



Professor

Dr Colin Ong QC

Counsel and Arbitrator
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Profile

Dr Colin Ong QC is a member of the Brunei, English and Singapore Bars. He is Queen's Counsel at 36 Stone (London) and Chartered Arbitrator at Dr Colin Ong Legal Services (Brunei). He has broad experiences as counsel and arbitrator in commercial matters, including banking and finance, construction and infrastructure projects (airports, bridges, pipe-lines; ports; roads), insurance, mining and minerals disputes, energy disputes (coal mining and supply disputes, production sharing contracts, electricity supply, gas contracts and oil exploration joint ventures), information technology, shipping, telecoms, technology transfer, and general commercial trade related matters. He qualified as a barrister in England and Wales in 1991 and is a master of the Bench of the Inner Temple in England. He has acted as counsel in many arbitrations governed under civil law as well as under common law applying most major institutional rules as well as UNCITRAL rules. He was the first ASEAN national lawyer to be appointed English Queen's Counsel. He is ranked as a *Thought Leader* in three fields of Arbitration, Construction and Commercial Litigation by *Who's Who Legal* ("WWL"). He is also ranked as a top 30 global elite arbitration practitioner by the biennial *publication Expert Guides–Best of the Best: Arbitration* (2017 & 2019). Dr Ong has sat as arbitrator and acted as lead counsel in over 350 arbitrations under many arbitration rules including AAA/BANI/CIETAC/HKIAC/ICC/ICDR/KCAB/KLRCA/ LCIA/ LMAA/OIC/ SCMA/SIAC/TAI/UNCITRAL and WIPO rules.

Qualifications

- LL.B. (Hons) University Of Sheffield, 1990
- Barrister at Law of Inner Temple, 1991
- Advocate & Solicitor, Brunei, 1998
- LL.M, Queen Mary, London, 1992
- Ph.D, Queen Mary, London, 1995
- Diploma, International Commercial Arbitration, 2003
- Fellow, Chartered Institute Arbitrators, 2003

- Chartered Arbitrator (CIArb), 2004
- Fellow, Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators, 2004
- Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, 2005
- Advocate & Solicitor, Supreme Court of Singapore, 2012
- Queen's Counsel of England and Wales, 2017

Dr Ong was among the first few Chartered Arbitrators in the ASEAN region. He has taught at various CIArb and SiArb fellowship courses over a 12 year period. He also teaches advocacy across various countries and has published in this area as well as on arbitration. He is also the co-author of '*Costs in International Arbitration*' (Lexis Nexis 2013), the first specialised book on costs in international arbitration. He is also co-editor of '*Interim Measures in International Arbitration*' (Juris 2014). He is the author of several legal texts including chapters in leading books on the subject of advocacy and cross-examination including the *Case Strategy* chapter in *The Guide to Advocacy (GAR)* (2017 to 2019) and *Take the Witness Chapter: Cross-Examination in International Arbitration* (Juris 2010 and 2019). He is on the editorial boards of several international journals, including *Arbitration (CIArb)*, *Butterworths Journal of International Banking & Financial Law*, *Badan Arbitrase Nasional Indonesia Journal*, *China-ASEAN Law Review* and *Maritime Risk International*. He is also chief editor of *APRAG E-Journal*.

Awards / Recognition

"Very hard working, on top of material and the law, and experienced in both common and civil law" (UK Legal 500 – 2021)

"Colin Ong QC is a pre-eminent figure in the region, where he enjoys a stellar reputation for his work handling commercial litigation across a range of sectors, from banking to construction." (WWL Litigation 2020)

"Colin Ong QC is a staple of the international arbitration field, and earns extensive recommendations from peers around the world who are "happy to endorse him for his strong work as arbitrator", also winning widespread plaudits for his work as lead counsel in both civil and common law matters. "He is always on top of the detail as well as the big-picture issues," adds one source." (WWL Arbitration 2020)

"Colin Ong QC is praised for his "strategic mind" and "wide exposure to many different modes of dispute resolution". Sources further exalt his "mastery of civil law, which gives him an immeasurable strategic advantage." (WWL Mediation 2020)

"Colin Ong QC is "highly recommended" by peers for his profound expertise as lead counsel and arbitrator in high-value construction disputes." (WWL Construction 2020)

"Colin Ong QC wins widespread praise from market commentators for his outstanding work on high-value banking disputes." (WWL Banking Finance 2020)

"Colin Ong QC - 36 Stone 'He has a brain the size of a planet.'" (Legal 500 Asia Pacific Leading Silks (Commercial) 2020)

"Colin Ong QC as "undoubtedly on of the star advocates and arbitrators "in the

construction market. He impresses clients with his “mastery of the detail”." (Who's Who Legal Construction 2020)

"Colin Ong QC is identified as a "top person in the field," one interviewee reporting that he is "always very well prepared and all over the detail and asks very tough questions," "Parties like it that he's on the ball, tries to get to the heart of matters quickly and is robust and efficient." Particularly praised for his handling of construction-related matters, he is also familiar with energy, IP and shipping issues" (Chambers & Partners 2019 Arbitration (International): Most In Demand Arbitrators (Asia-Pacific Region))

"Colin Ong continues to receive strong praise from clients, who say that "he is an extremely creative and charismatic lawyer" and "the best cross-examiner that I have seen. "He is acclaimed by additional sources as "a star performer with a brilliant legal mind, and an excellent advocate with a compelling style, who gets to the heart of complex matters very quickly." (Chambers & Partners, Asia-Pacific 2019)

