

In its third annual list, *ALB* brings you 40 outstanding legal professionals in the region who are under the age of 40. These lawyers have worked on significant deals and disputes in the past year and have earned accolades from their peers, superiors and clients. The list is in alphabetical order.

RANKINGS BY
ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

TEXT BY
RAJ GUNASHEKAR

Barney ALMAZAR, 36*Partner, Gulf Law, Manila*

A specialist in the corporate-commercial and legal aid space, Almazar advises on international business and EU law. He has represented high net worth individuals, primarily Europeans from the Middle East oil and gas sector, who invested and set up businesses in the Philippines (\$75 million) and Thailand (\$14 million). He played a role in the establishment of Silicon Plant at Al Ghail Industrial Park in UAE for Anchor Allied as well as in settling a franchise dispute for a fast-food chain in Dubai. He was also involved in the JV structure for the production of armoured vehicles for civilian and military use (Harrow Security Vehicles, Bataan Export Processing Zone) and handled the on-going tender submissions on behalf of Secured Medical Direction UK before the Health Ministry in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar. His clients include Li & Fung Jewellery Joaillerie, Philippine National Bank, Philippine Airlines, 3W Networks and Jollibee. "Almazar is brilliance and dedication," says managing partner Steve Todd.

Ahmad Jamal ASSEGAF, 35*Partner, Lubis Ganie Surowidjojo, Jakarta*

A banking and finance expert, Assegaf was named as a partner at Indonesia's Lubis Ganie Surowidjojo as in his early 30s. At present, he is representing syndicated lenders in \$1 billion credit facilities to PT Adaro Indonesia. He is also acting for significant syndicated lenders on four different transactions in providing credit facilities to Adaro Group Companies. He is advising Aegon Group (Futuready, AMSI) in preparing investment structure and its major breakthrough implementation in Indonesia. In addition, Assegaf is in charge of the firm's business development and was a finalist in the Young Lawyer of the Year category of the ALB Indonesia Law Awards 2016.

METHODOLOGY

Chosen from submissions received from August to September 2017, the list features private practice lawyers and in-house counsel. Lawyers based in Australia and China were not considered. Lawyers were listed on the basis of quality and complexity of work, career achievements, as well as recommendations from clients, colleagues and superiors.

Puneet BANSAL, 39*Managing Partner, Nitya Tax Associates, New Delhi*

Bansal is an expert in the indirect taxation space and has worked extensively with leading MNCs and Indian companies such as DuPont India, GlaxoSmithkline Consumer Healthcare and Swatch. He assists them in setting up operations in India, structuring their business models and supply chain operations, as well as optimising their tax exposures and contract reviews from the perspective of indirect tax. He has provided full-fledged support – tax as well as business – to around 100 clients transitioning to India's goods and services tax (GST) regime, including Heinz, Indian Express, Nissin Logistics, Spark Minda Group and Modern Foods. He also has experience in handling complex indirect tax litigation matters and has successfully represented clients before various judicial forums across India.

Baldev Singh BHINDER, 38*Partner, Joseph Tan Jude Benny, Singapore*

Bhinder specialises in energy, commodities, infrastructure, international arbitration, and cross-border litigation. Throughout his career, he has advised and acted on some of largest complex disputes in the world, working alongside exceptional names, including the Chief Justice of Singapore at Rajah & Tann. His offering includes both advisory and litigation services. At present, he is the lead counsel for a claim worth more than \$18.5 million in the Singapore High Court

relating to commodities trades. "Bhinder is a tenacious litigator in the Singapore courts but is equally skilled at mapping out a global strategy outside the court and identifying the right pressure points in any legal issue," says April Raimundo, EFA Group's chief legal counsel.

Angela CHAN, 37*Partner, Clifford Chance, Hong Kong*

As a capital markets expert, Angela Chan advised the underwriters for China Cinda Asset Management's issuance of \$3.2 billion in aggregate principal amount of 4.45 percent non-cumulative perpetual offshore preference shares. She also acted for Credit Suisse on the update of the \$11 billion guaranteed MTN programme of Huarong Finance II. "Chan exhibited excellent professionalism while working on our projects. Compared to other firms I have come across in deals, the Clifford Chance team, led by Chan and Connie Heng, has a solid understanding of Huawei's business and is reliable even under a short time window," shares Vicki Wang, Huawei's corporate finance legal counsel.

