

## Leong Chuo Ming

PARTNER | SINGAPORE

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OPERATING AS WITHERS KHATTARWONG LLP IN SINGAPORE.

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### Chuo Ming is a partner in the corporate team.

His work covers a wide range of corporate transactions, with particular focus on equity capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, and funds.

Chuo Ming's capital markets experience involves representing several public listed companies in various transactions, such as initial public offerings, take-over and reverse take-overs offers, rights & warrants issues, private and public placements, and other fund raising exercises, etc.

His mergers and acquisition experience includes him acting for clients, which include both listed and private entities, on various cross border corporate acquisitions and disposals matters, as well as investments and fund raising exercises via subscription of equity and convertible securities. He also advises clients on transactional agreements for such M&A transactions, including share/asset sale and purchase agreements, investment/subscription agreements, disclosure letters, joint venture agreements, non-disclosure agreements etc. He plans, oversees and organises the due-diligence processes, and provides clients with valuable solutions in dealing with any issues which may arise.

As a member of the Withers tech team, Chuo Ming works with venture capital funds, private investors and both established and emerging tech companies. He has particular experience in Fintech and has a firm grasp on the existing and changing regulatory framework surrounding this area of rapid growth and development.

Chuo Ming also acts for a range of clients in the funds space, including fund management license applications, structuring and setting up of funds (including the recently introduced variable capital company (VCC) structures), and funds' M&A activity.

During the course of his work, Chuo Ming not only advises his clients on the regulatory and compliance

requirements and obligations of their corporate and commercial transactions, he also assists them in their communications with the relevant authorities such as ACRA, IRAS, SGX and MAS.

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## Track record

### Acquisition of consumer goods distribution business Limited

Represented DKSH Group, a leading market expansion services provider in Asia, on its acquisition of the consumer goods distribution business of Auric Pacific Group Limited in Singapore and Malaysia for approximately S\$218.4 million.

### MAS licensed fund

Assisted an MAS licensed fund manager to set up a VCC structured umbrella fund, with its first sub-fund specialising in robo-investments.

### Grab

Acted for Grab, a leading on-demand transportation and mobile payments platform, in its pilot project, GrabCycle, a marketplace app unifying four different mobility partners into a single app. Assisted and advised Grab on: (i) its US\$20 mil minority stake investment into oBike Inc. by way of convertible preference shares with attached warrants; (ii) setting the template for its partnership agreement with other bike sharing and lending operators. This matter was of particular significance as it marks Grab's efforts to offer a suite of multi-modal transport offerings and to test new mobility and payment concepts.

### AAM Advisory

Acted for the shareholders of AAM Advisory, a financial advisory firm catered to the expat community in Singapore, on the sale of AAM Advisory to Old Mutual Insurance.

### Shareholder disputes

Acted/acting for various parties on shareholder disputes.

### IPO

Acting for Singapore companies in various industries (including offshore oil & gas, construction, property development and logistics services) for their initial public offering on the both the Mainboard and the Catalist of the SGX: (i) Ryobi-Kiso Holdings Ltd (construction); (ii) Dyna-Mac Holdings Ltd (engineering, oil & gas).

## Reverse takeover

Acting for public listed Singapore companies on their reverse take-over exercises for the injection of new assets (including coal mining assets and offshore oil & gas logistics): (i) Atlantic Navigation Holdings (Singapore) Ltd (marine logistics oil & gas); (ii) BlackGold Natural Resources Ltd (coal mining); (iii) Silk Road Nickel Ltd (nickel mining).

## Public company work

Acted for several SGX public listed companies on their: (i) fund raising exercises, including rights issues, private and public placements, warrants issues and issuances of debt instruments, for amounts in excess of S\$250 million; (ii) acquisitions and disposals, with the highest amount being US\$1.8 billion for acquisition of a Chinese water treatment business; (iii) various corporate actions and transactions such as interested person transactions, joint ventures, share buy-backs, employee share schemes, and general compliance with relevant listing rules and regulations.

## Compliance

Acted as compliance officer for six (6) Catalist listed companies, essentially assuming the role of SGX in monitoring and regulating these six companies for their compliance with various rules and regulations.

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## Admissions

Malaysia, 2005

Singapore, 2013

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## Education

University of Sheffield, LL.B (Hons) Law

Inns of Court, School of Law, Bar Vocational Course

Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law

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## Languages

English

Malay

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## Memberships

Law Society of Singapore

Malaysian Bar Council

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## Key dates

Year joined: 2015

Year became partner: 2015

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