

CONSTANCE ZHAO

Partner·Singapore

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PRACTICE AREA

CONSTANCE SPECIALISES IN CROSS-BORDER DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

Education

- Singapore Management University, LL.B (Hons)
- Tsinghua University, LL.M (International Arbitration and Dispute Settlement)

Professional Qualification

- Admitted to practice in Singapore (2012)
- Admitted to practice in England and Wales (2017)
- Passed Hong Kong OLQE (2024)

Work Language

- English
- Mandarin

Professional Background

- Before joining Fangda Partners, Constance worked in another Red Circle law firm for eight years, including spending a number of years in their Beijing office and previously worked in a leading law firm in Singapore. In addition to her private practice experience, Constance previously worked in Singapore's Ministry of Law, International Legal Department.

Constance is a specialist in cross-border dispute resolution and international arbitration. She has represented clients in international arbitration proceedings under the SIAC, ICC, HKIAC, CIETAC Rules and in ad hoc arbitrations under the UNCITRAL Rules. She has extensive experience across a range of sectors and industries, including energy, technology, manufacturing and construction.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS AND CASES

- Represented a group of Chinese companies together with local counsel, in parallel Singapore International Arbitration Center (SIAC) arbitration seated in Singapore, and Singapore High Court proceedings in an intellectual property dispute, involving claims of breach of confidence, conspiracy, unjust enrichment and intellectual property infringement
- Represented a Chinese State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) in a USD1.3 billion UNCITRAL ad hoc arbitration, seated in Singapore, with an Indonesian SOE, in relation to a turnkey construction project of a blast furnace in Indonesia, involving claims of alleged corruption and defects
- Represented a Chinese energy SOE in an ICC arbitration arising from a joint venture dispute relating to a multi-billion-dollar nuclear power plant
- Represented one of the largest Chinese online social media companies in USD 2 billion parallel arbitrations in Netherlands Arbitration Institute (NAI) and CIETAC relating to disputes arising from a failed joint venture and technology licensing agreements
- Represented a Chinese company in a CIETAC Hong Kong arbitration arising from an international sale of goods contract under the CISG, for the supply of trucks to a foreign government, involving issues of force majeure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Acted as lead counsel at the hearing
- Represented a Chinese company in a Shanghai International Arbitration Center (SHIAC) arbitration, seated in Shanghai, arising from an intellectual property and joint venture dispute. Acted as lead advocate at a three-day evidentiary hearing
- Represented a Chinese company as lead counsel, in a documents-only USD 2 million SIAC arbitration concerning the international sale of goods
- Represented a Chinese solar panel manufacturer in two ICC proceedings, seated in Singapore, resulting from sales contract disputes with a Korean renewable energy company

- Represented a global investment firm in a SIAC arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules, seated in Singapore, in relation to a services agreement dispute with a former partner
- Represented a Chinese wind turbine manufacturer in an ICC arbitration, against a German company in a dispute arising from the design and supply of defective main bearings for offshore wind turbines in China
- Represented another Chinese wind energy company with local German counsel in ICC proceedings, against a claim brought by a Netherlands company in relation to a joint research and development project in wind power turbines
- Represented a Chinese company with local counsel in a Colorado arbitration under AAA Rules arising from a failed cooperation agreement with an American company in the area of home electronics and e-commerce
- Represented a Chinese SOE-linked investment funds in parallel proceedings before the Greek courts and Malta Arbitration Center (MAC) against a NASDAQ listed company, in relation a €40 million dispute over the sale and purchase of photovoltaic farms in Greece
- Represented a Chinese SOE in a US$24 million SIAC arbitration, seated in Singapore, arising from an agency agreement in relation to the investment and construction of a clean coal power plant in Dubai
- Represented an oil and gas company in two related SIAC arbitrations involving its upstream buyer and downstream supplier in contracts for the supply of biodiesel. The disputes centered on the authenticity of a Certificate of Origin issued pursuant to the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement.
- Represented a private equity firm, which manages over US$400 million in assets in a claim against its former Chief Executive Officer for breach of confidence and breach of consultancy agreement and successfully obtained interim relief for the firm by emergency arbitration under SIAC Rules

Presentations/Speeches

- “Enforcement & Invalidity of Awards: Understanding Arbitration Clauses & Monetising an Award”, Moderator, Legal Plus 2nd Annual Vietnam Summit (Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam), October 2025

Professional Affiliations

- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators