PROFILE

DREW & NAPIER



Lau Wen Jin
Director, Dispute Resolution

LL.B. (summa cum laude), Singapore Management University (2012)
LL.M. (International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution), National University of Singapore (2022)
LL.M. (International Dispute Settlement), Geneva Center for International Dispute Settlement (University of Geneva & The Graduate Institute Geneva) (2022)
Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2015)
Solicitor (non-practising), England & Wales (2026)
T:+65 65312281/97106998 WeChat: lauwenjin E: wenjin.lau@drewnapier.com

ABOUT WEN JIN

Wen Jin maintains a broad disputes practice which straddles over several practice groups, including International Commercial Arbitration, General Commercial Litigation, Construction, Trust & Private Wealth, Crypto, and White Collar Crime. Wen Jin has been named one of Singapore's 20 most influential lawyers aged 40 and under by the Singapore Business Review in 2024, identified in Benchmark Litigation 2025 and 2026 as a Future Star for disputes relating to commercial and transactions, and ranked in the Asian Legal Business (ALB) Asia 40 Under 40 2026 list.

Wen Jin strives to be a skilful and tenacious advocate. He has appeared as lead counsel in trials and other hearings at all levels of the Singapore courts. Wen Jin has an especially keen interest in handling appeals dealing with complex and novel issues. The Singapore Court of Appeal has commended Wen Jin for his "valiant" and "steadfast" legal representation at the trial and the appeals (*Public Prosecutor v GCK* [2020] 1 SLR 486), and for his "diligent and painstaking effort" in seeking to persuade the Court (CA/CCA 27/2020, appeal from *Public Prosecutor v BSV* [2020] SGHC 115). Wen Jin also succeeded in an appeal as lead counsel in a recent case before the Court of Appeal relating to trusteeship (*Chan Yun Cheong v Chan Chi Cheong* [2021] 2 SLR 67).

As a legal advisor, Wen Jin adopts a holistic approach to find practical and commercial solutions for clients facing legal issues, whether in the context of an existing dispute, or pre-dispute. Wen Jin has experience in a wide spectrum of subject-matters, including the drafting of dispute resolution clauses, litigation strategy, international commercial arbitration, mediation, construction, employment, equity and trust, breach of directors' duties, shareholders' disputes, M&A disputes, and criminal defence.

Wen Jin graduated from the Singapore Management University with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) with highest distinction (*summa cum laude*) in 2012. He was placed on the Dean's List for all four years of his study. At graduation, he was awarded the SMU Circle Award for embracing an all-round education, and being upright in character, socially responsible, and well-respected by peers, staff, and faculty.

Wen Jin then served as a Justices' Law Clerk to the Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court of Singapore from 2012 to 2015, before entering private practice. He was admitted to the Singapore Bar as an Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore in 2015.

To deepen his interest in international arbitration and dispute resolution, Wen Jin has completed a specialist Master of Laws programme in International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution (LL.M. (IADR)) at the National University of Singapore (where he attended on a Kwa Geok Choo Graduate Scholarship), and the Master of Advanced Studies (LL.M.) in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) at the Geneva Center for International Dispute Settlement (University of Geneva & The Graduate Institute Geneva).

Wen Jin has authored a number of academic publications. Notably, the Court of Appeal cited with approval an article he co-authored titled "The Granting of Mareva Injunctions in Support of Foreign Court Proceedings" (*Bi Xiaoqiong v China Medical Technologies* [2019] 2 SLR 595). Wen Jin has also taught Business Law as adjunct faculty at the Singapore Management University.

As part of his pro bono work to contribute back to the society, Wen Jin is a volunteer with the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme and the Legal Assistance for Capital Offences (LASCO) scheme. Wen Jin is a member of the Criminal Legal Aid Steering Committee (Ministry of Law), as well as the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme Committee of Pro Bono SG.

