



PROFILE

“Over the course of 19 years, Edmund Bon has appeared in more than 60 major cases involving, fraud, industrial relations, contractual breaches, shareholder-director disputes, and construction cases relating to difficult questions of law and fact.”

“AmerBON offers specialist transactional and advisory services, and legal representation to major corporations and public-listed companies in the High courts, Court of Appeal and Federal Court.”

“Amer Hamzah is a walking encyclopedia on criminal law. Coupled with him being so approachable, he makes an excellent choice for us when we are in need of a good criminal lawyer.”



PROFILE

AmerBON, *Advocates* offers fully integrated legal services within the framework of a set of chambers, with a focus on litigation and dispute resolution. Amer and Edmund's select group of specialist lawyers are "book smart" and "street smart", devising winning strategies that combine a mastery of the law, familiarity of procedural tactics, and political and client sensitivity. The firm is aggressive in delivering the best outcomes for clients, in the shortest time and most cost-effective manner.

AmerBON advises on high-value transactions at pre-action stages, and provides legal representation in arbitrations, the High Courts, the Court of Appeal, and the Federal Court. The firm is engaged by both federal and state governments, public-listed and government-linked companies, media and high net-worth public figures, for strategic corporate and litigation advice on complex cases.

This is a unique law practice. *First*, the firm only takes on a limited number of cases a year to ensure its lawyers are highly responsive to its clients.

Second, the firm is able to holistically advise on both the civil and criminal aspects of the cases it handles. The lawyers have the expertise to conduct criminal defence litigation when required to.

Third, each lawyer is motivated by social causes, such as aboriginal rights and the abolition of capital punishment. Through the firm's Collective of Applied Law & Legal Realism (CALR), the lawyers devote up to 40% of their time to pro bono work in service to the community. The CALR also undertakes research and development, and training of law graduates for the firm.

Fourth, the firm's lawyers are well-known players in public interest cases. Media outlets routinely seek out AmerBON lawyers for quick and accurate commentary on fast developing stories with legal implications. For clients, this means that AmerBON lawyers bring to the table a high degree of social capital - public trust, influence, profile, and networks, which could be tapped on where appropriate.

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Recognition and Awards

Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific 2016

Edmund Bon Tai Soon of *AmerBON* Advocates is a well-known litigator, highlighted for his involvement in high-profile human rights and other public interest cases. Clients praise him as a "great strategist" who "seems to have a natural ease in skill and astuteness in handling some of the most difficult situations in our courts today".

Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific 2017

Edmund Bon Tai Soon of *AmerBON* Advocates is especially noted for his expertise in the human rights sphere and also acts prominently on company law and construction disputes. Praised by sources as "a very eloquent advocate who delivers clear and precise arguments," he recently acted on a complex and high-profile divorce action with an estimated GBP220 million at stake.

Legal500 Asia Pacific 2017

Recommended firm

Asian Legal Business (ALB)'s Malaysia Law Awards

1. Litigation Law Firm of the Year 2016
2. Boutique Law Firm of the Year 2017

Selected Client List

- National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE)
- Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC)
- Tan Sri Dato' Seri Khalid bin Ibrahim (former Selangor Menteri Besar)
- Selangor State Government
- Bloomberg LP
- Star Media Group Berhad
- Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN)
- Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS)
- Pauline Chai Siew Phin
- Samchem Holdings Berhad
- mTouche Technology Berhad
- Tahir Wong Sdn Bhd
- Ooi Kock Aun
- YFG Bhd
- PKF Malaysia Sdn Bhd



ADVOCATE & HEAD OF CHAMBERS (CIVIL)

Edmund Bon Tai Soon

Years of Experience: 19 Years

Edmund read law at University College London, and was called to the English Bar (Lincoln's Inn) in 1997. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 1998, and has been in active practice since then. Edmund is a Chevening scholar and has a Master of Studies in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University.

Edmund routinely represents individuals, financial institutions, law enforcement authorities, governments, corporations and trade unions at all stages of complex transactions, from negotiations to dispute resolution and mediation. He has long-standing experience advising on matters involving industrial relations, corporate, commercial, tax, contract, professional negligence, business, trusts, water and environment law.

In 2008, Edmund was appointed to advise a Chief Minister and State Government and since then has been dealing with – both as a contract negotiator and litigator – major issues pertaining to the management of State resources.

