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The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

2020

The clients' guide to law firms

ALLEN & GLEDHILL LLP

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SINGAPORE 018989

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- Banking and finance: local firms
- Capital markets: equity and debt: local firms
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- Construction: Local firms
- Corporate and M&A: local firms
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Allen & Gledhill is an award-winning full-service South-east Asian law firm which provides legal services to a wide range of clients. Established in 1902, the firm is consistently ranked as a market leader in Singapore for every major practice area, having been involved in numerous challenging, complex, cutting-edge and significant deals. The firm's partners are specialists in their areas of practice and many are widely recognised as leading legal experts by clients and peers.

Allen & Gledhill is renowned for delivering exceptional legal services in Singapore and South-east Asia. Its reputation for high-quality advice is regularly affirmed by its strong rankings in leading publications, and by the various awards and accolades it has received from independent commentators and clients. The firm is consistently ranked tier one in the highest number of practice areas, and is one of the firms with the highest number of lawyers recognised as leading individuals. Over the years, it has also been named 'Regional Firm of the Year' and 'Singapore Firm of the Year' by many prominent legal awards.

Currently one of the largest law firms in Singapore and South-east Asia, comprising over 550 lawyers in the region, Allen & Gledhill, with its offices in Singapore and Myanmar, its associate firm in Malaysia and alliance firm in Indonesia, is well-placed to advise clients on their business interests in Singapore and beyond, particularly on matters involving South-east Asia and the Asian region.

Its associate firm in Malaysia, Rahmat Lim & Partners, located in Kuala Lumpur, is a full-service corporate and commercial law firm. Rahmat Lim & Partners is one of the fastest growing law firms in Malaysia. Its team of approximately 90 local lawyers is well-positioned to provide an invaluable combination of Malaysian law and practice, local insight of the Malaysian environment and context, as well as international best practices.

The firm's Myanmar office is based in Yangon. It is a fully licensed law firm which provides Myanmar legal advice, and issues Myanmar legal opinions. Both Myanmar and foreign qualified lawyers are familiar with the business environment, laws, regulations and practices of Myanmar to provide value-added advice and service to clients across key industry sectors.

Its alliance firm in Indonesia, Soemadipradja & Taher, based in Jakarta, is one of Indonesia's largest independent full service law firms. Established in 1991, the firm is consistently ranked in the top tiers of legal publications and directories.

Furthermore, Allen & Gledhill has strong working relationships with leading law firms worldwide, and serves both local and international clients on multi-jurisdictional transactions in South-east Asia, China, India, the Middle East, the United Kingdom, continental Europe and the United States of America. This experience allows the firm to take on an effective lead counsel or project manager role in cross-border transactions.

Apart from providing legal services, the firm is committed to acting as a responsible corporate citizen and to do good to effect positive changes in the ASEAN community. A principal focus is working in partnership with, or supporting, community and charitable organisations by providing them with expertise and skills, which brings an added dimension to its practice of the law. In addition to helping charities, it also helps individuals through existing pro bono initiatives, where its lawyers volunteer

ALLEN & GLEDHILL

**LANGUAGES
SPOKEN**

Bahasa Melayu

at the Law Society of Singapore's community legal clinics or take on criminal cases through the Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme.

Allen & Gledhill collaborates closely with its clients, employees and the wider community in its CSR activities and initiatives. As part of its commitment to continue using its resources and capabilities to benefit the wider community, the firm and the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law jointly established the A&G-NUS Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) Pro Bono Internship Programme in 2016. The programme is the first formal partnership between a law firm and the NUS Law Faculty focusing on pro bono work. Allen & Gledhill is driven by its belief that sustainable practices and meaningful community engagement benefit all stakeholders and help create a stronger community.

