

Young Public International Law Group Debate

MOTION

This house believes that a permanent investment court is required to address legitimate concerns with the present ISDS regime.

Monday, 11 September 2017

6:00pm – 7.30pm

Moderators:

Mr. Stephen Fietta
Fietta LLP

Mr. Daniel Seah
*School of Law
Singapore University of Social Sciences*

For the motion

Ms. Sarala Subramaniam
*International Legal Division,
Ministry of Law, Singapore*

Mr. Matthew Koh
Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

Against the motion

Ms. Emily Choo
*Centre for International Law,
National University of Singapore*

Mr. Ashique Rahman
Fietta LLP

Opening and closing remarks:

Mr. Paul Tan
Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP

VENUE

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP
9 Battery Road, #25-01
Singapore 049910

PROGRAMME

5.30PM	Registration / Coffee & Tea
6.00PM	Debate
7:00PM	Comments
7.30PM	End of event

To RSVP, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/young-public-international-law-group-debate-tickets-37652949987>

MODERATORS' PROFILES

Stephen Fietta is the founder and principal of Fietta LLP. He is ranked by Chambers Global Directory as one of the world's top public international law practitioners. He has practised at the forefront of public international law, in both government or private practice, for almost 20 years. He has advised on cases before the International Court of Justice, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, European Court of Justice, European Court of Human Rights and multiple domestic courts. He has one of the world's most prolific and longstanding practices in investment arbitration, having appeared in more than 30 pending and decided cases under the World Bank (ICSID), UNCITRAL and other rules. Before establishing Fietta in December 2015, Stephen co-founded the world's first specialist public international law firm (Volterra Fietta) in 2011. Prior to that, he was a partner specialising in public international law at a leading US and global law firm. Stephen is a Visiting Senior Lecturer at King's College, London. In January 2015, Stephen was awarded the Smit-Lowenfeld Prize by the International Arbitration Club of New York for the best article published globally in the field of international arbitration, entitled *Public International Law, Investment Treaties and Commercial Arbitration: an emerging system of complementarity?* Stephen has co-authored (with Dr Robin Cleverly) *A Practitioners Guide to Maritime Delimitation*, published in March 2016.

Daniel Seah is a lecturer at the School of Law, Singapore University of Social Sciences. He has published in the International & Comparative Law Quarterly and Chinese Journal of International Law. Daniel's research on the laws of international organisations and treaties has been used by the European Commission in its report on the European Union's external relations with ASEAN, and also as teaching materials at universities in Singapore and the United Kingdom. Daniel's particular expertise is in the influence of general international law on regional treaty regimes. His doctoral dissertation at University College London (UCL) examined the relationship between general international law and regional law, in the context of how the rule regarding non-intervention in Southeast Asia is made and diminished by ASEAN, an international organisation with separate legal personality. Daniel studied law at the universities of Durham, Birmingham, and UCL. He is admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the Singapore Supreme Court.

Paul Tan is called to the Singapore and English bars and is admitted before the courts of the Dubai International Financial Centre. He enjoys a broad-based international arbitration (commercial and investor-State) and litigation practice. He is regularly instructed as lead counsel before international tribunals, the Singapore International Commercial Court and at the highest levels of the Supreme Court of Singapore. He commands praise for his “*wide knowledge*”, “*powerful intellect*” and “*extraordinary analytical discipline*” in some of the most novel and demanding cases. He is consistently ranked in Best Lawyers International for international arbitration and litigation. He is also co-author of the forthcoming edition of the world-renowned Mustill & Boyd’s treatise on commercial and investment arbitration. In 2016, Paul was named “Disputes Star of the Year - Singapore” by Asialaw.

