BAZUL LLC

Bazul Ashhab

Managing Partner · Head of Dispute Resolution

Advocate & Solicitor (Singapore); Barrister-At-Law (Lincoln's Inn)



CONTACT

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Full Name	Bazul Ashhab Bin Abdul Kader
Date of Birth	3rd December 1969
Nationality	Singaporean

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

Dec 1996	LLB, University of London
Jan 1997	Completed Bar exams at Lincoln's Inn
Aug 1998	Called to the Singapore Bar
Dec 2024	Admitted as a Part II Practitioner before the DIFC Courts

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Advocate & Solicitor (Singapore)

Barrister-At-Law (Lincoln's Inn)

Senior Accredited Specialist in Maritime and Shipping Law

Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) Panel

Vice President, Maritime Law Association of Singapore

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Specialist Mediator, Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC)

Mediator, Singapore Chambers of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA) – Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) Joint Panel

Expert Panel, Singapore Management University, Centre for Commercial Law in Asia

Vice President, Chairperson of the Publication Committee, Maritime Law Association of Singapore

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Ranked In Band 1 Chambers and Partners Asia Pacific and Global Guide 2026	**Recognized in the Hall of Fame** Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2026	**Recognized as a Litigation Star** Benchmark Litigation 2026
Featured in the A-list Lawyers Singapore 2026 Asia Business Law Journal	**Asia's Top Litigators 2026** Included in Asian Legal Business	**Ranked as an Elite Practitioner** Asia law 2025

TESTIMONIAL · CHAMBERS ASIA PACIFIC

"Without a doubt one of the best litigators in Singapore."

— Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bazul Ashhab is the Managing Partner of Bazul Law LLC and Head of its Dispute Resolution and International Arbitration Practice.

Widely recognised as one of Singapore's leading disputes lawyers, Bazul has over two decades of experience acting in high value and complex disputes across litigation, arbitration and mediation. His practice spans shipping, commodities, international trade, banking, shareholder and joint venture disputes, fraud and asset recovery, and directors' duties claims.

He leads a substantial team of disputes lawyers and regularly oversees multi-jurisdictional disputes involving significant commercial and strategic interests. He is known for combining strong advocacy with commercial insight and practical solutions.

NOTABLE ENGAGEMENTS

Shipping & Maritime

- Defended a bank in an action brought by a Chinese state-owned company, in a dispute arising from the bank having been named as consignees in a bill of lading. Developed arguments with the assistance of Chinese lawyers to successfully dismiss the claim in the first instant court and the Chinese Court of Appeal.
- Acted for charterers in a London arbitration over a dispute involving vessels not complying with PSPC regulations for claims in the region of US$120 million.

- Acted for an Indian bank in the landmark case of UCO Bank v. Golden Shore Transportation Pte Ltd, where the Singapore Court of Appeal clarified the law on the right of suit under a bill of lading.
- Acted as lead counsel in the matter of "ANTARA KOH". This was the first limitation action under the 1957 Tonnage Convention to have ever gone to trial in the Singapore High Court.
- Acted for buyers in a London arbitration against a Chinese yard, to recover payments made under a ship building contract for a sum exceeding US$60 million. This matter raised interesting arguments of the principle of law which allows recovery by a party from a contract tainted with illegality where such party had withdrawn from the contract before the illegal purpose is achieved.
- Acted for disponent owners of a vessel in a Singapore arbitration against the sub-charterers, in a matter where the vessel had been detained by pirates for 6 months.
- Acted for the owners of a ship that had been arrested in applying for a mandatory injunction against the company who had sold them the ship. The application for the provision of security for the arrest concerned the novel issue of whether the indemnity clause in the widely used Norwegian Saleform could be read to include an obligation to furnish security in the event of an arrest.

