Asia Pacific Institute of Experts

APIEx Symposium 2026

Expert Evidence in Action: From Appointment to Impact in Arbitration and Litigation

Singapore University of Social Sciences, 463 Clementi Road, Singapore 599494
27 November 2026, 9.00am – 6.00pm (Singapore time, GMT+8)

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Symposium Synopsis

In complex disputes across Asia Pacific, expert evidence frequently determines the outcome—yet tribunals continue to criticise how experts are selected, instructed and deployed. Poorly framed instructions, blurred independence, and misaligned expectations between counsel and expert can undermine even the strongest cases.

This Symposium brings together leading lawyers, experts and judges/arbitrators to examine what actually works in practice. Anchored in recent judicial and arbitral commentary from Singapore and across the region, the programme moves beyond theory to confront the strategic, procedural and ethical challenges in engaging expert evidence.

Through a combination of keynote insights, candid panel discussions and live mock engagements, participants will explore the full lifecycle of expert involvement—from initial instruction and scoping, to joint statements, concurrent evidence, and tribunal scrutiny. The mock sessions will deliberately showcase both flawed and effective approaches, followed by rigorous critique from seasoned judges/arbitrators.

Designed for dispute professionals (whether experienced or aspiring), this Symposium provides a rare opportunity to dissect real-world pitfalls, benchmark best practices, and refine the lawyer–expert interface in high-stakes proceedings.

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how to instruct experts in a manner that enhances credibility, withstands cross-examination, and ultimately strengthens the persuasiveness of their case. (This year, we will conduct a special run of the **APIEx International Accreditation Course for Expert Witnesses** on 28th November 2026) the day after the Symposium) and offer a **special 20% discount off** the Accreditation Course (with examination) for delegates who sign up for both.

Who Should Attend

- Disputes lawyers (litigation & arbitration)
- Expert witnesses (quantum, delay, technical disciplines)
- Arbitrators and adjudicators
- In-house counsel managing complex disputes

Distinguished Speakers

Featuring a distinguished faculty from Singapore, Australia and Malaysia of:

- Senior judges and international arbitrators
- Leading disputes counsel
- Experienced testifying experts across key disciplines

Interactive Format

This is not a passive conference.
Participants will engage through:

- **Live audience polling**
- **Real-time critique of mock sessions**
- **Open Q&A with tribunal members**

Key Takeaways

By the end of the Symposium, participants will:

- Understand how to instruct experts effectively
- Avoid common pitfalls that damage credibility
- Align expert evidence with tribunal expectations
- Enhance the persuasiveness and impact of expert testimony

Registration Fees

	REGISTRATION FEES (SYMPOSIUM ONLY)
APIEx Member	**S$450.00**
Member of:	**S$550.00**
1. Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) Panel	
2. Institute of Valuers and Appraisers, Singapore (IVAS)	
3. Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA)	
4. Society of Construction Law (Singapore) (SCL(S))	
5. Society of Construction law (Malaysia) (SCL(M))	
6. Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SIArb)	
Expert on IPOS' List of Experts	**S$550.00**
Participant from Corporate Member or Sponsor of International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) Asia	**S$550.00**
Others	**S$650.00**

SILE ACCREDITED CPD ACTIVITY

Practice Area:
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Training Level: **General**
Public CPD Points: **6**

SILE Attendance Policy

Participants who wish to obtain CPD Points are reminded that they must comply strictly with the Attendance Policy set out in the CPD Guidelines. For this activity, this includes signing in on arrival and signing out at the conclusion of the activity in the manner required by the organiser, and not being absent from the entire activity for more than 15 minutes. Participants who do not comply with the Attendance Policy will not be able to obtain CPD Points for attending the activity. Please refer to http://www.silecpdcentre.sg for more information.

REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE APIEX SYMPOSIUM HERE!

