



## Hoon Shu Mei *Director, Dispute Resolution*

LLB (Hons), The University of Manchester (2008)

Graduate Diploma in Singapore Law, National University of Singapore (2009)

Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2010)

Accredited Mediator (2019), Collaborative Family Practitioner (2018), Singapore Mediation Centre

Accredited Mediator, Singapore International Mediation Institute (2020)

Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers (2021)

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### **ABOUT SHU MEI**

Shu Mei is a sought-after advocate and a trusted advisor to the modern family.

With a niche practice in private client and family disputes, Shu Mei appears regularly as advocate at all levels of the Singapore Courts on all matters affecting the family including division of matrimonial assets, maintenance, family violence, complex custody and international relocation, as well as trust and property disputes.

As an accredited mediator and an accredited Collaborative Family Practitioner, she strives to find common ground even in the most complex of cases in negotiations and mediations, whether as an advocate or a neutral.

She has expertise drafting and negotiating prenuptial, postnuptial, financial arrangement and parenting agreements between family members, and has experience litigating such arrangements and agreements as well.

Shu Mei was appointed a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) in 2021. IAFL is a worldwide association of practicing lawyers who are recognized by their peers as the most experienced family law specialists in their respective countries. She was appointed to the Board of Governors of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) in 2023. In 2024, she was admitted to the prestigious Private Client Global Elite directory, for her expertise in international private client and family disputes.

Shu Mei is adept at dealing with clients' international family disputes, involving multiple jurisdictions. She has provided legal expert opinions to assist the Courts in various

jurisdictions including England and Wales, India, Australia, Hong Kong, and New Zealand.

Shu Mei is also a Certified Digital Assets Advisor (CDAA) and has used her knowledge and expertise to resolve complex family disputes involving uncovering cryptocurrency and other forms of digital assets.

Shu Mei's formative experience is rooted in commercial litigation and international arbitration. She has acted for corporations under SIAC, ICC, CIETAC, UNCITRAL and DIAC rules and is a member of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators.

Shu Mei speaks regularly about family law, private wealth, valuation of businesses, dispute resolution and mediation at local and international conferences.

She is also the co-author of various academic articles and practitioner guides both locally and internationally.

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **Contentious matrimonial and private client proceedings**

- Acting for an UHNW individual, the Husband in potential divorce proceedings, against the Wife, another UHNW individual, wherein the parties collectively have a net worth exceeding US\$1 billion including assets held under a Cayman Islands Trust, of which the Husband is the Settlor, and the beneficiaries include the Wife, the child of the marriage, as well as other charitable organisations.
- Acting for Taiwanese beneficiaries, who are the deceased's second family, in an estate dispute, where there are concerns

about the conduct of the executor and trustee.

- Successfully acting for an Indian tech billionaire in his cross-jurisdictional proceedings, including his divorce and international child abduction proceedings involving Singapore, India, and US.
- Successfully acted for a Singaporean property developer in his contested divorce proceedings, which led to his Wife's claim (filed on the basis of his alleged unreasonable behaviour) being dismissed with costs, after a 5-day trial involving multiple witnesses.
- Successfully acting for family members (current and former spouses, children) in family violence proceedings, involving elements of psychological and emotional abuse
- Successfully acting for a Wife to obtain a Worldwide Freezing Order over assets worth approximately \$40 million to prevent dissipation of matrimonial assets in Singapore as well as China by the Husband.
- Successfully obtained a return order of a minor child after an international child abduction from Singapore to India.
- Successfully obtained personal protection orders for survivors of domestic violence, including psychological violence.
- Represented a father in a long-running High Court case over a minor child wherein complex psychiatric and psychological evidence was successfully admitted to support a case of parental alienation, resulting in the successful reunification between father and child after eight years of estrangement.
- Successfully represented various parents in international child abduction proceedings involving various 1980 Hague Convention jurisdictions (Australia, UK, US) as well as non-Hague Convention jurisdictions (India, China, Malaysia, Indonesia).
- Acting in complex family proceedings involving psychological-legal elements regarding the international unlawful abduction of a child from Singapore to UK by the Mother, and then, an application for the proposed relocation of the child by the Mother during COVID-19 pandemic against governmental travel advisories, leading to an eventual expedited application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal (reported in *UYK v UYJ* [2020] SGHCF 8)
- Acting for a Mother in complex family proceedings involving psychological-legal elements regarding the application of the international relocation of a child from Singapore to India, by the Father, the non-primary caregiver in the midst of COVID-19, leading to an eventual application for leave to appeal to the appellate division of the High Court (reported in *VPG v VPF* [2021] SGHCR 18).
- Acted in a highly contested dispute between co-deputies of a person who lacks mental capacity under the Mental Capacity Act, and successfully obtained Orders regarding the discharge of a co-deputy on the ground of abdication of duties.
- Acting for a UHNW French client, who is a settlor of a family trust settled in Cyprus and governed by Jersey Law, in his matrimonial and trust proceedings. The client's wife has alleged that the client has settled his assets under the family trust in order to avoid matrimonial proceedings, and such trust is a 'sham'. The wife has taken out an injunction to freeze his assets in Singapore, Hong Kong, France, Cyprus, Switzerland etc.
- Successfully acting for a UHNW client in extremely rare, contested divorce proceedings, where the divorce was fully defended by him. In the event the divorce was granted, this will potentially be one of the largest pools of assets divided under Singapore law, i.e. between \$500 - \$700 million. The Wife is now appealing the judgment and it is likely that the High Court will deal with the appeal later in 2025.