EXPERIENCE

Some of the matters which Wen Jin has acted in include:

- **Cryptocurrency Disputes:** Assisted clients who are victims of hacks where millions of dollars of tokens were stolen by unknown hackers with the tokens dissipated across numerous wallets held in various centralised exchanges. Achieved substantial recovery by working with law enforcement authorities as well as securing commercial remedies in the form of freezing injunctions to halt the dissipation of tokens, disclosure orders to track down the hackers, as well as judgments for the delivery-up of the stolen tokens. Coordinated with multiple centralised exchanges and law offices across multiple countries for the comprehensive and effective recovery (HC/OC 643/2024; HC/OC 33/2025). Advising clients on disputes relating to Simple Agreements for Future Tokens (SAFTs) regarding token allocation and postponement.
- **Construction Dispute**: Successfully defended the client, a management contractor, in a dispute in respect of the building of a multi-user business park development at Biopolis in Singapore. The case resulted in a 17-day trial in the High Court and in an appeal in the Court of Appeal (*Crescendas Bionics Pte Ltd v Jurong Primewide Pte Ltd* [2019] SGHC 4; *Jurong Primewide Pte Ltd v Crescendas Bionics Pte Ltd* [2019] SGCA 63). The Court agreed with our client that the price for the preliminaries was agreed to by the parties rather than a tentative sum contended by the plaintiff, that there was no agreement by our client to waive its entitlement to certain shared savings, and that the plaintiff/employer had committed acts of prevention which delayed the completion of the project. In the second tranche regarding assessment of damages, the claimant's claim of S$35m for loss of net rental revenue was successfully withered down to S$4.1m after a 15-day trial involving property experts and an accounting expert (*Crescendas Bionics Pte Ltd v Jurong Primewide Pte Ltd* [2023] SGHC(A) 9).
- **Trust / Estate Administration**: Successfully acted as lead counsel in resisting a co-trustee's application to compel the client (who is a co-trustee of the trust) to consent to the co-trustee's discharge from the trust under the Trustees Act 1967 (*Chan Yun Cheong v Chan Chi Cheong* [2021] 2 SLR 67; [2021] SGCA 33; *Chan Chi Cheong v Chan Yun Cheong* [2020] SGHC 43). The Court of Appeal agreed with our submission that there is no legal basis to compel our client to provide his consent under s 40 Trustees Act.
- **Freezing Order / Mareva Injunction against fraudster:** Successfully acted as lead counsel in an urgent application in the High Court for a Mareva Injunction against a fraudster with bank accounts in Singapore. Proceeded to successfully obtain judgment against the fraudster and executed enforcement orders against the fraudster's bank accounts in Singapore (*Daniel Boon v Terry Birles* (HC/OC 288/2023)).
- **Investment Scam / Fraudulent Misrepresentation:** Successfully acted as counsel for an investor in appellate proceedings before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court regarding a property scam involving a Japanese development where the client successfully obtained judgement at the High Court for fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation and conspiracy (Lo Yew Seng v Astrawati Aluwi [2026] SGHC(A) 18).
- **Recognition of Foreign Judgment**: Successfully resisted the recognition of an Indonesian bankruptcy decision in Singapore on the ground of a breach of natural justice in that the clients were deprived of an opportunity to contest the

Indonesian bankruptcy proceedings because of a failure of service of process in Indonesia (*Paulus Tannos v Heince Tombak Simanjuntak and others and another appeal* [2020] 2 SLR 1061; *Paulus Tannos v Heince Tombak Simanjuntak* [2019] SGHC 216).

