

# PROFILE



## Jimmy Yim, Senior Counsel *Chairman, Drew & Napier LLC*

LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore  
LL.M., National University of Singapore  
Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore  
Solicitor, England & Wales  
Appointed Senior Counsel (1998)  
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### ABOUT JIMMY YIM

Jimmy Yim is the Chairman of Drew & Napier LLC and was the Managing Director of Singapore's most celebrated Dispute Resolution practice for 15 years prior thereto.

Mr Yim graduated with top honours from the National University of Singapore, clerked at Baker & McKenzie in London and Hong Kong and made associate at another leading practice. For a period, he was appointed regional counsel of an international organisation based in Paris. Mr Yim returned to private practice at Drew & Napier in 1989, made partner in 1991 and was conferred Senior Counsel in 1998, with the honour of being one of the youngest Senior Counsel below 40 years of age at that time.

Mr Yim has deep and valued experience in civil and commercial litigation and international arbitration involving high stakes, multiple jurisdictions, and renowned parties. His experience in trials and international arbitration ranges from energy projects, building and construction, joint-venture, infrastructure, telecommunications to technology.

He has appeared as lead counsel before the Supreme Court, SICC and international arbitration tribunals on numerous occasions. He has sat in numerous arbitrations as sole arbitrator and 3-member panel over the years. He is familiar with arbitrations under the rules of SIAC, ICC, LCIA, ARIAS and UNCITRAL.

Mr Yim is recognised as a leading disputes and arbitration practitioner by all independent ranking publications such as The Legal 500, Chambers and Partners and asialaw Profiles.

### EXPERIENCE

Mr Yim's experience in **international arbitration** ranges from disputes concerning

energy projects, telecommunications, building construction, satellites, pharmaceutical contracts, distributorship agreements and joint-venture contracts of various kinds. Some of his notable arbitration cases:

- Successfully recovered millions of dollars for a Norwegian corporation in an arbitration resulting from a marine accident in the South China Sea. The dispute involved issues of seaworthiness of vessels, obligations under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 and gross negligence.
- Acted for the respondent, Vietnamese state-linked entity (employer) against the claimant Chinese state-linked construction company (contractor) in a VIAC arbitration over a hydro-electric dam project in central Vietnam. The claimant raised a litany of claims against the respondent essentially justifying their termination of the FIDIC-based contract. The complexity and scale of disputes in this massive project required close cooperation with quantum and delay experts and a detailed understanding of the construction process of hydro-electric dams and the use of tunnel-boring machines.
- Successfully acted for a Japanese corporation in a joint-venture dispute with a Hong Kong public-listed corporation over solid waste disposal systems and incineration plants where the claims exceed US\$10 million and the contract is governed by Japanese law.
- Successfully defended a Malaysian conglomerate in a multi-million dollar ICC arbitration against a Thai company over the design, installation and commissioning of a steam boiler in Thailand. The dispute was governed by Thai law and involved issues of commissioning, emission standards, contractual breaches and negligence.

