



SAPNA JHANGIANI QC

Specialist in International Disputes

Education

M.A. and B.A (Joint Hons)
Philosophy and French, Jesus
College, Oxford University,
1997

Diploma in Law, City
University, 1998

Bar Vocational Course, Inns of
Court School of Law, 1999

Diploma in International
Commercial Arbitration, Queen
Mary University of London,
2006 (Distinction)

Arbitration Award Writing
Exam, Chartered Institute of
Arbitrators, 2006

Scholarships

Viscount Sankey Bar
Scholarship, Jesus College
Oxford, 1997, 1998 & 1999

Peter Duffy Human Rights
Scholarship – four months at
the European Court of Human
Rights in Strasbourg in 2000

Sunley, Eastham, CPE &
Hardwicke Scholarships,
Lincoln's Inn, 1997 to 1999

Pegasus Scholarship - Allen &
Overy, New York, 2003

Sapna specialises in international disputes: avoiding them, resolving them, and acting in legal proceedings when they cannot be avoided.

Sapna commenced practice as a barrister in London in 2001, after spending four months on a scholarship at the European Court of Human Rights focusing on the right to privacy and the right to freedom of expression. Her area of practice at the London Bar was defamation, data protection, and intellectual property.

In 2006, Sapna moved to Dubai and pivoted into international commercial arbitration and litigation, with a particular focus on proceedings before the DIFC Courts. In 2011, she moved to Singapore, where she practised as Counsel and Partner at Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore. From 1 September 2021, she commenced a 3-year role in public service as "International Legal Counsel" at the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore, alongside which she continues her practice as arbitrator and mediator.

Sapna has handled a broad spectrum of international litigation and arbitration, encompassing, for example, shareholders' disputes, distribution and sale agreements, licensing, joint ventures, hospitality, hedge funds, private equity investments, shipbuilding and product liability. She has represented clients in litigation and arbitration in Hong Kong, Thailand, PRC, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Dubai, London, Paris, Mauritius, and the Cayman Islands, and governed by the laws of Singapore, London, PRC, Hong Kong, India, Myanmar, France, Malaysia, UAE, Korea and Mauritius, amongst others.

Sapna is well known for expertise in international arbitration, and is recognised as a leader in the field. She was included in "Best Lawyers" 2020, 2021 and 2022 for her expertise in arbitration and mediation, and ranked as a "Leading Individual" for international arbitration in Singapore by Legal 500. Who's Who Legal consistently name her in their list of global leaders in international arbitration, and have described her as "*excellent*" and "*a top name for international arbitration in Singapore*". In 2021, Asian Legal Business named her as one of Asia's Top 15 Female Lawyers.

Court Admissions and Affiliations

Appointment as Queen's Counsel, 2020

SIMI Accredited Mediator

Called to the Singapore Bar, 2019

Called to the English Bar, 1999

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 2009

Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, 2012

Vice Chair, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Singapore

ICCA

IBA (Arbitration Committee)

Ambassador, IBA Asia-Pacific Arbitration Group

IPBA

LCIA

SIAC Users' Council

SCMA Procedure Committee

ICC Singapore Committee

Languages

English, French, conversational Hindi

Task Forces

ICCA-Queen Mary Taskforce on Third Party Funding

ICC Taskforce on Decisions as to Costs

Co-author of Singapore Institute of Arbitrators' Guidelines for Third Party Funders in Singapore

ICC Taskforce on Maximising the Probative Value of Witness Evidence

Representative Experience

- USD 500 million dispute between a Chinese shipyard and the Singapore purchaser of two offshore jack-up rigs in related HKIAC and LMAA arbitrations. Led a team of 15 across 3 continents comprising associates, experts, barristers, witnesses and in-house counsel in producing evidence for this complex case;
- *Banyan Tree Corporate Pte Ltd v Meydan Group LLC*: lead advocate representing the Singapore-based hotel operator in DIAC proceedings against the government-owned Meydan in relation to the termination of a hotel management agreement; Junior Counsel in the ensuing (reported) enforcement proceedings which reached the DIFC Court of Appeal and made new law;
- Representing leading international hotel operators in several HKIAC arbitrations seated in Hong Kong involving disputes valued between USD 8 million and USD 35 million with owners relating to hotels in Macau, Myanmar, Korea and PRC;
- Lead advocate in a USD 50 million complex shipbuilding dispute between a Singapore shipyard and a UAE purchaser, involving a ship arrest in China, as well as injunction proceedings in Singapore, and an arbitration seated in Singapore;
- Representing an aircraft leasing firm in several rounds of difficult and politically sensitive negotiation meetings in an effort to resolve disputes involving fraud and corruption arising from leases each worth approximately USD 500 million with government-owned regional airlines;
- Over 10 SIAC arbitrations and one SIMC mediation relating to commodity disputes involving Indian, Chinese, Singaporean and/or Vietnamese parties;
- Representing the Singaporean subsidiary of a large Indian multinational in SIAC proceedings against a Chinese party arising from commodity trades, with related litigation in PRC handled by a leading Chinese law firm. Led co-ordination between the Chinese law firm and the Singaporean law firm representing the co-respondent in order to provide seamless strategic advice to the client, and was successful in obtaining an award of security for costs in the client's favour;
- Successfully represented a syndicate of insurers as lead advocate in AIAC arbitration proceedings in Malaysia concerning liability for the dangerous collapse of an offshore crane. The case involved difficult questions of Malaysian tort law, as well as complex technical issues. The opposing side's expert conceded his position under cross-examination.

