



Professor Lawrence Boo

"Lauded by market sources for his 'in-depth knowledge and experience of arbitration law and procedure'. He is a highly sought-after arbitrator and mediator, experienced in handling complex cross-border disputes."

Chambers & Partners

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Lawrence Boo is one of Singapore's leading international arbitrators, having sat as arbitrator in more than 300 cases and written numerous awards.

His cases included those administered by the ICSID, ICC, CIETAC, SIAC, LCIA, HKIAC, AAA, KLRCA, BANI, as well as ad hoc arbitrations. Many of his recent cases involve disputes arising from mergers/acquisitions, oil/gas and energy resources, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure developments and international trade.

Boo has consistently been described by *Chambers' Asia-Pacific* in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and ranked as one of Asia's most "in demand" "leading individuals" in arbitration "who always inspires confidence in arbitration", as one who "handles a high volume of cases in a time-efficient manner" and "much sought after for his "no-nonsense approach and academic distinction".

He is the author of *Halsbury's Laws of Singapore Volume 2 – Arbitration* (Lexis-Nexis 2020 re-issue) and one of the co-authors of *UNCITRAL Digest on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration* (UN July 2012). He leads in the teaching of international commercial arbitration at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore since 1994. He also teaches at Bond University, Australia.

Recent Highlights

Chairing an ad hoc tribunal in an arbitration between a consortium of international oil companies and an African state oil company in dispute over the State's rights to lift oil for tax, and the IOC's rights to do so for capital and investment expenses, etc. with claims exceeding \$1.3 billion. (Completed 2015).

Chairing an ICC tribunal in disputes between new and former shareholders arising out of an acquisition of an Indian pharmaceutical company by a Japanese commercial house. Issues concerned post-acquisition discovery of pre-acquisition fraudulent transactions and other misdemeanours exposing the company to statutory fines imposed by US authorities of \$500 million for which the claimants sought damages of up to \$2.5 billion. (Completed 2016).

Chairing an ad hoc arbitration between a consortium of international and national oil companies and an Asian state

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over the rights to gas migrated from an adjacent bloc, with complicated technical details of gas movements, volumetric calculations and issues of sovereign rights over undersea resources. Claims exceeded \$1.7 billion. (Completed 2018).

Chairing an LCIA arbitration involving a foreign investment fund taking a minority equity stake in an Indian company together with a majority stake in the preference shares of the company with conversion rights and a “put option” priced at a guaranteed internal rate of return. Case involved difficult issues of Indian exchange control and legality of exercising put options giving guaranteed returns. Amount at stake was about \$250 million. (Completed 2018).

Standard Chartered Bank (HK) v Republic of Tanzania (ARB 15/41)

Chairing an ICSID tribunal. (Completed 2019).

Expertise

International Arbitration

Notable International Arbitration cases

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Standard Chartered Bank (HK) v Republic of Tanzania (ARB 15/41)

Chairing an ICSID tribunal. (Completed 2019).

Chairing an HKIAC bi-lingual arbitration involving an US investment fund acquiring a stake in a Chinese real estate development company, for a project in China, where the investors were given a minimum rate of return following a moratorium and upon certain events occurring. Issues of change of foreign investment law, foreign exchange control and policies and parallel 'offshore agreements' all made the process much involved and complicated. Stakes involved was about \$200 million. (Completed October 2020).

Directory Quotes

'Noted as a "very, very popular arbitrator" with "a big practice and a big reputation" in the jurisdiction. Interviewees further note that he is a "solid, reliable arbitration expert" with a varied caseload who is both "very busy and fun to work with".'

Chambers & Partners

"Go-to name for international commercial dispute resolution. One interviewee comments: "He runs a tight ship and knows his stuff".

Chambers & Partners

'He has long been regarded as "one of the top arbitrators in terms of both the frequency and the quality of his appointments".'

Chambers & Partners

'Sources variously praise him as "very diligent, very tech-savvy and very much on top of things" and as "personable and approachable".'

Chambers & Partners

'More than one interviewee indicates that he is deserving of wider recognition, one noting that he has "grown in prominence in recent years," another calling him "fantastic and phenomenally busy".'

Chambers & Partners

'Closely associated with SIAC for many years, he has also been appointed to sit on panels administered according to the rules of most of the region's key arbitral bodies.'

Chambers & Partners

'Considerable experience in commercial arbitration, maintaining a particularly strong presence in the Asia-Pacific region. A market source describes him as "very thoughtful, smart and quick".'

