


Zhen Yu Lam


SPECIAL COUNSEL | SINGAPORE

 ZHENYU.LAM@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

 +65 6238 3132

SECRETARY CHERYL YEO

 CHERYL.YEO@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

 +65 6238 3183



OPERATING AS WITHERS KHATTARWONG LLP IN SINGAPORE.

Zhen Yu is a special counsel specializing in restructuring and insolvency.

His core practice revolves around debt restructuring and insolvency (both Court-supervised and out of Court), including distressed and special situation transactions. His clients include insolvency practitioners, institutional creditors, debtor companies, fund managers, investors and HNWI entrepreneurs alike. He also acts in commercial litigation and arbitration matters, particularly investment-related disputes and asset recovery.

Zhen Yu is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and has wide experience advising clients from Mainland China and Hong Kong, including state-owned enterprises, private individual investors, company directors and multinational corporations, on cross-border legal issues.

Zhen Yu is recognised as an INSOL International Future Leader of Singapore, having successfully completed the Future Leaders Programme 2023. He is also currently a fellow of the Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore Limited (IPAS).

Track record

Contested realisation of 13 Xihe Capital vessels

Represents the Liquidator (formerly Judicial Managers) from FTI Consulting of 6 SPVs owned by Xihe Capital Pte Ltd, in insolvency proceedings and realisation of 13 vessels, including an ongoing contest in the Singapore Court over the sale proceeds of a vessel.

Ex-chairman of a company formerly listed on SGX

Successfully assisted a HNWI in his debt restructuring efforts via a voluntary arrangement in contested Singapore Court proceedings, by which liabilities exceeding USD 400m were restructured.

Liquidation of failed cryptoexchange

Represents the Liquidator from FTI Consulting of Zipmex Pte Ltd, including successfully persuading the Singapore Court in Re Zipmex Co Ltd and Ors [2024] SGHC 6 that no further moratorium should be granted for the Zipmex Group, given that there was no further prospect of restructuring.

Re Mingda Holding Pte Ltd [2024] SGHC 130

Represented a Shanghai-based commodities trader as Lead Counsel to advocate against the amount of advantage sought by the funding creditor over proceeds of contemplated litigation by the liquidator. Zhen Yu's legal submissions were noted by the Judge to be a "commendable effort".

Yap Sze Kam v Yang Kee Logistics Pte Ltd [2023] SGHC 43

Successfully represented Maybank as Lead Counsel in a significant landmark case in which the Singapore High Court dismissed judicial management applications in favour of existing receivers and managers. (Note: This case was recognised as recognized in the Benchmark Litigation APAC Awards 2024 as an Impact Case of the Year.)

ZenRock Commodities Trading Pte Ltd

Represents the Liquidators (formerly Interim Judicial Managers) from KPMG in insolvency law issues and investigations, including satellite litigation in the Singapore and English Courts in connection with fraudulent trades entered into by the company's management.

Sinosteel Group restructuring

Advised as Singapore Counsel to the Sinosteel Group in relation to its international debt restructuring, including defending against litigation commenced by the Liquidators of its Singapore subsidiary.

Individual Chinese private equity investors

Acted for separate groups of Chinese investors in commencing claims against private equity funds (TAP Venture, Sunmax Global Capital) registered under EDB's Global Investor Programme, concerning alleged wrongdoing and misuse of funds by the funds' management and controllers.

Japanese-fine dining restaurant in Marina Bay Sands

Successfully defended an ex-director of the company against claims for an estimated JPY515 million in relation to disputes over allegedly charged shares: M.K.C. Associates Co. Ltd & Anor v Kabushiki Kaisha Honjin & 20 Ors [2017] SGHC 317

Celestial Nutrifooods Limited

Defended an independent director of the formerly SGX-listed company against claims commenced by the Liquidators in excess of US\$16 million for alleged fraud and breaches of directors' duties.

Independent Panel of Aljunied-Hougang Town Council

Acted for the Town Council in commencing claims exceeding S\$33 million against town councillors and their appointed management agents for alleged mismanagement of public funds. This was a landmark case in Singapore and received widespread media attention.

Debt recovery for financial institutions

Represents financial institutions (including UOB, DBS, HSBC, Maybank) in efforts to recover debt and preserve security in both defaults and distressed loan transactions, including commencing and participating in restructuring and insolvency proceedings before the Singapore Courts.

External publications

Goh Yihan and Paul Tan (gen eds), *Singapore Law: 50 Years in the Making* (Academy Publishing, 2015)

Goh Yihan, Contractual Interpretation in Indian Evidence Act Jurisdictions: Compatibility with Modern Contextual Approach (2013) 13 *Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal* 17-48

Admissions

Advocate & Solicitor, Supreme Court of Singapore (2016)

Education

National University of Singapore - LL.B. (Second Class Honours, Upper), 2015

New York University - Student Exchange Programme, Fall 2013

Languages

English

Mandarin

Memberships

Law Society of Singapore

Singapore Academy of Law

Fellow, Insolvency Practitioners Association of Singapore Limited (IPAS)

Member, INSOL International

Key dates

Year joined: 2018

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