

Embargoed Press Release - till 11.30am on 12 January 2026

Appointment of Senior Counsel in 2026

Singapore, 12 January 2026 — The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon announced the appointment of a new Senior Counsel – Mr Danny Ong (翁敦伟) at the Opening of Legal Year today.

The Senior Counsel appointment scheme has been administered by the Singapore Academy of Law since 1997. This year marks the 29th year in which the title of Senior Counsel has been conferred to recognise Singapore’s leading advocates.

Appointment as Senior Counsel is an accolade given to those who demonstrate outstanding ability, extensive knowledge of the law, and the highest standards of professional integrity. Additionally, they must have made significant contributions to the development of the law, the legal community, and society at large.

The newly appointed Senior Counsel brings the total number of practitioners who have received this distinguished honour to 101¹.

Details of the new Senior Counsel and background information on the Senior Counsel scheme are appended in Annexes A and B respectively.

¹ Singapore Academy of Law, Senior Counsel, accessed 8 January 2026 [Two Senior Counsel appointed in 2025 - Singapore Academy of Law](#)

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About the Singapore Academy of Law (SAL)

SAL's mission is to enable future ready trusted legal professionals. SAL works with members and stakeholders to set new precedents of excellence in Singapore law through developing legal thought leadership, world class legal technology infrastructure and legal solutions to support our members. Our mandates are to build up the intellectual capital of the legal profession by enhancing legal knowledge, raise the international profile of Singapore as a legal hub and improve the standards and efficiency of legal practice through continuing professional development and the use of technology. As a body established by statute, SAL also undertakes statutory functions such as stakeholding services and appointment of Senior Counsel, Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public. More information can be found at www.sal.org.sg.

Annex A

Mr Danny Ong SC (翁敦伟), Age 50

Co-Founder and Managing Director, Setia Law

Co-Executive Director, International Chamber of Commerce's FraudNet



Danny is a leading practitioner in complex cross-border financial and commercial disputes, financial regulatory and financial crime investigations, and international restructuring and insolvency, with over two decades of experience. Danny is admitted to the Singapore Bar and the Rolls of Solicitors of the High Courts of Hong Kong and England and Wales.

Expertise in asset recovery and corporate restructuring

He regularly acts for global private equity and private credit funds, international and regional banks, securities brokerages, and state-owned enterprises on high-stakes, multi-jurisdictional disputes and investigations. His clients include leading financial institutions and investment funds such as Ares, JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs, Blackstone, MBK Partners, DBS, and Maybank.

He is widely recognised for his expertise in international enforcement, fraud, and asset recovery, and is ranked among the Global Elite: 40 Global Thought Leaders in fraud and asset recovery. He is frequently called upon to secure freezing orders in complex cross-border matters and recently obtained a S\$900 million freezing order for Novo Nordisk A/S before the Singapore International Commercial Court.

Danny is also regarded as a standout practitioner in restructuring and insolvency, having advised on major multi-jurisdictional restructurings and insolvencies, including matters involving Lehman Brothers entities across Asia (excluding Japan), MF Global Singapore, Dynamic Oil Trading (OW Bunker Group), BSI Bank, and the restructuring of Eagle Hospitality REIT.

Significant contributions

Danny has played a significant role in the development of Singapore commercial law, particularly in emerging and complex areas. His work in digital assets and cross-border enforcement has contributed to the shaping of legal principles in novel contexts. Significantly, Danny is a pioneer in blockchain and digital assets disputes, having led the successful prosecution of the first cryptocurrency claim before the Singapore International Commercial Court and secured the first known freezing order against unknown defendants from the Singapore courts. He continues to advise liquidators and funds on distressed situations in the digital assets sector.

He is the co-author of the specialist textbook *Commercial Injunctions in Singapore*, scheduled for publication in early 2026, contributing authoritative scholarship to a core area of litigation practice.

Danny also contributes to international legal development efforts, regularly speaking at UNCITRAL conferences and workshops focused on capacity-building in dispute resolution in the digital economy across the APEC region.

Key professional achievements

Danny is currently the Co-Chair and Executive Director of the International Chamber of Commerce's FraudNet, a global network of fraud and asset recovery specialists spanning more than 80 countries.

He was the founding Director and Vice-President of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) of Singapore and South-East Asia, and is a regular trainer for INSOL's Fellowship Course, mentoring senior insolvency and restructuring practitioners internationally.

He is one of the few Singapore practitioners admitted to the International Insolvency Institute (III), reflecting international peer recognition of his professional standing and contributions.

Annex B – Background information on the Senior Counsel scheme

Senior Counsel are selected, pursuant to section 30 of the Legal Profession Act, Cap 161, by a Selection Committee. Appointment as Senior Counsel is an accolade given to those who possess outstanding ability as advocates, extensive knowledge of the law and the highest professional standing.

Persons holding office as Solicitor-General and Attorney-General are appointed Senior Counsel pursuant to sections 30(7) and 30(8) of the Legal Profession Act.

Senior Counsel who are appointed to a judicial office (other than as a judge of the Supreme Court) will cease to use the Senior Counsel designation for the period of service in judicial office.

Senior Counsel appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court will cease to use the designation altogether (unless he is appointed Attorney-General).

The list of Senior Counsel can be found at: <https://sal.org.sg/learn/senior-counsel/>, under the Directory tab.