

Shashi Nathan

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OPERATING AS WITHERS KHATTARWONG LLP IN SINGAPORE.



Shashi is the joint managing partner of Withers KhattarWong and a partner heading the criminal litigation practice.

He is a leading practitioner in the Singapore Criminal Bar where he often conducts high profile cases in both the trial and appellate courts. His cases involve offences of murder, drug trafficking, and kidnapping. Shashi is listed as a lead counsel under the Supreme Court's list of Assigned Counsel for Capital Cases and he has defended numerous clients charged for capital offences. He is one of the most sought after Defence lawyers in Singapore.

His white collar work includes advising and defending institutions as well as individual clients on Singapore's regulatory and compliance framework. Shashi is, in particular, familiar with the Securities and Futures Act and the Prevention of Corruption Act. He regularly advises clients on areas including fraud, corruption, insider trading, market manipulation, tax fraud, as well as a wide spectrum of legislation dealing with corporate malfeasance.

Shashi has been cited in Who's Who Legal as both a top tier 'Global Leader' and 'National Leader' in Business Crime Defense globally and in Singapore since 2020. He has also been listed in the Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific Guide as a 'Litigation Star' and in the Doyle's Guide as a 'Preeminent' Criminal Defense Lawyer since 2020.

Shashi has been consistently nominated by in-house counsel and industry peers as one of the world's leading White Collar Crime practitioners in the Expert Guides since 2016. He is also ranked in the 2022 Doyle's Guide as one of the leading White Collar Crime & Regulatory Investigations Lawyers.

Shashi is actively involved with the work of the Singapore Academy of Law, where he is regularly invited as a panelist and speaker for legal conferences. He is the Past Chair of the Criminal Justice Chapter of the Professional Affairs Committee. Shashi is also the immediate past chair of the Criminal Practice Committee of

the Law Society. He also occasionally guest lectures at the Faculties of Law of both the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University.

Track record

Abetment by engaging in a conspiracy

Represented a client charged for abetment by engaging in a conspiracy with 2 co-accused persons by furnishing a false statement to the Singapore Exchange Derivatives Trading Limited.

Multimillion-dollar gold investment scam

Represented one of 3 persons arrested for allegedly being involved in a multimillion-dollar gold investment scam.

One of Asia's top commodity traders

Assisted with the investigations into suspected false and misleading statements, and breaches of disclosure requirements.

One of the biggest cases of corruption involving Singapore's largest oil rig builders

Represented a client in Operation Car Wash – an ongoing criminal investigation being carried out in Brazil involving allegations of corruption between a state-controlled oil company, Petrobras, and construction firms.

Investigations and regulatory compliance

Investigations & Regulatory Compliance

Prevention of Corruption Act

Advising white collar clients on possible breaches and offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, Security and Futures Acts, Corruption, Drug Trafficking and other Serious Crimes Act, Penal Code and various other legislations.

Hedge fund

Acted for the fund managers of a hedge fund which transacted approximately S\$500 million worth of investments between their hedge funds, BSI bank and 1MDB.

Alleged market manipulation

Advised broking houses and acted for two brokers implicated in an alleged market manipulation scheme involving LionGold Corporation, Blumont Group and Asiasons Capital.

Casino Regulatory Authority

Acted for the Casino Regulatory Authority on a matter involving a casino operator's regulatory duties to prevent the commission of certain offences within the casino, and advised on the imposition of financial penalties and sanctions.

Energy Market Authority

Acted for the Energy Market Authority in investigating a gas supply disruption incident which led to major power outages in various parts of Singapore, and advised on the imposition of financial penalties and sanctions.

Suspected embezzlement

Conducted investigations into the suspected embezzlement of US\$13 million from the Hong Kong companies of one of our private clients.

Kickback arrangements

Acted for a multi-national company in investigating its employees who were suspected to be involved in kick-back arrangements with their contractors. The investigations were successful and the company was able to recoup the losses from the errant employee.

White collar crime

White Collar Crime

Criminal Breach of Trust

Pittis Stavros v PP: Acted for an accused person charged with Criminal Breach of Trust as a servant for having misappropriated approximately US\$125,000 of marine fuel oil. On appeal, the charge was successfully reduced to CBT simpliciter.

Corruption trial

Tjong Mark Edward v PP: Acted for a former director of Singapore Technologies in a corruption trial (2 charges under Section 6(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act), and his subsequent appeal against conviction and sentence.

Section 420 of Penal Code

Ajith Murali v PP: Acted for an accused person in his appeal against a conviction of cheating under Section 420 of the Penal Code.

Casino Control Act

PP v Sengmanivong Soum: Acted for an accused person who claimed trial to charges under Section 172A of the Casino Control Act for participating in a scheme to cheat Marina Bay Sands with 13 others.