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- Acted for an Indonesian high net worth individual in resisting claims from an Indian energy conglomerate in relation to a dispute over the development of 3 coal mining concessions in South Sumatra. The arbitration required extensive arguments on multiple aspects of the infrastructure work associated with developing and operating a greenfield coal concession in Indonesia.
- Successful outcome for a Japanese corporation in a multi-million dispute between joint-venture partners over the sale and implementation of energy management systems to State Electricity Boards in India governed by ICC Rules. The claims included allegations of fraud, misrepresentation, misuse/conversion of intellectual property and loss of opportunity. The joint venture was governed by Japanese law.
- Successfully represented a Korean EPC contractor, in an ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules 2010 against the claimant, an Indian state-linked petrochemical company. The dispute relates to claims for losses arising out of the termination of a project for the construction of a High Density Polyethylene Plant in Asia's biggest petrochemicals complex, Dahej Petrochemical Complex in Gujarat, India. The case involves complex technical and legal issues as to differences in the efficiencies of the concerned licensor technologies in producing bimodal polyethylene products and the appropriate methodology for assessing extra costs incurred as a result of the termination of the contract by the contractor.
- Successful outcome for a Malaysian Government Linked Company that is advancing claims against its Chinese joint venture partner for breaches of a US\$45 million joint venture agreement in the heavy industry sector. This is a unique case, involving issues relating to the Chinese national policy for the entry of foreign investment in a predominantly Chinese industry.
- Successfully resolved a S\$20 million dispute over the collapse of a cement silo in Singapore arbitrated under SIAC Domestic Rules involving issues of negligence, novus actus interveniens and damages for notional repair. This case included 2 appeals to the Court of Appeal (allowed under SIAC Domestic Rules), which were both successfully argued by Mr Yim – [2004] 4 SLR 353 / [2004] SGCA 40 – Salcon Ltd v United Cement Pte Ltd.
- Successfully resolved a multi-million dollar dispute over the construction and delivery of boilers for a power plant project in Thailand. The arbitration was governed by the ICC Rules and it involved issues of build-to-order specifications, international product & material safety standards and the right to reject delivery governed by Thai law.
- Advised on a US\$200 million dispute over the construction and launch into orbit of a telecommunications satellite under UNCITRAL Rules. The dispute involved issues of delay, rescission of contract and force majeure due to inter alia a United States Department of State Public Notice prohibiting the launch of U.S. satellites by rockets from the People's Republic of China which was amicably settled.
- Successfully defended a US\$10 million claim over the licensing of data gathering & retrieval software arbitrated under ICC Rules involving issues of fraudulent misrepresentation and anticipatory breach governed by Thai law.
- Successfully defended a US MNC (a worldwide leader in IT and networking) in a multi-million dollar claim arising from highly complex and technical agreements to build, operate and manage a WiMAX network in Malaysia.
- Successfully defended a software copyright owner in a multi-million dollar claim by a mainland Chinese distributor of the most successful MMORPG (Massively Multi-Player Online Role Playing Game) in the People's Republic of China (with 70 million registered players). The arbitration was governed by Korean law and arbitrated under ICC Rules and it involved jurisdictional issues of incorporation of arbitration clauses, estoppel, cross claims by one Respondent against another and the effect of parallel lawsuits commenced by the parties on similar issues.
- Appointed as an ICC arbitrator in a multi-million dollar dispute governed by Sri Lankan law between a state owned enterprise in Sri Lanka with a monopoly in bunker supply to vessels and a commercial bunker supplier involving jurisdictional

issues on the arbitration agreement, estoppel and time bar as well as substantive issues on remoteness of damages and the duty to mitigate losses.

- Successfully defended Indonesian oil and gas tycoon and former Chief Executive of an offshore and marine company in the violation of the Securities and Futures Act. Obtained a favourable outcome as the 112 false trading and market rigging offences that the client was originally charged with was amalgamated to 6, and he was fined for those 6 charges, avoiding a custodial sentence.

## ACCOLADES

### asialaw Awards

Client Service Excellence Lawyer of the Year 2021: Singapore

### Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global

Dispute Resolution:  
Litigation – Singapore 2026 – Band 2 (17 years ranked)



Dispute Resolution:  
Arbitration – Singapore 2026 – Band 4 (17 years ranked)

*"You can trust him to resolve issues and win cases for you."*

*"He's an outstanding Singaporean litigator."*

*"Jimmy Yim puts client needs ahead of his own and listens to what the clients need."*

*"He is one of the best out there. He is a top lawyer with amazing client relationships."*

*"a great leader who has a tremendous knowledge of the law and its particulars. He also knows how to handle the court and judges."*

*"exhibits a very high level of legal and commercial knowledge, client management skills and problem-solving acumen. The confidence he inspires is among the best in the industry."*

*"a very impressive senior counsel in complex cross-border disputes"*

*Jimmy Yim SC "has a tremendous wealth and depth of experience, with both legal and commercial knowledge. He is a consummate professional."*

Jimmy Yim SC is experienced before the High Court and International Commercial Court in Singapore. He is particularly active in shareholder and construction matters and one market source comments he is *"a strong litigator - one of those lawyers who has been in the business for many years but is still doing trials regularly."*

Jimmy Yim SC is an *"old hand and everyone knows he is very strong in advocacy,"* according to one market source. He is an experienced lawyer who focuses on real estate and construction-related issues.

