

# OON & BAZUL

ASIAN EXPERTISE · GLOBAL REACH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPORATE ANNOUNCEMENT

## OON & BAZUL LLP SCOOPS RAFT OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES

THESE INCLUDE ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS, IFLR1000, BENCHMARK LITIGATION ASIA PACIFIC AND ASIALAW PROFILES

SINGAPORE, WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2021 – Oon & Bazul LLP (“Oon & Bazul”) is pleased to announce the following slate of awards and accolades conferred on one of Singapore’s largest conflict-free law firms and leading commercial legal practice.

### **Co-Head of Restructuring & Insolvency Keith Han ranked as one of the top 40 lawyers in Asia under the age of 40 by Asian Legal Business**

Keith Han, Co-Head of the firm’s Restructuring & Insolvency Practice, has been ranked as one of the top 40 lawyers in Asia under the age of 40 by Asian Legal Business (ALB) for 2021. Keith was ranked in the top 10% out of all the submissions received for the award. Lawyers who participated came from both domestic and international law firms across 10 jurisdictions, namely Singapore, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand & Vietnam.

At age 34, Keith is one of the youngest Practice leads helping complex cross-border commercial disputes in Singapore. He regularly appears as lead counsel at all levels in the Singapore Courts. This coveted ALB’s 40 under 40 recognition features the most accomplished young lawyers in Asia. Lawyers were selected based on their capabilities in handling significant matters, as well as their involvement in contributing back to their respective societies with skillsets they have honed from their legal profession.

### **Oon & Bazul ranked in 2022 edition of IFLR1000**

Oon & Bazul’s following Practices and Partner have been ranked in the 2022 edition of IFLR1000. These include:

#### Practice areas

- Banking & Finance
- M&A
- Restructuring & Insolvency

#### Partner

Keith Han – Rising Star (Restructuring & Insolvency)

IFLR1000 evaluates law firms and lawyers by practice area within a jurisdiction on the basis of transactional evidence, client and peer feedback. The research team assesses and compares transactions by how complex or challenging the work is or whether there was any innovation involved in the deal or its structuring. IFLR1000 remains the only international legal market research brand focused on ranking law firms and lawyers on the basis of financial and corporate transactional work. The publication currently publishes more than 750 practice area law firm rankings and more than 19,000 lawyer ratings across more than 235 jurisdictions globally.

### **Oon & Bazul ranked in Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific 2021**

Oon & Bazul is proud to announce that the following Practices and Partners have been recognised in the 2021 edition of Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific. These include:

- International Arbitration
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Restructuring & Insolvency
- Shipping

Ranked practitioners	Practice area
Bazul Ashhab	Litigation Star for International Arbitration, Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Shipping

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Kelly Yap	Litigation Star for Shipping
Meiyen Tan	Litigation Star for Restructuring & Insolvency

## Client feedback

Practice area/Partner	Commentary
International Arbitration	"The team is diligent and flexible."
Restructuring & Insolvency	"Good technical expertise. Responsive and easy to work with."
Bazul Ashhab	"Very committed and knowledgeable."
Meiyen Tan	"Excellent technical knowledge, understands the local market and easy to work with."
Ray Shankar	"He is smart and good at managing the case."

## Benchmark's analysis of the firm

Oon & Bazul is best known for its international arbitration, insolvency and commercial disputes practices. Managing Partner Bazul Ashhab heads the firm while Partner Meiyen Tan drives the insolvency practice. Arbitration-focused Partner Suresh Divyanathan and shipping expert, as well as Head of Litigation, Kelly Yap are key contacts in the firm. One case highlight saw the firm continue to act for the National Bank of Oman (NBO), one of the forefront Middle Eastern banks, in prosecuting a bank fraud claim in excess of \$14 million.

