

THE JONES DAY VISITING PROFESSORSHIP ON COMPARATIVE COMMERCIAL LAW

# ARBITRATION, ARBITRATORS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: TIME TO MAKE THE CONNECTION

THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 2024 || 5.00PM TO 6.40PM || WEE CHONG JIN MOOT COURT, NUS LAW



THE HONOURABLE GEOFFREY MA  
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE HONG KONG  
COURT OF FINAL APPEAL

## ABOUT

A disconnect exists between how many in the arbitration community (including arbitrators themselves) and the legal community at large (in particular judges) view the nature of arbitration. The former look at arbitration merely as a purely private process, not being anybody's concern other than that of the parties, their representatives and the arbitrators. Others take a more controversial view: arbitration has now become an important facet of the administration of justice. This talk explores the relative arguments on both sides, but ultimately advocates the view that, for better or worse, arbitration has become a part of the administration of justice, and with it, extremely difficult, practical challenges have emerged for practitioners and arbitrators alike.

## PROGRAMME

- 4.30PM** Registration
- 5.00PM** Welcome Speech by Zachary Sharpe  
(Partner - Jones Day Singapore)
- 5.05PM** Speech by Guest-of-Honour,  
The Honourable Justice Kannan Ramesh
- 5.10PM** Lecture by The Honourable Geoffrey Ma
- 6.10PM** Q&A moderated by Professor Tan Cheng Han
- 6.40PM** Dinner Reception

## REGISTRATION

Register at [bit.ly/4bRoa90](https://bit.ly/4bRoa90) or  
scan the QR code

**Closing date:**  
1 April 2024

**Contact:**  
[ewbclb@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ewbclb@nus.edu.sg)



## SPEAKER

**THE HONOURABLE GEOFFREY MA**  
FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE HONG KONG  
COURT OF FINAL APPEAL

Geoffrey Ma is the former Chief Justice in Hong Kong, having retired in January 2021. He joined the Hong Kong Judiciary in 2001 as a judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, becoming a Justice of Appeal in 2002 and was appointed as the Chief Judge of the High Court in 2003 until his appointment in 2010 as Chief Justice. Prior to the Judiciary, he was in private practice as a barrister in Temple Chambers in Hong Kong (QC 1993, SC 1997). He also practiced in Singapore as an Advocate and Solicitor in David Chong & Co. Subsequent to his retirement from the Hong Kong Judiciary, he now practices as an arbitrator and mediator in Hong Kong (Temple Chambers), Singapore (David Chong Law Corporation) and London (Brick Court Chambers). He is on the SIAC Panel of Arbitrators, HKIAC Panel of Arbitrators and the HKIAC Panel of Mediators. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of Arbitration in Hong Kong: A Practical Guide (1st to 5th editions). He is an Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn and of the Middle Temple. He is an Honorary Professor in the University of Hong Kong, Honorary Chair and Professor of the Law School (University of Birmingham) and Honorary Professor in the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is a Member of the Advisory Board of the Commercial Law Centre of the University of Oxford. He is also a Patron of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law.

**GUEST OF HONOUR**



**THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE KANNAN RAMESH**

JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE DIVISION  
SUPREME COURT OF SINGAPORE

Justice Kannan Ramesh was appointed Judge of the Appellate Division on 1 November 2022. He was appointed Judicial Commissioner in May 2015, and Judge of the High Court in April 2017. He was also appointed as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam (“SCBD”) on a part-time basis from 2019 to 2023 where he hears both commercial and civil cases in SCBD.

He received his Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the National University of Singapore in 1990. He was then admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore in 1991, and appointed Senior Counsel in 2012.

Before his appointment as Judicial Commissioner, Justice Ramesh was Managing Partner of Messrs Tan Kok Quan Partnership from 2008, where he specialised in dispute resolution, insolvency and restructuring, and international arbitration.

He was also appointed as Board Member of the Singapore Aerospace Manufacturing Pte Ltd and M1 Limited. In the former, he had an added role as Executive Committee Member, while in the latter, he was Chairman of M1’s Risk Committee, as well as Member of their Nominating and Audit Committees.

He is a member of the Singapore Academy of Law’s Law Reform Committee, and President of New York’s International Insolvency Institute and part of its Arbitration and Conciliation working group. He was instrumental in establishing the Judicial Insolvency Network (JIN) which issued in October 2016, guidelines for court-to-court communications and cooperation in cross-border insolvencies.

In June 2022, he was appointed by the Chief Justice as the co-chair of the Commercial Practice Panel of the Supreme Court, to develop best practices for the management of commercial cases. On 24 June 2023, he was formally inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy (ACB) in Washington, D.C., the first Singaporean Judge recognised as an International Fellow of the ACB.

Justice Ramesh authored “Getting the Deal Through – Restructuring and Insolvency in 51 Jurisdictions Worldwide” in 2010. He also authored the Singapore Chapter in “Doing Business – Closing a Business Survey”, a World Bank publication, published in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

## CHAIRPERSON

PROFESSOR TAN CHENG HAN  
NUS LAW

Professor Tan Cheng Han, S.C. was Dean of the NUS law school from 2001 to 2011, Chairman of the NUS EW Barker Centre for Law and Business from 2012 to 2019, and Dean of the City University of Hong Kong School of Law from 2019 to 2022. He is presently the Chief Strategy Officer of NUS Law. His other current roles include being a Senior Consultant at Wong Partnership LLP, Chairman of Singapore Exchange Regulation Pte Ltd, President of the Asian Law Schools Association, and a member of the Singapore Business Federation's Board of Trustees. He maintains an active practice as counsel and arbitrator and has received many arbitral appointments as sole, presiding and co-arbitrator.

Professor Tan has been active in public service. These include being Chairman of the Public Accountants Oversight Committee, the Media Literacy Council, NTUC First Campus and Caritas Singapore. He has also served as Deputy Chairman of Sport Singapore and the Singapore Exchange's Listing Advisory Committee, as a member of the Securities Industry Council, the Corporate Finance Committee and the Advisory Council on the Impact of New Media on Society, and on the boards of the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore and the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority. Professor Tan has also sat as a member of the Military Court of Appeal and as a Specialist Judge.

Recent publications include: "The Metaverse beyond the Internet" (2023), *Law, Innovation and Technology* (with Daniel Seng); "Vicarious Liability in the Law of Agency" [2022] 2 *Journal of Business Law* 164; "Implied Terms in Undisclosed Agency" (2021) 84 *Modern Law Review* 532; "Mixed Ownership Reform and Corporate Governance in China's State-owned Enterprises" (2020) 53 *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law* 1055 (with Wang Jiangyu); "Estoppel in the Law of Agency" (2020) 136 *Law Quarterly Review* 315; and a co-edited book, *Intermediaries in Commercial Law* (Hart, 2022) to which he contributed a chapter on "Agency, Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic Agreements".