- **Criminal Defence**: Represented and acted as lead counsel for accused persons on a range of moderate to serious charges in trials and contentious sentencing hearings in the State Courts, High Court, and Court of Appeal. Reported judgments include the following: *Public Prosecutor v GCK* [2018] SGDC 195; *GCK v Public Prosecutor* [2019] SGHC 46; *Public Prosecutor v GCK* [2020] 1 SLR 486; *Public Prosecutor v Nithiyanathan S/O Veerappan* [2019] SGDC 148; and *Public Prosecutor v BSV* [2020] SGHC 115, and *Public Prosecutor v Abdul Karim Bin Syed Musgooth* [2023] SGMC 85. Secured the withdrawal of charges by making substantive representations to the Attorney-General's Chambers, including acting as lead counsel and securing a discharge amounting to an acquittal on all 63 charges of forgery and cheating in the marine oil trading sector (SC-903815-2020).
- **Capital Case**: Acted pro bono as junior assisting counsel in a death penalty case under the LASCO Scheme and secured a setting aside of the conviction and death penalty before the Court of Appeal (*Jeremiah Lim Koon Eng v Public Prosecutor* (CA/CCA 7/2019; CA/CM 14/2019)).
- **Disciplinary Proceedings**: Acted for a solicitor, before the Disciplinary Tribunal and Court of Three Judges, who was charged for acting as a supervising solicitor to a practice trainee when the solicitor failed to check that he was not qualified to act as such (*The Law Society of Singapore v Clarence Lun Yaodong* [2022] SGDT 9; *The Law Society of Singapore v Clarence Lun Yaodong* [2022] SGHC 269).
- **Piecing the Corporate Veil**: Acted for a Japanese/Israeli manufacturer of CCTV equipment in an appeal before the Court of Appeal, arguing for the existence of an oral agreement between the manufacturer and another contractor to pursue a project regarding the redevelopment of a state prison. The issues involved include the tort of inducing of breach of contract, conspiracy to injure, agency, rules of attribution to attribute acts of persons up the chain, the alter ego doctrine, and the piecing of the corporate veil (*ARS v ART* (Civil Appeal No 99/2015)).
- **Search Order/ Anton Piller Order**: Acted for a media intelligence company to successfully obtain an urgent search order against an errant former employee to uncover the extent of company data theft by the former employer, as well as obtaining an interim injunction restraining the former employer from joining a competitor. The operation included the use of private investigators in 2 locations, and the use of forensics analysis experts to clone devices and analyse the data (HC/S 533/2021).
- **International Commodities Arbitration:** Acted for a Taiwanese company against a coal supplier in Dubai in an SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore for non-payment of the contract price for coal due to inability to make payment arising from circumstances resulting in force majeure.
- **International Arbitration relating to shareholder disputes:** Acted for a Chinese construction company as claimant against a Malaysian shareholder and its related companies in an SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore, and coordinated cross-jurisdictional proceedings in Malaysia and Vietnam.
- **International Construction Arbitration**: Acted for a Russian main contractor in an SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore, with the main contract governed by the law of a Southeast Asian country. The main argument was that the Russian main contractor of a power generation project in a Southeast Asian country had to stop work because of certain sanctions imposed on it by the US government, and that amounted to force majeure under the contract. In particular, the sanctions were an exceptional event beyond the contractor's control, it could not reasonably have provided against the sanctions before entering the main

contract, and it could not reasonably have overcome the sanctions after they had arisen.