A **20% discount** applies for participants who register for the Symposium and the APIEx International Accreditation Course for Expert Witnesses (with examination) on 28 Nov 2026

Symposium Programme

Time	Description
0845	**Registrations**
0900	**Welcome Address: President, APIEx**
0915	**Keynote Address: "What Tribunals Really Think: Judicial Perspectives on Expert Evidence Failures"** **Dato Mary Lim Thiam Suan – President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration, Malaysia** Our Keynote Speaker shares candid insights into how tribunals assess expert evidence, common failings, and what distinguishes credible, persuasive testimony.
0945	**Tea Break**
1015	**The Instruction Lab: Aligning Lawyer Strategy with Expert Independence** An interactive exchange between leading counsel, experts and arbitrators exploring the critical early phase of expert engagement. This session includes live audience polling and participation. **Co-Moderator** • **Mr. Geoff Green** – External Relations Liaison for Australia, **Asia Pacific Institute of Experts**; **Harbourside Advisory Pty Ltd**, Australia • **Mr. Paul Heath** – Chief Executive Officer, **Expert Experts**; Chief Executive Officer, **Earning Capacity Assessments**, Australia **Panellists** • **Dr. Mimi Gao** – Managing Director, **Sea & Gao Pte Ltd**, Singapore • **Mr. Naresh Mahtani** – Director, **Adelphi Law Chambers LLC**, Singapore • **Mr. Soh Lieh Sieng** - Founding Partner, **Contract Solutions-i Group**, Malaysia • **Mr. Kuhendran Thanapalasingam** – Partner, **Zul Rafique & Partners**, Malaysia
1145	**Moderated Q&A / Views from the Audience**
1200	**Lunch**
1300	**Afternoon Keynote: "The Admissibility and Persuasiveness of Expert Evidence – the Australian Experience"** **The Honorable Justice Bruce Smith - Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia**
1315	**Mock Engagement (Negative Demos): "A Case Study in Failure: How Not to Instruct an Expert"** This session features live dramatisation of flawed expert engagements, exposing common pitfalls that undermine credibility and effectiveness. **Counsel:** **Mr. Wong Siew Hong** - Partner, **Eldan Law LLP**, Singapore **Expert:** **Mr. Bruce Debenhem** – Principal, **BFD Advisory**, Australia
1350	**Mock Engagement (Positive Demo): "From Instruction to Impact: A Model Expert Engagement"** This session features a contrasting demonstration of best practices in expert instruction, showcasing how to align strategy with independence. **Counsel:** **Mr. Yeo Chuan Tat** – Head (Law Programmes) and Senior Lecturer, **Singapore University of Social Sciences School of Law**; Counsel, **Breakpoint LLC**, Singapore **Expert:** **Ms. Jenny Teo** – Treasurer, **APIEx**; Head of Forensic Accounting - South East Asia, **McLarens Singapore Pte Ltd**
1405	**Moderated Q&A / Views from the Audience**
1420	**Overview of the SCL(S) Protocol for the Use of Experts' Joint Statements in Arbitration** **Mr. Kelvin Teo** - Director, **Drew & Napier LLC**; Council Member, **Society of Construction Law** (Singapore)
1435	**Break**
1500	**Closing Panel: "Tribunal Test: Would This Evidence Survive Scrutiny?"** Our distinguished panel of Judges and arbitrators critique the mock scenarios and assess whether the expert evidence would withstand tribunal scrutiny. Further, the panel offer their views and advice to experts and counsel on expert evidence and effective use of experts based on their extensive and varied experience. **Moderator:** **Prof Leslie Chew SC** – President, **APIEx**; Dean, School of Law, **Singapore University of Social Sciences**; Consultant, **Peter Low Chambers LLC** **Panellists:** • **Dato Mary Lim Thiam Suan** – **President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration**, Malaysia • **Sir Vivian Ramsey** – International Judge, **Singapore International Commercial Court** • **The Honourable Justice Bruce Smith** – **Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia** • **Mr. Johnny Tan** – Independent Arbitrator, **Singapore**
1625	**Moderated Q&A / Views from the Audience**
1640	**Closing Address:** **Sir Vivian Ramsey** – International Judge, **Singapore International Commercial Court**
1655	**Appreciation Ceremony for Term Sponsors**
1700	 **Networking Cocktails** **Connect with speakers and delegates in a relaxed setting.**

About the Keynote & Featured Speakers



Dato Mary Lim Thiam Suan
President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration, Malaysia

Justice Dato Mary Lim Thiam Suan, retired judge of the Federal Court of Malaysia is the President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration.

She holds LLB (Hons) and LL.M degrees; is an Honorary Bencher of The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn; Adjunct Professor at Taylor's University, Malaysia; Member of the Special Advisory Committee of the Permanent Forum on China Construction Law [PFCCL]; Member of the UNDP Advisory Working Group on Judicial Integrity Network; Fellow of the International Academy of Construction Lawyers; Member of the Editorial Board of the Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (APRAG); Member of the Committee for the Reform of Contract Law, Malaysia; Chairperson of the Code Administration Committee [Central Bank]; Member of Special Task Force to Facilitate Business and Co-Chair for the Technical Working Group of Dispute Resolution; Judge of the Bahrain International Commercial Court; Judge of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts.

