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Sapna Jhangiani KC



Year of call:	**1999**
Appointed to silk:	**2020**
Degree:	**MA (Oxon), Diploma in Law (City), Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (Lond)**
Languages:	**French (fluent), Hindi (working knowledge)**

Sapna is a leading advocate based in Asia, specialising in commercial and international disputes (both arbitration and litigation).

From 1 September 2021, Sapna accepted a 3-year role in public service as International Legal Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore. On 1 September 2024, she was appointed to the Panel of Advisors to the Attorney-General of Singapore. On 4 September 2024, Sapna was appointed a (part-time) Judge of the Court of Appeal of the DIFC Courts by the Ruler of Dubai.

From 2006 to 2011, Sapna practised at Clyde & Co Dubai, a tier 1 commercial disputes practice in the UAE, where she focused on litigation before the DIFC Courts, as well as international litigation and arbitration. Sapna transferred to Clyde & Co Clasis Singapore in 2011 and was called as an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 2019.

Sapna's expertise has been recognised by key legal directories, and she has been described as follows: "excellent", "a top name for international arbitration in Singapore", "a charming advocate, who is well respected within the arbitration fraternity", "an esteemed figure" (Who's Who Legal); "true all-rounder", "well-prepared, thorough, and pleasant to work with yet tough - a strong advocate for her clients" (Legal 500); "excellent written advocacy which underlines precisely why Sapna has deservedly taken silk", "excellent advocacy skills", "tenacious in the pursuit of her client's interests" (Chambers & Partners).

Sapna was the first female lawyer in Singapore to be awarded Silk in the UK and she has been identified as one of the top 15 female lawyers in Asia by Asian Legal Business.

EXPERIENCE

International Arbitration

Sapna is a renowned expert in international arbitration procedure, practice and advocacy, and has been recognised as a thought leader in the field.

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Sapna has substantial multi-jurisdictional and cross-border experience, having been involved in high-stakes arbitrations seated in diverse jurisdictions such as London, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Dubai, Thailand, PRC, Vietnam, Indonesia, Paris and Mauritius.

She has appeared in both ad hoc and institutional arbitrations under the auspices of the ICC, SIAC, LCIA, HKIAC, DIAC, AIAC and DIFC, LCIA, amongst other institutions.

She has a wealth of experience in cases governed by both common and civil law.

Cases

HKIAC and LMAA arbitrations

USD 500 million dispute between a Chinese shipyard and the Singapore purchaser of two offshore jack-up rigs in four related HKIAC and LMAA arbitrations

SIAC arbitrations and anti-suit injunction application

Representing an Indian high net worth individual as advocate in a SIAC arbitration in Singapore concerning the interpretation of a USD 500 million English law guarantee called upon following a shareholders' dispute; acting in separate SIAC proceedings relating to the shareholders' dispute, in which one of the key issues was whether the Tribunal could issue an anti-suit injunction to restrain a party from pursuing claims for minority oppression and unfair prejudice before the National Company Law Tribunal in India.

Banyan Tree Corporate Pte Ltd v Meydan Group LLC

Lead Counsel representing the Singapore-based hotel operator in DIAC arbitration proceedings against the government-owned Meydan; Counsel in the reported enforcement proceedings which reached the DIFC Court of Appeal and made new law

Airline corruption dispute

Representing an aircraft leasing firm in several rounds of difficult and politically sensitive negotiation meetings in an effort to resolve disputes involving fraud and corruption arising from leases each worth approximately USD 500 million with government-owned regional airlines in Asia

AIAC arbitration

Successfully represented a syndicate of insurers as Lead Counsel in AIAC arbitration proceedings in Malaysia concerning liability for the dangerous collapse of an offshore crane. The case involved difficult questions of Malaysian tort law, as well as cross-examination on complex technical issues

Ad hoc arbitration

Ad hoc arbitration in Delhi, India between a contractor and subcontractor in relation to the construction of a pipeline in North Africa for a South-Asian government

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SIAC arbitration

Representing and co-ordinating strategy for a large Indian multinational in a high-value SIAC commodity dispute against a Zambian party, with concurrent injunction proceedings in the Zambian Courts

Hospitality Arbitrations

Over 15 arbitrations seated in Singapore, Hong Kong or Dubai relating to management or franchise agreements between leading international hotel operators and owners, relating to hotels in diverse jurisdictions such as Myanmar, PRC, India, South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau, UAE, India, Mauritius, Zanzibar and Vietnam