MAIN CONTACTS

Christina Ong (Chairman and Senior Partner)

Lee Kim Shin and Jerry Koh (Joint Managing Partners)

STAFF FIGURES

Number of lawyers in Singapore : 400+

Number of lawyers in regional network : 550+

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ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** continues to be at the forefront of the region’s largest mergers and acquisitions. It recently acted as lead counsel to Grab Inc on its purchase of Uber’s South-East Asia assets, including coordinating antitrust strategies across ten countries. The team also handles merger control filings with the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS), investigations, and abuse of dominance matters. The practice is jointly headed by economics specialist **Elsa Chen** and **Daren Shiau**, who is ‘a well-known figure’ for antitrust litigation, international cartels, merger control and sectoral competition regimes. **Scott Clements**’ practice spans representation in cartel cases, investigations and leniency filings made to the CCCS and non-contentious competition work.”

Leading individuals

Daren Shiau

BANKING AND FINANCE: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** is a huge market participant that dominates real estate finance and continues to be prominent in syndicated and bilateral loans, refinancings, and project and PPP financings. The team is very lender driven for a range of local, regional and international banks, along with a number of credit funds. The firm has built a further presence in Indonesia and Malaysia financings. **Kok Chee Wai** and **Mark Hudspeth** are giants of the market, with **Aloysius Ng, Jafe Ng** and **Lim Wei Ting** also highly rated.”

Leading individuals

Mark Hudspeth

Kok Chee Wai

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CAPITAL MARKETS: EQUITY AND DEBT: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

Allen & Gledhill LLP is the dominant force in REIT offerings and has an exceptional record in retail bonds. The firm remains active in large listings and secondary market transactions. It continues to advise on new debt capital markets (DCM) programmes for top-tier issuers such as government-linked companies. It also advises all the major banks, Singapore listed companies and big regional corporates. Deputy managing partner **Jerry Koh** is a leader in the REITs and business trusts space, where **Chua Bor Jern** also has an outstanding reputation. **Margaret Chin** leads the DCM practice and **Tan Tze Gay** leads the ECM team. **Leonard Ching** and **Yeo Wico** are also highly reputed along with senior associate **Delwin Singh** and counsel **Alvin Zhuang**.

Leading individuals

Margaret Chin

Tan Tze Gay

Jerry Koh

Rising stars

Delwin Singh

Alvin Zhuang

CAPITAL MARKETS: STRUCTURED FINANCE, DERIVATIVES AND SECURITISATION: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

Allen & Gledhill LLP has an established presence in structured finance, derivatives and securitisation. The firm is a leader in OTC derivatives, covered bonds, infrastructure capital and cashflow securitisations. Francis Mok is co-head of the financial services group and is a prominent name in the derivatives field. Yeo Wico is an experienced capital markets specialist with a fine record in structured finance, securitisation and Islamic products. Evan Lam is noted for derivatives, securitisations and covered bond programmes. Margaret Chin and Magdalene Leong are also key team members.

Leading individuals

Francis Mok

Yeo Wico

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CONSTRUCTION: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

Allen & Gledhill LLP advises government agencies, special purpose vehicles, financiers, contractors and major developers on the full spectrum of construction work, handling a balanced workload of non-contentious and contentious matters. It has recently been active assisting with greenfield developments of data centres, public infrastructure projects such as waste management schemes and mass rapid-transit lines, large-scale multi-use developments, and infrastructure projects. It is also able to leverage the firm's significant foothold across South-East Asia, particularly in Malaysia and Myanmar. The practice is jointly headed by **Chien Mien Ho**, who is praised for his '*knowledge of legal dispute settlements*' and '*highly experienced construction specialist*' **Sathiaseelan Jagateesan**. On the contentious side, **Dao Kai Lim** acts for statutory boards, government-linked companies, developers and contractors in domestic and international arbitral forums. **Charmelia Sugianto** was made up to partner in January 2019.