Christopher CHAN, 38*General Counsel & Head of Government Affairs, RedMart, Singapore*

Christopher Chan is known for his expertise in e-commerce, technology and the grocery business. He has also represented pharmaceutical firms such as Cephalon and Cephalon France against several generic-drug makers like Mylan, Sandoz, and Apotex in abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) multi-district complex patent litigation pertaining to a prescription medicine used to improve wakefulness. He advised Wyeth against several generic companies in ANDA U.S. district court patent litigations involving a medicine used in the treatment for depression and anxiety disorders. At RedMart, he

built out the legal, data privacy, compliance, government relations, safety, and crisis communications functions. "Chris is a standout in-house counsel at the cutting-edge of technology and e-commerce," says Zheng Xi Choo, director of law firm Peter Low & Choo.

Darrell CHAN, 39

VP & Head of Corporate Legal and Public Regulatory Affairs, APAC, Discovery Networks APAC, Singapore

An expert in the corporate legal and public regulatory affairs, Darrell Chan leads Discovery's APAC leadership team, which is based in Singapore. Previously, he was involved in the integration of a joint venture between AirAsia Berhad and Expedia through the latter's acquisition of the JV's equity. At Expedia, he led the charge to open up new markets, including India, China, Taiwan and Korea. At Discovery, Chan has been acting in multiple collaboration deals with partners in the region and successfully launched a new digital-first brand in China with its JV partner. He is responsible for Discovery's legal, regulatory, licensing and corporate affairs dossier in the region. He also oversees the group's growing portfolio of equity stakes in new businesses, coordinates its external affairs.

Wendy CHAN, 37

General Counsel and Compliance Director McDonald's Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Wendy Chan began her career as a news reporter, and she successfully brings her knowledge and communication skills to the legal industry. She has worked at the legal department of various Hong Kong-listed companies before becoming a commercial litigator at a renowned UK litigation firm. As general counsel at McDonald's Hong Kong, she played a key role in a deal with CITIC Carlyle, handling the due diligence process and liaising with different internal and external stakeholders. She completed a deal for CITIC Carlyle and McDonald's to form a strategic partnership that served as the master franchisee

responsible for McDonald's businesses in mainland China and Hong Kong. She was recently promoted as fast food giant's GC and compliance director within a year.

Remy CHOO, 31

Partner, Peter Low & Choo, Singapore



At 31, litigation expert Remy Choo Zheng Xi is one of the youngest name partners in a Singapore law firm. He co-leads a team of nine court-ready litigation lawyers and regularly argues cases at the trial and appellate level as well as at the High Court and Court of Appeal. He has conducted three related trials in 2016 involving shareholder fraud, breach of trust and a commercial dispute involving a sale and purchase agreement for land on Sentosa Island. He won two of the lawsuits; the third one is on appeal with the Court of Appeal. He acted in a landmark case on statutory interpretation against a government agency, in a rare split decision of the Court of Appeal. Xi, who counts social media giant Facebook as one of his marquee clients, was described by Rajah & Tann partner Paul Tan as "one of the best in the business in his age range, and will be the lawyer to watch in years to come."

Jonathan CHU, 38

Partner, Stephenson Harwood, Hong Kong

Chu is an all-around intellectual property lawyer with significant and substantial experience in contentious and non-contentious IP matters. He had a key role in expanding the firm's practice with on-the-ground IP enforcement in China and is currently leading two major enforcement campaigns in the country. His clients include Lucozade Ribena Suntory, Xiaomi, Ryanair, CrossFit, Sansui, and White Cube, to name a few. "There are many good qualities about Jonathan as an excellent lawyer – the most important one is his responsiveness. This is especially

important for doing IP work in Asia, where a lack of communication may lead to confusion and frustration," says Amy Hsiao, partner and head of Asia practice at The Sladkus Law Group.

Joon Hyug CHUNG, 39

Partner, Shin & Kim, Seoul

A PE and M&A specialist, Chung has represented Morgan Stanley PE and Shinhan PE in their \$833 million acquisition of Norske Skog Korea. He acted for Korea's IMM private equity in its co-acquisition of Mars Entertainment – Turkey's largest cinema operator – for \$688 million. He was also part of the Samsung SDS and Samsung Networks merger and advised Kakao Corp. on its spin-off of Kakao Pay and \$200 million its issuance of shares to Ali Pay. "I plan to continue to pursue my career as an M&A and corporate lawyer. I believe that M&A transactions contribute to the vitality of national and international economies, and I take pride in my role as a dealmaker," Chung says.

