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### Commercial Litigation

## Supreme Court Seeks to Modernise the Rules of Criminal Procedure

More than two decades since the Rules of Criminal Procedure ("**Rules**") were last amended, the Supreme Court is revisiting the Rules through the CrimPro Revision Project to streamline criminal court processes and current procedures, integrating relevant case doctrines and other procedural rules that developed over time. This reexamination of, and amendments to, the rules of criminal procedure ("**Proposed Rules**"), spearheaded by Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda, is in line with the Court's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations.

At present, there are various sets of procedural rules for criminal cases, such as the *Revised Guidelines for Continuous Trial of Criminal Cases*, the *Rule on Cybercrime Warrants*, and the *Rule on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Execution of Warrants*. The primary objective of the Proposed Rules is to codify and institutionalise a comprehensive framework encompassing all relevant rules and procedures for the adjudication of such matters. The harmonisation of these procedural rules is anticipated to facilitate more efficient, effective, and streamlined judicial processes.

Among others, the Proposed Rules will address the conflicting provisions between Rule 112 of the current Rules and the Department Circular issued by the Department of Justice regarding the rules on preliminary investigations and inquest proceedings.

Through the Proposed Rules, the Supreme Court affirms that the justice system should adapt to the modern technicalities of the current time, not only to guarantee a more just and equitable outcome, but also to maintain public trust and confidence in the judicial process.

If you have any queries on the above, please feel free to contact our team members below who will be happy to assist.

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## Contacts



**Ben Dominic R. Yap**  
Managing Partner

T +632 8248 5250  
[bdryap@cagatlaw.com](mailto:bdryap@cagatlaw.com)



**Jesus Paolo U. (Paolo) Protacio**  
Partner

T +632 8248 5250  
[jpuprotacio@cagatlaw.com](mailto:jpuprotacio@cagatlaw.com)



**Jess Raymund M. Lopez**  
Partner

T +632 8248 5250  
[jrmlopez@cagatlaw.com](mailto:jrmlopez@cagatlaw.com)



**Vladi Miguel S. Lazaro**  
Partner

T +632 8248 5250  
[vmslazaro@cagatlaw.com](mailto:vmslazaro@cagatlaw.com)

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Please feel free to also contact Knowledge Management at [eOASIS@rajahtann.com](mailto:eOASIS@rajahtann.com).

## Regional Contacts

RAJAH & TANN SOK & HENG | *Cambodia*  
**Rajah & Tann Sok & Heng Law Office**

T +855 23 963 112 / 113  
F +855 23 963 116  
kh.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN 立杰上海  
SHANGHAI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE | *China*

**Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP  
Shanghai Representative Office**  
T +86 21 6120 8818  
F +86 21 6120 8820  
cn.rajahtannasia.com

ASSEGAF HAMZAH & PARTNERS | *Indonesia*  
**Assegaf Hamzah & Partners**

**Jakarta Office**  
T +62 21 2555 7800  
F +62 21 2555 7899

**Surabaya Office**  
T +62 31 5116 4550  
F +62 31 5116 4560  
www.ahp.co.id

RAJAH & TANN | *Lao PDR*  
**Rajah & Tann (Laos) Co., Ltd.**

T +856 21 454 239  
F +856 21 285 261  
la.rajahtannasia.com

CHRISTOPHER & LEE ONG | *Malaysia*

**Christopher & Lee Ong**  
T +60 3 2273 1919  
F +60 3 2273 8310  
www.christopherleeong.com

RAJAH & TANN | *Myanmar*  
**Rajah & Tann Myanmar Company Limited**

T +95 1 9345 343 / +95 1 9345 346  
F +95 1 9345 348  
mm.rajahtannasia.com

GATMAYTAN YAP PATACSIL  
GUTIERREZ & PROTACIO (C&G LAW) | *Philippines*  
**Gatmaytan Yap Patacsil Gutierrez & Protacio (C&G Law)**  
T +632 8894 0377 to 79 / +632 8894 4931 to 32  
F +632 8552 1977 to 78  
www.cagatlaw.com

