

## Proust Questionnaire

**Name:** Nicholas Lee

**Age:** 32

**Hometown:** Singapore

**Current City:** Singapore

**Current Employer:** Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

**Education:** Christ Church, University of Oxford

**How did you get involved in international arbitration?** Gradually, then suddenly. I was lucky enough to spend a couple of internships and a training contract seat doing genuinely interesting, engaging, international work. Unsurprisingly, I formed a sufficiently positive cumulative impression that when it came time to qualify, it was the only thing I could see myself doing

**What is your favourite virtue?** Courage

**What are your favourite qualities in another person?** Authenticity and passion

**What is your chief characteristic?** Tenacity

**What is your main fault?** Over-caffeination

**What is your favourite occupation?** I was a firefighter for two years, and there are few things more meaningful than saving lives

**What is your idea of happiness?** A sunrise, a slow morning, and a good coffee

**What is your idea of misery?** Waiting. And awkward silences

**If not yourself, who would you be?** Hopefully someone with as little experiential overlap with me as possible

**Where would you like to live?** Somewhere sunny, so Singapore is a good fit

**Who is your favourite prose author?** J.R.R. Tolkien

**Who is your favourite hero/heroine in fiction?** Spider-Man (Peter Parker). It's a little bit of a trope that writers put him through one unspeakable tragedy after another, but I admire his endless resilience, optimism and determination to do the right thing in spite of that

**Who is your hero in real life?** My much better half, Claire, who is smarter, more cultured, and better-travelled than me – I want to be like her when I grow up

**What historical person do you most dislike?** It's a long list, but despots, oppressors and tyrants are at the top

**What is your favourite name?** Oattie and Oscar – the names of my two dogs

**What do you hate the most?** Only a Sith deals in absolutes

**What is your natural talent?** I fall asleep instantly on long-haul flights

**What is your favourite arbitration-related decision?** My own, at the end of my training contract, to qualify into Dispute Resolution (much to the chagrin of at least one M&A partner I knew)

**Who is your favourite arbitrator?** I am impartial and independent and intend to remain so

**Who is your mentor?** I have benefited from the generous mentorship of many luminaries in our field, including and especially my current colleagues, John Rhie and Duncan Watson

**What is your motto?** He not busy being born is busy dying

**What do you hope to contribute to Young ICCA as Events co-Director?**

I hope to contribute meaningfully to the continuing growth of the young arbitration community by: (1) improving access; and (2) fostering fellowship, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, which I call home, along with almost half of Young ICCA's membership:

- Two of the world's premier arbitration hubs (Singapore and Hong Kong) are located in APAC. Young lawyers in those jurisdictions are afforded a wealth of developmental opportunities – mentorship, networking, substantive skills training and so on. This is not the case everywhere, and Young ICCA is well-placed to help level that playing field
- I think there is great value in bringing young practitioners from different places and backgrounds together, and allowing them to mutually benefit from a breadth of perspectives and experiences. The friendships forged are often invaluable, especially for those of us who have moved somewhere new and unfamiliar to pursue a career in arbitration