



ASIAN BUSINESS LAW INSTITUTE

# BRIDGING LAWS FOR BUSINESS – A DECADE ADVANCING TRADE, TECHNOLOGY AND TRUST

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Celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the Asian Business Law Institute and the 11th year anniversary of the coming into effect of the HCCH 2005 Choice of Court Convention

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**26 August 2026**

**9:15am to 1pm**  
(Singapore time)

**Shangri-La Hotel**  
**Singapore or Zoom**



PART OF



**SINGAPORE  
CONVENTION  
WEEK 2026**

In Conjunction With





ASIAN BUSINESS LAW INSTITUTE

# PROGRAMME

9:00-9:15AM	<b>Registration and welcome drinks for in-person attendees</b>
	<b>Keynote addresses</b>
9:15-9:55AM	By The Honourable The Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon  By Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary-General, Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH)
	<b>Panel 1 jointly organized with the HCCH</b>
9:55-11:05AM	<b>Role of the HCCH 2005 Choice of Court Convention in Effective Transnational Access to Justice</b>  Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Associate Professor Adeline Chong, Justice David Goddard, Ms Delphia Lim and Mr Colin Seow
11:05-11:30AM	<b>Networking break for in-person attendees</b>
11:30-11:40AM	<b>Presentation: Beyond the Token: Private International Law and the Legal Architecture of Digitally Mediated Markets</b>  By Dr Gérardine Goh Escolar, Deputy Secretary General, HCCH
11:40AM-12:50PM	<b>Panel 2: A “Cradle to Grave” Review of Cryptoassets Disputes in ASEAN</b>  Mr Paul Papon Charoenpao, Ms Sapna Jhangiani KC, Ms Wendy Lin, Mr Pham Viet Tuan, and Ms Dewi Savitri Reni (Vitri)
1PM	<b>Closing</b>



ASIAN BUSINESS LAW INSTITUTE

# REGISTRATION

## Registration fee

Registration fee (if applicable) is the same for online and in-person attendance.

**General admission:** S\$160 (nett) Use **promo code ABLI10** to enjoy special rate of S\$70 (nett)

**ABLI Founding Partners:** 10% off special rate

**Members of the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL) can use SAL C\$.**

**Regulators, policymakers, and public sector officials:**  
Complimentary

## Registration platform


Register online via  
<https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/bridging-laws-for-business-a-decade-advancing-trade-technology-and-trust-tickets-1988891320479>

## Registration deadline

Register by **20 August 2026**  
Enquires to [catherine\\_shen@abli.asia](mailto:catherine_shen@abli.asia)

## SILE Attendance Policy

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For participants attending the face-to-face activity, this includes signing in on arrival and signing out at the conclusion of the activity in the manner required by the organiser, and not being absent from the activity for more than 15 minutes. For those participating via the webinar, this includes logging in at the start of the webinar and logging out at the conclusion of the webinar in the manner required by the organiser, and not being away from the activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to <https://www.sileCPDcentre.sg> for more information.

 Seminar	2 Public CPD Points
	Practice Area: International Law Training Level: General



# SPEAKERS

(in alphabetical order)

## Panel 1

### ***Role of the HCCH 2005 Choice of Court Convention in Effective Transnational Access to Justice***

*This panel will examine the operation of the HCCH 2005 Choice of Court Convention in the context of today's evolving transnational dispute resolution landscape. It will explore how the Convention enhances legal certainty, increases access to justice, and facilitates international commerce and trade. Experts will offer diverse perspectives on its impact on cross-border litigation, its relationship with mediation and other dispute resolution mechanisms, and its role in supporting the development of international commercial courts.*

**Dr Christophe Bernasconi**

**Secretary-General, Permanent Bureau of the Hauge Conference on Private International Law**



Dr Christophe Bernasconi has served as Secretary General of the HCCH since 1 July 2013. He was reappointed in 2018 and again in 2023 for a further five-year term.

As Secretary General, he initially focused on strengthening the HCCH's good governance, laying the institutional foundations necessary for its continued development. On that basis, he has increasingly focused on the Organisation's strategic direction, with particular emphasis on practical, effective multilateralism and on advancing universality and inclusiveness.

Over nearly three decades at the Permanent Bureau, Dr Bernasconi has played a central role in developing both the normative and non-normative work of the HCCH across its three core areas: transnational litigation and the authentication of public documents (Apostilles); international family and child protection law; and international commercial, digital and financial law. He notably designed and administered the electronic Apostille Programme (e-APP), now used worldwide.

Before joining the HCCH, he lectured in private international law at the University of Fribourg, worked at the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne, served at the Federal Office of Justice of Switzerland, and advised practitioners on private international law matters.