RAJAH & TANN | *Singapore*  
**Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP**

T +65 6535 3600  
sg.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN | *Thailand*  
**R&T Asia (Thailand) Limited**

T +66 2 656 1991  
F +66 2 656 0833  
th.rajahtannasia.com

RAJAH & TANN LCT LAWYERS | *Vietnam*  
**Rajah & Tann LCT Lawyers**

**Ho Chi Minh City Office**  
T +84 28 3821 2382 / +84 28 3821 2673  
F +84 28 3520 8206

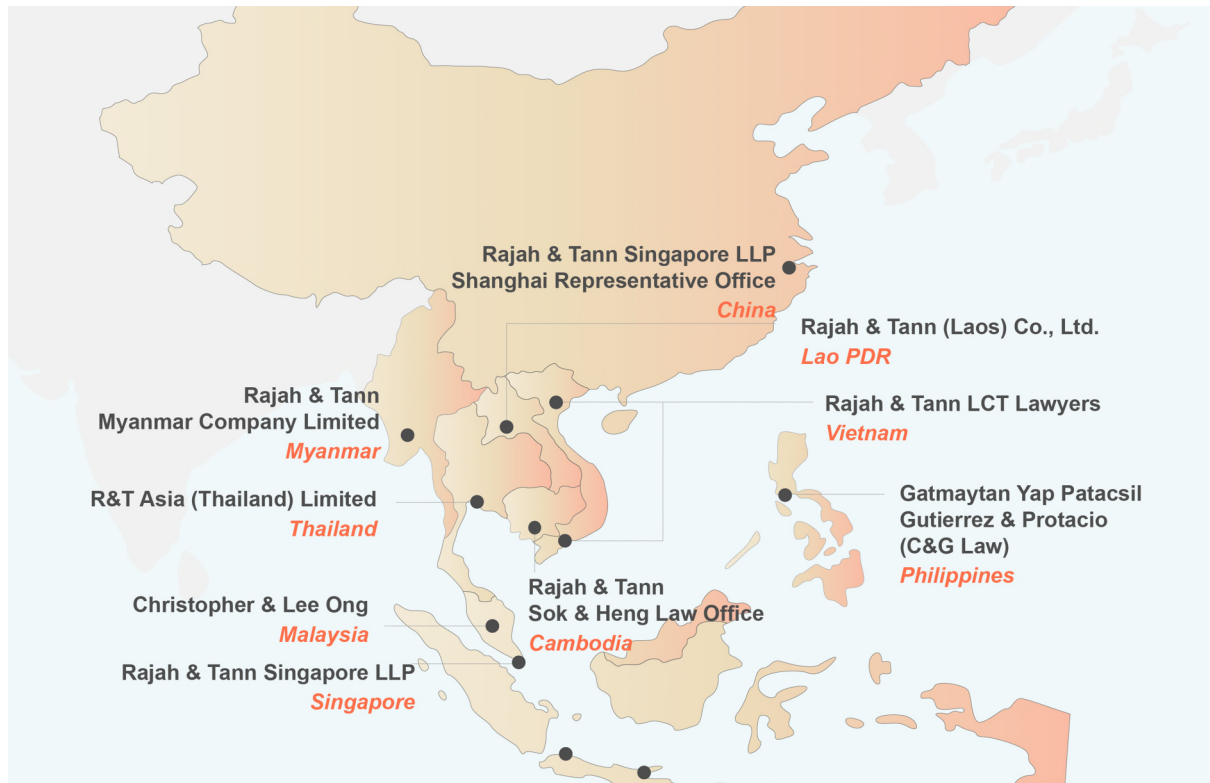
**Hanoi Office**  
T +84 24 3267 6127  
F +84 24 3267 6128  
www.rajahtannlct.com

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