

# OON & BAZUL

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## CORPORATE NEWS

### OON & BAZUL PARTNERS RANKED BEST LAWYERS 2022 EDITION



SINGAPORE, MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021 – Oon & Bazul is pleased to announce that three of our Partners have been recognised in the 2022 edition of Best Lawyers as top tier practitioners in Singapore.

2022 BEST LAWYERS	PRACTICE AREAS
BAZUL ASHHAB, Managing Partner and Head of Dispute Resolution, Oon & Bazul LLP; Ambassador of the Singapore International Mediation Centre	Shipping and International Trade
KELLY YAP, Partner and Head of Litigation and China Practice, Oon & Bazul LLP; and Senior Accredited Specialist in Maritime and Shipping Law	Shipping
MEIYEN TAN, Partner and Head of Restructuring and Insolvency, Oon & Bazul LLP	Restructuring & Insolvency

The 2022 edition of Best Lawyers in Singapore recognises the professional excellence of more than 550 lawyers in 46 practice areas. Recognition by Best Lawyers is based entirely on peer review. The methodology is designed to capture consensus opinion of leading lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues within the same geographical area and legal practice area. Best Lawyers uses an internationally respected and sophisticated peer-review methodology to identify the top lawyers not just in the US but also across the world. The 2022 editions encompass 22 global markets and feature lawyers and firms acknowledged by their peers as the most influential and effective players in the legal arena worldwide.

*\*Bazul is available as media spokesperson, and one-on-one interviews; as well as, provide additional talking and proof points.*

## END OF THIS CORPORATE ANNOUNCEMENT

### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### PLATFORMS

Website <https://oonbazul.com/>  
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## CORPORATE BIOGRAPHY

Founded in 2002, Oon & Bazul LLP (“Oon & Bazul”) is Singapore’s largest conflict-free law firm 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, 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 PROFILE

**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”) – Singapore’s largest conflict-free law firm. 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

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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.

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

## **Kelly Yap, Partner and Head of Litigation and China Practice, Oon & Bazul LLP; and Senior Accredited Specialist in Maritime and Shipping Law**



Kelly is Oon & Bazul LLP's ("Oon & Bazul") Head of Litigation. He also leads the Shipping Practice and the China Practice. Kelly handles the full suite of commercial disputes, with a particular focus on international trade and shipping matters. Kelly's area of expertise covers charterparty disputes, crew claims, cargo claims, marine casualties involving collisions, groundings, fires, loss of life and salvage, bunker disputes, marine insurance, international trade, letters of credit disputes, freight forwarding disputes and ship chandler claims. He regularly acts for traders in all manner of disputes involving quality, shortage and cargo damage claims. Kelly also regularly deals with ship arrests, whether for the arresting party or for the owner of the arrested ship. Kelly has also represented companies and creditors in legal proceedings involving issues of fraud and breach of directors' fiduciary duties.

Kelly has achieved a listicle of accolades:

- Chambers Asia Pacific describes Kelly as "*a tenacious lawyer who takes a very thorough approach and is excellent on detail*". The publication also described him as being "*aggressive for his clients and will make his point. It is helpful to have him on a case.*"
- Legal 500 Asia Pacific commends him for providing "*very practical advice*" and as one who is "*responsive and able to understand the complexity of a matter and map it out in a simple and understandable format*".
- Asialaw Leading Lawyers recognises Kelly as a *Distinguished Practitioner* for his work in Dispute Resolution. The title is defined by the publication as lawyers who are highly regarded by their peers and possess a strong record and positive client feedback.
- Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific ranks Kelly as a *Litigation Star* for his work in Commercial & Transactions and Shipping.

Notable cases include:

- Acted for a bunker supplier to obtain a stay of Singapore Court proceedings commenced by the vessel owners in favour of Lebanese court proceedings in relation to the bunker supplier's arrest of a vessel for a claim for bunkers that were supplied to that vessel. This is a novel case because the vessel owners were

effectively asking the Singapore Court to determine whether an arrest order granted by a foreign court is wrongful.

- Acted for a distributor of petroleum products in an international arbitration held in Hong Kong in respect of claims relating to cargo quality and shortage, as well as complex issues of anticipatory and repudiatory breaches.
- Acted as lead counsel for a Dubai (aircraft owning) entity in obtaining an award for US\$6.5 million in an international arbitration concerning complex issues relating to US export sanctions and regulations and novel points on the law of frustration.
- Successfully acted for a company against a former director in the Singapore High Court for a claim in excess of US\$1 million arising from losses as a result of unauthorised transactions, a breach of fiduciary duty and sums withdrawn from the company's accounts. This matter raised interesting arguments on the interpretation of contracts and adducing additional evidence as an interpretive tool.

For a full read, visit <https://oonbazul.com/partners/kelly-yap>

### **Meiyen Tan, Partner and Head of Restructuring and Insolvency, Oon & Bazul LLP**



Meiyen's main areas of practice include cross-border disputes, consensual and non-consensual insolvency and restructuring, corporate fraud and investigations. She has acted for and advised individuals, multi-national corporations, court-appointed administrators, distressed and special situations funds and banks in Singapore and abroad. Prior to joining Oon & Bazul, Mei Yen was a partner at one of the Big Four domestic law practices in Singapore. She is also the first female to lead a restructuring and insolvency legal practice in Singapore.

