

Charis Tan

— Partner

Professional practice

Charis is tri-qualified (Singapore, England & Wales and New York) and has specialised in international arbitration her entire career. Her practice straddles international commercial and investment treaty arbitration and public international law.

She trained under Senior Counsel Michael Hwang, before joining an international firm where she worked with one of the top teams in the world for public international law and investment treaty arbitration. In 2020, she joined Peter & Kim, launching the Singapore office.

Her experience includes international commercial and investment arbitrations under the rules of major arbitration institutions, including ICSID, ICC, SIAC, HKIAC, KCAB, AIAC and SCC, as well as *ad hoc* proceedings under UNCITRAL Rules.

Charis is appointed as Counsel and Arbitrator, and she has also served as an arbitrator in WTO trade proceedings.

She regularly acts for States, and has represented them in ISDS proceedings and high-profile State-to-State disputes before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Her cases almost always involve complex multi-layered disputes involving the interplay between commercial relations, regulation, policy, and domestic and international law.

Charis has been referred to as “*formidable arbitration counsel*”, with “*great familiarity with the rules and personas involved*” and “*very deep technical international arbitration expertise*”, “*simply outstanding*” and “*an amazing practitioner*”, recommended by *Lexology* (previously *Who’s Who Legal*), *Global Arbitration Review (GAR)*, *Legal 500* and *Chambers*, among others. An initiative she spearheaded for the training of Government officials was awarded the *Asia Pacific FT Innovative Lawyers Award*.

Previously, Charis taught adjunct at the National University of Singapore (NUS) for almost a decade. She is co-editor and author of *Investment Protection in Southeast Asia, A Country-by-Country Guide on Arbitration Laws and Bilateral Investment Treaties* (2017), *Jus Mundi’s Wiki Notes on Investment Law and Arbitration* (2021), and *Practical Public International Law and its Implications for Businesses* (2025).

Career

- Partner, Peter & Kim (Singapore), 2020 – Present
- WTO Panellist and Arbitrator, World Trade Organization, 2020 – Present
- Director, DWF (Singapore), 2017 – 2019
- Of Counsel, Eversheds LLP, 2009 – 2017
- Associate, Michael Hwang Chambers LLC, 2007 – 2009

Education

- National University of Singapore, Law Faculty – LL.B.(Hons)



 **Singapore Office**

 **CharisTan@peterandkim.com**

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ADMISSIONS & COURTS

- Advocate and Solicitor, Singapore, 2008
- Attorney and Counselor-at-Law, NY, 2010
- Solicitor, England & Wales, 2011

LANGUAGE

- English, Mandarin, French (basic)

NATIONALITIES

- Singaporean

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Arbitration
Public International Law
Private International Law
International Investment Law
Joint Ventures / Consortia

INDUSTRY SECTOR

Oil
Gas
Energy & Power

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— Partner, LLB (Hons)

Experience

- Appointed on a WTO Panel to determine a trade dispute between the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) relating to anti-dumping and countervailing duties.
- On the Counsel team for Colombia in two International Court of Justice (ICJ) cases brought by Nicaragua relating to delimitation of the outer continental shelf and alleged violations of sovereign rights and maritime spaces.
- Representing the Government of Vietnam in two investor-State cases brought by Chinese investors arising out of a construction project.
- Acting for an Eastern European State in a high-profile commercial arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules arising out of the construction of a trans-border highway, a project worth €1.4 billion.
- Acting for a South Asian State in an *ad hoc* UNCITRAL commercial arbitration between an investor and a State in relation to a concession over an airport, in a claim worth more than US\$1 billion.
- Representing an Indonesian oil company in an ICC arbitration for failure to supply gas under a significant contract, resulting in a claim for more than US\$500 million.
- Appointed as a Presiding Arbitrator in an SIAC arbitration relating to the sale and purchase of commodities involving multiple jurisdictions.
- Lead Counsel in an ICC arbitration in a claim brought by a French investor against an investment company based in Vietnam.
- Lead Counsel in an SIAC arbitration between a Chinese company and Singapore-based private equity fund relating to investments in the food sector.
- Co-Lead Counsel representing a listed American renewables company in its claim against a supplier of solar panels in a dispute worth almost US\$200 million under SIAC Rules.
- Acting for a Chinese State-owned entity in an SCC arbitration concerning a consultancy agreement against a Middle Eastern management company in relation to a petrochemical project worth US\$750 million.
- On the Counsel team for Peru in the ICJ case of Peru v. Chile relating to maritime delimitation.
- Represented a Middle Eastern State in three inter-related ICSID arbitrations relating to investments in ports and customs systems.
- Counsel for an Eastern European State in an ICSID arbitration involving a longstanding investment in a motorway in Europe.

