

Suang Wijaya
Managing Partner

LL.B. (1st Class Hons),
National University of Singapore (2014)
Admitted to the Singapore Bar (2015)

T: +65 6557 2436 F: +65 6557 2437
E: suang.wijaya@thuraisingam.com



ABOUT SUANG

“He has a first-class legal mind, is detailed, industrious, responsive, professional and has a very good ‘bedside’ manner in handling his clients through difficult situations.” – [Asialaw Profiles 2022](#)

Suang Wijaya’s record includes securing an arbitral award in the quantum of USD 2.5 million and [successfully contesting](#) the winding up of an iconic Indian vegetarian business on account of the winding up application being an abuse of process.

Suang is of Indonesian origin and is proficient in Mandarin and Bahasa Indonesia. Suang advises on high-value contentious matters including shareholder and corporate disputes, fraud and asset recovery, property disputes and employment matters. Suang is regularly instructed on matters with a Chinese or Indonesian connection.

In 2014, Suang graduated with First Class Honours from the National University of Singapore. Drawn to the firm’s commitment to access to justice and the upholding of fundamental liberties, he joined Eugene Thuraisingam LLP. In 2018, after three years in practice, Suang became a Partner of the firm.

In 2023, asialaw [awarded](#) Suang the recognition of “*Client Choice Awards – Singapore lawyer of the year*”.

In 2024, Suang was appointed Managing Partner of Eugene Thuraisingam LLP.

Significant matters in which Suang was lead counsel include:-

- **International arbitration:** Secured an award in the amount of USD 2.5 million on behalf of a renewable energies company after a hotly contested expedited arbitration involving the breach of share purchase and loan agreements.
- [Adcrop Pte Ltd v Gokul Vegetarian Restaurant and Café Pte Ltd \[2023\] SGHC 152](#): On behalf of a shareholder, successfully resisting the attempted winding up of company on the novel basis that the winding up application was part of a conspiracy to wrest control of an iconic Indian vegetarian business. Advising the client in connection with corporate governance and minority oppression disputes with the other director and 50% shareholder.

- **HC/OA 713/2022 and HC/OS 1207/2019:** Successfully defended a claim by our client's ex-mother-in-law and ex-husband for beneficial ownership of a property valued at approximately SGD 3.34 million. After a trial lasting 4 days, the High Court Judge dismissed the plaintiff's claims in its entirety. This decision by the High Court paves the way for our client to continue her application for financial relief consequential upon foreign relief (see [UFN v UFM \[2019\] SGCA 54 and UFM v UFN \[2017\] SGHCF 22](#) below).
- **[HC/MA 9002/2020/01](#):** Acted for a Filipino domestic helper, Portela Vilma Jimenez ("**Portela**"), as a lead counsel at trial and on appeal. Portela had been convicted by the District Court of 10 theft charges and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. On appeal, the High Court Judge accepted our legal argument that there was a reasonable doubt raised on the charges against Portela. The High Court Judge therefore acquitted her on all 10 charges.
- **HC/S 697/2018:** In an ongoing matter, acting for a sports goods company in a claim against a former director for an alleged complex fraudulent scheme resulting in the misappropriation of approximately SGD 3.5 million from the company. The case also raises an interesting legal issue as to whether the company is bound by a matrimonial settlement agreement between the defendant and another director of the company.
- **Confidential client:** Advising a healthcare company who has acquired a 65% stake in a Singapore-incorporated holding company of Vietnam-incorporated subsidiaries operating medical manufacturing plants, in connection with disputes that have arisen with the 35% minority shareholder, the previous majority shareholder, and receivers appointed over the 35% minority shares of the holding company.
- **Confidential client:** Acting for a confidential client in connection with asset forfeiture proceedings involving investment monies amounting to USD 500,000.
- **HC/S 685/2020:** Negotiated a favourable settlement in our client's claim against a Singapore law corporation, where it was alleged that arising from a conveyancing solicitors' negligence, the client suffered damages amounting to the entire purchase price of a property.
- **[UFN v UFM \[2019\] SGCA 54](#) and [UFM v UFN \[2017\] SGHCF 22](#):** Successfully persuaded the Court of Appeal to affirm the High Court Judge's decision in our client's (the wife's) favour in a case raising novel questions of matrimonial law of public interest. These questions include:- (a) the extent to which a foreign divorcee's decision not to exhaust remedies in the foreign divorce courts precludes an application for financial relief in Singapore under Chapter 4A of the Women's Charter; (b) the applicability of the doctrine of *forum conveniens* to the Singapore courts' exercise of discretion to allow financial relief under Chapter 4A of the Women's Charter. Suang was lead counsel having conduct of oral arguments both in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.
- **HC/MA 9102/2019:** In an appeal against sentence for offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, successfully persuaded the High Court Judge to substitute a three-month imprisonment sentence with a fine.
- **HC/S 400/2018:** Defended an individual against a claim by her former employer, a medical diagnostics company, for alleged breaches of confidentiality. After litigation involving numerous contested applications before a High Court Judge (including an application for a search order (formerly an Anton Piller Order)), the matter was settled favourably without the individual having to pay any damages or costs to her former employer.

