2023 – Band 4;  
Recognised Practitioner in  
2020



*"I regard Siraj very well, and I think he is an excellent lawyer who has handled very prominent cases"*

Siraj Omar SC is a well-regarded commercial litigator who attracts plenty of praise from market source, with one describing him as *"very practical and a great lawyer,"* and another noting he is *"very talented and a very good litigator."*

## The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Dispute Resolution 2022 –  
Leading Individual for 3  
consecutive years

International Arbitration 2022  
– Recommended Lawyer for  
2 consecutive years

*"Siraj Omar SC is a leading light and a juggernaut in the industry."*

Sources say, *"I have worked with the following individual(s) in international arbitration... Siraj Omar SC is very competent."*

The Legal 500 said that Siraj *"provides additional firepower in banking and insolvency*



*disputes” and describes him as “a formidable litigator”.*

**Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific**  
Commercial and Transactions 2022 –  
Litigation Star for 3 consecutive years

Insolvency 2020 – Litigation Star

*“Siraj gives timely and spot on advice, has commercial solutions and has successful outcomes in court.”*

*“Siraj is very experienced in terms of the types of transaction that we are having trouble with and also he has a great track record on cross-border disputes.”*

### **asialaw Leading Lawyers**

Dispute Resolution 2023 – Distinguished Practitioner for 4 consecutive years

*“Siraj provides timely, commercially useful and clear advice. He is also very user-friendly, and is proactive in proposing solutions that are creative and strategic in nature. He knows arbitration and court work well. He and his team are also very professional, polished and give a very high quality of service.”*

A client praised Siraj for being *“Very knowledgeable. Good disposition. Acts in the client’s best interests. Good rapport with other lawyers. Good strategist.”*

### **Best Lawyers International: Singapore**

Arbitration and Mediation 2023 – Endorsed individual for 3 consecutive years

Litigation 2023 – Endorsed individual

### **Who’s Who Legal**

Global Guide: Commercial Litigation 2022 – Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

National Guide: Southeast Asia - Arbitration 2022 – Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

National Guide: Southeast Asia - Litigation 2022 – Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

*“Siraj ranks among the very elite of practitioners for his expert litigation on complex and difficult commercial cases.”*

*“Siraj is internationally renowned for his practice which focuses on high-value*

*commercial litigation in the arenas of fraud, insurance and professional negligence.”*

Siraj receives a widespread praise from sources who applaud his ability to provide *“strong, practical advice about whatever the situation or outcome from the courts”.*

## **APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS**

- Member, Board of Directors and Board Executive Committee, Singapore International Arbitration Centre
- Deputy Commissioner, Government Procurement Adjudication Tribunal
- Civilian panel member, Military Court of Appeal
- Member, Practice Advisory Committee of the School of Law, Singapore Management University
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, Accreditation Committee under the CPD Scheme, Singapore Institute of Legal Education (SILE)
- Member, International Association of Defence Counsel
- Member, Law Society of Singapore