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The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

2020

The clients' guide to law firms

LEE HISHAMUDDIN ALLEN & GLEDHILL

LEVEL 6, MENARA 1 DUTAMAS,
SOLARIS DUTAMAS
NO. 1, JALAN DUTAMAS 1
50480 KUALA LUMPUR
MALAYSIA

Tel: +603 6208 5888 Fax: +603 6201 0122

- Dispute resolution
- Intellectual property
- Islamic finance
- Labour and employment
- Real estate and construction
- Tax
- TMT
- Antitrust and competition
- Banking and finance
- Capital markets
- Corporate and M&A
- Projects and energy

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THE FIRM

Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill (LHAG) is one of the leading law firms in Malaysia. The firm has represented clients in many prominent and complex litigations and transactions in Malaysia. It is also consistently ranked as one of the leading law firms in the country by Chambers Asia Pacific, Legal 500, Asialaw Profiles, IFLR100 and Asian Legal Business.

The practice groups are led by accomplished partners, each of whom has made a name in their particular field of expertise. The firm has the requisite legal skills, industry experience and regional know-how to deliver the best results. Its clients consist of a diverse range, both domestic and international, including Fortune 500 multinational corporations, leading Malaysian listed companies, financial services entities, regulatory and statutory bodies, and government-linked companies.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

LHAG is focused on the following areas of practice: arbitration; banking and insolvency; construction; corporate and commercial disputes; employment and industrial relations; energy, oil and gas; financial services; foreign investment; insurance; Islamic finance; mediation; mergers and acquisitions; planning and environment; real estate; regulatory and compliance; securities litigation; shipping; tax, SST, GST and customs; and trust, probate and administration.

The corporate practice has advised on numerous transactions that include acquisitions of companies, takeover offers, demergers, schemes of arrangement, and selective capital reduction exercises.

The capital markets team is noted for its work on public and private securities offerings, IPOs, Sukuk issuances, and other private debt securities.

With regard to banking and insolvency, the firm has advised on complex and innovative deals – both conventional and Shariah-compliant. In addition, it has advised on the financing of major infrastructure and utility projects.

LHAG is also very well-versed with the employment sector, having advised on various matters related to termination, unfair dismissal and trade union disputes.

LHAG's dispute resolution practice has considerable experience in international arbitration, and a deep understanding of Shariah law and even government affairs. Its successes in challenging abuses by public authorities have been widely reported by the press.

The tax, SST, GST and customs practice has appeared in benchmark litigations with a sizeable volume of wins in tax disputes.

**LANGUAGES
SPOKEN**

English
Bahasa Malaysia

MAIN CONTACTS

Arbitration	Lambert Rasa-Ratnam
Banking and insolvency	Kumar Kanagasingam
Construction	Dato' Nitin Nadkarni
Corporate and commercial disputes	Rosli Dahlan
Employment and industrial relations	Lim Heng Seng
Financial services	Ong Eu Jin
Foreign investment	Ooi Bee Hong
Insurance	G Vijay Kumar
IP and TMT	Bahari Yeow Tien Hong
Islamic finance	Megat Hizaini Hassan
Mediation	Chia Loong Thye
Mergers and acquisitions	Tay Weng Hwee
Real estate	Ooi Bee Hong
Regulatory and compliance	Adlin Abdul Majid
Shipping	Andrew Chiew Ean Vooi
Tax, GST and customs	Datuk D P Naban

STAFF FIGURES

Number of partners : 36
Number of consultants : 2
Number of lawyers : 80+ (36 partners)
Other employees : 174

MEMBERSHIPS

Multilaw
INTERLAW

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Tier 1

Led by '*experienced and capable partners*', **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill's** dispute resolution team handles a full range of contentious matters including commercial disputes, banking and insolvency litigation, and construction and real estate disputes with clients benefiting from it being '*part of a seamless, multi disciplinary firm*'. With a breadth of experience across civil and commercial litigation and arbitration proceedings, **Lambert Rasa-Ratnam** heads up the practice which includes: corporate litigation expert **Rosli Dahlan**, **Nitin Nadkarni**, who heads the international arbitration team, and **Kumar Kanagasingam** who is highlighted for banking and insolvency disputes. Other names to note include '*persuasive and quick thinking*' capital market and securities litigator **SM Shanmugam** – who is '*a formidable figure both in and out of the courtroom*' – and **Darshendev Singh** who handles a range of litigation and alternative dispute resolution with a particular focus on those relating to construction, engineering, oil & gas, and infrastructure projects.

Leading individuals

Rosli Dahlan
Kumar Kanagasingam
Nitin Nadkarni
Lambert Rasa-Ratnam

Next generation partners

Darshendev Singh

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Tier 1

The intellectual property team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** benefits from '*subject matter experts*' who provide '*fast responses, customized service and flexible arrangements*'. The group handles a full range of IP matters and counts telecoms, tobacco and automotive among its sector specialisms. The '*outstanding*' practice head **Bahari Yeow**'s expertise spans non-contentious matters and IP disputes, while **Zhi Jian Lim** focuses on litigation, and **Eunice Wei Lynn Chan** combines IP protection and portfolio management experience with commercial, competition, and regulatory expertise – particularly in the pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and food sectors – in advising on non-contentious matters.

Leading individuals

Bahari Yeow

Next generation partners

Zhi Jian Lim

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ISLAMIC FINANCE

Tier 1

Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill's Islamic finance team is a popular choice for domestic and international financial institutions and counts United Overseas Bank, RHB Islamic Bank and Mapletree Investments among its clients. **Weng Hwee Tay** – who has been particularly active in advising foreign funds and banks on mezzanine financings – heads up the practice which includes **Megat Hizaini Hassan**, who has a breadth of experience in advising lenders on project finance transactions, restructuring projects and debt issuance, as well as capital markets expert **Eu Jin Ong**.

