

ELBEE LAW LLC

Advocates & Solicitors

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Tan Liam Beng



Master of Laws
Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Civil)
Advocate & Solicitor of Supreme Court of Singapore
Advocate & Solicitor of High Court of Malaya
Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn
Professional Engineer, Board of Engineers, Malaysia
Chartered Arbitrator, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK
Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK
Fellow, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
Fellow, Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators
Fellow, Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution
Member, Institution of Engineers, Malaysia
Member, Institution of Engineers, Singapore
Accredited Adjudicator, Singapore Mediation Centre
Panel of Adjudicators, Asian International Arbitration Centre
Panel of Arbitrators, Singapore International Arbitration Centre
Panel of Arbitrators, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
Panel of Arbitrators, Asian International Arbitration Centre

About Liam Beng

Liam Beng is currently the Managing Director of the law company Elbee Law LLC. He is a qualified engineer as well as an advocate and solicitor. He worked as a civil engineer after graduating with a civil engineering degree in 1982, with experience in design as well as construction prior to practising law. He worked in the consultancy companies of Syed Muhamad Hooi & Binnie Sdn Bhd and Kumarasivam Tan & Ariffin Sdn Bhd in Malaysia and in the construction company of Ho Hup Construction Co Sdn Bhd. He practised as a lawyer in Malaysia from 1991 to 1994.

Liam Beng joined Drew & Napier, one of the largest and leading law firms in Singapore, as an advocate and solicitor in 1994, became a Partner in 1996, and then a Director in 2001 when Drew & Napier LLC corporatised. He headed the Building and Construction Business Group in Drew & Napier until he left in October 2013 to set up the law company Elbee Law LLC. He is a co-author of *Standard Form of Sub-Contracts – An Annotation. The Asia Pacific Legal 500 2004/2005 Edition*, a guide to the leading commercial law firms in Asia and Australia, cited "Group head Tan Liam Beng's engineering background gives him a working knowledge of the construction industry, and clients find him 'well versed'". The publication also described the team he headed in Drew & Napier "as a whole is praised for speed and efficiency". *The Asia Pacific Legal 500 2005/2006 Edition* commended his team "As with all dispute practices at the firm, the technical skills are top notch". In its *2008/2009 Edition*, *The Asia Pacific Legal 500* commended Liam Beng as "knowledgeable" and one who "truly puts the client's interest first". *Who's Who Legal Singapore 2008* described Liam Beng as a "superb lawyer". *Asia Pacific Legal 500 2011/2012 Edition* listed him as leading individual for 2 consecutive years. *Who's Who Legal 2012* listed him as one of its International Who's Who in Construction for 3 consecutive years. *Chambers Asia Pacific 2014 Edition* acknowledged that Liam Beng "has been recognised as one of the best in Singapore by renowned legal publications for 12 consecutive years".

Areas of Practice

Liam Beng does both contentious as well as non-contentious legal work mainly in relation to building and engineering matters. The contentious work included Arbitration, Adjudication, Mediation and Litigation. The non-contentious legal work involved drafting and advisory services for bids and tenders, contracts (EPC, design and build or traditional type) and appointment of consultants, sub-contractors and suppliers and other building and construction related documents.

Experience

The matters that Liam Beng had handled include the following:

- Serving as the Presiding Arbitrator in a 3-member Tribunal in an international arbitration under SIAC Rules.
- Serving as a Co-Arbitrator in a 3-member Tribunal in an international arbitration under (modified) DIAC Rules.
- Serving as the Sole Arbitrator in an international arbitration under SIAC Rules.
- Served as the Presiding Arbitrator in a 3-member Tribunal in an arbitration under the KLRCA Arbitration Rules.
- Served as the Presiding Arbitrator in a 3-member Tribunal in an international arbitration under Uncitral Rules involving more than US\$1 billion claim and counterclaim.
- Served as sole arbitrator and co-arbitrator, and has experience as lead counsel, in numerous arbitrations under ad-hoc or various institutional rules.
- Served as adjudicator in Singapore and Malaysia and review adjudicator and has experience as counsel in numerous adjudications in Singapore.
- As an advocate and solicitor in Singapore, substantial claims and cross-claims involving several important issues on the law regarding claims for payments under Architect's Certificates and the relevance of other kinds of certificates to such claims.
- Major claim of more than US\$100m involving the owner and turnkey main contractor in an international arbitration in respect of disputes involving an engineering, procurement and construction contract for a power plant in Indonesia and the termination thereof.
- Several major claims involving complex technical issues on foundation and movement failures due to poor and soft ground condition and damage to adjacent properties in consequence of construction works and failure of stone panel façade of a multi-storey building.
- Several claims involving complex technical issues on compaction of reclaimed land.
- Multi-million dollar arbitrations including arbitrations on foundation failure of multi-storey building, compaction of reclaimed land, collapse of cement silo, defects in buildings and condominiums, MRT disputes, High Speed Rail Project in Taiwan, refinery plant in Taiwan, water and wastewater plant in Vietnam and delay, prolongation and variation claim for building and engineering projects.
- Major cases involving damage to properties arising from construction works.
- Major cases involving claims in respect of defects to common properties.
- Major cases involving sand ban by Indonesia in 2007.
- A claim and counterclaim for several million dollars regarding air-conditioning works for a commercial property, involving complex technical issues and claims for variations, defects and prolongation.

- A major case involving collapse of a steel roof structure in the construction of the multi-purpose hall in a school in Compassvale.
- A major case involving collapse of a bar chair support system in Fusionpolis Project.
- Insurance claims and disputes.
- Drafting of EPC contracts in relation to the construction of Singapore's second and largest desalination plant which also involves a Combine Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant.
- Drafting and advising on a contract for the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of a diesel rotary uninterruptible power supply system.
- Drafting of tender documentation and conditions of contract for the development and construction of a data centre in Singapore.
- Drafting of tender documents and conditions of contract for an engineering project involving contiguous bored pile wall and soil erosion prevention works.
- Drafting of a building agreement for the construction of an industrial building.
- Drafting and vetting of EPC agreement for plant in Singapore.
- Drafting of Construction Management Contract and Procurement Contract for a biotech plant in Singapore.
- As an advocate and solicitor in Malaysia, he represented a client in striking out a substantial claim for pure economic loss in the construction of an ammunition depot project, the first such case of this kind in Malaysia.
- Advised on legal matters and drafting of contracts relating to the North-South Highway Project in Malaysia.
- As a design engineer, Liam Beng was involved in design of multi-million dollar projects and had experience in design of sludge lagoon, chemical houses, raw water inlet chambers, flocculation tanks, infrastructure works and large diameter pipeline. The projects include Sungai Semenyih Water Supply Scheme, Scudai Treatment Works Extension, Johore 84 Inches Diameter Pipeline Scheme, Melaka Refinery Project and Upgrading of General Hospital Kuala Lumpur.
- As a project engineer/manager on site, Liam Beng was involved in the construction of multi-million dollars projects and had experience in the construction and management of foundation using driven and bored piles, bridges, concrete canalizing of river and laying of large diameter pipeline. The projects include Bukit Timah Flood Alleviation Scheme, Damansara Town Centre Project, Subang View.
- Condominium Development, Johore 84 Inches Diameter Pipeline Scheme, Concrete Bridge Over Sungai Rengit Project and Kluang Telekom Exchange Building Project.