Professional associations

ARBITRATOR PANEL APPOINTMENTS:

- 2023 — SIAC Main Panel, one of the youngest ever to have been admitted on the Panel
- 2023 — KCAB International, Panel of International Arbitrators
- 2023 — Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA), Panel of Arbitrators
- 2021 — Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), Panel of Arbitrators
- 2020 — Hainan International Arbitration Court
- 2019 — World Trade Organisation (WTO), Panellist
- 2019 — National Commercial Arbitration Centre (NCAC), Cambodia, Panel of Arbitrators

QUOTES

WWL (Southeast Asia, 2021) says:

Charis Tan is a “formidable arbitration counsel”, according to sources who laud her “very deep technical international arbitration expertise” and “great familiarity with the rules and personas involved”.

Global Arbitration Review quotes a client as saying that Charis was “simply outstanding”.

Who’s Who Legal names Charis as a “Future Leader” in arbitration (2022):

“Charis combines deep technical expertise together with a profound understanding of the client’s commercial goal”

“She is a practical and effective lawyer”

“She distils complex legal concepts in a highly palatable manner”

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific (2022) highlighted Peter & Kim in Singapore as a “firm to watch”, stating:

“Peter & Kim’s Singapore international arbitration practice was set up by Charis Tan... in April 2020. Tan is tri-qualified in Singapore, England & Wales and New York and has particular experience in international arbitration and public international law and advises States in investment treaty disputes.”

In 2023, Chambers and Partners ranked Peter & Kim Singapore in Band 1 among highly regarded firms for arbitration.

Who’s Who Legal (2023) named Charis among the “Most Highly Regarded” partners in Asia Pacific:

“An amazing practitioner”

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OTHER CONCURRENT APPOINTMENTS:

- 2022-present — Chair of the ICC Singapore Arbitration Group (ICC Singapore national committee)
- 2022-present — ICC Commission Member
- 2022-present — Strata Titles Board – Board member
- 2021-present — IBA Taskforce on Privilege in international arbitration
- 2020-present — *Jus Mundi* Wiki Notes on investment arbitration – Editorial Team
- 2017-present — International Law Association, Singapore Branch – Council member
- 2018-present — Law Society of Singapore, Public and International Law Committee

Publications

- Co-editor and author of *Practical Public International Law and its Implications for Businesses* (Jus Mundi, 2025).
- Co-editor and author of *Investment Protection in Southeast Asia: A Country-by-Country Guide on Arbitration Laws and Bilateral Investment Treaties* (Brill, 2017).
- Co-author of “Ten Questions Not to Ask in Cross-examination in International Arbitration”, *Selected Essays on International Arbitration* by Michael Hwang, S.C. (2013).
- Co-author of “When circumstances change: a comparative view of the law and ICC model clauses”, IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum publications (2020).
- Co-author of “Quantification of ISDS Claims: Theory”, *The Guide to Investment Treaty Protection and Enforcement* (Law Business Research, 2022).
- Co-author of “Conditional Fee Arrangements to be Approved for Arbitration”, *ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin* (2022).

Accolades/Rankings

- 2025 — *Lexology Index: Arbitration*
- 2025 — *Chambers and Partners, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration (Asia Pacific)*
- 2024 — *WWL Global Elite Thought Leader*, which lists the best of the best and is achieved by only around 5% of WWL-listed practitioners
- 2023 — *Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration 2023*, among the “Most Highly Regarded” Partners in Asia Pacific
- 2022 — *Who’s Who Legal (Southeast Asia)*
- 2022 — *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2022*
- 2022 — *Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration 2022, Future Leaders (Partners)*
- 2021 — *Who’s Who Legal (Southeast Asia)*

Speaking Engagements

- The Hague Academy of International Law, Advanced Courses in Manila, held in partnership with the Office of the Solicitor General of the Philippines (November 2024)

QUOTES

In 2025, Lexology Index recognised that:
“Charis is extremely sharp and analytical”, “very thorough in her analysis” and she “comes up with creative new solutions and arguments”.

In 2022, Global Arbitration Review (GAR) stated:
“[Peter & Kim] also has a Singapore office led by Charis Tan... who brings experience in investor-state disputes and public international law.”
Quoting a client, “fast, responsive and incredibly commercially minded” with a “true focus on the business goals a client wants to achieve, which is rare”.

In 2024, Charis was listed as a WWL Global Elite Thought Leader.

In 2025, she was recognised by Chambers and Partners for Dispute Resolution: Arbitration.

Who’s Who Legal (2022, 2024) also notes that:
Charis is “frequently sought after” and commended for “skillfully handling cross-border oil and gas-related disputes”.

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