**Advisory work**

- Representing an American client in the negotiation of a Pre-nuptial Agreement, who was to marry into a family owning substantial assets including one of the largest chemical manufacturing companies in China (worth more than

US\$200 million), requiring significant coordination between lawyers in Singapore, United States of America (California), People's Republic of China and Canada to ensure that the Pre-nuptial Agreement entered into would be binding and enforceable in a divorce proceeding, if not at least given substantial weight in these jurisdictions.

- Represented a Singaporean client in negotiating a prenuptial agreement with her now-husband, who is from one of the wealthiest families in a Southeast Asian nation. The majority shareholder and management of one of the largest publicly traded holding companies in this nation (net worth more than US\$2 billion) were involved, and the majority of the assets in dispute settled under trusts.
- Advised various Swiss family members who are beneficiaries of a fund (exceeding US\$ 3 billion), settled under a Singapore law trust, regarding their concerns about the conduct of the trustee under Singapore law, and negotiated the removal and replacement of the trustee, to the satisfaction of all parties.
- Providing dispute-related advice to a Chinese tech billionaire on the transferring of his BVI and Cayman Islands holdings to various family members.
- Representing a British client in a negotiation of a Pre-nuptial Agreement involving English and Singapore laws, marrying into a family who owns and manages one of the world's largest carriers, and addition, whose fiancé would also be a beneficiary to a trust which value was in the range of US \$300 million.
- Advising a patriarch with net worth of over \$5 billion regarding inter-related family law, private wealth and trust issues for 3 generations, and setting up various legal agreements and structures in place to protect family assets in the event of divorce, mental incapacity or death.
- Advised and acted for various private and higher education institutions in Singapore regarding their policies concerning children from atypical family backgrounds (adoptive, divorcing, separating, etc.) and highly contentious family backgrounds,

including drafting various policies on child abuse, drugs, counselling, bullying, and child rights (under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child), and dealing with allegations of negligence.

## ACCOLADES



### The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Private Wealth and Family Law 2026 – Recommended lawyer for 4 consecutive years

*'Shu Mei Hoon is an absolute star for family law. She has really built a reputation for herself and her practice in family law. She is collaborative and solutions-oriented with a focus on resolving problems for the parties in a dispute. She is great to work with and her clients are confident in her.'*

*'The team houses experienced directors, Randolph Khoo and Shu Mei Hoon, who are strong in law and give practical and sustainable advices. They are approachable and responsive.'*

*'Shu Mei Hoon has proved herself to be incisive and at the same time considers the general overall solution for a family so that the resolution can be reached fairly.'*

*'Drew & Napier continues to be one of the market leading firms in the area of family law. The team of Randolph Khoo and Shu Mei Hoon regularly attract HNW clients with complicated disputes that involve financial assets of significant value and cross border jurisdictional issues.'*

*'Hoon Shu Mei is an outstanding advocate for her clients' interests and is always top of the list when we need to refer a matter to a family lawyer in Singapore.'*

*'Hoon Shu Mei is the lawyer we consistently recommend and work with for matters involving prenuptial and postnuptial agreements with ultra-high net-worth clients. She is sensitive, incisive and yet very collaborative. Randolph Khoo continues to remain a leading practitioner of family law and vigorously argues his clients' cases in court.'*

*'Hoon Shu Mei is my first choice for referrals of Singapore family matters and is also my first port of call when I need recommendations for family lawyers in other jurisdictions,'*

# PROFILE

## DREW & NAPIER

*maintaining as she does, an extensive network of specialists around the world.'*

### Singapore Business Review

Recognised as Singapore's 30 most influential lawyers aged 40 and under

### Asian Legal Business SE Asia Law Awards

Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year 2021, 2022 and 2023



Shu Mei is part of the team that won the Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year Award for handling some of the most complex, cross-border and intricate matrimonial and family law matters for three years in a row.