He holds degrees from the University of Fribourg and McGill University, including a doctorate in private international law (*summa cum laude*). He serves on several advisory boards and holds honorary academic and professional distinctions.

More speakers on the next pages.

# SPEAKERS

(in alphabetical order)

## **Adeline Chong**

**Associate Professor of Law; Associate Dean (Faculty Matters)**

**Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University**



Adeline Chong is Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Faculty Matters) at the Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University. She has published in leading peer-reviewed journals and is the co-author of Chong and Yip, *Singapore Private International Law: Commercial Issues and Practice* (OUP, 2023) and Hill and Chong, *International Commercial Disputes: Commercial Conflict of Laws in English Courts* (Hart, 4<sup>th</sup> edn, 2010).

She was the Project Lead of the Asian Business Law Institute's project on the *Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments in Asia* which resulted in two edited collections.

Her work has been cited by appellate courts in Singapore, India, Hong Kong, New South Wales and New Zealand, the UK Law Commission and the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. She is an Editor of Hart's *Studies in Private International Law - Asia* book series, as well as *Journal of Private International Law*, *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, *Chinese Journal of Transnational Law* and the blog *Conflictolaws.net: Views and News on Private International Law*.

She delivered a Special Course at the Hague Academy of International Law in summer 2025 and taught in one of the Academy's external courses for ASEAN judiciaries in 2026 in one of the Academy's external courses for ASEAN judiciaries in 2026.

More speakers on the next pages.

# SPEAKERS

(in alphabetical order)

## **Justice David Goddard KC**

### **International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court**

Justice Goddard studied mathematics and French at Victoria University of Wellington, and then studied law at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He taught law at Bristol University before returning to New Zealand to practise law. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2003. Before his appointment to the Bench, Justice Goddard had a wide-ranging practice with a particular focus on appellate litigation. He also had an extensive involvement in law reform in New Zealand and overseas, advising ministers and government agencies and representing New Zealand in bilateral and multilateral negotiations. He was a Vice-President of the Diplomatic Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) that adopted the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements in 2003, and a member of the drafting committee for that Convention. He was also the Chair of the Diplomatic Session of the HCCH that adopted the Judgments Convention in 2019.



Justice Goddard spent the 2018-19 academic year at the New York University Law School as a Senior Global Fellow from Practice and Government, writing a book about the ways in which legislation fails to achieve its objectives and how we can design more effective legislation.

Justice Goddard was appointed a Judge of the New Zealand High Court and Court of Appeal in July 2019. He retired from the Bench in July 2025. He was appointed as an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court in September 2025.

He is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at Melbourne Law School, an International Fellow of the Singapore Judicial College, and Special Advisor on Digital Technologies to the Chief Justice of New Zealand.

## **Delphia Lim**

### **Director, International Legal Division, Ministry of Law, Singapore**

Delphia Lim is the Director of the International Legal Division of the Ministry of Law, Singapore, which works on strengthening the domestic and international legal infrastructure for international civil and criminal cooperation, so as to uphold the rule of law, enhance access to justice, and advance Singapore's economic and social interests. She has prior experience in international commercial litigation and the development sector. She graduated with an LL.B from the National University of Singapore and holds an LL.M from Harvard University.



More speakers on the next pages.

# SPEAKERS

(in alphabetical order)

## **Colin Seow**

### **Managing Director, Colin Seow Chambers**

Colin Seow brings with him more than twelve years of judicial and adjudicatory experience in the Supreme Court of Singapore dealing with substantive matters involving, among other things, building and construction disputes, corporate disputes, financial and banking disputes, shipping disputes as well as matters falling within the ambit of Singapore's International Arbitration Act 1994 and the Arbitration Act 2001. He is, among others, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and an accredited mediator with the Singapore Mediation Centre, and is admitted as a Panel/List arbitrator in several leading international arbitration centres.

Colin has served as a delegate from Singapore to a Working Group of The Hague Conference on Private International Law, and was involved in Singapore's implementation of several international treaty obligations relating to cross-border dispute resolution.

Colin is qualified in Singapore, England and Wales and New York State and is also registered as a Part II Legal Practitioner at the DIFC Courts with full rights of audience.



More speakers on the next pages.

