

Curriculum Vitae of Ambassador Rena Lee
Ambassador for International Law of the
Republic 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 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**

Discharged duties as the President of the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas

2018 – 2023
(cont'd) *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 – 2025 **Chief Executive**

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)
Ministry of Law, Republic of Singapore

Collaborated 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, including AI. Participated 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

2008 – 2018
(cont'd) *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, 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), human rights law (including on treaty reporting under the Universal Periodic Review, accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination), diplomatic, consular and international organization 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 landmines and the Convention against Transnational Organised 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

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| 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

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| 1998 | Master of Laws (LL.M)
National University of Singapore |
| 1992 | Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)
National University of Singapore |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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| 1993 | Member, Singapore Academy of Law |
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SELECT PUBLICATIONS

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| 2015 | Marise Cremona, David Kleimann, Joris Larik, Rena Lee, Pascal Vennesson (2015). <i>ASEAN’s External Agreements – Law, Practice and the Quest for Collective Action</i> . Cambridge University Press |
| 2021 | The Journey to Realisation. In Myron H. Nordquist and Ronan Long (Eds.), <i>Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction</i> . Brill |

SELECT RECENT PRESENTATIONS

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| 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, 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, Centre for International
Law, 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 50th Anniversary of the London
Convention and Stockholm Declaration, online

- 2022 Discussion on Frontier Technologies and IP
Administration, WIPO Conversations, online

- 2022 Lecture on International Law making, CIL e-Academy,
online

- 2022 Presentation, One Ocean Summit, Brest, France

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