Leading individuals

Sathiaseelan Jagateesan

Next generation partners

Charmelia Sugianto

CORPORATE AND M&A: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** has an outstanding record in real estate, healthcare and financial services M&A, and is a growing presence in private equity (especially private equity real estate) and venture capital. The team is *‘driven, client-focused and pragmatic’* and has significant presence in domestic, regional and global deals. The celebrated **Andrew Lim** and **Lim Mei** co-head the practice. **Christian Chin, Richard Young, Prawiro Widjaja, Christopher Koh, Lee Kee Yeng** and **Song Su-Min** are also highly rated.”

Leading individuals

Andrew Lim

Lim Mei

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DISPUTE RESOLUTION: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** may be light at Senior Counsel level with intellectual property specialist **Stanley Lai SC** its sole practising SC. Despite this, the firm maintains a sizeable market share of major disputes, including Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) and Singapore Court of Appeal cases. Other key partners include **William Ong, Vincent Leow**, white-collar crime and investigations specialist **Jason Chan**, employment disputes expert **Tay Yong Seng** and **Peh Aik Hin. Tan Kai Liang** is also rated.”

FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** fields an *‘experienced set of well-rounded lawyers’* with combined expertise in financial services advisory and disputes. The five-partner team is jointly led by **Francis Mok** and **Karen Tiah**, who collectively have *‘a tremendous amount of experience’* advising banks, insurers, brokers and fund managers, on various regulatory issues, financial products and structuring derivatives transactions. **Adrian Ang** focuses on licensing matters, the distribution of financial products, outsourcing and arrangements and conduct of business requirements. **Aaron Lee’s** contentious practice spans fraud, insider trading, money laundering, corruption, securities and market misconduct.”

Leading individuals

Francis Mok

Karen Tiah

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

At **Allen & Gledhill LLP, Stanley Lai, SC** leads a *'very experienced team'* of intellectual property specialists, patent attorneys and design and trade mark executives who handle a wide range of contentious and transactional IP matters in the biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, software and entertainment sectors. Lai primarily focuses on contentious IP, particularly in relation to patent prosecution, passing off, copyright infringement and data protection issues. **Pei Lin Low** is *'a safe pair of hands'* and *'an experienced patents lawyer'*; she also assists with the management of patents, trade marks and design portfolios. *'Strong all-round IP lawyer'* **Gloria Goh** advises on regulatory aspects in the pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and food industries as well as acting in disputes involving trade marks, copyright, domain names and infringements claims. **William Ong** is noted for disputes involving trade secrets and confidential material.

Leading individuals

Gloria Goh

Stanley Lai

INVESTMENT FUNDS: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

Providing full-service capabilities, **Allen & Gledhill LLP** is a *'market leader'* for investment funds, where it advises on the structuring, establishment and marketing of retail and private funds, in addition to handling licensing, regulatory and securities law issues. Its sizeable team, led by **Danny Tan** on private funds and **Tan Sai Hong** on the retail funds side, has *'a unique breadth of expertise to provide specific legal advice'*: **Jerry Koh** is a *'standout lawyer'* for REITs and business trusts; **Foong Yuen Ping** is also noted for REITs; **Sarah Teo** provides *'commercially sound advice'* on retail collective investment schemes and exchange traded funds; and **Shieh Lin Lai** is *'very experienced'* in retail offerings.

Leading individuals

Tan Sai Hong

Jerry Koh

Danny Tan

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LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP**'s sizeable team has '*a wealth of expertise in all employment-related issues*'. It advises on cross-border employment arrangements, employee incentives, compensation and pension schemes, as well as representing employers in disputes arising out of wrongful dismissals, disciplinary proceedings and restrictive covenants. The team also assists corporate clients with internal and regulatory investigations. **Sanjiv Rajan** and **Kelvin Wong** jointly head the practice, which also includes **Aaron Lee**, who focuses on white-collar, regulatory and compliance and corporate governance matters; **Vincent Leow** handles contentious employment cases involving employee misconduct, and **Wee Meng Tan** is a key name on the non-contentious side.