"Colin Ong QC maintains a worldwide reputation for his skill in arbitration, standing out as “a bright, resourceful and energetic lawyer with great experience in both civil and common law”. As arbitrator he is a “well-organised, well-informed and well-rounded” presence who “writes superb awards”, while as counsel he is lauded as a “formidable cross-examiner” (Who's Who Legal Arbitration 2019)

"Colin Ong is a distinguished litigator who garners wide praise for his experience in disputes spanning a broad range of industries and jurisdictions." (Who's Who Legal Litigation 2019)

"Sources identify Colin Ong QC as 'undoubtedly one of the star advocates and arbitrators' in the construction market. He impresses clients with his 'mastery of the detail'." (Whos Who Legal - Construction 2019)

"Colin Ong QC is a highly respected figure among peers in the international banking market who praise him for his first-class expertise handling related disputes and transactional advice" (Who's Who Legal - Banking law 2019)

"Colin Ong is deeply respected in the market for his impressive arbitration and litigation practice, with commentators hailing him as ‘a brilliant strategist and a very polished performer in court.’ Sources note that he has ‘the supreme ability to explain the most complex of arguments in a simple yet eloquent way,’ as well as ‘an encyclopedic legal knowledge and a very commercial approach’." (Chambers & Partners, Asia-Pacific 2018)

"Colin Ong QC continues to be highly sought after for his leading litigation abilities in the finance, construction and energy sectors where he is ‘a serious talent.’" (Who's Who Legal Litigation 2018)

"Colin Ong QC is a global arbitration expert, acting as counsel and arbitrator on a range of energy, mining and telecoms disputes, among others." (Who's Who Legal Construction 2018)

"A world-renowned arbitration counsel who ‘always manages to make complicated issues appear unbelievably straightforward’ resulting in ‘arbitrators always wanting to hear what he has to say.’ Another source adds: ‘Colin is always able to think out of the box and can always find an innovative solution to the bleakest of problems.’" (Who's Who Legal Arbitration Analysis 2018)

"He impresses as someone with fine commercial judgement and a commanding grasp of international arbitration." (Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2018)

"A very knowledgeable practitioner, easy to work with and very innovative in providing solutions." (Who's Who Legal Arbitration Analysis 2017)

"A very able advocate and arbitrator with a supreme command of legal issues." (Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2017)

"Very experienced in international arbitration." (Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2016)

"Colin Ong is "an undisputed superstar" in the market, and is known for his work in a range of areas including infrastructure, energy and shipping." (Who's Who Legal Litigation Analysis 2016)

"Colin Ong is noted for his skill and experience in litigation and arbitration. He is active in matters across South-East Asia and is noted for his ability to summarise and condense complex legal arguments and concepts for his clients' benefit." (Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific 2014)

"He is always exceptionally fast in absorbing points and extremely patient." (Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific 2013)

Highlighted as 1 of 3 leading individuals (Who's Who's Legal Commercial Litigation 2012 Roundtable)

"Dr Ong's unsurpassed legal and technical knowledge of the oil and gas industry and construction industry" (IFLR 1000 2012)

"He is my recommended lawyer for arbitration... there are few of his standing in Southeast Asia" (IFLR 1000 (2010))

"Mastery of detail in commercial deals and is an outstanding and tactically lethal advocate." (Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2009)

Arbitral Institutions and Leadership Roles

He is the president of the Arbitration Association Brunei Darussalam; Chairman, Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum (RAIF); advisory member of the China-ASEAN Legal Research Centre; vice president of APRAG; vice chair of the IPBA arbitration committee; advisory councillor of the Indonesian National Board of Arbitration (BANI); Chairman of the International Advisory Board of the Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC); Chairman of Advisory Board, Japan Institute for International Arbitration Research and Training (JIIART); Council Member of Hong Kong Centre of International Commercial Arbitration; appointments council of the Chinese-European Arbitration Centre, Hamburg, Germany (CEAC) and Co-Chair of the International Bar Association APAG. The Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China appointed him to sit on the International Commercial Expert Committee of the China International Commercial Court. Colin was ranked by Global Arbitration Review as one of the 45 leading international arbitration practitioners under the age of 45. He has been a consultant to the ASEAN centre for energy (2002 – 2003); a panel member (nominee of Brunei Darussalam) of the ASEAN protocol on enhanced dispute settlement mechanism; former board member of the Cambodia National Commercial Arbitration Centre; a former vice chairman of the IBA arbitration committee; a former vice president of the LCIA Asia-Pacific users council; and a core drafting member of

Malaysian PAM 2006 standard building forms of contract. He is a visiting professor of law or has been a visiting professor at both civil and common law jurisdictions including the National University of Malaysia (UKM), the National University of Singapore, University of Malaya, Kings College (London), Universitas Indonesia, Padjajaran University (Indonesia), Queen Mary, University of London, Academy of International Dispute Resolution (Hong Kong), City University of Hong Kong and University of Hong Kong.

He has conducted many arbitrations and also sat as arbitrator under AAA, BANI, CIETAC, HKIAC, ICC, ICDR, KCAB, KLRCA, LCIA, LMAA, SIAC, SCMA, TAI, UNCITRAL and WIPO rules under many applicable laws including Brunei, Chinese, Dutch, English, Indian, Indonesian, Malaysian, Hong Kong, New York, Philippine, Singapore, Swiss, Thai, Turkish, UAE and Vietnam law.

LANGUAGES

Bahasa Indonesia/Malay (written awards); Chinese and English (written awards).