Over the course of almost two decades in practice, Edmund has appeared as solicitor and lead counsel in cases ranging from corporate and commercial law to property disputes and defamation actions. He has conducted trials in a myriad of cases under laws such as the Industrial Relations Act, Employment Act, Trade Unions Act, National Land Code, Contracts Act, Companies Act, Penal Code and Securities Industry Act (now repealed).

Edmund has appeared in more than 60 major cases involving fraud, industrial relations, contractual breaches, shareholder-director disputes, and construction cases relating to difficult questions of law and fact. Of note, he had successfully defended the National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE) and acted for the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) in numerous 'union busting' judicial review applications brought by financial institutions.

Edmund's cases have been reported on numerous occasions in law journals and news media.

Edmund is frequently consulted by private clients, multinational companies, the Malaysian Bar Council, public authorities, and governmental bodies on legal issues and law reform. He was previously a 5-time elected member of the Malaysian Bar Council and chaired the Constitutional Law (2009-2011), Human Rights (2007-2009) and National Young Lawyers' (2006-2008) committees. After a break of five years, Edmund recently stood for election and was elected to the Bar Council for the term of 2016-2017. He then chaired the Innovation & Future of the Law Committee.

Edmund is regularly invited to speak at local and international conferences on constitutional and human rights law. He has conducted more than 900 hours of training for young lawyers and activists on similar topics.

Edmund's articles and papers have been published in law journals and by news media. Edmund's latest published work is in the *Halsbury's Laws of Malaysia*, entitled "Citizenship, Immigration, National Security and the Police".

In 2016, the Government of Malaysia appointed Edmund as the Representative of Malaysia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). One component of his work is to promote the adoption and operationalisation of the 'Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights – Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect & Remedy" Framework' by States and corporations. The AICHR is now moving ahead to seek a consensus among ASEAN Member States to adopt a 'Regional Strategy on Business & Human Rights'.

Professional & Work Experience

AmerBON, Advocates, Kuala Lumpur

1.1.2016 – Present **Head of Chambers (Civil)**

BON, Advocates, Kuala Lumpur

1.1.2014 – 1.1.2016 **Head of Chambers**

Chooi & Company, Advocates & Solicitors, Kuala Lumpur

2012 – 2014 **Partner**

2002 – 2012 **Senior Associate**

1998 – 2002 **Associate**

Professional Qualifications

1998 **Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court
in Malaya**

Admitted to the Bar of Malaya

1997 **Utter Barrister, The Honourable
Society of Lincoln's Inn**

Admitted to the Bar of England & Wales

Academic Qualifications

2006 – 2008 **University of Oxford, England**
Master of Studies in International Human
Rights Law

1993 – 1996 **University College London, England**
LLB Laws Honours

Awards

- 2010 ***Young Professional Integrity Award***
Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia, Rotary International
District 3300 and Integrity International
Malaysia
- 2005 ***British Chevening Scholarship (Master of
Studies in International Human Rights Law,
University of Oxford)***
British High Commission
- 1993 ***Malaysian Scholarship (LLB Laws, University
College London)***
University College London
- 1992 ***Scholarship (GCE A-levels, Bellerbys College)***
Bellerbys College, Brighton

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ADVOCATE & HEAD OF CHAMBERS (CRIMINAL)

Amer Hamzah bin Arshad

Years of Experience: 18 Years

Amer read law at University of Leeds, United Kingdom, where he was awarded an LL.B (Hons) in 1997. He obtained his Certificate of Legal Practice in 1998, and was admitted to the Malaysian Bar in 1999. His areas of practice cover both criminal and civil litigation.

His criminal law practice is primarily focused on defence work and appeals at the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and Federal Court of Malaysia. Amer has been involved in several landmark trials and appeals, which were widely covered by the media and reported in law journals. He has vast experience in the following areas:

- commercial crime cases (including criminal breach of trust, cheating, anti-money laundering, and market manipulation)
- corruption cases
- capital punishment cases (murder and kidnapping)
- drug offences (drug trafficking and possession),
- sexual offences
- offences against the public order
- offences relating to national security and terrorism
- immigration cases (involving asylum seekers and refugees)

He regularly advises and defends individuals and corporations prosecuted for breaches of various penal and regulatory laws

relating to, among others, companies, securities, co-operative societies, employment, environmental and occupational safety.

Amer is human rights advocate, and has participated as defence counsel in cases involving human rights issues and violations. He has deep expertise in public interest litigation.

