



Krishna Ramachandra

Founder and Chairman,
Legal Insights

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Professional profile

Krishna is the Founder and Chairman of Legal Insights. He is regularly sought after by founders, technology companies, family offices, government agencies, foundations, and emerging ventures for his strategic guidance on complex legal, organisational, and governance matters. Krishna has been acknowledged as a leading global expert in corporate governance and is listed in Who's Who Legal as a Leading Individual for Corporate M&A and Governance.

Over the course of his career, Krishna has overseen more than 400 commercial and regulatory matters across corporate, technology, digital ecosystems, and emerging regulatory frameworks. His advisory work blends deep legal experience with strategic clarity, enabling clients to navigate opaque processes, make informed decisions, and manage high-stakes issues with confidence.

At Legal Insights, Krishna's work focuses on governance, forensics, whistleblowing support, internal investigations, and legal strategy. He provides structured, independent guidance to clients who require clarity, discretion, and disciplined analysis — particularly when traditional legal pathways feel overwhelming or unclear. His experience enables clients to understand their position, anticipate next steps, and engage with counsel, regulators, and stakeholders more effectively.

Krishna is also a recognised thought leader, widely respected for his ability to offer succinct, actionable views that combine commercial insight, regulatory understanding, and a practical appreciation of technology. He continues to advise governments and institutions on governance frameworks and regulatory structures, particularly where new technologies intersect with public policy, compliance, or ethics.

Experience and positions

- Founder and Chairman, Legal Insights
- Former Trustee and Vice Chairman, Christ's College (Cambridge University) Foundation
- Former Chairman and Head (Corporate Finance & Digital Assets), Selvam LLC
- Former Managing Director of Duane Morris & Selvam LLP (Singapore, Myanmar, Sri Lanka)
 - Immediate Past Chairman
 - Global Head, Fintech / Blockchain & Digitalisation
 - Head, Mergers & Acquisitions / Private Equity / Capital Markets
 - Head, Technology
- Founding Chairman, Sustainability & Impact Sub-Committee, Blockchain Association Singapore BAS
- Lecturer (and Blockchain Curriculum designer), MSc New Venture Financing programme, National University of Singapore NUS
- Alumni of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (London & Singapore) and Clifford Chance (Singapore)
- Senior Strategic Adviser, Dentsu Sports Asia (E-Sports)
- Founder, The Helix Initiative (Youth Thought Leadership)
- Senior Advisor, Global Blockchain Foundation
- Blockchain Expert Speaker, World Knowledge Forum



Leading Lawyer and Legal Expert status consistently and universally awarded across multiple jurisdictions by The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific, IFLR1000, Chambers & Partners, AsiaLaw Profiles, Asia Legal Business, Who's Who Legal for the following areas of legal practice: Corporate/M&A, Capital Markets, Corporate Governance, Technology & Media and Sports.

"Krishna Ramachandra, the director of Duane Morris & Selvam has been the major force behind the firm and his in-depth knowledge and fair advice has been outstanding."

IFLR1000 2019 client feedback

"(Krishna Ramachandra) is renowned for his top-tier work advising large companies and high-net-worth individuals on transactional and private equity matters related to the technology and media sectors"

Who's WhoLegal 2022

"Krishna's intellectual stamina and acute appreciation of commercial realities make him a formidable adviser – his ability to come up with creative, workable solution is second-to-none."

The Legal 500

"Creative yet practical and client-focused approach" and his "decisiveness and commerciality."

The Legal 500, Asia Pacific and Chambers Asia Pacific

Krishna shares a passion and vision for a community that must be defined by sustainability and equality principles; this is par for the course in order for the world to work.

Sustainability

- Designed a proprietary fundraising mechanism for charities and foundations to generate sustainable, recurring streams of income.
- Presently conducting sustainability-oriented education to listed companies.
- Founded Digital Assets Sustainability Foundation, an initiative to promote sustainability in the blockchain/digital asset class and beyond.
- Former Board member of Beyond Social Services.
- Former Board member of Social Innovation Park.

