

Baker & McKenzie strengthens dispute resolution team in Singapore

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Baker & McKenzie's Singapore member firm Baker & McKenzie Wong & Leow has appointed former Ang & Partners partner Chan Leng Sun as a principal in its dispute resolution practice.

With 18 years of experience, Chan has expertise in litigation and arbitration with a particular focus on shipping, trade and commerce, oil and insurance. He chairs the Singapore Law Society ADR Committee and is vice-president of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. At the beginning of this year, he was appointed Senior Counsel - Singapore's equivalent of QC - by the city state's chief justice.

"We're dealing with increased globalisation in challenging economic times; an upturn in commercial disputes is a common by-product," said Mini vandePol, Baker & McKenzie's Asia Pacific head of dispute resolution. "I see Singapore as having a unique position in Asia Pacific: while it has a sophisticated and highly respected court system, it's even better known for being the arbitration heart of Asia."

In recent months, a number of international firms have strengthened their Asia dispute capability. Berwin Leighton Paisner recently hired partner Kent Phillips from Addleshaw Gooddard to establish its Asia arbitration practice ([27 September 2011](#)). US firm Debevoise & Plimpton has also expanded its Asian disputes practice in Hong Kong ([19 September 2011](#)).

Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) itself is also broadening its foothold in the region with the recent appointment of two new board members from India and China. The two new board members are Nishith Desai, founder and managing partner of Nishith Desai Associates, and Ariel Ye, partner and head of King & Wood's cross-border dispute resolution practice.

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