LCIA Coal arbitration

USD 50 million LCIA arbitration in London between an Indian steel conglomerate, a commodities trading company based in the Middle East and an Australian mining company arising from a dispute relating to a contract for the supply of coal

Shipbuilding Dispute

Lead advocate in a USD 50 million shipbuilding dispute between a Singapore shipyard and a UAE purchaser, involving a ship arrest in China, injunction proceedings in Singapore, and an arbitration seated in Singapore

ICC arbitration

ICC arbitration in Paris and governed by French law in relation to a joint venture dispute between an Italian chemicals multinational and a company incorporated in Dubai

DIAC arbitrations

Over 20 DIAC arbitrations seated in Dubai on behalf of UAE real estate developers arising from cancelled or delayed projects

LCIA arbitration

LCIA arbitration in London between a seismic surveying company and an oil exploration start-up in relation to surveys in an oil field off Egypt.

LCIA arbitration

LCIA arbitration in London in respect of a consultancy agreement for services provided in relation to the Qatar gas-to-liquids project

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SIAC arbitrations and SIMC mediation for large MNC

Representing an Indian multinational in over 10 SIAC arbitrations and one SIMC mediation relating to commodity disputes with parties throughout Asia – the cases involved a number of interim applications such as a successful application for security for costs

LCIA arbitration

Instructed as advocate in LCIA proceedings seated in Singapore involving a jurisdictional objection based on an argument of abuse of process on Henderson v Henderson principles

SIAC arbitration

Representing a large commodities house in emergency arbitrator proceedings relating to a SIAC arbitration for unpaid invoices, after a fraudster intercepted emails between the parties, and the purchaser made payments to the fraudster's bank account

Commercial

Sapna's experience spans a broad spectrum of commercial disputes seated all over the world in arbitration or litigation.

Her experience includes disputes relating to shareholder agreements, private equity investments, hedge funds, licensing and distribution, data protection, product liability, shipbuilding, aviation leasing, sale of goods, consultancy agreements, construction, real estate, and hospitality.

Cases

HKIAC and LMAA arbitrations

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SIAC arbitrations and anti-suit injunction application

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Airline corruption dispute

Representing an aircraft leasing firm in several rounds of difficult and politically sensitive negotiation meetings in an effort to resolve disputes involving fraud and corruption arising from leases each worth approximately USD 500 million with government-owned regional airlines in Asia

Gulf Merchant Group v ADCB

Representing an asset management firm in a dispute with its largest shareholder in the largest case to come before the DIFC Courts at that time

UNCITRAL investor-state arbitration

UNCITRAL investor-state arbitration proceedings between a UK multinational and a State government in the Middle East

AIAC arbitration

Successfully represented a syndicate of insurers as Lead Counsel in AIAC arbitration proceedings in Malaysia concerning liability for the dangerous collapse of an offshore crane. The case involved difficult questions of Malaysian tort law, as well as cross-examination on complex technical issues

Ad hoc arbitration

Ad hoc arbitration in Delhi, India between a contractor and subcontractor in relation to the construction of a pipeline in North Africa for a South-Asian government

USD 135 million claim in the Cayman Islands' courts

USD 135 million claim in the Cayman Islands' courts brought by a prominent UAE citizen against a hedge-fund manager

SIAC arbitration

Representing and co-ordinating strategy for a large Indian multinational in a high-value SIAC commodity dispute against a Zambian party, with concurrent injunction proceedings in the Zambian Courts

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Hospitality Arbitrations

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Lead advocate in a USD 50 million shipbuilding dispute between a Singapore shipyard and a UAE purchaser, involving a ship arrest in China, injunction proceedings in Singapore, and an arbitration seated in Singapore

ICC arbitration

ICC arbitration in Paris and governed by French law in relation to a joint venture dispute between an Italian chemicals multinational and a company incorporated in Dubai

DIAC arbitrations

Over 20 DIAC arbitrations seated in Dubai on behalf of UAE real estate developers arising from cancelled or delayed projects

Amwal Al Khaleej Commercial Investment Co Ltd v the Abdullah Brothers and others

Lead advocate representing the private equity firm in a shareholders' dispute in the DIFC Courts

Public International Law

Sapna is a member of the Panel of Advisors to the Attorney-General of Singapore. From 2021 to 2024, she was International Legal Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore. She has experience of both public international law and public and regulatory law.

