

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 appear in legal proceedings before international courts/tribunals. 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 – 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 like 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. Oversaw 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.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

2025 – present **Chairperson**
Governing Board, Centre for International Law (CIL)
National University of Singapore (NUS)

Chair of the governing body of CIL, a leading research institute for the promotion and development of international law.

2025 – present **Member**
Expert Group on the Future Development of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The Expert Group is tasked with reflecting on the PCA's historical contributions, evaluating its contemporary relevance, and charting a strategic course for its future, and will report its findings and recommendations to the PCA Secretary-General.

HONOURS

2025 **Knight of the National Order of Merit (Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite)**
President of the French Republic

2024 Manley-Bendall Maritime Personality of the Year (Prix Personnalité maritime de Pannée)
French Maritime Academy (Académie de marine)

2024 **Elisabeth Haub Award for Environmental Law and Diplomacy**
World IP Review (WIPR) Diversity Top 100 – Influential Women of IP

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

2025 Honorary Doctorate of Laws (LL.D.)
University of Aberdeen

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 (2025). The Institutionalisation of International Law in a Multipolar World. *The Cambridge International Law Journal*, Vol. 14(2), 267 – 277.

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

2026 Opening address, International Law Year in Review 2026 Conference, Centre for International Law (CIL), Singapore

2025 Keynote speech, Annual Conference 2025, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea (NCLoS), Tromsø, Norway

Lecture, 2025 Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy, Rhodes, Greece

Inaugural lecture, International Law of the Sea Summer Academy, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Keynote address, “Systemic Integration of Climate Change in International Law“, Climate Change Conference, CIL and Durham Centre for Sustainable Development Law and Policy (CSDLP), Singapore

Panellist, “The Role of International Courts and Tribunals in Strengthening Multilateralism”, Singapore Office of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), Singapore

Panellist, “Roundtable Discussion on the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and the BBNJ Agreement“, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, New York, USA

Keynote fireside chat, American Society of International Law (ASIL) 2025 Midyear Meeting, Cleveland, USA

Closing keynote speech, Second ASIL Abroad Meeting, Singapore

Keynote speech, “International Humanitarian Law and the Governance of Emerging Technologies”, UNIDIR-RSIS Regional Consultation on the Application of IHL to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Singapore

Keynote address, International Law Year in Review 2025 Conference, CIL, Singapore

- 2024
- Presentation, “Participation in International Law and the Multilateral Approach to Justice”, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden Law School, The Hague, Netherlands
- Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture, “Reaching shore: Multilateralism and the Value of International Law”, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, Sweden
- Keynote speech, International Law Association Singapore Lecture, “The Growing Access to International Law”, Singapore
- In Conversation: BBNJ Dispute Settlement provisions, ICJ, The Hague, Netherlands
- Presentation on IP Valuation and Financing, Third Belt and Road Intellectual Property Conference, Beijing, China
- Presentation on Innovations in Dispute Settlement, PCA Commemorative Event, Singapore
- Class on BBNJ, ASEAN Law and Policy Academy, CIL, Singapore
- 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
- Presentation on “BBNJ Dispute Settlement”, ITLOS-ROK Workshop for Legal Advisers, online
- Presentation, Panel on “Reaching Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction”, ASIL Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA
- Presentation on “International Negotiations”, Government Attorneys Interest Group, ASIL Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA
- Conversation “In Celebration of a new BBNJ Agreement” with Ambassador Tommy Koh, CIL, Singapore