Corruption

Acted for a managing director of a Singapore-based petroleum supplier on charges of corruption.

Marine Conglomerate

Presently acting for a multi-national marine conglomerate and its former director in cross-border investigations involving corruption.

Commodities trading company

Acting for a large multinational commodities trading company and its founder in ongoing investigations with the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Corruption

Acting for prominent individuals and corporations investigated and charged for offences of corruption by the Corrupt Practices and Investigation Bureau in Singapore.

Monetary Authority of Singapore

Acting for individuals and corporations investigated and charged for offences by the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Commercial Affairs Department.

Residential Property Act

Acting for individuals investigated and charged for false declarations under the Residential Property Act.

Fraudulent probate matters

Acting for interested parties in fraudulent probate matters.

Tax evasion

Advising and acting for individuals and corporations investigated on matters relating to tax evasion by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore.

Casino and gaming legislation

Acting for prominent individuals investigated and charged for offences relating to the casino and gaming legislation.

Serious crime

Serious Crime

High profile double murder

PP v Iskandar Bin Rahmat: Acted for an off-duty police officer in a high profile double murder (The “Kovan” murders).

Rape charge

PP v Khong Tam Thanh: Acted for the accused person who claimed trial to a rape charge. The charge was successfully negotiated down to aggravated molestation just prior to the commencement of trial.

Drug trafficking

PP v Kow Lee Ting Serena: Acted for an accused person facing 2 capital charges for drug trafficking. Both capital charges were successfully discharged after representations and negotiations with the Attorney-General's Chambers.

ASD client

Acting for a client who is on the autism spectrum and also suffers from Asperger's syndrome in a sentencing hearing in the High Court of Singapore for a sexual offence.

Gambling syndicate

Presently acting for an individual facing multiple charges under the Organised Crime Act and the Remote Gambling Act for being involved in an alleged international gambling syndicate.

Sexual offences

Acting for a high profile case involving an individual who is alleged to have been involved in sexual offences.

COVID-19 Act

Acting for individuals charged under the unprecedented COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020.

Sexual assault of patients

Acting for 2 doctors in 2 separate cases involving allegations of sexual assault of their patients.

Drug trafficking

Engaged by the Philippines Government to act for a Filipino national facing a capital offence of drug trafficking. The charge was eventually reduced to a non-capital charge.

Expedited Protection Orders

Expedited Protection Orders - Acted for a Swedish National and successfully obtained Protection Orders against 6 other individuals to restrain them from publishing defamatory information about our client, and to take down a number of posts from the internet.

Disciplinary Tribunals

Disciplinary Tribunals

Law Society

Presently acting for the Law Society against a solicitor of 22 years' standing before the Disciplinary Tribunal.

Senior practitioner

Defended a senior practitioner of 30 years' standing for allegations of overcharging his client.

Young practitioner

Defended a young practitioner in disciplinary proceedings where she was accused of deceiving an Assistant Registrar of the High Court.

Disciplinary Tribunal proceedings

Law Society v Pascal Baylon Netto: Acted for the Law Society in the Disciplinary Tribunal proceedings, as well as in proceedings before the Court of Three Judges. The errant lawyer was found guilty of dishonesty and struck off the rolls.

External publications

Shashi Nathan was quoted by Channel News Asia on illegally obtaining prescription drugs via social media.

Shashi Nathan was quoted by Law.com on how the influx of foreign wealth and investment into Singapore has increased fraud risks.

Shashi Nathan was quoted by Business Times on the upsides and downsides of longer training contracts, which are being introduced in Singapore.

Shashi Nathan appeared on Money FM's Mind Your Business podcast to talk about his criminal law practice and his charitable activities.

'The Legal 500 Comparative Guide on White Collar Crime, 2021 - Singapore Chapter', Legal 500 Comparative Guides 2021

'Common Criminal Offences, 2010', You & The Law IV 2010

'Ethics in the Criminal Court', Inter Se 2010

Manipulating the Stock Market (Published 18 March 2016 on Euromoney's Expert Guides)

Anti-Money Laundering in Singapore (2016 Withers Khattarwong LLP publication)

How white is your Persil (The Business Times, 6 Dec 2016)

Admissions

Singapore, 1993

Education

University of London, LL.B (Hons)

Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple

Languages

English

Memberships

Singapore Academy of Law - Chairman of the Criminal Justice Chapter of the Professional Affairs Committee

Law Society of Singapore - Immediate Past Chair and Present Consultant of the Criminal Practice Committee

ASEAN Law Association

Singapore Institute of Directors

The Legal Assistance Scheme for Capital Offences

Criminal Legal Aid Scheme

International Bar Association

Inter-Pacific Bar Association

Key dates

Year joined: 2013

Year became partner: 2015

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