



Wilson Koh
Director, Dispute Resolution

LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore
Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore (2017)
T: +65 6531 2718 F: +65 6535 4906 E: wilson.koh@drewnapier.com

ABOUT WILSON

Wilson is a disputes lawyer with a focus on complex commercial disputes. His practice covers a broad range of advocacy and advisory work, with particular experience in high-stakes international disputes involving joint ventures, engineering/construction and financial institutions.

A client describes Wilson as “highly composed even in the most adverse of situations” and “a lawyer you want in your corner”. They also say that they “enjoyed working with him tremendously”.

Wilson has acted for and advised clients from across Asia, including Singapore, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, and Brunei. His clients include investment funds, government linked companies, public listed companies, and ultra-high net worth individuals. He also serves as a legal advisor in the military reserve and has represented a legally aided person in Court on a pro bono basis.

In addition to appearing in Court, Wilson has represented clients in international arbitrations under the ICC, SIAC and UNCITRAL Rules and served as tribunal secretary in ICC and SIAC arbitrations. He is a sub-committee member at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and has been a member of the Young SIAC since 2015. He has been published in the Journal of International Arbitration and has also written an award-winning essay in a competition organised by the SIAC. He received his LLB degree from the National University of Singapore and was trained by one of the top Senior Counsel in Singapore.

EXPERIENCE

Some of the matters that Wilson has acted in and advised on include:

International Arbitration

- Representing an East Asian company in a dispute relating to technology licensing for automotive components. The components are supplied to major car manufacturers internationally. Wilson delivered the oral arguments at two contentious hearings opposed by King's Counsel.
- Successfully represented an Asian steel producer against a global supplier of steel plants with claims in excess of US\$100 million. The matter raised complex factual and expert evidence involving misrepresentations over novel technology.
- Successfully represented a state-owned telecommunications company in defeating claims of more than US\$100 million concerning a joint venture in Asia for the provision of 3G mobile services.
- Successfully represented a renowned geotechnical specialist contractor in a dispute involving major ground engineering works in Indonesia, achieving a positive outcome for the client.
- Represented an Asian investment fund in a dispute arising from an attempted acquisition of a controlling stake in a company that runs a major regional smartphone operating system. The dispute spawned multiple court and arbitration proceedings.
- Representing an international sports marketing agency in an arbitration concerning broadcast rights.

- Successfully represented an Asian company against an East Asian state-owned enterprise, with over US\$20 million in dispute. The dispute concerned a water and power project in the Middle East and involved claims for delays and defects.
- Appointed as tribunal secretary in ICC and SIAC arbitrations.

Litigation

- Successfully overturned a High Court decision in *Ma Binxiang v Hainan Hui Bang Construction Investment Group Ltd.* [2022] SGHC(A) 37. Very few appeals to the Appellate Division of the High Court are successful but this decision is a timely reminder on the correct approach to applying the civil standard of proof, and is a successful example in showing the appellate court's willingness to overturn a trial judge's factual findings under special circumstances. Wilson delivered the oral arguments for several issues.
- Acted for the founder and majority beneficial owner of a leading Chinese menswear designer brand in a US\$26 million claim involving rare issues of banker/custodian customer duties, brokerage practice and procedures, trading in CFDs and complex compliance issues.
- Successfully stayed and sealed Singapore High Court proceedings in favour of arbitration in a dispute involving allegations of fraud and investment in an art piece. Wilson delivered the oral arguments for the sealing application before a High Court judge.
- Represented a client in setting aside proceedings before the Singapore Courts involving arbitration awards rendered under the ICC's Expedited Procedure.
- Represented an individual in an appeal before the Singapore Courts on the grounds of apparent bias and breach of natural justice.
- Represented a client in a major dispute against a global financial services firm. The matter involved concurrent proceedings in multiple jurisdictions and complex corporate trust structures based in the British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands.
- Assisted a real estate developer in a large construction dispute before the Singapore High Court.

Advisory Matters

- Advised an international sports marketing agency on various matters involving billions of rights revenues under a master rights agreement for advertising, media and commercial rights for major sporting events.
- Advised a government-linked investment fund in relation to potential arbitration of claims involving an investment in a biotechnology company.
- Advised a government-linked company on a potential dispute concerning liability for property tax.
- Advised a media conglomerate on a potential dispute with a video on demand service provider.
- Advised a supply chain management software company on a cloud services licensing agreement.
- Advised a listed real estate solutions provider on issues relating to formation of contract after failed negotiations concerning the development of a specialised warehouse.
- Advised clients on shareholders' agreements, international cooperation agreements, defamation, employment law, passing off, copyright, debt, insolvency, competition law and more.

ACCOLADES

Asialaw Leading Lawyers

"Wilson is highly composed even in the most adverse of situations and is a lawyer you want in your corner. He is also very clinical and prompt in the delivery of legal advice and we enjoyed working with him tremendously".

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

PUBLICATIONS

- Author, “Think Quality Not Quantity: Repeat Appointments and Arbitrator Challenges”, 34(4) Journal of International Arbitration 711 (2017).
- Wilson is also the author of an award-winning essay at the Young Singapore International Arbitration Centre (YSIAC) Essay Competition 2018 on the topic “Can or Should Parties Waive the Right to Set Aside an Award?”