

V. Kanyakumari
Consultant



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Areas of practice

- Dispute resolution
- Family law and matrimonial
- Probate, trusts and estate planning

Qualification/Education

- Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore, 1992
- Bachelor of Laws (Hons), National University of Singapore, 1991
- Certified under the inaugural Family Therapeutic Justice Certification Programme, 2021
- Cross Border Family Mediation (CBFM), MiKK International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction, 2019

Appointments/Memberships

- Chairperson, FJSS Committee 2025, Pro Bono SG
- Co-Vice Chairperson, Probate Practice Committee, The Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Family Law Practice Committee, The Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Disciplinary Tribunal's Panel of Advocates & Solicitors, The Law Society of Singapore
- Member, The Law Society of Singapore Pro Bono Services' Family Justice Support Scheme Committee
- Member, Inquiry Panel, The Law Society of Singapore
- Member, The Law Society of Singapore
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law

Kanya's practice covers a wide range and includes commercial litigation with particular emphasis on banking litigation. She heads our family practice department which was a finalist for the *Asian Legal Business SE Asia Law Awards'* Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year 2020 award. Kanya advises clients on all aspects of family law. She has litigated numerous contentious cases and was involved in a high profile case involving the treatment of stock options under Singapore law as matrimonial assets.

Kanya also leads our mortgage recovery team and advises clients on all aspects of banking litigation including commencement of proceedings, enforcement and execution proceedings. Her area of practice also includes landlord and tenancy matters, drafting of and advising on commercial contracts, real estate litigation, contentious probate litigation, drafting of wills and various aspects of debt recovery.

Experience

Kanya regularly advises clients on the financial aspects of divorce especially the effect of divorce on the division of matrimonial assets. She has also handled numerous highly contentious cases relating to the custody care and control of minor children. She has extensive experience in adoption and other family-related matters. Many of the divorces handled by her involve jurisdictional and cross-border issues.

- Acted for a **scion of a prominent Indonesian family** before the High Court in a contentious probate dispute in relation of assets spanning Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and China and with an estimated worth of about US\$200 million.
- Representing a **French individual** in an application for the grant of letters of administration of the estate of his unmarried partner, which involved complex legal issues such as the rights of the natural father in respect of the guardianship of his infant children, the Singapore court's jurisdiction to grant orders in respect of infants which are domiciled and living outside of Singapore, a cohabiting partner's ability to act as the administrator of the estate and steps to be taken to protect the rights of infant beneficiaries of the estate.
- Representing a **United States individual** in a contentious cross-border divorce dispute before the Family Court and the Family Division of the High Court, which involved substantial litigation on child issues which required the involvement of an independent psychologist, novel issues relating to the division of matrimonial assets and the analysis of United States financial instruments such as individual retirement accounts.
- Representing a **British-Hong Kong individual** in applications before the Family Court and the Family Division of the High Court, and successfully resisted the counterparty's attempts to relocate the only child of the marriage to Perth, Australia.

- Representing a **Malaysian individual** in proceedings under sections 5 and 11 of the Guardianship of Infants Act, which involved substantial litigation on child issues which required the involvement of a Child Representative.
- Representing a **Singaporean individual** in proceedings before the Family Court and the Family Division of the High Court for the reduction and eventual cessation of his maintenance obligations to his ex-wife.
- Representing a **Malay-Muslim couple** in contested proceedings for the adoption of a Chinese child under their care. The adoption is contested by the child's natural father.
- Representing a **Singaporean couple** in novel but successful adoption proceedings where the couple was seeking to formally adopt a foreign child (fathered by the husband before and outside of marriage) as a child of the marriage.

Kanya also works closely with management corporations of strata developments, advising them on litigation, day-to-day affairs and disputes. She has given talks on the amendments to the Land Titles Strata Act and the effect of new legislation, for example, the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act.