

Sean (Sungwoo) LIM

Partner

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Sean (Sungwoo) Lim is the co-head of the International Arbitration Practice Group at Lee & Ko.

Sean served as an inaugural member of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) Court of Arbitration amidst the 16 most prestigious arbitration practitioners around the world. He also served as Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (APRAG). Recently, he was selected as a member of the International Advisory Board of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC).

Domestically, Sean has acted as the Chairman of the foreign relations committee at the Seoul International Dispute Resolution Center (IDRC), part of the IRDC's worldwide network. He also served as vice president of the Korean Arbitrators Association (KAA). He is currently senior vice president of the Korean Council for International Arbitration (KOCIA); director of ICC Korea; president of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) sports arbitration committee; and member of the KCAB international arbitration committee.

In addition to his many years of experience conducting arbitration cases seated in various jurisdictions, including Hong Kong, London, Singapore, and New York, Sean has led many high-profile cases that have set major precedents in Korea. He is currently working on two investment treaty arbitration cases brought against the Republic of Korea.

With decades of experience in leading complex multinational disputes, he has been consistently recognised as a leading practitioner in the area of international arbitration by various legal publications including *Legal 500*, *Chambers & Partners* and *Asialaw*. He is the only leading Korean practitioner who participated in all three major active projects related to arbitration practice in Korea: the Law Reform Commission for Amendments to the Korean Arbitration Act; the Law Reform Commission for Amendments to the Korean Arbitration Rules; and the Law Enactment Commission for Enactment of the Commercial Arbitration Promotion Act.

Based on his decades of work in this field, Sean received an award in 2017 from the Ministry of Justice for his long-standing contribution to the development of commercial arbitration in South Korea. He was also selected as a "Dispute Resolution Star" for international arbitration by *Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific* in 2019 and was recognised as "International Arbitration Practitioner of the Year" by *Legal Times* in 2018.

Sean holds degrees from Seoul National University College of Law (LLB) and Cornell Law School (LLM). He is licensed to practise in Korea and New York. He recently published *International Arbitration*, still the only Korean treatise solely dedicated to international arbitration. His book has received wide acclaim from academics and practitioners alike both nationally and abroad. In addition, Sean is an adjunct professor at the Seoul National University School of Law where he teaches a course on international arbitration.

EDUCATION

1995	Cornell University Law School – LL.M
1989	Judicial Research and Training Institute, Supreme Court of Korea
1987	Seoul National University, College of Law – LL.B

WORK EXPERIENCE

1989-Present	Lee & Ko
2019-Present	Adjunct Professor, Seoul National University School of Law
2017-Present	President, the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board Sport Arbitration Committee
2016-Present	Senior Vice-president, Korean Council for International Arbitration (KOCIA)
2015-Present	Member of VIAC Advisory Board, Vienna International Arbitral Centre(VIAC)
2013-2016	Standing member of a committee, Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
2011-2015	Vice-President, the Korean Arbitrators Association, Inc.
2009-2011	Secretary General, Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (APRAG)
2008-Present	Arbitrator, the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB)
1995-1996	Perkins Coie, Seattle
1995	Davis Wright Tremaine, Portland

AREAS OF PRACTICE

International Arbitration &
Cross-Border Litigation
Mergers & Acquisitions

IP

Corporate Governance

ADMISSIONS

Admitted to the Korean Patent Bar (1999)
Admitted to bar, Korea: (1989); New York(1996)

LANGUAGES

Korean, English, Japanese

AWARDS

- Selected as Top Arbitration Expert in Korea (WHO'S WHO LEGAL)
- Selected as Top Expert in the World (Guide to the World's Leading Commercial Arbitration Experts)
- Selected as a "Leading Lawyer" by AsiaLaw (Dispute Resolution)
- Selected as Dispute Resolution Star (International Arbitration Area) (Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific) (2018)
- Selected as "Ranked Lawyer: Band 2" (Dispute Resolution: Arbitration) (Chambers Asia-Pacific) (2019)
- Selected as "Leading Individual" (International Arbitration) (Legal 500 Asia-Pacific) (2019)
- Selected as "Ranked Lawyer : Band 2" (Dispute Resolution: Arbitration) (Chambers Global) (2019)
- Selected as Dispute Resolution Star (International Arbitration Area) (Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific) (2019)
- Selected as "Lawyer of the Year" (International Arbitration) (Legal Times) (2019)
- Selected as "Distinguished practitioner" (Dispute Resolution) (AsiaLaw) (2020)
- Selected as "Ranked Lawyer : Band 2" (Dispute Resolution : Arbitration) (Chambers Asia-Pacific) (2020)
- Selected as "Leading Individual" (International Arbitration) (Legal 500 Asia-Pacific) (2020)

