

DR. GÉRARDINE GOH ESCOLAR

First Secretary

Hague Conference on Private International Law

Dr. Gérardine Goh Escolar is First Secretary at the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). Her portfolios span family law and child protection, and international legal cooperation. She has primary responsibility over the 1980 Child Abduction and 1996 Child Protection Conventions, as well as the 1965 Service, 1970 Evidence, and 1980 Access to Justice Conventions.

Dr. Goh Escolar was previously in practice, acting as counsel, advocate and consultant in international litigation and arbitration proceedings, first with a specialist international law boutique, and then with a top-tier global law firm headquartered in Amsterdam (the Netherlands). Prior to that, she was Legal Advisor to the President of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, and principal legal officer in the chambers of a Judge at the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. She has also served as legal officer in the service of the government of Germany, in-house counsel at a technology company, and vice-president of external relations at an information technology start-up.

Dr. Goh Escolar has represented clients, and served as tribunal secretary and advisor, in arbitration proceedings under the ICC, ICSID, and UNCITRAL frameworks. She has worked on cases that turned on both private international law and public international law issues, including cases relating to privileges and jurisdictional immunities, maritime and land boundary delimitations, the law of armed conflict, genocide, environmental protection, investment treaty protection, foreign military sales, cross-border corporate transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and energy markets.

Dr. Goh Escolar founded and acted as CEO of a not-for-profit company, teaching theatre and stagecraft to at-risk children and children engaged in disciplinary issues at school and with the law. She was also part of a team that constructed a school for a rural community in Mashan, Guangzhou (PR China), and has lectured on international child rights and cross-border child protection at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

Dr. Goh Escolar is adjunct Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore. She has extensive academic experience over two decades, having also taught and conducted research at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom), the University of Cologne (Germany), and the University of Leiden (the Netherlands). She holds a doctorate (Dr. iur.) from the University of Leiden, and an LL.M. from University College London (United Kingdom). She was placed on the overall Dean's List for her LL.B. (Hons.), which was awarded by the National University of Singapore. Dr. Goh Escolar is admitted to the New York bar.