Meiyen graduated from the University of Warwick. She is admitted to the Singapore Bar, Malaysian Bar, the Roll of Solicitors of England & Wales and qualified as a Barrister-at-Law (Middle Temple). She is one of the founding members of the Singapore Network of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and until March 2019, the Co-Chairperson of the Singapore Network. She also spearheaded the establishment of IWIRC Malaysia together with members of the insolvency and restructuring practice areas in Malaysia. She sits on the board of directors of the Singapore chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, and is also a member of the Committee of the Middle Temple of Singapore, INSOL World Editorial Board, INSOL International Asian Advisory Council and INSOL International Taskforce 2021.

Meiyen continues to speak regularly at conferences in the Asia Pacific region, on an invitation basis. Her recent speaking engagements include various conferences and seminars organised by IWIRC, INSOL, ARITA, the Global Restructuring Review and the Asian Business Law Institute.

Meiyen has amassed a broad range of accolades. Some of these include:

- Asialaw Profiles – highlighted Meiyen and her team for an “*excellent job*” with clients describing their work as “*accurate and completed in a timely manner*” and the end client was “*also pleased with the turnaround time and responsiveness*”. She was awarded the *Client Service Excellence badge* and lauded for her “*excellent work, good interpersonal skills. A rising star*”.
- IFLR1000 – The Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms, she has been described as one who is “*very responsive and highly meticulous to detail; offers practical and commercial advice in litigious*”.

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*situations; a person you would like to have on your team."* The publication also highlighted that "*her strengths include her knowledge of cross-border issues, her responsiveness and her commercial awareness*" and lauded her as "*an essential part of the broader, global team assembled to protect the interests of clients across multiple jurisdictions.*" Recently, she also received praise for her "*strong technical and interpersonal skills*".

- Meiyen is recommended in Legal 500 Asia Pacific – The Client's Guide to the Asia Pacific Legal Profession for the area of Restructuring & Insolvency, where she is declared as an "*insolvency specialist*" who is "*very good with clients, extremely smart, commercially minded and realistic*".
- Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific – recognised Meiyen as a *Litigation Star* and *Dispute Resolution Star* for her work in Insolvency with clients describing the practice as a "*strong practice*" under her leadership and commended her as "*experienced and provides good advice on new laws and restructuring matters generally*". Recently, Meiyen has been praised for having an "*in-depth knowledge of restructuring options in Singapore*" and providing "*various viable solutions*" to clients. She has also "*impressed*" clients by "*articulating arguments clearly and reasonably and anticipating and responding to opposing counsel*", and been recognised for her "*effectiveness in engaging other counsel to proactively find a win-win solution for all parties.*"

### Notable cases:

- Represented honestbee Pte Ltd, a well-known regional retail start-up, to successfully obtain a moratorium under section 211B of the Companies Act as the company sought to restructure its liabilities which were in the region of S\$291 million.
- Advised and acted for Agritrade International (Pte) Ltd, a Singapore commodity firm, and its subsidiaries in seeking a moratorium under sections 211B and 211C of the Companies Act with a view to proposing a scheme of arrangement to restructure US\$1.5 billion worth of debts. To that end, the Company negotiated for the investor to put forth a term sheet which preserves the Company's claims against wrongdoers for the benefit of the creditors while maximizing the returns that the creditors would receive from the investment through the scheme of arrangement.
- Represented the US Trustee of Zetta Jet Pte Ltd and Zetta Jet USA, Inc. in the first reported case in Singapore under the UNCITRAL Model Law and successfully obtained recognition of the US Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Proceedings as a foreign main proceeding and the appointment of the US Trustee therein. This is Singapore's first decision on (i) the public policy threshold under Article 6 of the UNCITRAL Model Law, in particular, given that recognition was requested for during the subsistence of an injunction granted by the Singapore Court prohibiting steps from being taken in the very proceedings for which recognition was requested and (ii) the appropriate test to adopt in Singapore to ascertain the centre of main interest of a debtor company for establishing whether the foreign proceedings are main or non-main. The two reported decisions can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- Represented the court-appointed receivers and managers of Airtrust (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. which is in the business of oil and gas logistics services, oil well maintenance, steel fabrication and construction, and involving allegations of breaches of directors' duties, transnational fraud, money laundering and tax evasion in the region of S\$100 million. This case has been recognised as one of the leading precedents that establishes a more stable and predictable remuneration regime for insolvency practitioners, by setting out the relevant principles when reviewing insolvency practitioners' costs and introducing a new system of costs scheduling whereby insolvency practitioners submit their projected job scope and fee estimate, when they are appointed, to the Court for approval. The reported decision can be found [here](#).

For a full read, visit <https://oonbazul.com/partners/meiyen-tan>

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

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