

## **International Arbitration in Singapore: Legislation and Materials (Sweet & Maxwell, 2018).**

This is by far the most comprehensive practitioner's compendium on the law of international arbitration in Singapore.

Organized in a logical and sequential manner, the book begins with Singapore's historical move away from the English arbitration regime in 1994, embracing the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration ("MAL") as the basis for its arbitration regime, and how Singapore legislature reacted in dealing with the initial misunderstandings by the courts of the new legislative framework, to the period where a body of Singapore jurisprudence started to grow and then into a fresh era of innovation, adopting current practices such as third-party funding.

Pragmatically crafted, **Part I** of this book contains an impressively detailed yet concise clause-by-clause discussion on each of the provisions in the International Arbitration Act ("IAA"), the articles in the MAL and the provisions of the New York Convention 1958. The discussions on these primary international arbitration legislations were made more meaningful and relevant as the author deftly demonstrated the interaction of these provisions with principles developed by Singapore jurisprudence, adding his own insightful and incisive analyses of these formative court decisions. The author also helpfully highlighted and explained the rationale behind each of the changes made by the Singapore legislature in adopting the MAL and the New York Convention, and the impact of such changes in practice. The result is an impressive comprehensive guide to the law and practice of international arbitration in Singapore.

Previous works in this area had invariably tended to make extensive references to English judicial decisions interpreting English practices and statutory provisions, without much consideration that the root of the IAA is based on the MAL and not the English Arbitration Act. Although an English barrister, the author is clearly sensitive to this difference. In this work, he made limited reference to English decisions; doing so only in relation to those provisions in the IAA which were of English derivation and not to those that are not otherwise provided for in the MAL. Where appropriate, references were also made to decisions from other jurisdictions that have adopted the MAL.

A clear utility to this book to practitioners is to be found in Parts II and III. **Part II** discusses other relevant primary legislation, which are the Arbitration (International Investment Disputes) Act (Cap 11), Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act (Cap 53B), and Civil Law Act (Cap 43). In **Part III**, the author painstakingly assembled arbitration statutes and its amendments, law revision reports, and extracts of parliamentary debates that shed light on the rationale and objective behind Singapore's legal framework.

The breadth of coverage of this work is truly remarkable. The author has made understanding the dynamic field of international arbitration in Singapore easy and accessible. This book is no

doubt an invaluable resource for those working or interested in the field of international arbitration in Singapore.

Professor Lawrence Boo

([https://law.nus.edu.sg/about\\_us/faculty/staff/profileview.asp?UserID=boo](https://law.nus.edu.sg/about_us/faculty/staff/profileview.asp?UserID=boo))