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Profile

Srikanth is an independent ADR (Arbitration/Mediation) professional. Srikanth accepts appointments as Arbitrator regardless of Seat.

He has served as part of the counsel team for a State party in two significant investment treaty arbitrations involving Tax claims. His professional experience has also seen him represent parties in arbitrations and negotiated settlements emanating from mainstream commercial disputes. These include Licencing disputes, Shareholder disputes and Principal -Distributor disputes, across Trade, Services, Aviation and Healthcare sectors.

Srikanth has also been active as a lawyer in the transaction advisory space having assisted promoters and investors in their business expansions and related transactions.

With close to 30 years of experience, Srikanth has worked in-house with leading multinational companies and firms such as GE, Ernst & Young and Arthur Andersen. Srikanth has a sound appreciation of international commercial trade through experience in structuring cross-border contracts in accordance with accepted International Tax principles, OECD guidelines, Bilateral Tax Treaties and Free Trade Agreements.

In addition to his legal acumen, he is trained to read Financial Statements of multinational corporations and related financial documentation - capable of interpreting such documents in the context of governing statutes, regulations, and commercial contracts. His background allows him the benefit of approaching commercial dispute resolution from the perspective of the lawyer, the accountant, and the businessperson.

Srikanth read law from the National Law School of India University and is an MBA from Cranfield University in the UK. He also holds a Graduate Certificate in International Arbitration from the National University of Singapore.

He is currently empanelled as an arbitrator with the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR-AAA), Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) and the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA). He is on the SIAC Reserve Panel of Arbitrators. He has been admitted as a "Fellow" of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK, and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. He is also a Member of the Specialist Mediator Panel (India) with the Singapore International Mediation Centre.

As an adjunct to his professional commitments, Srikanth is active as a speaker on international arbitration, including as an invitee instructor with statutory professional bodies.

Personal Information

Nationality:	Indian
Residency:	Singapore Permanent Resident
Languages Spoken:	English, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada
Date of Birth:	June 29, 1973

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Education and Professional Training

Professional Internship Programme: SIAC Singapore	May-June 2019
SIAC and Institutional Arbitration: NUS Faculty of Law, Singapore	October 2018
Graduate Certificate in International Arbitration: NUS Faculty of Law, Singapore	2018
Full-time MBA: Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield, UK	2000-2001
BA LLB (Hons): The National Law School of India University, Bangalore, India	1990-1995

Memberships & Accreditations

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators: Fellow

Singapore Institute of Arbitrators: Fellow

Singapore International Arbitration Centre: Reserve Panel of Arbitrators

International Centre for Dispute Resolution- American Arbitration Association: Panel of Arbitrators

Asian International Arbitration Centre: Panel of Arbitrators and Mediators

Indian Council of Arbitration: Panel of Arbitrators and Fellow

Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration: Panel of Arbitrators

Admitted to the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa, India

ADR Professional Experience

Sole Arbitrator in a mercantile dispute under the SIAC Rules and Singapore law, involving enforcement of a promissory note purportedly linked to a cross-border distribution arrangement.

Sole Arbitrator in a high-profile shareholder contractual dispute in Singapore, governed by Singapore law and SIAC Rules. The case involved a claim concerning the rights to intellectual property transferred under a previous settlement agreement.

Sole Arbitrator in a multinational services contractual dispute under the AAA-ICDR Rules involving the role of technology, cyber security, and related safeguards in affixing responsibility.

Active as counsel in the arbitration and mediation space having represented/advised clients from several jurisdictions across sectors. Amongst them -

Aviation:

- Represented an Australian party in a Singapore-seated arbitration against its Indian counterpart regarding an Aircraft Delivery Contract. The dispute involved claims from multiple underlying contracts, the consolidation of arbitral proceedings, and jurisdictional issues arising from these contracts.

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- Advised a law firm on its arbitration strategy before the LCIA in connection with a claim on behalf of its client involving the purchase of an aircraft.

Healthcare & Pharmaceutical:

- Represented a UK pharmaceutical company in contractual claims against its Indonesian distributor, addressing issues related to the abuse of a technology license and breaches of commercial obligations, including a non-compete clause. The case involved questions of mediation and arbitration in Singapore.
- Part of the counsel team advising a Singapore Distributor in its claims against its Danish principal in the pharmaceutical space for wrongful termination of the distributorship and licence agreements. This involved matters of Swiss governing law and arbitration in London.
- Advised a Japanese healthcare company on its arbitration strategy in disputes with non-compliant distributors across the Asia-Pacific region.

