

# 40 UNDER

## KAT BERKELEY, 39

Partner, Ropes & Gray, Hong Kong

Berkeley has experience advising clients in relation to court-driven and out-of-court restructuring, distressed M&A, secondary debt trading, loan portfolio sales, debt recovery and security enforcement, and formal insolvency procedures. Key work has included advising Chinese real estate company Kaisa Group on the restructuring of more than \$3 billion its offshore liabilities through schemes of arrangement in Hong Kong and the Cayman Islands, and Chapter 15 recognition in the U.S; and advising Berlian Laju Tanker, Indonesia's largest oil and gas shipping firm, in connection with its \$1.85 billion second-round consensual restructuring with its senior secured lenders.

## RITUPARNO BHATTACHARYA, 38

Partner, Talwar Thakore & Associates, India



A banking and finance specialist, Bhattacharya helped TT&A establish its banking and finance practice, and currently

boasts a client list that includes Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan, Standard Chartered Bank, ANZ Bank,

and BNP Paribas. "Rituparno has the unique and invaluable, ability to steer his clients when laws and regulations are not as clear as they could be and to back his advice with a sound understanding of local market practice. In addition to his technical abilities, Rituparno has great interpersonal skills, which makes dealing with him more enjoyable," says a client.

## NOAH CARR, 38

Partner, Latham & Watkins, Japan

Corporate lawyer Carr has led on multiple growth equity and joint venture transactions for Japanese technology investors, including SoftBank's investments in Grab, OYO, Ola Cabs, and Snapdeal. For example, he led the structuring of SoftBank's \$7.7 billion combined primary and secondary investment into Uber. "Noah is one of our go-to counsel in Asia because he understands our goals and our process. It sounds simple, but it isn't. He can tailor his messaging to talk to anyone at any level, and he's always available. So, his involvement helps take pressure off the whole team," says a client.

## VINCENT CHAN, 36

Counsel, Appleby, Hong Kong

Chan is an offshore lawyer with experience

in corporate and capital markets transactions, banking and asset finance, and private client and trusts and foundations. His clients include Bermuda, BVI and Cayman Islands entities, as well as private companies, banks, financial institutions, asset management firms, high net worth individuals, family offices and trustees. In the past year, Chan has led and acted as BVI counsel to Shenwan Hongyuan Group, China's oldest securities brokerage, on its \$1.16 billion listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the largest Hong Kong IPO at that point in the year.

## DEBBIE CHAU, 38

Compliance Director – Asia Pacific, McDonald's Corporation, Singapore

Chau was appointed general counsel of McDonald's Hong Kong at the age of 32, leading the legal and compliance functions for the Hong Kong business operation of the restaurant brand. During her time in Hong Kong, she played a key role in one of the most significant franchising transactions in McDonald's history - to franchise all restaurants in mainland China and Hong Kong to a consortium including CITIC and Carlyle Group in 2017. That year, she was named as compliance director for the Asia-Pacific region, and today she also covers the Middle East and Africa region.

## 40

In its fifth annual list, *ALB* brings you 40 outstanding legal professionals in the region who are under the age of 40. These lawyers have worked on some of the most significant deals and disputes in the past year and have earned accolades from their peers, superiors and clients. The list is in alphabetical order.

BY ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

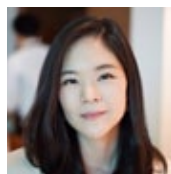
**DANIEL CHIA, 39****Partner, Morgan Lewis Stamford, Singapore**

A dispute resolution practitioner who appears in both courts and arbitration, Chia has a number of landmark cases to his name. These include *Aamna Taseer v. Shaan Taseer & Ors*, in which he successfully represented the widow of the former governor of Punjab who was assassinated by militant Islamists) and set a precedent case that beneficiaries of an estate had no specific right to a property of the estate. "Many consider him one of the most impressive litigators in his generation. He has strong client traction and will continue to develop and grow his practice," says a colleague.

