

ANNEX A

BACKGROUND ON SENIOR COUNSEL SCHEME

Senior Counsel are selected, pursuant to section 30 of the Legal Profession Act, Cap 161, by a Selection Committee. Appointment as Senior Counsel is an accolade given to those who possess outstanding ability as advocates, extensive knowledge of the law and the highest professional standing.

Persons holding office as Solicitor-General and Attorney-General are appointed Senior Counsel pursuant to sections 30(7) and 30(8) of the Legal Profession Act. Senior Counsel who are appointed to a judicial office (other than as a judge of the Supreme Court) will cease to use the Senior Counsel designation for the period of service in judicial office.

Senior Counsel appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court will cease to use the designation altogether (unless he is appointed Attorney-General).

The list of Senior Counsel can be found at:

<https://www.sal.org.sg/Services/Appointments/Senior-Counsel/Directory>.

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ABRAHAM VERGIS SC (AGED 46)

MANAGING DIRECTOR, PROVIDENCE LAW ASIA

Abraham Vergis is a Singapore court advocate and counsel for international arbitrations. He is the founder and Managing Director of *Providence Law Asia*, an independent dispute resolution boutique he established in 2012. His counsel practice centers around corporate & commercial litigation, international arbitrations, insolvency and restructuring, financial crimes, and international fraud and asset recovery. Abraham has a team of 12 counsel supporting him.



He has 21 years of experience in contentious work across Asia. He works closely with leading lawyers from Singapore and other jurisdictions and is regularly instructed as counsel in Singapore litigation by international law firms and foreign law practices. In the past four years, Abraham has successfully defended three cases before the Singapore International Commercial Courts, each presided by International Judges from the UK.

In the international arbitration space, Abraham routinely handles complex commercial or technical disputes across diverse industry verticals: construction, infrastructure, mining, telecoms, satellites, and technology disputes. Abraham has successfully secured a multi-million-dollar international arbitration award against a foreign government for breach of a 20-year BOT contract. He was named “*Managing Partner of the Year*” and shortlisted for “*Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year*” at the Asian Legal Business SE Awards 2019. He was a finalist for “*Asia’s Dispute Star of the Year*” at the AsiaLaw and Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards.

Abraham’s practice was recognized as “*Southeast Asia’s Dispute Resolution Boutique Practice of the Year*” in 2017, “*Southeast Asia’s Rising Law Firm of the Year*” in 2018, and finalist for “*Singapore Litigation Law Firm of the Year*” in 2019, at the annual Asian Legal Business (ALB) SE Asia Awards.

Abraham is a strong proponent of *pro bono* legal work. He has served as the Chairperson of the Law Society’s Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) Committee and has successfully defended a number of significant criminal cases *pro bono*. Abraham is the Subject Editor for the *Advocacy & Procedure* chapter for the SAL Practitioner Journal and has served on the SAL’s Law Reform Committee.

Abraham is a Fellow of the *International Academy of Financial Crime Litigators* (headquartered in France) and is recognized by Doyle’s Guide as a leading criminal defence lawyer in Singapore.

Abraham is a regular speaker at international law conferences, particularly in the areas of international arbitrations and asset recovery. He graduated from the National University of Singapore with an LLB (Hons) Degree in 1998. During his time in university, Abraham won the *Advocacy Cup* and was Captain of the NUS Varsity Debating team, representing the NUS at the World University Debates and regional tournaments. Abraham did his pupillage at Drew & Napier under Ms Indranee Rajah, S.C. and was called to the Singapore Bar in 1999. He spent 13 years at Drew & Napier where he rose to the rank of Director.

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KRISTY TAN SC (AGED 39)

SENIOR DIRECTOR (ADVOCACY GROUP),

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, SINGAPORE



Kristy graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2004 with an LLB (Hons, Second Upper), placing on the Dean's List and being awarded the Intellectual Property book prize.

Called to the Singapore Bar in 2005, she joined Allen & Gledhill LLP, where she was made Partner in 2010 and Equity Partner in 2013. Kristy practised in the areas of civil and commercial litigation and arbitration. Her clients included multi-national corporations, international banks and funds, and she acted for them in a wide range of regulatory, litigation and arbitration matters, many involving cross-border and complex elements. She has been named in previous editions of *Benchmark Litigation (Asia Pacific)* as a Future Star in the categories of Commercial and Transactions and International Arbitration.

In 2018, Kristy joined the Legal Service, and serves as the Head of the Advocacy Group in the Attorney- General's Chambers (AGC), having conduct of litigation and disputes matters in the areas of civil, commercial, criminal and public law. She also serves as AGC's representative in the Rules of Court Working Party.

Her other commitments include serving as a Board Member of the Casino Regulatory Authority since 2016, where she is presently Chairman of the Board's Legal and Regulatory Committee and Disciplinary Committee. In 2015, she sat on a government-appointed working committee to review the future of legal services in Singapore. Under the Supreme Court's inaugural *Young Amicus Curiae* (YAC) scheme in 2010, Kristy was appointed and acted as a YAC. Kristy also regularly contributes to the conduct of advocacy training, such as for the Law Society's Part B Advocacy Workshops.

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GOH YIHAN SC (AGED 39)

**DEAN AND PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF LAW,
SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY**



He has published numerous books, chapters and journal articles internationally and in Singapore, which have been cited on multiple occasions by the Singapore courts and the Federal Court of Malaysia. In recognition of his invaluable contributions to the development and advancement of Singapore law, he became the youngest recipient of the pentennial Singapore Academy of Law Singapore Law Merit Award in 2013.

Apart from his academic activities, Yihan is also active in the Singapore legal profession. Amongst his appointments, he is a board member of the Singapore Institute of Legal Education and the Singapore Judicial College. He has been appointed amicus curiae before the Singapore Court of Appeal and the Singapore High Court. He is also a Visiting Academic at Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP and a Professorial Fellow at the AGC Academy. He is periodically consulted by law firms in his areas of expertise and has appeared before the Court of Appeal as instructed counsel. He has also acted as an expert witness on Singapore law in the Federal Court of Canada and the Supreme Court of Victoria (Australia).

Before entering academia, Yihan was an Assistant Registrar, the first-ever Senior Justices' Law Clerk and a Justices' Law Clerk between 2006 and 2008 at the Singapore Supreme Court. He obtained his LL.B. (First Class Honours) from the National University of Singapore on a University Undergraduate Scholarship, where he graduated as the top student in 2006. He subsequently obtained a LL.M. from Harvard University in 2010 on a NUS University Overseas Graduate Scholarship. He was the recipient of several academic awards in the course of his studies, including the Adrian Clark Memorial Medal, the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal and the B.A. Mallal Moot Prize (Best Oralist and Best Memorial).