In insolvency, the firm successfully represented the applicant PT MNC Investama TBK in obtaining a two-month extension of a moratorium under Section 211B of the Companies Act. This is the first reported decision where the question of whether a foreign company has the requisite standing to apply for a Section 211B moratorium was addressed. The shipping team acted as lead counsel for Visa Resources in the defence of a claim brought by Chinese shipowners over a dispute on the unauthorised issuance of bills of lading and changing of discharge ports, which resulted in the arrest of the vessel in India. Key clients of the firm include AAG Corporate Advisory, Achwell, Mencast Holdings, Red Sea Marine Services and Shree Ramkrishna Exports.

## Oon & Bazul ranked in asialaw Profiles 2022

Ranked practice area	Commentary
Banking & Finance – Recognised	Oon & Bazul is active in banking and finance. In particular, the firm has extensive expertise handling matters related to trade finance, commodities and banking. Key Partner includes Ting Chi Yen.
Dispute Resolution – Recommended	<p><b>Work highlights</b> Continues to act for the National Bank of Oman (NBO), one of the forefront Middle Eastern banks, in prosecuting a bank fraud claim in excess of \$14 million. The firm so far succeeded in representing the NBO in a claim against the five remaining defendants in the action.</p> <p><b>Key clients</b> ICICI Bank, Samsung Display, Shree Ramkrishna Exports, Wivewaters Resources, Zafr</p>

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<p>Restructuring &amp; Insolvency – Recommended</p>	<p><b>Work highlights</b> Assisting in restructuring Xihe Capital, its subsidiaries and several special purpose vehicles, which are owned by the Lim family who also owns the distressed Hin Leong Trading, Ocean Tankers and Xihe Holdings. The total debt of these companies is estimated to be in the range of \$4 billion.</p> <p>Advised and represented MNC Investama, an Indonesian multinational conglomerate, in the restructuring of its \$213 million worth of 9% senior secured notes listed on the SGX. This case is the first known application by an Indonesian company for a moratorium under section 211B of the Companies Act</p> <p><b>Client Testimonials</b> “Extremely responsive, able to manage client expectations.” “Good technical advice; good team; easy to work with; responsive.” “Meiyen is extremely responsive and helpful.” “Meiyen is easy to work with, provides good advice and responsive.”</p> <p><b>Key clients</b> Agritrade International, Honestbee, TransAsia Private Capital, Wirecard</p>
<p>Shipping – Highly Recommended</p>	<p><b>Work highlights</b> Acting as lead counsel for the Singapore incorporated trading arm of a multinational conglomerate in the defence of a claim brought by Chinese ship owners over a dispute on the unauthorised issuance of bills of lading and changing of discharge ports.</p> <p><b>Key clients</b> Adidaya Energy Mandiri, Batavia Eximp &amp; Contracting, Ocean Light Shipping, Red Sea Marine Services</p>

Ranked partners	Rating
Bazul Ashhab	Elite Practitioner – Shipping
Kelly Yap	Notable Practitioner – Shipping
Meiyen Tan	Distinguished Practitioner – Restructuring & Insolvency

**END OF THIS CORPORATE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**PLATFORMS**

Website <https://oonbazul.com/>

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/oon-&-bazul-llp/>

**CORPORATE BIOGRAPHY**

Founded in 2002, Oon & Bazul LLP (“Oon & Bazul”) is one of Singapore’s largest conflict-free law firms and leading commercial legal practice. Oon & Bazul is known for delivering high-quality work as well as its commitment to helping clients achieve success. Oon & Bazul is also domiciled in Kuala Lumpur with its own associate firm – TS Oon & Partners – with both offices working closely together on matters involving Singapore and Malaysia law. The firm’s strategy is to collaborate with the best lawyers throughout Asia, without exclusive tie-ups, to ensure that regional clients are served by the best suited professionals in their respective fields of expertise. As part of Oon & Bazul’s regional work scope, its league of lawyers are fluent in English, Mandarin,

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Bahasa Melayu, Bahasa Indonesia, Tamil, Japanese and Korean. The firm has a sterling international law practice dealing with matters across continents, enabling Oon & Bazul's lawyers to be particularly adept at coordinating matters involving multiple jurisdictions. As a result of Oon & Bazul's deep dive client work, its lawyers are able to formulate winning strategies innovatively and effectively, while keeping to reasonable legal fees. Oon & Bazul's clientele include sovereign states, Fortune Global 500 corporations, large multinational corporations, financial institutions and high net-worth individuals.

