

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

**Miriam ANDRETA, 36**

*Partner, Walalangi & Partners, Indonesia*

Banking and finance expert Andreta focuses on both domestic work, as well as cross-border deals between Japan and Indonesia. In the past year, for example, she advised a leading Japanese IT group on the purchase of convertible bonds issued by an Indonesian service provider. "I am very satisfied with the work, initiative and care that Reta and her team provide," says a client. "She is smart, pleasant, professional, knowledgeable and has network among the banking and finance-related authorities.

**Vinayak BURMAN, 37**

*Managing Partner, Vertices Partners, India*



Burman's expertise lies in the areas of venture capital, private equity, M&A practice, and strategic acquisitions across multiple sectors.

As founder of Vertices, he represents venture capital and private equity funds, promoters and founders in relation to investments, as well as companies for various rounds of capital raising at different stages. Burman also acts on advisory board for several start-ups

# 40

RANKINGS BY  
ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

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# 40

and new age entrepreneurs where he provides insights from his experience and sector expertise. He has "an extremely sharp mind towards commercial understanding," says a client.

**Donovan CHEAH, 35**

*Partner, Donovan & Ho, Malaysia*

Cheah is an employment law and dispute resolution lawyer. He is currently one of the only two Malaysian lawyers registered as a foreign lawyer with the Singapore International Commercial Court. He advises multinational companies on employment law issues, represents clients in judicial review proceedings relating to decisions of the Minister of Human Rights as well as advises a consultancy firm in liaising with statutory bodies in respect of issues arising from statutory employment contributions among others. Current clients include L'Oreal, Dah Makan and S5 Asia.

**Chris CHENG, 39**

*Partner, Appleby, Hong Kong*

Cheng's practice areas span corporate, M&A, IPOs, equity capital markets and debt capital markets. He has been a part of significant deals like an investment holding company's HK\$3 billion (\$383 million) listing on the Main Board. Cheng, who has been with Appleby for 11 years, became a partner in 2017.

**Athistha (Nop) CHITRANUKROH, 38**

*Partner, Tilleke & Gibbins, Thailand*

Athistha focuses on insurance, corporate and commercial and technology work, with expertise in Southeast Asian laws applicable to the FinTech and InsurTech. The head of Tilleke's insurance practice, she is also the youngest partner at the firm. In the past 12 months, she has advised a Thai insurance brokerage on its proposed business expansion plan to Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, and represented a multinational car manufacturer and a EU-based insurance company on structuring and rolling out extended warranty and professional indemnity programmes in various Southeast Asian countries.

**Gareth DEINER, 37***Counsel, Clifford Chance, Singapore*

A capital markets specialist, Deiner has advised on high-profile transactions across South Asia and the ASEAN region, including a multinational banking and financial services corporation as arranger on the establishment of a \$1 billion guaranteed medium-term note programme for a firm which provides financial and treasury services. He worked on the deal that won the Debt Market Deal of the Year (Midsize) at the ALB Malaysia Awards 2018. One of his clients calls him the “real DCM guy,” adding that “Gareth is the first person I will call.”

**Aisling DWYER, 28***Partner, Maples and Calder, Hong Kong*

Dwyer is known for her expertise in commercial litigation and dispute resolution and insolvency and corporate restructuring, advising on many of Asia’s highest-profile insolvency and restructuring cases. In the past 12 months, Dwyer has been involved in numerous complex shareholder disputes, cross-border restructurings and insolvencies, schemes of arrangement and other corporate reorganisations. Dwyer is involved in the Hong Kong chapter of the International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation.

**Dominic GEISER, 37***Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills, Hong Kong*

A dispute resolution lawyer, Geiser was promoted to partner in 2014 at age 32. In 2016, he became a solicitor advocate, one of only 54 lawyers in the whole of Hong Kong who has been awarded Higher Rights of Audience. In the past year, he defended BYD in a set of complex and highly contentious litigation proceedings commenced by Foxconn, and also acted for a leading Chinese investment bank in relation to a cybersecurity incident.

**Matthew HODGSON, 37***Partner, Allen & Overy, Hong Kong*

Hodgson’s practice spans both commercial arbitration and investment treaty

arbitration. In the past year, he has advised an oil and gas super-major on a sensitive investigation being brought by the Philippine Commission on Human Rights against 47 oil, gas, coal, cement and mining companies, and an international telecommunications company in a SIAC arbitration. A colleague calls him “pretty obviously one of the leading younger international arbitration lawyers in Asia.”

