PROFILE

DREW & NAPIER



Tan Yuan Kheng
Director, Dispute Resolution

LL.B (Hons) National University of Singapore (2013)
Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2014)
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ABOUT YUAN KHENG

Yuan Kheng has an active practice in complex litigation and international arbitration involving sovereign States, multinational corporations, as well as high net-worth individuals. She regularly advises clients on a diverse range of matters relating to commercial contracts, corporate disputes, director / shareholder fights, tortious claims, competition law issues, infrastructure projects, trusts, investor-state disputes, banking and finance and regulatory actions.

Apart from maintaining an active litigation practice, Yuan Kheng has particular experience and interest in international arbitration, with many of her matters involving arbitrations under the auspices of the SIAC, ICC, ICSID and PCA. She also regularly appears before the Singapore Courts for arbitration-related Court proceedings, including the setting aside of arbitration awards as well as applications for urgent interim relief in support of arbitrations.

Yuan Kheng graduated from the National University of Singapore with an LLB (Hons) degree in 2013, and was placed on the Dean's List during her time in law school. During her time on exchange, she represented Instituto de Empresa, a top graduate school located in Spain, in the prestigious 2011 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria.

She is also proficient in Mandarin Chinese.

EXPERIENCE

Some of the notable matters which Yuan Kheng has handled include:

Complex Litigation & Regulatory Actions

- Successfully acted for members of the De La Sala family in the largest trust case ever heard in Singapore, involving disputed assets estimated to be worth between US$600 and US$800 million. The matter involved complex corporate trust structures based in multiple jurisdictions, including Singapore, Panama, the BVI, Liberia and Hong Kong. The High Court's judgment was a landmark decision setting out guidance on what constitutes impermissible witness coaching.
- Successfully secured a US$926 million judgment for Bidzina Ivanishvili, a former Prime Minister of Georgia, and his family in a claim against Credit Suisse Trust ("**CST**") for breach of trust leading to losses in an investment portfolio. CST had previously obtained a stay of proceedings in the High Court in favour of Switzerland, following which the Ivanishvili family instructed Drew & Napier LLC to take over the case. Yuan Kheng, who was part of the team which advised a change of strategy, succeeded in the appeal before the Court of Appeal which lifted the stay of proceedings.
- Acting for and advising the founder of Mustafa Centre, an iconic landmark in Singapore since the 1960s, in claims concerning minority oppression, probate and administration and trust assets.
- Acted for an Ultra-High Net-Worth Individual against an international bank for claims in contract, tort and misrepresentation in excess of US$250 million, in one of the largest private banking disputes in Singapore.
- Advised the independent directors of a leading local insurance company on their duties to the company, shareholders and policyholders in a controversial proposed merger and take over by a foreign insurance company.

International Commercial Arbitrations and Arbitration-related Court Proceedings

- Acting in a complex ICC arbitration, and in parallel setting aside applications before the Singapore Courts, concerning a wildly

popular massively multiplayer online role-playing game involving multiple contracts and novel legal issues under Singapore law, Korean law and PRC law. The claimants valued their alleged losses at US$1 billion.

- Acting for a global biotechnology company and its founder in an application before the Singapore Courts to discharge a worldwide *Mareva* injunction in support of a US$860 million ICC arbitration claim brought by a Danish pharmaceutical giant over an allegedly failed hypertension drug.
- Acting for a Big Tech in a high-stakes SIAC arbitration involving multiple breaches of contract by its counterparty and unpaid invoiced amounts. The counterparty has in turn launched multiple counterclaims, including unlawful interference with trade and abuse of dominance.
- Successfully acted for two gaming operators who were charged with managing and selling gaming properties in an SIAC commercial arbitration. The US$162 million dispute involves allegations of *inter alia* breach of fiduciary duties and conversion of property.
- Acted for a leading venture capital firm in a high-value, confidential SIAC arbitration involving claims of minority oppression and conspiracy by the founder of a biotechnology company. Successfully secured a favourable settlement for the client.
- Acted for the world's largest vacation ownership business in a multi-million dollar SIAC arbitration concerning alleged breaches of a hotel management agreement, before successfully securing a favourable settlement for the client.
- Acted for three individuals who were shareholders of a well-known restaurant chain in a S$20 million claim administered by the SIAC. The case involved allegations of breaches of an agreement for the sale of shares.
- Successfully represented an international sports marketing, media and event management group in an SIAC arbitration. The dispute was in relation to unpaid broadcast fees in connection with a major league tournament.

Investor-State Disputes / Investment Treaty Arbitrations

- Successfully acted for the Government of Laos to resist the setting aside of two Bilateral Investment Treaty awards before the Singapore Courts. The arbitrations were the first known investor-state arbitrations ever commenced against the Lao Government and involve a long-running and high-profile dispute between the Lao Government and two investors in its gaming and casino industry. The claimants valued their alleged investment losses as between US$690 million to US$1 billion.
- Acted for the Republic of India in relation to one of the most publicised tax disputes involving tax assessment orders issued by the Indian Government on US$3.8 billion capital gains arising from a complex restructuring exercise involving the Cairn and Vedanta Groups' Indian oil and gas assets.
- Acted for an international gas and energy company in a dispute against the Turkish State involving the seizure of its subsidiaries and investments in Turkey based on allegations of suspected criminal activity involving terrorism and money laundering.
- Assisted in numerous investor-state arbitrations administered by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). These arbitrations concern billion-dollar claims under Bilateral Investment Treaties and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

ACCOLADES

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific



Dispute Resolution 2026 – Recommended Lawyer (2 years ranked)

International Arbitration 2024 – Recommended Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

Sources say "*Yuan Kheng Tan is quick in response and understands the client's demands."*

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, Law Society of Singapore
- Young MCIA Steering Committee (2023-2024)
- Tutor for the Preparatory Course leading to Part B of the Singapore Bar Examinations

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, Singapore chapter in the inaugural and second editions Legal 500: Investment Treaty Arbitration Country Comparative Guides (2025–2026)
- Co-author, the first Singapore chapter in the Global Arbitration Review (GAR) Know-How: Investment Treaty Arbitration 2025