

**MICHAEL HWANG S.C**  
*Senior Counsel and Chartered Arbitrator*



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Michael Hwang received his legal education at Oxford University (both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels) to which he gained entry by winning a college scholarship in an open competitive examination. He then took up a teaching appointment at the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney before returning to Singapore to commence private practice in 1968.

In 1991 Mr Hwang was appointed a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court (a full time post equivalent to the office of an acting High Court Judge) for a fixed term which expired at the end of 1992. During his term of office, Mr Hwang dealt with a full caseload across the whole range of civil litigation. 15 of his judgments are reported in the Singapore Law Reports, and several of these have been referred to with approval by other courts and academic commentators. He returned to private practice at the beginning of 1993, and was Head of the Litigation Department of the law firm of Allen & Gledhill, Singapore (currently Singapore's largest law practice). He retired from the firm at the end of 2002 to establish an independent practice as a Barrister and Chartered Arbitrator.

In 1997 Mr Hwang was appointed one of the first 12 Senior Counsel ("S.C.") of the Supreme Court of Singapore (an appointment equivalent to that of Queen's Counsel in England).

From 2000 to 2003 Mr Hwang served as a Commissioner of the United Nations Compensation Commission ("UNCC") based in Geneva, a body set up under the Security Council to assess claims against Iraq arising from the Gulf War.

In 2003, Mr Hwang was appointed Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Switzerland, and continues to hold that post.

From 2005 to 2009, he served as Vice Chairman of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, and continues as a member of the Court.

In 2006, he was nominated as a representative of the International Olympic Committee on the International Council of Arbitration for Sports, and continues in that role.

From 2008 to 2010 he served as the President of the Law Society of Singapore.

In 2009 he was appointed by the Ruler of Dubai as a member of the Special Judicial Tribunal to oversee the Restructuring of Dubai World and its Subsidiaries.

In 2010 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, having served as Deputy Chief Justice since 2005.

In 2011 he was appointed as a Member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council for the Rule of Law.

His arbitration appointments (past and present) include being :-

- \* a Vice-Chairman of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (“ICC”) and Co-Chair of ICC Asia;
- \* a Vice-Chair of Committee D of the International Bar Association (“IBA”);
- \* a Vice-President of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (“ICCA”);
- \* a Court Member of the London Court of International Arbitration (“LCIA”);
- \* a Council Member of the International Council of Arbitration of Sports (“ICAS”)
- \* a Chartered Arbitrator
- \* a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators;
- \* a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators;
- \* an accredited arbitrator of :-
  - (i) Singapore International Arbitration Centre (“SIAC”);
  - (ii) Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry Permanent Court of Arbitration;
  - (iii) Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (“HKIAC”);
  - (iv) British Columbia International Commercial Arbitration Centre (“BCICAC”);
  - (v) Indonesian National Board of Arbitration (“BANI”);
  - (vi) Indian Council of Arbitration (“ICA”);
  - (vii) International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, India (“ICADR”);
  - (viii) London Court of International Arbitration (“LCIA”);
  - (ix) China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (“CIETAC”);
  - (x) Beijing Arbitration Commission (“BAC”);
  - (xi) American Arbitration Association (“AAA”);
  - (xii) Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague (“PCA”);
  - (xiii) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes at Washington DC (“ICSID”);
  - (xiv) Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (“JCAA”);
  - (xv) Korea Commercial Arbitration Board (“KCAB”);
  - (xvi) Dubai International Arbitration Centre (“DIAC”);
  - (xvii) Regional Arbitration Centre of Kuala Lumpur (“KLRCA”);
  - (xviii) Kazakhstan International Arbitrage (“KIA”);
  - (xix) Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (“SCC”);
  - (xx) HKIAC Domain Name Dispute Resolution Panel;
  - (xxi) World Intellectual Property Organization Domain Name Administrative Panel (“WIPO”);
  - (xxii) SIAC – Singapore Exchange Derivatives Trading Ltd Panel of Arbitrators;
  - (xxiii) Singapore Institute of Arbitrators;
  - (xxiv) Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (“APRAG”);
  - (xxv) Pacific International Arbitration Centre, Vietnam (“PIAC”)
  - (xxvi) Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (“CRCICA”)
- \* a council Member of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (“SIArb”)
- \* a Trustee of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (“DIAC”)
- \* a Member of the HKIAC International Advisory Council
- \* an accredited Mediator and Evaluator of the Singapore Mediation Centre (“SMC”);
- \* a Member of the Advisory Council of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (“SIAC”);
- \* a Member of the Board of Advisors to the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (“ACICA”);
- \* a Member of the Advisory Board of the Journal of International Arbitration (“JIA”).
- \* a Member of the Asian Advisory Council of the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”);
- \* the Singapore Correspondent for the Kluwer Arbitration Website;
- \* an Editorial Adviser to the Chinese Arbitration Association (“CAA”) Journal of Arbitration, Taipei.
- \* a member of the Executive Committee of the Institute of Transnational Arbitration (“ITA”) at Dallas.
- \* an Associate Editor for the online arbitration journal “Transnational Dispute Management” “TDM”.
- \* a member of the Editorial Board of “Global Arbitration Review”
- \* a member of the IBA Working Party on “Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration”
- \* a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee of the Journal of Arab Arbitration.
- \* a member of the Editorial Committee for the “Yearbook on International Investment Law and Policy”.
- \* a member of the Korean- EU FTA