Recent experience in public and regulatory law includes assisting in Reed v Bellingham (Attorney-General, intervener), a landmark Singapore Court of Appeal case on the right of private action under Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act and the meaning of "loss of damage", drawing on jurisprudence from other common law jurisdictions.

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Cases

Ng Kok Wai v Public Prosecutor

Lead Counsel in Singapore appeal proceedings before the Chief Justice regarding extraterritoriality under Singapore and international law of a crime committed by a Singapore citizen on a foreign-flagged cruise ship

UNCITRAL investor-state arbitration

UNCITRAL investor-state arbitration proceedings between a UK multinational and a State government in the Middle East

ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, Queen Mary University of London, 2006

Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law, 1999

Diploma in Law, City University, 1998

M.A. and B.A (Joint Hons) Philosophy & French, Jesus College, Oxford University, 1997

Scholarships

Viscount Sankey Bar Scholarship, Jesus College Oxford (1997, 1998 & 1999)

Peter Duffy Human Rights Scholarship – four months at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (2000)

Sunley, Eastham, CPE & Hardwicke Scholarships, Lincoln's Inn

Pegasus Scholarship - Allen & Overy, New York (2003)

Publications

- “Section 12(5)(a) of the International Arbitration Act: Versatile Chameleon or Limited Source of Powers?”, 2022 SIArb J 29
- Limits, Latitude, and Lacunae: Rare Set-aside of Award in CBX v CBZ, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2021
- “Abuse of Process and Good Faith: Underused Tools to Tackle the Challenge of Multiplicity of Proceedings in Investor-State Arbitration” in “International Arbitration and the Rule of Law” in honour of Fali Nariman

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- Arbitration Clauses, Insolvency Proceedings, and a Lack of Consistency Across the Common Law, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2020
- Why Are We Still Not Done With The Rule In Browne v Dunn?, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2019
- "New guidelines on hot-tubbing in arbitration: sink or swim?" in "Dispute Resolution Briefing", NLJ, November 2019
- “Conflicts of Laws and Issues in Arbitration” in “Arbitration in Singapore: A Practical Guide” edited by the Honourable Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon
- The Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: A Rival to the New York Convention and a ‘Game-Changer’ for International Disputes?, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2016
- Third-Party Funding for International Arbitration in Singapore and Hong Kong – A Race to the Top?, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2016
- "Enforcing International Arbitration Awards in the Courts of South Korea: We Set the Record Straight", IBA Arbitration News, February 2016
- “Conflicts of Law and International Commercial Arbitration – Can Conflict Be Avoided?”, 2(1) BCDR Intl. Arb. Rev. 99, 100 (2015)
- Article on the Enforcement of Foreign Court Judgments by the DIFC and SICC, In-House Community, November 2015
- “International Commercial Court adds muscle to legal landscape”, Tradewinds, 17 April 2015
- “Why international commercial courts may be the way forward”, GAR, February 2015
- How Far do the New LCIA Guidelines for Parties’ Legal Representatives and the IBA Guidelines on Party Representation go?, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2014
- Tipping Point?: What Does the Perenco case say about Fair and Equitable Treatment?, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2013
- Enforcement in China – What the Cases Show, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2013
- "Appeals of Issues of Foreign Law under the English Arbitration Act 1996 - a Matter of Fact", Dispute Resolution International, Vol 7, May 2013
- "A Regulatory Framework for Arbitrators and Increased Arbitral Accountability: Ideas to Reinvigorate Arbitration or Stifle it?" – prize-winning essay in Ciarb competition in 2013
- "Enforcement and the UAE", IBA Arbitration News, Vol 16, No 2, September 2011

Court Admissions and Affiliations

- Judge of Appeal, DIFC Courts
- Past Chair, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Singapore branch)
- Honorary Overseas Member, COMBAR
- Vice Chair, ICC Commission on Arbitration & ADR, 2023
- International Law Association, Council member (Singapore branch)
- Chartered Arbitrator, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 2022
- Editor, Investor State Law Guide
- Member, SICC Arbitration Court Users' Committee
- SIMC Specialist Mediator
- SIMI Accredited Mediator
- SIAC Users' Council
- IBA (Arbitration Committee)

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- IPBA
- LCIA
- ICCA
- ICC Singapore Group

VAT registration number: 000

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