



JOHN SZE

MANAGING PARTNER

LLB, National University of Singapore (2003)
LLM (Distinction) in Maritime Law, University of Southampton (2008)
Advocate and Solicitor of Singapore since 2004
Solicitor of England and Wales (non-practising) since 2008
Snr. Acc. Spec. (Maritime & Shipping), SAL

For more info about John scan the QR code or click [here](#).



John primarily focuses his litigation practice in the specialist fields of Maritime, International Trade and International Arbitration.

He has acted as lead Counsel at all levels of the Singapore Courts, and has acted as lead Counsel in SIAC, SCMA, ICC, HKIAC, LMAA and GAFTA arbitrations. He has also provided expert evidence on Singapore Arbitration laws and Singapore Admiralty law as an expert witness in US Court proceedings.

John obtained his LLB from the National University of Singapore. As a scholar under the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore's JMSS scholarship, John obtained an LLM in Maritime Law (Distinction) from the University of Southampton.

John is presently the Managing Partner of JTJB. JTJB is also part of ADVOC, a global network of over 100 law firms across 73 countries. John co-heads the ADVOC's Dispute Resolution Practice Group, and is a Senior Accredited Specialist in Maritime Law under the Singapore Academy of Law Accreditation Scheme.

In addition, John sits on the committees of the following maritime and/or arbitration institutions:

- Member, Maritime and Insurance Committee of the Singapore Shipping Association
- Treasurer, Singapore Maritime Arbitrators Association
- Member Promotion Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitrators

John is also the editor of the Atkins Court Forms – Maritime Chapter, an essential guide for Maritime practitioners on the court documentation for maritime matters.

Arbitration related experience:

- 1) Acted as Lead counsel in approximately 27 arbitrations.
- 2) Recent and ongoing arbitration matters include:
 - a. An ad-hoc arbitration seated in Singapore, acting for a Singapore listed Shipping company in a dispute with its former Pakistan shipping agent, which involved the necessity of an anti-suit injunction to prevent Pakistan proceedings commenced by the Respondent, as well as instructing and coordination with the Pakistan lawyers to obtain a stay of Pakistan court proceedings in favour of Singapore arbitration. Total claim value is about S\$5million.
 - b. Acting for charterers/cargo buyers in a back-to-back arbitration (SCMA & ICC). We act for a listed Thai commodities company in a dispute with shipowner as well as with the cargo suppliers. Total claim value is approximately USD5m.
 - c. Acting for charterers/cargo buyers in a back-to-back arbitration (SCMA & LMAA). We act for a listed Thai commodities company in a dispute with shipowner as well as with the cargo suppliers. Total claim value is approximately USD2m.
 - d. Acted for a ship services company in a SIAC arbitration with a listed Oil & Gas company over disputes relating to services rendered, and counterclaims of defective work. Services relate to preparation of drawings to be used for class approval and construction of a jack up rig in China, as well as disputes over project supervision services supplied by the client in relation to the construction work in China. Total claim value is approximately SGD2.5m.
 - e. Acted for a Singapore listed shipyard in an SIAC arbitration against the shipowner, for claims arising from a fatality occurring on board a vessel. The fatality was alleged to have been caused by defective work carried out by the shipyard. Total claim value is approximately USD14m. In this regard, John provided an expert opinion before the US courts regarding Singapore arbitration law, which assisted in US counsel successfully obtaining a stay of arbitration in the US courts in favour of arbitration in Singapore.
 - f. Acted for a Singapore listed commodities company in an LMAA arbitration against the shipowner on cargo damage issues, with the arbitration focused on whether the vessel was unseaworthy, or whether the cargo was not fit for carriage. Claim value was about USD5million.
 - g. Acted for a Thailand listed commodities trading company in an LMAA arbitration against South Korean shipowner on disputes arising from a COA between parties. Claim value was about USD3million.

- h. Acting for a leading maritime projects specialist in a SCMA arbitration against a prominent chartering company in a dispute arising for a charterparty between parties. Claim value exceeds USD3million.
- i. Acting for a maritime services company in a SIAC arbitration against a Singapore listed O&G company for non-payment of services rendered. Claim value is approximately S\$1million.
- j. Acting for a listed Thai trading company in an SIAC arbitration with Indonesian Coal supplier relating to breach of a cargo sale & purchase agreement that was caused by the Indonesian government's decision to temporarily ban export of coal in January 2022. Claim value is approximately US\$80m.
- k. Acting for a listed Thai trading company in an SIAC arbitration with an Indonesian company relating to disputes over payment of services rendered by the Thai entity as a service provider in respect of shipment of cargoes out of Indonesia. Claim value is approximately S\$1million.

Recent recognition in legal directories and publications:

Distinguished Practitioner – Asialaw Profiles 2020 to 2023 (Shipping)

Ranked Practitioner – Chambers Asia-Pacific 2020 and 2021 (Shipping)

Legal500 2021 has also recognized John's expertise in maritime and arbitration work: *"John Sze is a leading figure in shipping and international trade litigation, representing P&I clubs and listed shipping companies in the highest courts in Singapore as well as in international arbitration. The team also acts for lenders in ship mortgage disputes and undertakes restructuring work."*

Other appointments:

On the panel of arbitrators for Beihai Asia International Arbitration Centre.

On the panel of adjudicators for the Singapore Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre Ltd (FIDReC)

Member of the Board of Visitors (Drug Rehabilitation Centre & Anti-Inhalant Abuse Centre): The Board of Visitors (Drug Rehabilitation Centres and Anti-Inhalant Abuse Centres) (BOV DRCs & AIACs) is appointed by the Minister for Home Affairs to advise and make recommendations to ensure that the health, maintenance, recreation and discipline of DRC inmates are satisfactory and that an efficient standard is maintained throughout each DRC.

Member of the Citizenship Committee of Inquiry: The Citizenship Committee of Inquiry is appointed by the Minister for Home Affairs and its role is to enquire into the cases of those persons who have been issued with the Notice of Deprivation of Citizenship and to submit its report to Minister for Home Affairs for a decision.