Mentorship and education

- Gave a series of guest lectures at National University of Singapore to nurture the next generation on running a successful startup.
- Founded The Helix Initiative, an organisation that empowers and leads the next generation of youth thought leaders.
- Launched Digital Insights Mentorship programme, to teach mentees how to think and operate like a polymath. Mentees are taught to examine their self-expression and address their fears and concerns as they learn the intricacies and nuances of a commercial transaction by working with the mentors at Digital Insights.
- Launched Vybe, an initiative for the youth, and a vehicle for thought-leadership and self-expression through digital.
- Authored a chapter for "Explorers Today, Winners Tomorrow" on the opportunities and challenges in the digital asset industry, in partnership with Singapore Management University.

Government consultations, lectures, seminars and articles

- Keynote speaker for a Coinlive event, Web3 Trends and Opportunities.
- Advised and conducted lectures for IRAS on digital assets, blockchain and hidden tax exposures.
- Conducted a large-scale lecture on blockchain and legal opinions for Singapore lawyers organised by the Singapore Law Society.
- Provided detailed commentary on stablecoins structure to MAS.
- Presenter for "Beating Crypto Fraud: Can your digital assets be protected?" webinar alongside EY and Selvam LLC.
- Appeared as sector expert on CNA digital currencies.
- Gave a series of radio interviews on Money FM covering digital currencies, blockchain, crypto exchanges and decentralised finance.
- Key Note Speaker along with Ban Ki-Moon at the Esports & Blockchain summit.
- Speaker at Singapore FinTech Festival, Impact @ Blockchain Initiative covering how the sustainability and impact narrative must be incorporated into blockchain solutions for the future.
- Author of numerous articles on the analysis of the digital ecosystem landscape, covering digital currencies, NFTs and the metaverse.

Sector expertise and representative deals

Krishna has advised on over 400 transactions in this sector alone and the following are a summarised grouping of his deal experience. His clients include global banks, corporates, funds, family offices and also start-up entrepreneurs in the digital ecosystem:

Corporate governance

- Advising various companies on the viability of their digitalisation strategies, including advice related to the legal and commercial aspects of their business model, tokenisation, corporate structuring.
- Advised a blockchain-based Film and Content funding and distribution Platform on regulatory concerns in relation to their platform for content producers to be able to distribute their content to participants through a video streaming service utilising a network of existing media players and their respective user bases.
- Advised Nogle Group on its investment in TNG (Asia) Limited and TNG Global Limited, two affiliated digital payment companies in Hong Kong as part of a US\$115 million Series A funding to support the development and regional expansion of e-wallet technology.
- Advised on regulatory concerns with respect to the client's development of a core payment platform which would link the platform's various planned initiatives and offerings such as an integrated messenger/commerce platform, supply chain management, automated POS systems, music and game services, and a cryptocurrency exchange service.
- Assisted a local company involved in the operation of web portals, that has developed a platform facilitating transactions with merchants using bitcoin, in drafting a memorandum setting out whether their business would be regulated by the Payment Systems (Oversight) Act and the Money-changing and Remittance Businesses Act.
- Assisting a developer of an intelligent AI companion chatbot designed to help students with their exam revisions on its proposed ICO including the drafting of all legal documentation and marketing materials in relation to the ICO as well as liaising with the Singapore Economic Development Board ("EDB") for the application of non-profit organisation status.
- Extensive experience in stress-testing clients' blockchain and digitalisation roll-out strategy to ensure compliance with laws and regulations in numerous sectors including Education, Real Estate, Agriculture, Food Systems, IoT, Financial Services, Insurance, Fashion, Fitness & Lifestyle and Clean Energy.
- Represented FinTech startups and existing technology companies on their digitalisation strategies which includes advice related to the legal and commercial aspects of their tokenisation strategy, providing corporate restructuring related to the same. Represented FinTech startups in all aspects of patent counselling and patent prosecution, including the preparation and prosecution of patent applications directed to distributed and blockchain ledger technologies, payment processing systems, electronic trading platforms, and exotic financial instruments.