Melinda Marie D'ANGELUS, 36

Partner, Azmi & Associates, Kuala Lumpur



A specialist in labour and employment as well as litigation and arbitration, D'Angelus has acted for a reputable oil and gas company in an unfair dismissal claim brought by one of its former employees in the Industrial Court of Malaysia. She has provided legal advice on employment law and practices in Malaysia to two individuals and their legal counsels based in Singapore for an ongoing arbitration initiated by the individuals in Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). She has also assisted in obtaining the interpretation of provision in the Trade Unions Act 1959. D'Angelus also appeared for an Australian company in a claim against Malaysian company in the High Court of Malaya and successfully negotiated to settle the case out of court.



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Delano FURTADO, 39

Partner, Trilegal, Mumbai

Furtado is an M&A and JV specialist and has been with Trilegal for 14 years. He represented Italian fashion house Giorgio Armani on a joint venture with DLF India to set up a retail trade business in India. He acted for Thomson Reuters in the proposed acquisition of Newswire18 as well as the spinoff of the Reuters Market Light Business as well as and a subsequent equity investment that it made into the new company along with Ivycap Ventures. He was the lead advisor of Turkey's Arçelik A.S. on a deal with Voltas to establish a JV to enter the consumer durables market in India. "Furtado has made extraordinary contributions to the establishment of our company in India, providing his expertise and priceless collaboration in all matters," adds Zagope advocate Carla Alves.

Mark GORRICETA, 39

Managing Partner, Gorriceta Africa Cauton & Saavedra, Philippines

As a capital markets specialist, Gorriceta acted for Xurpas Inc on its IPO at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). He served as lead counsel for Xurpas in its acquisition of 12 tech companies, both domestic and international. He also secured the sole tax-free ruling issued by the Philippines' Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). His clients include Ayala Healthcare, Manila North Tollways Corporation, Manila Water, and DM Wenceslao. "He is very quick to respond and thinks strategically. He does not just follow orders, and he finds a way to get things done," says Nico Nollado, chairman and CEO of Xurpas.

Dianyndra Kusuma HARDY, 26

Partner, Suhardi Somomoeljono & Associates, Jakarta

A dispute resolution lawyer and the youngest on this list, Hardy has advised China Mobile International in drafting employment agreement to establish representative office in Indonesia. He

represented PT Tiara Perdana Putrindo in advising and reviewing the agency agreement for refinery and heaters between the client and ITT, Spa Italy. He advised PT Warna Muda Merdeka in its review of various e-commerce agreements as it established portal Bujang.net. "He is one of our youngest partners and has great experience and practical knowledge in legal transactions," says Suhardi Somomoeljono, managing partner.

Frederick HUI, 38

Partner, Zhong Lun Law Firm, Hong Kong



Hui's expertise encompasses civil litigation and international arbitration. In the last two years, he has represented more clients in larger-value commercial litigation and international arbitration matters and expanded his clientele from private individuals and companies to MNCs, high-profile philanthropists, major banks and insurance companies. Some of his biggest clients include Bank of China and Jiang Tai Insurance Brokers. Since 2015, he has been acting for Bank of China's Yuncheng Branch in opposing an application for an anti-suit injunction filed by Sea Powerful II Special Maritime Enterprise. He is also representing a Korean company against a Brazilian company in the English High Court. Hui is also advising a Hong Kong-listed company in a construction dispute in connection with an alleged breach of a share transfer agreement.

Deborah IM, 37

Associate General Counsel, APAC, Facebook, Singapore



Im is responsible for the expansion of Facebook's presence across Asia, setting up offices in Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia. An expert in the internet and technology law

as well as regulatory and privacy, she guides Facebook through the regulatory issues it faces in complex and diverse legal landscapes across Asia Pacific. She works with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on regulatory issues affecting Facebook messaging. She manages regulatory issues around user-generated content on the Facebook platform and builds processes and protocols to maximise efficiency of the social media giant's APAC legal team.