**JON ANTON DARYL Y. CHUA, 36****Partner, Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia, Philippines**

Chua, a litigator, became a partner at Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia at age 34 after less than eight years in practice. Notable cases he has appeared in include one before the Supreme Court, questioning the retail competition and open access policy implemented by the Department of Energy and the Energy Regulatory Commission. Chua "is one of the most diligent and thorough lawyers I have ever collaborated with in the review

of legal strategies and options. He is very tempered and comprehensive in his approach and discussions of the factual merits of the case," according to a client.

**TRINUCH CHUENCHOMLADA, 35****Senior Associate, Weerawong, Chinnavat & Partners, Thailand**

A capital markets lawyer, Trinuch is currently representing Asset World Corp, the property arm of billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, on its planned IPO, which aims to raise up to \$1.5 billion; this would make it the country's biggest new listing this year. In 2017, she represented TOA Paint (Thailand), the country's largest paint producer, on its IPO that raised \$367 million. "She cares for, and understands, the needs of clients and takes good care of them. She can explain difficult things easily, enabling clients to understand both the law and business perspectives," says a client.

**LISHI FONG, 36****Partner, Harneys, Singapore**

The expertise of Fong, who moved to Harneys from Norton Rose Fulbright

earlier this year, lies in banking and finance. Notable work has included advising DBS Bank, ING Bank, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank, and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation on the refinancing of a loan to Pan Asia Majestic Eagle, and advising HSBC and a syndicate of banks on a \$1.8 billion loan to Wii. Fong has "good communication skills and is a very personable individual. Lishi is able to provide strong practical advice to client on transactions," says a client.

**DAISUKE FUKAMIZU, 38****Partner, Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu, Japan**

A white-collar crime and compliance expert, Fukamizu led the NO&T team representing Japanese steelmaker Kobe Steel on its global strategy for handling the various legal and regulatory issues arising from a series of data falsifications and/or fabrications in inspection results, a case which received a lot of attention in Japan and beyond. The firm coordinating the company's global investigations and regulatory responses, focusing on the historical background and root cause of the series of data falsifications and/or fabrications. A client calls Fukamizu "one of the best lawyers in the fields of white-collar crime and crisis management."

## GUNADARMA, 33

Partner, AYMP Atelier of Law, Indonesia

At age 29, transactional lawyer Gunadarma was appointed partner at AYMP, making him one of the youngest partners in an Indonesian law firm. Notable recent work has included acting as Indonesian legal counsel to Bangkok Bank on the loan of \$902 million to an Indonesian conglomerate for purchasing shares in one of the biggest mining businesses in Indonesia. "Gunadarma has consistently provided us with comprehensive, accurate and reliable opinions, as well as legal review, which has definitely had a significant impact on our daily works. We do appreciate his continued support," says a client.

## KOHE HASAN, 39

Partner, Reed Smith, Singapore

A former partner at Oon & Bazul – and head of that firm's Indonesia and Indochina practice groups – Hasan was the first female partner in the Singapore office of Reed Smith. She was instrumental in setting up the latter firm's Formal Law Alliance firm Resource Law. An energy expert, Hasan has a thriving practice across Southeast Asia. "She is our go-to lawyer on almost all our matters, be it dispute or transactional... With Kohe on your side, you can be sure to have an ace up your sleeve," says a client.

## KATE HODSON, 38

Partner, Ogier, Hong Kong

In 2015, Hodson became the first female partner in Ogier's Hong Kong office and the youngest partner in the firm. A PE specialist, she is one of a handful of offshore lawyers with a significant Japan practice, advising Japanese managers on establishing Cayman Islands unit trust fund structures and GP/LP closed-ended fund structures. She "is one of the best lawyers I have ever worked with. Kate translates 'legal language' into 'commercial business language' very well. This has helped me a lot over the years," says a client.

## VAIBHAV KAKKAR, 36

Partner, L&L Partners, India

Kakkar became the youngest partner in L&L's history in 2013. Notable work has included representing the Tata group in two major deals – its coffee retail JV with Starbucks, and the recent military aerospace JV with Boeing. Kakkar works with the government and regulatory authorities on policy issues, and is also an expert on gaming and sports laws in India. A client says that "his commitment towards the client is exemplary, not to mention his skill, knowledge, and legal acumen."

