

Alastair Henderson

Independent Arbitrator



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Alastair is an independent arbitrator with over 30 years of experience in complex international dispute resolution. He is recognised as a '*top-notch and efficient arbitrator*' and a member of the '*international arbitration hall of fame*'. Based in Singapore, he is a member of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre's Court of Arbitration and is regarded as one of the region's '*arbitration elite*'.

Alastair was formerly a partner with Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, where he led the firm's arbitration practice in Southeast Asia. He remains a consultant to the firm but practices independently for conflicts purposes.

Memberships & Positions

- Member of the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre
- Panel arbitrator / experienced arbitrator and counsel under the rules of:
 - International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
 - United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
 - Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
 - Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
 - London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
 - Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC, formerly KLRCA)
 - Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC)
 - Thai Arbitration Institute (TAI)
 - Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)
- Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators

- Member of the Specialist Mediator Panel of the Singapore International Mediation Centre

Professional Career

2026 – Present	Independent Arbitrator
2026 – Present	Consultant, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, Singapore
2012 – 2025	Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, Singapore
2015 – 2021	Managing Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, Southeast Asia
2014 - 2023	Head of International Arbitration Practice, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, Southeast Asia
2006 – 2012	Managing Partner, Herbert Smith, Bangkok
2005 – 2006	Partner, Herbert Smith, Bangkok
2002 – 2005	Senior Associate, Herbert Smith, Bangkok
1999 – 2002	Senior Associate, Herbert Smith, Singapore
1997 – 1999	Senior Associate, Ashurst Morris Crisp, London
1993 – 1996	Associate, Herbert Smith, Hong Kong
1990 – 1993	Associate, Ashurst Morris Crisp, London

Education and Bar Admission

- Honours Degree in Law (Jurisprudence), Oxford University, England (1986)
 - Admitted as a solicitor, England & Wales (1990) *
 - Admitted as a solicitor, Hong Kong (1993) *
- * (*inactive*)

Citations and Accolades

- Alastair '*draws praise as “a top-notch and efficient arbitrator”. Market commentators observe, “He has very sound judgement and is very commercially sophisticated”*' (Legal 500 Arbitration Southeast Asia Power List)
- '*Active in the APAC region, Alastair Henderson is commended for his unrivalled experience in handling arbitrations in Southeast Asia, among other markets*' (Chambers & Partners Global)
- '*He has a thorough grasp of all the key focus areas while still being able to cut to the heart of individual issues. He is able to grasp the key leverage points.*' (Chambers & Partners Asia-Pacific)
- '*He is commercially and practically astute, and he has a comprehensive knowledge of the law and its use that, in hearings, provides confidence that you are getting the best*' (Chambers & Partners Asia-Pacific)

- *'Standout established name ... his "depth of knowledge in the Asian market" is a key strength'* (Who's Who Legal)
- *'Alastair is one of the guys who developed arbitration in Singapore in a big way'* (Chambers & Partners Asia-Pacific 2023)

Representative Experience

- Sole arbitrator in a matter concerning the design and construction of an offshore gas pipeline in Africa (English law)
- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute concerning the manufacture and sale of solar modules from China to India (English law)
- Sole arbitrator in a matter concerning the design, construction, hire and operation of an offshore energy exploration platform in Southeast Asia (Singapore law)
- Co-arbitrator in a construction dispute concerning a large commercial, residential and hotel project in Cambodia (Cambodia law)
- Sole arbitrator in a matter concerning the termination of an international motor vehicle manufacturing joint venture in Thailand (Thai law)
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute concerning the supply and installation of maritime communications systems on board cruise ships (Singapore law)
- Sole arbitrator in a construction dispute concerning a rail expansion and double-tracking project in Malaysia (Malaysian law)
- Sole arbitrator in a matter concerning post-completion claims under a share sale and purchase agreement (Singapore law)
- Presiding arbitrator in a joint venture dispute relating to an Indonesian plantation development project (Indonesian law)
- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute concerning the development of an agricultural waste-to-energy power project in Thailand (Thai law)
- Presiding arbitrator in a shareholder dispute relating to an Indonesian mining project (English law)
- Presiding arbitrator in a matter concerning a substantial property development loan transaction and related security interests in Vietnam (Vietnamese law)
- Sole arbitrator in a matter concerning palm oil plantation waste and effluent management (Malaysian law)
- Sole arbitrator in a matter concerning software sales and licensing for a national logistics project in the Philippines (Philippines law)
- Sole arbitrator in a construction subcontract dispute concerning a commercial/residential development in Vietnam (Vietnamese law)

In his former career as counsel, Alastair managed hundreds of complex disputes throughout and beyond Asia, with wide expertise in sectors including construction, engineering, infrastructure and transport; oil, gas, power, energy and natural resources; corporate, shareholder and joint venture disputes; and a wide variety of general commercial contract, trade and investment disputes.