**Joon Young KIM, 37***Senior Attorney, Kim & Chang, Korea*

Kim is known for his expertise in e-finance & fintech, insurance, non-bank financial companies, e-Business, corporate governance, M&A, and foreign direct investment. He spearheads Kim & Chang’s E-Finance & FinTech team and advises extensively on legal issues relating to the latest technological innovations, such as blockchain technology, cryptocurrency and cloud computing. Kim advises on corporate governance issues including shareholding and board structures, business restructurings of financial companies, restructurings of corporate governance structures of affiliated groups and reorganisations of corporate governance structures for business groups.

**Sang Min KIM, 39***Partner, Bae, Kim & Lee, Korea*

Kim is known for his knowledge of employment and labour, and litigation laws. He has advised numerous clients on employment issues. Kim represented the organising committee of the 2018 Olympic & Paralympic Games in a dispute with volunteers who claimed that they should be regarded as a regular worker. “Kim has all the attributes a lawyer needs, such as passion for the case, diligence, and power to think creatively,” says a client.

**Daehoon KOO, 38***Partner, Lee & Ko, Korea*

Koo’s practice areas include M&A, corporate restructuring, corporate

governance, private equity and foreign investment. In the past year, he has represented SK Group in its simultaneous spin-off and merger followed by fundraising by the spun-off company, and Shinsegae Group on its e-commerce investment deal, including fundraising. Other clients include LG Chemical, Farm Hannong and AIG. Koo has been involved in M&A transactions of most types of financial institutions including financial holding companies, commercial banks, insurance companies, securities and investment companies, asset management companies, mutual savings banks and lending businesses.

**S. Saravana KUMAR, 37***Partner, Lee Hishammuddin Allen & Gledhill, Malaysia*

An expert in tax law, Kumar has appeared in more than 250 tax cases before all levels of Malaysian courts with more than 50 reported cases in law journals. Among these have been landmark tax cases resulting in various amendments to the Income Tax Act 1967. He has been involved in cases including those related to dispute resolution, foreign source income, industrial building allowance, overpayment of tax, petroleum income tax, customs valuation and classification etc. Besides this, Kumar works pro bono for the National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia.

**Matthew LEIGH, 37***Partner, Hogan Lovells Lee & Lee, Singapore*

High-flying Hogan Lovells partner Leigh specialises in asset and aircraft finance. Acting for banks, financial institutions, lessors and airlines, he advises on a range of financing structures, including pre-delivery, export credit-supported and tax-based structures in addition to domestic and cross-border sales of individual aircraft and portfolios. His work includes advising China Development Bank in relation to a \$275 million loan facility to refinance the acquisition of one A380 aircraft for a Comsys vehicle facilitating a structured leasing transaction with Veling and Emirates.

# COVER STORY

## Maynard LEUNG, 36

Partner, Deacons, Hong Kong

Leung, who became a Deacons partner at the start of the year, has been a part of teams which advised on numerous deals, including on one of the world's leading independent aircraft engineering and maintenance groups on the proposed privatisation by a diversified conglomerate, headquartered in Swire House, worth HK\$3 billion. Clients call him "patient and responsive," with one noting that Leung "is very diligent and is always well-prepared by reviewing the relevant information and doing necessary research before the meetings."

## Alex LIAM, 29

Group Legal Counsel,  
Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts, Singapore

An in-house lawyer, Liam was a finalist for the In-House Lawyer of the Year for the ALB SE Asia Law Awards 2018. In

his role, he has pushed for stronger data protection across all operations by giving talks, sending out of memos and enacting of new policies, formation of a task force and so on, managing and advising on the sale of assets in various countries, settling major lawsuits in various jurisdictions, and drafted and introduced a new Legal SOP for the group to streamline the handling of legal work.

## Nicholas LINGARD, 37

Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer,  
Singapore

Lingard is the head of international arbitration for Asia at Freshfields. In the past year alone, he has served as lead counsel to various states on treaty arbitrations, and multinational companies like ConocoPhillips, Toyota Group, Saint-Gobain and Marubeni Corporation. Lingard "takes a calm and measured approach to the issues at hand and aims

to bring them to an expedient resolution," says a client.