## KUNAL KAPOOR, 39

Partner, Dentons Rodyk, Singapore

An energy expert, Kapoor has acted on the first floating regasification project in Asia – Nusantara regasification, represented the Asian Development Bank on the first combined heat and power project in Mongolia (CHP5), and advised more than \$15 billion worth of oil and gas offtakes, and structure finance/refinancing transactions as lead lawyer for commodity traders. Kapoor "can be relied on blindly, because he works in-depth on the project and rarely misses a point, which is very helpful in critical business deals like the ones we worked on together," says a client.

## AMITA KATRAGADDA, 36

Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, India

Katragadda's practice spans corporate, governance and disputes. She was the lead counsel for the \$12.9 billion sale of Essar Oil to a Rosneft, Trafigura and United Capital Partners, which was India's largest FDI transaction at the time. In 2017, she advised the Indian government on ONGC's acquisition of HPCL, and is currently the lead counsel on the strategic disinvestment of Air India. "Amita delivers real-time insights which enable us to make better decisions.

We know that when Amita is on job, we are getting the best legal advice in the country," says a client.

## ARCHANA KHOSLA, 38

Founder Partner, Vertices Partners, India



As one of the founders of up-and-coming Vertices Partners, Khosla heads the venture capital practice of the firm. She

also heads the human resources division, and is currently building a broad-based technology system for the firm to streamline the knowledge management aspects of the three-year-old firm specialising in private equity and venture capital, which has won numerous accolades in India and abroad. "Archana has been an instrumental member in setting the Firm and building the practices. The success of the firm today, has seen her play an integral part in it," says Vinayak Burman, Vertices' managing partner.

## MERYL KOH, 36

Director, Drew & Napier, Singapore

Koh's practice spans IP and dispute resolution. Notable recent work has included representing Ila Technologies, a company specialising in grown diamond technology, in a patent infringement suit; and successfully representing TWG Tea in a domain name dispute with a former officeholder. "Meryl is simply first-rate. She makes it a point to acquire complete mastery of the case, including the evidence, arguments and the law, no matter how complex the matter is. That and her boundless energy and enthusiasm point to a very bright future for her in advocacy," says Davinder Singh SC, Singapore's most celebrated litigator.

## SAYO KONDO TAKIZAWA, 37

Senior Vice President,  
The Blackstone Group, Japan

A former M&A lawyer with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and Shearman &

## FM proposes an increase in the minimum public shareholding requirement

1. **Background:** In view of the Government's goal to achieve a US\$ 5 trillion economy, the Finance Minister proposed a number of reforms to invigorate the Indian economy as part of the Union Budget 2019-2020 including a request to SEBI to consider increasing the minimum public shareholding ("MPS") thresholds for listed entities from 25% to 35%.

As expected, this announcement has led to a lot of speculation in the market as to the manner in which this change will be introduced and the timelines within which the companies will be required to achieve this. SEBI is examining the proposal and is likely to issue a discussion paper which will be followed by detailed regulations for this transition. News reports suggest that SEBI is in favour of deferring this until more research and impact analysis can be done.

2. **Rationale:** At the time of increasing the MPS threshold from 10% to 25%, the Department of Economic Affairs ("DEA") had issued a discussion paper explaining that a larger public float reduces the scope for price manipulation, leads to better price discovery and is an effective tool for redistribution of wealth in India. We expect a similar rationale to be provided for the further increase to 35%. Globally, there is no precedent for a 35% minimum public float. It typically ranges from 15%-25% in most countries.



**Shruti Zota**  
Partner



**Rebha Dakshini**  
Senior Associate

3. **Regulatory regime:** The requirement for every listed company to continuously maintain 25% public shareholding is set out under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 ("SCRR") and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("LODR"). Accordingly, both these legislations need to be amended to increase the MPS requirement to 35%.

