



Kelvin Poon, SC

Deputy Managing Partner
Head, International Arbitration
Partner, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

T +65 6232 0403

E kelvin.poon@rajahtann.com

Practice Areas

International Arbitration
Construction & Projects
China-Related Investment Dispute Resolution

Active Sectors

International Arbitration
Construction & Projects

Qualifications

- LLB (Hons), National University of Singapore
- Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore
- Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of Singapore

Kelvin Poon, SC is the Deputy Managing Partner of Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP and Head of the firm's International Arbitration Practice. He was appointed Senior Counsel in January 2023.

Described as “a standout arbitration practitioner” and a “deep thinker with a solution-oriented approach to strategizing”, Kelvin has represented clients in a broad range of construction, commercial and insolvency disputes before the Singapore courts and in numerous arbitrations.

Kelvin is recognised as “Litigation Star” in *Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific 2023* for International Arbitration, and listed in *Best Lawyers* for Arbitration and Mediation since 2018. Kelvin has also been named as a “Recommended Leader” on *Who's Who Legal Southeast Asia – Arbitration* and *Who's Who Legal – Commercial Litigation* since 2019. Kelvin has been described as an “excellent strategist” and is cited and recommended for international arbitration in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*. Kelvin also sits as an arbitrator.

Kelvin is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Kelvin is a member of the Core Committee and the Selection Committee of the ICC's Singapore Arbitration Group. He is also a member of the ICC Commission for Arbitration and ADR. Kelvin was also a member of the International Bar Association's Working Group on Harmonizing Arbitration Laws in the Asia Pacific Region.

Experience

International Arbitration, Construction and Projects

- Represented an Asian port operator in a LCIA arbitration in relation to a project to develop and build a port terminal. The seat of the arbitration was London and the governing law was Singapore law.

- Represented one of the world's largest mining companies in an ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL rules in relation to a project to develop and build an integrated mining and processing facility. The seat of the arbitration was Singapore and the governing law was Philippines law. The project was valued in excess of US\$1 billion.
- Represented an Australian Top-100 company in an SIAC arbitration against a Singapore government linked company in relation to a cable tunnel project. The seat of the arbitration was Singapore and the governing law was Singapore law. The quantum in dispute was around S\$100 million.
- Represented a trust in an SIAC arbitration against an Indonesian pulp company in a multi-million dollar claim in relation to various pulp purchase agreements. The seat of the arbitration was Singapore and the governing law was New York law.
- Represented a Thai distributor in a JCAA arbitration against a Japanese motor giant in a multi-million dollar dispute arising out of agreements to assemble and distribute trucks across South East Asia. The seat of the arbitration was Tokyo and the governing law was Japanese law. The claim was in excess of US\$300 million.
- Represented a German technology company in an ICC arbitration against a global heat transfer, separation and fluid handling conglomerate arising out of a joint venture to develop, manufacture and market and globally a water ballast treatment product. The dispute was governed by Singapore law and the arbitration was seated in Singapore. The quantum in dispute is in excess of EUR100 million.
- Represented a statutory board in an SIAC arbitration seated in Mauritius in a dispute arising out of a procurement contract in respect of petroleum products involving questions of corruption and breach of national procurement laws. The quantum in dispute exceeds US\$170 million. Successfully advised the client in relation to the setting aside of the resulting award and in resisting the enforcement of the award in Mauritius and in various courts in India, including the Supreme Court.
- Represented an Indian corporation in an SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore against a regional education services group arising out of a joint venture to promote and develop tertiary education institutions in India. The dispute is governed by Singapore law. The quantum in dispute is in excess S\$20 million.
- Representing a UK-based investor in Court proceedings connected with an investment treaty arbitration seated in Singapore against the Government of India. The quantum in dispute exceeds US\$1 billion.

Awards / Memberships / Directorships

- Member, Rules of Court Working Party of Supreme Court, Singapore (2011 to 2016)
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law, Law Reform Sub-Committee on Financial Products
- Co-Chair, Regional Projects committee of the ICC Singapore Arbitration Group.
- Member, Core Committee of the ICC Singapore Arbitration Group
- Member, Selection Committee of the ICC Singapore Arbitration Group.
- Member, the ICC Commission for Arbitration and ADR
- Member, International Bar Association's Working Group on Harmonizing Arbitration Laws in the Asia Pacific Region
- Member, ICCA
- Associate, Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore

Publications

- Co-author, Chapter on “Enforcement of Arbitral Awards in the Asia-Pacific”, *The Asia Pacific Arbitration Review* 2018 and 2019
- Co-author, Insolvency Chapter, *Singapore Academy of Law Annual Review of Cases* (2009 to date)
- Co-author, Myanmar Chapter in *Getting the Deal Through “Arbitration”* (2016)
- Co-author, “Investment Arbitration in Asia” (2016), *The Asia Pacific Arbitration Review*
- Co-author, “Arbitration in Asia” (2015), *The Asia Pacific Arbitration Review*
- Co-author, “Does the Issuance of An Award Before the Conclusion of an Arbitrator Challenge for Delay frustrate the Challenge?”, (2015) *Kluwer Arbitration Blog*
- Co-author, “Singapore Court Reviews Investment Arbitral Tribunal’s Decision on Jurisdiction: What Standard Should Apply as to Evidence”, (2015) *Kluwer Arbitration Blog*
- Co-author, Slim 10 in Singapore (2004), *Australian Product Liability Law Reporter*