Krishna is widely renowned for his work on corporate governance, having been awarded the following accolades:

- Recommended in Who's Who Legal: Foreign Investment Review, 2022
- Recognized in Capital Markets Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law and Private Equity Law by *The Best Lawyers in Singapore*, 2022
- Notable Practitioner for Corporate/M&A, Singapore and General Business Law, Myanmar – *Chambers Asia Pacific 2021*
- Listed as a *Recommended Lawyer* in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021* for Corporate and M&A - Foreign Firms, Corporate and M&A - Local firms, Projects and Energy - Local Firms
- Firms, TMT - Local Firms, Singapore, Corporate and M&A and Projects, Myanmar
- Leading Lawyer for Corporate and M&A – *AsiaLaw Profiles 2021*
- Recommended in Who's Who Legal: M&A and Governance, 2019

Corporate governance (cont'd)

- Listed by IFLR1000 2020 as Highly Regarded Lawyer for Capital Markets
- Recommended in Who's Who Legal: Foreign Investment Review, 2020
- Distinguished Practitioner for Corporate and M&A – AsiaLaw Profiles 2020
- Recognized in Capital Markets Law by The Best Lawyers in Singapore, 2020;
- Recognized in Mergers and Acquisitions Law by The Best Lawyers in Singapore since 2013; recognized by The Best Lawyers in Singapore since 2013
- Recognized in Who's Who Legal: M&A and Governance 2019
- Leading Individual for Corporate/M&A: Domestic-Singapore - *Chambers Global 2019*
- Leading Individual for Corporate/M&A: Domestic-Singapore - *Chambers Asia-Pacific 2019*
- Listed as a *Recommended Lawyer* in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2019* for Corporate and M&A - Foreign Firms, Corporate and M&A - Local Firms and TMT - Local Firms, Singapore Projects and Energy - Local Firms
- Leading Individual for Corporate M&A and Recommended Lawyer for Projects (including Energy), Myanmar - *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2019*
- Listed by IFLR1000 2019 as *Highly Regarded Lawyer* for Capital Markets
- Named one of Singapore's top 100 lawyers by *Asia Business Law Journal*, 2018
- Leading Individual for Corporate/M&A: Domestic-Singapore - *Chambers Global 2018 Leading Individual* for Corporate M&A and Recommended Lawyer for, Projects including Energy), Myanmar - *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2018*
- Listed by IFLR1000 2018 as *Highly Regarded Lawyer* for Capital Markets
- Listed as a *Recommended Lawyer* in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2018* for Capital Markets - Foreign Firms, Corporate and M&A - Foreign Firms, Corporate and M&A - Local Firms and TMT - Local Firms, Singapore
- Leading Individual in Chambers Asia Pacific 2017 and Chambers Global 2017 for Corporate/M&A - Local Firms
- Market-leading lawyer (Capital Markets, Corporate/M&A) - Asialaw Profiles 2017 Global Law Expert (Corporate Law, Singapore; Corporate Finance, M&A Law and Corporate Law, Myanmar) - Global Law Experts Guide

Krishna has also authored several publications on corporate governance, which include the following:

- Co-author, "Singapore: Mergers and Acquisitions" *The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides*, April 2021
- Co-author, "COVID-19 Pandemic: Relief Measures for Businesses in Myanmar," *Duane Morris Alert*, May 1, 2020
- Co-author, "COVID-19 in Myanmar: Impact on Commercial Contracts and Employment," *Duane Morris Alert* April 14, 2020
- Quoted in "How Gatecoin's Party Got Gatecrashed," *CDO Trends*, March 18, 2019
- Featured in the Myanmar Section of Annual Review, Mergers & Acquisition, *Financier Worldwide*, August 2017
- Co-author, "Chapter 48: Myanmar," *Mergers and Acquisitions Review*, 2016
- Author, "Htin Kyaw — What Now?" *Acquisition International Magazine*, April 1, 2016
- Co-author, "Chapter 46: Myanmar," *Mergers and Acquisitions Review*, 2015

