



Panel Discussion: **Regional Opportunities for Lawyers**

Brief Synopsis: Our distinguished panel comprising of speakers, Dr Michael Hwang SC, Ms. April Raimundo-Obnial, Mr. Zachary Sharpe and Mr. Arvin Lee, will discuss various regional opportunities and how to prepare for such careers.

Event Details

Date:	6 October 2017, Friday
Time:	1230H to 1400H (Please do not be late) Lunch will be provided.
Venue:	Blk B, 4 th Level, Seminar Room 4-4 National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law
Registration:	http://tinyurl.com/yb9seezh

SPEAKERS



Dr Michael Hwang SC **President, DIFC Dispute Resolution Authority**

Michael Hwang S.C. currently practices as an international arbitrator and mediator based in Singapore (with overseas memberships of Chambers in London and Sydney). He also serves as the non-resident Chief Justice of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts. He has two law degrees from Oxford University, to which he gained admission by winning an open scholarship examination. In 2014 he was conferred an Honorary LL.D degree by the University of Sydney.

His past and present appointments include: (a) Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Singapore; (b) Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore; (c) Singapore's non-resident Ambassador to Switzerland and Argentina; (d) President of the Law Society of Singapore; (e) Adjunct Professor, National University of Singapore; (f) Commissioner of the United Nations Compensation Commission; (g) Vice Chair of the ICC International Court of Arbitration; (h) Vice Chair of the IBA Arbitration Committee.

His arbitration and mediation career has (a) involved disputes in 41 countries (b) resulted in hearings in 25 cities (c) led him to speak at conferences and seminars in 50 cities. He has been described by Chambers Asia 2008 as "a brilliant world class arbitrator" who is "popular, prominent, incisive and decisive". Global Arbitration Review 2008 ranked him as Asia's top arbitrator out of a list of 25. "The Best of the Best 2015" ranked him as one of the top 42 commercial arbitration practitioners in the world. "Chambers Global 2016", under the heading "Most in Demand Arbitrators", included him as one of the top 37 arbitrators on its Global Wide list.

April Raimundo-Obnial
Chief Legal Officer, EFA Group



April is Chief Legal and Compliance Officer of EFA Group and is responsible for all legal matters including business and investment structuring, corporate and fund set up and other legal issues across all countries where EFA does business including Singapore, Hong Kong, UAE, Switzerland, UK, Romania, and Turkey. April oversees legal support in all areas of transaction management for capital finance, structured and trade commodity finance and provides support on restructuring and litigation for financing across Asia, Europe and the Middle East. She was the first legal counsel of EFA and set up the legal and compliance platform of EFA through an accelerated growth period.

She was named one of five in-house lawyers in the 2016 edition of ALBs 40 under 40 legal minds in Asia and her team was shortlisted as banking and financial services in house team of the year in the ALB SEA Law Awards 2016 and 2017.

EFA Group has a regulated investment management company with a CMS license from the MAS in Singapore and a Category 4 license from the DFSA in the DIFC in Dubai. EFA Group has several funds specializing in private debt strategies, with a focus on real economy business. Their funds are marketed internationally and have accredited and institutional investors across Europe and Japan.

Prior to joining EFA Group, April was an Associate at Baker & McKenzie International. Her legal practice focused on various aspects of corporate and commercial work including mergers and acquisitions, contract drafting and review, doing business concerns, due diligence, outsourcing, special registrations and structuring of investments. Her industry concentrations included environment and natural resources, real estate, outsourcing and retail trade.

Zachary Sharpe
Of Counsel, Jones Day



Zac Sharpe focuses on international disputes resolution with an emphasis on complex arbitrations arising from engineering and construction, international trade, shipping and joint venture agreements.

Zac has worked on disputes in a number of forums, including ad hoc and institutional arbitration proceedings in major arbitration centers across Europe and Asia (London, Geneva, Singapore, Hong Kong and Seoul) subject to various arbitration rules and procedures (ICC, LCIA, ICSID, LMAA, SIAC, HKIAC, KCAB and UNCITRAL). He has extensive experience on disputes arising out of the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning of energy, resource, infrastructure, shipbuilding and offshore construction projects across Asia, Europe, Australia and in the Middle East

Prior to joining Jones Day, Zac was a senior in-house counsel at Hyundai Heavy Industries in Ulsan, Korea, where he oversaw contentious and non-contentious legal work arising out of the engineering, procurement and construction of

vessels, offshore rigs, platforms and modular LNG facilities, including floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) and floating LNG (FLNG) platforms, floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs), drilling platforms, semi-submersibles and other mobile offshore drilling units.

Zac practiced at a Korean law firm in Seoul for many years where he focused on shipping and maritime disputes. During this time he acted for ship owners, charterers and maritime claimants on a wide-range of shipping disputes, including numerous arbitrations arising out of charter-parties (bareboat, time and voyage), vessel lease and carriage of goods agreements for a range of vessels as well as limitation, arrest, and attachment proceedings in multiple jurisdictions. Zac has also worked on several cross-border insolvencies involving major shipping companies and regularly advises clients on shipping insolvency and ship sale and purchase related matters.

Zac is regularly invited to speak at international arbitration and construction conferences. He is a member of several arbitration associations, including the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the Council for International Arbitration at the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board.

MODERATOR



Arvin Lee
Partner, Tan Rajah & Cheah

Arvin Lee is a Partner of Tan, Rajah & Cheah, Singapore, and an Arbitrator of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board and the Beijing Arbitration Commission. All of his work as disputes counsel focuses on regional and international disputes, and involves foreign co-counsel, who in the last 3 years have come from Germany, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, BVI, Korea and the USA, whom he makes it a point to build happy and long-term working relationships with.

In late 2015, he successfully obtained an SIAC award in an Expedited Procedure arbitration for specific performance by Respondents from the People's Republic of China in favour of his principal, a Singapore-listed company, with costs in full. In March 2017, this award was successfully recognised and enforced in the People's Republic of China. He credits these results in large measure to good PRC law firms who came in quickly to secure the disputed asset right at the start of the arbitration, provide expert opinion for purposes of the trial, as well as to undertake enforcement before the PRC Courts.

Arvin is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and holds law degrees from Harvard and the London School of Economics.