

Ramesh Fernando Senior Associate

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Ramesh has considerable experience in litigation and dispute resolution, with extensive abilities in contract negotiations and large-scale disputes. He has advised on and drafted legal opinions and agreements for large multi-national corporations and other non-governmental entities and investors when retained to advise on potential legal issues, regulatory steps, and changes to applicable legislation.

Prior to joining Afridi & Angell in 2022, Ramesh practiced law in Sri Lanka as an Attorney-at-Law / Legal Counsel in the Chambers of Mr. Geoffrey Alagaratnam, President's Counsel, during which time Ramesh was involved in several landmark *pro bono* public interest litigation cases before the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. These included cases filed against public authorities for gross negligence in failing to prevent the Easter Sunday bombings of April 2019, as well as the petition challenging the President's unconstitutional exercise of power in pardoning former Sergeant Sunil Ratnayake.

Ramesh was also the Research Assistant to the Commercial Law Reforms Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Justice Sri Lanka which was tasked with advising the Minister of Justice on commercial law reforms and drafting several pieces of legislation including a new Arbitration Act and a Mediation Act.

From 2017 till 2022, Ramesh lectured on company law at the Royal Institute of Colombo.

Publications

- *New Law Regulating Construction Industry: Six Key Takeaways for Contractors in Dubai*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 24 July, 2025
- *Amendments to the Labour Law - employers, en garde!*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 21 August 2024
- *Insurance claims for damage caused by the torrential rain and floods*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 23 April 2024
- *Unification of Federal and Local Judicial Principles: key decisions relating to civil procedure and cheques*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 8 February 2024
- *Arbitration in the Middle East: Dubai Court of Cassation clarifies the distinction between jurisdiction and admissibility for the first time*, International Bar Association, 20 December 2023

Areas of Practice

- Arbitration
- Litigation
- White Collar Crime
- Commercial Law

Education

- LL.M (Commercial Law), University of Cambridge, 2020
- LL.B (Hons), University of London 2016

Professional

- Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka
- Life Member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Languages

- English
- Sinhalese

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- *Arbitration in the Middle East: Dubai Court of Cassation clarifies the distinction between jurisdiction and admissibility for the first time*, International Bar Association, 20 December 2023
 - *Termination of employment in the UAE - can an employer terminate an employee's employment at will?* Afridi & Angell inBrief, 31 October 2023
 - *Treatment of Foreign Law in Asia (Sri Lanka Chapter)*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023
 - *Recent Amendments to the Arbitration Law*, Afridi & Angell Client Alert, 13 October 2023
 - *Corporate Criminal Liability in the UAE*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 21 February, 2023
 - *Direct Jurisdiction Asian Perspective (Sri Lanka chapter)* Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021