Jingjing JIANG, 33

Partner, King & Wood Mallesons, Hong Kong

Jiang's practice focuses on investment funds, and he is one of the founding members of KWM's international funds team. According to his clients, he has an entrepreneurial mind and a strong commercial sense of their needs and the market demand. He has acted for Equis on the establishment of its \$2.3 billion Equis Asia Fund, Equis Asia Fund II, Equis Direct Investment Fund and Japan Solar Fund. He was involved in setting up Triton's \$3.8 billion Triton Fund IV. In another deal, he acted for China Resources Enterprise on the creation of its first global consumer fund with a target size of \$1 billion. He represented CGN on establishment of its first European renewable energy fund with a target size of \$1.1 billion.

Kyungchun KIM, 36

Partner, Lee & Ko, Seoul

An M&A and corporate governance specialist, Kim has advised Samsung Group's on the \$2.5 billion sale of its chemical affiliates to Lotte Group. He worked on the \$8 billion merger of Cheil Industries and Samsung C&T Corporation and was involved in the \$1 billion dollar merger between LG Chem and LG Life Sciences. He advised Eugene Corporation \$1.1 billion sale of its Himart unit. In another acquisition, he represented SK Holdings on its \$440 million acquisition of OCI Materials' share.

Shaun LANGHORNE, 39*Partner, Hogan Lovells Lee & Lee, Singapore*

Langhorne is a restructuring and insolvency expert who was previously a senior associate at Herbert Smith Freehills. He now leads Hogan Lovells' business restructuring and insolvency practice in Asia. He is advising Standard Chartered Bank on the restructuring of its \$1 billion exposure to Borneo Lumbung Group, a business controlled by billionaire Samin Tan. He is also acting for a creditor in the judicial management proceedings of Swiber Holding, a Singapore-listed offshore services provider as well as a for a European-based Lehman Brothers entity on various inter-affiliate issues regarding Hong Kong-based Lehman affiliates. His other clients include Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, Rabo Bank, Deutsche Bank, SSG Capital, and Borrelli Walsh.

Andrew LEE, 34*Director, Peter Doraisamy, Singapore*

Lee's expertise is in the practice of maritime, offshore oil and gas, and international trade dispute as well as civil and commercial dispute resolution.

He is involved in a dispute related to three separate offshore oil project works off the coasts of Thailand, Philippines and Australia plus cross-claims amounting to over \$40 million. He has acted for Pacific Ports Corporation, which was entangled in a dispute against a Timor Leste insurance company in the Singapore High Court over gasoil cargo valued at approximately \$1 million. Lee also has advised Mercury Marine Engineering in the arrest of a dry bulk container vessel registered in Panama. "Andrew has shown that he is more than capable of leading a team and take on complex and highly publicised litigious matters, while at the same time achieving good results for clients," says Peter Doraisamy, the firm's managing director.

Hyeong Joo LIM, 39*Partner, Yulchon, Seoul*

As an intellectual property expert, Lim managed a team that successfully invalidated three of four patents asserted by Nippon Steel against POSCO, where the remaining valid patent had expired. The case was part of the global war between the two major steelmakers with litigation in the U.S., Japan, and Korea. He established trade secrets compliance programmes for major Korean conglomerates, including Kolon, Hyundai Motors, and Doosan Heavy Industries. He defended Hyundai Motors and Hyundai Engineering from an individual inventor's claims of patent infringement and trade secrets misappropriation. He also set up employee invention compliance programmes for major Korean conglomerates including Samsung Electronics, Samsung Display Corporation, and SK Hynix. "Lim is creative and driven in conducting projects," adds Seung Min Lee, an in-house counsel at Hyundai Motors' IP department.

Wilbur LIM, 30*Managing Director, WMH Law Corporation, Singapore*

Wilbur Lim Wee Hao was a lawyer in one of the Big Four law firms in Singapore for several years before he founded WMH Law Corporation in November 2016. He is one of the youngest lawyers in the city-state to have started his own law firm. His practice includes commercial and construction litigation and arbitration, and he has also handled a range of criminal and matrimonial matters. Lim acted as the lead counsel for a High Court suit heard in May 2017 that involved protracted and lengthy court proceedings lasting almost four years. "Hao provides remarkable strategies, works on time, and is always available to discuss. His sound guidance also helps us save on legal costs," says Wong Shiou An, Trust Yoga's founder and managing director.

