PROFILE

DREW & NAPIER



Kelvin Tan
Director, Dispute Resolution

LL.B (Hons) National University of Singapore (1994)
Admitted to the Singapore Bar (1995)
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ABOUT KELVIN

Kelvin read law at the National University in Singapore, and joined Drew & Napier following graduation.

Kelvin has an active practice in litigation and international arbitration. He also co-heads the Employment and Hotels and Leisure Practices.

He has litigated complex commercial disputes in a wide range of areas, including insurance, intellectual property, fraud and breach of fiduciary duties, international arbitration, investment and shareholder disputes, and trusts.

He has represented clients in international arbitrations under various institutional rules such as the SIAC, ICC, LCIA, AIAC and UNCITRAL rules.

EXPERIENCE

These are a few of the matters that Kelvin has handled:

- **US$120 million smartphone dispute** – Represented a listed electronics manufacturer in an SIAC arbitration against a European principal in disputes arising from development and manufacturing agreements for a new smartphone, involving cross-claims relating to the design and manufacture of smartphone handsets and software applications.
- **Represented a leading insurer in termination of a bancassurance agreement** – Obtained an award for an international insurer against a bank denying a claim in excess of $10 million, which followed the termination of a long-term bancassurance distribution agreement.
- **US$80 million joint venture dispute** – Successfully represented a leading European business software house in an SIAC arbitration against its South Asian joint venture partner, arising out of a failed joint venture.
- **Online game publishing dispute** – Represented a North Asian developer of a massively multiplayer online game in an arbitration constituted under the ICC Rules against its publisher in a claim for unlawful termination of a software publishing contract.
- **US$60 million OEM contract dispute** – Acted for a component manufacturer in an LCIA arbitration against a European principal in respect of disputes over an OEM contract for telecommunications transmission products.
- **Automotive joint venture arbitration** – Represented a national automotive manufacturer and obtained an award against its former North Asian joint venture partner for breaches of their agreement for the manufacturing and transfer of technology.
- **Semiconductor patent dispute** – Acted for a world-leading semiconductor test and inspection company against its European competitor in the High Court in respect of cross-claims for infringement and invalidation in respect of patents for semiconductor inspection modules.
- **Cross-jurisdictional trade mark dispute** – Represented the owner of a popular hospitality business against an invalidation claim against its registered trade mark brought on the basis that it was a well-known mark, and that the registration was held on trust.
- **Exception to specific performance of land** – Represented a security holder at trial and before the Court of Appeal to resist specific performance of the sale of a good class bungalow property valued at $40 million.

ACCOLADES

Chambers Asia-Pacific

Employment: Domestic - Singapore 2026 – Band 2 for 2 consecutive years

Employment: Domestic – Singapore 2020 – Recognised practitioner for 3 consecutive years

Dispute Resolution: Litigation - Singapore 2020 – Recognised practitioner for 4 years

"Kelvin is always trustworthy and reliable in his advice."

"He was skilful in managing both the legal and emotional issues, and got us to a fantastic result."

"Kelvin Tan provided valuable insights and advice and was with us every step of the way, with solid guidance to enable us to mitigate risks and avoid any missteps."

"Kelvin always delivers nuanced and practical solutions, and is extremely responsive."

"He is practical and focused on the issues at hand and yet forward-looking."

"Kelvin is extremely experienced and is always able to deliver sound and commercially astute advice."

"Kelvin Tan offers practical and helpful insights into complex questions, for which there are no clear or easy answers."

"He is an experienced partner, who is highly responsive and understands clients' needs."

"Kelvin understands the client's needs and priorities. He is able to break down issues and address risks with a practical and client-friendly approach."

One client praises Kelvin for his *"knowledge of employment legislation, referencing case laws around the world and applying it to our matters."*

Another client describes Kelvin as *"cool, calm and decisive."*

Best Lawyers International: Singapore

Defamation Law 2026 – Endorsed Individual for 2 consecutive years

Arbitration and Mediation 2024 – Endorsed Individual for 5 consecutive years

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

Employment 2026 – Recommended lawyer for 11 consecutive years

Dispute Resolution 2026 – Recommended lawyer for 4 consecutive years

International Arbitration 2025 – Recommended lawyer

"Kelvin Tan is a steady hand in murky waters, offering practical and sound legal and commercial advice."

"Kelvin Tan and Benjamin Goh operate on super high availability basis and are genuinely willing to advise and guide us even before a formal fee quote has been agreed. This helped us to handle contentious matters with authorities, which tend to be very time-sensitive matters. Their experience and strategic guidance also help us to achieve an outcome that is favourable for us."

"Kelvin Tan has deep expertise and is very responsive and professional and this can be seen in his team as well. He provides practical guidance and recognises that the ideal legal position or taking a conservative position is not always feasible from the client's perspective."

"Kelvin Tan's team is client-centric. They know what the client needs, and deliver top-notch advice each time."

"Kelvin Tan offers practical and helpful strategic advice, which enables businesses to navigate murky waters with confidence."

"Kelvin Tan is a valuable resource for contentious matters."

"[Kelvin Tan] is always attuned to clients' needs and available to discuss their concerns."

Asialaw Leading Lawyers

Labour and Employment 2026 – Distinguished Practitioner for 8 consecutive years

"Responsive, timely and insightful. Both Kelvin Tan and Benjamin Goh have provided sharp advice on how we deal with our labour and employment matters."

"Amazing subject-matter expertise, depth and breadth of experience. Practical and relevant advice that can be adopted as compared to theoretical, ideal legal positions which are often not feasible for clients. Prompt and responsive."

"Kelvin takes responsibility for his lawyers and their work. He is pleasant and effective in court trials as a senior litigation lawyer, and he and his team are not only legally competent, but practical and helpful in meeting our needs in their advice and solutions offered."

Kelvin is praised for being *"client-focused, knowledgeable with practical solutions, accessible and responsive, understands the client's needs and expectations".*

"Kelvin has the qualities that in-house legal teams look for in external counsel: technical proficiency, thoroughness and a keen appreciation of commercial sensitivities. He delivers sound and carefully considered advice, which demonstrates a deft balance of legal technicalities and commercial strategy."

Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific

Labour and Employment 2026 – Litigation Star for 5 consecutive years

Lexology Index

Labour & Employment 2025 – Leading Lawyer for 4 consecutive years

Hospitality 2023 – Leading Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

Southeast Asia - Labour, Employment & Benefits 2025 – Leading Lawyer for 4 consecutive years

Southeast Asia - Commercial Litigation 2025 – Leading Lawyer for 3 consecutive years

"Kelvin Tan is highly esteemed for his outstanding track-record resolving complex employment disputes in both arbitration and litigation proceedings."

"Kelvin Tan earns plaudits for his impressive experience advising and representing hospitality clients across the spectrum of domestic and international matters."

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Assessor, Panel of Assessors for COVID-19 Temporary Relief, Ministry of Law
- Member, Admissions Committee of the Law Society
- Member, Law Society Inquiry Panel
- Member, Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law

PUBLICATIONS

- The Singapore chapter of Labour & Employment Disputes, Lexology Panoramic, 2025, 2026 and 2027
- The Singapore chapter of Employment, Chambers Global Practice Guide, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026
- The Singapore chapter of Employment and Labour Law, The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guide, 2026