

HER WORLD WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2014 WINNER



Rachel Eng
Joint managing partner,
WongPartnership LLP

Age: 46

Marital status: Married to Dennis Ang, global head of IT at a US-listed company with its corporate headquarters based in Singapore.

Number of children: Three, aged 10 to 16.

Why her

- She is an outstanding corporate lawyer, with expertise in equity and debt capital markets, real estate investment trusts and corporate finance. She has been involved in major transactions such as the \$2.8 billion public listing of CapitaMall Asia Limited in 2009 – then the largest initial public offering in Singapore since 1993 – and the \$10 billion merger of Overseas Union Bank and United Overseas Bank in 2001.
- In 2010, she became the first woman to helm a Big Four law firm in Singapore. In 2011, she won the Managing Partner of the Year award at the Asian Legal Business South-east Asia Law Awards – the first female managing partner to have won this accolade. She nabbed the award again in 2013, making her the first person to have won it twice.
- A role model for work-life balance, she achieved professional success while raising three children with her husband. She also champions family-friendly practices in the firm; examples include support of flexi-work arrangements and the provision of a Mother's Room in the office with proper facilities for working mothers who wish to continue breastfeeding after returning from maternity leave. Currently, the firm's ratio of female partners to male partners is 55:43. Women make up 41 per cent of the equity partners and 43 per cent of the firm's Executive Committee.
- She is recommended as a leading lawyer by independent legal publications. *Chambers Asia Pacific – Asia Pacific's Leading Lawyers in 2014* quoted sources as saying that she is "commercially astute and always gives sound and practical solutions". *The Legal 500 – The Client's Guide to the Asia Pacific Legal Profession 2013* described Rachel as the "go-to person for regulatory matters" and "a good problem-solver".

Accomplishments in 2013

- She bagged the Managing Partner of the Year award at the Asian Legal Business South-east Asia Law Awards, making her the first person to have won the award twice in the awards' history.
- Under her watch, WongPartnership LLP won its third consecutive Best National Firm for Women in Business Law award at the Euromoney Legal Media Group's Asia Women in Business Law Awards, beating 16 other nominees from the Asia-Pacific region.

Education / Awards/ scholarships

Education

- National University of Singapore (LLB, Hons)
- Hwa Chong Junior College (now known as Hwa Chong Institution)
- Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)

Awards

- 2013: Managing Partner of the Year, Asian Legal Business South East Asia Law Awards
- 2011: Managing Partner of the Year, Asian Legal Business South East Asia Law Awards
- 1991: Aw Boon Haw and Aw Boon Par Memorial Prize for Best Student, Postgraduate Law Course in Singapore

Professional Experience

- 2013 – present: Appointed as Joint Managing Partner of WongPartnership LLP together with Ng Wai King
- 2010: Appointed as Managing Partner of WongPartnership LLP, at age 42
- 2001: Made an equity partner at WongPartnership LLP, at age 33
- 1997: Made a salaried partner at WongPartnership LLP, at age 29
- 1995: Joined WongPartnership LLP
- 1992 – 1995: Joined Messrs Arfat Selvam & Gunasingham
- 1991 – 1992: Joined Allen & Gledhill

Community Contributions

- She is one of the champions of BoardAgender, a non-profit organisation that promotes gender diversity in the boardroom.
- She is a Mentor of the Young Women's Leadership Connection, which grooms young women leaders for Singapore and provides a platform for young female leaders to connect and find guidance, community engagement and personal development opportunities, and forge friendships.