Corporate structuring and licensing

- Advised multiple asset exchanges and corporations on optimum structures and ring-fencing liabilities in previously unregulated areas.
- Advised Independent Reserve, Singapore's first crypto exchange to receive a Digital Payment Token (DPT) license under the Payment Services Act (PSA).
- Advised a financial technology company in the structuring of the legal entities carrying out an ICO as well as the drafting of or advising on all relevant legal documentation, including whitepaper, terms and conditions of the ICO, and pre-ICO agreements.
- Advised a European e-commerce company on establishing an entity and legal structure for an e-commerce business and investing in blockchain technology in Vietnam.
- Advised a multitude of applicants on digital asset licensing requirements and liaising with regulators.
- Represented and or dealt with most leading and global digital asset exchanges on licensing and product viability and in respect of customer data protection measures.

Corporate structuring and licensing (cont'd)

- Structuring and regulatory advice in relation to an aircraft financing platform incorporating blockchain and digital security tokens.
- Structuring and regulatory advice on client's proposed blockchain that would permit the recording of all forms of data on data exchange medium secured on their proprietary protocol.

Tokenisation and tokenomics advisory

- Reviewing and assessing the viability of various token issuances and providing extensive guidance on the same, including creating first-ever structures.
- Advised a FinTech company on Singapore regulatory matters in relation to their planned ICO.
- Advised a provider of bitcoin exchange, e-wallet and payment processor services targeting Korea and the Asian market on its proposed ICO including the drafting of all relevant legal documentation including the whitepaper, terms and conditions of the ICO and the simple agreement for future tokens ("SAFT"), as well as any other matters related to the ICO.
- Advised a contract-management and blockchain technology company on the financial services regulatory matters relating to its initial coin offering.
- Assisted in the preparation of whitepapers and documentation support initial coin offerings (ICOs) for emerging ventures in the FinTech space.
- Assisting a fashion technology company that provides a virtual styling solution with its proposed ICO including the drafting of whitepaper, SAFT for pre-ICO purchases, the terms and conditions of the ICO, as well as advising on the establishment and structuring of entities involved in the ICO.
- Advised fund managers on the tokenisation of real property assets alongside a complementary digital asset portfolio.
- Advised on first-ever hybrid tokenisation model that included securities and non-securities.
- Devising fractional ownership tokens in respect of real property assets.

Digital technologies investment due diligence

- Counselling Singapore listed company on potential investments in blockchain technology and companies and potential overlay of blockchain-based solutions onto existing business model.
- Counseled U.S. and foreign investors on potential investments in ICOs and blockchain-related technologies and companies.
- Counseled blockchain-related clients on their respective cryptocurrencies and their access to secondary market platforms.
- Counseled various global accredited and sophisticated investors on KYC, AML practices in respect of investments into digital assets.
- Represented a privately held infrastructure, technology and services company focused on blockchain and other distributed ledger technology, in multiple closings of the sale of common stock in a private placement offering raising US\$30.9 million.
- Represented JonesTrading Institutional Services LLC, acting as a sales agent in a US\$150 million at the market equity offering of common stock for Overstock.com, Inc. (NASDAQ: OSTK). Overstock is an online retailer and advancer of blockchain technology. Through its online e-commerce business, Overstock offers a broad range of price-competitive products, including furniture, home decor, bedding and bath, jewellery and designer accessories. Overstock also pursues initiatives to develop and advance blockchain technology, including through its majority-owned subsidiary tØ.com, Inc. ("tZERO"), a financial technology company focused on the development and commercialisation of financial applications of blockchain technologies.

