

Speakers Profile

CIL International Law Year in Review 2024 Conference

15 January 2024, Monday, Orchard Hotel Singapore



Professor José Alvarez is Herbert and Rose Rubin Professor of International Law at New York University School of Law (NYU). Before joining NYU, he was the Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy and the executive director of the Center on Global Legal Problems at Columbia Law School, a professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School, an associate professor at the George Washington University's National Law Center, and an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law Center.



Emeritus Professor Robert Beckman is Co-Head of the Ocean Law and Policy programme of the Centre for International Law (CIL) and was the Founding Director of CIL. He is also a Senior Advisor to the Maritime Security Programme of the Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU). He has been nominated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam as an Arbitrator under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.



Professor N Jansen Calamita is Head of Investment Law & Policy programme of CIL and Research Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. He was previously Director of the Investment Treaty Forum at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and has held posts at the University of Birmingham and the University of Oxford.



Ms Elizabeth Chelliah is the Principal Trade Specialist (PTS) at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) as well as Head (Academic Branch) of the MTI Trade Academy. Ms Chelliah has been a WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) panel member of four WTO disputes namely Textiles Rules of Origin between India and the US; the EC Chicken Cuts classification dispute between Brazil, Thailand and the EC, the dolphin safe tuna labelling case between the US and Mexico and the dispute between the EU, Canada and Norway on Seals.



Dr Tara Davenport is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Co-Head of the Ocean Law and Policy programme of CIL. She was a member of the Legal Working Group on Liability for Environmental Harm from Activities in the Area convened by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority. She is also the Rapporteur for the International Law Association Study Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines.



Professor Mariana Durney is a Legal Counsel at the International Seabed Authority (ISA). She is an expert and advisor in Public International Law and Law of the Sea with more than 23 years of experience in international affairs. Prior to joining ISA, she was Professor and Head of the Department of Public International Law at the Pontificia Universidad Católica of Chile.



Ms Foo Chi Hsia is Deputy Secretary (Southeast Asia and ASEAN) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore since 15 August 2022. Prior to her current appointment, Ms Foo was the Assistant Chief Executive of the International Group at the Infocomm Media Development Authority, after returning to Singapore from her six-year term as Singapore's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with concurrent accreditation to Iceland and Ireland from 2014 to 2020.



Ambassador Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of Singapore since April 2018, and the Non-Resident Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He has an extensive career in the Jordanian foreign service, and previously served as the Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Jordan for several terms (1999-2001, 2006-2009, 2013, 2016-2018).



Ms Daphne Hong is concurrently the Solicitor-General of the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore and the Director General of its International Affairs Division (IAD). She is Singapore's Legal Adviser and heads IAD: the department that advises the Singapore government on all international law matters and represents Singapore in international negotiations and dispute resolution. She is also the lead negotiator for the delimitation of Singapore's maritime boundaries.



Ms Marie G. Jacobsson is the Former Principal Legal Adviser of International Law at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In 2015 she was appointed Member of the Swedish Women Mediation Network and designated Special Representative for Inclusive Peace Processes by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Marie Jacobsson was a Member of the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) 2007-2016 and Special Rapporteur for the topic 'Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts'.



Professor S Jayakumar is Senior Legal Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore. He is also Special Adviser to the International Advisory Panel of the NUS Centre for International Law. He was Singapore's former Deputy Prime Minister and Senior Minister. He also served as Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Labour and Minister for Law. He was Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and High Commissioner to Canada from 1971 to 1974, and a member of Singapore's delegation to UNCLOS. Before his political career, he was Dean of the NUS Faculty of Law.



Judge Kriangsak Kittichaisaree is a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. He has served as a member of the UN International Law Commission, Chairman of the Working Group on the Administration of Justice at the UN, President of the 25th Meeting of States Parties to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and is a Conciliator under Annex V as well as an Arbitrator under Annex VII to the 1982 Convention.



Professor Tommy Koh is Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Centre for International Law, Rector of Tembusu College at the National University of Singapore and Special Adviser of the Institute of Policy Studies. He is the Co-Chairman of the China-Singapore Forum, and the Japan-Singapore Symposium. Professor Koh was the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and chaired the Preparatory Committee and the Main Committee at the Earth Summit. He was Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations for 13 years, Ambassador to the United States for 6 years, and the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy to Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.



Mr Toby Landau KC is a barrister, advocate and arbitrator, and a member of the Bars of England & Wales, Singapore, New York, the BVI and Northern Ireland, and is registered in the DIFC. He practices in London as a sole practitioner and in Singapore from Duxton Hill Chambers (Singapore Group Practice). He has extensive experience as counsel and arbitrator in commercial and investor-State disputes under most of the world's leading ad hoc and institutional rules. He is a member of various panels, including ICSID.