4. **Implementation steps and timelines:** SEBI ought to give sufficient time to promoters to meet the MPS requirements. When the MPS threshold was increased to 25%, the process took many years with the DEA issuing a discussion paper in 2008 and the SCRR and listing agreement actually being amended in 2010. Listed entities (other than PSUs) were given a period of 3 years to comply with the revised norms.

5. **Divestment options:** We expect all currently available offloading options to continue but SEBI is likely to suggest some new mechanisms as well. SEBI may also implement a series of staggered increases in the forthcoming years in order to enable companies to reach the 35% MPS level.

6. **Negative impact:** The 2008 DEA discussion paper had cautioned that a very high public float could discourage closely held well-run profit making companies from going public or even promote delisting. Press articles already indicate that several listed MNC's will be considering delisting if the proposed MPS norms are brought into effect.

7. **Way forward:** Given previous interaction between the Government and regulatory agencies, it seems likely that if the Government is serious about this change, the same will be implemented, with the real debate being limited to the method and timeline for implementing the change. The substantial pushback anticipated may ensure more creative methods of increasing the MPS, or a significant period for implementing the change.

### TT&A

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Sterling, Kondo Takizawa currently advises on legal and compliance matters on private equity and real estate transactions in Japan as well as other jurisdictions in Asia, apart from advising on general regulatory and compliance matters for the Japan business. Notable deals have included Blackstone's acquisition of Ayumi Pharmaceutical Corporation, its first control private equity investment in Japan, from Unison Capital and M3. "Sayo has been very helpful in assessing the legal and regulatory issues in our transactions in Japan and the region," says a colleague.

### NICK KOUVARITAKIS, 34

LNG Practice Leader (Asia),  
Mayer Brown, Singapore

Kouvaritakis heads the LNG practice in Mayer Brown's Singapore office. He has helped spur the evolution of multi-user terminal use agreements, which provide open access to gas customers in countries

where monopoly was the norm. He effectively helped several countries break up LNG importer monopoly and, through the open use terminal framework, provided open access to LNG terminals. "Nick is a star and a valuable player in our team... he has intimate industry knowledge of the LNG sector and is disciplined and thorough in his work," says a colleague.

### HANS ADIPUTRA KURNIAWAN, 31

Senior Associate, Walalangi & Partners,  
Indonesia

Kurniawan was a key lawyer assisting in the integration of HSBC's Jakarta branch with Bank Ekonomi, in particular leading the seamless transition of more than 300 transaction documents. He has also been counsel to Nippon Steel, Sumitomo Metal Corporation and Osaka Steel Corporation in their investment of more than \$500 million in Indonesia, and counsel to Mitsubishi Corporation in its \$350 million Vasanta InnoPark urban

development project in West Java. Luky Walalangi, managing partner of the firm, calls him "one of the most talented young corporate lawyers I ever worked with."

### YONGMIN LEE, 37

Partner, Yulchon, Korea

Lee is an intellectual property practitioner whose practice spans a range of areas - patents, designs, trademarks, copyrights, software, trade secret, unfair competition, entertainment, sports, IP risk management, IP licensing and transactions, IP compliance, digital evidence analysis and more. His client roster is equally impressive, including names like Amgen, POSCO, Netflix, Samsung Group, SK Group, LG Group, Lotte Group, Hanwha Group, Hyundai Autron, Mirae Corporation and more. "Mr. Lee is always prepared. Mr. Lee is always prepared to answer our question and provide the most desirable solution for our legal problems," says a client.

## JOSEPH ANTHONY LOPEZ, 39

Partner, Villaraza & Angangco, Philippines

A dispute resolution practitioner, Lopez has handled several newsworthy cases in the Philippines. He is currently the partner-in-charge representing China Telecommunications Corporation in a dispute before the Philippine Supreme Court related to the selection process of the New Major Player in the Philippine telecommunications industry. Lopez was also the partner-in-charge in a suit filed against BDO Unibank involving its "Jose Velarde" Account, the opening of which initiated the impeachment proceedings against former Philippine President Joseph Estrada for being an alias account of the former President. "Atty. Lopez is a darn amazing litigation lawyer," says a client.

