



**Davinder Singh, SC**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore  
Admitted to the Singapore Bar (1983)  
Appointed Senior Counsel (1997)

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## ABOUT DAVINDER

Davinder Singh, SC is the CEO of Drew & Napier LLC.

Davinder was among the first to become Senior Counsel. He has been appointed both as counsel and arbitrator in international arbitration.

Davinder's experience spans over 30 years. He has litigated cases in almost every area of the law, including landmark cases. He is widely considered as Singapore's most revered advocate and counsel of choice, recognised time and again as a top litigator and arbitration counsel by local and international legal publications.

Davinder has an active international arbitration practice involving complex commercial disputes and multiple jurisdictions. He has advised and/or acted in numerous ICC, SIAC, UNCITRAL and ad hoc arbitrations and is presently sitting as arbitrator in two disputes under LCIA and SIAC rules.

In December 2015, Davinder was appointed Vice-Chair of the ICC Commission on Corporate Responsibility & Anti-corruption.

Davinder was named "Disputes Star of the Year - Singapore" at the inaugural Asialaw Asia-Pacific Awards 2015.

At the Chambers Asia-Pacific Awards 2014, Davinder was the only Singapore lawyer to win the 'Outstanding Contribution to the Legal Profession' Award and is the only litigator in Singapore to be ranked as a "Star Individual" for five years running.

At the inaugural The Asian Lawyer Emerging Markets Awards 2014, Davinder was named 'Disputes Lawyer of the Year' for Southeast Asia and India and was described as one "who is feared in Singapore as the city's most powerful litigator".

Davinder was the only litigator in Singapore to be named as External Counsel of the Year by Asian-MENA Counsel in 2012 and 2013.

## RECENT INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION WORK

Recent international arbitration cases include:

- **Dispute over the sale of shares in a pharmaceutical company (>US\$1.4 billion)** - Davinder Singh, SC is representing 20 Respondents (comprising various individuals and companies in India) in an ICC arbitration before a three-member Tribunal. The Tribunal consists of persons from Singapore, England and India. The claim arises out of an agreement for the sale of shares in one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies. The transaction was valued in excess of US\$4 billion. The claim amount is in excess of US\$1.4 billion.
- **Dispute over the sale of a stake in a foreign brewery (US\$560 million)** - Davinder Singh, SC represented a company listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange in relation to a dispute arising out of a joint venture agreement. The joint venture company is incorporated and conducts its business in a foreign country. The Tribunal consists of two members, including a former Chief Justice. The merits hearing was held from 23 June 2014 to 3 July 2014. The Tribunal handed down its award on 31 October 2014. The joint venture company had, in the arbitration, sought to force the SGX-listed company to sell its stake in a foreign brewery for US\$246 million. That figure was set aside by the Tribunal, with the sale value to be determined by an independent group. In July 2015, an independent assessment valued the stake at 500 billion in the local currency (where the brewery was located), or US\$560 million at the April 2013 exchange rate. A disagreement arose over

the currency of payment. The joint venture company unsuccessfully applied to the Singapore High Court for an injunction. The matter was eventually resolved on the basis that the stake would be sold at US\$560 million, as opposed to the local currency (which would put the price tag at about US\$400 million at the current exchange rate).

- Dispute over the sale of a steel plant and related assets in liquidation (> US \$100 million)** - Davinder Singh, SC represented a consortium of financial institutions in setting aside an arbitral award in a dispute concerning the sale of a steel plant and various related assets belonging to a liquidated steel corporation. The Tribunal made an award in excess of US\$100 million against our clients, who were represented by a different law firm in the arbitration. We were instructed to apply to set aside the award on the basis of breaches of natural justice and/or excess of jurisdiction. By its judgment dated 31 March 2015, the Singapore Court of Appeal set aside all the awards of damages ordered by the tribunal in the award.
- Setting aside parts of an ICC arbitral award on assessment of damages (US\$13 million)** - Davinder Singh, SC represented a Malaysian-listed company and its subsidiaries (in the oil and gas-pipe coating industry) in the second phase of an ICC arbitration in relation, among other things, to the assessment of damages in respect of the parties' claims and counterclaims. (During the liability phase of the arbitration, the Respondents were represented by a Malaysian law firm who in turn instructed Drew & Napier LLC on behalf of the Respondents for the assessment of damages phase.) The Tribunal issued the final award on 29 April 2015, and granted relief in respect of both the claim and counterclaim. The Respondents have applied to the High Court of Singapore to set aside part of the award on the basis of breaches of natural justice and/or excess of jurisdiction.
- Dispute arising from construction contract (approx. US\$19 million)** - Davinder Singh, SC is representing a foreign government department in relation to an arbitral dispute arising out of a construction contract, which was part of a

project to expand and enhance a naval base in a foreign country.