Publications

"New guidelines on hot-tubbing in arbitration: sink or swim?" published in "Dispute Resolution Briefing", PLC Law and New Law Journal, November 2019

Chapter entitled "Conflicts of Laws and Issues in Arbitration" in "Arbitration in Singapore: A Practical Guide" edited by the Honourable Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon;

"Enforcing International Arbitration Awards in the Courts of South Korea: We Set the Record Straight", IBA Arbitration News, February 2016

"Conflicts of Law and International Commercial Arbitration – Can Conflict Be Avoided?" 2(1) BCDR Intl. Arb. Rev. 99, 100 (2015)

"Appeals of Issues of Foreign Law under the English Arbitration Act 1996 - a Matter of Fact" - Dispute Resolution International, Volume 7, No 1, May 2013;

"A Regulatory Framework for Arbitrators and Increased Arbitral Accountability: Ideas to Reinvigorate Arbitration or Stifle it?" – prize-winning essay in competition run by CIArb in Singapore in May 2013;

"Enforcement and the UAE" - IBA Arbitration Newsletter Volume 16, No 2, September 2011;

"First SIAC Congress looks beyond arbitration"; "New WIPO Arbitration Rules"; and "Is there a transnational arbitration"? published in GAR, as well as several Kluwer Arbitration blogs on diverse topics such as enforcement in PRC; the application of "Browne v Dunne" to arbitration; third party funding; the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements; the IBA Rules on Party Representation; advocacy in international arbitration; and "fair and equitable treatment" in *Perenco v Ecuador*.

- Several disputes between hotel operators and owners relating to hotels in the Middle East and Africa which were submitted to mediation and/or arbitration under the auspices of the DIFC-LCIA;
- *Amwal Al Khaleej Commercial Investment Co Ltd v the Abdullah Brothers and others*: representing the private equity firm in a shareholders' dispute – was successful as lead advocate in resisting a highly contested jurisdictional challenge in the DIFC Courts;
- LCIA arbitration in London between a seismic surveying company and an oil exploration company in relation to surveys in an oil field off Egypt;
- USD 135 million claim in the Cayman Islands brought by a prominent UAE citizen against a Gulf-based hedge-fund manager in relation to a private investment. Led and co-ordinated the legal team which comprised Clyde & Co, external barristers and Cayman Counsel;
- ICC arbitration in Paris in relation to a joint venture dispute between an Italian chemicals multinational and a company based in the Middle East;
- USD 50 million LCIA arbitration in London between an Indian steel conglomerate, a commodities trading company based in the Middle East and an Australian mining company;
- *Gulf Merchant Group v ADCB*: representing an asset management firm in a dispute with its largest shareholder, a prominent UAE bank partially owned by the government, in the largest case to come before the DIFC Courts at that time;
- Representing a Singapore trading company in a USD 10 million SIAC arbitration against a party in Zambia with concurrent injunction proceedings in the Zambian Courts. Liaised closely with Zambian Counsel to ensure an aligned and holistic strategy for the client;
- *Ad hoc* arbitration in Delhi, India between a contractor and sub-contractor in relation to the construction of a pipeline in North Africa for a South-Asian government;
- UNCITRAL arbitration proceedings between a UK multinational and a State government in the Middle East (which did not proceed beyond the Notice of Arbitration);
- Over 20 DIAC arbitrations on behalf of UAE real estate developers arising from cancelled or delayed projects;
- LCIA arbitration in London in respect of a consultancy agreement for services provided in relation to the Qatar gas-to-liquids project.