Leading individuals

Megat Hizaini Hassan

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Tier 1

The '*very professional and efficient*' employment and industrial relations team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** provides '*sound technical legal advice*' on a range of compliance, contractual, contentious matters. Its impressive client roster includes major Malaysian companies and multinationals, such as CIMB Bank and Samsung Electronics. Practice head and '*good strategist*' **Heng Seng Lim** is highlighted particularly for corporate advisory work while **Thavalingam Thavarajah** focuses on employment disputes. Other names to note include **Shariffullah Abdul Majeed** who has particular industrial relations experience and senior associate **Amardeep Singh** attracts praise for being '*a good communicator*'.

Leading individuals

Lim Seng Heng
Thavalingam Thavarajah

Rising stars

Amardeep Singh

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REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION

Tier 1

The real estate and construction team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** offers a full-service to its real estate sector clients and combines real estate development and transactions expertise with corporate and disputes capabilities. The team is jointly led by corporate and commercial partner **Weng Hwee Tay** and **Nitin Nadkarni** who specialises in international arbitration. Other names to note include **Bella Chai Yee Chu** and **Darshendev Singh** for transactional and contentious matters respectively.

Leading individuals

Tay Weng Hwee

Nitin Nadkarni

TAX
Tier 1

The tax team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** is known for handling high-value tax disputes relating to transfer pricing, sales and services tax, capital allowance, withholding tax, tax incentives and customs valuation, and is particularly active in bringing tax appeals before the Special Commissioners of Income Tax. The group is also instructed in non-contentious and advisory matters. Tax litigator **D.P. Naban** (who has particular securities and financial services sector experience) and **Saravana Kumar** (who specialises in advising property development, manufacturing, digital economy sector clients in contentious and non-contentious matters) jointly head the practice. Other names to note include **Aznam Mansor**, who focuses on advising private clients, anti-money laundering and criminal tax investigation expert **Rosli Dahlan**, and civil tax recovery-focused partner **Bahari Yeow**.

Leading individuals

Saravana Kumar

D.P. Naban

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TMT Tier 1

The TMT group at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** expertise spans the IT and telecoms sector, with capabilities to handle regulatory, compliance and licensing advice, transactional matters as well as project finance and dispute resolution. Practice head **Adlin Abdul Majid** is a key name for transactional and regulatory matters, while **G. Vijay Kumar** handles a range of telecoms and IT disputes; **Bahari Yeow** also focuses on IT disputes. The team's fintech expertise has been further strengthened by the arrival of **Raphael Tay Choon Tien** from Chooi & Company and Cheang & Ariff. Associate **Thong Xin Lin** has particular telecoms and communications sector regulatory expertise.

Leading individuals

G. Vijay Kumar

Adlin Abdul Majid

Rising stars

Thong Xin Lin

ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION

Tier 2

“ The competition practice at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** focuses on advising international clients investing in Malaysia on compliance matters and attracts praise for being '*willing to go the extra mile*'. **Adlin Abdul Majid** assists clients with a range of compliance issues, while **Ooi Bee Hong** frequently advises on competition elements of corporate transactions and **Eunice Chan Wei Lynn's** broad expertise extends to advising clients on competition considerations relating to licensing of intellectual property. ”

Leading individuals

Adlin Abdul Majid

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BANKING AND FINANCE

Tier 2

The '*very experienced*' **Weng Hwee Tay** leads the team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill**, which acts across the range of banking and finance matters, including syndicated loans, project and asset finance, bankruptcy and restructuring and bank branch establishment. The practice has a particular strength in transactions, primarily acting for lenders, which include international institutions such as HSBC and Standard Chartered alongside domestic banks such as Maybank, CIMB and AmBank. **Eu Jin Ong** advised the government of Malaysia on a ¥200bn Series A samurai bond issue to qualified institutional investors.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Tier 2

“ The capital markets practice at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** has experience of assisting clients with the full range equity and debt issuances; the group has been advising on an increasing volume of IPOs in Malaysia and continues to be particularly active in Sukuk issuances. Head of the corporate team, **Tay Hwee**, is a name to note in the equity space, while **Eu Jin Ong** handles a range of conventional and Islamic equity and debt transactions, and **Megat Hassan** focuses on Islamic finance. ”

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CORPORATE AND M&A

Tier 2

“**Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill's** *‘solution-oriented’* corporate and M&A team counts large Malaysian corporates, including Sapura Energy and UEM Sunrise, as well as international companies with activities, or establishing interests, in Malaysia. It has experience across a breadth of sectors and has recently seen an uptick of work in the infrastructure and insurance sectors. Practice head **Tay Hwee** handles a full range of corporate and commercial transactions, while **Ooi Bee Hong** focuses on foreign direct investment into Malaysia. **Raphael Tay**, who joined the team from Chooi & Company and Cheang & Ariff, brings a breadth of corporate experience and has recently been particularly active in the fintech sector.”

Leading individuals

Tay Weng Hwee

PROJECTS AND ENERGY

Tier 3

“ The ‘*excellent and approachable*’ projects and construction practice at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** is frequently instructed to advise on the development and financing of energy, infrastructure, utility and construction projects and attracts praise for its ‘*knowledge of the market and strong problem-solving skills*’. *Steven Shin Yau Tee* and **Nitin Nadkarni** jointly head the practice and are names to note for non-contentious matters and international arbitration respectively. ”