”

Leading individuals

Vincent Leow

PROJECTS AND ENERGY: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** has an impressive mix of high-end project development and project finance, including numerous engagements in Singapore, Myanmar and Indonesia. The firm’s project development expertise is virtually unparalleled amongst Singapore law firms, with it obtaining sought after roles on township, transport infrastructure and energy projects around the region. **Kelvin Wong** leads the project development team, with **Kok Chee Wai** heading the project finance group.”

Leading individuals

Kok Chee Wai

Kelvin Wong

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REAL ESTATE: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

Allen & Gledhill LLP has '*a strong reputation*' in the real estate market. It advises on REITs and supports institutional clients with the acquisitions divestments, joint developments, build-to-suit and leasing transactions concerning commercial, hospitality, industrial and residential projects. Key mandates include advising Far East Organization on its joint venture with Sekisui House and Sino Group on its S\$1.21bn acquisition of a landmark site at Holland Village Land Parcel. The '*focused and diligent team*' is jointly led by **Penny Goh** and **Ho Kin San**, who are recommended for their '*excellent knowledge of market practices and commercial norms*'. **Hoo Sheau Farn**, **Eudora Tan**, **Fock Kah Yan** and **Tan Boon Wah** are the other key figures.

Leading individuals

Penny Goh

RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** houses a *'strong market-leading team'*. **Edward Tiong** advises statutory boards, government-linked companies, banks, corporates and financial institutions on schemes of arrangements and compromise, liquidation and clawbacks. **Andrew Chan** and **Alexander Lawrence Yeo** are key names for contentious insolvency matters, and **Kenneth Lim** is noted for the restructuring of distressed companies in the shipping and oil and gas sectors. **Chong Yee Leong** heads the department alongside Tiong.”

Leading individuals

Andrew Chan

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SHIPPING: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

Allen & Gledhill LLP impresses with its strong bench strength and *'exceptional'* full-service capabilities ranging from ship sale and purchases, fund raising, secured and unsecured vessel lending and leasing, domestic and international litigation and arbitration, carriage of goods and ship arrests, to restructuring and insolvency. **Gina Lee-Wan** and **Kenny Yap** jointly lead the team, acting on contentious and non-contentious shipping and offshore matters; **Vivian Ang**, **Corina Song** and **Yap Yin Soon** are the key figures for contentious claims concerning wet and dry shipping work, international sale of goods, charterparty disputes, ship repair and construction disputes.

Leading individuals

Vivian Ang

Gina Lee-Wan

Corina Song

TAX: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** has a flourishing transactional and disputes practice, demonstrating a particularly active presence in debt capital markets offerings, corporate restructurings, redomicilations and disputes with the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS). The tax team has an impressive mix of European and US corporate clients, along with a large number of Singapore-listed businesses. **Sunit Chhabra** leads in corporate tax advisory and disputes, while **Lim Pek Bur** impresses in real estate tax and wealth management.”

Leading individuals

Sunit Chhabra

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TMT: LOCAL FIRMS

Tier 1

The team at **Allen & Gledhill LLP** is '**one of the best in the market**', largely due to practice head **Tan Wee Meng's** '*breadth of expertise in the technology sector and his valuable commercial advice*'. The practice handles the full gamut of TMT-related transactions and fintech matters, including cloud deployment and strategy, regional and global data protection compliance and large-scale outsourcing projects. Meng is also experienced in OTT services, cybersecurity, e-wallets, e-payments, remittance and data analytics. **Kok Leong Tham** focuses on commercial agreements related to IT, data protection and data privacy, as well as advising on franchising and licensing, sports, online gaming, streaming services and media. Fintech and IP specialist **Alexander Yap** is also of note.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Tier 2

“**Allen & Gledhill LLP** has demonstrated a strong commitment to international arbitration, building a fine senior bench of talent that has a record in infrastructure, construction and engineering, and energy disputes through to big-ticket commercial arbitrations. **Dinesh Dhillon, Chong Yee Leong, Andrew Yeo, Chong Boon Leong, Chua Kee Loon** and **Ankit Goyal** are all highly rated.”