Wemmy MUHARAMSYAH, 37*Partner, Armand Yapsunto Muharamsyah & Partners (AYMP Atelier of Law), Jakarta*

A banking and finance partner, Muharamsyah is acting as legal counsel for one of the largest coal mining groups in Indonesia on its approximately \$ 300 million IPO, reportedly one of the biggest in the country. He has also advised a major Korean power producers on its power plant project. In addition, he represented the government of Indonesia in arbitral proceedings brought under the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) convention based on bilateral investment treaties, in relation to the claims submitted by Churchill Mining and Planet Mining. His client won this approximately \$1.3 billion dispute in December 2016.

Rajat MUKHERJEE, 39*Partner, Khaitan & Co, New Delhi*

Mukherjee is an M&A lawyer who focuses on cross-border transactions. He represented Valeant Pharmaceuticals International on

the \$428 million sale of its western European business to Meda AB. He advised Mastech Digital on its acquisition of InfoTrellis India's 100 percent equity shares from Ontario Inc and its affiliates. He counseled Endo Pharmaceuticals Holdings in its \$370 million purchase of Indevus Pharmaceuticals. In another deal, Mukherjee acted for Valeant on its collaboration agreement with GlaxoSmithKline for the development of Retigabine drug. "He is extremely commercial, and his advice is practical, and he is solution-oriented," says Ann Beth Stebbins, a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. A client calls him "an impressive M&A lawyer who takes into account the multi-cultural nature of the parties and provide very helpful advice from both legal and business point of view with efficiency and pragmatism."

Vanessa NG, 38

*COO & Director, Fortis Law Corporation,
Singapore*



Ng started the corporate finance and M&A department at Fortis Law Corporation in 2013. She was involved in the 2006 IPO of Yanlord

Land Group, the largest-ever IPO by a China-focused company on SGX-ST at that time, with a market capitalisation of \$1.7 billion. She is acting as Singapore counsel to Novena Global Lifecare Group in its proposed listing on the Taiwan Stock Exchange to raise \$150 million for its regional expansion. Her clients include Sakae Holdings, AsiaPhos, and Far East Group. "I have known Vanessa for many years. She was the partner in charge of my company at the law firm that handled my company's pre-IPO and IPO work. She is thorough and knowledgeable, and we continue to rely on her for legal matters," says Simon Ong, executive director of AsiaPhos.

Lomesh Kiran NIDUMURI, 37

Partner, IndusLaw, Bangalore

A litigation and dispute resolution lawyer, Nidumuri has counseled clients in a variety of litigation matters relating to commercial contracts, shareholder agreements, oppression and mismanagement, winding-up, amalgamation and restructuring of companies. He has also represented clients in disputes relating to tenders, tax, IPR, and white-collar crimes. He has acted for ANI Technologies (Ola Cabs), Microsoft, Larsen & Toubro, Citibank N.A and Mahindra in their important litigations. He advised Financial Times UK in its litigation with Times Publishing House across India and assisted in devising a litigation strategy. He also represented Just Dial in an action for copyright and trademark infringements against a subsidiary company of Network 18 group before the Delhi High Court.

Yuki OI, 38

Partner, Nishimura & Asahi, Tokyo

Oi is a lawyer specialising in the M&A and corporate space. She represented Idemitsu Kosan in its acquisition of Showa Shell shares from Royal Dutch Shell. She acted for Toshiba Corporation in the sale of Toshiba Medical Corporation to Canon as well as the recent sale of Toshiba Memory Corporation to a Bain Capital-led consortium. She also advised Idemitsu Kosan on its global offering of shares and its defence in a preliminary injunction procedure filed by the founding family. Her clients include Aisin Seiki, Honda Motor, Mizuho Financial Group, Yahoo Japan, Cool Japan Fund, Bulldog-Sauce, Kyowa Hakko Kirin, Mitsubishi Heavy Industry, Mitsui Chemical, and Japan Bank of International Corporation.

Hendra ONG, 35

*Partner, Hanafiah Ponggawa & Partners
(HPRP), Jakarta*

Skilled in resources and infrastructure practice, Ong quickly rose from being a junior associate to a senior one in 3.5 years – a process that normally takes more than seven years of experience. He represented Garuda Indonesia Airlines on its purchase of 50 Boeing's 737 MAX 8s Aircraft, valued at \$4.9 billion at 2014 list prices. He also acted on the restructuring of PT Mandala Airlines. He provided legal assistance to Lonza Group on its \$5 billion acquisition of Capsugel as well as to Sriwijaya Air in its IPO plan preparation.

