Kumar trained and qualified with a Big Four law firm in Singapore and was previously at a leading international law firm that specialized in the energy, trade & commodities and infrastructure sectors. He has worked with prominent Senior and Queen’s Counsel and has over a decade of litigation and arbitration experience. Kumar’s contentious disputes experience spans areas such as projects and construction, ship building, trade disputes, hospitality, complex commercial fraud, asset recovery, joint ventures and shareholder/directors’ disputes. He regularly appears before the Singapore Courts and is experienced in arbitrations under all major rules, including SIAC, ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, AIAC, DIAC, BANI, HKIAC, and GAFTA.

Kumar has substantial experience advising on digital assets and on cryptocurrency and cybersecurity related matters. He has advised project founders from inception through to fund raising by initial coin offering, investor relations, product launches (involving text to intelligent NFTs), corporate structuring, AML / KYC and regulatory risks, on and off ramps for ecosystem users, hacked wallets, and governance by token holders via decentralized autonomous organizations. Kumar also acts as an advisor to projects in negotiations with third parties such as Web 3 venture capitalists, algorithmic market makers and cryptocurrency exchanges, and in securing frameworks that best protect digital assets.

He is a member of the Enterprise Blockchain sub-committee of the Blockchain Association of Singapore, whose purpose is to promote blockchain technology and educate businesses on the application of the technology.

Kumar graduated *magna cum laude* from Singapore Management University in 2013, having simultaneously pursued double degrees in law and the social sciences (majoring in political science). He was called to the Singapore bar in 2014.

**Select Experience**

**Technology & Cybersecurity**

* Acting for and advising a Singapore blockchain project in connection with a USD 4 million dispute against a New York venture capitalist under a Y-Combinator Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE). The dispute concerns, among other things, whether tokens purportedly issued by a Singapore project to its founders amounts to dividend payments under the SAFE.
* Successfully advised and represented a technology company in connection with a dispute involving a USD 7.8 million token allocation between founders of the company. The dispute concerned whether a founder’s entitlement to tokens was void on account of fraudulent misrepresentations.
* Successfully defended a coal trader in an SIAC dispute with an Indonesian trader in a matter involving complex social engineering and phishing attacks on email systems, and the misdirection of funds.
* Advising and acting for a cryptocurrency trader on the recovery of assets amounting to USD 3 million misappropriated from Binance due to hacks and/or a method known as contra trading.
* Advising and acting for a US investor in connection with a phishing attack that resulted in the loss of approximately 500,000 XRP tokens.
* Advised on and successfully recovered the assets of a blockchain company in connection with a USD 160 million hack of an algorithmic market maker.
* Advised a Singapore software development business in connection with various cyber-attacks on the platform by parties in India, and the company’s claim for lost profits resulting from the attacks.
* Advised a Singapore blockchain company on effects of a Series B fund raising and offshore restructuring of the company on an existing relationship with a US shareholder, and whether restructuring of related offshore entities triggered change of control or liquidity events.
* Advised a web 3 and generative AI business on whether issued tokens were digital payment tokens (DPTs) under the Payment Services Act, and the risk of future categorization of tokens as DPTs in light of the project’s development roadmap.
* Advising a blockchain project in connection with claims brought by Three Arrows Capital and related parties under a token sale and purchase agreement.
* Acting for a project in resisting claims brought by liquidators of FTX in respect of a token investment made by Alameda Ventures in a blockchain company.
* Acting for a creditor in respect of claims brought against Hodlnaut (in liquidation).

**Restructuring & Insolvency**

* Led negotiations on behalf of a trade creditor in respect of a funding agreement for recovery of an insolvent company’s assets valued at USD 48 million. Successfully obtained priority of payment for an unsecured creditor in respect of recovery of a company’s receivables in the High Court (*Majestica Enterprises Ltd v Kams Singapore Pte Ltd* [2023] SGHC 250).
* Advised an Indonesian state-owned oil and gas company on complex issues arising from misdelivery exposure, on-going arbitrations and guidance on Hin Leong’s insolvency.
* Acting for a large main contractor with the several on-going large scale projects on the restructuring of its debts amounting to $15 million.
* Acting for a liquidator in recovering assets and trade receivables amounting to approximately USD 48 million in respect of an agricultural trading business.
* Acting for a liquidator of a B2B film licensing and distribution business on the realisation of the company’s assets.
* Acting for and advising liquidators of a Cayman Island fund with assets in a SGX listed company distributing baijiu on the recovery of the fund’s assets and claims brought against various parties.

