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A Senior Counsel and Chartered Arbitrator, Christopher Lau is recognised as “*obviously one of the most experienced arbitrators in Singapore*” (Chambers Global Guide 2019) and is ranked by Chambers & Partners as one of the Most In Demand Arbitrators in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Practice

His arbitration practice encompasses investment as well as all aspects of commercial disputes including construction, corporate, energy, maritime, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, communications, insurance, military & defence procurements involving the laws of various common and civil law jurisdictions including those of Cambodia, Denmark, England & Wales, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, New York, Oman, Pakistan, PRC, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Christopher has also served as mediator in commercial, construction and shareholder disputes both international and domestic.

Experience

Having been called to the Bar of England & Wales, Christopher practised as a barrister in London before returning to Singapore where he soon became best known for his insurance, shipping, construction and commercial practice. Between 1995 and 1998, Christopher served as a Judicial Commissioner of the Singapore Supreme Court.

Christopher now practises as an arbitrator. He has served in over 200 international arbitrations conducted either on an *ad hoc* basis or under, amongst others, AIAC (formerly KLRCA), DIFC-LCIA, HKIAC, ICC, ICDR, JCAA, KCAB, LCIA, LMAA, SCMA, SIAC and UNCITRAL arbitration rules seated in various civil and common law jurisdictions. Amounts in dispute in several arbitrations exceeded some billion US Dollars.

Christopher's appointments as an arbitrator and mediator include the following:

- Chairman in an ICC arbitration concerning a multi-billion dollar infrastructure project in the Middle-East
- Sole Arbitrator in a KLRCA international arbitration concerning the construction of a commercial complex in Malaysia
- Chairman in an ICDR international arbitration concerning an infrastructure construction project in Korea
- Chairman in an ICC arbitration concerning the construction of a power plant in a South Asian state involving a state entity and a Chinese party
- Chairman in an ICC international arbitration concerning the construction of a cement plant in Qatar
- Co-arbitrator in a SIAC international arbitration concerning the construction of a major container terminal in South-Asia
- Co-Arbitrator in an institutional arbitration between European and Asian parties concerning a multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical dispute
- Chairman in an ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules between foreign companies and an Asian state in relation to a multi-billion dollar oil & gas production sharing dispute
- Chairman in an ad hoc international arbitration involving an Asian state and various companies in the oil & gas industry
- Co-Arbitrator in a JCAA international arbitration concerning a multi-billion dollar shareholders' dispute involving Asian parties
- Chairman in a multi-billion dollar institutional arbitration between European parties involving, among other matters, allegations of abuse of power
- Chairman in an institutional arbitration between North and South American parties involving, among others matters, allegations of corruption
- Chairman in an institutional arbitration concerning a shareholders' dispute involving South Asian parties
- Chairman in an ICC arbitration between a South African and an Indian party concerning generic drugs
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration concerning a commercial dispute involving Middle-East and South-East Asian parties
- Chairman in a SIAC international arbitration concerning the procurement of telecommunications network equipment in Cambodia
- Chairman in an ICC arbitration concerning a pharmaceutical dispute involving Asian parties
- Chairman in a SIAC international arbitration involving Middle-East and Chinese parties concerning a distributorship dispute
- Co-arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration involving an international procurement agency dispute with New York law as the governing law and with New York as the seat

- Chairman in a JCAA international arbitration concerning the automotive components industry in Korea, Japan and Germany
- Co-arbitrator in a Bilateral Investment Treaty dispute between a foreign party and an Asian state
- Co-Arbitrator in a LCIA international arbitration concerning a mining dispute in Mongolia
- Sole Arbitrator in a SIAC international arbitration involving Korean and East Asian interests concerning an acquisition dispute
- Chairman in a number of ad hoc international arbitrations concerning military & defence procurement contracts involving a South Asian state
- Chairman in an ICC arbitration concerning the construction of a business development complex in South Asia
- Chairman in a HKIAC international arbitration concerning a joint venture dispute in China involving Chinese parties
- Chairman in two LCIA international arbitrations concerning an oil rig dispute in Papua New Guinea
- Sole Arbitrator in a SIAC international arbitration concerning a share subscription dispute in Thailand
- Co-arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration involving European and Asian parties concerning a pharmaceutical dispute
- Chairman in an ICC arbitration concerning the procurement of frequency for the operation of a mobile phone network in a South Asian State
- Chairman in an ad hoc international arbitration under UNCITRAL arbitration rules concerning a software development & operation dispute
- Co-arbitrator in a SCMA international arbitration concerning the construction of six multi-purpose platform supply vessels
- Chairman in a HKIAC international arbitration concerning a shipbuilding dispute in China
- Chairman in an ICDR international arbitration concerning an agency agreement in respect of electronic products in Taiwan
- Co-Arbitrator in a SIAC international arbitration involving European and Thai parties concerning the supply of coal
- Chairman in an ICC international arbitration concerning an infrastructure development dispute in Vietnam
- Chairman in a HKIAC international arbitration concerning the construction of a gas synthesis plant in the PRC
- Co-Arbitrator in a LCIA international arbitration concerning a gas production sharing dispute in Ecuador
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC international arbitration concerning a mining investment dispute in Indonesia
- Chairman in an ICC international arbitration involving Korean and South Asian parties concerning an infrastructure construction project
- Mediator in a SMIC mediation concerning a construction/engineering dispute in Myanmar
- Mediator in a shareholder dispute between Singapore parties
- Mediator in a construction dispute with U.S., Middle East and Asian parties
- Mediator in an ICDR dispute between an Asian party and a US party in respect of an oil & gas dispute
- Mediator in an ICDR dispute between a European party and an Asian party concerning an alleged breach of contract in respect of a software agreement