Tom PLATTS, 39

*Partner, Stephenson Harwood (Singapore)
Alliance, Singapore*

As a corporate partner, Platts specialises in cross-border M&A in Southeast Asia, covering Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. He also advises on capital markets transactions, private placements and other forms of equity fundraising for Asian companies in Singapore and the UK

in particular. He has advised Duff & Phelps on its acquisition of Quanterra Global Asia, an Asia-Pacific transfer pricing advisory firm. He also advised Krispy Kreme Doughnuts on its high-profile market entry into Myanmar. He represented Zurich Insurance Group on its \$287 million acquisition of Malaysian insurance group MAAH's composite insurance business. He also advised British company BAA on the \$21.5 billion hostile takeover by Ferrovial. "He is a first-rate lawyer who impresses our clients with his commercial acumen and deep knowledge of the legal and business environment across Southeast Asia," says Sharon White, the firm's chief executive.

Sri Sarguna RAJ, 39

*Partner, Christopher & Lee Ong,
Kuala Lumpur*

An IP specialist, Raj assisted a well-known soft drink and beverage-maker against its competitor in an industrial design infringement and revocation action involving the industrial design of a beverage bottle. He represented a renowned foreign Chinese tea manufacturer in negotiating the assignment of a trademark filed by a local company in Malaysia. He was also involved in a copyright infringement action, advising a motorcycle manufacturer in relation to an action filed by a well-known multinational motorcycle manufacturer. Christopher Lee, the co-founding partner of Christopher & Lee Ong, says Raj is "a master of his craft and dedicated to his practice." Some of his clients include Al Baik Fast Food Distribution, BlueScope Malaysia, Astro GS, Iconix Consulting and Mestrae.

Samuel SEOW, 31

*Senior Legal Counsel, Samuel Seow
Law Corporation, Singapore*

As a dispute resolution and international arbitration lawyer, Samuel Seow An has managed commercial disputes across a range of industries including construction, joint ventures, energy and healthcare. He

has successfully defended an Indonesian company in the forestry industry against claims by multiple parties amounting to over \$10 million. He is also representing an Indonesian company in the property industry in a dispute with its joint venture partner involving claims of \$1 million. He is acting for a Singapore media company in recovering a six-figure U.S. dollar debt from an Indonesian company. He is also advising a Thai cosmetics company in a sale and purchase agreement involving multiple foreign entities as well as a South Korean construction company in debt recovery from multiple foreign entities.

Junhyun SONG, 38

Partner, Bae, Kim & Lee, Seoul

An antitrust lawyer, Song represented Samsung Electronics as intervener in Qualcomm's litigation that seeks to annul

the Korea Fair Trade Commission's (KFTC) decision on Qualcomm's abusive conduct in relation to its licensing practices. He has carried out in-depth risk analysis, which covers reviewing voluminous electronic and paper documents and conducting interviews with key employees. He implemented forensic analysis and investigations to perform a thorough compliance audit for SK Hynix, a memory semiconductor supplier. He again represented Samsung Electronics in connection with a pre-merger notification that Hewlett-Packard filed with the KFTC over an agreement between the companies that concluded with HP selling its printer business to the Korean conglomerate for \$1.05 billion. "Song has a deep awareness of client's needs and offers comprehensive solutions based on his expertise in IP and antitrust issues," says Jeong-Hee Kang, senior counsel of the global legal affairs team at Samsung Electronics.

Trinath TADAKAMALLA, 36

Partner, Phoenix Legal, New Delhi

Tadakamalla's practice areas include commercial disputes, insurance and reinsurance, construction and engineering and natural gas. He is advising the government of Telangana, a state in southern India, and its contractors before the National Green Tribunal and the High Court of Telangana and the state of Andhra Pradesh in several disputes arising from a \$6 billion lift irrigation project being construed in Telangana. He is also acting for a Belgian company in enforcing and executing a batch of four arbitral awards pronounced by two London-based arbitral tribunals against a conglomerate in the UAE with assets in India for a total amount of \$120 million. Some of his clients include Leighton, Iffco Tokio, Cott Beverages and Bajaj Alliance. "He is an excellent strategist who understands commercial and uses his skills

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to achieve the object," says Ravi Kumar Reddy, New India Assurance's chief manager.

