

E: [editorial@legal500.com](mailto:editorial@legal500.com)

T: +44 (0)20 7396 9292

F: +44 (0)20 7396 9300

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## The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

### 2021

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

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# LEE HISHAMMUDDIN ALLEN & GLEDHILL

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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.

**STAFF  
FIGURES**

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

## 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

Contacts : Saravana Kumar Segaran (sks@lh-ag.com)

Contacts : Datuk Aznam Mansor (am@lh-ag.com)

Contacts : Kumar Kanagasingam (kk@lh-ag.com)

## LANGUAGES

English  
Bahasa Malaysia

## MEMBERSHIPS

Multilaw  
INTERLAW

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## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

### TIER 1

Lambert Rasa-Ratnam leads the dispute resolution practice at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill**. Split into three sections: general commercial, banking and insolvency, and construction/real estate, it counts BMW and PricewaterhouseCoopers within its client portfolio. Specific areas covered include: breach of contract, debt recovery, fraud, insolvency and foreign-seated arbitration. Notably, the firm pursues these matters for major companies in sectors such as construction, energy, real estate (it recently defended Sunway Real Estate Investment Trust in a 'tort of conversion' case) and telecoms. Key lawyers: Nitin Nadkarni (international arbitration), Kumar Kanagasingam (banking), Shanmugam SM ('*an amazing lawyer*') and Darshendev Singh (infrastructure). Rosli Dahlan has departed to form Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership.

#### Leading individuals

Kumar Kanagasingam  
Nitin Nadkarni  
Lambert Rasa-Ratnam  
SM Shanmugam

#### Hall of Fame

Lambert Rasa-Ratnam

#### Next Generation Partners

Darshendev Singh

## ISLAMIC FINANCE

### TIER 1

Representing clients such as Standard Chartered Saadiq and HSBC Bank Malaysia, the Islamic finance team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** handles issues such as commercial papers and medium term notes. Directed by Weng Hwee Tay, known for his expertise in Musharakah, it also features Megat Hizaini Hassan, a partner adept at facilitating substantive complex multi-billion ringgit issuances. A recent highlight concerns the firm's role in advising RHB Islamic Bank on the review and revision of its standard legal documentation. Notably, this is utilised for the bank's home financing products (Commodity Murabahah Term Financing-i and Equity Financing-i) and ensures compliance with the regulations issued by Bank Negara Malaysia.

#### Leading individuals

Megat Hizaini Hassan

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## LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

### TIER 1

The labour and employment team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** is led by Heng Seng Lim and Dato Thavalingam C. Thavarajah. Providing clients with compliance advice on legislation and common law rights, it also reviews policies and documentation, covers managerial prerogatives, and counsels on trade disputes and collective agreements. The client portfolio features a substantive number of Fortune 500 companies as well as family-owned enterprises and non-commercial entities. Shariffullah Abdul Majeed advises on the dismissal of senior employees and internal investigations while senior associate Amardeep Singh is recommended for immigration law and the management of foreign workers.

#### **Leading individuals**

Lim Seng Heng  
Thavalingam Thavarajah

#### **Rising stars**

Amardeep Singh

## REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION

### TIER 1

“**Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** offers a full service real estate and construction practice, acting on both contentious and non-contentious matters. The firm’s client base consists of developers, contractors, financiers and institutional investors. Weng Hwee Tay is leading the team and working on real estate transactions, joint ventures and development projects, with over twenty years of experience in the field. Nitin Nadkarni is a key figure in the practice, with a focus on international arbitration, and handling construction, engineering and infrastructures disputes across Asia and Europe.”

#### Leading individuals

Nitin Nadkarni

Tay Weng Hwee

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## TMT TIER 1

Known for her role in establishing the National Digital Identity framework, IT expert Adlin Abdul Majid heads the TMT offering at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill**. Notable for its regulatory advice in telecoms, the team also handles related litigation and arbitration on behalf of major industry leaders. In addition, it handles outsourcing matters affecting the IT sector and increasingly covers fintech and cloud computing issues. Moreover, the firm addresses legal issues pertaining to both GDPR and the Malaysian Personal Data Protection Act. These include data processing agreements as well as cross-border transfers of personal information. G. Vijay Kumar is experienced in disputes and recently represented Webe Digital in a multi-part defamation suit.

### Leading individuals

G. Vijay Kumar

Adlin Abdul Majid



## ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION

### TIER 2

TMT and government expert Adlin Abdul Majid orchestrates the antitrust and competition offering at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill**. Providing clients with specialist advice on both the Competition Act 2010 and self-regulated industries, it regularly acts for key players in the automobile, financial and telecoms sectors. Eunice Chan Wei Lynn complements the team with dedicated experience in franchising and distribution alongside a strong track record in related IP matters. Recent work highlights handled the legal aspects of mergers and acquisitions as well as product distribution.