The Honorable Justice Bruce Smith
Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia

Justice Bruce Smith was appointed to the now Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia Division 2 in 2018. He was elevated to Division 1 (formerly the Family Court of Australia) in 2022. He practiced at the Sydney Bar from 1998 following four years as a solicitor.

He holds Bachelors degrees in Commerce and Laws (University of New South Wales 1991) and a Master of Laws (University of Sydney 1997). He was tipstaff and associate to Justices J. Bryson and R. Smart of the Supreme Court of New South Wales (1992-93). From 2001 to 2018 he was a director of an expert witness agency.



Sir Vivian Ramsey
International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court

Until 2014, Justice Ramsey served for nine years on the bench as a Judge of the High Court (King's Bench Division) of England and Wales, including a three-year period as Judge in charge of the Technology and Construction Court. He was also judge in charge of the implementation of the Jackson Reforms in the courts in England and Wales from 2012 to 2014.

He was educated in England and the United States, and then studied Engineering Science and Economics at Oxford before becoming a chartered civil engineer. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2013.

In 1979, he was called to the English Bar after studying law at the City University and Inns of Court School of Law. He was appointed a King's Counsel in 1992 and a Bencher of Middle Temple in 2002. Before his appointment to the bench, he specialised internationally in the area of construction, engineering and technology disputes both in international arbitration and in courts outside the UK. He is the co-editor of Keating on Construction Contracts, now in its 10th edition. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Dickson Poon School of Law at King's College, London.

About the Panellists / Speakers / Moderators



Prof. Leslie Chew SC
President, **APIEx**; Dean, School of Law, **Singapore University of Social Sciences;** Consultant, **Peter Low Chambers LLC**

Professor Leslie Chew, SC is a Consultant at Peter Low Chambers. With a prolific career spanning some 45 years of legal experience, Professor Chew has spent seven years in the judiciary as a Senior District Judge and has the distinction of being appointed Senior Counsel by the Supreme Court – Singapore's equivalent of the Queen's Counsel in England – in 2000. Professor Chew's main practice area is at the Commercial Bar. Professor Chew is an Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1981. He is also a Solicitor of England & Wales. Professor Chew is an accomplished commercial arbitrator and has practiced as an arbitrator and arbitration counsel since 1993. He has written on Medical Law, Arbitration and Technology.



Mr. Bruce Debenham
Principal, **BFD Advisory**, Australia

Mr. Bruce Debenham is a banking and finance expert witness with over 30 years' experience in credit risk, lending practices, and financial services regulation. He has been engaged in more than twenty-five expert witness matters over the past decade, appearing in the Australian Federal Court, multiple State Supreme Courts, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the High Court of Singapore, and the Supreme Court of New Zealand. He has also been cross examined in both Australia and Singapore. Mr. Debenham's expertise is grounded in senior roles at PwC and National Australia Bank, where he specialised in credit risk and management of non performing loans. Between 2015 and 2025, he was a partner at Perks Business Advisers where he was responsible for managing the finance broking team. In May 2025 he founded BFD Advisory, providing independent expert reports in banking and finance disputes, and serves on ASIC and AFCA panels.



Dr. Mimi Gao
Managing Director, **Sea & Gao Pte Ltd**

Dr. Mimi Gao is a Naval Architect and a Chartered Engineer with a PhD and Bachelor's degree in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering. She specializes in the scientific investigation of marine and offshore casualties and incidents, using advanced numerical methods and high-performance computing. She acts as an expert witness and advises on design disputes in arbitrations and court proceedings across multiple international jurisdictions, including the UK, Singapore, New Zealand, Denmark, and Hong Kong. Mimi is a panel arbitrator of the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA), a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (FSIArb) and a supporting member of the London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA).



Mr. Geoff Green
Harbourside Advisory Pty Ltd; External Relations Liaison for Australia, **Asia Pacific Institute of Experts**

Mr. Geoff Green is a Chartered Accountant and former registered liquidator, a Fellow and former National Board member of ARITA, and a member of the BFSLA Conference Planning committee. As External Relations Liaison for Australia he is working to establish an Australian Chapter of APIEx. He has significant banking experience with ANZ and NAB, and has given evidence to Senate and Joint Parliamentary Inquiries in Australia. He now works providing debt advisory/finance broking advice and acting as an expert in banking and financial restructuring matters. He has been engaged as an expert in more than 50 matters providing sole reports, joint reports and giving evidence concurrently; and his evidence has been accepted without challenge (other than for admissibility), or preferred/adopted, in the Federal Court of Australia, Victorian Supreme Court, NSW Supreme Court, NSW Land and Environment Court, and the Singapore International Court.