# SPEAKERS

(in alphabetical order)

## ***Presentation: Beyond the Token: Private International Law and the Legal Architecture of Digitally Mediated Markets***

*This presentation examines the private international law questions that arise when tokens are used, transferred, held, controlled or enforced in digitally mediated environments. It considers why token-related disputes cannot be analysed solely by reference to the token as an object, but must also be situated within the rights, obligations, legal relationships and transactional structures through which tokens operate across borders. Particular attention will be given to jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement, proprietary effects, third-party rights, insolvency, custody and intermediary arrangements, unauthorised transfers, and the interaction between private international law, safeguards, public policy and overriding mandatory rules.*

*Drawing on the work of the HCCH Experts' Group on Digital Tokens, the presentation will address where existing private international law rules may apply effectively, where their application to token-related contexts may be uncertain or insufficient, and where new private international law solutions may be required to support legal certainty, predictability and cross-border coordination in digitally mediated markets.*

**Dr Gérardine Goh Escolar**

**Deputy Secretary General, Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law**



Dr Gérardine Goh Escolar is Deputy Secretary General of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). Concurrently, she is Head of its International Commercial, Digital and Financial Law (CODIFI) Division. In this role she is the Secretary of the HCCH Experts' Group on Carbon Markets, the HCCH Experts' Group on Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), and the HCCH Experts' Group on Digital Tokens. She also has primary responsibility over the work relating to the HCCH 2006 Intermediated Securities Convention, the 1985 HCCH Trusts Convention, and the 2015 HCCH Principles on the Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, as well as the monitoring of private international law developments in the digital economy, restructuring and insolvency, and intellectual property. Dr Goh Escolar is Full Professor (Adj) at the Faculty of Law, and Academic Fellow at the Centre for Technology, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and the Law (TRAIL), both of the National University of Singapore.

Her full biography is also online here: [HCCH | Gérardine Goh Escolar](#).

Her LinkedIn profile is accessible here: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gerardinegoh/>.

More speakers on the next pages.

# SPEAKERS

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## Panel 2

### A “Cradle to Grave” Review of Cryptoasset Dispute Resolution in ASEAN

*This panel aims to take the audience through the lifespan of cryptoassets disputes, including the particular considerations that arise when litigating and quantifying damages in such disputes given the unique nature and market volatility of such assets, issues that arise and techniques that can be adopted in preserving, tracing and executing judgments and awards against cryptoassets, and special concerns that arise in the context of insolvency involving such assets.*

*This panel will have a distinct ASEAN focus featuring in-country experts from Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.*

**Paul Papon Charoenpao**  
Managing Partner, PDLegal Thailand

Papon is dedicated to providing strategic counsel and legal solutions in the areas of mergers & acquisitions, financial services, venture capital & private equity financing, and fintech, including Web3 based projects.



As part of Papon’s well-developed practice, he specialises in crypto-focused legal and tax structuring, regulatory analysis, governance frameworks, compliance strategies, and risk management for digital asset projects, tokenisation initiatives, decentralised protocols and blockchain-based software platforms.

With a focus on emerging technology companies, Papon offers comprehensive guidance to a diverse range of clients, including financial institutions, deep-tech startups, and Web3 tokenisation projects.

Among others, Papon has advised prominent venture capital funds and corporate venture capitalists (CVCs) on early-stage and growth-stage investments, both onshore and offshore. He facilitates successful investment transactions, enabling clients to capitalise on valuable investment opportunities. He also provides invaluable guidance to high-net-worth clients and corporations seeking to invest in private equity and venture capital funds.

Endorsed by clients for being a “highly commercial and pragmatic lawyer who provides clear, actionable advice tailored to our business and investment needs”, Papon brings extensive expertise in fundraising and regulatory compliance, guiding clients through critical stages of development, ensuring compliance and facilitating success from the early stage to the growth and exit stages. He is praised for being “responsive, professional, and dependable, making him a trusted advisor”, and was recognised as one of the Top 10 Powerful Asian Business Leaders 2025 by CEO Insights Asia Magazine, reflecting his commercially driven leadership approach and focus on technology-enabled legal solutions.

More speakers on the next pages.

# SPEAKERS

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## **Sapna Jhangiani KC** **Blackstone Chambers**

Sapna Jhangiani KC is a barrister at Blackstone Chambers, based in Singapore, with over twenty-five years' experience in appearing before courts and tribunals, and sitting as an arbitrator or mediator, in complex commercial disputes seated all over the world, including investor-state disputes.



Alongside her independent practice as an advocate, arbitrator and mediator, she is a Judge in the Court of Appeal of the DIFC Courts.

Sapna has practised in London, New York, Dubai and Singapore, and is called to the Bar in England & Wales, Singapore and the British Virgin Islands. She holds an undergraduate degree from Oxford University, and a diploma in international commercial arbitration from Queen Mary University, London, in which she graduated with distinction.