- **HC/S 683/2018:** Successfully persuaded a High Court Judge to discharge an interim injunction obtained by international companies in the business of multi-level marketing, against a former prominent representative leader of the companies.
- **HC/OS 789/2018:** Acted for a client in filing urgent High Court proceedings asserting the client's beneficial interests in properties exceeding SGD 1.2 million. The matter was settled favourably with the registered proprietors recognising, in writing, the client's beneficial interests as asserted.
- **KPMG Services Pte Ltd v Pawley, Mark Edward [2021] SGHC 54:** Acted for a defendant in defending a claim of alleged professional fees amounting to USD 944,050.70 brought by KPMG Services Pte. Ltd. This case raises interesting legal issues, including the circumstances in which an agent who signs a contract on his principal's behalf can become personally liable under the contract.
- **Confidential clients:** Acted for confidential clients in High Court judicial review proceedings against Singapore's Registrar of Marriages. Media coverage: [Same-sex couple drop case against ROM for voiding their marriage.](#)

Significant matters in which Suang was second-chair include:-

Civil and commercial disputes

- **Confidential clients:** Acting as Singapore counsel for confidential clients in connection with asset forfeiture proceedings and other legal matters involving more than USD 200 million in assets.
- **CA/CA 38/2018 and UJF v UJG [2018] SGHCF 1:** Acted for the wife in the division of matrimonial assets exceeding SGD 11 million. The case was particularly complex, as noted by the High Court judge:- *"Although both parties were entrepreneurs focused on making a success of their respective business and investment activities, the maintaining of records and tracking of inflow and outflow seems to have been less of a priority. Matters were also complicated by the long period of cohabitation, while the period of formal marriage was relatively short. This meant that there was significant entanglement between matters relevant to the determination of direct contribution to the marriage, and the transactions and interactions between the parties during the period of cohabitation"*.
- **CA/CA 168/2017 and Ramesh s/o Krishnan v AXA Life Insurance Singapore Pte Ltd [2017] SGHC 197:** Acted for a former financial services director ("FSD") in the assessment of damages stage of the FSD's claim against a financial institution ("FI") for losses arising from a negligent reference check prepared by the FI. The Court of Appeal assessed the damages at SGD 3.2 million.
- **Rohini d/o Balasubramaniam v HSR International Realtors Pte Ltd [2018] SGCA 37:** Acted for a property agency in defending a SGD 830,000 claim, with substantial success. The plaintiff had argued that the property agency should be fully responsible for the fraudulent acts of a rogue agent.
- **Ramesh s/o Krishnan v AXA Life Insurance Singapore Pte Ltd [2016] SGCA 47:** Acted for a former financial services director ("FSD") in a successful appeal to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal agreed with us that the defendant, a financial institution, had been negligent in the preparation of a reference check for the FSD, and this caused a prospective employer to decide not to proceed with hiring the FSD.

Criminal and public interest litigation

- **[Public Prosecutor v Zhang Ruijin](#)**: Acting for one of 10 accused persons with Chinese origin, who have been arrested in connection with alleged money-laundering involving up to SGD 2.8 billion in assets. Approximately SGD 100 million of Zhang Ruijin's assets have been seized.
- ***Tan Seng Kee v Attorney-General* [2022] SGCA 16**: Acted for one of the three appellants who challenged the constitutionality of Section 377A of the Singapore Penal Code, which criminalised intimate conduct between consenting adults males.
- ***Ilechukwu Uchechukwu Chukwudi v Public Prosecutor* [2020] SGCA 90**: Acted for an accused who had been convicted by the Court of Appeal of drug trafficking. The Court of Appeal, by a 4:1 majority set aside its previous conviction and acquitted the accused. This is the first time in Singapore's legal history that a court has exercised its inherent power to review and set aside its own decision convicting an accused person
- ***Nagaenthran a/l K Dharmalingam v Public Prosecutor and another appeal* [2019] SGCA 37**: Acted for a person who had been sentenced to death in a seminal case involving the proper interpretation of the phrase "*abnormality of mind*" under Section 33B(3)(b) of the Misuse of Drugs Act ("**MDA**"), and whether Section 33B(4) of the MDA had the effect of ousting the courts' powers of judicial review on grounds other than bad faith, malice or unconstitutionality.
- ***Attorney-General v Wham Kwok Han Jolovan and another matter* [2018] SGHC 222**: Defended 2 persons accused of the offence of contempt by scandalising the court. These were the first proceedings for scandalising contempt after the coming into force of the Administration of Justice (Protection) Act 2016.
- ***Ilechukwu Uchechukwu Chukwudi v Public Prosecutor* [2017] SGCA 44**: Acted for an accused who had been convicted by the Court of Appeal of drug trafficking, in successfully persuading the Court of Appeal to re-open its decision convicting the accused. This was the first time in Singapore's legal history in which the Court of Appeal agreed to re-open a concluded criminal appeal.
- ***Liew Zheng Yang v Public Prosecutor* [2017] SGHC 157**: Acted for the appellant in a successful appeal against his conviction by the District Court of a conspiracy to traffic drugs to himself. In this case, the High Court judge agreed with our arguments on a novel point of law, that a person who orders drugs for his own consumption could not be liable for a conspiracy to traffic drugs to himself. The conclusions made by the High Court judge was subsequently endorsed by the Court of Appeal in *Ali bin Mohamad Bahashwan v Public Prosecutor and other appeals* [2018] SGCA 13, a case which we also had conduct of.
- ***Attorney-General v Ting Choon Meng and another appeal* [2017] SGCA 6**: Acted for the website, The Online Citizen, in successfully defending proceedings brought by the Government in the District Court, the High Court and the Court of Appeal. Both the High Court and the majority panel of the Court of Appeal agreed with us that Section 15 of the Protection from Harassment Act did not give the Government the power to sue persons for alleged false statements.
- ***Prabakaran a/l Srivijayan v Public Prosecutor and other matters* [2016] SGCA 67**: Acted for four persons who had been sentenced to the death penalty, in challenging the