Mr. Paul Heath
Chief Executive Officer, **Expert Experts**; Chief Executive Officer, **Earning Capacity Assessments. Australia**

Mr. Paul Heath commenced practice as a solicitor in New South Wales Australia in 1994. He practised with a major national firm across a range of personal injury lines including CTP, Workers Compensation and Civil Liability, as well in Professional Indemnity. He moved to a national commercial litigation firm where he undertook major D&O litigation on behalf of Insurers. Paul has worked for Expert Experts since 2006 and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Expert Experts and Earning Capacity Assessments.



Mr. Naresh Mahtani
Director, **Adelphi Law Chambers LLC**

Mr. Naresh Mahtani, FSIArb, FCIArb, has been in legal practice for about 35 years, in dispute resolution in construction and oil and gas projects, as counsel and advisor, as well as arbitrator, adjudicator and mediator in various institutional and ad hoc cases. He is in active practice as an independent arbitrator, adjudicator and mediator in the region. Amongst previous appointments, he was Chairman of the Society of Construction

Law, Singapore (2006 – 2008); Hon Secretary, Course Director and Lecturer of Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (2010-2018); a founding partner of leading firm ATMD Bird & Bird LLP; partner at construction law outfit Eldan Law LLP; and Chairman of the Appeals Board of the Council of Estate Agencies in Singapore. He has a keen interest in "New ADR" methods (such as expert determination, early neutral evaluation and probability analysis) to be used in conjunction with the more established procedures for more progressive means of resolving construction disputes.



Mr. Soh Lieh Sieng

Founding Partner, **Contract Solutions-i Group**, Malaysia

Mr. Soh Lieh Sieng has over 30 years of experience working for contractors, consultants and employers throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia Pacific and the Middle-East in engineering, construction and dispute resolution roles. He holds qualifications in both Civil Engineering and Law. He is a Chartered Building Engineer, Chartered Surveyor, Chartered Construction Manager, Accredited Project Manager, Certified Cost Engineer, accredited expert witness and a fellow of 10 professional institution in built environment and dispute resolutions. Lieh Sieng is the founder of the Contract Solutions-i ("CSi") Group, and served as the Group Managing Partner from 2012 to 2022. CSi is a construction industry dispute resolution consultancy, with offices in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong.



Mr. Johnny Tan

Independent Arbitrator

Mr. Johnny Tan obtained his first degree in Architecture from the University of Western Australia under the Colombo Plan Scholarship. He was a founding partner of LT&T Architects where he practised for almost 30 years. Johnny now practises as an independent arbitrator. He is a Past President of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SIArb), having served two terms as President from 2007 to 2011. Johnny is on the panel of several arbitration centres including SIAC, AIAC, HKIAC, DIAC, SCIA, LCIA, KCAB, JCAA, PIAC, NCAC, Russian Arbitration Centre and IIAM. He is a member of the Advisory Council to the National Commercial Arbitration Centre, Cambodia (NCAC). An accredited mediator with SIMI, Johnny is a Principal Mediator with several mediation centres including the SMC, CCPIT/CCOIC Mediation Centre, MHJMC, JIMC (Kyoto), IDDRMI, and SCMC. Johnny is an accredited adjudicator with the SMC, and sits on the SMC's Construction Adjudicator Accreditation Committee (CAAC) and the Singapore Infrastructure Dispute Protocol Advisory Committee. Johnny has held various positions in the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) and served as its Vice-President from 1998 to 2000. Johnny has been appointed as arbitrator in both institutional and ad hoc arbitration cases. He has also been appointed as adjudicator as well as review adjudicator in several adjudication applications.