As a lawyer, his fields of practice have included banking, finance, company, real property, intellectual property, administrative, criminal and family law, as well as a general commercial practice as an advocate.

He has received specialist training in both domestic and international arbitration (as well as mediation), and has lectured and written on international arbitration and mediation. He is active in domestic and international disputes including investment treaty disputes (under ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, ICSID, AAA/ICDR, BANI, HKIAC, CIETAC, Swiss and SIAC Rules). His arbitrations and mediations have involved disputes in Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, China, Dubai, Egypt, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, Malaysia (West and East), Mauritania, Macau, Mauritius, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Seychelles, St Kitts, Taiwan, Thailand, Tanzania, Turkey, UK, USA, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

He has conducted arbitration hearings in Bahrain, Beijing, Dubai, Frankfurt, Geneva, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, London, Manila, Mumbai, New Delhi, New York, Paris, Sandakan, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, The Hague, Washington DC and Zurich.

He has given expert evidence in the Courts of England, USA, Thailand, China, Hong Kong and Indonesia, as well as before international arbitral tribunals.

In 1999, he served as a Visiting Professor to the National University of Singapore teaching advocacy and commercial arbitration. Between 2005 and 2013, he served as Adjunct Professor at the same University to teach commercial and international arbitration.

He has been listed in the "Euromoney Guide to the World's Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration", "Euromoney Guide to the World's Leading Litigation Lawyers", "Chambers Global" "AsiaLaw's Leading Lawyers", "AsiaLaw Profiles", "The Asia Pacific Legal 500", "World Dispute-Resolution Contacts", "The IFLR 1000", "International Who's Who Legal", "The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers", "PLC Cross Border Dispute Resolution Handbook", "Global Counsel's Dispute Resolution Handbook", "Guide to the World's Leading Litigation Lawyers", "Global Counsel 3000" and "Best Lawyers". "The Legal 500.com" lists identifies as one of Singapore's top 3 arbitrators. In 2005, "The International Who's Who of Commercial Arbitrators" rated him as *"Singapore's leading lawyer for commercial arbitration expertise"* and said *"Mr Hwang received more nominations from clients and peers in the course of the research than any other commercial arbitration specialist in the country, and was described as 'sharp with a good mind' and 'number one' by respondents"*. In 2006 "Global Arbitration Review" ranked him as Asia's top arbitrator out of a list of 25. In "Chambers Global 2007 – The Client's Guide" he is described as *"well respected and praised specifically for his presentation skills as both counsel and arbitrator...utterly dependable...an expert's touch when administering procedures"*. The Asia Pacific Legal 500 (2007/2008) calls him *"one of the finest arbitrators in Singapore"* "PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook 2008" described him as *"Sole practitioner Michael Hwang is another pre-eminent expert, especially in arbitration, where he competes with some of the best-known local and international firms for instructions"* and ranked him as one of the four leading dispute resolution practitioners in Singapore. "Who's Who Legal 2008" describes him as *"the most highly nominated individual in (its Singapore) research"* and a *"quite outstanding lawyer"* who has *"a practical sense and a wealth of knowledge"*. "Chambers Asia 2008" describes him as a *"a brilliant world class arbitrator"* who is *"popular, prominent, incisive and decisive"*. "Asia Pacific Legal 500 2008/9" described him as *"in terms of diversity of cases and sheer academic prowess, there is no finer Senior Counsel working in Singapore today"*. "Guide to the World's Leading Commercial Arbitration Experts" (8<sup>th</sup> Ed) describes him as having received personal nominations for inclusion placing him in the world's top 15 in this field. "PLC Which Lawyer?" (14<sup>th</sup> Ed) Yearbook 2009 lists him as one of the 3 top (leading) individual dispute resolution practitioners in Singapore. "Who's Who Legal – Commercial Arbitration 2010" describes him as *"very meticulous, versatile and a household name"* "The International Who's Who of Construction Lawyers 2010" describes him as being among 421 of the world's leading construction lawyers. "Asialaw Leading Lawyers 2010" describes him as one of the most highly acclaimed legal experts in the Asia Pacific region following an extensive survey of senior corporate executives, in-house counsel and private practice lawyers. In 2010 "Finance Monthly" awarded him the title of *"Arbitration Law Firm of the Year Singapore"*. "Chambers Asia 2010" ranked him in Band No 1 for arbitrators in Asia, and describes him as *"he put Singapore on the arbitration map – he is a doyen of the scene, with tremendous breadth of knowledge and a sensible, reliable and innovative approach"*. "Chambers Asia-Pacific 2011" ranked him as a "Star Individuals" Arbitrator (above Band 1) and describes him as *"He has a formidable reputation and is regarded as an 'extraordinary, standout arbitrator' with a controlled approach to arbitration which 'gets everybody working together rather than against each other and makes things much better from the perspective of getting the right result'. He is widely praised for his exceptional knowledge and incisive*