Shijie TAN, 35

Partner, Rajah & Tann, Singapore



Shijie was made partner at the age of 29, one of the youngest persons in the firm to be made partner at that time. She has advised on many significant property transactions, whether by way of indirect or direct property acquisitions and divestment. She specialises in transactional deals with complex structures, such as those that involve profit participation schemes and share sale and purchase, which is unique in corporate real estate realm. She acted for M GPA (now part of Blackrock) on its acquisition of two significant Marina Bay properties, with one of the sites valued at over \$2 billion. She advised Mercatus Co-operative, which is owned by National Trade Union Congress, Singapore Labour Foundation and their affiliated unions, on its \$1.2 billion acquisition of a 50 percent stake in 'Nex', a highly popular Serangoon-located shopping mall, from a Pramerica Asia fund, making it possibly the biggest property investment deal of that year.

Shirin TANG, 39

Partner, Morrison & Foerster, Singapore

Tang specialises in corporate, PE and M&A transactions across Southeast Asia, China and the U.S. She has led several headline-making transactions in 2017, such as Global Logistic Properties' proposed privatisation, which was widely reported to be the largest-ever buyout of an Asian company. She also advised IndoSpace, India's largest developer of modern industrial real estate, on its landmark \$1.2 billion joint venture with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Tang represented LinkedIn in its 2013-14 China market-entry and JV with China Broadband Capital Partners and

Sequoia Capital China. Her other clients include Softbank, Cordlife Group, and LinkSure Global Holding.

Elizabeth TONG, 34

Director, Drew & Napier, Singapore

A corporate, commercial and employment lawyer, Tong acted as the Asia Pacific coordinating counsel for Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) in a \$11.6 billion worldwide acquisition of General Electric's plastics business. She oversaw local counsels across Hong Kong, Korea, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and India and assisted on all aspects of the deal, including the cross-jurisdictional acquisition of related companies, incorporation and restructuring. She acted for Visa on all Singapore regulatory and transactional matters in relation to its international restructuring, including its sale and reorganisation of its Singapore entity. At present, she is advising PE investor Hellman & Friedman and GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, on all Singapore financial regulatory matters in relation to their proposed \$ 1.8 billion acquisition of Allfunds Bank.

Akiko UTSUMI, 38

Assistant Manager & Legal Counsel, Nissan Motor Co, Yokohama

The expertise of Akiko Utsumi, a legal counsel with Nissan Motor, is in personal data protection, M&A, e-commerce and advertising. She played a central role in Nissan's \$2.29 billion acquisition of a 34 percent stake in Mitsubishi Motors as well as oversaw the entire process of setting up NTT DOCOMO's \$100 million venture fund. She also represented Nitto Denko, a Japanese client of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, in a deal to sell Aveva Drug Systems to Apotex. "Akiko is a very talented lawyer – she is meticulous, clear, focused, and results orientated. She has an incredible capacity to manage all of her projects and deal with any difficult legal issues they raise," says Ravinder Passi, global general counsel of Nissan Motor.

Chumpicha VIVITASEVI, 37

Senior Associate, Weerawong, Chinnavat & Partners, Bangkok



A dispute resolution expert, Vivitasevi represented a leading international medical supply company in domestic and international litigation and arbitration in Thailand, Singapore, Austria and Switzerland in relation to a long-term international joint venture agreement. She acted for a subsidiary of a global petroleum exploration and production company in arbitration arising from a joint operating agreement tied to a concession in the Gulf of Thailand granted by the Ministry of Energy. She also advised Thailand's largest mobile and telecommunications providers in arbitration claims relating to a concession agreement. Vivitasevi is "frankly superb, organised, extremely hard-working and personable," says Michael Polkinghorne, a partner at White & Case.

Warathorn WONGSAWANGSIRI, 35

Partner, Weerawong Chinnavat & Partners, Bangkok



Wongsawangsi has substantial experience in advising major corporations on domestic and cross-border pre-litigation, litigation and arbitration cases. He has represented clients in precedent-setting cases and some of the highest value disputes in Thailand. For example, he defended Advanced Info Service (AIS) – Thailand's largest mobile and telecommunications company – in an arbitration claim of \$985 million in relation to concession fees. He also defended a PTT in a high-profile Supreme Administrative Court action. "Warathorn's star is on the rise, and I expect him to become one of the titans of the Thai legal industry in the very near future," says partner Wendy Lin from WongPartnership in Singapore. ALB