## Wanqing LOKE, 36

Partner, Dentons Rodyk & Davidson, Singapore

A finance and corporate expert, Loke has led teams of junior lawyers to successfully complete complex cross-border transactions, including a financing involving up to 19 business entities across seven jurisdictions within two months. She became partner in less than seven years of starting practice. Loke's "solution-oriented approach to address all parties' particular concern while securing interests of her clients makes her our preferred banking and corporate lawyer," says a client.

## Sonali MAHAPATRA, 39

Partner, Talwar Thakore & Associates, India

A banking and finance expert, Mahapatra has helped build the Banking

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& Finance practice at her firm, launched its debt practice, and is currently establishing a restructuring practice. Key work has included advising on the \$6 billion financing for the Vedanta Group in its acquisition of Cairn India "Sonali is the best banking and finance lawyer on the street and has to be the most accomplished under-40 lawyer in India for the kind of practice she has built and the respect she commands from all clients and peers alike, both in and outside India," says a client.

### Samata MASAGEE, 35

*Partner, Weerawong, Chinnavat & Partners,  
Thailand*

Samata specialises in corporate and M&A. She advises domestic and international clients on public and private mergers, acquisitions and disposals as well as restructurings



and reorganisations. "Having worked in several M&A deals with Samata including the recent acquisition, we appreciate her balance of technical advice while also taking into account commercial aspects," says a client. She represented a Singapore-based technology company, as Thai legal counsel, in the acquisition of a peer-to-peer ridesharing, taxi cab, food delivery, bicycle-sharing, and transportation network in Southeast Asia.

### Smitha MENON, 37

*Partner, WongPartnership, Singapore*

Menon's expertise encompasses restructuring and insolvency, international arbitration, and banking and financial disputes. She is a member of the Inquiry Panel of the Law Society of Singapore and also a member of the Law Society's Insolvency Practice Committee. Menon

is acting for the former majority shareholders a large pharmaceutical company listed on the Indian stock exchange, in challenging an arbitration award for sums in excess of S\$700 million (\$509 million). She is also acting for Singapore environmental solutions company in a S\$3 billion debt restructuring.

### Bree MIECHEL, 38

*Partner, Reed Smith, Singapore*

Miechel is an expert in energy and infrastructure. Key work in the past year has included advising on a bid for the 300MW Sakaka Solar Project in Saudi Arabia, and advising a local project sponsor on the development of a transmission line and substation, and advising in relation to the sale of a thermal power project in Cambodia. "Bree's services are brilliant," says a client. "All that kindness, patience, sagaciousness and never giving up; it is truly my honour to have a chance to work with her."

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## David MILLIGAN, 37

*Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright, Hong Kong*

Milligan advises banks and borrowers on trade and structured trade finance, export credit finance and secured and unsecured syndicated lending, among others. Milligan has worked on significant deals, including advising a syndicate led by one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world on the \$420 million export credit financing for the construction of a 450 MW CCGT power plant in Bangladesh.

## Maree MYERSCOUGH, 39

*General Counsel, Conergy, Singapore*



Appointed general counsel at 37, Myerscough's expertise lies in project development and finance, renewable energy and general commercial. During her time at Conergy, she was lead in-house counsel on two acquisitions of the company within a one-year period, firstly to private equity investors and most recently to strategic buyer. "Maree is an outstanding lawyer and we were very pleased to work with her," says Stephanie Keen, Singapore office managing partner at Hogan Lovells. "We look forward to working with Maree and her team on future transactions."

## David NELSON, 33

*Partner, Ogier, Hong Kong*

An all-around banking and finance lawyer with focus on leveraged and acquisition finance and fund finance, Nelson recently became the youngest partner in Ogier. Recent work at a previous firm has included advising on the purchase of one of Hong Kong's most prestigious commercial buildings.

## Geraldine OH, 34

*Partner, ZICO Law, Myanmar*

Oh is an expert in corporate, commercial, foreign direct investments, and projects. She has been the lead solicitor and negotiator on behalf of the Myanmar parties in

the closing of a joint-venture agreement, worth \$1.7 billion, with the largest mobile network operator in Vietnam.

## Patcharaporn POOTRANON, 35

*Partner, Weerawong, Chinnavat & Partners, Thailand*



A capitals markets specialist, Patcharaporn has substantial experience in equity offerings and listings, corporate restructuring, mergers, acquisitions and securities regulations. Key deals have included representing PTTEP on its \$3 billion share offering, the largest equity offering by a Thai company to date, and advising PTT on the divestment of its stake in SPRC. "Patcharaporn has always been a trustworthy legal counsel that always looks after both ours and the clients' interests," says a client. "What I especially liked about Patcharaporn was her calmness when handling unanticipated situations."