PRESENTERS’ PROFILES

Ashique Rahman is an Australian solicitor and a Senior Associate at Fietta LLP. He represents States and private parties in international disputes, including proceedings brought under international investment agreements. Ashique also advises States, international organisations and multinational companies on a broad range of public international law topics, including the law of the sea, international investment law, the law of treaties, jurisdictional immunities, and recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards. Ashique has acted as counsel in multiple international arbitrations under the ICSID, ICC, SCC, LCIA and UNCITRAL Rules, several of which have related to claims over \$500 million. Prior to joining Fietta LLP, Ashique was an associate at a leading public international law firm. He has also worked at a UK “Magic Circle” firm, a “Big Four” accounting firm and at a non-governmental organisation, specialising in refugee and human rights law. Ashique holds a B.Sc. from the University of New South Wales, an L.L.B. from the University of Sydney and an L.L.M. in public international law from the same institution.

Emily Choo is a Practice Fellow at the NUS Centre for International Law, where she focuses on the practice of international dispute settlement. She is involved in various international investment and international commercial arbitration proceedings, as assistant to Mr. J. Christopher Thomas QC and as tribunal secretary. She has also assisted Mr. Thomas QC on matters where he was appointed amicus curiae or an expert. Emily is the lead organiser and part of the faculty of the Singapore International Arbitration Academy, and is also a teaching assistant for an international investment law course offered at the NUS Faculty of Law. Previously, Emily trained at one of the largest international law firms after being selected for its international clerkship. She has assisted on high-profile litigation matters, some of which resulted in Singapore landmark decisions, and on various SIAC, ICC and LCIA arbitration matters. Emily completed her LL.B with a 2nd (Upper) Honours at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where she was awarded the Dean’s List (2006/2007) and the C J Koh Scholarship. At NUS, Emily was the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Singapore Law Review. She represented Singapore and NUS in the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot held in Hong Kong. Emily has co-coached the Singapore joint NUS-SMU team, which won the best oralist awards at the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot.

Matthew Koh is a Singapore-qualified lawyer specialising in general commercial disputes and contentious practice, with a focus in international arbitration, construction law and commercial litigation. His practice experience includes representing and advising clients in international commercial arbitration proceedings, Singapore court proceedings to enforce or set aside arbitration awards, enforce foreign court judgments, civil litigation (including in disputes relating to share sale agreements, bankruptcy and defamation), as well as construction adjudication proceedings and in court proceedings to enforce adjudication determinations. He has also advised clients in relation to investor-state disputes. Matthew graduated in 2013 with his LL.B from the National University of Singapore, and LL.M (International Legal Studies) from New York University.

Sarala Subramaniam is a Deputy Director with the International Legal Division, Ministry of Law, Singapore. At the Ministry of Law, Sarala works on a variety of public and private international law policy issues for the Singapore Government. She focuses on private international law and leads the Ministry's involvement in the Hague Conference on Private International Law. She also works on other international legal policy areas such as extradition, mutual legal assistance and human rights. Prior to joining the Ministry, Sarala was with the International Affairs Division in the Attorney-General's Chambers with practice interests in human rights and international economic law. Sarala read law at the National University of Singapore and completed her masters at Harvard Law School. She began her career in private practice as a litigator with Allen and Gledhill.

ORGANISERS' PROFILES:

The **Young Public International Law Group** ("YPILG") is a network of young public international law practitioners from law firms, the bar, international organisations, governments and academic institutions around the world. The purpose of the YPILG is to connect early to mid-career PIL practitioners to one another, to facilitate exchanges of ideas and knowledge-sharing in the PIL field, and to promote the next generation of PIL professionals. The YPILG hosts a number of events throughout the year, including an annual conference, lectures by leading academics and practitioners of public international law topics, practical training sessions in PIL practice and other informal networking events, some of which will have a specific "women in PIL" focus.

Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP is a leading full service law firm in Singapore and one of the largest in South East Asia. It is a member firm of Rajah & Tann Asia, a network of over 600 lawyers in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam. Its geographical reach includes Singapore based regional desks focusing on Japan and South Asia. Further, as the Singapore member firm of the Lex Mundi Network, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP offers its clients access to excellent legal support in more than 100 countries globally.