## LEADERSHIP

**Bazul Ashhab, Managing Partner and Head of Dispute Resolution, Oon & Bazul LLP; Ambassador of the Singapore International Mediation Centre**



Bazul Ashhab is the Managing Partner and Head of Dispute Resolution of Oon & Bazul LLP ("Oon & Bazul") – one of Singapore's largest conflict-free law firms and leading commercial legal practice. Bazul's remit covers commercial litigation, international arbitration and mediation. His areas of practice include company law, international trade, banking, trade finance, shareholder disputes, insurance, insolvency, shipping and breach of fiduciary duties of agents and directors. Bazul acts for banks, trading houses, as well as listed and private companies in various matters across the region. He has been involved in several high-profile trials in the High Court of Singapore involving LC fraud, duties of negotiating banks, and documentary discrepancies. He has been involved and is familiar with the ICC DOCDEX dispute resolution process.

Bazul is very well regarded for his expertise in resolving cross-border disputes; having acted for clients from various jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region. Bazul's many years of managing disputes has given him the ability to combine his legal expertise with cultural considerations. As a result, Bazul is able to provide effective and practical solutions to resolve complex disputes. Bazul was also appointed Ambassador to the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) panel. This appointment is testament and recognition of his leadership in alternative dispute resolution in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region. SIMC Ambassadors play a vital role in ensuring SIMC users have access to high-quality dispute resolution services, represent SIMC at various events around the world, and are seen as experts and thought leaders in the area of mediation.

Bazul has earned a swathe of accolades in his lifetime. Some of these include:

- Singapore Managing Partner of the Year award of 2018, accredited by Asian Legal Business.
- Legal 500 Asia Pacific describing Bazul as one of Singapore's leading lawyers who is admired by clients to be a 'spectacular lawyer' who is 'incredibly bright and knowledgeable' with 'astonishing speed and strategy'. He is commended for his ability to 'combine legal knowledge with commercial acumen'. He is also acclaimed as being 'exceptional at crisis management' and possessing 'a very keen mind'. Legal 500 Asia Pacific also recognises Bazul 'handles complex, high-value claims' and that clients respect him for his 'quick intellect and grasp for material issues'.
- Chambers Asia Pacific describes Bazul as an 'exceptional lawyer' who 'brings a London-style approach to local matters' and as someone who 'always understands immediately what the client wants to achieve and goes after it in the most efficient way possible'.
- Asia Business Law Journal ranks Bazul as one of Singapore's top 100 lawyers.

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Notable cases undertaken by Bazul include:

- Advised in an employment fraud matter involving a state-owned company, involving amounts exceeding US\$700 million.
- Advised commodity traders in a matter where one of their traders was involved in earning secret profits in the sum of several millions of dollars. The matter involved proceedings being initiated in multiple jurisdictions, including injunctions commenced and tracing remedies obtained in Indonesia, India, Hong Kong, UAE, and the Philippines.
- Defended a bank in an action brought by a Chinese state-owned company, in a dispute arising from the bank having been named as consignees in a bill of lading. Developed arguments with the assistance of Chinese lawyers to successfully dismiss the claim in the first instant court and the Chinese Court of Appeal.
- Acted for aircraft owners against an African national airline, in a dispute over the breach of a leasing agreement involving sums exceeding US\$37 million. Successfully obtained an anti-suit injunction in New York to restraint the African national airline from commencing an action in its home country, and obtained an order for the African national airline to arbitrate the dispute in New York instead.
- Acted for charterers in a London arbitration over a dispute involving vessels not complying with PSPC regulations for claims in the region of US\$120 million.

For a complete list of commendations, and for information on notable cases undertaken by Bazul, visit <https://oonbazul.com/partners/bazul-ashhab>

FOR MORE QUERIES OR TO ARRANGE FOR AN INTERVIEW, CONTACT:

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