## Sythan PROU, 36

*AVP and Chief Legal & Compliance Officer, Manulife, Cambodia*

Prou is the first chief in-house counsel in Cambodia's insurance sector. He has lobbied for major changes in regulations, processes and behaviours of regulators, including organising educational workshops for the insurance, tax and banking regulators. He has also successfully negotiated and concluded two exclusive deals with two prominent banks in Cambodia for a multinational insurance company and financial services provider.

## Mahesh RAI, 35

*Director, Drew & Napier, Singapore*

Rai's practice focuses on arbitration and commercial litigation. At the age of 34, he became one of the youngest lawyers to be admitted to equity directorship at Drew. Rai is currently representing an investor in an international arbitration against a foreign government in relation to multimillion-dollar claims arising out of a case of expropriation.

## Dini RETNONGSIH, 35

*Partner, Lubis Ganie Surowidjojo, Jakarta*

Appointed as a partner at the early age of 30, Retnoningsih's key deals include representing DSN Group in the IPO PT Dharma Satya Nusantara; representing syndicated lenders in credit facilities to PT Maritim Barito Perkasa; representing syndicated lenders in the refinancing of a \$400 million credit facility to PT Saptaindra Sejati; representing PT Recapital Securities in the \$40 million acquisition of PT Bank Eksekutif International, and representing Credit Agricole Corporate on the financing of three ATR 72-600 aircraft.

## Rishabh SHROFF, 32

*Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, India*

Co-head of the private client practice at CAM, Shroff's work has included advising in the multi-faceted planning for one of India's largest pharmaceutical companies and its promoter family. He was also involved in advising the next generation of one of India's largest food production companies in a family dispute. Among Shroff's clients is the founder and promoter of one of India's largest IT companies. Shroff is "absolutely wonderful to work with," says Chris Parsons, chair of the India practice at Herbert Smith Freehills.

## Maria Concepcion P. SIMUNDAC, 34

*Partner, V&A Law, Philippines*

Simundac's practice areas include corporate and commercial law, power and energy, construction and real estate transactions, infrastructure, transportation and public utilities, corporate and project finance, regulatory compliance (data privacy, financial technology and anti-financial crimes). Recent work has included advising on the \$495 million Mitel-Shoretel deal, and acting for Griffon Corporation on its acquisition of the ClosetMaid Business of Emerson Electric. She also advises the Ayala Group of Companies on a wide range of issues. Simundac's "counsel has allowed us to successfully navigate the challenges of business," says a client.



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# COVER STORY

## Mark TAN, 38

*Managing Director and General Counsel,  
GLP, Singapore*



The general counsel of Global Logistic Properties, Tan was part of the company's \$11.64 billion takeover and privatisation, reportedly the largest private equity buyout of an Asian company by enterprise value in history, and the largest privatisation of a listed company in Asia in 2017. He was also a part of GLP's 2.4 billion euro (\$2.8 billion) acquisition of a developer, investor and manager of European logistics, marking the entry of GLP into the European market.

## Paul TAN, 38

*Partner, Rajah & Tann Singapore, Singapore*

An international arbitration and litigation expert, Tan successfully argued the

first Singapore International Commercial Court case to reach a full judgment on liability and damages. The client was a BVI company which had pledged shares about \$36 million worth of shares as part of a joint venture, only to discover that they had been wrongfully disposed of. In the past 12 months, he represented the Government of Philippines in three arbitrations for alleged breaches and represented the Government of Lesotho on the setting aside of an investment award.

## SERENA TAN, 35

*Partner, Morrison & Foerster, Hong Kong*

Tan is an investments funds specialist. With nearly 11 years of experience in private equity investment funds in China and the U.S., Tan represents sponsors and investors in the formation, structuring and related activities. She also has experience advising fund sponsors regarding carried interest plans, joint venture arrangements, and other related

internal governance matters. Tan is praised by clients as "go-to lawyer for fund formation work that has a Chinese component," and a "highly diligent and talented" practitioner with "excellent professional knowledge and a strong commercial sense."