International Trade & Commodities

- Acted for a global petrochemical trading company whose purchased cargo was detained in Papua New Guinea together with the chartered vessel. Assisted in commencing proceedings in the Papua New Guinea courts as well as in dealing with various government agencies.
- Acted for various regional and international energy trading companies on misdelivery claims exceeding US$230 million. Successful in obtaining unconditional leave to defend in several actions proceeding before the Singapore Courts.
- Acted as a lead counsel for a secured creditor in relation to the collapse of a major international oil trading group, including insolvency and judicial management proceedings involving multiple entities within the group. Also acted in complex interpleader and cargo claims concerning oil cargo and floating storage units, with disputes valued at approximately US$300 million. The matter involved multiple financial institutions and significant cross-border issues arising from one of the largest commodity trading collapses in recent years.
- Acted for a commodities trader in defending multiple misdelivery claims brought by major financial institutions arising from the collapse of a major oil trading group, with claims exceeding US$60 million. Successfully resisted summary judgment applications in all three actions, securing unconditional leave to defend a rare outcome in Singapore for misdelivery of cargo claims. The matter resulted in two reported Singapore court decisions and involved complex issues relating to trade finance and shipping disputes.
- Acted as a lead counsel for a commodities trader in Singapore court proceedings and related arbitration matters arising from allegations of contaminated oil cargoes in a chain of back-to-back commodities transactions, with claims exceeding US$200 million. Successfully resisted an application for interim orders relating to the testing of cargo samples in support of ongoing arbitrations. The matter is significant for clarifying the Singapore courts' powers to grant interim relief against third parties in aid of arbitration proceedings.

Fraud, Asset Recovery & Injunctions

- Acted for a bank in arguing against the inclusion of a provision to discharge a guarantee issued to the bank in a scheme of arrangement. Arguments put forward on behalf of the bank resulted in a voluntary settlement by the guarantor during the second day of the hearing.
- Acted for the defendants in high value litigation exceeding USD 53 million, successfully setting aside a worldwide asset disposal injunction and provisional liquidator appointments obtained against the clients on an ex parte basis. The Court set aside the injunction and refused a stay pending appeal, securing a rare reversal of both the injunctive relief and the receivership order.

Sanctions, Insurance & Cross-Border Litigation

- Advised cargo underwriters on the vessel “LIMBURG”, on liability issues including Salvage and General Average following a terrorist attack on a tanker off the coast of Yemen.
- Acted for a major oil trading company in multi-jurisdictional proceedings after a Belgian shipowner surrendered its crude oil cargo worth over USD 40 million to US authorities on allegations of sanctioned Iranian origin. The dispute raised complex sub-bailment questions regarding the applicability of an LMAA arbitration agreement in a third-party storage contract. Successfully secured an Anti-Arbitration Injunction from the High Court of Malaysia restraining Defendant’s London arbitration, and resisted Defendant’s cross-application in the English High Court for an Anti-Anti-Arbitration Injunction.
- Advised underwriters on a claim under a Construction All Risk Policy involving damaged pipelines / risers, for sums in excess of RM250 million.
- Acted successfully for a shipowner in a London arbitration against a Latin American state-owned oil and gas company in relation to unpaid charter hire of approximately USD 56 million arising from six vessels deployed on regional oil and gas routes. The matter raised significant jurisdictional issues concerning the pro-enforcement objectives of the New York Convention and the respondent state’s arbitration legislation and successfully argued that the tribunal should uphold jurisdiction on that basis.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

- The International Comparative Legal Guide to Shipping Law 2013.
- Can a Customer Claim Against the Bank for an Authorized Push Payment Fraud? — Law Gazette October 2021 issue.
- Commercial Dispute Resolution Chapter – Essential Intelligence: The Belt and Road Initiative — International Comparative Legal Guides 2020.
- When a bill of lading is not spent: Yue You 902 [2019] SGHC 106 — IBA Net, Maritime and Transport Law Committee publications.
- “Mediation Central” quoted extensively regarding the Singapore Convention on Mediation and Singapore’s role as a dispute resolution hub in Asian Legal Business 2020 issue.
- Exclusive country overview on Shipping for Chambers Asia Pacific 2020.

- Featured by the Ministry of Law Singapore in the article “The Future is LegalTech” discussing technology adoption and innovation in legal practice in 2021.
- “AI will help lawyers deliver efficient and cost-effective services” — Bar and Bench May 2023.
- Legal Watch – Resolving Insurance Disputes – Petromin Magazine July 2023 issue.
- Featured in “ALB Litigators of Asia 2024” December 2024 issue, shared insights on generative AI adoption and legal technology strategy.
- Featured in the article “Roundtable: Digital Disputes Revolution” in Asian Legal Business August 2025 issue.
- “Global trade war propels Singapore’s surge as maritime arbitration hub” — ALB Asia November 2025 issue.
- **“**Evolving Landscape of Dispute Resolution in a More Cost-Sensitive and Complex Commercial Environment” — Singapore Law Gazette March 2026 issue.
- Featured in Channel NewsAsia April 2026 article “CNA Explains: What is UNCLOS, the international law in the spotlight amid the Iran conflict?”