Chambers & Partners

Directory Rankings

Chambers & Partners – Global

- Dispute Resolution: Most in Demand Arbitrators – Singapore
- International Arbitration: Most in Demand Arbitrators – Global-wide
- International Arbitration: Most in Demand Arbitrators – Asia-Pacific Region

Chambers & Partners – Asia Pacific

- Dispute Resolution: Most in Demand Arbitrators – Singapore
- International Arbitration: Most in Demand Arbitrators – Asia-Pacific Region

Education

- M, National University of Singapore (1988)
- B (Hons), University of Singapore (1980)

Appointments, Memberships and Prizes

- Ad hoc District Judge, Singapore (2007-2012)
- Executive Deputy Chairman, Singapore International Arbitration Centre (2004-2009)
- CEO and Registrar, Singapore International Arbitration Centre (1991-1996)
- Solicitor, Supreme Court of England & Wales (1997)
- Commissioner for Oaths, Singapore (1989)
- Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore (1981)

- Member, SIAC Court of Arbitration (2017-)
- Fellow, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (FACICA) (2004-)
- Chartered Arbitrator, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2000-)
- Fellow, Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand (FAMINZ) (1998-)
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) (1994-)
- Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (FSIArb) (1994-)
- Member, Shanghai Arbitration Commission (2013-)
- Singapore's nominee, ICSID Panel of Arbitrators
- Member, ICSID Panel of Conciliators (2011-2017)
- Member, CEDR Commission on Settlement in International Arbitration (2007-)
- Member, BAC Panel of Arbitrators (2006-)
- Member, ICC Arbitration Commission (2004-2006)
- Member, CMAC Panel of International Arbitrators (1997-)
- Member, KCAB Panel of Arbitrators (1996-)
- Member, CIETAC Panel of Arbitrators (1994-)
- Member, AAA Panel of International Arbitrators (1992-)
- Member, SIAC Panel of Arbitrators (1992-)
- Member, AIAC (formerly KLRCA) Panel of Arbitrators
- Member, HKIAC Panel of Arbitrators
- Certified Mediator, International Mediation Institute (2009-)
- Member, Advisory Board of the Singapore Mediation Centre (1998-2004)
- Member, Panel of Mediators, Singapore Mediation Centre (1998-)
- Member, Panel of Community Mediators, Ministry of Law (1998-2012)
- Member, Panel of Arbitrators, Electricity Market Company (2003-)
- State Representative to UNCITRAL Working Group on Arbitration (2004-2009)
- Law Reform Consultant, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore (2001-)
- Special Consultant to Attorney-General's Chambers on Review of Arbitration Laws (1996-2000)
- Member, Inter-Ministry Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution (1996-1997) (*Recommended setting up of community mediation centres leading to enactment of the 1997 Community Mediation Centres Act*)
- Vice-Chairman, Sub-Committee on Arbitration Law, Law Reform Committee (1993-1994) (*Recommended Adoption of UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, leading to the enactment of the 1994 International Arbitration Act*)
- Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, Bond University, Australia
- Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore

Publications

- Author, *Halsbury's Laws of Singapore Volume 1(2) - Arbitration* (LexisNexis, 1998 and Re-issues 2003, 2011, 2017 and 2020)
- Co-author, *UNCITRAL 2012 Digest of Case Law on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration* (Vienna: UNCITRAL, 2012)
- Co-author, *Chapter on Singapore in ICCA International Handbook on Commercial Arbitration* (Kluwer 1996, 2002, 2011 and 2015 Supplements)
- Author, 'Developments in Arbitration and Mediation' in *Developments in Singapore Law between 1996 to*

2000 (Singapore: Sweet & Maxwell Asia, 2001)

- Author, Chapter on Singapore in *ADR in Asian and Pacific Countries, Now and in the Future* (Japan: Ministry of Justice, 2003)
- Author, 'Appointing the Tribunal – Institutional Practices' in *Institutional Arbitration in Asia* (Singapore: SIAC, 2005)
- Author, 'Modifications, Changes and additions Made by States Adopting the UNCITRAL Model Law on international Commercial Arbitration' in *Celebrating Success: 20 Years UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration* (SIAC, 2006)
- Author, 'Appointment of the Arbitral Tribunal' in *The Asian Leading Arbitrator's Guide to International Arbitration*, 77–108. (New York: JurisNet LLC, 2007)
- Author, 'Internationalisation of decision-making – Arbitration' in *The Internationalisation of Law: Legislating, Decision-making, Practice and Education* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2010)
- The Fordham papers 2012 – Contemporary Issues in International Arbitration – chapter on "Prescription and Relief – Is it a matter of choice?" – Martin Nijhoff Publications (2013)
- "Of Moving Frontiers And Notes Verbales – Ascertaining The Intentions of State Parties in BITs" – (2018) AIAJ Vol 14 No 1 pg 15-36 (Kluwers)

Languages

- Mandarin