constitutionality of Section 33B(2)(b) of the Misuse of Drugs Act. The primary ground of challenge was that Section 33B(2)(b), by vesting in the Public Prosecutor the power to decide whether or not to grant a certificate of substantive assistance to a person who has been convicted of an offence punishable with the death penalty, in substance vested the Public Prosecutor with a judicial power, and was therefore in breach of the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

- ***The Law Society of Singapore v Ravi s/o Madasamy [2016] SGGT 7***: Acted for an advocate and solicitor in successfully persuading the Disciplinary Tribunal that there was no case to answer on a charge of alleged misuse of client moneys.

Suang's publications include:-

- Co-authored the annotations of *Criminal Procedure Code 2010* published by Lexis Advance® under the Annotated Laws of Singapore, December 2021
- *My Thoughts and Perspectives on Criminal Law Practice*, Community Law, Practice Matters in the Singapore Law Gazette feature article, July 2021
- *Singapore's Disputes*. Asian Legal Business feature article, October 2020
- *Amending Pleadings and Adducing Fresh Evidence in Appeals against Striking Out Decisions*, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP publication, July 2020
- *Disclosure of Prosecution Witnesses' Investigative Statements*, Eugene Thuraisingam LLP publication, June 2020
- *Case Note: The Civil Aviation Authority v The Queen On The Application Of Jet2.com Limited*, Singapore Law Gazette feature article, March 2020
- *Evaluating the Constitutionality of Section 61, Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019* – (2019) 1 SCLR 528, July 2019
- *The Statutory Framework Governing the Right to Appeal to the Court of Appeal: Some Thoughts*, Singapore Law Gazette feature article, March 2019
- *Public Prosecutor v Lam Leng Hung and Others [2018] SGCA 7 – Implications for Accused Persons Previously Convicted of an Offence under Section 409 of the Penal Code*, Singapore Law Gazette feature article, April 2018
- Contributor, *Same But Different: Legal Guidebook For LGBT Couples & Families in Singapore* (2016).

Suang's Professional Engagements include:-

- Council Member at the Singapore Insurance Institute
- Council Member at the Medico-Legal Association of Singapore
- Speaker at the opening ceremony of Asian Law Students' Association Conference 2022, organised by Asian Law Students' Association 19th Singapore National Board

- Speaker on “*Impact of UK’s Supreme Court FCA COVID-19 BI Test Case on BI claims in Asia*” jointly organised by *Singapore Insurance Institute, Chartered Insurance Institute – Central & South Asia, Crawford & Company International Pte Ltd* and *Eugene Thuraisingam LLP*
- Speaker on “*Proposal by Singapore Academy of Law to Reform Insurance Law in Singapore*” jointly organised by *Singapore Insurance Institute, Chartered Insurance Institute – Central & South Asia*, and *Eugene Thuraisingam LLP*
- Speaker on “*Marketing Yourself to Potential Clients*” organised by *The Law Society of Singapore – Young Lawyer Forum 2020*
- Speaker on “*Corporate Compliance and Corporate Criminal Liability Across Southeast Asia*” organised by *Asian Legal Business*
- Speaker on “*Planning for the Future for LGBT Couples & Families*” organised by *Same But Different: A Singapore LGBT Legal Guide For Couples & Families*
- Speaker on “*Pro Bono Scene in Singapore*” organised by the Asian Law Students’ Association (ALSA) Singapore and the National University of Singapore (NUS) Pro Bono Group (PBG).

Suang’s Recognitions:-

- Recognised as “Singapore lawyer of the year (client choice awards)”, *asialaw Leading Lawyers 2024*
- Recognised as a “Rising Star” for dispute resolution in Singapore, *asialaw Leading Lawyers 2024*
- Recognised as a “Preeminent” lawyer for criminal defence in Singapore, *Doyle’s Guide 2023*
- Recognised as a “Recommended” lawyer for white collar crime & regulatory investigations in Singapore, *Doyle’s Guide 2023*