

DR MICHAEL HWANG S.C.

Senior Counsel and Chartered Arbitrator



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DR MICHAEL HWANG S.C. was educated at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at Oxford University where he was a college scholar by open competitive examination and prizewinner. He was called to the Singapore Bar in 1968, when he joined Allen & Gledhill, now one of Singapore's largest law practices. He became a partner in 1972 and retired from the firm at the end of 2002 after serving as Head of its Litigation and Arbitration Department for 10 years.

Dr Hwang served as a Judicial Commissioner (fixed term High Court Judge) of the Supreme Court from 1991 to 1992, and was appointed one of the first twelve Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1997.

On his retirement from Allen & Gledhill, Dr Hwang established a boutique practice, mainly as an International Arbitrator and Mediator with a selective advisory practice as Senior Counsel.

Dr Hwang has lectured and written extensively on international arbitration and mediation. He is active in domestic and international disputes including investment treaty disputes (under ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, ICSID, PCA, AAA/ICDR, CAS, BANI, CIETAC, HKIAC, Swiss, SCC and SIAC Rules). His arbitrations and mediations have involved disputes in more than 40 countries and territories, and hearings in 26 cities. He has spoken on arbitration topics in more than 44 cities.

Dr Hwang's past appointments include: Vice Chairman of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); Vice President of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA); member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); Advisory Board Member of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA); Court Member of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA); and Trustee of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC). He has also served as a United Nations Compensation Commissioner (adjudicating claims against Iraq arising from the First Gulf War) and as Vice-Chair of the International Bar Association's (IBA) Arbitration Committee, as well as a Council Member of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS). He is currently on the Advisory Boards of the international arbitration institutions of Singapore and Hong Kong and a Board Member of the Swiss Arbitration Association, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration and Hainan Court of International Arbitration.

His other past appointments include:

- (a) Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Switzerland and Argentina;
- (b) Visiting Professor (and later an Adjunct Professor) at the National University of Singapore; and
- (c) President of the Law Society of Singapore.

In 2010, Dr Hwang was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts, having served as Deputy Chief Justice since 2005. He retired from the position of Chief Justice in November 2018. Concurrently with his appointment as Chief Justice, he also served as Head of the Dispute Resolution Authority (DRA) of the DIFC, having oversight of the DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre as well as the Academy of Law.

In 2014, Dr Hwang was conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (Hon LL.D.) by the University of Sydney (where he commenced his legal career as a law teacher in 1966-67) and was made a Member of the Senior Common Room at Pembroke College, Oxford University. He has published two volumes of essays titled "Selected Essays on International Arbitration" and "Selected Essays on Dispute Resolution" in 2013 and 2018 respectively.

In 2020, Dr Hwang was appointed as an Expert Member of the International Commercial Expert Committee of the Supreme People's Court of China.

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