Infrastructure & Construction:

- Advised a Mozambique-based company on setting aside proceedings of an arbitral award under ICC Rules. The case involved a claim against a contractor for failure to construct two power plants in accordance with the specified requirements. The dispute included claims related to substandard workmanship, non-compliance with design specifications, and delays in remediation works. Served as instructing counsel to a locally qualified counsel before the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC).

Other Commercial matters:

- Represented the Republic of India as part of the counsel team in claims against it by two UK Corporations. The dispute arose over India's retrospective tax demand, which the companies argued violated bilateral investment treaty protections, including the fair and equitable treatment standard, protection from expropriation.
- Appeared for an Indian party in its claims against its German and Indian counterparties in a dispute involving Trade Licenses and Fees in an ICC Arbitration. The matter also involved impleading a non-signatory to the arbitration agreement.
- Represented an Indian service provider in a dispute with a Japanese counterparty over unpaid dues in an SIAC arbitration.
- Represented an Australian company in a negotiated settlement with an English counterparty regarding damages for wrongful termination of contract.

During his time with GE Healthcare India, was appointed the Business' Ombudsperson - called upon to decide a range of cases that were referred to the office of the Ombudsperson for resolution.

Transaction and Investment Advisory Professional Experience

Engaged on several transaction related corporate advisory matters. This has involved Negotiating and drafting Share Purchase and Shareholder Agreements in respect of transactions including coordinating post-closing actions for clients, and Licencing and Distribution Agreements for clients in the Healthcare sector.

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In the cross-border investment advisory space, assisted clients with the setup of investment holding companies in Singapore, particularly with reference to the Singapore - India corridor and the regulations governing outbound investment from India.

Publications

Co-authored articles on the topic of international arbitration and commercial laws. Among them -

“The Test of Seats: A Comparative Lens Over the Proper Law of Arbitration Agreements in India and Singapore” published in Lexology on April 20, 2020;

The “Do you know” series published by the Asian Business Law Institute, a subsidiary of the Singapore Academy of Law -

- *“Breach” and “Remedy” of Contracts in India (June 2022)* and
- *“Administrative and Tax Matters of Contracts under Indian Law” (November 2022)*

Three-part series titled *“An Arbitrator’s Toolkit: Blockchain, Cryptocurrency and Smart Contract Dispute Resolution”* published in the Dispute Resolution Journal of AAA (Volume 77, Issue 1, 2023)

Speaking Events

Speaker at numerous Webinars on International Arbitration, Contract Negotiation and Drafting

In collaboration with the AAA-ICDR:

- 27 April 2020 - *Cross Examination, Expert Testimony, and Enforcement of Awards in Crisis Times: Challenges and Opportunities*
- 25 May 2021 - *Special India focus: Redefining Risk mitigation in Commercial Contracts*
- 12 August 2021 - *Analysing recent developments in India-related arbitrations from an India and Singapore Point of View*
- 04 August 2022 - *Disputes involving Blockchain and Crypto assets - Recent Strides (Singapore & India)*

Webinars conducted by the Economic Times - ET Masterclass

- 26 June 2020 - *Commercial Contracts and Dispute Resolution*
- 24 July 2020 - *Negotiation of Commercial Contracts*
- 05 November 2020, 26 March 2021, 29 September 2021, and 11 March 2022 - *Techniques of M&A Deal Negotiation*
- 26 February 2021 - *Strategic Negotiation of Commercial Contracts*
- 18 November 2021 - *Drafting and Negotiating Commercial contracts: In-depth Clause Review*

Other speaking events:

- 23 Nov 2024 – *Arbitrability of Disputes*: Panellist at the Commonwealth Med-Arb Conference, Hyderabad
- 13 Sep 2024 – *Arbitrability of IP Disputes*: Address to the 124th Lawyers Round Table at Bengaluru
- 25 Apr 2024 – *Arbitration: Navigating Cross-Border Disputes in India’s Business Landscape*: Panel Discussion at seminar organised by the Madras Management Association
- 22 May 2020 - *Virtual Arbitration Hearings: A Singapore perspective*: A talk to members of ALMT Law
- 11 September 2020 - *Enforcement of Interim Measures in Foreign Awards*: An address to Madhyastha -

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ADR Cell, New Law College Pune

- 8 August 2021 - *ICSI Post Membership Qualification (PMQ) Course on Arbitration - Conceptual Framework of International Commercial Arbitration*: An address to participants of the Course organised by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India)