He is well regarded for his client service, in particular his attention to detail and *"valuable tactical advice".*

An experienced lawyer who focuses on real estate and construction-related issues, Jimmy Yim SC has a reputation for providing advice that is *"well thought through and well documented."* It is also said that he is *"thorough and has a great understanding of the matter".*

Jimmy Yim SC comes highly recommended for his focus on commercial litigation work. One market source notes: *"He is very well known in the industry as a litigator and he is always smooth and a gentleman in court."* Jimmy Yim SC's practice spans energy and resources projects and construction-related arbitration. Clients say he *"quickly understands different aspects of a case and proposes a viable strategy."*

*"known for his advocacy skill internationally"; "instrumental in defining the overall strategy, paying attention to the smallest details and the interrelationship between all the events and claims."*

*"familiarity with the judicial system, skill in conducting a trial and flair for cross-examination"; "His eye for detail and precision in drafting arguments (both written and oral) has also resulted in successful outcomes in the course of handling a dispute for us."*

*"One client notes his skill in handling negotiations, while another highlights his ability to analyse issues from a legal and regulatory perspective"*

*"a very sharp and very eloquent counsel."*

*"the judges love him"*

*"he makes the difference in complex cases."*

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“very good’ performance as counsel, where he ‘always works with great stamina’.”

“Recognised as an ‘extremely persuasive advocate’.”

“Clients are impressed that ‘he understands key issues super-quickly’.”

“Brilliant and experienced counsel”

“Hailed as a brilliant litigator by market sources, and is considered a highly experienced senior counsel.”

“Wins plaudits for his diligence and performance in international arbitration matters”

“Known for his deep experience and proactive manner”

“Has a gentlemanly style, and is well liked by the bench and competition”

## The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Dispute Resolution 2026 –  
Leading Individual  
for 25 consecutive years

International Arbitration  
2026 – Leading Individual  
for 12 years

Projects & Energy 2026 – Recommended  
lawyer for 10 consecutive years

Construction 2026 – Recommended lawyer  
for 5 consecutive years

Indonesia: Foreign Firms 2025 –  
Recommended lawyer

White-Collar Crime 2024 – Recommended  
lawyer

Regional International Arbitration 2024 –  
Recommended lawyer

*“The team led by Jimmy Yim SC displayed strong strategic thinking, deep legal expertise, and a calm, commercial approach to complex issues. Their responsiveness, clarity in communication, and attention to detail gave us great confidence throughout the process.”*

*“Jimmy Yim SC stands out as a truly exceptional advocate. His gravitas, clarity of thought, and ability to distill complex issues into focused strategy are unmatched. He brings a sense of calm authority to the table, which inspires confidence even in the most high-stakes scenarios. Working with him was both reassuring and instructive.”*



# DREW & NAPIER

“Jimmy Yim SC is the best lawyer in Singapore. Top KC quality, in his attention to detail, written pleadings and court presentation.”

“Jimmy Yim SC is an outstanding and respected lawyer, at court and outside. He has the knowledge to guide his team to find the right arguments for our company to stand and win our legal disputes.”

“Jimmy Yim SC is a phenomenal advocate.”

“Jimmy Yim SC’s oral advocacy is exceptional – he is eloquent and very persuasive, and has a certain presence in the tribunal hearing room. He is clearly well respected by tribunals and opposing counsel.”

Sources say “Jimmy Yim SC has shown excellent advocacy in the court room. He is very cordial, but strong and very persuasive.”

“Jimmy Yim, SC has an ability to simplify very complex and technical arguments to narrow it down to the key issues in dispute, and deliver them passionately and eloquently with fierce persuasion.”