Sapna is consistently ranked in the leading legal directories, and has been described as “excellent”, “tenacious”, “a charming advocate” and a “true all-rounder” with “excellent advocacy skills” and “excellent written advocacy”. She was recognised by Asian Legal Business as one of Asia’s top 15 female lawyers.

Sapna is a member of the Panel of Advisors to the Attorney-General of Singapore, and was International Legal Counsel at the Attorney-General’s Chambers for 3 years from 2021 to 2024.

Sapna is also a Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

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# SPEAKERS

(in alphabetical order)

## Wendy Lin

Partner, WongPartnership LLP

Wendy Lin is the Head of the Asset Recovery & International Enforcement Practice, Deputy Head of the Commercial & Corporate Disputes Practice, and a Partner in the International Arbitration Practice of Wong Partnership LLP.

Wendy has an active and leading practice spanning a wide array of high-value, multijurisdictional and complex commercial, fraud and asset recovery disputes before the Singapore Courts, as well as in arbitrations conducted under various arbitral rules. She has also been at the forefront of numerous landmark arbitration-related Court decisions given her unique combination of expertise in litigation, enforcement and arbitration work.



In addition to her busy practice as counsel, Wendy sits as an arbitrator in cases administered by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the International Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. Wendy is also the Co-Chair of the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on Conflict-of-Laws Issues, a member of the Singapore Academy of Law's Law Reform Committee and the Regional Representative South East Asia of the International Bar Association Asset Recovery Committee.

Wendy is widely recognised as one of the top enforcement / asset recovery practitioners in Singapore; she is one of two ranked Global Elite Thought Leaders (reserved for 5% of those ranked across the world by Lexology Index) for Asset Recovery in Singapore. Wendy has also earned the rare distinction since 2020 of being selected as a Global Leader by Lexology Index in three practice areas: Commercial Litigation, Arbitration and Asset Recovery.

Wendy has been recognised by leading legal directories such as *The Legal 500*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *Chambers Global*, *Chambers Asia-Pacific*, among others.

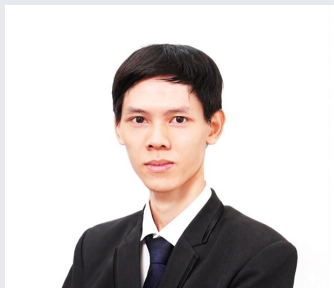
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## Pham Viet Tuan

### Partner, Indochine Counsel

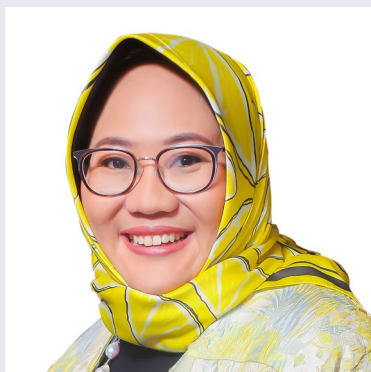


Pham Viet Tuan is a Partner at Indochine Counsel, where he heads the firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Real Estate & Construction practice groups. Tuan also serves as an arbitrator at the Vietnam Traders Arbitration Centre (VTA) and Hainan International Arbitration Court (HIAC).

Tuan has been recognized by Asian Legal Business and Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific for his disputes practice. His practice focuses on domestic and international arbitration, commercial litigation, and alternative dispute resolution, advising corporations and investors on disputes in Vietnam and across the ASEAN region.

## Dewi Savitri Reni (Vitri)

### Partner, SSEK Law Firm



Dewi Savitri Reni (Vitri) is a partner at SSEK Law Firm in Jakarta. She has extensive experience advising Indonesian conglomerates, multinationals, and Fortune 500 companies on complex transactions and disputes. Her practice includes arbitration and dispute resolution, debt restructuring and bankruptcy, foreign investment, mergers and acquisitions, and both civil and criminal litigation.

A Fulbright Scholar, Vitri earned her LL.M. from UC Berkeley School of Law and is licensed to practice in Indonesia and New York. She is actively engaged in the Indonesian legal community, serving as head of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Indonesian Bar Association (PERADI-SAI) and on the Ethics Committee of the Indonesian Fintech Association (AFPI). She is also a member of the Young Singapore International Arbitration Centre (YSIAC) Committee.

Vitri's work has been widely recognized. Among other honors, she has been named Indonesia Lawyer of the Year (Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific), Woman Lawyer of the Year (ALB), and in 2025 was included in Hukumonline.com's The 200 Club of Indonesia's most influential lawyers.



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# REGISTRATION

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Enquires to [catherine\\_shen@abli.asia](mailto:catherine_shen@abli.asia)

In Appreciation of  
Panel 1 Joint Organizer



In Appreciation of  
Knowledge Partner

