

# Former Allen & Gledhill partner opens firm in Singapore

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A former partner at Allen & Gledhill and head of dispute resolution at Straits Law Practice has formed his own boutique in Singapore, which will handle corporate, shareholder and commodity disputes relating to India and Indonesia especially.pore

**Suresh Nair** set up Nair & Co on 2 October after nine months working as a partner with Advocatus Law, another boutique firm in Singapore. Before that he headed the dispute resolution team at Straits Law for five years.

He is joined by two senior associates who worked with him at Straits Law and Advocatus, plus a trainee.

Nair tells GAR there is an “under-serviced space” in the arbitration legal market in Singapore, which smaller boutique firms can

fill without incurring the conflicts of interest that arise within larger firms.

As well as arbitration, the firm will practise commercial, corporate and banking litigation and cross-border insolvency and restructuring.

Nair’s experience includes acting in a shareholders’ dispute that went to SIAC arbitration over alleged intercompany transactions worth more than US \$90 million and in multi-jurisdictional litigation between shareholders.

He also acted in a more than US\$30 million SIAC arbitration over the sale of palm oil plantations in Indonesia and in a US\$20 million dispute over coal concessions in the country.

In another SIAC case, he acted for a national government in a dispute involving a national insurance scheme.

Before working at Straits Law, Nair was a partner at Allen & Gledhill in Singapore for over 10 years.

Earlier still, he served as a legal officer at the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva, where he reviewed war reparation claims arising out of the first Gulf war.

One of the senior associates joining Nair at the new boutique, **Bryan Tan**, has worked with him since graduating from law school and says the decision to follow him to the new boutique was a “no brainer”. He says that some of the cases the team has worked on have contributed to the development of Singapore law.

The other senior associate, **Nicole Foo**, has worked with Nair for three years. She says that through him she has experienced a wide range of interesting cases and looks forward to opportunities at the new boutique which are typically only available to more senior lawyers.