

Soh Zhen Ning

Zhen Ning is a Senior Associate in the firm's Energy, Projects, Infrastructure & International Arbitration Practice Groups. He read law at the University of Liverpool and the University of Cambridge, where he obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in Commercial Law. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2018 and admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2020. He is currently an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb).

Zhen Ning's practice spans all forms of international and domestic dispute resolution, often involving high-value contentious matters within the construction and energy sectors. His matters arise from major projects, including highways, railways, skyscrapers, high-rise buildings, power plants, retail malls, and mixed-use developments.

He has experience in various dispute resolution processes, including arbitration, adjudication, and litigation. Zhen Ning has also acted as counsel and assisted in various arbitration-related court matters concerning interim measures and challenges to arbitral awards.

Currently, in the first case of its kind in Malaysia, he represents the Republic of Zimbabwe before the Malaysian courts to resist applications by Swiss and German investors to enforce ICSID arbitration awards. He has also advised clients and state-controlled entities on legal issues arising out of the USD15 million arbitral award issued in favour of the heirs of the Sulu Sultanate against the Government of Malaysia. Other notable experiences include:

- Representing a Chinese state-owned company in two ongoing Asian International Arbitration Centre ("AIAC") arbitrations and court-related proceedings involving an amount in dispute exceeding RM350 million, in relation to the construction of a highway in Kuala Lumpur.
- Representing the owner of a retail mall in several matters, including an ongoing civil suit before the Kuala Lumpur High Court, an ongoing AIAC arbitration, and a tripartite mediation, involving an amount in dispute of over RM80 million, in relation to the construction of a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur.
- Represented the Malaysian subsidiary of one of the largest Chinese state-owned entity in an AIAC arbitration involving an amount in dispute exceeding RM160 million, in relation to the construction of a skyscraper in Kuala Lumpur.

The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2024 recognised Zhen Ning as a key lawyer, describing him as "*very knowledgeable and detail-oriented*". **asialaw 2022** also commended him for being "*very attentive*" with "*in-depth knowledge in relevant jurisdictions*", with "*professional services provided and a lawyer who always meets expectation of clients*".



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Qualifications

- LLB (Hons), University of Liverpool
- LLM (Hons), University of Cambridge
- Bar Professional Training Course, BPP University, Manchester
- Called to the Bar of England and Wales (Lincoln's Inn)

Practice Areas

- International and domestic arbitration and arbitration-related litigation
- Construction and commercial disputes and advisory
- Projects-related commercial and contractual disputes and advisory
- Energy and utilities disputes and advisory

Publications

- Contributor – Chapter on Order 69 (Arbitration), *The Malaysian Civil Procedure 2021 & 2024* by Sweet & Maxwell Asia
- Co-Author – *Modernisation of Malaysia's Arbitration Legislation: A Concise Overview of the Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 2024* (LHAG Alert)
- Co-Author – *Shifting Tides: The Fate of Arbitration Clauses in Liquidation Proceedings* (LHAG Alert)
- Author – *Conditional Arbitral Awards – Are They Final?* (LHAG Alert)
- Author – *Amicable Settlement Process – A Condition Precedent to Arbitration?* (LHAG Alert)
- Author – *Malaysia Secured Key Arbitration Win in Rebuke to Alleged Sulu Heirs* (Asian Legal Business' September 2023 Magazine)
- Author – *Does my Claim Fall Inside or Outside of the Contract – An Issue of Admissibility or Jurisdiction?* (LHAG Alert)
- Author – *Non-payment of Arbitrator's Fees – Is the Arbitration Agreement Still Operative?* (LHAG Alert)
- Author – *Reinstating Section 42 of the Arbitration Act 2005: A Desirable Way Forward for Malaysia* [2021] 1 LNS(A) xIvi
- Co-Author – *Victory for Common Sense Approach to Liquidated Damages* (LHAG Alert)
- Author – *Follow the Rules and Hear Me Out* (LHAG Alert)
- Co-Author – *Case in Point: The Malaysian Courts on Arbitration in 2020* [2021] 1 LNS(A) xxi
- Author – *The Assessment of Contractual Damages in the Times of Covid-19* [2020] 3 MLJ i
- Co-author – *The Coronavirus Epidemic: Does It Count As Force Majeure?* [2020] MLN(A) xiii
- Co-Author – *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Performance of Energy & Construction Contract* (LHAG Alert)