Risk management advisory, troubleshooting and dispute resolution

- Advised financial institutions on their franchise risk in assessing their digital asset strategies.
- Advised digital asset exchanges and investment fund managers on the recovery strategies of digital assets.

Legal, regulatory and compliance assessment

- Advised a blockchain-based media and content generation platform on the regulatory requirements of the listing of their tokens on third-party digital asset exchanges.
- Advised a blockchain-based second-hand device marketplace on the regulatory aspects of their listing of their internal payment token on third-party digital asset exchanges.
- Advised a leading blockchain FinTech and RegTech R&D company on regulations in multiple jurisdictions, including Hong Kong, Singapore, Switzerland, Malaysia and Vietnam, covering a number of topics pertaining to blockchain technology, such as cryptocurrency, ICO, exchanges, data protection and regulatory sandboxes. Supported advocacy activities with respect to related issues.
- Advised (reviewed, assessed and provided endorsement legal opinions) leading digital asset exchanges on legal opinions originally issued by other law firms.
- Assisted a company operating a cryptocurrency crowdfunding platform, which has completed an Initial Coin Offering ("ICO"), in preparing a legal memorandum in respect of responses to queries from the Monetary Authority of Singapore on whether its ICO or its business was regulated in Singapore.
- Provided regulatory advice on the multiple classes of tokens (both utility and security) that will be issued by a commercial ship finance blockchain platform in relation to its operation.
- Provided regulatory advice on the project and the creation of a futures market for production as well as listing of the token on digital asset exchanges for a blockchain-powered supply chain management platform.
- Provided regulatory review for blockchain-as-a-service platform.
- Provided regulatory review of the business model of the platform which would act as a platform for the development of decentralised apps utilising proprietary processes that would serve to deal with the scalability issues faced by legacy blockchain networks.
- Provided regulatory review on the feasibility of the business model of a social media and user content blockchain platform in the context of local Singapore law.
- Regulatory advice on the listing of a fitness and lifestyle platform's token offering.
- Undertaking detailed analysis and assessment on behalf of private equity, family offices and UHNW investors of blockchain and digital asset investment proposals.

Selected speaking engagements

- Speaker "RUGS, CEX, AND ROCK N ROLL. Law and Sustainability in the Digital Economy", SummitX, May 4 2023
- Panelist, "Me-tooism in the digital economy", Singapore Fintech Festival, 2 November 2022
- Interviewed on "Taproot, Bitcoin's Upcoming Update and the Lightning Network," Your Money with Michelle Martin, MoneyFM, 16 June 2021
- Interviewed on "Cefi, Defi and Cryptocurrency Trading," Your Money with Michelle Martin, MoneyFM, 25 April 2021
- Interviewed on "Possible Institutional Crypto Strategies," Your Money with Michelle Martin, MoneyFM, 29 October 2020
- Speaker, "Digital Currencies and Payment Systems. What is your business role in all of this?" Webinar, Association of Corporate Counsel, Singapore Chapter, 28 October 2020
- Interviewed on "The Technology Divide: How will Digitalization, Digital Currencies, Payment Systems Set a New Business Order?" Your Money with Michelle Martin, MoneyFM, 26 October 2020
- Speaker, "Digitalization and Thought Leadership: How countries and businesses have to adapt to stay relevant." The AmCham IFS Premier Series, 15 October 2020
- Interviewed on "Will Blockchain and Digital Currencies Reshape the Economy?" Your Money with Michelle Martin, MoneyFM, 22 September 2020
- Speaker, "Digitalization in 2020", Webinar, Duane Morris & Selvam, 14 August 2020
- Panelist, "Contracts & Compliance: Business Integrity in the Face of Adversity."

