

THE AUTHOR

Practicing Lawyer with Financial Intelligence

Narit Direkwattanachai is a licensed Thai attorney and an owner of NARIT & Associates, a law firm based in Bangkok, Thailand. He specializes in commercial disputes, corporate & commercial, and tax. Narit has extensive experience and expertise in both courtroom work (litigation) and transactional work, the two vital skills that hardly exist in one person anymore due to legal industry's adoption of division of labor. These two sides of the practice give Narit a unique perspective. Narit regularly serves clients from different industries on commercial disputes, unpaid bills, breach of contract, shareholders/partners disputes, construction disputes, and other commercial disputes, mergers & acquisitions (buying/selling businesses & corporate restructure), formation of joint venture companies, investment/divestment, startup investment/financing, international sales, distributorship, franchise, employment, termination of employment, cross border tax planning, tax disputes, and remittance of profit. His client list includes publicly held companies (or their Thai subsidiaries) listed in New York Stock Exchange, Frankfurt Stock Exchange, Tokyo Stock Exchange, Singapore Exchange, and Stock Exchange of Thailand, Thai subsidiaries of multinational corporations, Thai owned companies, foreign investors, startup founders and angel investors.

Narit holds a bachelor of laws degree with first class honors from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. He won a British Chevening Cambridge Scholarship from the Cambridge Overseas Trust and then British Foreign and Commonwealth Office to read law at Wolfson College, the University of Cambridge, England where he graduated with a master of law degree. He pursued and received an MBA degree in finance from the Georgia

Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, the United States of America, on the Georgia Rotary Student Program Scholarship (GRSP) offered by all the Rotary Clubs in the state of Georgia, the United States of America. Being sponsored by the Rotary Club of Atlanta, Narit was named GRSP's Kendall Weisinger Scholar. His understanding of finance and his familiarity with financial statements help him enormously when he advises clients on mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, valuation issues and shareholders/partners disputes. As his circle of competence is not limited to law, his combined knowledge of finance, tax law and business law becomes useful to the clients when it comes to structuring and strategizing a deal.

Narit's interview on Thailand's property tax was featured in New York City-based Mansion Global. Narit authored, the book in English, "*What Every Executive Needs to Know About Thailand Tax*". His legal/tax articles in English have been published in the Property Report Magazine, *Advance* - the Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce Magazine, Swiss-Thai Chamber of Commerce E-Newsletter and Thai-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce's Legal Updates. Narit also contributed the Thailand Chapter of "*Force Majeure and Hardship in the Asia-Pacific Region*" published by JURIS.

Narit is regularly invited to speak at various events, including EU Administrative Meeting at the Delegation of the European Union in Thailand, East Asia Business Forum in Mainland China held by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)/China Chamber of International Commerce, Singapore-Malay Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Business Mission to Bangkok, Data Consult's CEO Breakfast in Bangkok, Malaysia-based Truevenus's 5th Annual Modular & Precast Construction, Asia Business Forum in Bangkok, HR Summit, Petroleum Institute of Thailand, and Industry Forum on Real Estate Investment and Law Updates in Bangkok, Real Estate School.

Narit commenced his legal career at Baker & McKenzie, Bangkok office. He also worked at Baker & McKenzie, Sydney office, Australia and the Investment Banking Group – Telecom, Media and Technology at DBS Bank, Singapore. Narit served on the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT) Property Committee (2009-2011), served on the Thai Contractors Association, Subcommittee on Complaints, Laws, Regulations and Contracts (2009) and served on the East Asia Trade Dispute Settlement Advisory Committee, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), China (2014) (as Advisory Member). Narit serves on the Thai Commercial Arbitration Committee, Board of Trade of Thailand and University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Narit is also a licensed business collateral (floating charge) enforcer and a notarial services attorney.

Narit and his wife live with their three lovely daughters in an eastern suburb of Bangkok. Narit is an avid reader and enjoy reading books on law, finance, fintech, equity investment and history. In his free time, Narit also enjoys swimming and running. You can catch up with him on the jogging track at RBSC Polo Club where he has been working out since 1987.

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