#### Leading individuals

Adlin Abdul Majid

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## BANKING AND FINANCE

### TIER 2

With a specialist focus on real estate and construction, Weng Hwee Tay directs the banking and finance offering at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill**. The team handles work for major lenders and covers areas such as: syndicated loans, club deals, project finance, bankruptcy and restructuring. Led by the '*knowledgeable and efficient*' Weng Hwee Tay, it also includes cross-border expert Bella Chai Yee Chu, a partner with substantive experience in the real estate industry. A recent case concerns its work for Hang Seng Bank in respect of a USD150 million facility agreement made available to Citychamp Watch & Jewellery Group Limited. Notably, Eu Jin Ong departed for Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership in February 2020.

## CAPITAL MARKETS

### TIER 2

“ Led by the *'knowledgeable and efficient'* Tay Hwee the capital markets team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** handles a broad spectrum of sector issues. Specifically, this includes: major debt offerings, (both conventional and Islamic), bond offerings, medium term note programs and sukuk issuances. A recent standout case is its work for Sabah Credit Corporation on amendments to its Islamic Commercial Papers and Medium-Term Notes Programmes. The offering is complemented by the skills of Megat Hizaini Hassan, a renowned expert in Islamic finance as well as the *'knowledgeable and efficient'* partners Weng Hwee Tay and Bella Chai Yee Chu. ”

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## CORPORATE AND M&A

### TIER 2

Counting the Malaysian Airline System and AEON Credit Service as key clients, the corporate and M&A offering at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** is headed by capital markets expert Weng Hwee Tay. The team handles issues such as joint ventures, corporate reorganisations, private equity investments and foreign direct investment in addition to its general advisory work. Raphael Tay is said to have '*vast knowledge of the automotive industry*' and has a significant track record in restructuring matters. Ooi Bee Hong recently departed for Rosli Dahlan Saravana Partnership.

#### Leading individuals

Tay Weng Hwee

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### TIER 2

Both Malaysian and international clients are served by the intellectual property team at **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill**. Its expertise spans media law, franchising, and licensing as well as patent, and copyright disputes. It undertakes matters such as pursuing ex-parte injunctions and other court proceedings through to cases before the Trade Marks Office. It counts Samsung, McDonald's and Apple among its client base. In particular, it recently focused its efforts on concluding a case for Philip Morris where it successfully prevented infringing goods from leaving Malaysian waters. Eunice Chan Wei Lynn and Chew Yi Hsien are the key names to note. Bahari Yeow Tien Hong and Zhi Jian Lim have departed for Gan Partnership.

#### **Rising stars**

Chew Yi Hsien

#### **Next Generation Partners**

Eunice Chan Wei Lynn

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## TAX TIER 2

“**Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill's** practice has a *'great working knowledge of tax affairs in Malaysia'*. The group advises on tax audits, transfer pricing cases and disputes. Co-team lead Nitin Nadkarni is notable for his dual tax advisory and tax disputes experience, having worked in the area for over two decades. He is active in multiple industries and several jurisdictions including Korea, Vietnam and Singapore. Jason Tan Jia Xin has appeared before all the courts of Malaysia on anti-dumping cases and tax appeals.

”

## PROJECTS AND ENERGY

### TIER 3

“ **Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill** possesses a broad projects and energy practice, acting on transport infrastructure, mining, energy and chemicals matters. This includes the development and financing of projects. Steven SY Tee leads the department and brings his experience of cross-border financing to projects outside of Malaysia. Having worked at international firms in Singapore and Middle East, he has a comprehensive knowledge of foreign legal markets. ”

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## Shariffullah Abdul Majeed

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Employment Law, Industrial Relations

### POSITION

Partner

### CAREER

Since commencing practice, Shariffullah has gained significant experience in industrial relations. His clients range from multi-national corporations and government-linked companies to small and medium-sized enterprises.

While his primary areas of practice are industrial relations and employment law, Shariffullah has also defended civil claims arising from employment contracts. He works closely with several government-linked companies and regularly advises them on employment-related issues.

Shariffullah has also played a critical and encompassing role in aiding companies in fruitful mediations.

### LANGUAGES

English, Bahasa Malaysia, Tamil

### EDUCATION

LLB (Hons), International Islamic University of Malaysia  
Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya





## Ai Ting Ho

### **WORK DEPARTMENT**

Land disputes, land acquisitions, corporate litigation

### **POSITION**

Partner

### **CAREER**

Ai Ting has extensive experience in complex land disputes and compulsory land acquisitions. She has been involved in breaking boundaries in compensation claims for land acquisition cases and mounting challenges against various public authorities on a host of public law infringements through judicial review proceedings. Ai Ting's corporate litigation experience includes recovery, shareholders' and directors' disputes. She also regularly advises major developers on disputes involving homebuyers.

She is also one of the liaison persons with LHAG's China Desk.

