



Chen Zhihui
Director, Dispute Resolution

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ABOUT ZHIHUI

Zhihui is a Singapore qualified lawyer with a practice that focuses on civil and commercial dispute resolution. He has acted for clients in a wide range of contentious matters, including construction, infrastructure, energy, shipping, international trade, shareholders, joint venture, employment, MCST, and arbitration-related litigation.

Zhihui has experience in international arbitrations, both *ad hoc* and institutional (including SIAC, HKIAC, LMAA, SCMA, CIETAC, etc). He has appeared before all levels of the Singapore courts, and also regularly represents clients in adjudication proceedings under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific recommends Zhihui for International Arbitration (2023 edition) and Construction (2024 edition), where he is described as “a *very solid construction disputes lawyer*” and “*always a phone call away to provide professional and sound advice*”.

Besides contentious work, he regularly advises clients on non-contentious matters, ranging from review and drafting of contracts to general corporate and legal advisory work.

Zhihui read law at the University of Southampton and graduated with First Class Honours. He was also awarded numerous academic prizes, including Seymour J Gubb Prize (top first year student), Law School Prize (top second year student), Law School Prize (joint runner-up final year student), Swords Prize (best dissertation paper), Macfarlanes Prize (top student in contract law), Moore Blatch Prize (top student in equity and trusts) amongst others. In addition to his legal education, Zhihui also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the National University of Singapore.

Zhihui is fluent in both English and Mandarin Chinese.

EXPERIENCE

Some of the matters in which Zhihui has acted include the following (*):

Building & Construction

- Acted for the main contractor in an arbitration in relation to a sporting facility (Singapore seat, SIAC rules).
- Acted for the reinforced concrete sub-contractor in an arbitration in relation to a landmark mixed-use development in Singapore with claims and counterclaims concerning issues of delays and defects in excess of S\$100 million (Singapore seat, SIAC rules).
- Acted for the main contractor in resisting a call on performance bond by the employer on ground of unconscionability.
- Advised the structural steel sub-contractor in relation to issues concerning extension of time, delays, and variation works for a public sector project in Singapore.
- Acted for claimants and respondents in adjudications under the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act.

Infrastructure & Energy

- Advised the contractor in relation to issues concerning delays and disruption and payment dispute in a mass rapid train (MRT) project.
- Acted for the employer in an arbitration against the contractor in relation to a wind farm project in Vietnam (Singapore seat, SIAC rules).
- Advised a US-listed solar energy company on a transaction with a Chinese counterparty.

Civil and commercial disputes

- **Arbitration-related litigation** - Acted for a successful claimant in resisting an application to set aside the arbitration award: HC/OA 94/2022 and HC/OA 228/2022 (unreported).
- **International trade** - Acted for a Singapore company in a claim against a Chinese state-owned entity in relation to a supply contract with claims in excess of US\$30 million (China seated, CIETAC rules).
- **International trade** - Acted for a Chinese company in a claim against sellers of steam coal for the breach of a sale and purchase agreement (Hong Kong seat, HKIAC rules).
- **Shipbuilding** - Acted for a shipowner in an arbitration against a Chinese shipyard in relation to defects in the vessel (Hong Kong seat, HKIAC rules).
- **Charterparty** - Acted for a shipowner in a claim against charterers for repudiatory breach of contract of affreightment resulting in losses in excess of US\$5 million (Hong Kong seat, LMAA rules).
- **Air & marine cargo insurance** – Advised and acted for air and marine cargo insurers in respect of coverage and subrogated recovery work.
- **Property damage / Limitation fund** - Acted for an oil major in relation to claims for damage to pipelines caused by the allision of a passing vessel, and the Court proceedings commenced by the shipowner to set up the limitation fund: Falcon Grace Pte Ltd v Vopak Terminals Singapore Pte Ltd and Others HC/ADM 116/2017 (19 April 2018) (unreported).
- **Employment** - Acted for a Singapore listed company in defending a S\$6 million claim brought by an ex C-level executive for the termination of an allegedly fixed long term employment contract (Singapore seat, SIAC rules).
- **MCST** – Acted for the MCST in a claim against a subsidiary proprietor for breach of by-laws concerning encroachment onto common property.

Commercial Advisory & Non-Contentious Work

- Retained by the Singapore subsidiary of a Chinese-listed company to provide general corporate and legal advisory work.
- Advised a commodity broker on compliance and settlement proceedings with ICE Futures Europe.

(*includes experience in previous firm)

ACCOLADES

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Construction 2025 – Recommended Lawyer
International Arbitration 2023 – Recommended Lawyer

“Chen Zhihui is a very solid construction disputes lawyer.”

“Christopher Chong and Chen Zhihui are always a phone call away to provide professional and sound advice.”

“... a solid team, whether as a whole or individually, are more than capable of pulling their own weight and delivering value to us in the context of the role they play; we must mention ... Zhihui Chen ...”



PUBLICATIONS

- From “Yam Seng” to Divorce: Navigating (in good faith) joint venture agreements in construction projects (co-authored with Kelvin Teo) - Society of Construction Law (Singapore) · Apr 1, 2020
- When can insurers rely on a sanctions clause to refuse to pay a claim? Mamancochet Mining Ltd v Aegis Managing Agency Ltd [2018] EWHC 2643 (comm) [2018] 18(8) Shipping & Trade Law 1
- When is a bill of lading not a bill of lading: The Star Quest and others [2016] SGHC 100 - [2017] 17(2) Shipping & Trade Law 3

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law