



M Rajaram

Partner and Chairman Singapore Office, K&L Gates Straits Law LLC

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OVERVIEW

M Rajaram leads transactional teams in advising in a full spectrum of loan and other debt-related and corporate transactions including but not limited to syndicated loans, cross border financing, mergers and acquisitions, project, asset and asset-backed financing, risk and funded transfer and management advice, security arrangements and documentation, shareholders' and joint venture agreements for local and foreign parties, debt restructuring and insolvency, sale and purchase of businesses and assets, due diligence, hotel management and service agreements, general commercial advice and comprehensive corporate secretarial services for private, public and publicly-listed companies.

He is a past Chairman of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and was the Vice-Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation, and Council Member of ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is currently the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Mali in Singapore. He is actively involved in social work at the grassroots level and is a Patron of the Taman Jurong Citizenship Consultative Committee, having served as a Member of the Taman Jurong CCC for many years. He also assists in running the legal clinic at Jurong MPS on a weekly basis. He is also an EXCO Member of the Dyslexia Association of Singapore, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) and was the Chairman of its Audit Committee. He was a Term Trustee in Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) for a period of 12 years. He also serves as a Member of the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony.

For his contributions to Society and to the business community, during his tenure as Chairman of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he was bestowed the PBM (Pangkat Bakti Masyarakat – The Public Service Medal) by the President of the Republic of Singapore.

He has been recognized for his extensive work with Indian companies venturing abroad. He is particularly active in acting for lenders for infrastructure power and mining companies and International Trading Companies for their trade finance requirements. Most of these transactions are cross border in nature. He has been cited by Asia Law Profile, International Financial Law Review, and Legal 500 for his analytical ability and for the quick turnaround time for corporate and banking matters.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to the merger of K&L Gates Singapore and Straits Law, he was the Executive Chairman at Straits Law Practice LLC which was co-founded by him in 2001. A litigator from 1980 to 1997, he switched to corporate and private client work and now heads the non-contentious departments in Straits Law. He was a former Police Officer who was admitted to the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1980. A Notary Public and Commissioner of Oaths, he is also a Solicitor in England and Wales. He started his professional career as a litigator in criminal and civil proceedings and for 15 years, and since then, he has been actively practising in the areas of Banking and Transactional Work, Merger and Acquisitions, Cross Border Work, Real Estate, Insolvency and Corporate Restructuring and Arbitration. He is a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (FSI Arb) as well as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb). He is also an Accredited Mediator with the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC). M Rajaram received his training in mediation at SMC and Harvard Law School. He currently sits on the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Conferred the PBM (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat - The Public Service Medal) in recognition of his contributions to the community.
- Nominated by the Minister of Law to sit on the Council of the Law Society of Singapore for a period of two years from 1 January 2017.
- Awarded with MCI Special Recognition Award by Ministry of Communications and Information in May 2017.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Member, and have served in the Board of Directors in various capacities as Board Member and six terms of Vice Chairman
- Taman Jurong Constituency, assists in Meet The People Sessions every Monday
- Dyslexia Association of Singapore, Member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Audit Committee
- Dyslexia Association of Singapore, Vice President
- South West Community Development Council, Resource Person
- Taman Jurong Citizens Consultative Committee, Patron
- Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, Fellow
- Institute of South East Asian Studies Yusof Ishak Institute, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Audit Committee
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Fellow

- Singapore Indian Heritage Centre, Member of the Steering Committee
- Ministry for Information, Communications & Arts, Member of the Political Films Consultative Committee
- State Courts of Singapore, Volunteer Mediator
- Panel of Arbitrators, Law Society Arbitration Scheme, Member
- Law Society of Singapore, Vice President
- Honorary Consul of the Republic of Mali in Singapore
- Presidential Council for Religious Harmony, Member

EDUCATION

- M.B.A., Maastricht University, 1998
- LL.B., National University of Singapore, 1978 (*Hons*)

ADMISSIONS

- Advocate and Solicitor, Singapore
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

LANGUAGES

- English
- Hokkien
- Malay
- Tamil (India)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 10 April 2020, COVID-19: Reliefs and Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Singapore (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 3 April 2020, COVID-19: Singapore's COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Bill: What is it? How does it impact you? (*Alerts/Updates*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption

- Anti-Money Laundering (AML)
- Corporate Debt Securities
- Debt Capital Markets
- Immigration
- International Trade: CFIUS, Sanctions, and Export Controls
- Land Use, Planning, and Zoning
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Probate, Trust and Related Fiduciary Duty
- Professional Liability
- Real Estate Finance
- Restructuring and Insolvency