

## Curriculum Vitae of Ambassador Rena Lee

Ambassador for International Law of the Republic of Singapore

Chief Executive, Intellectual Property Office of Singapore



### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Birth date 28 July 1969  
Nationality Singaporean

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION APPOINTMENTS

2024 – present **Member**  
Panel of Conciliators of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

*Singapore's designated member under Article 12 of the ICSID Convention.*

2022 – present **Member**  
Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

*Singapore's appointed member under Article 44 of the 1907 Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.*

2020 - present **Member**  
List of Arbitrators for the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanism

*Singapore's appointed member under Annex 4 of the Protocol.*

2018 – 2023 **President**  
United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

*Presided over the successful conclusion of negotiations over five years on a new international agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.*

2017 - 2022 **Member**  
Legal and Technical Commission of the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

*Contributed to the development of the draft regulations, standards and guidelines for mineral resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole, including regulations, standards and guidelines relating to protection of marine environment. Also reviewed annual reports submitted by contractors.*

## DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

2023 – present      **Ambassador for International Law**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore

*Represent Singapore at international law bodies and meetings, as well as participate in negotiations such as the Diplomatic Conference that adopted the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge.*

2018 – 2023      **Ambassador for Oceans and Law of the Sea Issues and Special Envoy of the Minister for Foreign Affairs**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore

*Discharged duties as the President of the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and represented Singapore at meetings on oceans and law of the sea, such as the UN Ocean Conference.*

2018 – 2020      **Minister-Counsellor**  
The Diplomatic Office in The Hague, Republic of Singapore

*Served as Singapore's first Minister-Counsellor at The Hague. Advised the Singapore Government on matters relating to international law, and dispute settlement institutions within and beyond the Hague, including the ICJ, PCA and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).*

## SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT SERVICE

2020 – present      **Chief Executive**  
Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)  
Ministry of Law, Republic of Singapore

*Collaborate with the World Intellectual Property Organisation and IP Offices internationally, regionally and bilaterally on issues relevant to the global IP ecosystem, including emerging issues such as frontier technology like AI. Participate in the continued development of systems under various IP treaties, including the Madrid Protocol on Trade Marks, the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Hague Agreement on Industrial Designs. Oversee the national IP regime, including initiatives relating to the utilisation of IP for business growth.*

2008 – 2018 **Senior State Counsel (2014 – 2018);  
Deputy Senior State Counsel (2008 – 2014)**  
International Affairs Division  
Attorney-General's Chambers, Republic of Singapore

*State negotiator in bilateral negotiations for boundary delimitation and defence cooperation agreements.*

*State negotiator in multilateral negotiations including the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of ASEAN, the Agreement to establish the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.*

*Advised on law of the sea and maritime law (including passage rights, freedom of navigation and overflight, activities in the exclusive economic zones and high seas, matters pertaining to the International Maritime Organization (IMO)), human rights law (including treaty reporting under the Universal Periodic Review, accession to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), diplomatic, consular and international organisation privileges and immunities (including negotiation of Host Country Agreements with the World Bank and INTERPOL).*

1992 – 2007 **Deputy Head, International & Operations Law (2001 – 2007);  
Senior Legal Counsel (1996 – 2001); Legal Officer (1992 – 1996)**  
Ministry of Defence, Republic of Singapore

*State negotiator for bilateral defence cooperation agreements, as well as multilateral instruments including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.*

*Advised on international humanitarian and operational law issues (including use of force, rules of engagement, accession to the Genocide Convention), disarmament law (including application of the Chemical Weapons Convention), law of the sea (including passage rights, freedom of navigation and overflight), status of forces agreements.*

## HONOURS

- 2024            **Elisabeth Haub Award for Environmental Law and Diplomacy**
- 2024            **World IP Review (WIPR) Diversity Top 100 – Influential Women of IP**
- 2024            **TIME Magazine’s Top 100 Most Influential People**
- 2023            **Public Administration Medal (Gold)**  
Prime Minister’s Office, Singapore
- 2019            **Public Administration Medal (Silver)**  
Prime Minister’s Office, Singapore

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- 1998            Master of Laws (LL.M)  
National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law
- 1992            Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)  
National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 1993            Member, Singapore Academy of Law

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Rena Lee (2021). *The Journey to Realisation*. In Myron H. Nordquist and Ronan Long (Eds.), *Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction*. Brill

Marise Cremona, David Kleimann, Joris Larik, Rena Lee, Pascal Vennesson (2015). *ASEAN’s External Agreements – Law, Practice and the Quest for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press

## SELECT RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- 2024            Dag Hammarskjold Lecture, “Reaching shore: Multilateralism and the Value of International Law”, Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, Uppsala, Sweden
- 2024            Keynote speech, International Law Association Singapore Lecture, “The Growing Access to International Law”, Singapore
- 2024            In Conversation: BBNJ Dispute Settlement provisions, ICJ, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2024            Presentation on IP Valuation and Financing, Third Belt and Road Intellectual Property Conference, Beijing, China

- 2024 Presentation on Innovations in Dispute Settlement, PCA Commemorative Event, Singapore
- 2024 Class on BBNJ, ASEAN Law and Policy Academy, Centre for International Law (CIL), Singapore
- 2024 Presentation on “Implementing the BBNJ Agreement”, International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) Plenary: Ensuring a Connected Future, Singapore
- 2023 Keynote Panel on “Leading Innovation for all”, ChIPs Global Summit, San Francisco, USA
- 2023 Presentation on “BBNJ Dispute Settlement”, ITLOS-ROK Workshop for Legal Advisers, online
- 2023 Presentation, Panel on “Reaching Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction”, American Society for International Law (ASIL) Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA
- 2023 Presentation on “International Negotiations”, Government Attorneys Interest Group, ASIL Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA
- 2023 Conversation “In Celebration of a new BBNJ Agreement” with Ambassador Tommy Koh, CIL, Singapore
- 2022 Various presentations, UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2022 Presentation, Conference on “UNCLOS at 40: An Assessment”, CIL, Singapore
- 2022 Keynote speech, IMO-World Maritime University (WMU) event on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the London Convention and Stockholm Declaration, online
- 2022 Discussion on Frontier Technologies and IP Administration, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Conversation, online
- 2022 Lecture on International Law making, CIL e-Academy, online
- 2022 Presentation, One Ocean Summit, Brest, France