



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 ICC, SIAC, HKIAC, LMAA, SCMA, CIETAC, BANI, 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.

In addition to contentious work, Zhihui regularly advises clients on a broad range of transactional and advisory matters, including drafting and advising on contracts, employment issues, corporate restructuring, and general corporate and legal advisory matters.

Zhihui is widely recognised by leading legal directories, including *The Legal 500*, *Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal)*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *Asialaw*, and *Asian Legal Business (ALB)*. He is recommended by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* for International Arbitration (2023) and Construction (2025), and is recognised by *Lexology Index* as a Future Leader in Commercial Litigation (2025). *Asialaw* and *Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific* have respectively ranked him as a Rising Star in Dispute Resolution (2025) and Future Star in Construction (2025). In 2025, *Asian Legal Business* named Zhihui as one of the "exceptional legal talents across Asia" in its ALB Asia 40 Under 40 list.

Clients have described him as "a very solid construction disputes lawyer", "always a phone call away to provide professional and sound

advice", "extremely diligent, analytical, knowledgeable", able to make "complex legal concepts easy to understand", and "a brilliant lawyer and very easy to work with".

Zhihui graduated from the University of Southampton with First Class Honours, where he was the top student in his first and second year and the joint runner-up in the final year. He received several academic prizes, including those for Best Dissertation, Top Student in Contract Law, and Top Student in Equity and Trusts. He also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the National University of Singapore.

He 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: Local Firm 2025 - Recommended Individual

International Arbitration 2023 - Recommended Individual

“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 ...”

Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal), Singapore

Commercial Litigation 2025 – Future Leader

Benchmark Litigation, Asia Pacific

Construction 2025 - Future Star

Asialaw

Dispute Resolution 2025 - Rising Star

Asia Legal Business (ALB)

Recognised as one of the 40 exceptional legal talents under the age of 40 by the Asia Legal Business (ALB) "Asia 40 under 40, 2025" list – (October 2025 issue)

He has been praised by clients, who describe him as "extremely diligent, analytical, knowledgeable", "makes complex legal concepts easy to understand", and "a brilliant lawyer and very easy to work with".

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