



NAVARATNAM CHAMBERS

Nahendran Navaratnam

BSc, LLB, FCI Arb, FMI Arb

- Advocate and Solicitor, High Court of Malaya
- Chartered Arbitrator
- Mediator
- Adjudicator



Nahendran Navaratnam practices as a barrister and arbitrator at Navaratnam Chambers. He is a graduate of Monash University, Australia and holds a Bachelor of Science in addition to a law degree. Nahendran was called to the Malaysian Bar in 1988 and has wide experience handling trials, appeals and arbitrations in corporate, commercial and administrative law disputes for both private and public listed companies, major financial institutions and multinational corporations. He also sits as a Chartered Arbitrator and is an accredited Mediator and Adjudicator.

Nahendran acts in complex commercial and company law disputes. These include disputes involving financial and fraudulent malfeasance, contractual disputes in oil and gas, energy, technology, project financing, construction design, commercial services, statutory disputes and administrative law. His degree in Materials Science provides a significant advantage in disputes involving technical issues.

He is especially conversant with issues involving statutory and contractual interpretation and with regulatory, licensing and enforcement schemes in the securities industry, telecommunications, water and energy sectors. He also represented clients in media law actions involving leading local and international publications.

He is regarded as a skilled cross examiner and legal strategist and is particularly adept at analysing, and presenting complex factual and legal issue.

He has been recognised by Legal 500, Asialaw, Chambers, Expert Guides, Benchmark Litigation and “PLC Which Lawyer” as a leading individual for litigation and dispute resolution work in Malaysia.

He has recently been inducted into the Legal 500 Hall of Fame for having been recognized as a leading individual for dispute resolution in Malaysia for 13 consecutive years. (<https://www.legal500.com/c/malaysia/dispute-resolution/>).

Nahendran Navaratnam has been described in Legal 500 as “*very aggressive and astute*”.

Chambers says he is strongly endorsed for his *“well-grounded opinions and his practical approach”* and notes that *“peers have the highest respect for him”*, further describing him as a *“knowledgeable practitioner whose ability to think on his feet and respond to issues in litigation and negotiation is exemplary”*.

He has also been described as *“a real gentleman in court”*.

Asia Law Profiles describes him as follows:

“On the dispute resolution front, clients have glowing praise for partner Nahendran Navaratnam, who heads the firm’s practice and regularly acts for large corporations in financial and contractual disputes...” “Nahendran is a fantastic operator. We recently had a messy dispute and he did a fantastic job.”

and

“Excellent counsel work. Nahendran Navaratnam is meticulous in preparation and surgical in advocacy”.

Benchmark Litigation had this to say: *“Nahendran is among the best litigators. He is brilliant,”* said one competitor, who went on to comment that Navaratnam was one of the *“purest litigators he had ever met”*.

Benchmark Litigation also cited another client source as follows:

“Nahendran Navaratnam has the utmost respect and admiration of clients, lawyers, clerks and judges alike. His skill and hard work is surpassed only by his modesty and compassion. Throughout his years in the industry, Nahendran has proven himself to be an ardent defender of the law, and a man with a passion for justice. His knowledge of the law is far beyond his years of practice, and that is reflected in the quality of work produced by the firm. I commend the work that firm does, and I would recommend their services without a glimmer of reservation .”

Another commentator had this to say - *“To sum it up: He is bloody brilliant.”*

He is also featured in Financier Worldwide’s Corporate Advisory Handbook - Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

He is also listed as one of Malaysia’s Top 100 Lawyers by the Asia Business Law Journal (<https://www.vantageasia.com/malaysias-top-100-lawyers-2020/>).

Industry Experience

Nahendran has acted as counsel and arbitrator in many commercial and corporate disputes. He has acted for the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, New Straits Times, Petronas, Malaysian Airlines, Tabung Haji, Permodalan Nasional, Tenaga Nasional, Astro, Time, Maxis, Chubb, Malaysian Competition Commission, leading banks and insurance companies, the Malaysian Bar and many leading legal, engineering and accounting practices. He has also acted as Barrister/Counsel for many leading law firms.

He is listed on the panel of arbitrators of the AIAC, ICC, HKIAC, Hainan Arbitration Centre and SIAC.

He has also been involved as Counsel in two Royal Commissions of Inquiry.

Publications

Nahendran has been a contributing editor for the Malayan Law Journal Annotated Statute series and the Butterworth's Handbook on Civil Appeals and the Malaysian White Book.

He has delivered numerous papers for the Bar Council, and LexisNexis on civil trial practice and procedure, defamation and evidence and to the Malaysian Institute of Corporate Governance on director's duties and corporate governance.

He modelled and wrote the Bar Ethics Course and the Kuala Lumpur Legal Aid Centre's working manual. He has also authored a chapter entitled "Independent Director – Perceptions, Roles and Responsibilities" issued by the Securities Commission of Malaysia and three text books published by Sweet & Maxwell entitled "A Trial Lawyer's Companion" – a handbook for civil trial practice in Malaysia, "A Manual for Legal Secretaries and Paralegals" and the "Litigation Practice Guide".

He contributed the Malaysian chapter for Financier Worldwide Commercial Arbitration Annual Review and been the Malaysian correspondent for the International Law Office from 2011 to 2012.

He has also been an adjunct lecturer at the School of Administration and Law of the now Mara University of Technology.

Professional Activities and Appointments

Nahendran has served on numerous sub-committees of the Malaysian Bar including the sub-committee for the Independence of the Judiciary, Human Rights, Legal Aid, Editorial, Professional Development and Civil Procedure.

He has also served as an elected representative to the Kuala Lumpur Bar Committee and as past Chairman of the Kuala Lumpur Legal Aid Centre.

He was previously a regular coordinator and course leader for Advocacy courses conducted by the Malaysian Bar in collaboration with the Sydney College of Law.

He served for two years on appointment by the Chief Justice of Malaya on the Advocates and Solicitors Disciplinary Board dealing with disciplinary complaints against lawyers.

He was a member of the judiciary reform committee of PEMUDAH, treasurer of the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators, a member of the Rules Reform Committee of the Malaysian Bar.

Nahendran also practices as a Chartered Arbitrator. He is listed to receive appointments as Arbitrator with the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CiArb), the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), Hainan Arbitration Centre, the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). He is also a member of the ICC Malaysia Branch Arbitration Committee and has received appointments from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

He has been appointed as Arbitrator in private and institutional arbitrations both as sole arbitrator and as member or chairman of an Arbitral Tribunal. He is also an accredited mediator and is a member of the Malaysian Bar and Securities Industry Dispute Resolution Center Mediator Panels. He is also on the AIAC Panel of Adjudicators.

He is a past member of the AIAC Advisory Council.

Professional Memberships

Nahendran is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Fellow of the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators.

Academic Qualifications

Bachelor of Science (Materials Science)	-	1984, Monash University
Bachelor of Laws	-	1986, Monash University
Chartered Arbitrator	-	2006

Nationality

Malaysian