“a super excellent lawyer”, “always provides precise and to the point advice” and “is good at thinking out of the box”

“very quick to narrow down the key issues, craft strategic and tactical solutions, and has a lot of drive and passion in the delivery of legal arguments”

“Commended for his ‘advocacy skills and in-depth knowledge’”

## The Legal 500 Arbitration Powerlist: Southeast Asia



Recognised as a leading arbitration lawyer in the

Southeast Asia region in 2023 for 2 consecutive years

## Best Lawyers International: Singapore

Litigation 2026 – Endorsed individual for 18 consecutive years

Arbitration and Mediation 2026 – Endorsed individual for 16 consecutive years

Construction Law 2026 – Endorsed individual for 12 consecutive years

Defamation Law 2026 – Endorsed individual for 3 consecutive years

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## **Lexology Index (previously Who's Who Legal)**

Thought Leaders Global Elite 2023 – Global Elite Thought Leader for Commercial Litigation

Thought Leaders Guide: Commercial Litigation 2025 – Thought Leader for 4 consecutive years

Arbitration 2026 – Highly Recommended Lawyer (previously Recommended for 2 consecutive years in 2025)

Commercial Litigation 2025 – Thought Leader (previously Recommended Lawyer for 4 years in 2024; Global Elite Thought Leader in 2023)

Commercial Litigation - E-Discovery Lawyers 2025 - Recommended Lawyer

Southeast Asia – Arbitration 2025 – Recommended Lawyer 5 consecutive years

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

Jimmy Yim SC is applauded by market sources as “an exceptional trial lawyer” who is “brilliant in cross-examination and successful in exposing untruths on the stand”.

“Jimmy Yim SC possesses a strong litigation practice and draws accolades from peers for his work in the construction industry.”

Jimmy Yim SC is “well regarded” by respondents for his standout work, energy, construction and joint venture-related disputes.

## **Global Investigations Review 100 (GIR 100)**

Recognised as a leading individual for investigations in the GIR 100 5<sup>th</sup> edition (2019). The GIR 100 identifies top 100 firms worldwide that handle complex cross-border government-led and internal investigations.



## **asialaw Leading Lawyers**

Dispute Resolution 2025 – Elite Practitioner for 10 consecutive years

Energy & Natural Resources 2018 – Market Leading lawyer for 2 consecutive years

“Brilliant advocate who understands the issues. His written pleadings are excellent,

advocacy is excellent and he demonstrates first-class client relations.”

“He is efficient, eloquent and communicates well. He is also knowledgeable and responsive.”

“Jimmy Yim is well known in Singapore and an excellent lawyer with a strong personality. He was able to turn around a case we had lost and win the case for our company.”

“Jimmy Yim was efficient, eloquent and understood the issues well. Very good courtroom manner and pleasant to deal with.”

“Jimmy Yim SC is outstanding. He takes pains to understand and provide a holistic approach to the resolution of disputes. His legal strategies leave no stone unturned. His eagerness to use cutting-edge methodology and technology to drill at details is commendable.”

“He is a great lawyer.”

“Jimmy Yim SC is a powerful leader of his team and very knowledgeable.”

“Very professional and up to date with legal advances, always has a good strategic approach.”

“Intelligent, high EQ, very efficient and analytical.”

“His experience and depth of knowledge of both the legal aspects and commercial realities of a case are faultless. He is extremely quick to grasp and identify the issues of the case, the client’s problems and difficulties, and manages all aspects of a case brilliantly. In his preparation for trial and appeal, he was thorough, detailed and meticulous. Beyond a lawyer-client association, he also develops a personal and heartfelt relationship with his clients.”

“Excellent Lawyer, very sharp in his assertion of the cases submitted and his recommendations. Because of Jimmy, our company won already two cases out of three and the 3rd one is still under review by the international court. Very pleasant person to talk to and also looking at costs at all times.”