## KARTICK MAHESHWARI, 38

Partner, Khaitan & Co., India

A corporate/M&A partner at Khaitan since 2014, Maheshwari is member of the firm's insolvency group that has advised stakeholders in more than 20 cases. He leads the firm's China Desk, and regularly gives feedback to regulators on policy matters. Notable work has included acting for Vedanta on its \$7 billion acquisition of Cairn India, and advising the Metrod Group on its acquisition of the Hotel Leela Goa – a complex distressed buyout transaction. "Kartick is hands-on, has an elephantine memory, and quick on the uptake... he would be our counsel of first choice," says a client.

## EUGENE MAN, 39

Partner, White & Case, Hong Kong

Apart from heading White & Case's banking and restructuring practice for the Asia-Pacific, Man also acts as executive partner for the Hong Kong office. Notable work has included MGM China's debut \$1.5 billion senior notes offering, financing for acquisition of Euromoney's GMID by CITIC

Capital and Caixin Global, financings for Reignwood Group, loan for acquisition of HG Storage International, financing for privatisation of CWT by HNA, \$1.2 billion senior secured notes and HK\$233 million Super-senior revolving credit facility for Studio City Macau, and an aggregate \$24.15 billion of financings for Alibaba Group Holding.

## JASON NELMS, 39

Partner, Morrison & Foerster, Singapore

Nelms focuses on advising Asia-based and U.S. sponsors and investors in the structuring, formation, and offering of private investment funds, including private equity funds, real estate funds, hedge funds, co-investment vehicles, and other alternative investment products. Notable work has included representing Global Logistic Properties, in the establishment of the largest-ever Japan-focused logistics private real estate fund, and advising IndoSpace on the formation of IndoSpace Logistics Parks III, its \$580 million India-focused industrial real estate fund. "I regard Jason as an A+ player in the industry. Jason's work is extremely thorough and detailed," says a client.

## VINCENT NG, 38

General Counsel, Klook, Hong Kong

Formerly with Magic Circle firm Freshfields, Deutsche Bank and Hyatt, Ng was the first lawyer hired by e-commerce website Klook, and established its legal and compliance function. Now the 10-member Klook provides legal support in all aspects of the company's affairs, encompassing all areas including cybersecurity, data privacy, corporate finance, partnership, consumer protection, intellectual property, payment, tax, employment and regulatory compliance. "Klook takes pride in providing the best experiences to its customers, and in this endeavour, we are very proud to have a growth-driven and solution-oriented legal team led by Vincent to provide the vital support we need," says the company's CEO.

## NGUYEN ANH HAO, 39

Partner, VILAF, Vietnam

A corporate lawyer, Nguyen has acted on a variety of deals, including advising Mondelez International in its acquisition of Kinh Do Corporation; advising CapitaLand, Jen Capital and Keppel Land in acquiring real estate projects in Vietnam; advising KrisEnergy, a regional upstream oil and gas company with Vietnam petroleum assets on its IPO and listing on SGX; and advising Dragon Capital in an investment in a mining project. "He has an immense understanding of the Vietnamese legal and regulatory environment, which is very helpful to in-house counsel outside of Vietnam," says a client.

## JIHO PARK, 38

Partner, Yoon & Yang, Korea

Park's practice spans capital markets and financial regulations, among others. Since last year, lawyers in Korea have been playing an increasing role in dealing with capital market sanctions procedures, and Park has made a name for himself in this field, appearing in multiple sanctions cases. He has also advised a major cryptocurrency company, and successfully defended the management of a company in a dispute over corporate control. Park "possesses the passion and drive of an in-house lawyer and his responses are swift and quick-witted in counter-arguments and negotiations with opposing parties," says a client.

## GANESH RAO, 36

Partner, Trilegal, India



Rao, who was previously with Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, and AZB & Partners, has focused on asset management and funds his entire career. Since joining Trilegal in August last year, he has built a standalone practice, which currently has one other partner, four

senior lawyers and four associates. The team as advised over \$6 billion worth of commitments (either as GP or LP counsel) to funds investing in and around India. "His knowledge of the regulations coupled with his clear, practical, solution-oriented advice has stood out and ensured that we keep giving him more work," says a client.