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Successfully acted for a Korean company in the wind power business in a KCAB arbitration involving a claim for KRW 20 billion against a Danish company in relation to defects in wind turbine generators.
- Successfully represented a major Korean construction company in an ICC arbitration involving a KRW 40 billion claim against a Luxembourg company related to disputes over Busan New Port Construction.
- Obtained a favorable award for a Korean power exchange company in a KCAB arbitration over NEMS (New Energy Management System) against a French company.
- Obtained ICDR (AAA) award in favor of a major Korean company in a KRW 100 billion dispute related to an ATM supply contract.
- Successfully represented a Korean company in an ICC arbitration related to a dispute over insurance company's stock estimated at KRW 600 billion.
- Obtained an ICC award involving a KRW 40 billion claim related to service agreement for dredging and reclamation work.
- Successfully represented a Korean public enterprise in a KRW 50 billion ICC arbitration related to a joint venture.
- Successfully represented a Korean Electronic Company in an ICC arbitration against an UAE company involving disputes over distributorship agreement.
- Successfully represented a Korean company in an ICC arbitration involving trade secret issues in the amount of KRW 80 billion.
- Successfully Represented a Korean shipbuilding company in an English ad hoc arbitration related to a breach of warranty claim under a construction contract for a floating offshore transfer platform.
- Successfully obtained a judgment for non-infringement of patent on disposable diapers for disputes between Kimberly-Clark Corporation, P&G and LG Household and Health Care Ltd (largest damages case in Korea over patent infringement).
- Successfully represented a Korean electronics company in a patent infringement lawsuit against a leading Japanese electronics company over LCD patent (a global patent infringement action).

- Obtained a favorable judgment in a patent infringement lawsuit involving disputes between Microsoft and the inventor of software for automatic linguistic switching between Korean and English.
- Successfully represented the Chairman and high-ranking officers of Samsung Electronics in a lawsuit involving a KRW 360 billion shareholder derivative action.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "International Arbitration," Pakyoungsa (2016)
- "Upon Discussing Revision of Arbitration Act of Korea," The Korean Commercial Arbitration Board Magazine (2012) (in Korean Language)
- "New York Convention: Perspectives for Broader Adoption and Uniform Interpretation in the Asia-Pacific Region," UNCITRAL-MOJ-KCAB Conference, Seoul (2012)
- "Arbitration moves to the Asia Pacific," IBA 3rd Asia Pacific Regional Forum Conference, Kuala Lumpur (2012)
- Competition Law and Arbitration of Non-competition Covenants: A Comparative Case Study under EU and Korean Law "Procedural Issues (Venue selection, Time & Cost, and Evidence)," VIAC-KCAB Seminar, Seoul (2012)
- "Mediation in Arbitral Proceedings (Arb-Med): A Korean View," Korean Arbitration Review, Inaugural Edition (2012)
- "The Korean Arbitration Act: Overview and Areas of Improvement," IBA-UNCITRAL Joint Seminar, Seoul (2012)
- "Arbitration in Korea – An overview- and insight – Crucial tool for cross-border deals," Interlaw AP Conference, Seoul (2012)
- "Jurisdiction and Powers of the Arbitral Tribunal," 2nd International Arbitration Specialist Program, Seoul (2012)
- "Korean Practice and Procedure – Current Trends and Hot Topics," Arbitration in Austria and Korea, KCAB-VIAC Seminar, Seoul (2011)
- "Mediation in Arbitral Proceedings: A Korean View," 14th Annual IBA International Arbitration Day, Seoul (2011)
- "Jurisdiction and Powers of the Arbitral Tribunal," 1st International Arbitration Specialist Program, Seoul (2011)
- "The International Comparative Legal Guide to: International Arbitration," Chapter 13: Korea (2010)
- "Asian Arbitration Practices under the Common Law Jurisdiction," Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (APRAG) Conference, Seoul (2009)
- "Comparative Review of the Rules and Practices of the LCIA and KCAB," A symposium hosted by the LCIA Asia Pacific Users' Council, the KCAB and the KOCIA, Seoul (2008)