

## Regional CEO's message

Happy New Year and welcome to the first issue of Dentons Rodyk Reporter 2017.

Let me share our key developments in 2016 and tell you what to expect from us in 2017.

## Combining with Dentons

Eight months ago, we became Dentons Rodyk when we combined with the world's largest law firm, Dentons. With this combination, we have been better able to serve clients in two critical respects:

1. By calling on specialist talent on other jurisdictions to help clients with projects and matters in Singapore and the region.
2. By being able to serve clients through Dentons across the globe.

The combination has also strengthened talent and career development, translating into lawyers who are more effective and experienced.

Several partners have participated in Dentons' New Partner Induction Programme, which equips for leadership. Several associates have been seconded to Dentons offices in leading legal centres such as London, to gain first-hand and in-depth understanding of best practices.

## The region

Dentons Rodyk has been strengthening ties and working relationships with leading lawyers within South East Asia. Our associated office in Indonesia is growing, and we will open in Myanmar in 2017. Like many of our clients, whose regional efforts we support, we see Myanmar as a major opportunity for business growth in the next five years.

## Achievements

In the course of 2016, our firm has seen improved rankings in all major legal publications, including Chambers Asia Pacific, The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, the Asian Legal Business (ALB).

Our young partners, Hsu Li Chuan, Sunil Rai, Jonathan Guwe, Koh Kia Jeng and Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim, were featured in various 40 under 40 lists.

Litigation senior associate Lau Wen Jin, was awarded an advocacy award when he participated in a hypothetical

dispute organised by the Singapore International Arbitration Academy.

And we have continued to do high quality work in major matters. We were involved in some of 2016's complex and high profile deals such as:

- Advising the BlackRock Group as Real Estate lead counsel on the sale of its 100% share interest in Asia Square Tower 1 for S\$3.4 billion.
- Advised the finance parties in the grant of facilities of up to US\$1.652 billion to CMA CGM S.A., part of the CMA CGM Group, to finance the acquisition of Neptune Orient Lines Limited.
- Advised the shareholders of PropertyGuru in TPG's investment in PropertyGuru. This deal won the Asian-MENA Counsel Deals of the Year 2016 award (June 2016).
- Representing PNG Sustainable Development Program Limited in response to a suit brought by the government of Papua New Guinea.

## Community work

Dentons Rodyk has continued to honour its commitment to serving the broader community, including seconding a senior associate, Amogh Chakravarti, as the Law Society Pro Bono Fellow. His tough stint at the sharp end of criminal defence work will stand him in good stead in the cut and thrust of general litigation. We were also awarded The Law Society of Singapore's Contributor of the Year Award – an award we have dominated from its inception.

## Welcome and promotions

The firm continues to grow strongly in targeted practice areas.

In December 2016, John Dick joined our Singapore office as a partner in our Energy & Resources and Infrastructure Practice and South East Asia Regional Practice.

On 1 Jan 2017, we welcomed former judicial commissioner, Edmund Leow, SC, with 29 years in practice, as a Senior Partner, heading up our Tax practice.

Litigator Koh Kia Jeng has been promoted to Senior Partner. Kia Jeng has an outstanding practice in construction and insolvency.

## The Alumni Network

We are planning to roll out the Alumni Network in 2017 to reconnect and nurture relationships among current and former lawyers by fostering goodwill and building strategic partnerships through training, co-authorships and community service programmes. Our firm will be contacting all alumni soon. For more details, please send a note to [sg.academy@dentons.com](mailto:sg.academy@dentons.com).

## The future

The future is exciting for Dentons Rodyk. Dentons continues to grow globally, with rapid expansion through South America. We are developing deep and enduring relationships with our colleagues worldwide in service of clients

whose needs cross borders and span continents.

I hugely appreciate the support that you have given me and my colleagues over the years.

I wish you a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.

**Philip Jeyaretnam, SC**

Global Vice Chair and Regional CEO

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The full issue of the Dentons Rodyk Reporter Issue 01/2017 is downloadable here.

## Entering the Sandbox - Guidelines released for FinTech entrepreneurs and entities

On 16 November 2016 the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) released its “*regulatory sandbox*” (*Sandbox guidelines*) for FinTech experiments to be conducted in a controlled environment after incorporating market feedback and road-testing against actual applications and potential experiments that may enter the Sandbox soon.

## Retention of records - Quotidian but necessary

To keep or not to keep its records - in considering this question, a Singapore-incorporated company should be aware of certain statutorily-provided minimum retention periods it must comply with. This article discusses the minimum retention periods under the following statutes, which are the key legislations in Singapore governing the issue.

## Liability of an internet subscriber for acts of copyright infringement over the internet

A United States film studio, Dallas Buyers Club LLC, made news last year for commencing legal proceedings against internet subscribers for copyright infringement for downloading the movie “Dallas Buyers Club”.

## Personal Data Protection Act - Obligations to protect and secure data, and what to do in case of breach

Since the coming into force of the Personal Data Protection Act (Cap 26 of 2012) (PDPA) in 2012, many organisations had focused only on part of their obligations under the PDPA, i.e. that of ensuring that their policies and practices for the collection, use and disclosure of personal data are in line with the PDPA.

# Your Key Contacts



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