## Ee Von TEO, 35

*Partner, Wong & Partners, Malaysia*

Teo's practice focuses on M&A, corporate reorganisations, general corporate and commercial, and funds. She worked on multiple Chinese outbound transactions over the past year. Teo has been involved in several deals including an American fast food company's transfer of its ownership in its subsidiary, to a company which owns and operates a chain of fast food restaurants and was the lead partner in advising DRB-HICOM in connection with the investment by Zhejiang Geely Holding Group in PROTON Holdings.



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**Minchu WANG, 35**

*SVP Legal & Compliance,  
The Blackstone Group, Hong Kong*

Wang handles private equity and real estate transactions in China and North Asia. Her understanding of the spectrum of legal and compliance issues arising in all the jurisdictions in which Blackstone and its diverse portfolio companies operate in Asia has put her imprint on complex and novel multi-billion-dollar private equity and credit transactions in the region. Prior to joining Blackstone, Wang advised on a variety of private equity and capital markets transactions.

**Nick WILLIAMS, 35**

*Partner, K&L Gates, Singapore*

Williams is an investigations, enforcement and white collar, and restructuring and insolvency expert. He is currently advising a listed Australian company in relation to the restructuring of its

business in Southeast Asia, and also advising an energy group in relation to the revision of its global anti-bribery policies and procedures. "Nick's ability to enlist and manage his fellow experts across the K&L Gates global firm to deliver timely, commercial and ultimately the right advice is beyond what I have experienced at any other legal firm," says a client.

**Agnes WONG, 35**

*Chief Legal Officer, Alipay Payment Services,  
Hong Kong*

Prior to going in-house, Wong practiced corporate law at international law firms, working on deals that included the \$20.5 billion IPO of AIA corporate restructuring. Now she wants to make a big impact. "It is a top agenda of fintech businesses like AlipayHK to educate the consumers of Hong Kong about the benefits of digital and mobile payments, and to encourage adoption of new technologies," she says.


"As the Chief Legal Officer at AlipayHK, I hope to play a key role in moving the Hong Kong payment industry forward."

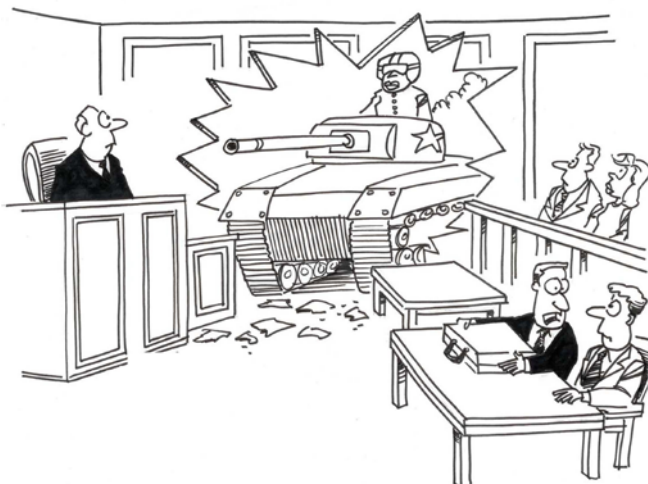
**BEATRICE YEO, 37**

*Managing Director, Yeo & Associates,  
Singapore*



A family and divorce lawyer, Yeo has worked on over 15,000 uncontested and contested divorces and other matrimonial proceedings since

2008. During that time, she has grown from a one-woman outfit to a seven-lawyer specialist firm. In the past year, the firm has set up two new branches in the neighbourhoods of Sengkang and Toa Payoh and Singapore. One of Yeo's current projects is helping battered wives and children facing domestic abuse, who require immediate and urgent help, to reside temporarily at her women's shelter. 



"I thought you said your wife wasn't contesting the divorce?"



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Yeo & Associates LLC, under the robust leadership of Beatrice Yeo, has garnered for itself a sound and reputable standing in the Family Law arena in Singapore.

Featuring a team with a wide-ranging and in-depth expertise covering all facets of matrimonial law has seen Yeo & Associates LLC being a highly sought after firm for those looking to engage legal services connect to Family Law such as Domestic Violence, Nuptial Agreements, and all aspects of Divorce like Deed of Separation, Child Custody & Support, Matrimonial Assets Division, and Spousal Maintenance.

Whilst Yeo & Associates LLC is renowned for its capabilities in matters related to Family Law, the firm is also a preferred choice for those looking to resolve family disputes due to acrimonious situations in their family business, or to manage the distribution of assets upon the demise of a family member, as well as the setting up of trusts and foundations for family members.

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