### **LANGUAGES**

English, Bahasa Malaysia, Mandarin

### **EDUCATION**

LLB (Hons), University of Leeds

Barrister-at-Law (Lincoln's Inn)

Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya

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## Tan Jia Xin, Jason

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Ta, SST & Custom

### POSITION

Partner

### CAREER

Jason's primary area of practice is income tax and customs litigation, trade remedy investigations, tax and customs investigations and trade facilitation.

He has been involved in many of the largest income tax and customs disputes before all levels of Court on major points of tax law. The disputes involve issues on transfer pricing, withholding tax, income recognition, capital allowance, reinvestment allowance, double taxation agreements, deductibility of expenditure, excise valuation and customs procedures.

Jason also represents a sizeable number of manufacturers in local and foreign trade remedy investigations such as anti-dumping, safeguard duties, countervailing duties and anti-circumvention investigations.

He is also particularly active on issues relating to excise duty valuation, import and export controls, customs compliance, international trade regulations, customs valuation, sales and services tax and customs penalties.

Jason is a regular speaker in the tax scene on issues relating to income tax and customs.

### LANGUAGES

English, Malay, Mandarin

### EDUCATION

LLB (Hons), Cardiff University; BPTC



## Chia Oh Sheng

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Banking & Insolvency

### POSITION

Partner

### CAREER

Oh Sheng's main practice areas are banking and insolvency litigations. He is also active in civil and commercial dispute resolution and matters involving capital markets and securities law. He regularly advises and represents banks in recovery, bankruptcy and winding-up proceedings, as well as cross-border letter of credit and bank guarantee matters. He has also been involved in a number of complicated corporate and general litigations.

Oh Sheng is a regular contributor to Malaysian Civil Procedure (White Book) (Thomson Reuters, 2013, 2015 and 2018 editions) and Bullen & Leake & Jacob's Malaysian Precedents of Pleadings (Thomson Reuters).

Oh Sheng graduated from University of Melbourne, Australia. He was admitted to practise as an Australian lawyer in 2011 and as an Advocate & Solicitor of High Court of Malaya in 2013.

### LANGUAGES

English, Malay, Mandarin

### EDUCATION

LLB, University of Melbourne

Certificate of Legal Practice

Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Leo Cussen Institute, Australia)

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## Raphael Tay

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Corporate & Commercial, Mergers and Acquisitions, FinTech, Information and Technology Law, Intellectual Property

### POSITION

Partner

### CAREER

Having been in practice for over 30 years, encompassing both local and international work, Raphael has extensive experience in various areas notably Corporate and Commercial, Mergers and Acquisitions and Information and Technology Law. He has advised on various international projects, including mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate restructuring, divestments and general corporate and commercial work. Raphael has developed an extensive regional practice over the years.

In 2017, he advised on a share sale transaction in GHL Systems Berhad to a London-based private equity fund Actis Stark which was identified by The Edge Malaysia as the Best M&A Deal of 2017. His team was also nominated as a finalist for the category of 'Overseas Practice Law Firm of the Year' in the Asian Legal Business Malaysia Law Awards of 2018.

### LANGUAGES

English, Bahasa Malaysia

### EDUCATION

LLB (Hons), University of Bournemouth  
PGD in South East Studies, University of Kent  
Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya  
Notary Public  
Registered Trade Mark Agent



## Wong Wai Chin, Crystal

### WORK DEPARTMENT

Construction, Energy, Infrastructure & Projects

### POSITION

Partner

### CAREER

Crystal has an active arbitration practice throughout Malaysia, Singapore and the ASEAN region, with an emphasis on electricity, conventional and renewable energy generation, water supply, and complex infrastructure & engineering projects. She is the trusted advisor for clients ranging from utility companies, independent power producers, government-linked companies, multinational companies, and Chinese stated-owned entities. Her experience includes an extended stint with a leading international utilities conglomerate.

Crystal regularly accepts briefs from overseas clients, in particular from China. She possesses high oral and written proficiency in Mandarin and is one of the key drivers of the firm's China Desk.

Crystal is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ("CI Arb") and is on the panel of arbitrators for Asian International Arbitration Centre ("AIAC"). Crystal also holds numerous committee appointments, including Committee Member of the Arbitration Committee for the Bar Council of Malaysia, Committee Member of the Belt & Road Committee for the Young Practitioners Group of AIAC, Regional Ambassador of the HK45, Hong Kong International of Arbitration Centre, Ambassador of the ICC Arbitration Commissions, and Director of the CI Arb, Malaysia Branch.

Crystal has an active arbitration practice throughout Malaysia, Singapore and the ASEAN region, with an emphasis on electricity, conventional and renewable energy generation, water supply, and complex infrastructure & engineering projects. She is the trusted advisor for clients ranging from utility companies, independent power producers, government-linked companies, multinational companies, and Chinese stated-owned entities. Her experience includes an extended stint with a leading international utilities conglomerate.

### LANGUAGES

English, Mandarin

### EDUCATION

LLM, International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, National University of Singapore

LLB (Hons), Cardiff University

Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya

Barrister-at-law, United Kingdom