“Jimmy Yim has a great ability to understand esoteric concepts well very swiftly; that enables his advice to be relevant and applicable regardless of the permutations of the information and matter. His affable

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# DREW & NAPIER

*personality is a winner both off-court and on-court."*

*"He has an ability to quickly grasp complex issues. He has a strategic plan for the case and it is effective with the positive outcome."*

*"Jimmy Yim SC is an exceptional senior counsel and leader."*

*"Jimmy is a wonderful litigator and a great lawyer."*

*"The law is very clearly described with minimum legal jargon. [His] depth of legal knowledge helped us to win our recently concluded case in the Court of Appeal."*

*"Jimmy Yim SC is a first class international arbitration practitioner and he is supported by a strong team."*

*"Jimmy Yim continues to be an influential advisor in energy project disputes by partnering with the construction and engineering dispute resolution team."*

## **IFLR 1000: The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms**

Project Development 2025/2026 - Highly Regarded lawyer for 3 consecutive years

## **Asian Legal Business Asia Super 50 Disputes Lawyers**

Recognised as being amongst the top 50 disputes lawyers in the region in 2021, and from 2023 to 2025



*"Jimmy is a great lawyer who should be recognized and serve as a role model for other lawyers aspiring to be exceptional."*

*"The relationship with Jimmy goes beyond that of lawyer and client"*

*"Jimmy is extremely genial, but at the same time can be strong and very persuasive. He has an ability to quickly grasp complex technical issues".*

## **Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific**

Commercial and Transactions 2025 – Litigation Star for 8 consecutive years

International Arbitration 2025 – Litigation Star for 8 consecutive years

*"He is a very good communicator, a very clever lawyer, and he presents cases well. He wins."*

*"Excellent written work and oral advocacy."*

*"He is creative and a hell of a streetfighter. Above all, a litigator's litigator."*

*"Jimmy's in-depth knowledge and experience of commercial reality, litigation and the law, as well as his ability to build and maintain a relationship with the client, puts him in the upper echelons of legal practice in Singapore."*

*"Jimmy Yim, SC does litigation very well."*

*"Yim is an outstanding advocate. His thinking is clear and he's always available."*

## **Asia Business Law Journal**

Identified as a Legal Icon 2025 and one of Singapore's Top 100 lawyers in 2025 (3 consecutive years)



Jimmy Yim, SC is held by his clients in high regard, with one client mentioning that he is "...just the best when it comes to combining top litigation skills with incisive strategic thinking and the ability to think quickly on his feet..." Another client commended him for his "...confidence, professionalism, diligence and commitment to obtain the outcome I was seeking..."

## **Asia IP Experts**

Leading individual in IP Litigation 2016

## **Client Feedback**

*"I had the good fortune of knowing Jimmy as a colleague and client for over 10 years. In that time, we did not lose a single case we worked together on. Few lawyers have his finesse and presence in court. Even in unfavourable circumstances, I have witnessed how Jimmy conjures "Get Out of Jail Free" cards for clients. Clients appreciate his strategic view and insights that are rooted in his vast experience and his incredible grasp of facts and the law." Client, Andrew Lee, Assistant General Counsel, Kaplan Singapore*

*"Mr Jimmy Yim, the Chairman is outstanding and has a very sharp mind which allows him to see perspectives which other lawyers are not able to think of. He is friendly, passionate about his work and genuinely puts his mind to the legal issues at hand. He is definitely a class above other lawyers." Client, Dr Michael Lim, MWH Medical Pte Ltd*

*“The D&N team on our case is lead and directed by Mr. Jimmy Yim, who obviously possesses vast experience and is a dedicated litigator, with a high sense of client care and satisfaction, and takes the lead on all major Court interventions.” Client, Pierre Maxime Charron, General Counsel, ACASS*

## APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Regional Arbitrator, Singapore International Arbitration Centre
- Panel Arbitrator & Mediator, Asian International Arbitration Centre
- Recommended International Arbitrator, Pacific International Arbitration Centre, Vietnam
- Adjudicator, Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre (FIDReC)
- Member, Governing Council, Nani Palkhivala Arbitration Centre (NPAC), India
- Member, Ministry of Law Steering Committee on Legal Aid
- Member, Criminal Legal Representation and Social of the Senior Counsel Forum
- Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Member, Inter-Pacific Bar Association
- Former Chairman, Citizenship Committee of Inquiry, Ministry of Home Affairs
- Co-Chairperson, The Ethics and Professional Standards Committee