

Citation for Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon

By Dr Chong Yeh Woei

Good afternoon Chief Justice, past Presidents, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I'm here to read the citation for the Chief Justice.

Chief Justice Mr Sundaresh Menon graduated with Bachelor of Laws, no less than First Class Honours, from the National University of Singapore in 1986, and later obtained a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School in 1991. He was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 1987 and as an attorney and counsellor-at-law of the Bar of the State of New York in 1992. He was appointed Senior Counsel in January 2008.

As a private practitioner, Mr Menon was recognised as one of the leading lawyers in the fields of commercial litigation and arbitration, insolvency and construction law, in Singapore and abroad. He advised and represented numerous local and overseas clients in complex and technical disputes, and appeared before as well as in arbitration tribunals in various jurisdictions.

Mr Menon has also served as the Deputy Chairman of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and has represented Singapore at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law's Working Group on Arbitration and Conciliation.

In fact, it was just recently reported in the *Straits Times* that he was awarded the *Global Arbitration Review's* Best Lecture or Speech Award for 2012, for his keynote address at the opening of International Council for Commercial Arbitration Congress in Singapore in June last year.

From April 2006 to March 2007, Mr Menon served as a Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court, and presided over several prominent civil and criminal cases in the High Court. After completing his term on the Bench, he returned to Rajah & Tann to become the Managing Partner in August 2009, a position he held until his appointment as the Attorney-General on 1 October 2010. Mr Menon relinquished his position as the Attorney-General on 24 June last year and was appointed as a Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court on 1 August 2012. On 6 November 2012, Mr Menon was appointed as the Chief Justice of Singapore.



Dr Chong Yeh Woei delivering his citation at the SMA Lecture 2012

On a more personal note, I have known Sundaresh Menon since my days in National Junior College in the late 70s, where he was my senior and we played rugby together in the Hockey and Rugby Club – quite a rebellious bunch of fellas. Somehow, when you are playing rugby with somebody, you never quite think he would become the Chief Justice one day!

I would have the audience know that the Chief Justice was known as a “hard man” in the scrum, and was the pillar of the engine of the scrum, known as the second row. He is most certainly the man you could rely on when the going gets tough. We are more than pleased to welcome him as the SMA Lecturer for 2012. **SMA**