

# Former Advocatus partner sets up new Singapore insolvency and disputes boutique

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Suresh Nair

A senior commercial litigator and his team have left Singaporean firm Advocatus Law to set up a new boutique cross-border insolvency and disputes practice in the city.

**Suresh Nair** is the managing director of the new firm, Nair & Co, which opened on 2 October. He departed Advocatus – another Singapore boutique, focused on corporate transactions and dispute resolution – after a year with the firm.

Nair, who spent five years as head of dispute resolution at full-service firm Strait Laws Practice before joining Advocatus, he has brought a pair of senior associates with him to the new firm, **Bryan Tan** and **Nicole Foo**.

He tells *GRR* that Nair & Co will work on cross-border insolvencies “with a particular focus on Indonesia”, as well as handling clawback claims

and disputes arising out breaches of fiduciary duty and fraud.

Nair acted for certain bondholders of global industrial fishing group Pacific Andes proceedings before the High Court of Singapore. In September 2016 the court ended a global moratorium for the Hong Kong-headquartered seafood company and its subsidiaries, a decision which has led to ongoing liquidation proceedings in Bermuda and in the British Virgin Islands. Pacific Andes filed for chapter 11 in New York in July 2016.

He also acted for Berau Capital Resources in 2015 as part of a US\$950 million bond restructuring. Berau Capital – a special-purpose entity established to raise funds for an Indonesian mining company – was granted Chapter 15 recognition in the US for its Singapore High Court-ordered debt memorandum on 10 July 2015.

Nair says that Singapore “has for some time been recognised as a stable and reliable restructuring centre for regional insolvencies” and has been working to strengthen this reputation through amendments to its insolvency regime. He adds that his team “have realised that there is a good market for insolvency expertise in a boutique set up that is relatively free from conflicts of interest.”

A [press release](#) said that “the team’s experience in banking litigation puts them in good stead as an alternative go-to firm for foreign private banks based in Singapore”.

*Updated on 12 October to add Tan and Foo.*

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