- **Setting Aside of Arbitration Award**: Acted as counsel in an application to challenge an arbitral award seated in Singapore on the basis that the tribunal breached the fair hearing rule as part of a breach in natural justice due to failure to consider an issue and for deciding an issue based on a chain of reasoning that has no sufficient nexus to the parties' cases (Essar Exploration and Production India Limited v Nayara Energy Limited (HC/OA 586/2026)).
- **International Construction Arbitration**: Assisted the Tribunal in an SIAC arbitration as Tribunal Secretary in a complex dispute involving the construction of a large infrastructure project in Dubai. The issues in dispute include non-completion of the project, damages for delay, and the applicability of a limitation of liability clause.
- **Trust Administration**: Acted for a bank trustee in a contentious mediation between beneficiaries of the estate and the executors of the estate. Two of the beneficiaries of the estate had commenced a suit against the executors of the estate, and the trust is one of the beneficiaries of the trust. This was a complex matter as it involved issues relating to the administration of the estate (involving several separate beneficiaries and the trust), and also issues relating to the administration of the trust (which had several beneficiaries, some of which overlap with the beneficiaries under the estate). The assets involved were massive (estimated value of the assets to be distributed from the estate to the trust was about S$100m), and spanned over several asset classes.
- **Trust Administration**: Acted for the trustee of a unit trust in making an application for payment of unclaimed monies into court where the unitholders are uncontactable (*BNP Paribas Trust Services Limited* (HC/OA 1111-1112/2024))
- **Trust Administration**: Successfully applied to court for termination of a trust and distribution of the trust monies on the basis of the settlor's intention in view of changed circumstances and/or on the basis of an agreement by all the beneficiaries of the trust (*Haji Mohamed Hassan bin Haji Mohamed Salleh* HC/SUM 600013/2023).
- **Settlement Deal**: Assisted a client who was a minority shareholder in a global palm oil producer to broker a settlement deal with the other shareholders to resolve the impasse in the management of the company.
- **Breach of directors' duties and misappropriation**: (1) Acted for Asia Sports Ventures in a claim against its former director for breach of directors' duties in diverting business, misappropriating money, and breaching a restrictive covenant. (2) Acting for a company in a claim against previous directors for breach of directors' duties in making wrongful payments to companies owned by the previous directors.
- **Breach of directors' duties / misrepresentation / company management**: Advised and acted for a group of investors against the directors of a tech start-up for possible claims on misrepresentation and breaches of directors' duties (including dilution of shares due to wrongful issuance of shares). The investors claimed that the founders fraudulently misrepresented the state of the business and that the founders unfairly diluted the shares of the investors.
- **Oppression of Minority Shareholder**: Advised a minority shareholder in a logistics company on a potential claim against the majority shareholder for minority oppression.
- **Employment / Restraint of Trade Clauses**: Advised a financial trader on a non-competition and non-solicitation clause in his employment agreement with his former employer, and how to move forward without acting in breach of his obligations to his former employer.
- **Defamation**: Advised a listed company on the merits of a potential defamation claim.

- **Mergers and Acquisitions Deal**: Acted for and advised a 50% shareholder of a construction company in the negotiations and completion of the acquisition of the remaining 50% of shares from another shareholder. The shareholders also executed a settlement agreement to achieve a clean cut in their investments.
- **Mergers and Acquisitions Dispute**: Advising a purchaser-investor in a share purchase agreement in respect of shares in a medical service company. In particular, advising the purchaser-investor on its dispute with the vendor and its obligation to complete the purchase.

PRACTICES

- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Arbitration
- Construction
- Securities and Shareholder Litigation
- Employment disputes
- Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation
- White Collar and Government Investigations

ACCOLADES

- *Singapore Business Review:* Recognised as one of Singapore's 20 most influential lawyers under 40, 2024
- *Benchmark Litigation:* Recognised as a Future Star for disputes relating to commercial and transactions, 2025
- *Benchmark Litigation:* Recognised as a Future Star for disputes relating to commercial and transactions, 2026
- *Asian Legal Business*: Ranked in ALB Asia 40 Under 40, 2026

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, book chapter in "The Guide to M&A Arbitration" (Global Arbitration Review, Amy C Klasener Gen Ed, 2nd Ed, 2018)
- Contributor, book chapter in "Essential of Corporate Law & Governance in Singapore" (Sweet & Maxwell, 2018)
- Co-author, book chapter titled "Injunctions and Interim Relief" in Civil Litigation in Singapore (Sweet & Maxwell, Chan Sek Keong Editor-in-Chief, 2016)
- Co-author, "The Granting of Mareva Injunctions in Support of Foreign Court Proceedings" (Singapore Academy of Law Journal, Vol. 28, No. 2, Sep 2016: 503-526)

ADMISSIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- LL.B. (summa cum laude), Singapore Management University (2012)
  LL.M. (International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution), National University of Singapore (2022)
- LL.M. (International Dispute Settlement), Geneva Center for International Dispute Settlement (University of Geneva & The Graduate Institute Geneva) (2022)
- Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore, 2015
- Solicitor (non-practising), England & Wales, 2026
- SMC Accredited Mediator, Singapore Mediation Centre, 2019
- Wealth Management Institute (WMI), 2022, Advanced Certificate in Trust Services

LANGUAGES

- English
- Chinese

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Criminal Legal Aid Steering Committee, Ministry of Law
- Member, Criminal Legal Aid Scheme Committee, Pro Bono SG

- Adjunct faculty, Singapore Management University, Academic Year 2014/2015, 2016/2017