Appointments

Christopher's other appointments include:

- Vice President LCIA Court
- Member ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- Member International Arbitration Committee of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board
- Member Board of Advisors of the New York International Arbitration Center
- Member Council of the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration
- Member Drafting Group updating *ICC's Report on Construction Industry Arbitrations*
- Member ICC Task Force on *Decisions as to Costs*
- Member ICC Task Force on *Maximizing Probative Value of Witness Evidence*
- Member IBA Mediation Committee
- Member Task Force on IBA Guidelines on Party Representation in International Arbitration
- Member Working Group IBA Rules on Investor-State Mediation
- Fellow Singapore Academy of Law
- Former independent, non-executive director of the Board of Directors of Wing Tai Holdings Ltd, former Chairman of its Remuneration Committee and former member of its Audit and Risk Committee
- Former independent, non-executive director of the Board of Directors of Singapore Technologies Marine Ltd and former Chairman of its Risk Management and Audit Committee
- Former independent, non-executive director of the Board of Directors of Singapore Technologies Aerospace Ltd and former Chairman of its Risk Management and Audit Committee
- Former independent, non-executive director of the Board of Directors of Neptune Orient Lines Limited, Singapore, former Chairman of its Audit Committee and former member of its Enterprise Risk Management Committee (ERMC)
- Former Member ICC International Court of Arbitration
- Former Chairman Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Singapore) Limited
- Former Member and former Director Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF)
- Former Member General Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA)
- Former Chairman IBA Asia Pacific Forum

Christopher is on the Panel of Arbitrators of various arbitral bodies including:

- Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
- Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA)
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- eBRAM (Panels of Arbitrators, Mediators and APEC Neutrals)
- Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB)
- Beijing Arbitration Commission (BAC)
- Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC)
- South China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (SCIA) Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration

- International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR)
- Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) (formerly Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration – KLRCA)

Recognition

Christopher is listed in Who's Who Legal as Global Elite Thought Leader – Arbitration 2023. He is also recommended in Who's Who Legal Global Leader – Construction 2023 and Commercial Mediation 2022 as well as Chambers & Partners, 2023, International Arbitration: Most In Demand Arbitrators – Asia-Pacific Region (Band 1) and Dispute Resolution: Most in Demand Arbitrators – Singapore (Band 1).

Chambers & Partners (Re: Asia-Pacific Region, Arbitration (International): Most In Demand Arbitrators (Band 1) - 2022) states:

Christopher Lau SC is a veteran arbitrator, experienced in the procedures of leading arbitral regimes both within and beyond the region, acting particularly prominently on matters arising from the construction, energy and resources, and shipping sectors. He is described by one interviewee as *"a very experienced arbitrator who is respected across Asia - very sound in judgement and fair in his treatment of parties,"* while another similarly characterises him as *"a very big name who makes well-reasoned and judicious awards."*

Who's Who Legal (2022) notes that:

*"Independent Arbitrator **Christopher Lau** has built a truly enviable practice in international arbitration, with respondents hailing him as "the godfather of arbitration" in the region."*

Who's Who Legal (2020) states:

Christopher Lau SC is an independent practitioner with *"a wealth of experience"*, lauded for his *"fair, diligent and efficient conduct of arbitrations as arbitrator"*.

Publications

Christopher has contributed to various books and articles on arbitration. His representative publications include:

- Foreword to *Force Majeure and Hardship in the Asia Pacific Region*, Harald Sippel and Kabir Duggal (ed.) (2022)
- *Early Conflict Resolution and Efficiency in Arbitration: To Germany and Back Again?* Liber Amicorum Michael Moser (2020)
- *Assignments 'Mid-Arbitration': Some Practical Considerations* Chapter 2 in *Jurisdiction, Admissibility and Choice of Law in International Arbitration*, Liber Amicorum Michael Pryles (2018)
- *Equality of Arms in International Arbitration: Do Rules and Guidelines Level the Playing Field and Properly Regulate Conduct? – An Arbitrator's Perspective*, ICCA Mauritius (2016)
- *Obstacles and Opportunities - Whither Summary Dispositions?* Festschrift Neil Kaplan (2012)
- *Party Autonomy - The Turning Point*, Disp. Res. Int'l, Vol. 4 No. 1 (2010)
- *The Asian Perspective on Advocacy* Chapter in Doak Bishop's *The Art of Advocacy in International Arbitration* (2nd ed., 2010)