**Commercial Litigation & Arbitration**

* Acting for shareholders of a fund manager for a Cayman Islands commodities trading fund, in connection with the wrongful liquidation and the diversion of the fund manager’s business to a Singapore entity by its former directors and shareholders. The matter involves claims against various parties for, among other things, dishonest assistance, knowing receipt, breach of confidence and infringement of intellectual property.
* Acting for a Hong Kong investor in connection with a dispute in the Singapore High Court concerning the sale and purchase of two villas amounting to $6 million, and the seller’s failure to transfer title in both properties to the investor.
* Acting for owners of a prominent F&B chain in connection with the breach of a joint venture agreement, and the wrongful liquidation and diversion of joint venture’s business to a Singapore entity.
* Acting for various parties in pursuing recovery of a USD 7 million debt in the Singapore High Court as lead counsel, in connection with a high-profile fraud concerning a lawyer using an offshore entity to impersonate his law firm, the purchase of a digital bank and cryptocurrency related transactions.
* Successfully acted for an Indian automobile conglomerate in a USD 122 million SIAC arbitration with a Thai listed company relating to the acquisition of the conglomerate.
* Successfully reduced the claim amount in a BANI arbitration, seated in Jakarta, concerning on-shore oil production facilities from approx. USD 80 million to USD 1.6 million.
* Acted for a multi-national steel making company in a dispute with an Egyptian buyer concerning the sale and purchase of steel products worth USD 6 million. The matter concerned a protracted currency crisis in Egypt, LCIA proceedings against a credit insurer and multiple DIAC proceedings against Egyptian buyers.
* Acted for an insurer in claims brought against it in the High Court in excess of USD 9 million. The matter concerns phantom transactions and reverse-engineered claims for protracted default under a trade credit insurance policy.
* Acted for a Dubai based agri-trading business against a state-owned bank for breach of collection instructions issued by the trader to the bank in respect of receivables amounting to USD 53 million. The matter concerns, among other things, an ICC DOCDEX claim against the bank for its mishandling or conversion of the trader’s shipping documents.
* Acted for an oil major in a BANI arbitration, seated in Jakarta and subject to Indonesian law, arising from disputes with a consortium of contractors who constructed on-shore oil production facilities in Indonesia.
* Acting for Thai sub-contractors in an ICC arbitration arising from disputes with Japanese main contractors over the alleged abandonment of works for a refinery and petrochemical complex in Malaysia.
* Advised a large, multinational main contractor in respect of claims against a sub-contractor for defective box culverts in a gas turbine power plant in Malaysia, and in defending claims brought by the Owner for delayed completion of the plant.
* Acted for a sub-contractor in a claim for payment of retention monies brought by a contractor in respect of an aroma ingredients plant in Malaysia.
* Acted for buyers of two jack up oil rigs valued at $400 million against a main contractor in LMAA arbitrations, and defended claims brought by the main contractor against an entity related to the buyer in a HKIAC arbitration
* Acted for a vessel construction company in a $21 million SCMA arbitration arising out of the outfitting, commissioning and testing of a Dynamic Positioned Pipelay Construction vessel.
* Acted for an investor in SIAC arbitration proceedings in respect of a convertible loan agreement relating to the establishment and/or expansion of a famous, global, fast food chain in Vietnam.
* Acted for a joint venture oil and gas company against a global crane manufacturer in an AIAC arbitration concerning the collapse of a platform crane.
* Advised and acted for an Indian company in a SIAC arbitration against a Thai company concerning the sale and delivery of timber.
* Advised and acted for a UAE trading company in a SIAC arbitration against a Chinese company concerning the sale and delivery of prilled and granular urea.
* Advised and acted for an Indonesian coal conglomerate in defending claims amounting to $1 billion brought by their former Australian joint venture partners, and pursuing counterclaims in a dispute concerning the operations of a coal briquetting plant.
* Successfully acted for minority shareholders in a series of lawsuits for breach of fiduciary duties and minority oppression. Obtained declarations from the High Court that certain defendants had used a number of sham or fraudulent documents to cloak transactions with a semblance of legitimacy (*Sakae Holdings Ltd v Gryphon Real Estate Investment Corp Pte Ltd and Others* [2017] SGHC 73).
* Successfully acted for building owners in pursuing a $20 million claim against various contractors and consultants, in a dispute concerning a structurally unsound facade, alleged improper inspections and shoddy rectification works (*Millenia Pte Ltd v Dragages Singapore Pte Ltd and others (Arup Singapore Pte Ltd, third party)* [2018] SGHC 193).

**Qualifications**

Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) & Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSc) (Major in Political Science)

1. *Graduated Magna Cum Laude* (with High Distinction) with a double degree in law and social science from Singapore Management University. Both degrees were pursued simultaneously.
2. *Cumulative* GPA of 3.62/4.0.
3. *Dean’s* List (AY: 2008/2009).
4. Awarded the Sing Lun Scholarship for academic excellence in 2009.