In respect to civil litigation, Amer's areas of practice include public and administrative law, relating to matters such as whistleblower protection, contracts, defamation, tort, commercial law, employment, and industrial relations.

Amer has previously served as an officer bearer at the Bar Council Legal Aid Centre (Kuala Lumpur), and as a member of the Bar Council's Criminal Law Committee and Human Rights Committee. He is deeply committed to advocacy work aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

Amer believes that a true lawyer is one who is willing to represent his client's perspective zealously within the bounds of law by subordinating all other interests, be it ideological, career, or personal.

Experience

Legal Assistant at Messrs Zain & Co (September 1999 – December 2006)

Partner at Messrs Zain & Co (January 2007 - March 2011)

Partner at Messrs Ranjit Singh & Yeoh (April 2011 – May 2013)

Partner at Messrs Nizam Bashir & Amer Hamzah (June 2013 – December 2013)

Partner at Messrs Nizam, Amer & Sharizad (January 2014 – February 2015)

Partner at Messrs Amer Hamzah & Sharizad (March 2015 – December 2015)

Thought leadership

Amer has given talks as well as delivered papers at seminars and conferences on numerous issues, among others:

- i) **“In Defence of an Alleged Rapist”** - paper delivered at the Consultation on Rape Investigation Procedures at Kuala Lumpur on 17 June 2003, organised by All Women's Action Society (AWAM).
- ii) **“To Leave or Not To Leave: The Refugee Dilemma”** - paper delivered at the Bar Council's seminar on the Aceh

Conflict on 9 August 2003, jointly organised by the Bar Council and Solidarity for Aceh.

- iii) **“Rights of Accused Persons: Are Safeguards Being Reduced?”** - paper delivered at the 12th Biennial Malaysian Law Conference at Kuala Lumpur on 11 December 2003.
- iv) **“The Protection of Refugee Children in Malaysia: Wishful Thinking or Reality?”** - paper delivered at the Conference on Refugees, Migrants and The Law, jointly organised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Bar Council, at Kuala Lumpur on 9 July 2005.
- v) **“Inquest: Guidelines from the English Coroners Rules 1984”** - paper delivered at the Workshop on “Inquests into Deaths in Police Custody”, organised by the Bar Council on 1 April 2006.
- vi) **“Citizens of Nowhere: the Stateless Community in Malaysia”** - paper delivered at the 14th Biennial Malaysian Law Conference at Kuala Lumpur on 31 October 2007.
- vii) **“Statutory Rape Laws: Is There a Need for a Change?”** - speaker at the Medico-Legal Society’s “Law, Ethics & Medicine: Friends or Foes?” Conference on 24 November 2013.
- viii) **“SOSMA - Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing”** – a panel speaker at the forum on Security Offences (Special Measures Act) 2012 (SOSMA) organised by the Bar Council on 3 November 2015.

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ADVOCATE

Khaizan Sharizad binti Ab. Razak (Sherrie)

Years of Experience: 9 Years

Sherrie was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2008. Sherrie has seven years of experience in corporate and commercial advisory, and civil litigation. She has advised clients on company law, shareholder disputes, banking law, family law, employment law, administrative law, and criminal law. She has appeared in the Malaysian courts at all levels.

Sherrie was also the legal advisor to the Malaysian Integrated Medical Professional Association (MIMPA) from 2013-2014. She continues to act for the Selangor Waters Management Authority (LUAS) and National Union Bank Employees (NUBE) on water and employment matters.

Sherrie has made invaluable contributions to the Bar throughout her legal career. She is the Co-Chairperson of the Malaysian Bar Council's Human Rights Committee, and serves on its Special Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, Environment and Climate Change Committee, and Syariah Law Committee. She was previously the Chairperson of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Young Lawyers Committee (2012-2014).

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ADVOCATE

Aston Philip Paiva

Years of Experience: 8 Years

Aston read law at Cardiff University, and was called to the English Bar as a barrister in the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn in London in 2008. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2009. Aston spent his formative years at Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur.

Aston practises in the area of public and administrative law. Aston has represented litigants in judicial reviews, disciplinary proceedings, labour disputes, and constitutional rights cases. He has acted as lead counsel in a number of landmark cases involving the rights of the transgender community and interfaith child custody disputes.

Aston has dedicated a large part of his legal career to helping the vulnerable and marginalised minority communities of Malaysia, and promoting the good administration and fair treatment of these communities by the government. With a steadfast commitment to constitutional rights and human rights, Aston is proud to represent minority communities seeking justice at the High Court, Court of Appeal, and Federal Court.