## CINDY SHEK, 37

Partner, King & Wood Mallesons, Hong Kong

Shek is a dedicated funds specialist on the full spectrum of funds, including ETFs, SFC authorised funds, approved pooled investment funds, private equity funds, property funds, cross-border funds, Segregated Portfolio Company (SPCs), and hedge funds. She also regularly advises on compliance, regulatory and licensing issues. Among other work, she advised JP Morgan in 2015 on the first batch approval of the public fund

JP Morgan Asian Total Return Bond Fund with the CSRC for public offering in Mainland China under the Hong Kong and Mainland China Mutual Recognition of Funds scheme.

## JOEL SHEN, 39

Foreign counsel, Christian Teo & Partners,  
Indonesia

Shen, who is currently on secondment to Christian Teo & Partners from Stephenson Harwood in Singapore, heads the technology and growth capital practice group at the Indonesian firm, a practice that he built almost from the ground up. Notable recent work has included acting as lead counsel for Indonesian e-commerce unicorn Tokopedia in its acquisition of online marketplaces Bridestory and Parentstory. "We would consider him one of the leading fintech lawyers in Indonesia today. The financial services and financial technology sectors

in Indonesia are highly regulated verticals, and Joel's knowledge is unparalleled," says a client.

## VERONICA SITUMORANG, 37

Managing Partner, Situmorang & Partners,  
Indonesia

In her six years with her current firm, Situmorang has grown it to become one of the top mid-sized law firms in Indonesia; it was named as one of *ALB's Indonesia Firms to Watch* (see Page 30). Notable work as a lawyer has included advising Mitsui Chemicals Agro on acquiring an Indonesia target company, advising the subsidiary of Pegasus Global Express on its merger with a Japanese-invested investment company, and advising state-owned company Wijaya Karya about Jakarta-Bandung high-speed rail project. "She not only understands the law, but also the business aspects," says a client.

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As Thailand Partner and the founding member of the Bangkok office of Nishimura & Asahi, Jirapong advises on a wide range of international corporate finance, M&A transactions, joint ventures, foreign direct investments and restructurings. His expertise is advising, structuring and leading complex transactions both within and outside of Thailand. He regularly represents, among others, Thai, Japanese and international investors, international investment banks, international private equity investors, hedge funds, international corporations and financial institutions.

His main areas of practice include public and private M&As, legal due diligence, fund raising, listings, block trades, stock exchange and securities exchange related laws, restructuring of shareholdings and general corporate advice. His additional areas of practice also cover banking and finance, renewable energy in Japan and Thailand, exchange control law, labour law, and debt restructurings. Before setting up the Bangkok office of Nishimura & Asahi in 2013, he worked with Linklaters for more than nine years.

Jirapong obtained LLB with Honours from Thammasat University in 2004 and obtained LLM in Corporate and Securities Laws with High Merits from London School of Economics in 2009.

He is also a registered arbitrator of the Thai Arbitration Institute (TAI) with the areas of expertise in corporate M&A, joint venture, banking and finance, capital markets, debt restructurings and energy.

## JIRAPONG SRIWAT, 38

Partner, Nishimura & Asahi, Thailand



Jirapong is a founding member of the Bangkok office of Nishimura & Asahi, having helped the Japanese Big Four firm set up its branch in the Thai capital in 2013. He has led the firm's Thai practice since then. His practice spans corporate/M&A, private equity, capital markets, banking, finance regulations, natural resources and energy. Additionally, Jirapong gives lectures and seminars on company law, M&A, joint ventures and finance-related matters to law students, as well as the business community. He also supports law students of Thammasat University who face financial difficulties.

