Yvonne Foo

Partner

Co-Head, Construction and Engineering



"Good communications, responsiveness, knowledge, and strategic planning in facing the case."

Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific

"Excellent attention to detail, knowledge of the construction industry and international experience."

Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific

"Great communication skills."

Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific

"I appreciate her sincerity."

Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific

"I am very impressed by her advocacy skills. She is very quick and persuasive in her arguments. She is definitely a rising star for construction disputes."

Chambers Asia Pacific

"She brings a very international approach to her matters, and her clients benefit from her prior experience in other jurisdictions."

Chambers Asia Pacific

YvonneFoo@harryelias.com

+65 6361 9371

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Practice Areas

Construction and Engineering

Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws,
National University of Singapore

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"Yvonne is a very capable counsel. She is knowledgeable, very responsive and a pleasure to work with."

Chambers Asia Pacific

"She is an experienced, smart and diligent partner who does everything she can to give the clients what they want."

Chambers Asia Pacific

"Yvonne Foo is a standout partner. She is one of the brightest and most well-connected individuals in the market and with a drive to always deliver that which is best for the client."

Legal 500 Asia Pacific

"Yvonne Foo has an excellent legal brain, real commercial savvy and an unrelenting work ethic. I recommend her highly."

Legal 500 Asia Pacific

"Yvonne Foo is the standout with her legal acumen and commercial instinct. An all round fantastic lawyer."

Legal 500 Asia Pacific

"Yvonne is a highly patient and attentive legal expert who takes the time to listen carefully, understand the complexities and provide tailored solutions to our legal matters."

Chambers Asia Pacific

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Biography

Yvonne is a Partner and Co-Head of Harry Elias Partnership LLP's specialist Construction and Engineering practice group. Her practice consists exclusively of construction-related matters relating to projects located in Asia and the Middle East.

With extensive experience in advising international, regional and local clients on construction-related disputes, Yvonne routinely assists her clients regarding a wide range of issues such as variations, extensions of time and associated costs claims, liquidated damages, acceleration, defective works, terminations and force majeure.

Yvonne acts for her clients as counsel in arbitrations conducted under the rules of various arbitral institutions such as the SIAC, ICC, HKIAC, DIAC, ADCCAC, as well as ad hoc arbitrations. She also sits as arbitrator on construction disputes, and has been appointed by the Singapore International Arbitration Centre including as sole arbitrator on an expedited arbitration and other construction arbitrations.

Yvonne is also accredited by the Singapore Mediation Centre as an adjudicator, and an associate mediator.

Experience

- Acted for a large international main contractor in an SIAC arbitration commenced by its piling subcontractor for a transport infrastructure project in Singapore. Disputed issues include geotechnical and piling technical issues, back charges for excessive materials wastage, termination due to the subcontractor's abandonment of the remaining works, liquidated damages, alleged variations etc.
- Acted for a large Asian main contractor in SIAC arbitration proceedings seated in Singapore brought by its subcontractor for the construction of 2 railway improvement projects in Asia. Disputed issues include variations, acceleration costs, prolongation costs, liquidated damages etc.

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Experience

- Acted for a large international main contractor in an SIAC arbitration commenced against the employer arising out of the construction of a hospitality project in Thailand. Disputed issues were in relation to certified by unpaid works done, remaining works done but not properly certified, variations, extensions of time claims, prolongation costs etc.
- Advised a drainage, civil and structural, and earthworks subcontractor in its claims against the main contractor, and acted in adjudication proceedings as well as contemplated arbitration proceedings in relation to the construction of a water desalination plant in Asia. Disputed issued include over 70 variations, extension of time claims, prolongation costs, liquidated damages etc.
- Advised a multinational entertainment company in relation to the preparation and drafting of the entire suite of construction-related contracts required for the development of a live event venue in Asia. This project is a "first-of-its-kind" lifestyle experience, which is set to become an iconic experiential food, arts, culture and history attraction.

Awards & Accolades

- "Future Leaders – Partners" for Construction (2026) – Lexology Index
- "Band 4" for Construction (2026) - Chambers Asia Pacific
- "Next Generation Partner" for Construction (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026) - Legal 500 Asia Pacific
- "Notable Practitioner" for Project Development (2025-2026) – IFLR1000
- "Up and Coming" for Construction (2023, 2024, 2025) - Chambers Asia Pacific
- "Litigation Star" for Construction (2025-2026) - Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific
- "Ranked Practitioner" for Construction Law (2026, 2027) - Best Lawyers Singapore
- "Future Star" for Construction (2022, 2023, 2024) - Benchmark Litigation Asia Pacific
- "Distinguished Practitioner" for Construction (2025-2026) - Asialaw Profiles
- "Notable Practitioner" for Construction (2022, 2023, 2024) - Asialaw Profiles
- "Recommended Practitioner" for Construction Litigation (2022, 2026) - Doyle's Guide
- "Rising Star" for Construction (2021) - Legal 500 Asia Pacific
- "Asia's Top 50 Disputes Lawyers" (2021) - Asian Legal Business

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Publications

- SAL Practitioner, Singapore - published by the Singapore Academy of Law
- FIDIC Contracts in Asia Pacific: A Practical Guide to Application - edited by Dr Donald Charrett and published by Routledge

Professional Memberships | Directorships

- Member, Inquiry Panel of the Law Society of Singapore (2026-2028)
- Adjudicator, Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC)
- Associate Mediator, Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC)
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, SMC's Construction Adjudicator Accreditation Committee
- Member, The Law Society of Singapore

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