

**DAVID CHEE**

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**QUALIFICATIONS**

National University of Singapore (LL.B., Hons.)

**ADMISSIONS**

Singapore Bar

## PROFILE

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David CHEE is a Partner in the Private Wealth and Middle East Practices.

His main practice area is private wealth, which includes wealth & succession planning, trust advisory and charity & philanthropy. He has been in legal practice since 2004 and has worked as a legal counsel in trust companies and a wealth planner in private banks. His experience includes advising on international tax and trust structures, insurance solutions and asset management.

In the area of trusts, David advises trustees on various matters related to trust business, such as regulatory requirements, fiduciary risk & obligations and the administration of trusts and estates. David also advises on the use of trusts in other areas such as debt restructuring, employee benefit programs, environmental restoration and rehabilitation projects and charity & philanthropy.

In the private wealth space, David works with and advises high net worth clients on all aspects of their wealth and succession planning needs such as wealth transfers from one generation to another, asset protection & preservation, family business succession, tax efficiency, philanthropy, family governance and the establishment of family offices.

David's over a decade long experience has allowed him to build a strong network with wealth management industry players. He is also an active speaker and trainer on topics relating to trusts and wealth & succession planning. David is a member of the Law Society of Singapore and the Singapore Academy of Law.

**Relevant Experience:**

Significant transactions that David has been involved in include advising / acting for the following:

- A prominent Singapore company on the establishment of a philanthropic platform which has, to date, donated more than S\$1 billion in endowments. He continues to advise the company in connection with the continued activities of the platform.

- Families on the establishment of family office structures to consolidate family assets and corporatise succession. These exercises typically involve the use of private trust companies, offshore trusts, family constitutions and where relevant, applications to the authorities such as the Monetary Authority of Singapore, Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore, Singapore Exchange and Securities Industry Council.
- Structuring and/or restructuring of trust arrangements in response to change in circumstances such as tax laws, relocation of family members, foreign ownership restrictions of property, etc.
- Clients on planned giving, including the setting up and selection of appropriate structures or arrangements to carry out their philanthropic causes locally or overseas.
- Clients on matters relating to the setting up and running of charities in Singapore.
- Charities on regulatory compliance and obligations.

#### Related Practices

- Middle East
- Private Wealth

David is recommended as a leading lawyer in private wealth by independent publications such as *Chambers High Net Worth Guide*, *The Legal 500: Asia Pacific – The Client's Guide to the Asia Pacific Legal Profession and Who's Who Legal*. He was recognised as "Private Client Lawyer of the Year" in 2016 by *The Asian Lawyer Emerging Markets* and remains one of the world's top 250 elite lawyers advising ultra-high-net-worth clients by *Legal Week's Private Client Global Elite*. David is also an endorsed individual in the area of Trusts and Estates by *Best Lawyers International: Singapore 2020*. He was also a listed lawyer in *Singapore Business Review's* 40 most influential lawyers aged 40 and under 2018.

#### Quotes from Legal Publications

- "He clearly has a lot of knowledge and experience," says one source; "he has an easy manner with clients and is adept at making the complicated seem simpler."  
*Chambers High Net Worth Guide 2020*
- David has impressed clients with his "strong technical knowledge of Singapore-linked structures and operational processes of banks and independent trustees."  
*The Legal 500: Asia Pacific – The Client's Guide to the Asia Pacific Legal Profession 2018*

- “He is technically excellent, and I think he is always up-to-date on what's happening financially in the area, because he's worked for trust companies. He's really able to put himself in the shoes of others: he can say, 'When I was doing that, this would be my concern,' and so on. He looks at the picture from all points of view.”  
*Chambers High Net Worth Guide 2018*
- Described as "resourceful," "experienced" and "unflappable," Chee is particularly noted for his background working at trust companies and banks.  
*Chambers High Net Worth Guide 2018*
- "He's a great combination of a trusts lawyer and someone who has big bank and trust company experience, because he's worked in the industry. He's very aware of business issues that bank trustees may face, and rather than being just a pure technician he comes with commercial knowledge on how it will affect our business.”  
*Chambers High Net Worth Guide 2018*