# Law, courts and dispute resolution

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- **common law** – 普通法 (pǔtōng fǎ) – common law: the body of law developed by judicial decisions in England, received in Singapore through the Charters of Justice (Chapter A.III).[1]
- **equity** – 衡平法 (héngpíng fǎ) – ekuiti: the body of rules developed by the English Court of Chancery, which includes the law of trusts.
- **statute** – 法令 (fǎlìng) – statut: a written law enacted by the legislature.
- **subsidiary legislation** – 附属法规 (fùshǔ fǎguī) – perundangan subsidiari: regulations, rules and orders made by a minister or authority under powers conferred by an Act.
- **Constitution** – 宪法 (xiànfǎ) – Perlembagaan: the supreme law of the Republic of Singapore.
- **Supreme Court** – 最高法院 (Zuìgāo Fǎyuàn) – Mahkamah Agung: Singapore's superior court, which comprises the Court of Appeal, the Appellate Division and the General Division of the High Court (Chapter F.I).
- **Court of Appeal** – 上诉庭 (Shàngsù Tíng) – Mahkamah Rayuan: Singapore's final appellate court since the abolition of appeals to the Privy Council (Chapter F.I).

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- **High Court** – 高等法庭 (Gāoděng Fǎtíng) – Mahkamah Tinggi: the superior court of first instance for major civil and criminal cases.
- **State Courts** – 国家法院 (Guójiā Fǎyuàn) – Mahkamah Negara: the lower courts of Singapore, which hear most criminal cases and smaller civil claims.
- **Privy Council** – 枢密院 (Shūmìyuàn) – Majlis Privy: the final court of appeal for the colonies, which remained Singapore's highest court for decades after independence (Chapter B.I).
- **advocate and solicitor** – 出庭律师兼事务律师 (chūtíng lǜshī jiān shìwù lǜshī) – peguam bela dan peguam cara: the single title of a lawyer admitted to practise in Singapore.
- **jurisdiction** – 管辖权 (guǎnxiá quán) – bidang kuasa: the authority of a court or regulator to hear a case or to regulate a person.
- **enforcement** – 执行 (zhíxíng) – penguatkuasaan: the process by which a judgment, an award or a regulatory requirement is given effect.
- **rule of law** – 法治 (fǎzhì) – kedaulatan undang-undang: the principle that public power and private dealings are subject to known laws applied by independent courts (Chapter F.I).
- **arbitration** – 仲裁 (zhòngcái) – timbang tara: the resolution of a dispute by one or more arbitrators chosen by the parties, whose award is binding (Chapter F.II).[2]
- **arbitration clause** – 仲裁条款 (zhòngcái tiáokuǎn) – klausa timbang tara: a term of a contract that refers future disputes to arbitration.[3]
- **arbitral award** – 仲裁裁决 (zhòngcái cáijué) – award timbang tara: the binding decision of an arbitral tribunal, enforceable abroad under the New York Convention (Chapter F.II).
- **Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)** – 新加坡国际仲裁中心 (Xīnjiāpō Guójì Zhòngcái Zhōngxīn) – Pusat Timbang Tara Antarabangsa Singapura: the arbitral institution that administers international arbitrations under its rules (Chapter F.II).

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- **Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC)** – 新加坡国际商业法庭 (Xīnjiāpō Guójì Shāngyè Fǎtíng) – Mahkamah Komersial Antarabangsa Singapura: the division of the High Court for international commercial disputes, which sits with international judges (Chapter F.III).
- **mediation** – 调解 (tiáojiě) – pengantaraan: a process in which a neutral mediator helps the parties reach a settlement of their own (Chapter F.III).[4]
- **Singapore Convention on Mediation** – 新加坡调解公约 (Xīnjiāpō Tiáojiě Gōngyuē) – Konvensyen Singapura mengenai Pengantaraan: the United Nations convention on the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation (Chapter F.III).
- **private limited company (Pte Ltd)** – 私人有限公司 (sīrén yǒuxiàn gōngsī) – syarikat sendirian berhad: a company whose shares are not offered to the public and whose members' liability is limited.
- **limited liability** – 有限责任 (yǒuxiàn zérèn) – liabiliti terhad: the rule that shareholders are liable for a company's debts only up to the amount unpaid on their shares (Chapter B.I).
- **fiduciary duty** – 信义义务 (xìnyì yìwù) – kewajipan fidusiari: the duty of a person in a position of trust, such as a director or trustee, to act loyally in the interest of another.[5]
- **insolvency** – 无力偿债 (wúlì chángzhài) – ketakmampuan bayar: the inability of a person or company to pay its debts as they fall due.[6]
- **bankruptcy** – 破产 (pòchǎn) – kebankrapan: the insolvency proceeding for individuals, under which an official assignee takes over the debtor's property.
- **winding up** – 清盘 (qīngpán) – penggulungan: the process by which a company's assets are realised and distributed and the company is dissolved (Chapter H.II).
- **judicial management** – 司法管理 (sīfǎ guǎnlǐ) – pengurusan kehakiman: a court-supervised rescue procedure in which a judicial manager takes control of a distressed company (Chapter H.II).

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- **scheme of arrangement** – 债务偿还安排 (zhàiwù chánghuán ānpái) – skim perkiraan: a compromise between a company and its creditors approved by the required majority and sanctioned by the court.[7]
- **Penal Code** – 刑事法典 (Xíngshì Fǎdiǎn) – Kanun Keseksaan: Singapore's code of criminal law, based on the Indian model of the colonial era (Chapter B.I).

## Notes

1. Malay usage varies between "common law" and "undang-undang lazim". ↩
2. PRPM, entry "arbitration", citing *Kamus Inggeris-Melayu Dewan* (accessed November 2026): "penimbangtaraan, ditimbang tara; (attrib) timbang tara", with "klausa timbang tara" for arbitration clause. ↩
3. PRPM, entry "arbitration", as above. ↩
4. PRPM, entry "mediation", citing *Kamus Inggeris-Melayu Dewan* (accessed November 2026): "pengantaraan, menjadi pengantara". ↩
5. Chinese form reflects academic usage. Singapore texts also use 受信责任. ↩
6. PRPM, entry "insolvency", citing *Kamus Inggeris-Melayu Dewan* (accessed November 2026): "ketakmampuan bayar; ketaksolvenan". ↩
7. Chinese form reflects professional usage. ↩

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