## BENJAMIN TAY, 37

Partner, Rajah & Tann, Singapore

Tay has been involved in some of the most significant commercial and industrial real estate transactions in Singapore. This year, he acted for Gaw Capital Partners in the S\$1.6 billion (\$1.15 billion) acquisition by a consortium comprising Gaw Capital Partners and Allianz Real Estate of Ophir-Rochor Commercial, the owner of Duo Tower. Last year, he acted for Facebook's acquisition of a S\$1.4 billion data centre in Singapore, its first in Asia. Tay is "a bright star and future leader in Singapore real estate. He is a highly intelligent and meticulous individual," says a colleague.

## JIRAPAT THAMMAVARANUCPT, 32

Senior Associate,

Weerawong, Chinnavat & Partners, Thailand



A projects specialist, Jirapat was entrusted by the Thai government as a key drafter of the new PPP law, which was enacted by parliament on March 10 this year.

This new PPP law will be a main tool for the Thai government to significantly improve infrastructural development throughout the country, including infrastructure projects like airports, high-speed railway, ports, public hospitals and schools. He was additionally engaged by the government on the development of six backbone infrastructure projects for Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). In developing these six mega projects (comprising high-speed railway connecting three airports, U-tapao airport, Laemchabang port, Maptaphut port, Digital Park Thailand and MRO Centre Project, the EEC has undertaken PPPs, and Weerawong has been entrusted to lead all six mega projects including drafting and negotiating concession agreements for these projects. These projects will combine to develop the country's economy under the Thailand 4.0 initiative. "Jirapat is one of the few lawyers that I can trust in handling mega infrastructure projects. He always strives to improve the PPP standard in Thailand," says a client.

## YUWADDEE THEAN-NGARM, 38

Director, Tilleke & Gibbins, Myanmar

Yuwadee moved to Tilleke's Bangkok office to Yangon in 2013. Under her leadership, the firm's Myanmar presence has grown from a small branch office into a full-service law firm with 11 fee-earners. For the last three years, she has served as the secretary-general of the Thai Business Association of Myanmar. Notable clients of Yuwadee include Myanmar Information Highway, a joint venture between a major Thai telecommunications conglomerate and local Myanmar companies, which has retained her in a range of corporate matters relating to their telecommunications operations in Myanmar and the expansion of a fibre-optic network.

## ABHISHEK NATH TRIPATHI, 37

Managing Partner,

Sarthak Advocates & Solicitors, India

Tripathi has been advising on the

insolvency resolution process, corporate debt restructuring and strategic debt restructuring. He has also been involved in key M&A, private equity and structured finance deals, such as the issuance of listed non-convertible debentures by Hindustan Power Group to the tune of \$120 million to Bank of America and Farallon; private equity investment of \$250 million in Moser Baer's photovoltaic cell manufacturing business in a series of two investments, and the raising of \$500 million by DLF in a series of structured finance deals with Lehman Brothers.

## WONYOUNG (KARYN) YOO, 38

Attorney, Kim & Chang, Korea

Yoo specialises in international arbitration and cross-border litigation. Notable cases of hers include being the lead associate in a dispute representing a Korean shipbuilding company in a London-seated ad hoc arbitration in a dispute arising out of ten shipbuilding contracts. The dispute involved complex questions of law and fact, including English laws on frustration and Korean insolvency laws. According to a client, Yoo "definitely highlights the next generation of arbitration in Korea. She is bright and diligent. She... is always ready to go the extra mile to win," says a colleague.

## ANDREW ZAW, 39

Local Principal,

Baker McKenzie Wong & Leow, Singapore

Zaw's main areas of practice are in the project financing of oil and gas, power, mining and infrastructure projects. Notable recent work has included advising Vena Energy (formerly known as Equis) in relation to a 60 MW Tolo Wind Farm Project in Jenepoto, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, including negotiating the \$120 million financing arranged by Asian Development Bank, and representing the same client in relation to the \$55 million financing by ADB of the 4 solar power projects located in Sulawesi and Lombok, Indonesia. A colleague praises Zaw's "strong technical skills and commercial savvy." 



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*“Excellent, not only in the legal part, but also in terms of the commercial and negotiation aspects as well.”*



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