Ms. Jenny Teo

Head of Forensic Accounting - South East Asia, **McLarens Singapore Pte Ltd**; Treasurer, **Asia Pacific Institute of Experts**

Ms. Jenny Teo has been involved in forensic accounting investigations since 2002. She has worked on numerous business interruption and fidelity losses of various scopes and sizes for lawyers and insurers in the Asia Pacific region. Jenny is also regularly appointed on commercial litigation disputes measuring economic losses/damages in breach of contract/tort and fraud investigations as well as analytical reviews of financial information, financial data mining, reconstruction of accounting records, and reconciliatory processes. She has also been involved in the valuation of business assets and equity for use in business planning, financing decisions and financial reporting. In terms of Court experience, Jenny has been involved in the preparation of expert accounting evidence and expert witness reports since 2004 for mediation, arbitration and trial on behalf of defendants and claimants on a wide variety of disputes. She has acted as an expert in commercial litigation disputes and submitted expert reports on the measurement of economic losses/damages. She has also provided expert witness testimony in Court; and assisted in mediation and settlement negotiations between parties. Jenny has prepared and presented in seminars, both physical and Webinars, to legal and insurance clients in Singapore and across Asia on various topics including economic losses assessments, business interruption, delayed loss of profits and fraud investigations.



Mr. Kelvin Teo

Director, **Drew & Napier LLC**; Council Member, **Society of Construction Law (Singapore)**

Mr. Kelvin Teo specialises in resolving complicated infrastructure, energy and resource disputes. Kelvin's practice focuses on renewable energy projects and sustainability. His sector expertise covers a variety of renewable projects such as solar, offshore wind, hydropower and geothermal projects. Kelvin's experience also covers nuclear power plants, refineries, mines, railways and expressways; civil works such as buildings, factories, soil remediation and foundation works, and even giant Ferris wheels. His practice includes advising on documentation for such projects. He has advised parties and projects in Singapore, France, Korea, Greater China, Taiwan, Middle East, Mongolia, Taiwan, Italy, Laos, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, US, Italy, and India, amongst others. Kelvin is a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and sits as an arbitrator, and has recently been recognised as a leading arbitration practitioner in The Legal 500 Arbitration Powerlist: Southeast Asia. He enjoys carrying out advocacy across the entire spectrum of dispute resolution - arbitration, adjudication, mediation, expert determination and evaluation, and litigation, both within and out of Singapore. Kelvin has been recognised by a number of legal directories for his expertise in construction and arbitration. He is also a thought-leader on construction law and arbitration practice issues and sits on a number of professional bodies and panels.



Mr. Kuhendran Thanapalasingam

Partner, **Zul Rafique & Partners**, Malaysia

Mr. Kuhendran Thanapalasingam is the head of Construction Dispute Resolution practice group. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom. He is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England & Wales and was admitted as an Advocate & Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 1992. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Kuhendran is principally involved in dispute resolution, particularly in construction and engineering related disputes. Apart from his experience in dispute resolution, he has also advised on different aspects of construction and engineering law. In addition, he has drafted and vetted various construction and engineering related contracts.



Mr. Wong Siew Hong

Partner, **Eldan Law LLP**

Mr. Wong Siew Hong graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1986 with an LLB (Hons) (Upper Class Division) and was admitted to the Singapore Bar in 1988. Siew Hong has more than two decades of experience in both civil and criminal litigation. He has advised on all aspects of infringement, anti-counterfeiting and litigation options in Singapore as well as around the ASEAN region. Siew Hong has in addition worked as a private investigator for intellectual property matters. Siew Hong is a Member of the Law Society of Singapore and the Singapore Academy of Law, Counsel to The Law Society of Singapore, Member of the Disciplinary Committees of the Supreme Court of Singapore and Adjunct Teacher on Advocacy at the Practical Law Course. He has received a long service award for his work as a member of the Ministry of Home Affairs' Criminal Law Advisory Committee.



Mr. Yeo Chuan Tat

Head (Law Programmes) and Senior Lecturer, **Singapore University of Social Sciences School of Law**; Counsel, **Breakpoint LLC**

Mr. Yeo Chuan Tat is an academic and a dispute resolution lawyer. He is Head (Law Programmes) and Senior Lecturer at the Singapore University of Social Sciences, School of Law. Chuan Tat teaches and conducts research in the following fields: legal ethics, trial advocacy, civil procedure, and various topics in international litigation and arbitration. Chuan Tat is Counsel at Breakpoint LLC. He previously practised in other leading Singapore and international dispute resolution practices. He has experience handling matters across a wide range of industry sectors. Chuan Tat is actively involved in the broader legal community, serving (or having served) on various committees in a number of legal organisations. Chuan Tat is admitted to practise law in Singapore, England & Wales, and the State of New York. He obtained his LL.B. from the National University of Singapore and a LL.M. from Columbia Law School.

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