Selected speaking engagements (cont'd)

- Webinar, AmCham Sri Lanka, 29 July 2020
- Presenter, "Fireside Chat on Blockchain, Tokenization and Digitalization of Business," Spectrum Club, Singapore, May 16, 2019
- Moderator, "Bidding for Projects in Myanmar Made Easy," Webinar, Singapore Business Federation, 21 July 2020
- Panelist, "The Future of World AI" speaking on AI Legality, NTU, Singapore, 13 September 2019
- Speaker and Moderator, World eSports & Blockchain Summit MARVELS Singapore 2019, 16 July 2019
- Speaker, "Real Estate Tokenization" and Panelist on "Unlocking the True Potential of STOs", Insiders' Insights: Security Token Offerings, BitTemple, Singapore, 14 December 2018
- Speaker, "Legal Perspective of Blockchain: The Future and Regulations," World Knowledge Forum, Seoul, Korea, 12 October 2018
- Speaker, "Buyer Beware: Blockchain and the Legal Landscape", The Law Society of Singapore, Singapore, 6 September 2018
- Speaker and Moderator, Global Blockchain Foundation Summit: ASEAN Decentralized 2.0, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3-4 September 2018
- Speaker, Global Blockchain Foundation Summit, Seoul, Korea, 12 July 2018
- Panel moderator, "Innovative City: The Singapore Story," World Cities Summit, Singapore, 10 July 2018
- "A Rising Asia: Developments and Opportunities from 'on the ground' in Singapore," San Francisco, March 2011
- "Disclosure Requirements for Listed Companies," Company and Securities Law 2009
- Conference, Singapore, August 17-18, 2009
- "Due Diligence 'How Tos' for Young Corporate/Commercial Practitioners," September 9, 2008
- "Setting Up New Ventures in India: India Business Insights and Economic Outlook," Singapore, April 15, 2008
- "M&A and REITS," Asia Business Forum's REIT Conference, February 27-28, 2008
- "Listing on AIM: Undertaking AIM Listings," June 29, 2007
- Private Equity / Investment – The 2012 Sweet Spot for Global Investment: Seizing Opportunity and Mitigating Risk in Southeast Asian Markets
- "Singapore Firm Becomes Active in Advising Clients on Initial Coin Offerings," Interview on Primetime Asia, Channel News Asia, May 23, 2018



Personal profile

Being a contrarian, Krishna takes pride and ownership in mentoring those around him. He believes in self-empowerment and the transformation it brings to his mentees from within. To this end, in his dealings with people he meets at work or privately, he believes in collaboration and mutual growth for all parties and stakeholders. Having benefited greatly from various role models in his life, Krishna believes in paying it forward, especially as regards the next generation. He embraces granularity and strives for perfection, as evidenced by his credentials and pursuits.

Krishna enjoys restoring classic sports cars and takes pride in reviving these design and automotive icons through modern interpretations. He successfully experimented with and captured his 1982 930 Porsche Turbo RUF (BTR) as an NFT (non-fungible token) in late 2020. A die-hard and lifelong Liverpool football fan, he is intrinsically aware of the power of the community and the collective narrative that can be promulgated through considered engagement strategies. To this end, he has designed unique brand and social token economics strategies that capture the philosophy and ethos of a community, which are critical for success when a project is launched.

With his passion for the human beings around him, Krishna also acknowledges his position of influence and is committed to using it for empowerment by also positively impacting the lives of people beyond his social circles. He believes that society needs and would benefit from equality, opportunity, inclusivity, access and sustainability.

These in turn permeate his various ventures, from Digital Insights (which has an entire sustainability arm of its own) to the Sustainability in Digital Association and the Helix Initiative, both of which are focussed on levelling the playing field for the underserved segments of society. With the expansive reach of his professional and private projects, youth empowerment and harnessing the potential of the digital movement constitute the core of his ethos as a person and as a leader.

In the spirit of founding garage-style start-ups, Krishna runs Digital Insights out of his own 'garage' (which doubles as a showroom for his car collection and 'war room' for the Digital Insights ecosystem). This war room is home to and a platform for all of the above and can be thought of as an embodiment of unbridled self-expression that underpins Digital Insights' corporate ethos.

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