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ADVOCATE

Andrew Yong Yu-I

Years of Experience: 6 Years

Andrew was called to the English Bar (Lincoln's Inn) in 2008 and was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2011. Andrew was admitted to the roll of solicitors of England and Wales in 2006, having trained at Herbert Smith LLP in London, where he focused on commercial arbitration and energy and project disputes.

From 2006 to 2009, he practised at Fulbright & Jaworski International LLP in London, where he worked on several large international arbitration disputes, as well as handling financial services claims in the English High Court. Andrew has also served as a Judicial Assistant at the English Court of Appeal (Civil Division) and as Special Legal Officer to the Chief Minister of Penang (2011-2013), where he was involved in the drafting of legislation and project agreements.

Andrew holds an MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford and an LLM from the University of London. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCI Arb). Andrew's dispute resolution portfolio focuses on international arbitration and commercial litigation as well as in the provision of regulatory advice to corporate clients. He also practises in the areas of defamation, family and public law where he has argued several constitutional challenges and judicial reviews in the High Court in Malaya.

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ADVOCATE

New Sin Yew

Years of Experience: 6 Years

Sin Yew read law at Cardiff University and was called to the English Bar (Lincoln's Inn) in 2010. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2011.

Sin Yew has acted as solicitor and counsel in numerous cases spanning an array of areas: contract, consumer protection, construction, medical negligence, personal injury, land, immigration, capital markets, corporate insolvency and constitutional law. He is also regularly consulted by boards of directors on matters involving directors' duties, shareholders' disputes, good governance, fraud and breach of trust.

Currently, his portfolio includes advising public and private corporations on legal and regulatory compliance in the areas of company and securities law, representing a state government in three major disputes before the courts over land, water and the construction of a university, and advising a firm of consulting engineers in an on-going Royal Commission of Enquiry into the tragic collapse of a high-rise structure.

Sin Yew's clients have ranged from Members of Parliament in election petition hearings to refugees resisting deportation and seeking asylum. Sin Yew is one of the first Malaysian lawyers to have been consulted on the use of the Whistleblower Protection Act and to have argued on its application in the superior courts.

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ADVOCATE

Joshua Tay H'ng Foong

Years of Experience: 4 Years

Joshua completed his law degree in 2011 and obtained his Certificate in Legal Practice the following year. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 2013.

Joshua specialises in the area of criminal law which has always been the subject of his interest. His choice is rooted in his firm belief that every person is entitled to a free and fair trial and that the death penalty is a form of cruel, inhumane and degrading form of punishment.

Joshua has appeared as solicitor and counsel in criminal trials and appeals involving white-collar elements (such as corruption, cheating, breach of trust and stock market manipulation), terrorism, firearms, murder, dangerous drugs, fatal accidents and immigration.

With regard to tax law, Joshua is currently advising two clients – an investment company and a medical practice – on a tax-based corporate dispute and a tax investigation being conducted by the authorities. In the area of public interest litigation against law enforcement agencies, Joshua is frequently instructed to handle the criminal law elements of the briefs.

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TREASURER

Norhayati binti Jamari

Yatie has more than 16 years of experience in the specialised administrative work of law firms, particularly in areas of commercial and criminal law, and conveyancing. She has also provided support for lawyers in office administration, financial and secretarial matters.

Yatie is a hardworking and dedicated member of this chambers, often going the extra mile to get things done.

Yatie believes in helping the marginalised. In her personal capacity, she assists the young and the unfortunate by providing them with emotional and financial support.

Yatie was born in Ipoh, Perak, and received her early education in Kulim, Kedah. She is married, and has three children.

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TREASURER

Jenny Goh Siew Yin

Jenny holds a Private Secretary Diploma from the Systematic Secretarial Centre obtained in year 2003. She has more than 13 years of experience providing office administration, financial and secretarial support to leaders and directors at various companies.

Jenny wields considerable power as she handles the office treasury matters. She is also responsible for the Advocates' fee collection and ensures every member of the firm toes the line on their claims. Learning through experience, Jenny is proficient in the law on Malaysia's Goods and Services Tax (GST).

When she is not working, Jenny enjoys shopping, travelling and practising yoga. She regularly assists her husband on his speaking engagements regarding how people can improve their health and well-being.

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