### Chambers High Net Worth

Singapore: Family/ Matrimonial: High Net Worth 2025 – Band 1 (3 consecutive years)



Singapore: Family/ Matrimonial: High Net Worth 2022 – Up and Coming

*"She is my star and go-to person when it comes to Singapore family law, including divorce and inheritance matters."*

*"She always prioritises client interests and is very pleasant to deal with."*

*"She is incredibly commercial and I have been impressed with her. She is very savvy and works with some of the wealthiest families here."*

*"Shu Mei is good at keeping clients calm and not letting proceedings get carried away. She tops our referrals list because she does not only the financial side, but also children issues and relocation."*

*"She is extremely professional, and she cares strongly for clients. Shu Mei tirelessly works on amicable solutions and clients are always happy with her work."*

*"Her work and thinking is of a very high quality. She listens and always hits her committed timelines. She's immensely professional and also a joy to work with."*

*"Shu Mei is stellar and very professional. She is a rising star."*

*"Shu Mei is an up-and-coming lawyer who is experienced in family-related legal matters. Her practice encompasses asset distribution for high net worth couples going through divorce in addition to custody and relocation matters."*

### Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific

Family & Matrimonial 2025 – Litigation Star; previously Future Star for 3 consecutive years

Identified as one of the Top 40 Under 40 lawyers in 2025 for 2 consecutive years

*"Shu Mei is collaborative and seeks to come up with solutions that work for her client without resorting to litigation as the measure of first resort. She is good in building a rapport with clients and can be trusted to handle clients that have been referred to her."*

*"She takes time to really understand her clients' needs and objectives and helps her clients to avoid unnecessary conflicts without giving up ground."*

*"Shu Mei is a dedicated and tenacious litigator who is not averse to using alternative dispute resolution mechanisms like mediation to explore and achieve an amicable resolution. She is well regarded in her practice area and can be relied on to give sound advice."*

*"She knows her law, is passionate about advancing her client's interests, but is also open to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and resolving matters amicably without compromising her client's positions or concerns."*

*"Professional, knowledgeable, understanding, organised and personable."*

### Law.com

Listed in the Private Client Global Elite Directory 2025, among the world's leading private client professionals



### Doyle's Guide

Family Law in Singapore 2025  
- Leading lawyer for 3 consecutive years  
Family Law in Singapore 2022 - Recommended lawyer



### Citywealth Leaders List

# PROFILE

# DREW & NAPIER

Top 100 International Private Client Litigation Lawyers 2023 – Recommended

Top 50 Private Client and Family Legal Heroes 2022 – Recommended

Family and Matrimonial 2021 - Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

Top 100 Private Client Lawyers 2021 - Recommended

A client commended Shu Mei for being “knowledgeable and thorough”. The same client adding that she “provided calm and sure guidance with her reassuring and articulate personality and style. Very professional and to the point.”

A client says: “Shu Mei represented me in matters related to a highly contentious divorce proceeding that involved several jurisdictions. It was quickly evident through working with her that she is knowledgeable, experienced and respectful. During the process she was very responsive and spent time to help me navigate all the issues and ensured that I understood the legal implications and potential risks involved in any actions so that I can make an informed decision. This included acting on my behalf to research and explore legal implications in other jurisdictions so that we have a comprehensive resolution. She conducted herself in an utmost professional manner, and clearly explained each step of the process to me. Her legal skills, expertise, efficiency and empathy are instrumental when navigating the difficult decisions often involved in family law proceeding.”

“Shu Mei was experienced and held her client’s hand and was able to reach a quick resolution to resolve the matter globally. She will seek a practical outcome and resolve the matter effectively for the client.”

## Straits Times Singapore’s Best Law Firms Survey

Shu Mei is part of the Family Law team awarded 5 Stars for 4 years in the 2026 survey by Singapore’s largest circulating broadsheet, The Straits Times, and international research company, Statista

## Spear’s 500

Recommended Family Lawyer 2024

## PUBLICATIONS

- Randolph Khoo and Hoon Shu Mei are the co-authors to the Singapore chapter of the leading international jurisdictional textbook on family law, “Family Global Guide”, published by Thomson Reuters and Practical Law UK (2020 – 2024 ed.)
- Contributed to Singapore chapter titled, “Crypto in Trusts and Foundations” (1<sup>st</sup> ed, 2024, pending publication)
- Contributed to chapter titled “Trusts and Divorce” in *Family Law in Singapore* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., in publication)
- Nandakumar Ponniya & Hoon Shu Mei, chapter titled “*Commencement of Arbitration*”, *Arbitration in Singapore: A Practical Guide* (1<sup>st</sup> ed., 2014)

## APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Asia Pacific Chapter Delegate, International Academy of Family Lawyers 
- Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers
- Member, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Accredited Mediator, Singapore Mediation Centre, Singapore International Mediation Institute
- Collaborative Family Practitioner, Singapore Mediation Centre
- Member, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals
- Assessor, Panel of Assessors for COVID-19 Temporary Relief, Ministry of Law Singapore
- Member, Law Society of Singapore Family Law Practice Committee 2020 - 2023; Member, Organising Committee of Family Law Conference 2019, 2021, 2023