- Dispute arising from EPC contract (approx. US\$138 million)** - Davinder Singh, SC is advising a Singapore-listed company and its subsidiaries in relation to a CIETAC arbitration in relation to a claim alleging breach of an Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contract valued at about RMB849 million.

## ACCOLADES

### Asialaw APAC Dispute Resolution Awards 2015

Disputes Star of the Year – Singapore



### Asian-MENA Counsel

The only litigator in Singapore named as External Counsel of the Year for two consecutive years based on votes and testimonials of in-house counsel in eleven jurisdictions who took part in an Asian-MENA Counsel survey representing the Corporate Asia & Middle East in-house community

### Asia Pacific Legal 500

Dispute Resolution 2015/2016 – Leading Lawyer for 15 consecutive years

International Arbitration 2015/2016 – Leading Lawyer for 4 consecutive years



*“Unparalleled litigator”*

*“Wise and perceptive”*

*“Simply one of the best”*

*“Esteemed practitioner”*

### Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global

‘Outstanding Contribution to the Legal Profession’ Award 2014

Dispute Resolution: Litigation: Domestic Firms 2016 – Standalone in Band ‘Star Individual’ for 6 consecutive years (previously Band 1 for 3 years)



Dispute Resolution: Arbitration: Domestic Firms 2016 – Band 1 for 3 years

*“Hailed as a practitioner who ‘needs no introduction.’”*

*"he always puts the client as paramount, he'll always be the one to respond and he's very respectful."*

*"very prominent and able senior counsel."*

*"[I have] always gone with Davinder Singh for the big cases."*

*"Peers and clients are equally impressed. One source praised that 'he is very thorough, works very hard and is a stupendous guy – very smart and charismatic, which is important in litigation.'"*

*"Widely acknowledged by market sources as a 'very impressive' dispute resolution specialist who readily adapts his skills as a star litigator to an arbitration context."*

*"Clients described him as 'strongly supportive both at the start and throughout the arbitration process.'"*

*"The 'Davinder factor' puts this practice in a different league. [He] is prized for his 'unique ability to grasp issues, including those which are not legally related, and to cross-examine with authority'."*

*"Rated as being 'at the top of the profession in Singapore for his ability and involvement and for the range, complexity and volume of the arbitration work that he does.'"*

*"Multiple sources endorse [his] stellar dispute resolution practice, taking the view that 'there is just no comparison.' Clients especially praise his 'unique ability' to cross-examine and to anticipate a judge's questions."*

*"[He] is singled out by commentators for his 'fantastic advocacy.' Peers endorse his skill in both arbitration and litigation, enthusing that 'he's a consummate disputes lawyer – it's almost as if he was purpose-built for this sort of work.'"*

*"A doyen of the Singapore disputes resolution sphere. Interviewees say 'he has a fantastic reputation...working with him is an experience, the guy is incredible'."*

*"A formidable advocate with a long-standing and excellent reputation in the market."*

*"A standout figure in arbitration as well as litigation, widely regarded as 'an exceptionally good lawyer – always top of the tree.'"*

*"Sources laud his 'razor-sharp mind and ability to grasp concepts that are beyond most lawyers.'"*

*"[His advocacy] is smooth as silk – he's a pleasure to listen to and has the substance to back it up."*

*"Very well known for his arbitration prowess and impressive advocacy skills."*

*"So quick on his feet during cross-examination, breaking down even the most elusive of witnesses, and equally quick at reading the judge's sentiments."*

*"[A] cut above the rest and the best in the business."*

*"[G]old standard", "one of the best-known names for disputes work in Singapore" and "the reason that we will keep going to the firm."*

#### **The Asian Lawyer Emerging Markets Awards 2014**

Disputes Lawyer of the Year - Winner

*"Feared in Singapore as the city's most powerful litigator"*

#### **India Business Law Journal**

In the India Business Law Journal, June 2014, a leading lawyer from India described Davinder as *"the most respected lawyer in Singapore"*.

#### **Who's Who Legal**

Arbitration 2015 – Leading lawyer

Asset Recovery 2015 - Leading lawyer

Investigations 2016 – Leading lawyer

Litigation 2015 – Leading lawyer for 9 consecutive years

Restructuring & Insolvency 2016 – Leading lawyer for 3 consecutive years

**Best Lawyers International: Singapore**  
Lawyer of the Year 2016 – International Arbitration

Bet-the-Company Litigation 2016 – Endorsed individual for 9 consecutive years. Standalone lawyer in 2016.

Arbitration and Mediation 2016 – Endorsed individual for 9 consecutive years

Litigation 2016 – Endorsed individual for 9 consecutive years

#### **Asialaw Profiles**

Dispute Resolution 2016 – Leading individual

*"He is the best litigator in Singapore"*

*"Davinder is the best in Singapore. He is the star."*