

TAN SRI DATO'
CECIL W. M. ABRAHAM
Senior Partner

YEAR OF CALL
1970

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EXPERTISE

- Civil, Corporate and Commercial Litigation
- Commercial and Investment Treaty Arbitration
- Environmental Law
- Media Law Disputes
- Public & Administrative Law

OVERVIEW

Tan Sri Dato' Cecil Abraham is the Senior Partner at Cecil Abraham & Partners. His career at the Bar spans 46 years. Within this time, he has appeared in the High Court of Malaya, the High Court of Sabah & Sarawak, the Election Court, the Court of Appeal, our former Federal Court, our then Supreme Court, our present Federal Court and the Special Court. He has also appeared before the Privy Council when the Privy Council was our court of final appeal. He has over 250 reported decisions of note to his name. He is first and foremost an advocate and is regarded by his peers and clients alike as one of Malaysia's leading counsel known to be devastatingly effective in Court. He has a strong reputation for dealing with complex disputes where the stakes are high and is known to work hard to achieve a satisfactory result for his clients.

Tan Sri Dato' Cecil Abraham's practice covers a wide breadth of areas that includes Corporate and Commercial, Environmental, Banking and Securities, Insurance, Maritime, and Competition Law as well as Arbitration. He has in recent times argued the leading cases in Malaysia on unjust enrichment in *Dream Property Sdn Bhd v Atlas Housing Sdn Bhd* [2015] 2 MLJ 441, the doctrine of separate legal entities in *Gurbachan Singh v Vellasamy s/o Ponnusamy* [2015] 1 MLJ 773, on equitable fraud in *Zung Zang Wood Products Sdn Bhd v Kwan Chee Hang Sdn Bhd & Ors* [2014] 2 MLJ 799, the powers of liquidators in *Ooi Woon Chee & Anor v Dato' See Teow Chuan & Ors* [2012] 2 MLJ 713 and the exercise of royal prerogative powers in *Dato' Seri Ir Hj Mohammad Nizar bin Jamaluddin v Dato' Seri Dr Zambry bin Abdul Kadir (Attorney General, intervener)* [2010] 2 MLJ 285 and *His Royal Highness Sultan Ismail Petra Ibni Almarhum Sultan Yahya Petra v His Royal Highness Tengku Mahkota Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra & Anor* and another suit [2011] 1 MLJ 1, to name but a few.

He holds of the distinction of having acted for the former Prime Minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew and several Prime Ministers of Malaysia.

He is also regularly appointed as an arbitrator in domestic and in international commercial arbitrations and is the only Malaysian to be regularly appointed as an arbitrator in investment treaty disputes. He is also presently involved in several investment treaty disputes as counsel for the investors.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Banking and Securities Litigation
- Corporate and Commercial Litigation
- Commercial and Investment Treaty Arbitration
- Competition Law
- Environmental Law
- Insurance Law
- Land & Property Law
- Media Law Disputes
- Public & Administrative Law
- Public International Law

REPORTED CASES

Tan Sri Dato' Cecil Abraham has in excess of 250 reported decisions.

Please click on the following link – [pdf download](#)

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

- LL.B. (Hons) Queen Mary College, University of London
- Fellow (Faculty of Law) Queen Mary College, University of London
- Barrister-at-law of the Honourable Society of Middle Temple
- Bencher of the Honourable Society of Middle Temple
- Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya
- Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom
- Fellow of the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration Limited

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Panel of Arbitrators

- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- Hong Kong Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Panel of Arbitrators

- Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
- FICCI Arbitration and Conciliation Tribunal (FACT) India
- Indonesian National Board of Arbitration (BANI)
- Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA)
- Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

Current

- Member of the Advisory Council of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA)
- Member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Court representing Malaysia
- Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration
- Member of the ICC Task Force on Financial Institutions
- Member of the Advisory Panel of the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA)

Past

- Past Vice President of Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (APRAG), (2006-2009)
- Past Deputy President of the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators
- Past Member of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Past Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Malaysia Branch (CIArb)
- Past President of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)
- Past Member of the Review Committee of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (MACC)
- Past Vice Chair of Committee D, which was the Arbitration and ADR Section of the International Bar Association

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Past Chair of the Practice Section of the Malaysian Bar Council on Civil Procedure tasked with amending the Malaysian Rules of the High Court
- Past Chairman of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Committee
- Past Member of the Malaysian Bar Council

HONOURS

- Awarded the title "Dato" by His Royal Highness, The Sultan of Kelantan in 2003
- Awarded the title "Tan Sri" by His Majesty, the King of Malaysia on 5th June 2010

WHAT OTHERS SAY

- *The Asia Pacific Legal 500 has said the following in their publication:*

“... acted for KAF Investment Bank in the Pesaka Astana bonds case, a case concerning the issue of liability in relation to information provided on investment products which has been closely watched by the capital markets industry. Cecil has also acted as defence counsel to Lynas Corporation in judicial review applications and defamation actions regarding its rare earth plant operation; Other clients include Maxis and The New Straits Times.

- *Chambers Asia Pacific has said the following in their publication:*

“Sources praise **Cecil Abraham** for his long-established profile as one of the top arbitration lawyers in Malaysia. He has significant experience of acting as arbitrator on major cases across the region, notably in Singapore and India, and on high-value ICSID matters. Clients appreciate him for ‘understanding the crucial issues’ in arbitration cases.”

“**Cecil Abraham**... is one of Malaysia’s most respected dispute resolution lawyers. He is also acclaimed as a ‘very accomplished arbitrator’, and sits on the panels of numerous regional and international tribunals. He presides particularly frequently over cases considered in India and Singapore, or arbitrated by ICSID. Since publication, Cecil Abraham has joined Cecil Abraham & Partners.”

“**Cecil Abraham**... remains a prominent disputes practitioners who is recognised for his expert handling of big-ticket cases. He is frequently called upon as counsel and arbitrator in arbitrations across the region including ICSID cases.”

“**Cecil Abraham** has a ‘legendary reputation in Malaysia’ and handles a significant number of appellate and arbitration cases. He is also regularly involved in international disputes and investment arbitrations as an arbitrator. Clients particularly appreciate his ‘excellent legal knowledge and strategic guidance.’ ”