*and innovative approach to legal issues... “On matters of law his reputation and analysis are unparalleled. He has the ability to see the nub of the issue, and his experience enables him to accurately forecast how it might be resolved”. He is a highly respected figure in the [litigation] market, praised by market sources as “one of the brightest, most brilliant minds in Singapore”.*

Named in the “Asia Pacific Legal 500 2010/2011” as a “highly regarded internationally” barrister and arbitrator and describes him as “Sole practitioner Michael Hwang SC has an international reputation as co-arbitrator and sole arbitrator in prominent ICC, UNCITRAL and SIAC disputes”. “Chambers Asia Pacific 2012” lists him under one of the three “Star Individuals” in the International Section of “Most in Demand Arbitrators” and describes him as “undoubtedly a star and in the A-League for arbitrators...he put Singapore on the map for arbitration and his practice crosses the globe...he wins universal acclaim for the precision of his legal analysis...he is very efficient and very clear in identifying the issues and keeping to sensible hearing times...he is rightly viewed above the rest; when you are before him, you always need to be prepared for intellectual questions which go beyond the immediate issues”.

“Chambers Global Guide 2013” lists him as one of two “Star Individuals” for Singapore under “Most in Demand Arbitrators” and describes him as “a venerated arbitrator in Asia... always sound and absolutely steeped in the knowledge of the law... There’s no area of the law that he doesn’t know, and he very much deserves his star status. He brings to the market not only formidable experience but also impressive cross-border capabilities”

“Chambers Asia Pacific Guide 2014” ranks him as one of two “Star Individuals” (i.e. top tier) and quote sources noting that “he is very much in demand” and “lucid in judgment”.

Named in “The Best of the Best 2013” as one of the top 30 commercial arbitration practitioners in the world

He is author of numerous papers and publications on various legal topics, particularly on the subject of arbitration.

He has conducted training courses for arbitrators (as well as lectures to Universities) from time to time in Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, Dubai and Switzerland under the auspices of the ICC, the AAA/ICDR, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, King’s College (London), Sophia University (Tokyo), and the Swiss Arbitration Academy.

He has served as a director of various public and private companies and is currently a director of:-

- \* YTL Starhill Global REIT Management Limited (the Manager of a publicly listed real estate investment trust)
- \* Religare Health Trust Trustee Manager Pte Ltd (the Trustee Manager of a publicly listed business trust)

He is also:-

- \* Chairman of the Singapore Dance Theatre Limited (a non-profit public company)
- \* Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Directors
- \* Member of the Supervisory Committee of the Asian Bond Fund (ABF) Singapore Bond Index Fund
- \* Chairman of the Appeals Committee of the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX)
- \* Former Chairman of Lasalle College of the Arts (a non-profit public company)
- \* Former board member of the Board of Legal Education (a statutory institution)
- \* Former board member of the Port of Singapore Authority (a statutory board) and PSA Corporation Ltd (the privatised port authority)
- \* Former Member of the Ethics Committee of the Public Accountants Oversight Committee
- \* Former Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Law Society of Singapore
- \* President of the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Singapore

He is a citizen of the Republic of Singapore.

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