Ms Rena Lee is Singapore's Ambassador for International Law and Chief Executive of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. She specialises in the practice of public international law, covering areas including law of the sea, environmental and climate change law. Rena was elected as President of the UN Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) in 2018. She is also a member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the International Seabed Authority.



Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue is Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and Director of the Department of International Law and International Organization. He is also an Affiliate Professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law). He holds a Ph.D. in Public International Law from the University of Geneva. Since 2017, he is the President of the African Society of International Law (AfSIL).



Mr Salim Moollan KC specialises in international commercial and investment arbitration. He has acted as counsel in high profile investment arbitration cases (White Industries v India, Philip Morris v Australia, Cairn Energy v India), and currently acts as lead counsel in a number of prominent investment arbitrations for both States and investors.



Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma is Deputy Senior State Counsel with the international law department of Singapore's Attorney-General's Chambers. Prior to this, she served in various capacities, including as Director (International Legal Division) of Singapore's Ministry of Law, and as legal advisor to Singapore's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Ms Morris-Sharma has participated in and led several bilateral and multilateral negotiations.



Dr Nilüfer Oral is Director of the Centre for International Law. Dr Oral has over 20 years of experience in the study, teaching and practice of international law. She has been a member of the Law Faculty at Istanbul Bilgi University since 1998. In 2016, she was elected by the UN General Assembly to the International Law Commission where she is co-chair of the study group on sea level rise in relation to international law. She has been nominated by Turkey to the International Law Commission (2022–2027).



Professor Jin-Hyun Paik is a former Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of Sea (ITLOS), and served as president of the court from 2017 to 2020. He is the President of the Asia Society of International Law (AsianSIL) and a professor at the Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University.



Ms Angela Png is Senior Legal Advisor and Corporate Secretary of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). In her role at MPA, Angela frequently represents MPA/Singapore in the MPA/Singapore delegations to bilateral, regional and international meetings, including heading the delegation for the discussions at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the initial strategy for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping.



Mr K Shanmugam has been serving as Singapore's Minister for Law since 2008 and Minister for Home Affairs since 2015. On 1 May 2008 Mr Shanmugam was appointed a Cabinet Minister. Prior to accepting public office, Mr Shanmugam served in various committees and Boards, including the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law; the Raffles Institution Board of Governors; the Media Development Authority, and Sembawang Corporation Industries Ltd (a company listed on the Singapore Exchange). Mr Shanmugam was also President of the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) from March 2002 to March 2009.



Ms Diane Tan was appointed Deputy Director-General (Security) of the International Affairs Division (IAD) of the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore (AGC) with effect from 1 July 2022. As DDG (Security), Diane oversees International Criminal Law and International Legal Criminal Cooperation, Security Proliferation, Diplomatic Law, International Human Rights Law, International Environmental Law, the Law of the Sea, and Aviation workstreams in IAD. In 2021, she was appointed as Singapore's Alternate Member to the Committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance under the Paris Agreement (PAICC). She was re-appointed as Singapore's Member of PAICC in 2023.



Professor Rüdiger Wolfrum is German jurist and the current professor of international law at the Heidelberg University Faculty of Law and Honorary Director at the Max Planck Foundation. Professor Wolfrum was a judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea from 1996 to 2017, serving as president of the court from 2005 to 2008.



Professor Walter Woon is currently Lee Kong Chian Visiting Professor at the Yong Pung How Law School of the Singapore Management University (with effect from 1 July 2022). He was elected to an Honorary Fellowship of St John's College Cambridge on 3 February 2022. He is also an Emeritus Professor at the National University of Singapore. He served as Attorney-General from 2008 to 2010, having previously been Solicitor-General from 2006 to 2008. He has also been Judge Advocate-General as well as a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, the Legal Service Commission and the board of directors of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.



Mr Alvin Yap is currently a lecturer at the University of Western Australia Law School, teaching in public international law and business law. He has represented States in disputes before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, and arbitral tribunals.



Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin, is the Deputy Attorney-General of Singapore. Prior to his current position, he served as the Director-General of the AGC's International Affairs Division, in which he provided advice to Singapore government agencies on public international law matters. Lionel is actively involved in the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.



Ms Danielle Yeow leads on climate change law and policy issues at the CIL and additionally works on international security, in particular on international law relating to cyberspace. She is also an Adjunct Associate Professor (MSc (Environmental Management) Programme) at the National University of Singapore where she teaches a course on Environmental and Sustainability Management – Law, Governance and Practice.